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'The play's the thing ...'

Curtain will come up
for first production
of 'Annie' on May 12

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Spring may still be gray and dreary in Wrangell but the sun will come out on May 12.

That Friday at 7 p.m., the musical "Annie" will open at the Nolan Center theater and will run again May 13 at 4 p.m., May 20 at 7 p.m. and May 21 at 4 p.m.

Last Sunday, cast and crew were busy checking microphones, coordinating and rehearsing a full run-through of the performance for the first time.

According to Haley Reeves, in her directorial debut, there are between 30 and 40 cast members, some of whom are taking on dual roles, such as Bob Baker, who plays Bundles McCloskey, the laundryman who helps Annie escape the orphanage. He also arranges set pieces in between scenes as a stagehand.

"Annie," the long-running musical that debuted in East Haddam, Connecticut, in 1976 and opened on Broadway in 1977, is based on the 1928 comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," about the adventures of an orphan and her dog, Sandy, who find a home with Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kaiya Roher, left, talks with AJ Roundtree, her castmate in the musical production of "Annie" during a rehearsal on Sunday. Brevick plays the title character and Roundtree plays Pepper. The play opens May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Nolan Center and runs two weekends.

Kaiya Roher, 12, plays the infamous red-head Annie, and has had to learn 11 songs. She has about 140 lines to memorize along with the songs and, on top of that, she has

to learn the choreography along with her 10 fellow orphans. But she's doing her research.

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Assembly approves full request for schools

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The end of federal pandemic assistance and years of flat state funding have hurt the school district's ability to cover its costs. The borough assembly has stepped up for the second year in a row to help close the budget gap.

At its meeting April 25, the assembly unanimously approved a \$1.6 million contribution to Wrangell Public Schools, which is the amount Superintendent Bill Burr said the district needs to essentially balance its budget.

The assembly approved \$700,000 from sales tax funds and \$900,000 from the federal Secure Rural Schools fund.

Along with borough, state and federal funds, the school district expects to draw \$53,000 from reserves to cover its almost \$5.1 million spending plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

To a large extent, school district finances for next year will depend on efforts underway in the Legislature to increase state funding for K-12 education. State foundation formula funding of \$3.073 million is expected to cover about 60% of the Wrangell district's operating budget for 2023-2024, before any potential increase in state aid.

Borough officials initially proposed a \$1,536,484 contribution to the school district, which is the maximum amount they can provide without using federal pass-through money. This was slightly less than the \$1.6 million the district had budgeted. Assemblymember David Powell moved to amend the motion to provide the full \$1.6 million, which is the same as the borough is providing this year.

Using federal funds to supplement sales tax revenues going

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Research links 3,000-year-old bone fragment to Tlingits

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The Tlingit Nation has stewarded the land in and around Wrangell since time immemorial, and new biological research from the University at Buffalo New York adds further proof of the genetic continuity of coastal people over thousands of years.

A 3,000-year-old bone fragment found years ago near Wrangell was recently identified as the remains of a woman. Researchers studying paleogenetics in the region collaborated with the Wrangell Cooperative Association to learn more about the early history of the Tlingit and their relationships to other Alaska

Native, First Nations and Indigenous groups in the area.

The bone fragment was excavated from Lawyers' Cave on the mainland east of Wrangell Island in the 1990s, but it wasn't until 2019 that University at Buffalo biologists started analyzing it. "My adviser, Charlotte Lindqvist, she usually works with bears in Southeast Alaska," explained Alber Aquil, a Ph.D. student and first author on the study. The team initially assumed the fragment belonged to a bear, but "when we did some basic genetic analysis, we found that, wait a minute, this is a human."

The team reached out to Tribal Administrator Esther Aaltsén

Reese of the Wrangell Cooperative Association to request permission to move forward with research on the tribe's ancestors. "It was appropriate and respectful to come to the tribe and request permission to move forward," she said. "It's a really good representation of what it looks like to collaborate with researchers and with Alaska Natives in a respectful manner."

