



Wrangell schools could get \$425,000 in additional state funding

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The budget that legislators approved last week and will send to the governor for his signature into law or veto would provide about \$425,000 in one-time additional state funding to the Wrangell school district for the 2023-2024 classroom year.

That would deliver almost a 9% boost to the district's total operating budget revenue, which is comprised of state money (more than 60%), a borough contribution (32%) and federal dollars.

"It will still need to pass the governor, so it's not guaranteed," Bill Burr, Wrangell schools superintendent, said last week. The district is scheduled in June to adopt its final spending plan for the 2023-2024 school year, he said. "We will update the budget to reflect the increase, if it is not vetoed."

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has not publicly stated whether he will approve the increase in state funding for public education. He did not propose any increase in the budget that he submitted to lawmakers at the start of the session in January, leaving it to legislators to decide an amount.

The Wrangell district has used temporary federal pandemic relief payments and savings — which are declining — to balance its budget the past few years. The federal aid will run out at the end of the

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Graduating with class



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Above: Commencement speaker Mickie Angerman, at the podium, recounts her days as a second grade teacher when she taught many of the high school seniors who shared the stage Friday evening. Below: Brodie Gardner, left, and Ethan Blatchley smile as they walk toward the dais, surrounded by friends and family taking photos

Graduates thank their teachers 'for everything you do'

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

There were plenty of smiles, hugs and tears of joy in a ceremony lasting nearly two hours.

Not a moment of the Wrangell High School 2023 graduation was wasted as speakers and video presentations reflected on the lives of 20 seniors taking the step into the next phase of their lives.

Salutatorian Brodie Gardner and co-valedictorians Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch and Kiara Harrison focused on the positive traits of their classmates and the dedication of their teachers.

"They go above and beyond for their students," Gardner said in her speech to a packed gym last Friday. "The teachers are loving and want what's best for all of us. Speaking on behalf of my class, I'd like to say thank you for everything you

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Ander Edens has high hopes for big 4th of July ticket sales

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

As Wrangell prepares for its biggest event of the year — the Fourth of July — one teen has taken it upon himself to ensure that the celebration will be

prosperous for years to come. Though Ander Edens is the only contestant in this year's royalty fundraising competition, he is setting his sights on a record-breaking run.

The ticket sales are the main

fundraiser for the chamber of commerce, which organizes the holiday festivities.

The current fundraising record is \$126,408 in raffle ticket sales in 2016, though there were two ticket-selling contestants that year. "I want to beat that," Edens said.

The high school sophomore has been planning to participate in the royalty fundraising raffle since last year. He decided to run for Fourth of July king because he's passionate about the success of the town and wants to support its traditions. "I just love Wrangell," he said. "It's just a good little spot. ... I would like to see it build up a bit more."

But Edens isn't working alone. Making a potentially record-breaking royalty run is a team effort, and his dad, James Edens, is pitching in as food manager for his food booth. "He's been working really hard on this," Ander said. "A lot of our menu prep is on him, making food for a hundred-plus people every day. It's stressful, but it's worth it."

Like his son, James Edens

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Legislature settles on \$1,300 PFD, with bonus if oil prices go higher

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Alaska lawmakers reached a compromise on the state budget and adjourned after a one-day special session last week, approving a \$1,300 Permanent Fund dividend for this fall with the possibility of a second, smaller payment next year if oil revenues exceed projections.

The amount of the PFD and the capital budget — construction and maintenance projects in legislators' home districts — were the final items that forced legislators into a special session after the regular session ended May 17 without a budget.

The governor called them back to work starting the next day.

While the Republican-led House and Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy wanted a larger PFD, which would have required drawing hundreds of millions of dollars from the state's dwindling savings account, the bipartisan Senate majority coalition insisted on the \$1,300 dividend and a balanced budget without taking from savings.

The budget includes provisions that will provide a second payment next year — called an energy relief payment — if Alaska North Slope oil prices exceed the projected \$73-a-barrel average over the next 12 months.

If prices are high, the additional tax and royalty revenue would be shared 50-50 between the bonus payment to individual Alaskans, capped at \$500, and a deposit into state savings.

The Senate approved the final budget with only two no votes out of 20 members. The House consented on a 26-14 vote after almost half of the majority joined with the Democrat-led minority to adopt the spending plan and end the special session, which by law could have run as long as 30 days.

The state fiscal year starts July 1. The budget totals \$6.1 billion in unrestricted general fund revenues, of which K-12 education, Medicaid and the Permanent Fund dividend are the three largest appropriations.

After an all-day session of negotiations behind closed doors,

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PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ander Edens has big plans for his Fourth of July fundraising effort, with food sales and more planned for the month-long raffle ticket sales.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, May 24: Delilah Roane; Anniversary: Lorne and Stephanie Cook.

Thursday, May 25: Scott Thomas, Guy Young; Anniversary: Jake and Alesha Jabusch.

Friday, May 26: Olson Anderson, Judy Bakeberg, Jesse Sumner, Jordan Veelle.

Saturday, May 27: Amanda Johnson, Nola Walker.

Sunday, May 28: None.

Monday, May 29: Jeff Angerman, Wayne Kaer; Anniversary: Bob and Evelyn McCormick.

Tuesday, May 30: Timothy Garcia, Draven Golding; Anniversary: Rob and Dena McChargue.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 25

Chicken rice casserole, mixed vegetables, cauliflower broccoli toss, Pilot Bread

Friday, May 26

Fiesta pork chops, cauliflower, fruit slaw, rice

Monday, May 29

Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

Pork chop suey, steamed broccoli, peach salad, rice

Wednesday, May 31

Tuna casserole, peas and carrots, pineapple coleslaw

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, May 28

Columbia, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 4

Columbia, 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

Columbia, 3:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 18

Columbia, 2:15 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, May 31

Columbia, 4:15 a.m.

Wednesday, June 7

Columbia, 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday, June 14

Columbia, 4 a.m.

Wednesday, June 21

Columbia, 7 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information

or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May 24	04:01	14.7	05:25	12.3	10:37	0.6	10:35	6.0
May 25	04:44	13.7	06:19	12.0	11:23	1.5	11:32	6.4
May 26	05:37	12.6	07:21	12.0	12:15	2.3
May 27	06:49	11.8	08:22	12.5	00:42	6.5	01:13	2.8
May 28	08:11	11.6	09:14	13.4	01:58	6.0	02:12	3.2
May 29	09:23	11.9	09:59	14.3	03:09	4.9	03:10	3.3
May 30	10:23	12.5	10:38	15.3	04:09	3.4	04:03	3.3

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY summer reading program is open for registration. Open to students entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library. The program runs June 1 through July 31. More than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for everyone who completes the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday, May 26, and Saturday, May 27. The action adventure comedy runs 2 hours and 30 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

BASKETBALL SKILL CAMP Friday-Sunday, May 26-28, at the high school gym. Camp includes injury prevention, athlete development, fundamental skill development, team concepts, game application and 3-on-3 games. Camp price for all three days is \$50 for grades third through fifth; \$100 for grades sixth through eighth; \$120 for grades ninth through 12th. To register and for a full schedule: <https://jotform.com/231277450806052>.

WRANGELL BLESSING OF THE FLEET at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 28, at the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial. Everyone is invited to the annual event, and boat owners may bring their vessels to Heritage Harbor and drift in front of the memorial starting at 12:55 p.m.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM sign-up has started for those going into kindergarten through fifth grade. Monday-Thursday lunch can be picked up at The Salvation Army community center; Friday lunch will be at the community gym, with indoor play and activities. June 1 through July 30. Volunteers needed for Monday-Friday. Drivers needed so food can be delivered to a new drop zone for those who live past 2-Mile. For more information and to sign up, contact The Salvation Army at 907-874-3753.

LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS needed for coaching, umpiring, scorekeeping, concessions, pitching machine runners, field upkeep and more. Volunteer applications can be picked up at the chamber of commerce or filled out online at <https://bit.ly/3KO1ivZ>.

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

- **WALK SOUTHEAST**, walk, run or hike and track your miles for a chance to win local prizes and two round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines from now until Sept. 1. Registration required.
- **YOGA CLASS**, 8 to 9 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room until May 27. Open to adults, 18 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring a yoga mat and wear athletic clothing that bends and flexes. Registration required.
- **JIU JITSU**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room. Open to 16 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring gym shoes, wear athletic clothing and keep nails trimmed. No registration required.
- **GIRLS OPEN GYM VOLLEYBALL**, 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the community center gymnasium until June 29. Open to grades 8-12, \$3 drop-in fee. Wear comfy clothing with flexibility for movement. No registration required.
- **PICKLEBALL**, at various times on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday at the community center gymnasium until May 30. Pickleball schedule can be found online at <https://bit.ly/42vcL9K>. No registration required.

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

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

May 24, 1923

The health center is now established in the quaint old building which has stood for more than half a century on the government reserve near the courthouse, and which during the past 10 years was used for a time as a U.S. Commissioner's office and later as a hall for the American Legion. This historic building, which is constructed of logs, was built in 1867 by Capt. Bancroft who built Fort Wrangell. With the exception of the customs house, it is the only one left of the eight buildings which comprised the garrison. The garrison was abandoned in 1877, at which time the buildings were turned over to the civil authority.

May 21, 1948

Lee Ellis, local big game hunter, had a close call Tuesday with a big brown bear at Gambier Bay when the enraged and wounded bear attacked him as he was trying to track it down after being shot by Dave Buttles, a member of a big game hunting party which Ellis was guiding. In an early morning hunt, Buttles, a crack shot, had wounded the bear, which disappeared up a knoll. Ellis said as he

approached the foot of the knoll watching for signs of blood to determine where the bear had gone, Buttles shouted: "Look out, Lee, he's coming for you!" Ellis said, "I had turned my head toward Buttles to see where he was aiming and by the time I turned toward the bear he was about 15 feet from me and coming down the slope at me. I put a .300 in his chest, but he was coming with such force I knew it couldn't stop him." The bear hit Ellis and the two of them rolled over and over, coming to a stop with the bear on top. Ellis was wearing hip boots and the bear concentrated on chewing the top of Ellis' left boot, but once dug his teeth into Ellis' thigh. It took two more shots from the hunter to finish the bear. He flew home, where his wound was treated. He also suffered body bruising when he and the bear rolled down the slope. Ellis is on crutches but expects to leave June 4 with another party on a bear hunt.

May 18, 1973

An ordinance was introduced at the city council meeting dealing with liquor sales. The ordinance extends the open time for retail liquor establishments by one hour,

increases the time for clearing the house after closing by 15 minutes and provides that bars could remain open on some municipal election days. In other action, the council heard from Mayor Don House, who urged that caution lights be installed at the elementary school and that the state be prompted in the strongest possible language to accomplish the work before a child is injured or killed.

May 21, 1998

"A turtle doesn't go anywhere unless he sticks his neck out," City Councilman John Baker said moments before the council took a vote on the purchase of Wrangell Fisheries last week. The council met in a special session on Thursday afternoon, May 14, and with a vote of 5-1 passed the motion to purchase Wrangell Fisheries. The special meeting and action followed discussion and pleas during the previous Tuesday evening meeting, all encouraging the purchase. With this action, the city's attorney was given the authority to proceed with the title search, obtaining lists of equipment and assets, and putting together a formal proposal for the purchase.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Trident on track to start processing salmon early July

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Trident Seafoods is on schedule with preparation work to reopen its processing plant on the Wrangell waterfront after a three-year closure.

"We expect to start handling fish the week of July 10," focusing on chum and pink salmon, Southeast regional manager John Scoblic said May 15.

The company expects to have 100 to 110 workers on the job, somewhat under the count of past years, he said. Trident has said weak chum returns were behind the decision to keep the plant closed since 2019.

Some workers will start before the first salmon come into the plant, and though Trident is contending with the same tight labor market as other companies, Scoblic reports it is on "a normal trajectory" to reach full staff-

ing for the reopening.

Seattle-based Trident will put up frozen salmon (headed and gutted) and frozen "green roe" (unsalted) at the Wrangell facility, he said.

Until then, prep work is underway at the plant, including roof and interior repairs and making sure the refrigeration equipment is ready to go, he said. No new processing equipment is planned for this year.

"We are pleased to be opening and look forward to a successful season," Scoblic said.

Trident and Sea Level Seafoods at Heritage Harbor are Wrangell's main seafood buyers and processors.

When Trident is running, the town's largest seafood plant is a big customer for the municipal water system.

In anticipation of that, the borough assembly in March approved spending \$116,000 on spare parts for the water treatment plant to ensure no interruptions in

flow until Wrangell can build a new water treatment plant in a few years.

Trident can use nearly half a million gallons of water a day at its peak. Although the plant will run at a lower capacity this summer, the borough decided to keep spare parts on hand to reduce the chances of any breakdowns affecting the water flow to the community.

"We believe we are going to be able to provide them their water," Tom Wetor, borough public works director, said last week. Many of the parts are coming from a supplier in Sweden, though the order has encountered a delay with clearing customs, he said.

A plus is that the snowpack which helps fill the community reservoirs is in the good shape, better than recent, drier years, he said.

All should be well, Wetor said, assuming there is no drought this summer.

Forest Service to tackle backlog of maintenance

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Wrangell's recreational infrastructure is about to get a much-needed makeover in the coming months and years thanks to federal maintenance dollars from the Forest Service.

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), signed by then-President Donald Trump in 2020, directed \$8.1 billion over five fiscal years — 2021 to 2025 — to fund maintenance and repair work that had been put off due to budget or workforce issues. The money is for projects on federal lands, like trails, bridges, monuments and campgrounds.

In past funding cycles, the Wrangell Ranger District has used money to redo the road at Nemo Loop and maintain area trails.

On May 11, the U.S. Forest Service announced it would allocate \$14 million of this year's round of funds to 28 projects in the Tongass National Forest — four of those projects are in and around Wrangell.

Last December, a major windstorm damaged the Roosevelt Harbor dock and boat launch on Zarembo Island. The Forest Service will use the recent round of funding to replace the gangway and renovate the floating dock to make this popular hunting location accessible.

The project is out for bid and Wrangell District Ranger Tory Houser hopes that it will be completed by late July. "It is a priority, it's a huge community priority," she said. The \$1.55 million in GAOA funds that have been designated for the project will also cover recon-

struction of a foot bridge of St. John's Creek on Zarembo.

The district also plans to reroute the first mile of Wrangell's Rainbow Falls trail, making it more accessible and easier to maintain. As it stands, the first segment of the hike has about 8,000 steps. Though Houser won't be able to make the trail entirely compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, she hopes to minimize the stairs and use a more sustainable building material, like gravel, that won't require such frequent upkeep.

The Forest Service will use pulsed laser light to create a 3-D rendering of the land around the trail and map a better route to the top. The project has been allocated \$210,000.

