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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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12 Pages

New manager learning ins and outs, union raise extended to other workers

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's new city manager sat in on her first meeting of the City and Borough Assembly Tuesday evening.

Starting work last week, Lisa Von Barga gave her first report

to council members on the state of city departments. Offered the job back in April, the former Valdez economic director reported she has been getting to know the departments under her since her arrival.

She has been getting together

with staff at City Hall, the Harbor Department and Public Works this past week to visit sites. She further plans to meet with Parks and Recreation and Wrangell Municipal Light and Power personnel this week.

Since the public employees

strike ended on June 29, light crews have been readying power poles along the route of Evergreen Avenue, which after several years of delays is expected to finally begin seeing resurfacing and access improvements once outstanding right-of-way issues have been resolved.

At the water treatment plant, recent rainfall has contributed to poor raw water quality in the reservoirs, which on a positive note are full. The plant itself has been able to keep up with demand as summer usage increases. The city remains on a state of conservation alert, and Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad added her department is communicating with Wrangell's two seafood processors, which are significant users but whose access to water is critical during peak summer production.

Assembly member Julie Decker emphasized the importance of maintaining water supplies through August. "We really are entering crunch time for processing. This is the peak, so the next four weeks are critical," she commented.

During its meeting the Assembly formally finalized changes to its wage and grade table already approved at a special meeting on July 13, approving the new table as a resolution Tuesday.

Following three years of negotiations over an expired collective bargaining agreement for 24 public employees with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 – which included at points legal action, a settlement and a week-long strike – the agreement drops the bottom six of those employees' 16-step wage table and adds three to the top end. The new 13-step table that creates now uniformly moves workers on the table upwards in two-percent increments, as well as a \$0.75 hourly increase across the board on top of the prior wage rates.

Called up by Assembly member Patty Gilbert to answer some financial questions, city finance director Lee Burgess explained the increases on the table would constitute a net cost of \$46,000 to the borough over the next three years. This figure is arrived at when factoring other components of the agreement, such as workers contributing a

portion of 10 or 15 percent of their health care premium costs, depending on their date of hire.

Burgess added that those costs would be borne by the funds of the department employees work for. Most are employed with various utilities and services operated as enterprise funds, such as the harbor and light departments. Those working for more conventional departments would have to be covered by the General Fund.

Based on the year's previously approved budget for the new year, which started July 1, Burgess further explained the added costs would largely add to departments' deficits.

"The money would be coming from reserves unless that fund were planning on running a surplus," he said, which was only projected for the Harbor Department.

Also on the Assembly's plate was a resolution to apply these gains to the city's non-unionized workers. Greater in number and already paying a portion of their health care premiums, similar changes made to these employees – dropping the bottom five steps from their 15-step table, adding three more to the top with the \$0.75 hourly increase – would cost the city an added \$307,000 over the next three years. The majority of this would impact the General Fund, which together with the added cost for unionized workers of those departments would be impacted by about \$150,000 more per year than first budgeted.

In rationalizing the decision, Assembly member Julie Decker felt making the change would be a matter of fairness. In her view, the working environment could be adversely affected by having a two-tiered system. "This decision before us would put – in my mind, anyway – both union and non-union workers on a more even playing field," she explained.

The Assembly voted 5-1 in favor of both measures. However, looking at the city's financial standing members saw a lot of uncertainty ahead.

"We've got a lot of uncertainty coming down the pipe," voiced Stephen Prysunka, referring to potential cuts to state revenue sharing, education and other funding sources. He asked

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Keene Kohrt takes a crack at \$30,000 Sunday morning during First Bank's annual golf tournament. For the 16th year in a row nobody won the tantalizing jackpot, though spotters near the green noted two golfers got their shots onto the green. Grover Mathis' landed just over, while Rocky Littleton's came the closest.

Tourney loses one day to weather, hole-in-one jackpot unclaimed

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Intermittent rains and wind on Saturday prompted Muskeg Meadows Golf Course to cancel one of its two days scheduled for the First Bank Golf Tournament.

Twenty-six golfers from Wrangell and Petersburg still hit the links on a sunny Sunday morning for the best-ball, team play competition. Players vied for a number of prizes and for First Bank-related raffle items during the lunch to follow.

Golfing with a handicap of 16, Eric Koding, Faye and Keene Kohrt, and Tyler Eagle took first place overall with a team score of 20 points. They were followed with a score of 20 and handicap of 17 by Rocky Littleton, Marva Reed, Desi Burell and Ed Marsden. Netting 21 points with a handicap of 15, in third were Grover Mathis, Ed

Rilatos, Joe Delabrué and Randy Littleton.

Additional prizes went out to Delabrué for "closest to the pin," at 27 feet, seven inches. Celsee Churchill won for straightest drive, a mere quarter-inch off.

A big draw for the 16th year in a row, the tournament's \$30,000 jackpot for hitting a hole-in-one remains unclaimed. The hole in question is on the sixth, a 160-yard shot that is ordinarily a par three in play. Each year First Bank takes out an insurance policy on the prize, and a tent full of observers watch over the green during the weekend's competition.

Only two of the 26 golfers landed their balls on the green in one go, though at other times in the course's past golfers have made the sloping shot. One year former magistrate Terry Bissonnette made the shot during the Alaska

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, July 27: Daniel Churchill, Randy Robinson Sr., Kristy Woodbury, Lester Schultz, Jean Kuntz, Karla Fennimore, Ann Johnson. **Friday, July 28:** Tasha Morse, April Larabee, Gavin DeBoer, Danette Grover, Patricia Morgan, Michael Guggenbickler. **Saturday, July 29:** Devlyn Campbell, Jeffrey Brown, Alice Rooney, Katie Hagan, Tony Rice, Adrienne McLaughlin, *Anniversary:* Harold and Carol Snoddy, David and LeAnn Bryner. **Sunday, July 30:** Bruce Jamieson, Mekala Rawins, Scott McConachie, *Anniversary:* Glen and Kelley Decker, William and Laurie Barker. **Monday, July 31:** Tyler Crayne, David Durnez, Christopher Freeman, William Moore, Jeffrey Davidson, Dino Barker, John Morse. **Tuesday, August 1:** Jean Brown, Kadin Messmer, Brynlee Young, Charles Moore, Douglas Wickman, Allen Edgley, *Anniversary:* Doug and Pam McClosky, Haig and Bonnie Demerjian. **Wednesday, August 2:** Caitlin DeBoer. **Thursday, August 3:** Torrin Fowler, Jillian Privett, Deed Gillen, Edna Nore.

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, July 27:

Sweet and Sour Pork, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli, spicy fruit cup.

Friday, July 28:

Mac and cheese, ham, cauliflower, spinach salad.

Tuesday, August 1:

Chef salad, chowder, ww crackers.

Wednesday, August 2:

Meatloaf, mashed potato with gravy, steamed spinach, perfection salad.

Thursday, August 3:

Beeferoni, mexicali veggies, apricot salad.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, July 29

Matanuska 6:15 a.m.

Sunday, July 30

Columbia 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 1

Matanuska 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 5

Matanuska 8:15 a.m.

Southbound

Thursday, July 27

Matanuska 8:30 p.m.

Monday, July 31

Matanuska 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday, August 2

Malaspina 4:15 a.m.

Thursday, August 3

Matanuska 7:45 p.m.

Arrival times may vary. Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 for recorded information.

TIDES

July 27 - August 3



High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 27	4:07	16.7	4:51	16.2	10:18	-1.1	10:42	2.1
July 28	4:54	15.2	5:35	15.5	10:59	0.4	11:33	2.7
July 29	5:45	13.7	6:23	14.9	11:43	1.8
July 30	6:45	12.3	7:19	14.3	0:29	3.2	12:31	3.2
July 31	7:59	11.5	8:20	14.1	1:33	3.5	1:26	4.3
Aug. 1	9:15	11.3	9:21	14.2	2:44	3.5	2:31	5.0
Aug. 2	10:22	11.7	10:18	14.6	3:56	2.8	3:42	5.2
Aug. 3	11:19	12.4	11:08	15.2	4:57	1.9	4:46	4.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, July 27

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.

SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

Yoga: 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Tuesday, August 1

SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults..s

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

Continuing Events

PARKS & RECACTIVITIES: Lap Swim: M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m., F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m., S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

AA Meetings: Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal gChurch Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

NA Meeting: Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

Bridge Social: F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.

Salvation Army Food Bank: Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information or questions please call Major Michael Bates at 874-3753.

The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

August 2, 1917: At the last meeting of the Civic Improvement Club it was decided to purchase from Mrs. Minnie Rosenthal of Seattle the lot adjoining the school property on the southeast. This lot is to be used as a children's playground, and will be deeded to the town. The price paid for the lot was \$400. It has a frontage of 39 1/3 feet, and extends from Second Street back to Cassiar Street. The mere purchase of a lot for \$400 is a small matter when considered solely was a business transaction. But this purchase of a playground for the school children by a few Wrangell ladies organized into a club is an example of true philanthropy. It required no little effort for the ladies to raise the money needed. The money was not raised by a splurge, but little at a time, and it required constant and patient effort for a long period. The town council, appreciating the efforts of the club, recently voted to duplicate any amount expended by the club in connection with the local public school. With \$400 now available from the council the conditions the coming session will be greatly improved over last year.