Reese and Tlingit language teachers Virginia Oliver and Ruth Demmert worked together to name the ancestor that the fragment came from — Tatóok yík yées sháawat, or young lady in cave. In academic papers, her name is sometimes

abbreviated as "TYYS."

Last August, Reese, Oliver and tribal council member Luelia Knapp visited Lawyer's Cave with drums to sing a song for the ancestor. The experience was "really powerful, very emotional," said Reese, "and just a wonderful collaboration with the Forest Service to be able to end this whole process that we had gone through with Charlotte (Lindqvist)."

Plans are underway to repatriate the ancestor's remains to the WCA in the future.

TYYS is the second such thousands-year-old human remain genetically confirmed from Southeast Alaska, ex-

Continued on page 4

Grade school gardeners gear up to get ground ready for growing season

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

How does their garden grow? It's elementary, dear reader.

Last Thursday, fifth and sixth graders gathered at the Evergreen Elementary School garden to prepare the soil for planting, growing and ultimately harvesting.

Tracey Martin's fifth grade class has been learning the science behind growing, along with some math and other lessons. Finally, they were able to put some of that education into practice as they cleaned the garden, which runs along Bennett Street in front of the school.

The class was joined by Julie Williams' sixth grade class, which tended to the grounds last school year.

"The middle schoolers volunteered to come over," Martin said. "It's kind of cool. They know what to do."

Students were getting rid of any weeds and laying down manure, getting the soil ready for all the elementary school kids to plant seeds this week.

"The fifth graders will help the rest of the school plant all the root vegetables," she said. "Potatoes, beets, carrots, radishes. We have zucchini plants and stuff, but that's not till later. It has to get warmer."

Vegetables that grow better in the greenhouse will be planted about the same time as the zucchini, she added.

While sixth graders Jenna Meissner, Lynnea Harrison and Charlie Nelson cleaned up a bed and recalled growing potatoes last year, fifth graders Quinn Davies and Tommy Wickman were just happy to be outside.

"I'd rather be up in the woods and stuff," Wickman said. "The only thing I like about it (gardening) is it draws in the birds so you can watch them and draw them and stuff."

Davies said he'd rather be in the woods as well, building things. Being in the garden, he added, was better than being at his school desk.

"We don't have to do school," he said. "This is way better than school. We don't have to do math or anything like that."

Martin said she will seek volunteers like the Girl Scouts to help tend to the garden during the summer months. Then, in fall, all the elementary students will come together for harvesting the bounty.

"You pick two carrots and two radishes, then they go wash them off," she said. "Then the teachers make soup with the kids."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left: Jenna Meissner, Lynnea Harrison and Charlie Nelson work the soil in one of the garden beds at the Evergreen Elementary School garden last Friday. The three sixth graders returned to help the fifth graders prepare the grounds for seed planting this week.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, May 3: Heather Johnson, Lauren Taylor-Gillen.

Thursday, May 4: Harley Ann Anderson, Phebe Garcia, Dewyo Young, Nonay Young.

Friday, May 5: Yenell Cummings.

Saturday, May 6: None.

Sunday, May 7: Kayleigh Reading, Kim Reading, Kelly Westerlund, Andrea Wilborn.

Monday, May 8: None.

Tuesday, May 9: Iver P. Nore, Carrie Wallace.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 4