Houser hopes to have a design for the new trail ready by fall, then put it out to bid in 2024.

Last year, the Forest Service updated the upper deck of the Anan Wildlife Observatory. Using \$700,000 in recent GAOA funds, it will also redo the lower deck.

Construction is supposed to start this fall.

In addition, the Forest Service is collaborating with the Wrangell Cooperative Association to perform \$50,000 of trail maintenance around the island. The Thoms Lake trail, Pats Lake trail, Nemo Saltwater Access trail and Kunk Lake trail are examples of areas where the funds may be used.

Applications for the last round of GAOA funding will close in 2024, but Houser is hopeful that Congress will extend the program. "There's a lot of projects that haven't been funded yet."

Community reminded that seniors appreciate visitors

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Though pandemic restrictions were hard on all community members, they were particularly hard on elders, many of whom endured long-term isolation because of the risks COVID posed to their immune systems. Now that the federal government declared the pandemic public health emergency over this month, Hospice of Wrangell is encouraging community members to reach out to their grandparents, older friends and long-term care and Senior Apartments residents.

Homebound elders and Senior Center or long-term care residents "still want to be part of the community," said Alice Rooney, of Hospice of Wrangell. "They still want to be connected to the community. They love hearing about what's going on in town. They like knowing what's going on in people's lives. Oftentimes, they have stories to tell ... or maybe if they're non-verbal, they like to have someone to sit with them, hold their hand."

Hospice of Wrangell has discussed starting a program similar to Stika's Brave Heart Volunteers, or yee gu.aa yáx x'wán. Though starting such a program in Wrangell isn't feasible for the time being, the organization has been an inspiration for Rooney.

Established by nurses in 2001, Brave Heart Volunteers provides companionship to people who are experiencing isolation, grief and end-of-life care.

The program, which has been running for 22 years in Sitka, boasts two paid staff members and around 55 active volunteers.

Program Manager Kathryn Winslow vets and interviews potential volunteers before matching them with elders. "I think about the people we have on the volunteer list and the people we have on our care list," she said. "Do their schedules match? Do they want the same things? Do I think they'd be natural friends? I call and check in periodically to see if there's anything we'd

need to change."

The program also offers educational resources, like end-of-life courses, ethical will workshops and volunteer trainings. It fundraises regularly to support these offerings.

Two barriers are currently preventing Wrangell from starting a formal elder care volunteer program of its own — liability issues and the lack of paid staff.

"If we follow the Brave Heart model, it requires a fair amount of coordination, because it's fairly structured," Rooney said. "It requires someone to match up the visitors and potential visitees ... set up the schedule, monitor the schedule. ... We'd need two people to do this."

Many people in town, Rooney included, are "willing to help, but not wanting to take on that kind of responsibility." Having a well-established program to coordinate funding would be nice, but for now she hopes to expand on the family, subsistence and volunteer visits that are already taking place.

"There's so much informal visiting that goes on in Wrangell anyway," she said, whether it's hunters sharing their bounty or church leaders sharing comforting messages with elders. Her aim is to "try and boost the informal visiting that goes on."

At the long-term care unit in the Wrangell Medical Center, visiting restrictions took many forms as the pandemic evolved, explained Hospital Administrator Carly Allen. Restrictions are now completely lifted and visiting has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"There are some people who volunteer to come up for a variety of reasons," said Allen. "We have people that share music, we have people who share Sunday church services." Volunteering in a supervised group setting does not require an application and screening process, like one-on-one volunteering would.

To do a supervised visit, contact the hospital at 907-874-7000 and speak with the director of nursing.

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Celebration of Life

for

Marlene A. Clarke

Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m.

Episcopal Church

Reception to follow
at the Parish Hall

FROM THE PUBLISHER

PFD political compromise works for a year

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The Alaska Legislature is no different than a typical American household – torn between spending every last dollar from their paycheck on immediate wants or saving some for the inevitable future needs.

When the wants win out, money often is short for the needs that come later.

That pretty much sums up this year’s political battle over the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend.

The bipartisan Senate favored an affordable PFD that would not require drawing from savings; the House Republican-led majority wanted to take hundreds of millions of dollars from savings to make this year’s PFD larger – and not worry too much about the future. At least not past their last election pledge and next reelection campaign.

The two sides haggled the entire session, as is the annual ritual in Alaska politics. Sort of like spring breakup – a generally ugly time of year.

Then a compromise was set on the table. Not the obvious math of a compromise number between the Senate \$1,300 PFD and the House dream of \$2,700. Such a split-the-difference sort of compromise would have still required drawing down from savings, which is not a smart way to run household finances.

The proposal that came out of the Senate Finance Committee, which the Legislature finally adopted, is fiscally responsible. It pays out a \$1,300 dividend this fall. And then, if the state gets rich, or at least richer, off high oil prices over

the next 12 months, half of the windfall would go out next year in an extra payment to Alaskans and half would go into savings.

What could be fairer than 50-50?

And what could be smarter than waiting to see how much money you have in the bank before writing checks.

The expectation is that the state spending plan approved by legislators last week balances if oil averages around \$73 a barrel over the next fiscal year. (Prices started this week around \$75.) But if it comes in higher, as it did in 2022 when Russia’s attack on Ukraine disputed world oil flows and drove Alaska North Slope oil near \$128 a barrel at the peak, individual Alaskans would receive half the additional cash, up to about \$500 per person.

As an added bonus for the anti-tax sentiment in Alaska, the supplemental check would be called an “energy relief payment,” which the IRS has determined is not subject to federal income tax.

The state treasury would run the numbers on oil revenues and determine the size of the extra payment – if there is one – after Alaska closes the books on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Which means Alaskans will need to wait a year to see if they

will have extra money to spend. Of course, this assumes the governor does not veto the provisions in the budget bill.

Artful as it is, the compromise ensures that lawmakers will be back at the negotiating table next spring, looking for a permanent answer to the size of the PFD. But at least the state will have a healthier savings account until then – just in case oil prices go down, not up, and the state has to draw on savings for its needs.

The expectation is that the state spending plan approved by legislators last week balances if oil averages around \$73 a barrel over the next fiscal year.

THE EDITOR’S DESK

Life in the fishbowl can have conflicting outlooks

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

There are large calendar pages tacked to a wall in the Sentinel office. May through September list the cruise ships scheduled to stop in Wrangell on specified days. We keep them there for easy reference.

However, we don’t really need the pages to know when there’s a cruise ship in town.

Remember that scene in Pixar’s “Finding Nemo” where the horrible little kid comes up to the fishbowl and starts tapping violently on the glass? Many businesses along Front Street may have had that same feeling when cruise ship passengers disembark and start filtering through town.

Without fail, at least one person walking by will see our sign, stop, lean up to the window with hands cupped around their eyes to stare in and view the mythical newspaper people. Some are kind enough to come in, ask questions and even buy the week’s issue.

Last Thursday had to be a bigger ship, I reckoned, as swarms of camera-wielding, backpack-wearing, semi-lost-looking people slowly migrated south along the sidewalks. Surely, if these were the streets of New York City, locals would be cuss-

ing and rushing past. At least they weren’t walking in the middle of the street, as sometimes happens.

Checking the calendar revealed that the Roald Amundsen was anchored that day. It has the capacity for 530 passengers. It’s not the biggest to have visited Wrangell, nor the smallest.

Whereas one vessel making regular stops this season can only bring 12 travelers and its crew to town, another has a passenger limit of 930 – or almost half our population.

The Viking Orion is the one that can carry 930. On the day it’s scheduled to arrive, the Ocean Victory, which can accommodate up to 200 passengers, is planning to be in port the same day, June 12.

During the entire summer tourism season, the possible cruise ship passenger count totals 29,510, assuming all the berths are full, according to this year’s schedule. That doesn’t include the crews or people coming to town by ferry or airplane.

But wait, there’s more. Much, much more. Next year, Holland America has scheduled one stop each for two of its ships for Wrangell: the Westerdam and Nieuw Amsterdam. The ships have a passenger capacity of 1,964 and 2,106, respectively.

Those numbers are good news for the town’s economy, but can we handle it?

Many travelers come to smaller places like Wrangell to experience the “real” Alaska, something different from the endless cookie-cutter souvenir shops and crowded ports of call of larger destinations.

The larger ships scheduled for next year are within the maximum capacity of City Dock and expansion would be needed for anything larger. With bigger crowds comes the need for more services, more amenities, more retail, more more more ... you get the picture.

What happens to those businesses when the season ends?

With the loss of the sawmills and commercial fishing facing its own set of problems, there aren’t many large-scale, year-round employers outside of SEARHC attracting more families to Wrangell. It’s no secret that all of Alaska faces more people leaving the state than coming into it. Could tourism fill that void if we continue to see an increase in traffic?

If the tourism industry does continue to grow here, our fishbowl will need to grow along with it, and we’ll all have to adjust to having our windows tapped.

EDITORIAL

Legislature needs to finish its school work next year

The Legislature earned a passing grade for approving a substantial increase in state funding for public schools – the first since 2017. Think of it as a small gold star for effort, but they still will need to retake the class next year.

Rather than permanently raise the per-student funding formula in state statute, lawmakers voted for a one-time boost in funding for the 2023-2024 school year.

Helpful, but it does not solve the perennial problem of inadequate funding for public schools.

The 15% increase is good for only one year and does not cover the 25% cost of inflation since 2017.

It does not provide school districts and staff, parents and students with the certainty to make classroom plans past the next school year. It doesn’t do anything more than get by for another year, without any assurance for what school districts should expect after that.

The state Senate appeared willing to adopt a permanent increase in the funding formula. The House, however, wasn’t interested in signing a check for anything more than a one-year raise. Too many members of the Republican-led House majority don’t like how school districts spend money. Too many generally wince at state spending on services while winking their approval for spending on larger Permanent Fund dividends.

Whatever the reason, a one-year boost was the only political compromise available during the legislative session that ended last week.

School boards, staff and parents from around the state pushed hard for a permanent boost to the funding formula, known as the base student allocation. But they couldn’t budge the House from its insistence on a temporary fix.

It’s like throwing a blue tarp over the roof leak because the homeowners can’t agree on whether to install asphalt shingles, wood shakes or a metal roof. Eventually, the water damage gets worse and they really didn’t accomplish a whole lot with the temporary tarp, other than delaying the decision.

It’s the same for the Legislature – and the governor too, who didn’t do anything publicly to help schools. The temporary patch job for the next school year will expire in 2024. Districts will have no choice next spring but to put together a budget without knowing how much state funding they will receive, hoping that the Legislature will help out again.

Lawmakers and the governor need to retake the class next year on school funding, putting aside the distractions so that teachers and students can count on programs more than one year at a time. They need to think of it as a summer homework assignment. It’s their own fault for not paying attention in class.

– Wrangell Sentinel

REFLECTIONS

God reminds us that we are enough

You are seen! Many times, we wander through life or even just the day and feel like no one is there or no one cares. We even do things at times to get noticed. We want the adoration or appreciation of others. And yet, sometimes it is unfulfilling. Not because we aren’t strong enough, funny enough or any of that, but because we lack a true understanding of our own value.

You are enough! The one who created all has already said that.

If He who began a good work in you, desires you and wants you as close to Him as

possible, you are enough. 1 Peter 5:7 in the Amplified Bible says, “Casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].”

This means that those moments you feel less than you can give to Him and He will sustain you. He will remind you that you are more than enough, and He is so happy you are here.

Lt. Rosie and I are happy

Continued on page 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader appreciates Sentinel’s award-winning, quality work

I just wanted to give a big shout-out for all the recent awards the Sentinel staff received at the annual Alaska Press Club contest. I won’t try to name them all.

Wrangell should be very proud of Larry Persily and the entire crew at the newspaper. I am now living in Anchorage since the sawmill shut down, but I still get the Sentinel every

week. Larry is one of the most sought after advisers up here regarding oil, gas and Alaska’s budget. We Alaskans can’t afford to lose his voice, or Sen. Bert Stedman’s either.

The Wrangell Sentinel received top awards and is much read up here. Keep up the great work, and tell it like it is.

Wishing you continued success, and hello to all.

Roy Martin,
Anchorage

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



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School funding

Continued from page 1

next school year, Burr said.

State funding for public schools has not increased since 2017.

Though public education supporters from across the state pushed hard this session for a permanent increase to the state's funding formula — which is based on enrollment numbers — resistance in the Republican-led House blocked a change in the formula. Instead, the House and Senate agreed on a one-time boost in state money totaling \$175 million for districts statewide.

It's the largest single-year increase in public education spending in state history.

The appropriation represents about a 15% increase in state funding for K-12 education, though advocates point out that inflation is up 25% since the last increase in the formula.

With the one-year boost, funding that goes directly to school districts represents just under one-quarter of the \$6.1 billion unrestricted state general fund budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Despite the welcome news of the additional funding, school districts will continue to see the same problems until the Legislature approves a permanent increase, National Education Association Alaska Board President Tom Klaameyer told the Alaska Beacon last week.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't address long-term systemic needs in the school system that have been caused by virtually a decade of flat funding and the erosion that inflation has caused on the school district budgets," he said.

The lack of sufficient state support, and the uncertainty of annual budget battles in the Legislature, makes it hard for school districts to retain programs and recruit teachers, Klaameyer said.

Senate President Gary Stevens was in a good mood after lawmakers approved the budget and adjourned last Thursday after a one-day special session to reach a compromise on the spending plan. Less than half of the members in the Republican-led House majority voted for the final budget, but it was enough when combined with

the Democratic-led minority to win passage on a 26-14 vote.

The budget passed the Senate earlier in the day with just two votes against the bill.

"We wound up with a moderate (Permanent Fund) dividend and a lot of money to education ... and with a balanced budget. I mean, what more can you ask out of life?" Stevens told the Beacon.

The Alaska Beacon, an independent, donor-funded news organization, contributed to this report. Alaskabeacon.com.

Royalty competition

Continued from page 1

is excited to be involved in the fundraising efforts. "I wanted to be involved because it's a Wrangell legacy thing," he said. "It's important for the town. Everybody loves the Fourth."

James Edens thinks of himself not only as the food manager but the "everything manager," he said. "(His role) entails getting (state) permits to run the booth, getting donations, organizing volunteers, tracking volunteer hours, organizing special events like silent auctions and rummage sales, creating signage, developing the menu, starting the Facebook page."

So far, the pair have gotten 10 local business sponsors on board, with donations of at least \$250 each.

Ander's dad was "very supportive" of his decision to run, he said.

The booth will serve burgers, hot dogs and fry bread daily, interspersed with themed specials. He's planning to hold a

carnival day, fried everything day and Diamond C breakfast day at the booth.

Ticket sales will begin June 1.