July 31, 1942: L. J. Palmer, biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, arrived in Wrangell this week aboard the Game Commission vessel Grizzly and will spend about 10 days on the Stikine flats making a study of waterfowl in that area. He is accompanied by Mrs. Palmer who is his field assistant. The couple was taken over to the flats by F.G. Hanford, President of the Stikine Sportsman's

Association of Wrangell, Wednesday and will stay at the duck house on Brown's island while Palmer is making his survey. Fish and Wildlife Service is particularly interested in the Stikine Flats as the result of the vast bird life which frequents it.

July 28, 1967: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Adams who were married recently in Harrington Park, New Jersey, and traveled mainly by hiking 5,000 miles to see Mrs. Adam's godmother Mrs. Frank Webb of Wrangell. They left Harrington Park June 24 and went to Atlanta, Ga. and from there to Houston Texas, to visit Mrs. Adam's sister and family and then back through the National Parks in Montana, on the ferry arriving here July 18. Mrs. Adams graduated from junior college and Adams has

had two years of Cornell University in New York he will be going into military service in army security division when they leave here.

July 30, 1992: In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, the Wrangell Ranger District is proposing the construction and placement of 10 artificial nesting structures for Canada geese on Wrangell Island. According to District Ranger Keene Kohrt, the artificial nesting structures are designed to be less accessible to predators. Small platforms on tree trunks or tall stumps appear to be the most effective design for geese in this area. These structures would be placed along drainages and wetlands on the island that are known to be used by the birds.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
July 17:	64	48
July 18:	65	48
July 19:	66	48
July 20:	65	49
July 21:	64	50
July 22:	64	49
July 23:	64	49
July 24:	64	49



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
July 27:	4:41am	9:07pm	16:32h
July 28:	4:43am	9:05pm	16:26h
July 29:	4:45am	9:03pm	16:22h
July 30:	4:46am	9:01pm	16:18h
July 31:	4:48am	8:59pm	16:11h
Aug.1:	4:50am	8:57pm	16:07h
Aug.2:	4:52am	8:55pm	16:03h
Aug.3:	4:54am	8:53pm	15:59h

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New police officer joins Wrangell ranks

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A new officer has joined Wrangell Police Department, bringing its staffing levels closer to optimal.

Recently retired from the United States Coast Guard, Eric Wolf began work in Wrangell as an officer at the end of June. After 12 years of active service, he explained a medical condition he had developed prevented him from continuing as an aviation mechanical technician.

Originally from Washington, he was drawn back to the northwest by an interest in law enforcement.

Previously Wolf had worked for just over a year and a half as a reserve police officer, while stationed in North Bend, Oregon. With the end of his USCG service in view, he had already begun searching for work in that line among Oregon departments. When he learned of the opening in Wrangell, he said he'd jumped at the opportunity.

"This job presented itself, and there was no way I was going to pass this job up," he said.

Wolf already had ties to Southeast Alaska, meeting his future wife, Grace, in her hometown of Petersburg while working the canneries in 2001. The couple

married in 2004, shortly before he had considered entering service in the USCG.

"We were living in Southeast Alaska and the wife was going to school there, and I applied to be an Alaska State Trooper," he recalled. At that time he had been working as an assistant manager and lead driver for a Ketchikan moving and storage company. "I was moving a whole bunch of Coast Guard people and everything else," he said. "Most of them seemed really happy with what they were doing, and I really liked the mission."

"I joined the Coast Guard with the anticipation of doing four years, and coming back to apply for the Alaska State Troopers. Well, I stayed," said Wolf.

During his time in the service, Wolf's duties had him involved in a number of missions, including drug interdiction and search and rescue. The ability to play an active, positive role in society appealed to him, something he wanted to continue doing as a law enforcement officer.

"The chance to be there to have that kind of assistance is something I enjoy," he explained. "I like the opportunity to be effective in helping the community and people in general, every day."

Eric, Grace and their two children have relocated together from his last post in North Carolina, setting up a home base in a house she inherited on the Wrangell Narrows, and looking for a permanent home in Wrangell.

"Wrangell's a pretty easy fit for us," Grace Wolf said. She is glad to be back near family, and explained the family is already fitting in to its new surroundings. "We just dug out the smoker yesterday."

"We love the small-town atmosphere," Eric Wolf commented. "Southeast Alaska is outstanding. Having been married here, met my wife here - you



DAN RUDY / WRANGELL SENTINEL

A courtesy shuttle heads back to The World, part luxury cruise liner and part condominium, which was anchored off Wrangell over the weekend. Its travels to Petersburg Monday night were delayed by a medical emergency, which forced the vessel to return briefly to Wrangell.

Medical call outside Wrangell delays luxury liner itinerary

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrapping up a visit to Wrangell over the weekend, cruise ship The World was on its way to Petersburg late Monday when a medical emergency took precedence.

Wrangell Fire Chief Tim Bunes received a call from the local emergency dispatcher at around 8:15 p.m., relaying that the vessel required assistance. He contacted the United States Coast Guard about the situation.

At 644 feet, The World is the largest private residential ship on earth. During its several-day stay in Wrangell it remained anchored offshore, with passengers conveyed to and from dockside facilities by a smaller vessel. Navigating its way to Petersburg would have required bypassing the Wrangell Narrows, which under the circumstances would have taken too long for the emergency.

Instead, Bunes reported the Coast Guard

made the call to have the ship return to Wrangell. Seven emergency responders awaited the vessel at the city dock's seasonal floats, as low tidal conditions made getting up and down the ramp quite steep.

"Just a few extra hands. Normally we wouldn't need so many," Bunes explained.

The World's smaller shuttle arrived at around 11 p.m., and the passenger was removed by stretcher and transported by ambulance to Wrangell Medical Center. Due to privacy concerns, the identity of the patient and nature of the injury were not revealed.

Due into Petersburg Tuesday morning, the emergency set back the large liner's schedule but it is again on its way. Since The World's launch in 2002, the various occupants of its 165 onboard luxury homes have been on a continuous circumnavigation of the globe. Making stops at ports several days at a time, it periodically stops into Wrangell

Trooper report

On July 15, 2017 Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Wrangell Post, cited Randy Scherer, age 64 of Arkansas, for making a false statement on a sport fishing license. Investigation revealed Scherer claimed to be an AK resident on his 2017 sport fishing license at time he did not meet Alaska residency requirements. Scherer was issued a \$310 citation in the District Court at Wrangell.

can't beat these kind of opportunities. I love the environment."

Wolf's hiring brings WPD's staffing level back up to five of its seven officers, following several retirements and resignations occurring over the past two years. Chief Doug McCloskey explained the department is still looking for

another new officer. Its roster could be permanently trimmed back to six later this year, following news that a state-facilitated program that contracts a police officer to be on site at the airport during passenger flights may be

discontinued. In past budgets the Department of Transportation contract has provided an additional \$118,633 per year to the borough, an amount expected to reduce by half by October 1 and which may end permanently the following year.

Police report

Monday, July 17

Suspicious circumstance.

Tuesday, July 18

Agency Assist: Harbor Department.

Report of disturbance.

Welfare check, all is ok.

Wednesday, July 19

Citizen Assist: Unlock vehicle.

Report of disturbance.

Citizen Assist: Unlock vehicle.

Thursday, July 20

Assault reported.

Civil issue.

Friday, July 21

Found item: Life jacket

Citizen Assist: Unlock vehicle.

Suspicious person reported.

MVA: Both drivers exchanged information.

Parking Complaint.

Report of stolen property.

Bear sighting reported near golf course.

Agency Assist: Petersburg recovered skiff drifting in their jurisdiction: Owner of the skiff given to PPD.

Civil Issue: Caller requested officer to residence so they can collect their personal property.

Saturday, July 22

Agency Assist: Line Crew.

Attempted theft.

Traffic violations.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Civil issue.

Sunday, July 23

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Requested vacation checks.

Parking warning given for parking wrong way.

Report of a theft.

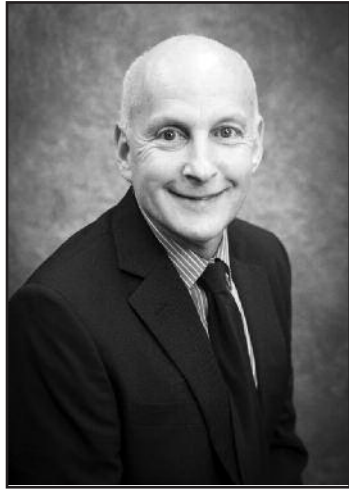
There were three ambulance and two dog complaints in this week.

Dan's Dispatch

By Representative
Dan Ortiz

As the fisheries industry continues to expand and Wrangell's Marine Service Center's services demand increases, I believe Wrangell's economy has nowhere to go but up. However, to accommodate this growth, the state must maintain their services in Wrangell. I am particularly concerned about the conservation of state jobs in Wrangell. Several years ago, Wrangell lost its social worker and its fisheries biologist. Now, the loss of the Wrangell trooper and the potential of reduced funding to the city jail weigh heavily, as Wrangell's state jobs slowly disappear.