Crispy chicken, steamed spinach, fruit slaw, boiled red potatoes

Friday, May 5

Macaroni and cheese with ham, broccoli, carrot raisin salad

Monday, May 8

Chili beef and cheese, Texas coleslaw, cornbread

Tuesday, May 9

Sweet and sour chicken, carrots, cauliflower broccoli toss, rice

Wednesday, May 10

Beef noodle casserole, peas, sunshine salad

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 7
Columbia, 12:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 14
Columbia, 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 21
Columbia, 3:45 p.m.
Sunday, May 28
Columbia, 3:30 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, May 10
Columbia, 4 a.m.
Wednesday, May 17
Columbia, 4:45 a.m.
Wednesday, May 24
Columbia, 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 31
Columbia, 4:15 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 3	00:06	16.1	12:33	14.9	06:18	0.6	06:20	1.7
May 4	00:37	16.8	01:12	15.3	06:51	-0.7	06:52	1.8
May 5	01:07	17.3	01:50	15.4	07:24	-1.7	07:24	2.0
May 6	01:37	17.6	02:28	15.3	07:59	-2.3	07:57	2.4
May 7	02:09	17.7	03:08	14.9	08:35	-2.5	08:32	3.0
May 8	02:45	17.5	03:51	14.3	09:16	-2.4	09:12	3.7
May 9	03:24	17.1	04:40	13.7	10:02	-1.8	09:59	4.4

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

PARKS and RECREATION advisory board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in the assembly chambers at City Hall. Public encouraged to attend. To submit comments to the department or board, email lrobinson@wrangell.com. Meeting information and packet can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3LBdrVg>.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7. The animated adventure comedy runs 1 hour and 32 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Smitty's Carpet nine-hole best-ball golf tournament Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, starting at 10 a.m. Register by 9:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY MARKET from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Nolan Center. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items. Seed and plant swap, and Alaska-grown seed potato sale.

SPRING SCHOOL CONCERT 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at the high school gym. Featuring: Grades 3-5 honor choir; grade 5 beginning band; grade 6-8 middle school band; high school band; and grades 6-12 choir.

"**BABY RAVEN READS,**" Alaska Native families with children up to age 5 are invited for storytelling, songs, cultural and literacy activities 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 13, at Head Start. For more information, contact Tess Olympia at 907-586-9201, or babyravenreads@sealaska.com.

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>.

HEAD START is accepting applications for preschoolers. Apply online at cchita-nsn.gov or get a paper application at the school behind the old hospital building. Call 907-874-2455 with questions.

KINDERGARTEN enrollment is open for the 2023-2024 school year to any child that will be 5 years old by Sept. 1. Call Kendra at 907-874-2321 or stop by the Evergreen Elementary School office.

LIFELINE.ORG, if you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988Lifeline.org. When you call 988, you will be connected with a trained crisis counselor who can offer help, confidential support and connection to resources. #CallCareline #CrisisIntervention #SuicidePrevention #SomeoneToTalkTo

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

- **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. For more information and to register online visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.
- **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. For more information and to register online visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.
- **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.

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 3, 1923
Just after the Sentinel was issued last Thursday, word was received from Washington that the Wrangell breakwater had been included in the federal Rivers and Harbors Appropriation and that \$50,000 was available this year. This is the most gratifying news that Wrangell has received lately. The breakwater is something that is most urgently needed, and will be of great benefit. As everyone who lives here knows, the Wrangell harbor opens to the northeast. A very large number of small fishing craft are in the habit of using this harbor during the winter season for lying by, but when high northerly or westerly winds blow the water becomes so rough that they are compelled to put to sea to their great peril and inconvenience. These exasperating conditions will be overcome by construction of the breakwater, which will create a smooth harbor in all winds.

April 30, 1948
Wrangell turned out to cast the highest vote in its history at the primary election held Tuesday. In the Wrangell precinct, 329 votes were

cast; and in the Stikine precinct, 64 votes, making a total of 393 votes. When the absentee ballots are counted the figure will probably top the 400 mark. Wrangell's two candidates for a Southeast seat in the territorial Legislature, Mrs. Doris M. Barnes and James Nolan, are making a showing of which any town can be proud. Mrs. Barnes is more than 400 votes ahead of any candidate on any ticket, having so far 2,680 against J. S. "Sim" MacKinnon of Juneau with 2,219.

May 4, 1973
Construction work on Wrangell's airport is expected to begin Aug. 1, according to Alaska Public Works Commissioner George Easley. In a letter to Robert Wagoner, president of Wrangell's Chamber of Commerce, Easley said no date has been set to call for bids for the project. Although the construction plans and specifications for the airport project are being completed, Easley said advertising for bids will be determined by the availability of the federal funding. State matching funds for the project are available from a bond issue for airport construction approved by

voters last year, Easley said. All of the project documents, including the environmental impact statement, have been completed and forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration for processing, the public works commissioner said.