The menu is a combination of traditional Fourth foods, plus a few personal twists like barbecue inspired by James Edens' Texas roots. "I don't miss a ton about Texas, but I do miss the barbecue," he said.

Not only the Edens family, but the whole town has rallied behind the candidate. "We've gotten quite a few responses," Ander said. "We are supportive, we are happy somebody's running' has been the general response of Wrangell."

In the past, big ticket selling years have had more than one royalty contestant, since the competition between candidates drives community members to give more. Selling thousands of tickets as a single contestant will be "an interesting challenge," Ander Edens said. "There's more money to be given to a single person, but

there's such a thing as royalty wear-out, where they get tired of the same person asking for money. ... I want to change that attitude. We're excited to have a Fourth."

He also hopes to set an example for future royalty contestants. In past years, only high school juniors and seniors have been involved. At 16, he hopes to make the role "more appealing to younger people."

He knows that the coming month will involve long hours knocking on doors and flipping burgers, but he is confident that he and his team are up to the task. He is no stranger to volunteer work — when he isn't at school or playing jazz classics on the tenor saxophone, he's volunteering with his church.

"He's just a focused kid," said his dad. "He has a lot of self-motivation. ... I think he's going to be dedicated long-term to the success of the town, too."

Graduation

Continued from page 1

do and have done for us. ... We can definitely be a handful sometimes. But don't worry, you're about to get rid of us."

She took a moment to showcase the results of Wrangell's educational system, pointing out how close students were in their outcomes.

"The senior class is one of the smartest and most athletic in our high school," she said. "The students that ranked three, four and five had GPAs that ranked only 0.01 away from each other. That shows just how competitive we are. My class had so many academic opportunities this year, we took all of them. We all have worked so hard to get where we are right now."

However, as Bardin-Siekawitch pointed out in his speech, he and his classmates excelled in other not-so-positive areas as well.

"We're all just graduating high school, and I'm pretty sure most, if not all of my class, including me have a master's

degree in procrastination and are well on our way to earning our Ph.D.s," he joked. He said there were plenty of things about Wrangell he could complain about, "but, at the end of the day, this is the little rock that gave me the opportunities that made me into the person I am now."

Harrison highlighted each of her classmates and pointed out their ever-evolving passions in life.

"I know as we continue growing and learning, we will develop our passions and discover countless more," she said. "I want to share a piece of advice that has stuck with me: 'The only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work, and the only way to do great work is to love what you do.' My hope for the future is that we each find something we are passionate about and not just stop there, but pursue it, explore it and never stop our entire lives. There's always something new to learn."

Permanent Fund dividend

Continued from page 1

legislative leaders on May 18 reached a deal to add more than \$34 million to the budget for two dozen projects requested by House majority members.

House Finance Committee Co-Chair Rep. DeLena Johnson, of Palmer, voted for the budget but said she wasn't happy about it. The Republican said she was worried about the consequences of further disagreement. "What I didn't want to see was a government shutdown, and I didn't want to bring it down to the brink," she told the Alaska Beacon.

Her colleague in the majority leadership, Anchorage Rep. Craig Johnson, also voted yes. He didn't believe that further negotiations would have resulted in a better deal, he told reporters. "I would prefer not to vote for it, but when I weigh the shutdown, the cost and the practicality, I'm a pragmatist. I'll fight for what I believe in. But at the end of the day, I think this is the best we can get."

Among the local projects added in the last day of negotiations was \$5 million to rebuild the Palmer Public Library, which is in DeLena Johnson's district. The library roof collapsed under heavy snow last winter.

Other additions included \$3 million to help Fairbanks tear

down the derelict Polaris Hotel; \$5 million for a harbor float in Dillingham; \$5 million for the Wasilla Airport runway extension; \$4.75 million for water and sewer projects in Talkeetna; and a series of road and maintenance projects across the state.

The budget does not include any state money for Wrangell projects.

The district of Rep. Justin Ruffridge, a Soldotna Republican, received \$600,000 for a road project, but he voted against the budget. "I don't like being bought, frankly. It's kind of what that felt like," the freshman legislator told reporters.

Another no vote came from first-year Anchorage Republican Rep. Julie Coulombe. "I guess I can't concur with bullies and bribers," she told reporters.

"It might not have been the process that all of us wanted to get to, but it was a process," said House Speaker Cathy Tilton, a Wasilla Republican, defending the decision by 10 members of her caucus to vote for the budget.

In addition to rounding up votes from the House majority, the budget, written in large part by the Senate, added several items favored by members of the House minority. Those included \$7.5 million in child care grants, money for public broadcasting, funding for tourism marketing and seafood

marketing, and aid to home health care services.

The compromise spending plan includes a one-time increase of \$175 million, about 15%, in the state's per-student public school funding formula, though education advocates had been pushing hard for a permanent increase in the program.

Much of the final weeks of legislative negotiations focused on the amount of the Permanent Fund dividend, with the House major-

ity supporting a \$2,700 PFD that would require withdrawing about \$800 million from savings. The Senate held firm to a \$1,300 dividend and not touching savings.

The state constitution requires a three-quarters majority vote to tap the savings, and it was clear that the Senate majority and House minority were not willing to go along with the House Republicans' plan, denying anything close to the three-quarters vote.

Meanwhile, legislators could

be back at work this fall. The governor has indicated he will call a 30-day special session for lawmakers to consider legislation for a long-term fiscal plan to balance state revenues and spending, something that has eluded Alaska's elected officials since the early 1990s.

This story includes reporting by the Anchorage Daily News and the Alaska Beacon, an independent, donor-funded news organization.

Reflections

Continued from page 4

you are here too. Many more than you think feel the same way. You are great and God loves you for who you truly are. When you're down, find others who you love as they are and lift

each other up. If you need someone, reach out to the pastors, we are here for you too.

Lt. Jonathan D. Tollerud,
corps officer
The Salvation Army
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Parks department to help kids, adults stay active this summer

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Whether you prefer working up a sweat on the court, concocting delicious dishes in the kitchen or taking a relaxing stroll through the woods, the Parks and Recreation department will be offering community members of all ages ways to stay active, connected and engaged this summer.

In past years, Parks and Recreation offered near daily activities for kids, but this year, due to staffing issues, the programming will be more spread out.

"What we're going to do, rather, is sprinkle in activities," explained Devyn Johnson, recreation and aquatic coordinator. There will be a cheer camp, wrestling camp and youth volleyball camp, along with more informal activities like scavenger hunts, cooking classes, art classes, kickball and a fun run.

The beloved "Touch a Truck" event will return June 17, giving kids an opportunity to climb around on a garbage truck or honk a cop car's horn. In addition to the usual selection of vehicles, this year the event will fea-

ture a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter for the first time ever.

"We want to keep the kiddos busy and the community busy and having fun and trying new things out," Johnson said.

The summer programming is not yet set in stone — activities could be added, subtracted or switched around depending on staff and volunteer availability. "Ultimately, it'll come down to volunteers," said Johnson. "The more volunteers we can get, the more we can offer. Folks that have skills and passions that they want to share — we're really hoping to invite them to team up with us."

The department is open to community member ideas and encourages people to get involved. The jump rope open gym, for example, was dreamed up by a community member who enjoys the sport and wanted to share her skills with Wrangell youth. The activity is tentatively scheduled for June 21 and July 18.

"We're open to anyone, all ideas," said Johnson. "It's pretty reliant on volunteers who are passionate about what they do."

Johnson also plans to sprinkle in weekly walking, hiking, running and "rucking" sessions for adults throughout the summer. Rucking is a form of low-intensity exercise that involves walking while carrying weight on your back. The first of these sessions was last weekend. The next will be a Mount Dewey hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 27.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, community members are also invited to complete the "Murph" workout at 7 a.m. at the Evergreen Elementary covered playground. The workout is named after U.S. Navy Lt. Michael Murphy, who died in 2005 while serving in Afghanistan. He was the first service member to receive the Medal of Honor for service in Afghanistan.

The workout involves a one-mile run, followed by 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats and another one-mile run. "People all around the world do it," said Johnson. "He risked his life to save his fellow folks in combat."

Volunteering with Parks and Recreation's summer programs is only a phone call away at 907-874-2444.

Wrangell students share their See Stories documentaries statewide

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Look out, Martin Scorsese. You've got some up-and-coming competition on your hands.

Stikine Middle School students spent the past two weeks recording video footage and conducting interviews as part of the See Stories project, which creates documentaries to tell the stories of Alaska.

What began 10 years ago as a way to tell Alaska's diverse stories through videos and podcasts from a youth perspective has grown into an award-winning program that has produced 150 short documentaries and podcasts by 6,450 students from throughout the state.

The program's mission is to "build inclusive communities through film and storytelling."

See Stories education programs manager Seth Bader worked with middle school teacher Laura Davies to bring the program to Wrangell. Though now based in Juneau, Bader worked for the Alaska Crossings program in Wrangell from 2018 until it closed last year.

"We work in a lot of Alaska Native communities," Bader said in between helping Davies' students May 17 during the editing process. "We've had a long

ongoing program in Angoon, for example. We make relationships with teachers or administrators or whoever is interested in working with us on a workshop like this."

The workshop lasts typically two weeks, he said. Students are given the tools and guidance to create videos that last for a few minutes depicting life where they live. The reception Bader and others in See Stories get can be quite different depending on the communities they approach.

"Alaska is such a diverse state that the communities we work in are always different," he said. "(Last) fall, I was in Angoon, which is a completely Alaska Native community. After that, we were in Chevak (northwest of Bethel), so ... it's sometimes interesting when you have white people coming to your community with cameras."

Bader's goal is to build trust and help people realize his job is to give kids the tools and education they will need to record their stories.

In Wrangell, students were very enthusiastic about the project and had a wealth of topics they wanted to cover.

"Jackson Pearson did a lot on his own ahead of the game. Silja



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left: Middle school students Silje Morse, Jackson Pearson and Kasey Whitaker interview Seth Bader, educational program manager for See Stories, who provided the voice of "Pirate Steve," the statue outside of Stikine Drug. The students created documentary films on various topics like tourism, fish tendering and the local economy that could be used in future curriculum provided by the See Stories program for schools statewide.

(Morse) got both her grandpas to speak about the old timber mill," Davies said. "They went out to the old mill and took pictures."

She added that the students have been engaged the entire time, putting in work even after

school. "They've been fully engaged, working together, problem solving," Davies said. They came up with their topics, they came up with their questions, they came up with the people to interview. It's really student

driven. They're 100% bought in."

The videos were finished last week and were shown at Harbor Light Assembly of God Church on Friday. Davies is looking for opportunities to show the videos again. They will also be hosted on the See Stories website at seestoriesalaska.org.

Bader said the next step with the films created in the workshops is to write curriculum around them so that teachers throughout the state can create lessons around each video.

"Say, for example, you're a teacher in Fairbanks and you want to show a film on commercial fishing in Southeast Alaska," he said. "What is really cool is that we've found that students (are more engaged) when watching films made by other students from other areas, so we create curriculum around some of the films."

Sophia Martinsen, 14, wanted to tell the story of fish tendering in Southeast and why it's important, especially in Wrangell.

"I interviewed some commercial fisherman, like Everett Meissner, who's a deckhand, and Winston Davies, who's a gillnetter," she said. When she heard about "See Stories," Martinsen said she was "interested and excited" about making a film and seeing what it's like to interview people.

Asking questions hasn't always been her favorite thing to do unless she needs to know something, but working in teams helped her to embrace the process.

"The whole class did it together," Martinsen said. "It didn't make (me) nervous because (I) got to see other people do it, then it got more exciting to try it (myself)."

Pearson, 13, isn't sure where his idea to focus on Wrangell's tourism economy came from, though his father was a tour bus driver in Sitka and that might have had some influence. He spoke to various business owners and officials that could relay how tourism affects the town's economy.

"We interviewed Jake Harris, the (Stikine Inn) owner. We interviewed Michell Lopez at Michelle's Taste of Asia. Then we interviewed Bonnie Richie (owner of Ritchie's Rocks). We interviewed Mason Villarma (borough finance director). We interviewed Virginia Oliver," Pearson said.

Coming up with people to interview and the questions to ask was hard, but not as hard as the editing process, he said. Videos need to be edited down into a few minutes of content.

"It's probably going to be six or seven minutes long," Pearson said. "I think we took two or three hours of footage. There's a lot of cutting. It's really difficult to do. It takes hours and hours to edit to get the good piece you want in there."

Wrangell Guides are here!

The 2023 Wrangell Visitors Guide is ready for you to pick up at the Sentinel office to send to friends, family and anyone else thinking of coming to town this year.

The 40-page guide is redesigned with detailed maps and fresh photos!



WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Tiny's Taxi makes its big debut to honor owner's grandma

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Mike Lewis, the owner of Tiny's Taxi, is committed to offering 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service, even if he has to sleep with his phone and headset to do it.

The new business has been giving rides around town since it opened April 13.

After graduating from Wrangell High School in 1988, Lewis spent about 30 years moving around the western United States doing construction jobs. He lived in Anchorage, Soldotna, Washington state, Colorado, Los Angeles and Palm Springs in California, Hawaii, Arizona and more. But when two shoulder surgeries forced him to give up construction work, he decided to return to his hometown and start a business.

He got the idea for a taxi service in the winter of 2022, when he learned that his grandparents had run a taxi in Wrangell during the '40s and '50s. "I've got a long line of ancestors that were born here," he said. "My grandma was a Stokes, and she's the one that had a taxi service here in town. ... It was called Star Taxi."

He named his company in honor of his grandma, Elizabeth Stokes. Since she was only 4-foot-11, he and his family called her "Grandma Tiny."

"What better way to honor her memo-



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Mike Lewis started up Tiny's Taxi last month, naming the business after his grandmother, Elizabeth Stokes, whose family ran a taxi service in Wrangell in the 1940s and 1950s.

ry than to use her AKA," he said.

He used a pinup girl as the company logo since that style of makeup and dress would have been popular during the years she was running the old taxi company.

Even though another taxi company —

Johnny Cab — already exists in town, Lewis hopes that between tourism and the Trident seafood processing plant reopening, there will be room for another one.

"I've gotten a really positive response from the community all the way around,"

he said. "People are happy to have another option. ... I think competition is good for every business. ... (I'm) giving the island the chance to have another opportunity, another phone to ring."

For Lewis, running a 24-hour service makes for a demanding work schedule. "I sleep when I can," he said. Whether he's dropping travelers off at the ferry terminal at 3 a.m. or transporting nurses to the hospital for their early shifts, Lewis works when he's needed and tries to fit naps into the spaces between jobs.

"I just leave the phone on 24/7 and kind of take pride in making certain that I always answer my calls," he said.

He has no immediate plans to hire additional drivers. "I've got to build a business before I can start thinking about hiring other people out," he said. Because of Wrangell's limited customer base, the newness of the business and the other taxi service in town, Lewis isn't yet sure how much demand he'll get moving forward.