I have been personally investigating the Alaska Wildlife Trooper's quiet decision to cut Wrangell's single trooper position. In a tele-meeting, I asked the Troopers why they chose to specifically cut Wrangell's position. The Troopers responded that the cut was made primarily due to con-



Dan Ortiz

venience. The position was already vacated, and therefore vulnerable to a cut as the difficulty and cost of firing or relocating an employee could be avoided. They told me that if the position had been filled, they would not have made the cut and assured me that the trooper in the nearest town could respond to calls if necessary. I reminded him that this would not work for us, as Wrangell is not on the road system. I officially voiced my

opposition to the cut and asked them to reinstate the position. I will continue to push for the reinstatement of a trooper position in Wrangell.

Funding of the corrections facility was another concern brought to my attention. Upon learning about this I met with Corrections Commissioner Ron Taylor and expressed my concerns about the potential closing of the Wrangell facility. As of yesterday's final Department of Corrections Finance Subcommittee meeting it does look like the Wrangell facility will stay open, with some reduced funding in the upcoming budget year. The Wrangell City Jail is undoubtedly important to our district as it not only houses inmates from Wrangell, but provides overflow support to the Ketchikan Correctional Facility and houses Petersburg inmates, providing an efficient, low-budget catch-all facility that ensures Southeast's corrections system is fully-functioning.

I'm very concerned about

the current funding situation in regards to the Alaska Marine Highway and its potential impact on the services provided to Wrangell and all of Southeast and Southwest Alaska. Right now the department is facing a \$9.8 million cut in funding which will have the effect of dramatically changing the way the Marine Highway System operates. I will work diligently on this issue throughout the remainder of the budgetary process and will attempt to find avenues to restore some of the funding to this vital service to our communities.

Memorial Service
for
Annie Armstrong
will be held at
the Presbyterian Church
Wed. August 2nd
at 2 pm
reception to follow

We want to wish a huge Congratulations on your very well deserved retirement, Kathy!
Wishing you a new journey of success and happiness and may you be showered with abundant opportunities, love and happiness in this new stage in your life!
We love you, Your Family and Friends.

Missile defense test scheduled for next week at Kodiak

KODIAK, Alaska (AP) – The U.S. will conduct as soon as next weekend another test of a missile defense system meant to counter threats from North Korea.

The launch from Alaska's Kodiak Island is scheduled to occur at the Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska, according to a U.S. Coast Guard notice. Mariners are advised to remain clear of swaths of ocean between Kodiak Island and Hawaii through the weekend.

U.S. Army soldiers are stationed temporarily at the launch complex for U.S. Missile Defense Agency testing of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, the Kodiak Daily Mirror reported.

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency successfully completed a Flight Test THAAD-18 operation from Kodiak earlier this month. That test "validated THAAD's ability to intercept intermediate range ballistic missiles," said Chris Johnson, U.S. Missile Defense Agency director of public affairs.

The FTT-18 test earlier this month included the launch of "two interceptors from two co-located launchers," Johnson wrote in an email to the Kodiak Daily

Mirror. "The first missile engaged the target. The second interceptor was launched to test operational procedures."

A second test from the site, called the FTT-15, will test the system's ability to intercept a medium-range ballistic missile within the earth's atmosphere, said Leah Garton of U.S. Missile Defense Agency public affairs.

THAAD, which currently has a 100 percent success rate in 14 tests, uses a direct hit to intercept a target in its final phase of flight. THAAD systems have been placed in Guam and South Korea to counter missile threats from North Korea.

POSTED FUEL	
WRANGELL	
L N M: \$3.71	
Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.71	
PETERSBURG	
SE Island Fuel: \$3.64	
Petersburg Motors: \$3.55	
<i>Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, July 25</i>	

WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER

Caring for Southeast Alaska

Visiting Physician Schedule

Dr. Moxley, Podiatrist
August 4 & 5, 2017

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Legislature to convene for capital budget session today

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

In a joint news release on Monday, House Speaker Bryce Edgmon (D-Dillingham) and Senate President Pete Kelly (R-Fairbanks) announced that the Alaska Legislature will call itself into another session in Juneau today at 11 a.m.

The special session – the 30th Legislature’s third called for 2017 – follows extensive wrangling over the state’s fiscal deficit. A compromise operating budget was approved late last month and signed by Gov. Bill Walker on June 30. The \$4.9 billion budget for the new fiscal year, which started July 1, came with a \$2.5 billion deficit to be covered entirely by state savings.

With the state’s coffers depending primarily on royalties from the petroleum industry, over the past half decade a combined drop in both prices and production levels have sent Alaska’s annual budgets deeply into the red. Forty-four percent of the state’s agency and capital spending have been subsequently cut since 2013, but cuts have failed to keep up with the decline in revenue. As a result, the difference has been made up from savings funds accessible by the Legislature, a

venue which is fast closing.

“With the enactment of this budget, you just have about \$2 billion left in the Constitutional Budget Reserve, which is our main savings account,” Sen. Bert Stedman (R-Sitka) explained last week. “The important point to point out is that will leave the state with little liquidity left.”

Among its uses, the reserve helps cover changes in operating budget and immediate agency needs. It also is available in the event of emergencies, such as responding to natural disasters. Therefore it helps to have funds at the ready in the account.

While Legislatures from the coalition-led House and Republican-majority Senate reached a compromise on ending costly cash credits for oil production last week, options for new sources of revenue through implementing a sales or income tax or by restructuring the Permanent Fund failed to make any headway.

For the latter, several bills in the House and Senate proposed a percent-of-market-value approach which would have allowed for a limited draw on Permanent Fund earnings for state operations, which would still allow for a div-

idend check to go to residents each year. Legislators were unable to agree on the percentage or proportion of such a draw, and the approach was excluded from the compromise operating budget.

Stedman believes the issue will be revisited next year, however. Among different options for bolstering revenue, a restructured fund came closest to closing the state’s deficit in the long run.

“For all practical purposes our savings accounts have been absorbed into the operating budget. We are now going to be having a conversation next year as far as the funds coming from the Permanent Fund,” he explained. “Without that I don’t see how we’re going to balance the budget next year.”

To protect the principal of the Permanent Fund for the future, he believed a constitutional amendment would be needed to set a cap on any such withdrawals. “Without that, I’m afraid the Permanent Fund is in jeopardy from having ad hoc withdrawals taken out of it,” said Stedman.

One area Stedman would like to see avoided is imposition of a statewide sales tax, which he felt would overly burden rural communities, many of which already have municipal sales taxes in

place. Wrangell would be particularly hard hit, with its rate of seven percent already among the state’s highest. Whichever way the Legislature heads next year, Stedman expected it to be contentious.

“These are tough decisions because very few people want to compromise,” he said. “I expect the next session to be as turbulent as this one that just ended, and almost as long.”

With the capital budget to be revisited today, Edgmon and Kelly anticipate a conference committee will be appointed to consider it. “The intent is to finalize the compromise Fiscal Year 2018 capital budget and promptly reconvene the House and Senate floor sessions to formally pass the capital budget,” their joint statement explained.

Of interest to Wrangell will be inclusion of \$5 million in the state’s Department of Transportation and Public Facilities’ harbor maintenance fund, for which the borough’s proposed replacement of the aging floats at Shoemaker Bay Harbor ranks highly. Should those funds survive the capital budget process, the city would match the allotted grant with \$5.7 million of its own reserves and revenue bonds.

Wrangell sophomore taking part in ANSEP summer school

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A Wrangell student is currently in Anchorage getting a full month’s worth of science, math and engineering lessons.

On July 8 future sophomore Tasha Massin left for Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program’s (ANSEP) five-week acceleration academy, one of

two such sessions it holds each summer. She joins 138 students from 30 different communities around the state, to be immersed in a university setting while exploring opportunities in scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields.

“The goal of Acceleration Academy is to develop students

academically and socially for college while fueling their passion and giving them all the tools they need to achieve their goals,” ANSEP vice provost Herb Ilisaurri Schroeder explained in a media release. “Acceleration Academy students have access to valuable educational experiences and have a chance to earn college credits that can jump-start their STEM careers.”

Working with a combination of youth peer mentors, STEM-related professionals and teachers, students this year get to try their hands at a number of interesting projects that reflect needs experienced by communities in the state. For instance, students design and test out tower models capable of withstanding earthquakes, and construct and test model water treatment systems. Students can also work with real health professionals in telemedicine and physical therapy sessions, scenarios which are becoming more commonplace as dis-

parate rural communities become better connected electronically. Others include growing biomaterials native to the region and testing their thermal structural properties, engineering and competing robotic fish models, and programming and working with unmanned aerial vehicles.

As she is still in Anchorage, Massin’s mother, Donna Massin, explained her daughter was having a good time with the program so far. The student had thought the ANSEP summer academy would be a great educational opportunity, and successfully tested into the program earlier this year. The academy is a kind of scholarship, covering all expenses for qualifying students.

While in Anchorage, Massin will be able to accrue credits for college through the coursework she is taking. She also has a familiar face there at the academy, with older brother Devan working as one of its youth peer mentors.