April 30, 1998
Wrangell's second annual Garnet Festival was a great success, according to coordinator Wilma Leslie, who said the week-long festival had all but one of its scheduled 30 events go on as planned. Large groups of participants attended most of the presentations and activities. On closing day, a large group gathered at Shakes Island where local Native dancers and singers were assembled to welcome the community's first Native-carved canoe in more than 50 years. Launched for its first water voyage from Shoemaker Bay, the canoe, paddled by John Martin, Bruce Jamieson, Gary Stevens and Tony Marriott, glided into the Reliance dock and over to Shakes Island, using the same path as Tlingit Natives had for hundreds of years before.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Assembly postpones decision on helping to fund 4th of July

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly at a special meeting Monday evening considered a \$25,000 appropriation to help the chamber of commerce afford this year's Fourth of July celebrations. However, assembly members voted unanimously to postpone the decision until the May 23 meeting, saying they wanted to hold a public hearing.

The chamber requested the \$25,000 in addition to the \$27,000 that the borough contributed to the chamber's general budget this fiscal year.

"We have a lot of concerns moving forward," said Borough Manager Jeff Good, including what the previous \$27,000 was used for, how the chamber plans to fund future Fourths and the organization's strategy for staying solvent in the coming years.

Though the chamber has been drawing on savings to balance its books since 2016, Chamber Board President Bill Burr explained that declining pull-tab

revenues and diminished royalty fundraising raffle ticket sales over the past few years have brought the chamber to a breaking point. "We are running the risk of not being able to do pre-funding for the Fourth of July," he said.

However, he and chamber Executive Director Britani Robbins said they aren't just asking for a bailout — they are implementing major adjustments to make the organization self-supporting again, like changing the chamber's tax status so it can apply for grants, amending the royalty competition rules, adding sponsorships and fees to the Fourth celebration and cutting chamber staff.

Robbins has started working at Sweet Tides bakery while she trains chamber administrative assistant Luana Wellons to take over her role. "Giving up my position at the chamber to save them money is a really difficult decision that I have to make," she said.

Despite the chamber's plans to regain solvency, assembly members were reticent to fund its request

without holding a public hearing. "There's no public process," said Assemblymember David Powell. "Any time we give money away to our budget process, we have a public hearing. We didn't do that this time and I have a serious problem with that."

"I like the merits of it," agreed Assemblymember Ryan Howe, "but I want people to have notice."

If the assembly approves the funds later this month, they would be used for expenses like fireworks, pavilion utilities and insurance premiums, but not for prize payouts and wages. Under the terms of the assembly resolution on Monday's agenda, the borough manager must approve all expenditures before reimbursing the chamber.

The total cost of the Fourth celebration, including prizes, fireworks and supplies, comes to around \$100,000, making the event the chamber's largest yearly expenditure. As of early April, the chamber had an estimated \$34,000 in all of its accounts, according to Robbins.

Assessors visit town to address high volume of property appeals

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The borough reassessed the values of all properties on the road system this year in an effort to correct tax inequities among property owners. But this unprecedented mass review has meant a major increase in the number of appeals compared to previous years.

In the coming weeks, the borough's contract assessors and the Board of Equalization will get to work addressing those appeals.

Of around 2,300 properties that were reassessed this year, owners appealed 179 valuations. Last year, there were only 52 appeals, though only a third of properties in the borough were reassessed.

"This is the first mass appraisal that has probably been done since inception," said Finance Director Mason Villarma. Some property assessments had hardly changed in value in 30 years, leading to sticker shock for some residents.

Most properties increased in value between \$100 and \$18,100. Twenty-three properties increased by \$234,100 or more and one increased over \$500,000.

The comprehensive review resulted in the total taxable value of properties in the borough 56% higher than last year.

The borough assembly, however, has not yet set the mill rate (tax levy), which is multiplied against the assessed value, so the effect the higher values will have on property taxes is still uncertain.