But despite these challenges, business is good so far. "I had no idea I would be this busy, to be honest with you," he said. "A lot of people take advantage of not driving after having been to the bars. It's nice to see that a lot of people respect the DUI laws. The traveling nurses use my service quite a bit. I'm getting busier every day for sure."

Salvation Army opens sign-up for its summer lunch program

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Summer vacation may be the best time of the year for kids, but it can be tough on working parents to provide lunches for their children during the day.

The Salvation Army is partnering with the borough's Parks and Recreation Department to keep the community's children nourished and active throughout the summer.

The program, which started about two years ago, will provide lunches Monday through Friday to kids entering kindergarten through fifth grade, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 1 to July 31.

In past years, kids would pick up meal vouchers at The Salvation Army, then head downtown to J&W's, Nick's Pizza or City Market Deli to redeem them. This year, the meals will be served in-person. If enough people volunteer, the organization hopes to set up two lunch stations — one at the church and one at the Shoemaker Bay shelter — to better serve residents out the road.

On Fridays the program will be held at the community center gym, so that participants can play, socialize and eat pizza together each week.

"This year, we're attempting to work with the Parks and Recreation department in an effort to get kids more active," said Lt. Jon Tollerud of The Salvation Army. "We try to listen to what's going on and try to adapt it to make it a better program every year."

The Salvation Army is still working out restaurant partnerships and funding for this year's program. Grants and outside donations subsidize the meals, which cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for a single summer.

"We've noticed that nationally, not just here in Wrangell, food security is such a huge compo-

nent of where the world is right now," said Tollerud. "A lot of families if they're working full time ... it's hard to get home to get the kids lunch. We just wanted to stand in the gap there and see what we could do to help the community in that way."

Bonnie Ritchie's three kids have been taking advantage of the program since it started. "The lunch program has been great for my family," Ritchie said. "My kids walk to The Salvation Army, pick up their lunch tickets and go down and get a free lunch. ... It was awesome. I didn't have to worry about making their lunch and it got them out and about."

She's looking forward to the new Friday pizza and open gym setup this summer. "I'm excited to see that," she said. "I think it's a great place for them to get their energy out."

The program has room for 50 kids going into kindergarten through fifth grade. Parents can sign their kids up by calling The Salvation Army at 907-874-3753. Registration will be open through May 30 and is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

State ferry Hubbard finally goes to work after 4 years

Ketchikan Daily News
and Wrangell Sentinel

The Hubbard pulled away from the dock at the Ketchikan Shipyard on May 18, headed for its first passenger sailing — more than four years after it was built at a cost of about \$60 million.

Carrying a crew of 24 — with newly installed sleeping quarters for crew — the Hubbard headed to Juneau, where it was scheduled to start work Tuesday, running six days a week between the Capital City and the Lynn Canal communities of Haines and Skagway.

The Hubbard is not scheduled to visit Wrangell this summer. With the Matanuska out of service for repairs to "wasted" steel, only the Columbia is working the Southeast run through Wrangell this summer, making a weekly stop in each direction.

The state had planned to also put the Kennicott to work this summer, adding to Southeast service, including Wrangell, but an inability to hire enough crew forced the Alaska Marine Highway System to cross the Kennicott off the schedule.

The Alaska Department of Transportation, which oversees the marine highway system, has reported it would accelerate its recruitment efforts this year to ensure adequate staffing for the ships. State officials, however, have not responded to Sentinel requests over the past month for a count of how many new crew members have been added since the department changed its hiring process in February.

The Hubbard and its sister ship the Tazlina,

the Alaska Marine Highway System's newest ferries, were built in Ketchikan. But they lacked crew quarters, which limited the vessels to runs of no more than 12 hours to stay within U.S. Coast Guard rules for crew rest. The ships also lacked side-loading doors for vehicles, as the state had opted during the design process for loading doors in the bow and stern.

After spending \$4.4 million in 2021 to add side-loading doors so that the two ships could more easily operate at their ports of call, the Alaska Marine Highway System next decided to spend about \$15 million to install crew quarters aboard the Hubbard. The addition will allow the ferry to operate between Juneau, Haines and Skagway and back again, a route that exceeds 12 hours.

With the work completed, the 280-foot-long ferry is entering service for the first time since it was launched in 2018.

The \$15 million contract also included installation of a galley and mess area, along with other improvements.

The state plans to send the Tazlina down to Ketchikan to get its own set of crew quarters once the Hubbard arrives in Juneau, the ferry system's marine director, Craig Tornga, told the marine highway public advisory board in April.

The Tazlina, which also cost about \$60 million to build, has been used sparingly since it was launched. In addition to the loading door and crew quarters issues, the ferry has been tied to the dock due to tight budgets and service cut-backs during the travel slowdown in the worst of the pandemic.

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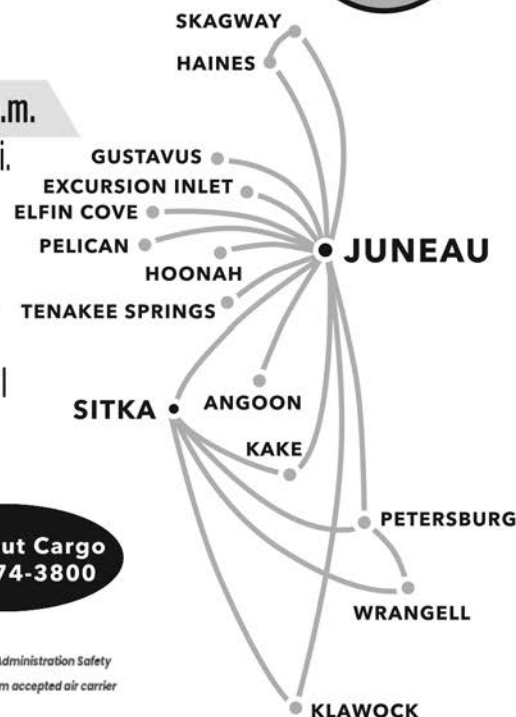
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By air and by sea, Scenic Eclipse passengers tour Wrangell in style



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Sentinel staff

An Airbus H130 helicopter takes off from the back of the Scenic Eclipse in front of Wrangell on May 15. The helicopter is one of two in the Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours fleet and can be added to a tour package.

The Scenic Eclipse, which can host up to 200 passengers for Arctic tours, is billed as the "world's first discovery yacht" by its operators and is designed for scenic luxury cruises and tours. It travels throughout the Americas, Antarctica and the Arctic. It has a crew of up to 192, is 551 feet long, has eight passenger decks and 114 guest suites.

During its Wrangell stop, the helicopter, which can seat up to six passengers, was busy taking off, circling the area, then returning to

repeat the process.

"These are considered one of the quietest helicopters in the world, which makes them ideal for use by Eclipse as we try to avoid any wildlife disturbances while flying on the sightseeing excursions," said Elliot Gillies, public relations manager for Scenic.

Last week's port call was the only time the Scenic Eclipse is scheduled to stop in Wrangell this year.

The ship started its cruise in Vancouver, and after stopping in Southeast Alaska it continued to Seward, Homer, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, with the trip scheduled to end in Nome on May 27. Fares started at more than \$13,000 per person for the 15-day voyage, up to almost \$54,000 for the penthouse.

From Nome, the ship will start a new cruise to Russia.

Career planning class helps prepare students for life after high school

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

At a time of year when most students are more concerned with sunshine and playing than with academia, one class is giving them the ability to plan for their future so they don't miss out on sunnier days.

A job skills and career planning and exploration class taught by Julie Williams, the Wrangell High School counselor, teaches students how to map out a path to prosperity.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, about 8.3 million high school students took some form of career and technology education (CTE) class in the 2020-2021 school year, up by one million students the previous year.

Most of those courses, like Williams', introduce students to career paths they were already interested in or might not have thought about before.

Federal data shows high

school students who complete two course credits in a class focused on a career path have a 95% graduation rate.

Throughout the first and second semester, Williams invited speakers from different industries, whether the medical field, journalism, commercial fishing or others, to give students a first-hand account of what it's like to work in those fields.

"I found it very helpful to see the point of view of each one and get a different idea of types and not just the same one," said sophomore Addie Andrews, who has plans to become a music teacher. "Even though some didn't interest me, I found it beneficial for others that may have found they want to be in that field."

Andrews added that the speaker series was also beneficial in that students could learn information that could either encourage them to continue on their selected career path or change their minds.

During the first semester, Williams focuses on job skills, where students conduct mock interviews and other lessons to help prepare them for real-world job hunting. The second semester centers on planning for a career and finding out what types of jobs would best suit each student. Students can take both classes but only one semester is required for graduation.

Throughout the year, Williams mixes in things like financial literacy to get students thinking about long-term career planning.

"I've integrated a lot of things about applied finance, benefits at company jobs, investing for retirement, those sorts of pieces so that the idea of employment toward an end is there," she said. "What to ask. Is it a good job just because you make a lot of money but can't retire when you're done. Or is it a good job where you make less money but you can retire and retire well and have health insurance and

whatever else."

As part of the second semester, students have to complete a six-year planning document that maps out where they are in high school to where they see themselves in six years. It includes things like their current classes, testing they want to take, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, employment and other areas they want to highlight.

"Do they want to study abroad? Are they going to take any trips? Are they going to showcase themselves as athletes? What do they want to do to strengthen that," Williams said. It also includes looking at what they're going to do between graduation and working or continuing their education and where they want to live.

"They actually have to email that report to their parents. They get half the grade for completion, then they have to email and share it with their family, their parents or guardians."

She said the hope is that if a student has a plan, they can stick to it or deviate from it as necessary, but if there's no plan, students won't have a blueprint to work from.

Andrews has already researched her post-high school education and is looking at attending the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. She knows what grade point average she will need (3.0) and what her SAT and ACT scores will need to be.

Williams has also made sure Andrews is aware of the pre-education college class she can enroll in as a senior to get a jumpstart on her career as a teacher.

For students who are set on a specific career, it's not difficult for them to follow their plan. However, for some it might be a "hard sell," Williams said, especially when faced with enticing offers.

"When you get Trident Seafoods that's offering a paid internship and paid tuition and will pay you to do it, it's really hard to set yourself up to come out of college and be paying lots to do what you're doing," she said. "It's a pioneering program. You're paid \$20 an hour to sit in your college classes. They're paying for your housing and tuition. You're being basically employed as a student. That's a no-brainer for a kid."



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Awards, scholarships ceremony highlights student achievements throughout year

By **MARC LUTZ**
Sentinel editor

As the school year wraps up and learning winds down, students were recognized for their outstanding achievements.

The annual academic and scholarship award ceremony held on May 16 in the Wrangell High School gym highlighted the hard work put in by eighth through 12th graders. Teachers, administrators, community and business leaders gathered to present the students with certificates, plaques and checks.

Awards were given in the areas of general education, shop class, finance, student government and others, while scholarships totaled \$783,256, of which almost \$100,000 were from local organizations. Nearly half of the scholarship funds went to senior Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch, who was awarded \$331,040 from the QuestBridge scholarship from Boston University, where he will attend school in the fall.

One award didn't focus on academic achievement as much as it looked at the recipient's approach to life.

"Through the course of the year, I've identified somebody that I want to provide an award called 'From the Heart,'" said retiring principal Bob Burkhart. "I heard about the newspaper article being written and blogs, and I saw her helping and always giving 100%, being sincere ... and doing the very best she can to be a great giver in the school community." The award was presented to junior Mia Wiederspohn.

The following is a list of the awards presented and scholarships given.

PRESENTED BY
HEATHER HOWE

T3 Alliance

- Paige Hoyt
- Miranda Ridgeway
- Donovan Wood
- Timothy Pearson
- Ander Edens
- Kayla Young
- Spencer Petticrew
- Sean McDonald
- William Ashton
- Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch
- Killian Booker
- Silje Morse
- Andrei Bardin-Siekawitch
- Clara Carney
- Angus Booker
- Brogan Booker

Student government

- Addy Andrews
- Ander Edens
- Max Lloyd
- Sean McDonald
- Mia Wiederspohn
- Will Ashton
- Devlyn Campbell
- Brodie Gardner
- Treasurer: Rylee Chelette
- Secretary: Spencer Petticrew
- Vice president: Daniel Harrison
- President: Kiara Harrison

RASOR (Rural Alaska Students in One-Health Research)

- Daniel Harrison
- Jacen Hay
- Mia Wiederspohn

Fish Tech Program

- Rylee Chelette
- Clara Edens
- Andrei Bardin-Siekawitch
- William Ashton
- Rylee Chelette
- Brodie Gardner

PRESENTED BY
TASHA MORSE

- Music Squared (dedication to the music program)**
- Ander Edens
 - Kalee Herman



Senior Rylee Chelette is all smiles as she accepts the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Scholarship award of \$1,500 on May 16 from chamber board president Bill Burr, who is also the schools superintendent.

PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Saxophone Award (enthusiasm in music)

- Killian Booker

Honor Fest Award

- Paige Baggen
- Ander Edens

All State Music

- Ander Edens

Music Fest Award

- Ander Edens

Tri-M Awards (3.5 GPA)

- Kiara Harrison
- Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch

Artist Award

- Clara Edens
- Anika Herman

Artistic Dreamer

- Paige Baggen

Art Student of the Year

- Paige Baggen

PRESENTED BY
LISA BROOKS

English Students of the Year

- Paige Hoyt
- Clara Edens

PRESENTED BY
MATT NORE

Outstanding Athlete

- Lucas Schneider

Sportsmanship Award

- Timothy Pearson
- Jackson Powers

PRESENTED BY
JULIE WILLIAMS

Dual credit/College credit or Career and Technical Ed classes completed independently

- Kiara Harrison
- Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch
- Sean McDonald



From left: Seniors Leroy Wynne, Elias Decker, Jacen Hay and Ethan Blatchley share their plans after graduation with the audience during the academic achievement awards and scholarship ceremony in the high school gym on May 16.