The summertime academy is one a number of initiatives put on each year by ANSEP. Part of the University of Alaska sys-

tem, its ultimate mission is to improve enrollment and hiring patterns for Alaska Natives in STEM-related career fields through a combination of extracurricular programming such as this summer’s academy and professional mentoring.

The organization launched the STEM teacher certification program in 2015 to further address rural education issues, with the goal of placing one such certified teacher in every Alaskan village by 2025. Last year saw the start of ANSEP’s very first year-round acceleration academy, at the Valley Pathways Alternative High School campus in Wasilla. The curriculum covers all the normal requirements for a high school student in Alaska, but with additional emphasis on STEM subjects such as the summertime academy focuses on.

Last year, Schroeder had come to Wrangell to build up support for building a second year-round academy on the island, proposing its former Institute property as a possible site. Unlike the Matanuska-Susitna area school, this accelerated academy would be a residential campus, housing between 400 and 450 students from around the state on site.

Last summer the Wrangell Borough Assembly approved formation of a steering committee to track the program’s progress, while exploring options for developing a residential campus. In the year since, the committee has been lobbying support from among various Native associations such as the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, which passed a resolution in support of the project in April.



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Bearfest gearing up for annual marathon

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

With activities for Alaska Bearfest 2017 already underway, running enthusiasts are gearing up for its finale on Sunday.

This year's Bearfest Marathon-1/2-5K will be featuring three separate but concurrently run events, with participants taking on either the five-kilometer (3.1 miles), 13.1-mile or 26.2-mile runs. The start time is at 8 a.m., outside the Nolan Center, but day-of registration opens up at 7 a.m.

Becca Rice has been organizing this year's event, which has been a component of Wrangell's bear-related celebration for its past eight years. Though she has never run in it herself, as an Alaska Vistas employee, Rice has helped with the festival on and off over the past decade.

The 5K segment will head down Ishiyama Road, with runners making the loop and returning to the Nolan Center. The half and full marathons will both head south via Zimovia Highway. Half-marathon runners will be able to turn around at the 6 Mile point, while those going for the full marathon will continue to the bus turnaround at 13 Mile.

"We'll have different stations along the way," Rice said.

Dispensing water, Gatorade and various energy-boosting snacks, seven aid stations are being set up at intervals of two or three miles along the different courses. Wrangell Medical Center, City Market, Alaska Airlines, Alaska Vistas, Swim Club, Community Market and the Garnet Grit Betties roller derby team each will occupy a station.

This year's organizers would like to improve how they mark out the at times winding courses as they wend through town. "We're going to place people at corners, because signs only go so far," Rice explained. Marathon organizers are still looking for volunteers willing to help direct runners in this fashion, but also anyone who might want to cheer participants on from the sidelines. "People being excited for runners give them that extra push."

Wrangell's running community is still growing, with groups and clubs like the Southeast Beasts adding annual events to its schedule over the past several years. A slightly lengthier tradition, Bearfest's run is also the town's only proper marathon, finally earning its certification as a quali-

fier for other races in 2015.

"It's a Boston qualifier," Rice noted. This means that finishing times in Sunday's marathon can be used to qualify for the annual Boston Marathon, a prestigious run which serves as a benchmark for many others worldwide.

One group expected this year will be four septuagenarians, with Wrangell's marathon to be one of many around the country they have run together over the years. "They do it because they love running," Rice said.

Signing up for the day's races will include registration fees, which drop for those who do so early. For instance, participation in the 5K costs \$15 the morning of, but is free for those who pre-register. Similarly, the half-marathon is \$25 and marathon \$50 for early signers, but is respectively \$35 and \$65 for those registering on Sunday.

"Everything goes back to Bearfest," Rice explained, with entry fees not just paying for marathon-related events, but also defraying costs for the festival's speakers, daily movies, music and other activities.

There are several ways to sign up. One

is to attend the evening lasagna feed at the Nolan Center Saturday at 6 p.m., which will also serve as a question and answer period about the different races' details. People can register online at <https://raceroster.com/events/2017/11900/2017-bearfest-marathon-12-5k>, or can stop into the Alaska Vistas office beforehand to sign up in person. Those wishing to volunteer can call the office at 874-3006, or can email Rice at beccamarice@gmail.com.

Following this year's marathon, after its first finisher, a raffle drawing is planned to be held outside the Nolan Center. Up to be won will be a pair of round-trip tickets provided by Alaska Airlines.

In addition to this year's Ray Troll-designed Alaska Bearfest shirts, Rice mentioned that shirts have been specially designed for participants of this year's marathon and the other runs. Designed by local artist Charity Hommel, the red tees sport a distinctive bear pawprint logo with the profile of a runner in it.

For more information on Bearfest, its marathon and an updated schedule of events and speakers, check out its home page at www.alaskabearfest.org

Five initiatives on the October ballot so far in Petersburg

By BEN MUIR
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – The ballot in October has five initiatives for Petersburg residents to vote on so far, including an amendment to the Charter, a tax break for business owners, off-road vehicles on public roads, a ban of fluoride and the development of the Scow Bay fishing yard.

The change to the Petersburg Charter would allow the City of Kupreanof its own dock within the Petersburg Borough. All the docks on the island are owned by the state of Alaska, currently. But Kupreanof has passed ordinances that would allow it to maintain a dock. Now the Charter must be changed, which is up to the voters, said Borough Clerk Debbie Thompson.

There is a tax break up for vote to Petersburg business owners who have installed

sprinkler systems. Voters will decide whether people with a fire-prevention system should get a two percent tax decrease from their property tax, which the state used to mandate. That is until it recently made the break optional.

Two initiatives involving off-highway vehicles and a fluoride ban will appear on the ballot, the Borough Assembly decided, manifesting an effort by separate groups to gather hundreds of signatures from around the community.

In a swift decision, the Assembly, complete with four members in attendance — Eric Castro, Nancy Strand, Bob

Lynn and Jeff Meucci — decided to submit to the voters the question of allowing ATVs on Borough-owned roads and banning fluoride from the water system.

Richard Burke led the effort to green light ATVs, and Holly Winje is a leader of the effort to axe fluoride. Both groups gathered the required 283 verifiable signatures.

"Out of respect for a number of folks who signed the petition," Burke said in a brief statement to the Assembly. "I am asking today for the Assembly to send this to the ballot."

Burke is petitioning for

ATVs to be allowed on all public roads, excluding state-owned, which are Haugen Drive, South Nordic Drive, Mitkof Highway and Scow Bay Loop, said Mindy Swihart, the Borough Deputy Clerk.

Winje reportedly defended a fluoride ban by asserting there is over-consumption of the ion, saying intake is immeasurable and potentially harmful.

Phil Beardslee, a retired dentist in Petersburg, said fluoride is vital to dental hygiene, and if extracted would lead to an increase in tooth decay.

"People wouldn't notice at first," Beardslee said. "But in a few years the consequences to tooth decay would be serious."

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Competition seeks entries for seafood expo

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A state seafood industry think tank is seeking value-added products for competitive entry.

Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation will be holding its call for product for the 2018 Alaska Symphony of Seafood on October 6. The annual competition searches for new products for Alaskan seafood, hoping to encourage innovation in the multibillion-dollar industry.

AFDF executive director Julie Decker explained that when the competition first started a quarter century ago it focused exclusively on salmon, in three different categories. In the years since, the Symphony has branched out to include all Alaska-sourced seafood products, consolidated its previous categories into retail and food service and added two more for byproducts and roe.

The efficiencies such developments can add to seafood production find new uses for traditionally wasted materials and add diversity to the overall market. New markets for oils, meals, skins and other substances ultimately add value to the state's seafood production, something the Symphony hopes to encourage.

"It was really about trying to do more with what we've had," Decker explained. "The byproducts and the roe products are kind of a new area for the industry to develop."

In the area of byproduct, the Symphony has been attracting a number of novel entries among industry start-ups. One example is

Tidal Vision, a Juneau business founded in 2015 that submitted its idea for salmon leather wallets to the 2016 Symphony, taking second place among byproduct-based goods. The firm has since taken first place in the category in 2017 for "Crystal Clarity," an all-in-one water clarifier for use in swimming pools that uses the chitosan extracted from crab shells.

Other categories draw equally interesting entries, like a candied salmon flavored ice cream submitted this year by Juneau coffeehouse Coppa, or Bambinos Baby Food's halibut baby food product which took the grand prize in 2016. For its 25th anniversary the Alaska Symphony of Seafood will be revisiting the imaginative creations that have won awards throughout its history, holding a panel presentation between November 16 and 19 at Seattle's Pacific Marine Expo.

Product entries for each category are evaluated individually by a panel of judges during a private session. They assess products' packaging and presentation, overall eating experience or use, price, and potential for commercial success. The top three winners from each category are crowned, and an overall grand prize is awarded to the entry with the highest evaluation.

Items will also be featured at open house events in Seattle mid-November and Juneau mid-February. At these functions, prospective buyers will have the opportunity to sample

USCG spends \$300K searching for man who faked death

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – The U.S. Coast Guard racked up \$311,000 in expenses searching for an Alaska man who faked his own death to avoid going to prison in a sexual assault case, according to federal prosecutors.