The deadline to file an assessment appeal was April 20. The Board of Equalization — which consists of the mayor and assembly acting as a judicial body — will start hearing appeals on Monday. It will meet every weekday evening until all the outstanding appeals have been resolved.

Before these hearings begin, property owners who appealed will have the opportunity to meet with an assessor to go over their case. Martins Onskulis and his colleagues in the Appraisal Company of Alaska arrived in Wrangell last weekend and will

be working out of City Hall for the next week and a half. The goal is to resolve as many issues as possible before the Board of Equalization starts its evaluation process.

Communities substantially reduce the number of appeals that go to formal hearings this way. In the past, for example, the Petersburg borough has been able to cut down its hearings by almost 80%, from 65 to 14.

"Each property owner gets a phone call," explained Onskulis. They can talk with assessors via phone, at the property or at City Hall. Sometimes properties need to be repaired or have issues that aren't visible from the street, and these meetings give owners the chance to make their case. In situations where the owner hasn't supplied sufficient information or can't prove that their assessment was inequitable, the property value will likely not change.

About half of the people who submitted appeals this year asked for guidance from borough staff, who helped them compare their property's value to the values of neighboring properties. "We helped out a lot of folks," said Villarma, "I'm proud of that."

As a rule, people usually do not win appeals. Proving that an assessment was excessive, unequal or improper is difficult to do, even with the help of the borough's Finance Department. However, a few of the appeals

that crossed Villarma's desk seemed like they had a strong case before the Board of Equalization.

"There were a couple that seemed grossly exaggerated, so we certainly wanted to help those folks out," he said. "You have ... two or three assessors assessing 2,300 parcels. Is there

a chance for error or adding a zero? Certainly. But for the most part, I'd say things are on par."

"The fact of the matter is, we want this to be a successful process for people," he continued. "Because if there are inequities that exist, or if things were done improperly, then we want to fix that and get it right."

Other Alaska communities are also seeing high appeal volumes as property values have increased in the past few years. In Valdez, which has a population about twice the size of Wrangell's, 270 assessments were appealed; in Cordova, which has a population similar to Wrangell's, 97 were appealed.

Time to play ball



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Malachi Harrison looks to the catcher, determining his next pitch during opening day of Little League in Wrangell last Saturday. Harrison plays for the Wolverines, who faced the Cubs in the first game of the season.

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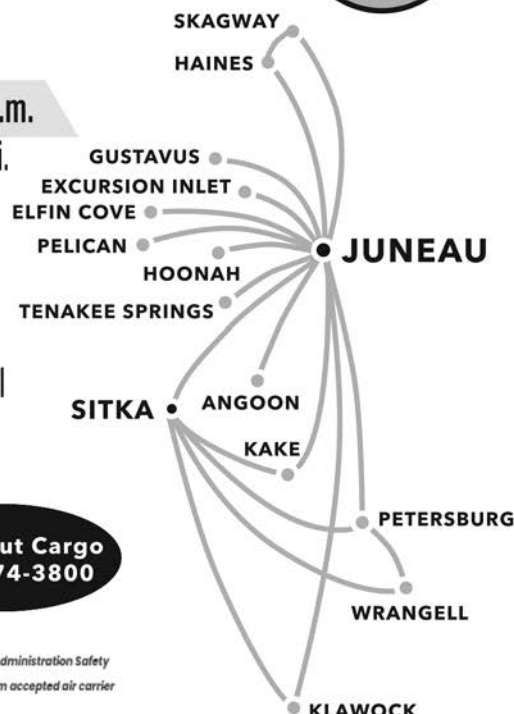
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

There's more to state finances than oil

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Most Alaska state budget watchers follow oil prices, fully realizing that they can bounce around like a small plane on a windy day, creating that same stomach-churning queasiness when they drop.

The estimated difference between Alaska North Slope crude averaging \$70 per barrel over the next fiscal year is \$650 million less in state general fund revenue than at \$80. That's close to 10% of the general fund budget and enough to either leave a gaping hole in the spending plan or add some extra money to savings.