- Mia Wiederspohn
- Spencer Petticrew
- Paige Baggen
- Timothy Pearson
- Nathan Rooney
- Brody Knecht

PRESENTED BY
ODILE MEISTER

Outstanding Achievement in Spanish awards

- Spanish 2: Devlyn Campbell
- Spanish 3: Kiara Harrison, Will Ashton, Spencer Petticrew

PRESENTED BY
DONNA MASSIN

Outstanding Work in Algebra 1

- Madelyn Davies
- Hailey Cook

Outstanding Work in Geometry

- Jackson Carney
- Ben Houser
- Paige Hoyt
- Clara Edens

Precalculus Student of the Year

- Rylee Chelette

Calculus Student of the Year

- Will Ashton

PRESENTED BY
VIRGINIA OLIVER

Novice Tlingit Language Learner

- Kyle Hommel

Medium-Level Novice Tlingit Language Learner

- Zeke Young

Most Enthusiastic Tlingit Language Learner

- Boomchain Loucks

PRESENTED BY
JACK CARNEY

Outstanding Achievement Award - Health

- Clara Edens
- Paige Hoyt
- Boomchain Loucks
- Tyra Meissner
- Christina Johnson

Adam Smith's Outstanding Achievement Award - Economics

- William Ashton
- Kiara Harrison
- Daniel Harrison
- Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch

Wolf of Wrangell (earned over \$28,000 on stock market simulator)

- Zekale Young

Continued on page 10

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Senate approves tax on e-cigarettes; House may consider the bill next year

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Legislation to impose a state tax on e-cigarettes and vape products passed the Alaska Senate on the next to last day of the regular session, but will have to wait until next year for consideration by the House.

The House did not take up the measure before adjournment on May 17. A House committee held one hearing on similar legislation earlier in the month, with members raising multiple questions about the tax and other issues.

If approved next year, the bill would impose a 25% tax at the retail level on e-cigarette products, including liquids, sticks and other delivery devices.

Raising the cost would discourage use by youth, Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl said during Senate debate on the bill May 16. The measure passed 14-6.

"Once someone is addicted, they tend not to be terribly sensitive to price. But young people who are not yet addicted are (price sensitive)," Kiehl said.

"This bill is not a revenue raiser. This is about reducing the rapidly growing addiction of young people, especially our high schoolers, to nicotine. We're already at one in four. ... We need to take these steps," Kiehl said, referring to a report released in

December by the state Department of Health, showing that as of 2019, 26% of Alaska high school students used e-cigarette products.

Senate President Gary Stevens of Kodiak sponsored the legislation, Senate Bill 89.

Alaska's tobacco tax on cigarettes, cigars and loose tobacco has not changed since 2006, a time before use of e-cigarettes, also known as vaping, became common.

The bill also raises the state's minimum legal age for the purchase of e-cigarette products to 21, matching the federal minimum age signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2019.

The new tax would bring in over \$3.2 million in the first year, according to the Alaska Department of Revenue. Most of that money would be intended for tobacco cessation and prevention funding, as is already the case with existing tobacco tax revenues.

A similar Stevens-sponsored bill passed the Legislature last year by wide margins in both the Senate and House, but Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed the measure, stating his opposition to the new tax.

Dunleavy has made no public statements about this year's legislation.

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Legislation designates October as Filipino American History Month

Alaska Beacon

October will be Filipino American History Month in Alaska if Gov. Mike Dunleavy approves a bill that passed the state House and Senate unanimously.

House Bill 23, from Anchorage Rep. Genevieve Mina, is largely ceremonial — it does not declare an official holiday or require schools to teach lessons on Filipino American history — but supporters testified that passage of the bill would be an important honor.

The first recorded Filipino visitor to Alaska arrived in 1788, and immigrants from the Philippines were critical to the operations of salmon canneries in the 19th and 20th centuries, particularly in

Southeast Alaska.

More immigrants come to Alaska from the Philippines than from any other country, but the state's history of recognizing Philippine accomplishments is mixed. The Glenn Highway, one of the state's most prominent roadways, is named in honor of a war criminal who tortured Filipinos during the 20th century American occupation of the Philippines.

HB 23 now advances to Dunleavy's desk for consideration. It passed the House without opposition in March before winning Senate approval on May 12.

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Legislature sets day to honor late congressman

Anchorage Daily News

The Alaska Legislature passed a bill May 16 to establish June 9 as Don Young Day, commemorating Alaska's late congressman, who died in March 2022 after 49 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Young, a Republican known for his gruff manner and bipartisanship, was 88 when he died. He was the longest-serving Republican in the history of the U.S. House.

His contributions to Alaska have already been marked in numerous ways, including naming a volcano in the Aleu-

tian chain and a federal office building in Fairbanks after him. Young was born June 9, 1933, in California. He moved to Alaska in 1959 and was first elected to the U.S. House in 1973.

The new commemorative day will not be a state holiday. The bill calls for the day to be observed "by suitable observances and exercises by civil groups and the public."

The bill heads next to Gov. Mike Dunleavy for final approval. Dunleavy earlier this year proclaimed March 18, 2023, as Don Young Day, "to celebrate and honor the contributions" of Young on the one-year anniversary of his death.

Awards and scholarships

Continued from page 9

Budget Challenge (earned all six trophies in personal finance simulator)

Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch
Kiara Harrison
Elias Decker

Outstanding Achievement Award - World History

Spencer Petticrew
Ander Edens
Kayla Young
Mia Wiederspohn
Christiana Johnson
Daniel Harrison

Most Improved Athlete Award - Strength Training

Brody Knecht

PRESENTED BY
WINSTON DAVIES

Shop Student of the Year

Jacen Hay

Outstanding Beginner Welder

Brody Knecht

Most Improved Woodworker

Max Lloyd

Workhorse Award

Ben Houser

Digital Drafting Student of the Year

Paige Hoyt

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Alaska Scholars (\$12,000 total, \$1,500 per semester for eight semesters)

Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch
Kiara Harrison

Alaska Performance Scholarship

Level 1 (up to \$4,755)
Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch
Kiara Harrison

Level 2 (up to \$3,566)
Paige Baggen

Level 3 (up to \$2,378)

Will Ashton

Alaska Pulp Scholarship (\$5,000 per year, renewable for four years)

Devlyn Campbell
Rylee Chelette
Brody Gardner

Pat Roppel Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

Kiara Harrison

Sig and Helen Decker Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

Devlyn Campbell

AAU Helen Decker "Living Beautifully" Scholarship (\$2,000)

Devlyn Campbell
Brody Gardner
Kiara Harrison
Jacen Hay

Frieda Lust Scholarship (\$100)

Rylee Chelette

Alfred Ryll Scholarship (\$100)

Brody Gardner

Wrangell Teachers' Association (\$500)

Kiara Harrison

Jumpstart Your Life Award, Tongass Federal Credit Union (\$1,500)

Brody Gardner

Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp No. 1 (\$500)

Brody Gardner

Kiks.adi Scholarship (\$500)

Randy Churchill III

WMC Foundation Health Careers Scholarship (\$1,000 for four years)

Devlyn Campbell
Rylee Chelette
Brody Gardner
Kiara Harrison

BASE Kindness Scholarship (\$500)

Brody Gardner

Colin Bunes Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000 for two years)

Brody Gardner

Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Scholarship (\$1,500)

Rylee Chelette

Elks Most Valuable Student Participants (\$200)

Kiara Harrison

Wrangell Emblem Club No. 87 (\$500)

Randy Churchill III

Virginia Kaspar Scholarship (\$1,000)

Rylee Chelette

Joel Wing Scholarship (\$1,000)

Devlyn Campbell

Greg Scheff Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)

Brody Gardner

Allen Benjamin Scholarship (\$1,000)

Paige Baggen

Washington State University WUE (\$11,000, renewable for four years)

Brody Gardner

California Institute of the Arts (\$14,000 renewable for four years)

Paige Baggen

Quest Bridge, Boston University (\$82,760, renewable for four years)

Nikolai Bardin-Siekawitch

Gonzaga University (Presidential Scholarship \$23,000, grant \$8,000, renewable for four years)

Devlyn Campbell

Washington State University Cougar Award Waiver (\$11,000, renewable for four years)

Rylee Chelette

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at the Sentinel office.



Bill would ban firefighting foam containing ‘forever chemicals’

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature has passed a bill requiring an end to the use of firefighting foams containing substances known as “forever chemicals” — called that because of their resistance to any natural degradation.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, have been commonly used at airports for their effectiveness in smothering burning fuel.

The PFAS bill requires a switch to alternative firefighting foams by Jan. 1. The bill goes to the governor for his signature or veto.

The measure won approval on the last day of the regular legislative session May 17 after a Senate PFAS bill was combined with a separate House bill aimed at phasing out different types of environmentally damaging compounds, hydrofluorocarbons, which are com-

monly used as refrigerants.

The combined measure, House Bill 51, ensures that building codes around the state allow the use of hydrofluorocarbons alternatives.

PFAS compounds have been used in a wide variety of commercial and industrial products, including cookware, textiles, packaging, engine lubricants and personal-care products like dental floss. Introduced in the 1950s for their powerful fire resistance, the compounds are now commonplace in the environment. Studies have shown that they are detectable in the bodies of most Americans, though levels have dropped significantly in recent years as PFAS manufacturing and use has declined, according to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

In Alaska, as in many other places in the world, the most

direct source of PFAS contamination in the soil and water comes from firefighting foams used at airports. Drinking water sources at some sites have been contaminated by airport use of PFAS.

Gustavus is a dramatic case. There, high levels of PFAS substances were found in well water, and the state embarked on a multiyear response and distribution of bottled water to residents.

High levels of contamination also have been found around the Fairbanks airport.

That was the reason for zeroing in on firefighting foams, said PFAS-bill sponsor Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl.

“This isn’t a cleanup bill. This is a no-new-spills bill,” he said. Kiehl has been working for five years on legislation to regulate PFAS.

There are an estimated 5,280 gallons of the firefighting

foam at the state’s smaller, rural airports. The Department of Transportation also owns roughly 35,000 gallons of the foam stored at 15 larger airports, including all of the jet-capable state airports in Southeast, according to Kiehl’s office.

The senator said he believes cleanup issues will be addressed by the first-ever nationwide standards that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to enact this year.

The state is looking for a non-PFAS firefighting foam for airport use, but is “in a holding pattern until new federal regulations on the subject are adopted,” Transportation Department spokesman Sam Dapcevic said last week.

The department, which owns and maintains the Wrangell airport, has a supply of the firefighting chemical at the airport for use in emergencies, Dapcevic

ich said.

Other states have gone further with PFAS controls. Nearly a dozen states have banned food packaging containing the chemicals, for example, and California requires notices about cookware containing some of them.

The phaseout of hydrofluorocarbons as refrigerants is likewise seen as good for the environment by scientists and climate activists. HFCs are extremely potent greenhouse gases, thousands of times as powerful as carbon dioxide, though shorter lived.

House Bill 51 was notably supported by the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry.

The Sentinel contributed reporting to this story. The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Drug overdose and mental health legislation carried over to next year

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

A pair of criminal-justice bills that failed to win state legislative approval in the session that ended last week will be back next year.

The first bill would reclassify drug-overdose deaths as second-degree murders instead of manslaughter cases. It passed the House on May 11 but failed to advance out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The measure, House Bill 66, also contains provisions that would increase jail terms for drug-related crimes, as well as provisions relating to dosing of other people, such as in cases where so-called “date-rape” drugs are used to incapacitate and assault victims.

The second bill would require prosecutors to file for petitions to confine people deemed dangerous but mentally incompetent to face trial. It passed the Senate on May 8 but was still in the House Judiciary Committee at the time of adjournment.

The measure, Senate Bill 53, would allow confinement for up to two years; the current maximum is 180 days.

Legislation that fails to win approval by both the House and Senate in the first year remain under consideration for the second half of the two-year session.

Both of this year’s measures were inspired by tragedies.

The drug bill, sponsored by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, came as a response to Alaska’s sharply increasing rate of drug-overdose deaths, driven largely by fentanyl, an extremely potent opioid.

Among those campaigning for it has been Sandy Snodgrass, whose 22-year-old son, Bruce, died of a fentanyl overdose in October of 2021. Bruce, her only child, “dropped where he stood, 40 feet away from a Wells Fargo drive-through and a McDonald’s drive-through in Anchorage, and was not able to call out for help, just dropped where he stood,” Snodgrass, who now heads the AK Fentanyl Response project, she said at an April 13 House Finance Committee hearing.

“I believe that rather than being classified as an accidental overdose, what happened to my son was a poisoning. It should be considered a drug-induced homicide.”

The catalyst for the involuntary confinement bill was a February 2022 stabbing, a random attack in Anchorage’s main public library that left a woman paralyzed. The assailant was a man with a history of mental-health problems and violent episodes. The victim, Angela Harris, has been campaigning for the bill.

Before Harris was stabbed, her assailant could have been confined for mental-health reasons, but no one filed a petition required to make that happen, said Anchorage Sen. Matt Claman, the bill’s sponsor.

Even the assailant’s mother, who had been the victim of a previous violent episode, could have filed, Claman said. As of now, “it’s unclear who has the responsibility” for making such filings, he said. The bill would compel prosecutors to file such positions in cases of mentally

incompetent defendants, thus filling that gap, he said.

Originally, the confinement period would have been up to five years, but that was shortened in the committee process.

Although the bill passed the Senate, there was some bipartisan opposition based on concerns over civil liberties.

There are likewise some concerns about elements of the drug bill now pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Claman, the committee chair. The concerns are about lengthened sentences for defendants whose actions are driven by their own addictions, he said.

“Do you make people that are just kind of street-level dealers in jail for longer periods of time when you know there are addiction issues?” he said. Indications are that longer sentences are not effective in curbing drug abuse, he noted.

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Legislators consent to pay raise for themselves, governor and commissioners

SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

Alaska state legislators have failed to block a 67% pay raise for themselves and a roughly 20% salary increase for the governor and his cabinet.

Under state law, legislators had until May 15 to pass a bill to block the pay raises — but never took a final vote by the deadline. The pay raises are set to go into effect July 1 for the governor and his cabinet, and in January for the Legislature.

Back in March, the state’s independent salary commission held a 15-minute meeting at which all five members agreed to the substantial pay boosts. All of the commissioners had either resigned or were replaced by Gov. Mike Dunleavy in the days leading up to the hastily called meeting.

The newly appointed commission recommended that legislators’ salaries should increase from \$50,400 to \$84,000 per year, matching half the new salaries proposed for heads of state agencies at \$168,000 per year. That will be the first pay raise for legislators since 2010.

“I think it’s a fair salary,” said Senate President Gary Stevens, a Kodiak Republican, in a brief interview May 16. “We are dealing with billions of dollars, and I think we want to attract people who may not want to leave the job they have been at.”

Lawmakers are also eligible for per diem expense payments, which allow them to collect \$307 tax-free per legislative day. Per diem payments add another roughly \$37,000 per year for legislators who claim them during an entire 121-day legislative session — special sessions can boost that further.

The Legislature unanimously blocked pay raises for the governor and his cabinet in March after the state’s salary commission made no pay recommendations for the Legislature itself.

The former commissioners had proposed that the governor’s salary should be increased from \$145,000 per year to \$176,000, representing an inflation adjustment and a 2%-per-year increase since the last pay raise in 2011. The lieutenant governor’s salary would increase by around 10% following the same formula to just over

\$140,000 per year.

After the governor appointed all new commissioners, the group met again and added legislative pay raises to their recommendation.