An indictment released Thursday charges Ryan Meganack, a commercial fisherman and boat captain from Port Graham, with conspiracy and "false distress" for planting evidence that he had been lost at sea while he hid out at a camp in the woods near the fishing village.

Meganack's girlfriend, Ivy Rose Rodriguez, 25, faces the same charges.

Port Graham is off the road system near the tip of the Kenai Peninsula about 140 miles southwest of Anchorage. Meganack was a halibut fisherman and the skipper for 14 years of the fishing-boat Aires.

Meganack last year faced sexual assault charges and on Dec. 5 was scheduled to enter a guilty plea, which would have meant a prison sentence.

According to federal prosecutors, Meganack and Rodriguez hatched a plan to stage a boating accident.

Meganack built a makeshift camp where he could hide, prosecutors said. Around Nov. 29, he piloted his fishing boat to an island near Port Graham, abandoned a small fishing skiff, returned the larger boat to a lagoon off Port Graham and walked to his campsite.

Within a day, Rodriguez sent Facebook messages to Meganack's family reporting that Meganack had left after midnight in the skiff. She said Meganack had been drinking, that he had more alcohol with him, and that the outboard motor on the skiff "wasn't running right."

Family members called the Coast Guard. Helicopters from Kodiak launched despite falling snow, high wind and low visibility and found the skiff, prosecutors said. The cutter Naushon and an Alaska State Trooper patrol vessel searched by sea. Port Graham residents walked shorelines.

On Dec. 2, acting on a tip, troopers found Meganack at his campsite and arrested him for violating conditions of his release.

He was sentenced in January in the sexual assault case. He remains imprisoned at Goose Creek Correctional Facility in Wasilla. Court documents do not list an attorney in the new case.

and rate different entries, with an overall People's Choice prize for each venue awarded for their favorite item.

Winners of the 2018 prizes will this year be entered into the Seafood Expo North American in Boston, beginning March 11. The scheduling for this year's Symphony was rearranged to allow for inclusion into this prestigious trade show competition, which touts itself as the continent's largest seafood exposition. Thousands of buy-

ers and suppliers the world over come to the three-day exposition to meet, network and do business, offering exhibitors a prime opportunity to market their products more widely.

"It should be a really valuable event for people," Decker commented.

For more information on the competition and how to enter, visit the AFDF site at www.afdf.org/symphony-of-seafood/. The competition is looking for commercial-ready

products, complete with packaging and required ingredient information.

AFDF is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1978 to develop the state's seafood industry further. Its Symphony of Seafood is just one way it encourages innovation, with AFDF coordinating with a number of agencies, businesses and other organizations to support Alaska fishermen, seafood processors and maritime industries.

Petersburg Voters to weigh-in on Scow Bay development

By BEN MUIR
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – Qualified voters in Petersburg will be asked to weigh-in on development of the Scow Bay fishing yard, and decide whether to authorize the Borough to put \$500,000 down on the project, a fraction of the total cost but a concise statement that would turn the discussed expansion into a reality.

Four members voted in favor and one against a decision to pass the spending question to voters, which asks if the city should use \$500,000 of the Economic Fund --- a job-creation and economic development account --- to help build a small vessel haul out and boat yard at Scow Bay.

"I am really in support of this plan," said Assembly Member Jeff Meucci. "In a time where we are looking for some economic development, this is going to be a good opportunity to maybe help us get there."

John Murgas, the owner of Island Ventures LLC, has been vested in the project. Although the project is in its early stages, the concept is based in part on his use of hydraulic trailers for hauling up to 45 ton vessels on the Scow Bay turnaround, he said.

"The combination of the Scow Bay turnaround basin, geography and physical specifications of our commercial fleet are unique," Murgas said. "And, to my knowledge, unmatched in North America."

"Development of the Scow Bay turnaround as a vessel haul facility is long overdue. I commend the Petersburg Economic Council for taking on this project," he continued.

The half-a-million is a down payment to show grant foundations that Petersburg will spend its money on the project, said Liz Cabrera, the

Community Development director. The United States Economic Development Administration often requires communities to match 25 percent of the money it grants. The \$500,000 is a quarter of the \$2 million grant that Cabrera plans to aim for.

"That's one of the grants we are looking at," Cabrera said. "Others don't have the type of match requirement, but matches are certainly encouraged."

A \$2 million grant would only cover the earth-work portion of the project, Cabrera said, as the projected total cost is more than \$7 million. Grants and public-private partnerships would likely avoid a tax increase to pay for it, Cabrera said.

The proposed expansion would add a concrete ramp at eight percent elevation, along with a heated wash down pad, a boarding float alongside the ramp and water treatment facilities. It will widen the uplands from one acre to two for additional space to maintain boats, along with extended breakwater for a future deep-water dock, said Dick Somerville, the principal civil engineer who developed the concept of the project.

Bob Lynn was the only member to oppose the \$500,000 request. He cited a possibility of mounting costs that the Harbor and Borough might not be able to cover. Further, there are other facilities situated at Scow Bay, he said. The Fire Department has stations there, and until those are moved, Lynn 'guaranteed' a clash between the department and boat traffic if Scow Bay is expanded.

"I really believe there needs to be a management plan," Lynn said, "And right now we don't have one."

Cabrera, who is a leader of the project, responded to Lynn's objection.

"Assembly Member Lynn has his opinions," she said. "He is entitled to them."



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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Texting/social media keeps fishermen informed about fishing issues

As state lawmakers mull ways to update permitting laws to protect salmon habitat, a dual sweepstakes is using text messaging and social media as the means to keep more fishermen informed.

"One of the things we've learned over the past two years is that most fishermen are getting almost all of their information on their phones," said Lindsey Bloom, program manager for United Fishermen of Alaska's Salmon Habitat Information Program (SHIP).

"Since the start of this program we have heard from thousands of Alaska fishermen who say they care deeply about all issues related to salmon habitat, from ocean acidification and water quality to in river impacts such as dewatering and blocked fish passage," Bloom added. They also have learned that fishermen have a variety of preferred communication styles, and Bloom said the sweepstakes were created "to increase our reach to fishermen through multiple channels."

To test the waters, SHIP is encouraging fishermen to text "ufaship" to 313131, and UFA will send back four chances to win gift cards of up to \$200 from Alaska Airlines or LFS, Inc.

A second "Predict the Bay" contest at SHIP's Facebook page invites guesses of this year's Bristol Bay's total sockeye catch and offers similar prizes.

"Highlighting Bristol bay is intentional, as it's an incredibly prolific fishery that is based on superb quality habitat," Bloom added.

Fishermen who opt in will receive monthly SHIP updates, as well as alerts about other issues.

"We are trying to incentivize participation and get the numbers up a little higher," Bloom said. "Throughout the year we'll be able to send out messages about what's going on with certain policies, whether it's at the federal level or state issues with the Board of Fish or the legislature or something else."

"We have a vast range of age groups who are participating in fishing and we're trying to get a better sense of how to best communicate and get the farthest reach for our efforts," she added.

Various state and federal agencies, such as the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and NOAA, also are interested in bettering communication with fishermen, and Bloom said they are closely watching the SHIP outreach efforts to mirror what is most effective.

The sweepstakes also aims to boost membership in UFA, the nation's largest commercial fishing trade group.

"If habitat is as important of an issue as fishermen are telling us it is, it would be excellent if they would put some money where their mouths are and support UFA by signing up through the SHIP program," Bloom said.

Winners of the SHIP sweepstakes will be announced in September.

Frankenfish moves forward - Plans are in the works to send genetically modified salmon to markets in the U.S. and Canada by next year.

Despite an outpouring of nearly two million messages opposing the manmade fish, in 2015 it got the nod by the Food and Drug Administration. That followed a more than 20-year push by AquaBounty Technologies of Massachusetts for approval of what will be the first GM animal ok'd for human consumption. Health Canada approved the fish for consumption last year saying that fillets derived from so called AquaAdvantage salmon "are as safe and nutritious as fillets from farmed Atlantic salmon."

Lab technicians at Prince Edward Island currently are creating fertilized Atlantic salmon eggs that include growth-enhancing DNA from two other fish that make them grow twice as fast as real salmon. The eggs will be shipped to growing tanks in Panama, and then transferred to a land based aquaculture system in Albany, Indiana. A second facility also is planned in Canada. AquaBounty said they plan to produce 1,300 tons of Frankenfish annually starting in 2018.

Meanwhile, last week a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators from Alaska, Washington and Oregon filed a Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act that would require any manmade salmon must be labeled as such. The Act also requires an independent third-party review of the environmental assessment process within the FDA. "The primary purpose of this bill is to ensure that consumers have all the facts and can make an informed decision when they are purchasing salmon," said Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"There's a huge difference between 'Frankenfish' and the wild, healthy, sustainably-caught, delicious real thing - and I want to make sure folks are aware of that. I will not accept that this 'fake fish' will be sold in stores without clear labeling." "Additionally, this bill would create a much-needed review of the environmental assessment process within the FDA for the approval of these new species that are being created in

labs," Murkowski added. No matter how it pans out, the salmon will be a tough sell. More than 80 grocery chains and restaurants have stated they will not sell the genetically modified fish.