Oil down at \$60 per barrel means an additional \$500 million loss in state dollars.

It's a lot of turbulence. And much like the pilot who can't control the weather, the state is at the mercy of global oil markets.

Elected officials generally understand the volatility of oil prices, which determine the amount the state collects in taxes and royalties. But it's a mistake to focus only on uncertain oil revenues and not pay equal attention to the single largest source of revenue for the state general fund — the annual draw on Alaska Permanent Fund earnings.

For the past five years, legislators and the governor have relied on a draw from the fund's earnings to help pay for education, public services and the dividend as the state collects fewer oil dollars from declining North Slope production. That annual draw is limited by law to no more than 5% of the fund's average market value over the preceding five years, leaving enough in the account to ensure that it keeps growing over time.

However, despite solid management and a

diversified investment portfolio, the Alaska Permanent Fund can fly into turbulence, too. Such as the losses suffered in 2022 and a shaky start to 2023, the same as most other investment funds.

The Permanent Fund fell \$8.26 billion in total asset value from Dec. 31, 2021, to March 31, 2023 (the latest available financial statement). It lost about 10% of its value during that time, sliding to \$77.6 billion as of March 31. In time, the fund will recover from its losses and, according to the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp.'s latest projections, will reach close to \$93 billion on June 30, 2032.

It's a mistake to focus only on uncertain oil revenues and not pay attention to the single largest source of revenue for the state general fund — the annual draw on Alaska Permanent Fund earnings.

What matters to state budget writers, however, is that the painful period of losses drags down the annual draw. Throw a really bad year into the five-year market-value average and it reduces the amount transferred into the general fund.

By a lot. The Permanent Fund Corp.'s Dec. 31, 2021, projections estimated the annual 5% draw for fiscal years 2024 through 2031 would send a total of \$33.5 billion into the general fund for public services and dividends. The March 31, 2023, projection put that total at \$30.4 billion, or \$3.1 billion less over those eight years.

That's an average of almost \$400 million a year less for the state budget. The hit isn't so much in the first couple of years, but then it grows.

The point being that legislators and the governor need to understand the uncertainty of more than just oil revenues. Investment dollars are not guaranteed, either.

It's another reason why elected officials need to spread out the state's revenue sources and think about general taxes. Alaska cannot live by oil and investments alone. Building in a third leg would add more stability to the budget table.

EDITORIAL

Reelection isn't as important as making good decisions

No doubt elected officials want to win their next election. They want to continue working on the issues that matter to them and their constituents, including public services, spending and regulation. They want to keep the job.

But, as parents tell Little Leaguers, winning isn't everything. Values matter. Doing good matters.

The ability to listen and learn matters too, particularly for elected officials passing judgment on public policy. They are not expected to know everything about every issue, budget item and law when they come into office, but they should be willing to learn and change their mind as they get smarter.

The same goes for the state budget. A lot of easy campaign statements about the budget may need revising as legislators learn what they did not know when they talked with voters last year.

Learning more about the issues while sticking to values is good. But what's not good is making important long-term decisions for Alaska based solely on winning reelection. Good public policy — not keeping the job — should be the goal.

That's why it was discouraging to read last week's statements by Anchorage Republican Rep. Tom McKay, who said voting for new state taxes would pretty much end his career as a legislator.

"My political advisers tell me if I vote for any kind of tax — either coming out of committee or on the floor or anywhere — if I voted for a tax in the bathroom, I wouldn't get reelected," McKay told an Anchorage Daily News reporter after the governor and legislative leaders stood together in a room and said the state needs new revenues, likely taxes, to pay its bills and continue services in the years ahead.

"The problem I have is, I campaigned on no new taxes. It was all over everything I put out, everything I said," McKay explained.

Give him credit for honesty — he promised no new taxes, that's his story and he's sticking to it. But he didn't volunteer a specific option. He didn't say he supports big cuts to public services to balance the budget, or wants to drain the state savings account until it's gone, or pull more money out of the Permanent Fund, or reduce the size of the annual dividend. He just said a vote for taxes means he would lose his next election.