The total cost for the legislators’ salary increases is roughly \$2.7 million per year, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Finance Division. The raises for the governor, lieutenant governor and 15 state commissioners are set to cost \$369,000 per year.

In March, members of the 17-member Senate majority said that the process to approve the pay raises had been flawed and clumsy, but they generally supported the recommendations, arguing that without the pay boost, younger and newer legislators could not afford to serve in Juneau.

There were pledges by the House majority to try to block the pay increases, but legislation to block the raises did not advance for a final House vote before the May 15 deadline. The Republican-dominated House majority brought the bill to the floor for a vote a day later — it passed 29-11 but was essentially a meaningless vote for show.

Legislation will make it a crime to harass 911 dispatchers

Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature has voted to criminalize the harassment of 911 dispatchers and threats against them.

The Alaska House voted 37-1 on May 11 to approve Senate Bill 38, a measure passed 19-0 by the state Senate on March 17.

The bill was written by Wasilla Sen. David Wilson and advances to the desk of Gov. Mike Dunleavy for signature into law after failing to pass through the Legislature last year.

The measure was at least

partially inspired by an instance when a caller repeatedly dialed 911 to protest Fourth of July fireworks.

If Dunleavy approves the bill, state law would be amended to allow authorities to bring misdemeanor charges against someone who repeatedly calls 911 when there isn’t an emergency and persists calling even when asked to stop.

Someone who threatens a 911 dispatcher could also be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a fine of \$2,000.

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Lawmakers approve carbon-offset bill in hopes the state can profit

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Legislature has approved a measure that would set up a system for leasing state forested lands to businesses and investors that could profit by preserving the land and selling “credits” to others who need or want to offset their direct or indirect carbon emissions.

The carbon-offset credits bill would allow leases of up to 55 years, with payments made to the state by businesses and other entities seeking to preserve tracts of land for their capacity to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The measure, Senate Bill 48, passed the Senate unanimously on Monday and moved through the House on a 38-2 vote on Tuesday, going to the governor for his signature into law.

The intent of the legislation is to promote forest preservation so that the state can profit from its participation in fighting climate change.

Most of legislators’ comments on the House floor leading up to the vote touted the bill’s potential for generating state revenue from national and global demand for carbon offsets.

The measure is a high priority for Gov. Mike Dunleavy. The Republican governor introduced it early in the session and touted the idea in his State of the State address in January as a potential source of future revenue.

John Boyle, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, said he was “very excited” to get the bill approved in such an overwhelming fashion. “Folks recognize that it’s a good idea and a good move for the state and we’re very happy to see it advance.”

In floor remarks leading to the vote, Anchorage Sen. Bill Wielechowski said the program established through the bill is a new opportunity for the state to generate much-needed revenue.

He also addressed some of the public backlash to the bill that emerged during the deliberation process and, as he characterized it, veered at times into conspiracy theories. “This is the state responding to a need that exists in the free market. This is not a cap-and-trade program. We are not putting any emissions limits on anyone,” Wielechowski said. “We are not locking up land. This bill has provisions that state land must remain open for public access, like hunting, fishing, hiking, trapping, min-

ing, even oil development.”

Among the types of development contemplated for land leased for carbon-offset credits is logging – even though most state-owned forested land is in the boreal region of the Interior, which has traditionally not supported much commercial logging.

Boyle said his department will work as quickly as possible to set up regulations, as the state needs more revenue. But the amount of money to be raised through these projects is yet to be determined, he said.

Moving more slowly and not winning approval this session is the governor’s companion bill that would set up a system for storing carbon gases in emptied oil and gas reservoirs with the purpose of sequestering the greenhouse gases emitted by petroleum production and other industrial activities.

The plan is that the state could earn money by leasing the reservoir space to carbon storage operations.

Versions of that bill are pending in the Senate and House and could be considered next year.

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CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL FORECLOSURE LIST, TAX YEARS 2017 - 2022

Property No	Owner	Mailing Address	Lot	Block	Subdivision	Tax Year	Assessed	Exempt	Tax	Penalties & Interest	Amt Paid	Amt Owed
05-001-100	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	120,600	-	482.40	62.70	-	545.10
05-001-120	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	15,000	-	60.00	7.80	-	67.80
05-001-130	AHST 148 LLC	1420 ROCKY RIDGE RD STE 380 ROSEVILLE CA 95661	1A		DUNCANSON SUBD.	2022	15,000	-	60.00	7.80	-	67.80
72-340-2034	Aitken, Duke Wayne	PO BOX 2134 WRANGELL AK 99929	S34		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	3,000	-	38.25	4.97	-	43.22
02-020-102	Alascom, Inc	PO BOX 7207 BEDMINSTER NJ 07921-7609	2	B	DEWEY HEIGHTS SUBD.	2022	191,400	-	2,440.35	317.24	-	2,757.59
08-140-010	Boettger, Patrick J	2410 INGRA ST ANCHORAGE AK 99808	1	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	17,700	-	70.80	9.21	-	80.01
71-530-1053	Brown Jr, Thomas E	PO Box 2065 Wrangell, AK 99929	S53		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	13,000	-	165.75	21.56	-	187.31
71-530-1053	Brown Jr, Thomas E	PO Box 2065 Wrangell, AK 99929	S53		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	13,000	-	165.75	23.46	(160.00)	29.21
03-006-305	Burrell C & Maria Ellena Byford	PO BOX 231 WRANGELL AK 99929	Y-D		BYFORD REPLAT	2022	4,800	-	61.20	7.95	-	69.15
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	S15		BLOOMS T.P.	2018	4,900	-	62.48	36.63	-	99.11
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	S15		BLOOMS T.P.	2021	4,900	-	62.48	15.55	-	78.03
73-150-3015	Butler, Perry	PO BOX 972 WRANGELL AK 99929	S15		BLOOMS T.P.	2022	4,900	-	62.48	8.11	-	70.59
72-300-2030	Campbell-Wright, Jon Miller	PO BOX 1767 WRANGELL AK 99929	S30		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	4,000	-	51.00	6.63	-	57.63
72-010-2001	Cano, Lorena M	PO Box 2023 Wrangell, AK 99929	S1		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	9,500	-	121.13	30.26	-	151.39
72-010-2001	Cano, Lorena M	PO Box 2023 Wrangell, AK 99929	S1		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	9,500	-	121.13	15.74	-	136.87
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2018	64,200	-	818.55	583.79	(91.81)	1,310.53
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2019	64,200	-	818.55	384.89	-	1,203.44
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2020	64,200	-	818.55	294.80	-	1,113.35
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2021	64,200	-	818.55	204.71	-	1,023.26
03-009-404	Casey, Estate, Jess C	1821 MARK ALAN ST JUNEAU AK 99801	1B		USS 2589	2022	64,200	-	818.55	106.43	-	924.98
05-032-070	Charleton, Chuck	7015 164TH ST SE SNOHOMISH WA 98296	32G		T W SUBD. ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
05-032-080	Charleton, Chuck	7015 164TH ST SE SNOHOMISH WA 98296	32H		T W SUBD. ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
02-023-760	Christensen, Steven J (CTT MARINE)	PO BOX 92 WRANGELL AK 99929	6	BOA	WRANGELL MARINE SERVICE	2022	57,600	52,400.00	66.30	8.61	-	74.91
72-230-2023	Churchill, Linda Ann	PO BOX 2147 WRANGELL AK 99929	S23		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	1,000	-	12.75	3.23	-	15.98
72-230-2023	Churchill, Linda Ann	PO BOX 2147 WRANGELL AK 99929	S23		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	1,000	-	12.75	1.67	-	14.42
02-010-402	Churchill, Richard & Tracy	PO BOX 2086 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	13	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	-106,900	-	-1,362.98	-177.19	-	-1,540.17
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS-82-83	2019	-25,100	-	-100.40	-47.04	-	-147.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS-82-83	2020	-25,100	-	-100.40	-36.04	-	-136.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS-82-83	2021	-25,100	-	-100.40	-25.04	-	-125.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS-82-83	2022	-25,100	-	-100.40	-13.04	-	-113.44
09-050-100	Clark, Jason	PO BOX 612 WRANGELL AK 99929			ASLS-82-83	2018	-25,100	-	-100.40	-59.04	(50.00)	-109.44
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2022	34,600	-	441.15	57.35	-	498.50
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2019	18,000	-	229.50	108.05	-	337.55
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2020	18,000	-	229.50	82.75	-	312.25
01-004-654	Cool, Vern	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2021	18,000	-	229.50	57.45	-	286.95
01-004-654	Cool, Vern & Marquart, Kathleen	3710 NE FLANDERS ST PORTLAND OR 97232	3	4	USS 2127	2018	18,000	-	229.50	135.65	-	365.15
72-490-2050	David Newman & Elizabeth Cabot	PO BOX 2261 WRANGELL AK 99929	S49		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	1,500	-	19.13	2.48	-	21.61
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2018	64,100	-	256.40	151.08	-	407.48
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2019	64,100	-	256.40	120.36	-	376.76
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2020	64,100	-	256.40	92.20	-	348.60
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	64,100	-	256.40	64.04	-	320.44
08-140-130	Diment, Brendon Gene	11410 NE 124TH ST # 327 KIRKLAND WA 98034	13	4	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	64,100	-	256.40	33.32	-	289.72
03-010-207	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	13		USS 2589	2020	192,600	-	2,455.65	884.13	-	3,339.78
03-010-224	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	2		USS 3534	2020	109,200	-	1,392.30	501.15	-	1,893.45
03-010-207	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	13		USS 2589	2022	36,800	-	469.20	60.99	-	530.19
03-010-224	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	PO BOX 1976 SITKA AK 99835	2		USS 3534	2022	17,900	-	228.23	29.66	-	257.89
08-320-020	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	43166 THOMAS DR SCIO OR 97374	2	2	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	33,800	-	135.20	35.09	(14.85)	155.44
08-320-020	Duman, Michael & Martin, Brett	43166 THOMAS DR SCIO OR 97374	2	2	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	33,800	-	135.20	17.57	-	152.77
41-100-140	Ellis, David C	PO BOX 4349 PETERSBURG AK 99833	44		NORTHERN FARM ISL. SUBD.	2022	-17,700	-	-70.80	-1.33	(60.80)	-11.33
03-006-352	Everson, Merton E	PO BOX 1273 WRANGELL AK 99929		TRACT Z3	ROAD HOUSE SUBD.	2022	45,000	-	573.75	74.60	-	648.35
03-006-353	Everson, Merton E	PO BOX 1273 WRANGELL AK 99929		TRACT Z4	ROAD HOUSE SUBD.	2022	45,000	-	573.75	74.60	-	648.35
10-300-300	Fager, Galen D West, Justin	PO BOX 604 HALFWAY OR 97834		TRACT C	SERGIEF ISL. SUBD.	2021	18,700	-	74.80	18.73	-	93.53
10-300-300	Fager, Galen D West, Justin	PO BOX 604 HALFWAY OR 97834		TRACT C	SERGIEF ISL. SUBD.	2022	18,700	-	74.80	9.73	-	84.53
01-004-501	Gadd, Charles & Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	1	USS 2127	2022	4,500	-	57.38	7.45	-	64.83
01-004-503	Gadd, Charles & Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	1	USS 2127	2022	4,500	-	57.38	7.45	-	64.83
04-006-604	Gadd, Charles (Selleck) M	PO BOX 421 WRANGELL AK 99929	2	5	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2018	65,000	-	260.00	153.40	-	413.40
02-029-208	Gadd, Sara	PO BOX 2144 WRANGELL AK 99929	5	59B	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	61,600	-	785.40	102.09	-	887.49
72-410-2042	Gerard, Steve	PO BOX 1764 WRANGELL AK 99929	S41		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	2,500	-	31.88	4.15	-	36.03
06-010-130	Ghazal, Moustafa	14710-127th AVE SE SNOHOMISH WA 98290	7B		UNION BAY-ERNEST CLM	2022	-46,000	-	-184.00	-23.92	(166.62)	-41.30
03-009-308	Gillen, James C	PO BOX 791 WRANGELL AK 99929	4C		SOUTH WRANGELL SUBD	2019	-99,800	-	-1,272.45	-597.89	-	-1,870.34
01-004-551	Goodman, Robert E & Norma J	PO BOX 193 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	2	USS 2127	2022	16,900	-	215.48	28.00	-	243.48
02-029-101	Greuter, Silvia	PO BOX 23050 KETCHIKAN AK 99901	2	59A	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	37,700	-	480.68	62.50	-	543.18
02-029-103	Greuter, Silvia	PO BOX 23050 KETCHIKAN AK 99901	1	59A	INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION AMD.	2022	97,800	-	1,246.95	162.11	-	1,409.06
71-470-1047	Haley, Clara	PO BOX 1642 WRANGELL AK 99929	S47		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	-5,200	-	-66.30	-38.97	-	-105.27
05-032-030	Hall, Peter & Reck, Jennifer	2203 HUMBLE RD MISSOULA MT 59804	32C		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	17.78	(66.68)	151.10
74-060-4006	Harding, Devan	PO BOX 986 WRANGELL AK 99929	S6		NUGGET T.P.	2021	10,300	-	131.33	32.78	-	164.11
05-032-040	Hergenreder, James & Theresa	PO BOX 986 SAND POINT ID 83864	32D		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	26.00	-	226.00
01-005-301	Hunt, Timothy C	PO BOX 2355 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	5	USS 2127	2019	118,800	-	1,514.70	712.02	-	2,226.72
01-005-301	Hunt, Timothy C	PO BOX 2355 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	5	USS 2127	2020	118,800	-	1,514.70	545.37	-	2,060.07
01-005-301	Hunt, Timothy C	PO BOX 2355 WRANGELL AK 99929	1	5	USS 2127	2021	118,800	-	1,514.70	378.72	-	1,893.42

California plans \$60 million project to open 12 miles of river habitat for salmon spawning

BY ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

MARYSVILLE, Calif. (AP) - California officials on May 16 said they will spend about \$60 million to build a channel along the Yuba River so that salmon and other threatened fish species can get around a Gold Rush-era dam that for more than a century has cut off their migration along the chilly waters of Sierra Nevada streams.

The project is the latest example of state and federal officials trying to reverse the environmental harms caused by the century-old infrastructure along California's major rivers and streams. Those dams and canals allowed the state to grow into the economic powerhouse it is today. But they have devastated natural ecosystems that have pushed once abundant salmon to the edge of extinction.

Last year, federal regulators approved the largest river restoration project in U.S. history that will remove

four dams along the Klamath River near the Oregon-California border. State and federal officials have plans to remove other dams that impede fish migration, including the Matilija Dam in California's Ventura County and the Rindge Dam in Los Angeles County.