Wisdom on the airwaves - Older Alaska fishermen are taking to the radio airwaves to offer career advice to new and younger industry entrants.

It's part of a wrap up of a three-year study that has attempted to define the problems associated with the "graying of the fleet" and to find ways to turn the tide.

The average Alaska fisherman today is over 50, a decade older than the average of a generation ago.

Since limited entry programs began in state fisheries in the late 1970s, permit holdings by local rural residents have declined by 30 percent. The trend is similar in federal fisheries since the mid-1990s, with Gulf of Alaska communities showing a 53 percent decline in individual fishing quota holdings.

The lack of recruits threatens the healthy succession of fishing as an economic and cultural mainstay in Alaska's communities, and creates a public policy concern for Alaska, concludes the "Next Generation of Fishermen Study" done by the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, the University of Alaska/Fairbanks and Alaska Sea Grant.

"It is getting more and more challenging for young people to enter into our fisheries and once they are there, to make sure their fishing businesses are viable and successful," said Danielle Ringer, a UAF researcher.

The project, which targeted Kodiak and the Bristol Bay region, included more than 130 interviews with permit holders, processors and other stakeholders to identify problems and come up with ways to attract more industry participants.

The group has compiled a white paper that speaks to policy solutions called "Turning the Tide - How Alaska can address the Graying of the Fleet and Loss of Fisheries Access."

"It summarizes current efforts in Alaska, as well as in other U.S. fisheries and other nations to address access problems," Ringer said.

The researchers also have launched a series of public service announcements for Alaska radio stations in which fishermen pass along tips on how to improve their success in a fishing career.

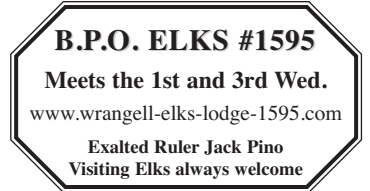
Throughout the three-year project, Ringer said there was one agreement among all fishermen.

"They love fishing!" she said. "And they want people to keep

doing it and they want it to continue to be a thriving industry."

Learn more at fishermen.alaska.edu

Correction: Fishermen in Southeast averaged 70 cents a pound for chum salmon last year, not 25 cents as was reported last week.



CITY OF WRANGELL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION LIFEGUARD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will begin to accept applications for the position of Lifeguard to establish an open pool of applicants for temporary help. Applications will be accepted beginning July 19th, through December 31, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. The work is temporary help with Lifeguarding, facility custodial and clerical duties. Applicants must be sixteen years old or older and hold a current Lifeguard Certificate and CPR/AED Certificate.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hiring from these applications, as needed, throughout the year. At the end of this open enrollment period applicants would need to file a new application.

Applications and detailed job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929. For More information contact Amber Al-Haddad at 907-874-2444.

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Lisa Von Bargaen

Wrangell Borough Manager

Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2017

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Wrangell Museum has been in the process of cleaning up its paperwork and ownership on items held in the collection. Please be advised that the Museum will acquire ownership of the following items if a valid claim is not received by the museum within 45 days of the last publication of this notice. All items are "Found in collection." All items have been in the museum's documented possession since prior to 1993. A list of the items is as follows: FIC.001 Flag-homemade British flag made with tape (condition poor), FIC.002 Flag-handmade Russian flag (condition poor), FIC.004-Flag USA (condition poor), FIC.005-Flag-North to the future (condition good), FIC.006-Tablecloth, FIC.007-Scrapbook owned by Tom Brunner, FIC.008-Photo of log barge in Icy Straight, FIC.009- Glass negative (broken), FIC.010-Photo album-photos of unknown people, FIC.011-Photograph-unknown tugboat, FIC.012-Photograph of unknown area, FIC.013-Photo album of Skagway area, FIC.014-Photograph of log barge near Sitka, FIC.015-Lapel buttons and patch, FIC.016-Magazines-6 boxes of Alaska Magazine.

Contact Terri Henson, Museum Director, PO Box 1050, Wrangell, AK 99929, 907-874-3770 for more information or to make claim of ownership

Published: July 13, 20, 27 and August 3, 2017



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"They love fishing!" she said. "And they want people to keep

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**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
Notice to Voters**

Voter qualifications for the City & Borough of Wrangell, October 3, 2017, Regular Election, are as follows:

1. a United States citizen;
2. Registered and qualified to vote in the State of Alaska elections and registered thereat for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the municipal election;
3. At least eighteen (18) years of age;
4. A resident of the City & Borough of Wrangell for thirty (30) days preceding the election;
5. Not disqualified by reason of having been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, and if so, that civil rights have been restored, nor disqualified because judicially determined to be of unsound mind.

Voters are cautioned to make certain their residence address is correct on their State Voter Registration. City law requires that each voter shall be registered to vote in the precinct in which that person seeks to vote in order to vote in municipal elections.

Your name must appear on the precinct list! If you are registered in another city, you must change your registration **prior to Sunday, September 3, 2017, to qualify to vote in the Regular Election of October 3, 2017.**

You may ask the Borough Clerk to check the precinct register to assure your qualifications.

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

Publish: July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2017

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
JOB ADVERTISEMENT**

**Temporary Dispatch Secretary
Light Department**

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications for the position of temporary Dispatch Secretary beginning July 17th until filled.

The Electric Department will begin to accept applications on July, 17th for the position of Temporary Dispatch Secretary. This is a temporary 40 hour per week position lasting (2-3) months. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, be proficient with Microsoft Office programs including Excel, Word, Outlook, and Access.

For a complete list of duties and responsibilities a job application may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Jeff Jabusch
Interim Borough Manager

Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2017

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
LEGAL**

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR BOROUGH ASSEMBLY, PORT COMMISSION, SCHOOL BOARD AND (WMC) HOSPITAL BOARD and signature petitions as required, will be available in the Borough Clerk's Office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays), **August 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.**

Qualified persons may have their name placed on the ballot for the October 3, 2017, City & Borough of Wrangell Regular Election by filing declarations of candidacy for Borough Assembly, Port Commission, School Board and (WMC) Hospital Board.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Assembly: | Two – (3 Year Terms) |
| Port Commission: | One – (3 Year Term) |
| School Board: | One – (3 Year Term) |
| School Board: | One – (2 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 2019) |
| Hospital Board: | Two – (4 Year Terms) |
| Hospital Board: | One – (2 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 2019) |

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

Publish: July 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2017

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SEASONAL JOB POSTING**

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will accept applications for the position of Park Maintenance II until the position has been filled. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Alaska Driver's License and have knowledge of power tools and be familiar with grounds maintenance and repairs. Both positions are full time, temporary.

Duties include both skilled and semi-skilled work in landscape, mowing, weed-eating, grounds maintenance, repairs and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields and cemeteries. Pay range \$11.79/hr. - \$14.95/hr.

Applications and full job descriptions may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

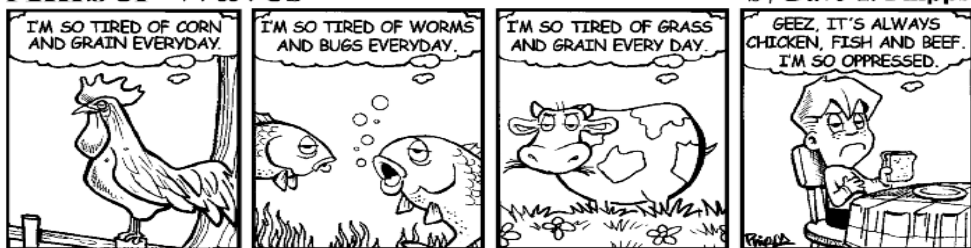
The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

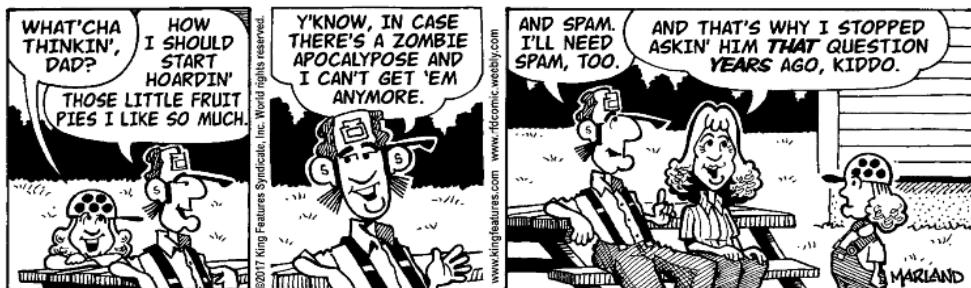
Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2017

Comics

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



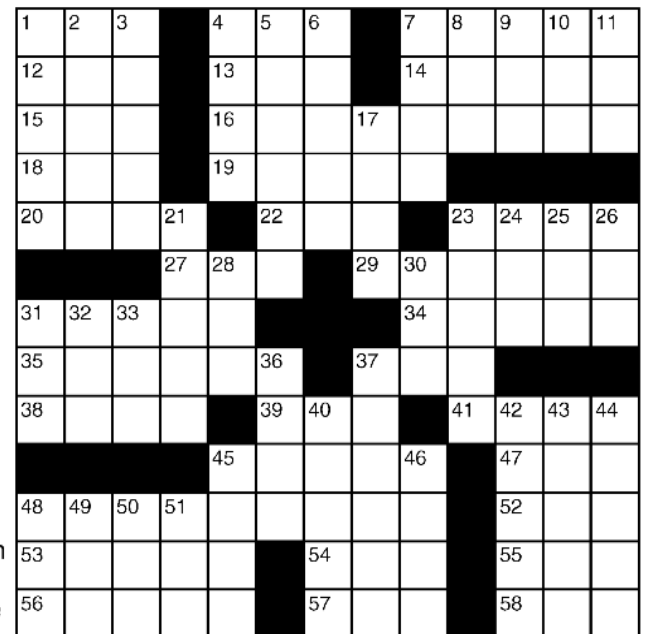
Just Like Cats & Dogs



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Several scenes
- 4 Track circuit
- 7 Root for
- 12 Feathery accessory
- 13 Actress Thurman
- 14 Sill
- 15 Branch
- 16 Joey and his parents?
- 18 Hi-tech SFX
- 19 Be philanthropic
- 20 Contraband measure
- 22 Author Brown
- 23 Got up
- 27 Vast expanse
- 29 Successful horticulturist
- 31 Upright
- 34 Pint fraction
- 35 Hitting sound
- 37 Plead
- 38 Gardener, at times
- 39 Hosp. section
- 41 Sharpen
- 45 Poe topic
- 47 Scale mem ber
- 48 Dime portrait
- 52 Midafternoon, in a way
- 53 Trip around the world?
- 54 Lawyer's due



- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 55 Superlative ending | 8 That girl | 31 Biblical verb suffix |
| 56 Dams name | 9 Tokyo's old name | 32 Pi follower |
| 57 Engine additive brand | 10 Id counterpart | 33 Lamb's dam |
| 58 Alternative to white | 11 Scale members | 36 Chicken — |
| DOWN | 17 Talent show prop | 37 Ammo unit |
| 1 By surprise | 21 PBS curmudgeon | 40 Staff leaders? |
| 2 Welsh pooch | 23 Coarse | 42 Wickerwork willow |
| 3 Sri Lankan language | 24 Possess | 43 Loud |
| 4 "Star Wars" hero | 25 Moment | 44 Upper crust |
| 5 Blake or Bynes | 26 Before | 45 Wagers |
| 6 "Kung Fu —" | 28 And the like (abbr.) | 46 Pace |
| 7 Talon | 30 Fish eggs | 48 Tier |
| | | 49 Raw rock |
| | | 50 Sapporo sash |
| | | 51 Round Table address |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			5			6				
		9			7	3				
6	4		3							1
		5			1	6				3
4				6						9
	9		2							8
7				1	5					2
	8				4	1				
		1	9							4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL; In the Matter of the Estate of Edward George Kuntz; Case No. 1WR-17-15 PR. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rhonda J. Christian has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Rhonda J. Christian, P.O. Box 734, Glennallen, AK 99588-0734, or filed with the Clerk of Court, Box 869, Wrangell, AK 99929-0869.

Publish: July 20, 27 and August 3, 2017

BOATS AND MARINE
IFQ'S AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

FOR RENT
2 BEDROOM APARTMENT UNFURNISHED, has washer dryer hook up, electric stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Call 907-305-0619.....tfn7-13b20

FOR SALE

24 FOOT ALMAR JET BOAT V8 Redline Ford engine and Hamilton 211 Marine Jet .Lots of accessories including: Heavy duty 1/4 inch bottom, swim step, kicker bracket, self-draining decks, extended range fuel tanks, raised sides, safety rails, down rigger brackets, dual axle trailer. This durable boat is great for hunting, fishing, or charter. Contact Dave McCandless in Haines by phone or text at 907-305-0633 t f n 7 - 6 b 6 4

FOR SALE
FOR SALE ONE BEDROOM HOUSE in town, new clean interior. Some down: Asking \$95,000. May carry paper. John Tullis Real Estate 907-874-2222.....tfn7-6b22

JOB
ER COORDINATOR (NURSE) OPENING Emergency Room Coordinator, RN position at WMC, work will include two-12 hr ER shifts, two-8hr administrative shifts (including every other weekend and nursing call), must possess a current Alaska RN license. Competitive benefits package/EOE. Contact: Sherri

Austin, CNO, (907) 874-7157.....tfn7-20b44

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2017-2018 School Year Part-Time Math teacher. This is a part-time teaching position providing upper-level Math at the secondary level. A current Alaska Teaching certificate with the appropriate endorsements is required. A Master's degree in Math is preferred. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347.Applications must be received by 4:00 PM, Monday, July 31, 2017.....tfn7-20b74

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOL IS ACCEPTING applications for the following extra-curricular positions for the 2017-2018 school year: High School Boys' Head and Assistant Basketball Coach, Elementary School Student Council Advisor, Freshmen Class Advisor, Senior Class Co-Advisors, Middle School Volleyball Assistant Coach.....tfn6-22b43

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SEASONAL JOB POSTING

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will begin to accept applications for the position of **Recreation Assistant** to establish an open pool of applicants for temporary help. Applications will be accepted beginning April 12, 2017 through December 30, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants selected for this position will serve as a Recreation Assistant at Parks & Recreation and will be involved in recreational activities including department recreation programs, community events, facility rentals and other similar recreational services.

Duties include providing oversight of facilities and activities, ensuring adherence to regulations and procedures, monitoring the security of premises, maintaining routine reports and general custodial duties.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hiring from these applications, as needed, throughout the year. At the end of this open enrollment period applicants would need to file a new application.

This position requires candidates to be available to work a minimum of 6 hours per week with shifts scheduled throughout the week, including weekends. Applicants must be at least 16 years old.

Applications may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2017

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

NOTICE INVITING BIDS PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING & SWIMMING POOL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **Public Safety Building & Swimming Pool Roof Replacement** project. The Work consists of all activities necessary to construct the Wrangell Public Safety Building and Swimming Pool Roof Replacement, as shown in the contract documents. The Work consists of Removal of ballast, insulation and metal coping and associated work on the Wrangell Public Safety Building and Swimming Pool Roof Replacement and reroofing with insulation; and insulation and tapered insulation at Swimming pool roof replacement; PVC roofing, metal coping and associated work. The Work is comprised of a Base Bid and an Alternate for each building. The estimated construction cost for the Base Bid is \$110,000-\$135,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:00 PM prevailing time on August 16, 2017 and publicly opened and read at that time.

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

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

OWNER: The City and Borough of Wrangell

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

Publish: July 27 and August 3 and 10, 2017

NOTICE TO TAXPAYER

For the current fiscal year the City and Borough of Wrangell has been allocated the following amount of state aid for school and municipal purposes under the applicable financial assistance Acts:

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE (AS 14.17)	\$3,373,598
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT (AS 14.11.100)	\$166,915
COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM (AS 29.60.850-29.60.879)	\$409,223
TOTAL AID	\$3,949,736

The millage equivalent of this state aid, based on the dollar value of a mill in the municipality during the current assessment year and for the preceding assessment year, is:

	MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	
	PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS YEAR
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	24.10 MILLS	22.93 MILLS
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT	1.19 MILLS	1.13 MILLS
COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM	2.63 MILLS	2.78 MILLS
TOTAL MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	27.92 MILLS	26.85 MILLS

Lee Burgess
Finance Director

Publish: July 27, August 3 and 10, 2017

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	1	5	9	7	6	4
5	1	9	6	4	7	3	2	8
6	4	7	3	8	2	5	9	1
8	2	5	4	9	1	6	7	3
4	7	3	5	6	8	2	1	9
1	9	6	2	7	3	4	8	5
7	6	4	8	1	5	9	3	2
9	8	2	7	3	4	1	5	6
3	5	1	9	2	6	8	4	7