The May 16 announcement will affect the Daguerre Point Dam near the Northern California city of Marysville. The federal government first built the dam in 1906 as a way to stop the seemingly endless flow of debris left over from hydraulic mining during the height of the Gold Rush of the mid-1800s.

The dam is mostly underwater, allowing the water to spill over the top of it while holding back a mountain of sediment. But it also blocks three species of fish from migrating up the river to spawn - spring-run chinook salmon, steelhead trout and green sturgeon.

The National Marine Fisheries Service declared in 2012 that the dam

posed a threat to the survival of those fish species. Coming up with a solution has been difficult as the dam has been mired in controversy for nearly 50 years about who is responsible for its maintenance and management.

"Within a few decades, Gold Rush mining created impacts that have lasted over 150 years. We're finally taking action to reverse those impacts," Willie Whittlesey, general manager of the Yuba Water Agency, said during a news conference attended by Gov. Gavin Newsom and other state, local and federal officials.

The three fish species are born in the cold, freshwater rivers filled with snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada. Once they hatch and grow big enough, they migrate through the river delta to the Pacific Ocean. They then return to the rivers, swimming upstream to where they were born to lay more eggs.

Dams stop the fish from reaching their spawning grounds. It's a big

reason why populations have plummeted, along with droughts and diversions that reduce the flow of water in rivers while increasing the temperature of the water. Commercial salmon fishing was closed along much of the West Coast earlier this year because of low fish populations.

Aaron Zettler-Mann, interim executive director and science director for the South Yuba River Citizens League, said he is excited about the idea of large amounts of fish finally being able to bypass the dam. But he said it's still not the best solution for the species.

He said fish naturally swim upstream and aren't looking for side channels to bypass dams. Plus, he said the river has lots of gravel in it that will eventually clog the channel, making it difficult for fish to use it without regular maintenance.

Instead, he said the best option would be to remove the dam entirely,

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CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL FORECLOSURE LIST, TAX YEARS 2017 - 2022

Property No	Owner	Mailing Address	Lot	Block	Subdivision	Tax Year	Assessed	Exempt	Tax	Penalties & Interest	Amt Paid	Amt Owed
02-031-214	Kadin Corporation	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1	49	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	17,000	-	216.75	28.19	-	244.94
02-031-216	Kadin Corporation	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1	49	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	17,000	-	216.75	28.19	-	244.94
71-170-1017	Keith, Paula	PO BOX 2154 WRANGELL AK 99929	517		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	11,300	-	144.08	36.01	-	180.09
71-170-1017	Keith, Paula	PO BOX 2154 WRANGELL AK 99929	517		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	11,300	-	144.08	18.73	-	162.81
04-006-654	Krall, Joe	PO BOX 672207 CHUGIAK AK 99567	3	6	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	41,900	-	167.60	21.80	-	189.40
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2018	24,100	-	96.40	56.68	-	153.08
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2019	24,100	-	96.40	45.16	-	141.56
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2020	24,100	-	96.40	34.60	-	131.00
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2021	24,100	-	96.40	24.04	-	120.44
08-310-070	Laura & Matthew Barker, Purchaser	1575 ELM ST UKIAH CA 95482	7 TRACT UN-3	1	THOMS PLACE SUBD.	2022	24,100	-	96.40	12.52	-	108.92
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	7,100	-	90.53	53.64	-	144.17
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2019	7,100	-	90.53	42.72	-	133.25
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2020	7,100	-	90.53	32.71	-	123.24
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	7,100	-	90.53	22.70	-	113.23
71-250-1025	Macias, Robert	PO BOX 908 WRANGELL AK 99929	525		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	7,100	-	90.53	11.78	-	102.31
72-160-2016	Martinsen, Kelsey J	PO BOX 110 WRANGELL AK 99929	516		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	14,200	-	181.05	23.54	-	204.59
02-034-406	Massin, Contract Purchase, Bernard A	PO BOX 1349 WRANGELL AK 99929	4A	22	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2019	-106,400	-	-1,352.78	-328.05	-(1,488.06)	-192.77
04-007-713	McGregor, George L & Katherine M	23159 S KINGSTON RD NE KINGSTON WA 98346	7	7	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	34,700	-	138.80	18.05	-	156.85
74-100-4010	McLaughlin, Adrienne Elizabeth	PO BOX 693 WRANGELL AK 99929	510		NUGGET T.P.	2022	3,000	-	38.25	4.97	-	43.22
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2018	173,100	-	2,207.03	1,302.13	-	3,509.16
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2019	173,100	-	2,207.03	1,037.29	-	3,244.32
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2020	173,100	-	2,207.03	794.52	-	3,001.55
02-032-101	McMurren, Douglas & Ruby	PO BOX 2174 WRANGELL AK 99929	1A		PINE SUBD.	2022	173,100	-	2,207.03	286.91	-	2,493.94
02-032-586	McMurren, Patrick & Patricia	PO BOX 12 WRANGELL AK 99929	7	2	CITY SUBD.	2021	-33,000	-	-420.75	81.07	-(250.00)	-251.82
02-023-740	Metal Head Marine LLC, Leasee	PO BOX 2158 WRANGELL AK 99929	5	BOA	WRANGELL MARINE SERVICE	2022	93,100	29,100.00	816.00	106.08	-	922.08
05-032-050	Murphy, Reid & Anne	3205 ROGUE RIVER RD EAGLE POINT OR 97524	32E		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	15.56	(83.35)	132.21
05-032-060	Murphy, Reid & Anne	3205 ROGUE RIVER DR EAGLE POINT OR 97524	32F		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	50,000	-	200.00	15.56	(83.35)	132.21
04-007-715	Murray, Tim	1275 RIVERSIDE DR ASPEN CO 81611	8	7	WRANGELL ISLAND EAST	2022	28,600	-	114.40	14.86	(29.26)	100.00
02-028-109	North Star Construction	2716 ELLIOTT AVE APT 804 SEATTLE WA 98121-3511	6	66	WRANGELL INDUSTRIAL PARK	2022	47,700	-	608.18	79.06	-	687.24
05-032-090	O'Brien, Elizabeth & Reynolds, Christoph	421 WOODWARD AVE ATLANTA GA 30312	32I		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	40,000	-	160.00	20.80	-	180.80
05-032-100	O'Brien, Elizabeth & Reynolds, Christoph	421 WOODWARD AVE ATLANTA GA 30312	32J		T W SUBD. - ISLAND H	2022	40,000	-	160.00	20.80	-	180.80
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2021	18,200	-	232.05	58.01	-	290.06
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2022	18,200	-	232.05	30.17	-	262.22
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2017	8,400	-	107.10	77.05	-	184.15
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2018	8,500	-	108.38	63.76	-	172.14
71-330-1000	Padgett, Caleb	PO BOX 1211 WRANGELL AK 99929	533		EVERGREEN T.P.	2019	8,500	-	108.38	50.80	-	159.18
02-023-226	Ramsey, Susan	PO BOX 247 WRANGELL AK 99929	13	7A	WRANGELL TOWNSITE	2022	9,100	3,900.00	66.30	8.61	-	74.91
03-005-262	RJ Construction	PO BOX 1896 WRANGELL AK 99929	7		SOUTHEAST HOMES SUBD.	2018	47,400	-	604.35	356.40	-	960.75
03-005-262	RJ Construction	PO BOX 1896 WRANGELL AK 99929	7		SOUTHEAST HOMES SUBD.	2019	47,400	-	604.35	283.92	-	888.27
72-340-2000	Romane, Charles	PO BOX 2261 WRANGELL AK 99929	534		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	-2,500	-	-31.88	4.15	-	-36.03
03-020-242	Rowlett, Dana & Rick	3905 DUNKLED DR NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72416	37A		SENNA	2022	-63,300	-	-807.08	-104.92	-	-912.00
09-010-030	Salvatore Bruno	9959 SINNEN LN BROWNSVILLE CA 95919	3	1	OLIVE COVE SUBD.	2022	69,400	-	277.60	36.10	-	313.70
09-010-120	Salvatore Bruno	9959 SINNEN LN BROWNSVILLE CA 95919	12	1	OLIVE COVE SUBD.	2022	18,700	-	74.80	9.73	-	84.53
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2022	130,200	-	1,660.05	197.04	(182.30)	1,674.79
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2020	83,000	-	1,058.25	380.91	-	1,439.16
03-006-101	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	TRACT U		USS 2321	2021	83,000	-	1,058.25	242.83	(182.30)	1,118.78
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2022	56,000	-	714.00	84.57	(79.76)	718.81
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2020	39,100	-	498.53	179.59	-	678.12
03-005-402	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	2 TRACT T		USS 2321	2021	39,100	-	498.53	116.09	(79.76)	534.86
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2020	18,600	-	237.15	85.34	-	322.49
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2022	24,400	-	311.10	36.42	(37.94)	309.58
03-005-400	Sergief, LLC	855 NORTH ESTY DR PALMER AK 99645	1 TRACT T		USS 2321	2021	18,600	-	237.15	55.23	(37.94)	254.44
03-009-365	Slaughter, Geneva	PO BOX 1933 FERDALE WA 98248	8	2	SOUTH WRANGELL SUBD.	2022	27,500	-	350.63	45.59	-	396.22
72-080-2008	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99928	58		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	500	-	6.38	1.54	-	7.92
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2019	13,300	-	169.58	79.86	-	249.44
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2020	13,300	-	169.58	61.16	-	230.74
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	13,300	-	169.58	42.46	-	212.04
72-040-2004	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	54		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	13,300	-	169.58	22.66	-	191.64
73-020-3002	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2021	9,600	-	122.40	30.54	-	152.94
73-020-3002	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2022	9,600	-	122.40	15.90	-	138.30
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2020	6,000	-	76.50	27.67	-	104.17
72-180-2018	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	518		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	3,800	-	48.45	12.05	-	60.50
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2021	6,000	-	76.50	19.20	-	95.70
72-080-2008	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	58		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	500	-	6.38	0.82	-	7.20
72-180-2018	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	518		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	3,800	-	48.45	6.29	-	54.74
72-150-2015	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	515		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	6,000	-	76.50	9.96	-	86.46
72-440-2045	St John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	544		PANHANDLE T.P.	2022	6,000	-	76.50	9.96	-	86.46
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2018	9,600	-	122.40	72.02	-	194.42
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2019	9,600	-	122.40	57.38	-	179.78
73-020-3002	St. John Jr, Wayne Danny	PO BOX 1974 Wrangell AK 99929	52		BLOOMS T.P.	2020	9,600	-	122.40	43.96	-	1

Police report

Monday, May 15
 Abandoned vehicle.
 Criminal mischief: Broken window.
 Stolen property.

Tuesday, May 16
 Agency assist: Ambulance.
 Agency assist: Ambulance.

Wednesday, May 17
 Motor vehicle accident: Deer.
 Traffic stop: Citation issued for speeding.
 Agency assist: Subpoena service.
 Agency assist: Subpoena service.
 Agency assist: Ambulance.

Thursday, May 18
 Harassment.
 Hit and run.

Harassment.
 Agency assist: Harbor Department.

Friday, May 19
 Traffic stop.
 Traffic stop.

Saturday, May 20
 Agency assist: Fire Department.

Sunday, May 21
 Safe keeping: Guns.
 Suspicious circumstance.
 Civil matter.
 Parking complaint.
 Motor vehicle accident.
 During this reporting period there were six agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.

Slip, sliding away from class

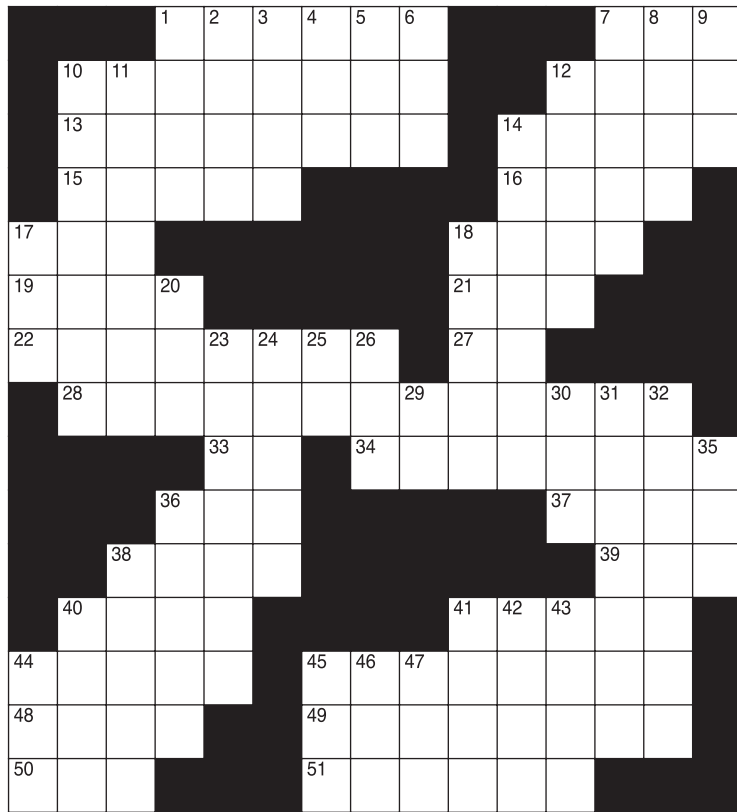


PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Senior Devlyn Campbell slips down a makeshift soapy water slide on May 17 on the lawn at the high school courtyard. The class of 2023 took advantage of the warm weather by inviting their classmates to blast each other with squirt guns, slide across the lawn and just play. They were joined by many other students, making for extremely quiet classrooms during fifth period.