King Crossword Answers

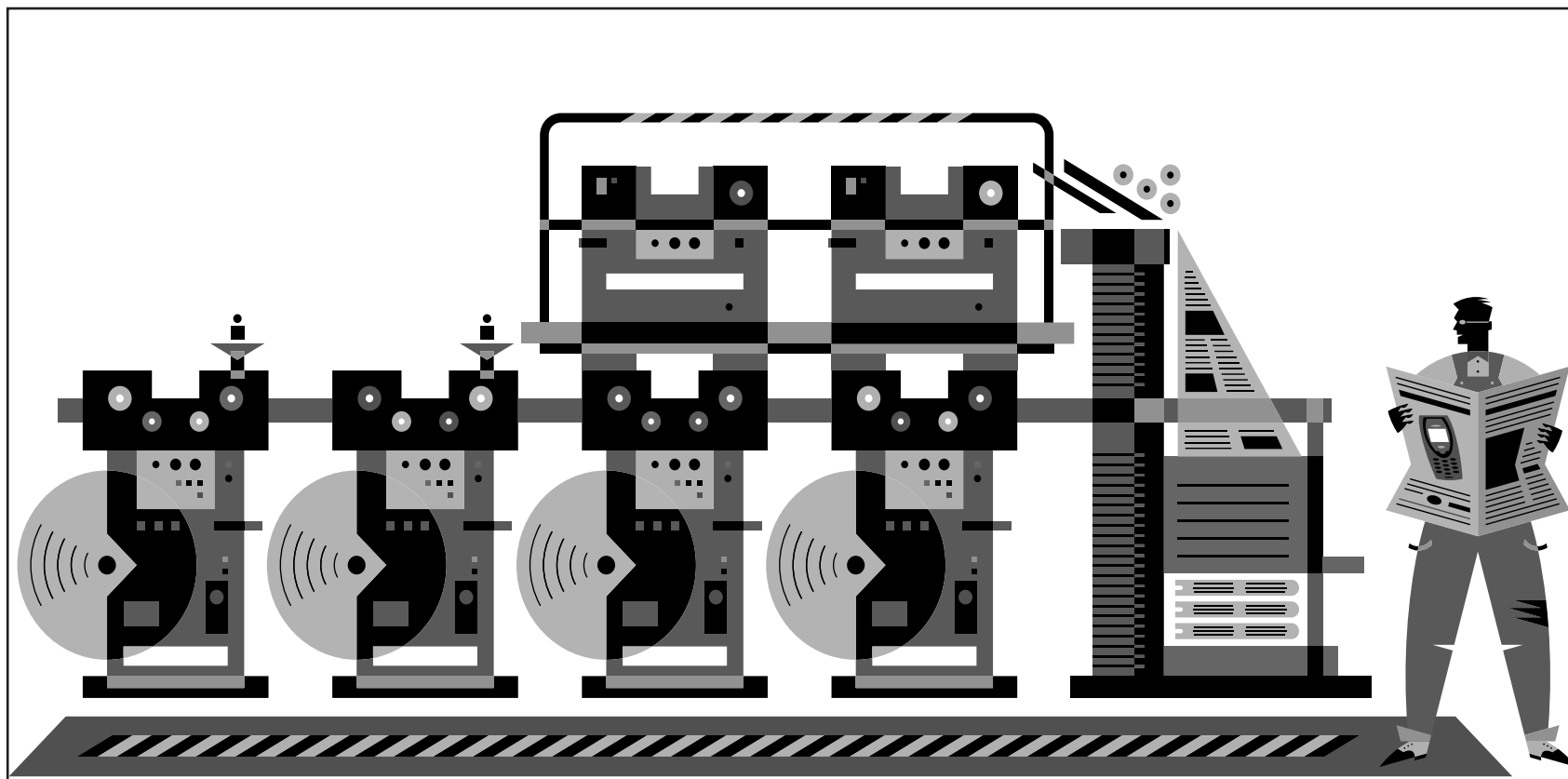
Solution time: 27 mins.

A	C	T	L	A	P	C	H	E	E	R
B	O	A	U	M	A	L	E	D	G	E
A	R	M	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O
C	G	I	E	N	D	O	W			
K	I	L	O	D	A	N	R	O	S	E
		S	E	A	G	R	O	W	E	R
E	R	E	C	T		O	U	N	C	E
T	H	W	A	C	K	B	E	G		
H	O	E	R	I	C	U	H	O	N	E
		B	E	L	L	S	S	O	L	
R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T	I	I
O	R	B	I	T	F	E	E	E	S	T
W	E	I	R	S	S	T	P	R	Y	E

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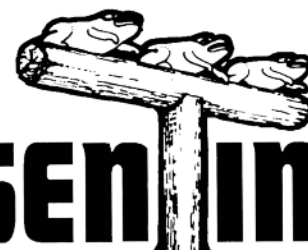
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WRANGELL SENTINEL



Golf

Continued from page 1

Airlines Tournament, recalled club manager Bill Messmer, winning a pair of tickets in the bargain.

Weather-permitting, Muskeg Meadows' next tournaments are slated for 10 a.m. on Saturday and on Sunday, with nine-hole best ball play for both Bearfest on the former and for Senior Apartments' annual Al Kaer Memorial on the latter.

Saturday's cancellation was one of several so far this summer, with rainy, chillier than usual conditions disruptive for the golfing season.

"We've lost a day almost every weekend," Messmer reckoned.

Speaking with a meteorologist at the Juneau National Weather Service Forecast Office, that follows a wider trend in Southeast this summer.

The capital has so far had only three days registering 70 degrees or above since the summer started June 20. If that keeps up through September 22, it will be the second-lowest number of such days so far recorded, with a previous low set by two days in 1970. Meanwhile, rainfall has also been higher than average, by 1.75 inches in May and by 0.5 inches in June.

"It's been a rather cool summer," commented meteorologist Edward Liske.

Closer to home, Petersburg has also experienced slightly above-average rainfall and similarly lower temperatures. It has had only one day at or above 70 degrees so far this summer. Keeping that course would make it a record low, fewer than only two such days in 2008.

In Wrangell, climatological updates have not been recorded for NWS on a regular basis since 2012. Juneau Cooperative Observer Program leader Kimberly Vaughan explained the service would like to resume data collection, entering Wrangell's daily temperature and precipitation levels.

"It's definitely important," she

said, helping to fill out the broader climate picture not just for the state but for the wider world.

The program would need a volunteer, either an individual or business with an adequate location for observation – someplace grassy and open would be most ideal. Those interested in learning

more about the program can contact Vaughan by email at kimberly.vaughan@noaa.gov or can check out the NWS COOP page online at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/land-based-station-data/land-based-datasets/cooperative-observer-network-coop>

New manager

Continued from page 1

Burgess what the city's options would be in the future, both with setting wages and in renegotiating with IBEW for a new contract in three years.

Burgess answered that language in the CBA allowed for the possibility of layoffs, which together with staffing reductions would be one of the "fairly limited" set of options at the city's disposal in curbing costs. Step freezes would be another option.

Thinking of the future, Prysunka spoke in favor of undertaking an independent salary and wage study, one which would evaluate current pay levels on the basis of their relation to relative market value.

The state of Alaskan municipalities' financial health was given a grave review in a recent assessment by the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research. A few of the most startling conclusions it had reached were that municipal governments are generally more dependent on state revenue as recently as 2015 than 10 years before, to the tune of from \$250 to \$5,000 per person depending on the municipality. Local government expenditures have generally remained stable despite sizable cuts at the state level, but because of their varying reliance on state funds that cannot last long.

"The basic idea is it's going to get worse before it gets better," said Decker.

For Wrangell, labor statistics indicate some 30.5 percent of jobs within the borough are in local government. As for its dependence on state spending, the city received \$36.5 million through state aid in 2015, or amounting to \$1,155 per resident. Between its relatively high sales tax, moderate bed tax, higher-end mill rate and other sources, Wrangell's city government brought in 40 percent of its total revenue from internal sources.

"It's pretty eye-opening, and it really doesn't bode well for boroughs' financial situation," said Assembly member Becky Rooney. She recommended that residents read the report for

themselves, which details hard numbers and projections for individual municipalities. A copy of the report is on the city's website, and was included in Tuesday's meeting packet under the clerk's file.

Speaking on the economy as a member of the community, seasonal resident, four-term U.S. Senator and former Gov. Frank Murkowski spoke to Wrangell's Assembly about the state's economic future during the meeting.

"The future of Alaska lies in the responsible development of our resources," he began.

In the past state government had built up its operations largely on oil-based revenues, to the extent that it has little else to fall back on in Alaskan economy. With sharp drops in the price and production of crude and accompanying cuts to state spending, he warned it would need to fall more squarely on individual communities to look for revenue opportunities.

"The circumstances of that impact on our communities is being felt now, and I fear it's going to be felt much more drastically in the future," Murkowski said.

Taking Wrangell's prospective grant for updating Shoemaker Bay Harbor's facilities (see budget article) as an example, Murkowski, a former banker, recommended the city find ways to borrow the money it needs to complete the project on its own.

"I think that's a project the community can take on," he told the assembled members.

One of the aging float's fingers is currently unusable for mooring due to considerable decay, which he pointed out meant lost revenue for the city. In the meantime, that also meant lost opportunity for the community, fewer boats in the water, and fewer jobs.

"The days of the handouts from the state are over," Murkowski stated, referring to its projected \$2.5 billion deficit in this year's budget. "I'm not convinced you're going to get a grant."

In the case of the city's water treatment facility, another

replacement project which would depend on in this case federal grants, he urged similar solution-finding before further problems cost the community opportunity. "If you're looking for economic development here, you've got to have water," he added.

WRANGELL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS, REQUIRED UNDER A STAGE I - WATCH OF THE WATER SHORTAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- ☞ Active shut-off nozzles must be used for all water hose use.
- ☞ Repair all water leaks as soon as possible.
- ☞ Restaurants are encouraged not to serve tap water unless requested by a patron.
- ☞ Major commercial water customers shall implement Stage I measures of their water conservation plan.
- ☞ Water sales to cruise ships shall be prohibited.
- ☞ As always, turn off water if not needed.



Publish: July 13, 2017 and tfn.

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