Crossword

Answers on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wear away by friction
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Elicited a secret vote
- 12. Beef
- 13. Disagreement
- 14. _ Crawford, supermodel
- 15. Jeweled headdress
- 16. Digits
- 17. Trillion hertz
- 18. Snap up
- 19. Classical portico
- 21. Residue after burning
- 22. Large integers
- 27. Free agent
- 28. Where ballplayers work
- 33. Blood type
- 34. Scottish city
- 36. Google certification (abbr.)
- 37. Serbian monetary unit
- 38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
- 39. Wood or metal bolt
- 40. Relaxing attire
- 41. Famed neurologist
- 44. Dullish brown fabrics
- 45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
- 48. Griffith, Rooney
- 49. Lawmakers
- 50. Government lawyers
- 51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 2. Britpop rockers
- 3. National capital
- 4. Consumed
- 5. The habitat of wild animals
- 6. Sun up in New York
- 7. Cygnus star
- 8. Male parents
- 9. Talk to you (abbr.)
- 10. A place to clean oneself
- 11. Southwestern US state
- 12. South Korean idol singer
- 14. Pirate
- 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 18. Mistake
- 20. Promotions
- 23. Prepares
- 24. Partner to flowed
- 25. State lawyer
- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Pound
- 30. Electronic data processing
- 31. Sports player
- 32. Treats with contempt
- 35. Apprehend
- 36. Excessively talkative
- 38. Highways
- 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 41. College organization for males
- 42. Any customary observance or practice
- 43. Employee stock ownership plan
- 44. Male parent
- 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 46. Female bird

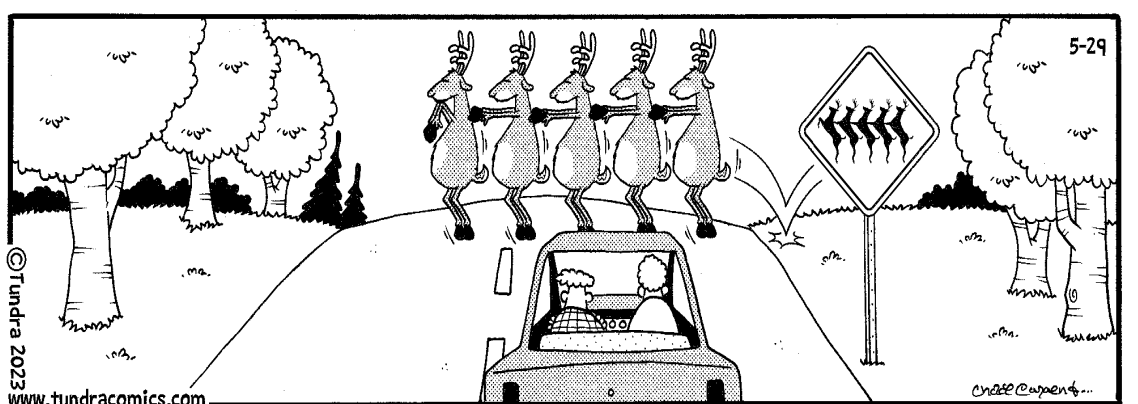
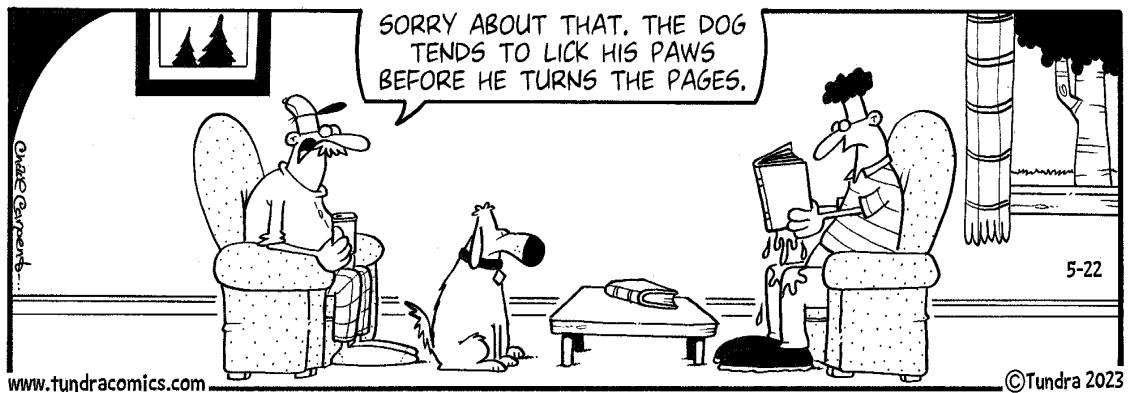
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Washington state company will pay \$1 million for polluting salmon river

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) - A company that operates a more than century-old hydroelectric dam near Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state will pay \$1 million after synthetic field turf and its tiny rubber particles spilled into the salmon-rearing Puyallup River in 2020.

Pierce County Superior Court Judge Philip Sorensen approved the amount in fines and restitution, with most to go toward restoring salmon habitat, the Washington state attorney general's office said in a statement on May 8.

The office said \$745,000 in restitution will be paid to Puyallup Tribal Fisheries, and \$255,000 in fines will be paid to Pierce County.

The rubber particles, made from recycled tires, contain a chemical that is especially toxic to coho salmon, according to the attorney general's office.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson initially brought three dozen misdemeanor charges against Electron Hydro and the company's chief operating officer, Thom Fischer, saying they discharged pollutants and intentionally violated a permit when they used old field turf as a liner during a dam construc-

tion project.

The turf was placed in a temporary bypass channel in 2020 and topped with a plastic liner so the river could be diverted, allowing for the construction work on the dam. A tear in the liner sent large amounts of the turf downstream. The rubber particles lined the shore for miles.

Removing the artificial turf has been ongoing since the release in 2020. Tribal personnel found and removed more turf as recently as March, Ferguson said.

The dam, built near Tacoma in 1904, provides electricity to 20,000 customers.

In a statement through an attorney on May 15, the company told The Seattle Times: "Thom Fischer and Electron Hydro are thankful that the state's case is concluded, and pleased that restitution will be invested in fisheries enhancement on the Puyallup River."

The company previously agreed to pay about \$500,000 in a settlement with the state Department of Ecology. Related lawsuits brought by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Puyallup Tribe are set to go to trial later this year.

Wizard of a performance



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Malachi Harrison, left, as Scarecrow, talks to Dorothy (Erika Jabusch) and Tin Man (Derek Heller) in the May 16 production of "The Wizard of Oz" at Evergreen Elementary. Students staged the performance of the classic story and were allowed to read from scripts to take the pressure off the actors. Tracey Martin and Kim Pogue produced the stage play, while art teacher Tawney Crowley was the set supervisor. Crowley had a background in theater, so fellow staff members took advantage of her experience. Stina Rhoades played the piano.

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California dam

Continued from page 13

something he says at least two studies from the federal government have pointed to within the past 20 years.

Whittlesey said the dam still has its uses, including making it easier to divert water from the Yuba River for nearby farms.

Chuck Bonham, director of the California Department

of Fish and Wildlife, said the channel will mimic the natural flow of the river before it was dammed. Once opened, he said it will give fish another 12 miles of habitat.

Officials plan to install screens to keep the fish from getting into the other canals that send water to irrigate agriculture.

"Not all dams should be removed. Most of our infra-

structure is essential, and it still serves a useful purpose," Bonham said. "So you get creative."

The project will cost \$60 million, with \$30 million coming from the state and the rest coming from the Yuba Water Agency.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank City Market, Wrangell IGA, First Bank, Marlene Merritt, Cheri Wickman and SEARHC for their contributions to the Wrangell Community Cleanup.

- Paula Rak and WCA IGAP

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY EDNA BAY PARLAY TWO TIMBER SALE

Notice of Timber Sale under AS 38.05.945 and AS 38.05.035(e). The State of Alaska, represented by the Alaska State Forester of the Department of Natural Resources, does hereby notify that the Division of Forestry (DOF) is offering the following commercial timber sale for competitive sealed bid: Edna Bay Parlay Two (SSE-1342-2).

The DOF is offering the State timber sold under AS 38.05.120 as described and represented by the Edna Bay Parlay Two Timber Sale Forest Land Use Plan.

The Edna Parlay Two Timber Sale is located within the State Forest on Kosciusko Island, near Edna Bay, Alaska. The parcel is located on the south side of Kosciusko Island with limited road access. The sale includes approximately 340 acres in six units composed primarily of young growth timber with a residual component of old growth timber. The saw-timber proposed for harvest is Sitka spruce, western hemlock and western red cedar. The sale is estimated to contain 8,434 MBF of young growth saw timber mixed with 2,216 MBF of old growth saw timber. Another 992 MBF of small log and (net) utility grade wood is estimated in the harvest units. The utility grade wood is optional removal.

The term of the contract is three years. The purchaser is required to deposit a performance bond with the State for an amount of \$100,000 at the time of signing the contract.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources hereby gives notice that it is in the best interest of the State to offer this timber sale by a competitive sealed bid process. To qualify bidders must, prior to the bid opening, not be in breach of any prior timber sale contract, and must submit a copy of their current Alaska Business License. The Business License copy may accompany the sealed bid. The sealed bid shall be on forms provided by the Division of Forestry, marked on the outside of the envelope with the timber sale name and number, addressed to the Southeast Area Office, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, and will be accepted until 2 p.m. prevailing time, June 19, 2023. Sealed bids may also be presented in person to the Southeast Area Forester before the bid opening. All bids must be in the physical possession of the Southeast Area Forester before bid opening. Bidders are responsible for ensuring their complete bid package is delivered on time.

For a bid to qualify, prospective bidders will be required to submit a 5% bid deposit of the total bid value. The State reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Unless all bids are rejected, the sale will be awarded to the responsible qualified bidder offering the highest total bid value for the timber on the sale. The State also reserves the right to waive technical defects in this advertisement in the best interest of the State. The minimum acceptable total bid price for the timber is \$513,588.

If bidding as an agent for an individual, partnership or corporation, the agent must submit with the bid a notarized power-of-attorney authorizing such agency. No agent may represent more than one principal, or bid in competition with the agent's principal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213 Ketchikan, AK 99901	Contact: Phone: Email:	Greg Staunton 907-225-3070 greg.staunton@alaska.gov
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Copies of the prospectus are available for review at the Division's Area Office in Ketchikan and on the State Online Public Notice System at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/211168>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need help with bidding should contact the Division of Forestry at 907-225-3070 to make any necessary arrangements.

Publish May 24 and 31, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of Robert Paul Farrell, Notice to Creditors is hereby given that Andrew Farrell has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute Title 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. Claims must be filed with the court (Case No. 1WR-23-00005PR) or be presented to:

Andrew Farrell
8 Sylvan Lane
Sandown, New Hampshire 03873

Publish May 10, 17 and 24, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE Wrangell Light and Power Annual Diesel Run

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power will be starting our annual Diesel Run to support SEAPA's Tye Lake Maintenance and Transmission Line work. The diesel run is scheduled to start Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 8 a.m., and is scheduled to end Friday, June 9, 2023, at 8 a.m.

We are asking the community to conserve electricity as much as possible during the annual diesel run.

The Fuel Surcharge that will be included on your bill for the July 2023 billing is for the additional cost to provide power to our customers when using diesel generation. This additional cost is for the power used during the time period of May 31, 2023, to June 9, 2023, at 8 a.m. The fuel surcharge will be reflected on July 2023 utility bill. The cost per KWH (power usage) for the surcharge was calculated to be 3.4 cents per KWH. In addition to the normal July bill, the surcharge (June KWH times 3.4 cents per KWH) will be added. Example: If a customer used 500 KWH in June, they would be billed an additional \$17.00 (500 X .034). The complete Fuel Surcharge calculation is posted at City Hall or can be requested.

Please contact Wrangell Light and Power 907-874-3602 if you have any questions.

Dominique O'Connor, Electric Dispatch Secretary
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish May 10, 17 and 24, 2023

COVID vaccinations effective in preventing hospitalizations in rural Alaska

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

In southwestern Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which has some of the nation's worst water and sanitation service and most overcrowded housing, vaccines proved to be valuable safeguards against the worst ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study.

The study, by experts from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tracked COVID cases, hospitalizations and vaccination status of the region's mostly Yupik residents throughout 2021.

It found that vaccination was 92% effective in preventing hospitalizations over the year, as well as being extremely effective

at preventing cases serious enough to produce symptoms.

"They're very effective, and so it's great to see that. While we suspected that they would be, it's always good to confirm that with local data," said lead author Brian Lefferts, director of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.'s office of environmental health and engineering.

Over time, as antibodies waned and the virus mutated into new strains, even those who were vaccinated got symptomatic cases of the disease, the data showed. However, those who received booster shots had their protection restored, data showed.

Effectiveness of the initial vaccination series against symptomatic COVID cases went from

"As we started to roll out vaccines in 2020, you could instantly see the cases start to decline ... we saw that the hospitalization rates remained really, really low."

Brian Lefferts,
director of environmental health and engineering,
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.

a high of about 91% in the first five months of 2021 to 37% from late September to early December of 2021, the data showed. However, for those who received booster shots in the latter part of 2021, the rate of protection against symptomatic cases shot back up to 92%, the data showed.

"As we started to roll out vaccines in 2020, you could instantly see the cases start to decline," Lefferts said. Even as case numbers rose over time, "amongst people who were vaccinated, we saw that the hospitalization rates remained really, really low," he said.

While COVID vaccines become politically contentious elsewhere, vaccination was generally well accepted in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Lefferts said.

Vaccines, once developed, were distributed quickly by tribal governments and other Native organizations in Alaska and elsewhere. In the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where there are no road connections between communities, health officials mobilized Bush planes, snowmachines and other methods of shipment in what was called Project Togo. The initiative, named for the legendary lead dog in the famous 1925 se-

rum run to Nome, brought vaccines quickly to remote sites.

Of the 48 Alaska communities that are classified by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Village Safe Water program as being unserved or underserved with piped water and sanitation service, most are in Western Alaska and about a third are in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Unserved communities have less than 55% of households hooked up to running water or sewer service; underserved communities have a somewhat higher rate of piped homes or have some kind of sewage-haul system.

Additionally, the region was singled out by the Alaska Housing Finance Corp. in a 2018 report as being the most burdened in the state by overcrowded housing.

With sparse running water and large family groups packed into tight and inadequate housing spaces, Y-K residents have long been more susceptible to infectious diseases such as respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, which is particularly dangerous for infants and young children.

As the COVID-19 outbreak became a pandemic, the standard advice about frequent handwashing and maintenance of social distancing was hard to

follow for Yukon-Kuskokwim residents. Approximately 26,000 people live in the 50,000-square-mile delta region, according to state data; about 6,300 are in one hub city, Bethel, the rest live in more than four dozen villages.

The state House member who represents the region, Bethel Rep. CJ McCormick, said the Yukon-Kuskokwim experience with COVID and vaccination provides some lessons for other parts of the country with health challenges from water, sanitation or housing shortcomings.

There were some people in the region who were hesitant to get vaccinated, McCormick said. "I think that extends from historical trauma," he said, referring to past mistreatment of Indigenous people by authorities.

But overall, the health providers did an excellent job communicating with residents and limiting COVID's damages, said McCormick, who works for the regional health corporation outside of his legislative position but made clear that he was speaking as a legislator and as a former Bethel City Council member who served on that body during the worst part of the pandemic.

That is a lesson for other parts of the country facing health challenges from water, sanitation or housing shortcomings, he said. "Foster cooperative relationships with health professionals," he said. "A lot of people have adversarial relationships, and that's really disappointing and detrimental to everyone."

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

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

COVID-19 Vaccines, Boosters & You

Call to make an appointment for your COVID vaccine or booster.

907.463.4040



It's Free

Payment, health insurance and identification are not required.

It's Safe

Hundreds of millions of people have safely received vaccines & boosters.

It's Not Too Late

Booster & vaccine eligibility don't expire.

COVID-19 is still active in your community. **It's time to get onboard.**



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