This is coming from a House member who won his 2022 reelection campaign by just seven votes out of 7,000 ballots. No wonder he is worried.

It's wrong to dismiss taxes just because it may cost some lawmakers their job. Doing nothing to solve the state's fiscal mess could do a lot more damage to a lot more people.

— Wrangell Sentinel

'Annie'

Continued from page 1

"I've watched most of them (the movies based on the musical)," she said. "I watched the 1982 version and the modern one. I've memorized most of the songs. I'm kind of in between nervous and excited."

In one example of truly committing to the role, teacher Matt Nore, who is playing Daddy Warbucks, is memorizing his two songs and five scenes, and he shaved his head since the character is known for his shiny, hairless dome, albeit a tad early.

"For some reason, in my head, I was thinking the play is (this) weekend," he said. Outside of the appearance, the role presents new challenges for Nore. "Singing and

dancing is outside my normal wheelhouse. I can read and recite lines and stuff like that, but (singing) was something new I really had to practice."

Ellen Jellum is another actor taking on a dual role as one of the Hooverville ensemble, sharing the role of Star-to-be with Bella Garcia-Rangel. She's also writing the opening context to familiarize viewers with New York in 1933 during the Great Depression.

She's been impressed with Reeves directing style and the commitment of other cast and crew.

She believes "Annie" is more difficult than the community theater's previous performance of "Sound of Music."

"I think this one's a lot harder. I really

admire Haley's organizational skills," she said. "But 'Sound of Music' felt like we were rehearsing in cells. With 'Annie,' there are five main characters who come in and out through the whole play and then, like, 30 characters with two lines apiece. There are a lot more moving parts."

Reeves said the biggest challenge has been getting everyone together to rehearse at common times. Being a veteran of 15 to 20 plays in community theater in Havre, Montana, she said that's the nature of community theater.

"It's community theater and everybody has stuff going on and that's part of it," she said. "If you do miss (a rehearsal), they let me know, we catch them up. It's just an easy

work-together kind of thing."

Reeves wants the cast to be able to come to her with any questions and rely on her experience and support. "I want everyone to feel like their voice is heard. I want them to feel like they can trust me," she said.

It's a style that seems to be making the hard-knock life a little easier.

"(The cast) is doing a great job ... a few weeks ago we turned a corner," Jellum noted. "But that's theater for you. There's a point where you're panicky and then it comes together."

Tickets will be available through the Nolan Center website at nolancenter.org and at the box office.

Bone fragments

Continued from page 1

plained Aquil. The first human bone fragment ever found in the region is called "939," and it also supports genetic continuity.

The two fragments both provide clues about the region's early history, but on different geographic scales. Thanks to TYYs, researchers have learned that "the same people have been living in Southeast Alaska for at least 3,000 years," Aquil said. Because of Fragment 939, they discovered that "if you zoom out and look at the coastal region as a whole, the coastal people have been living on the coast for 6,000 years."

There are two main populations of ancient people in the Pacific Northwest — interior and coastal. Since both bone fragments are more related to the coastal nations than they are to the interior nations, the divergence between the two groups must have happened at least 6,000 years ago.

"The first people to live in the Americas migrated from Siberia across the Bering land bridge more than 20,000 years ago," the University at Buffalo news service reported in an April 24 article about the female bone fragment. As they slowly made their way across what is now Alaska and down the coast, even as far as

South America, some settled in areas along the way.

The research would not have been possible just 20 years ago, Lindqvist told the University at Buffalo News Center. In 2010, Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo won the Nobel Prize after sequencing the entire genome of an early human. He is known as one of the fathers of paleogenetics. Aquil and Lindqvist relied on his findings when analyzing the genetics of Tatóok yík yées sháawat.

The findings coincide with Tlingit oral histories, which describe the eruption of Mount Edgcombe. According to geological research, the last major erup-

tion was 4,500 years ago, placing the Tlingit in the region during that time. Since his research suggests 3,000 years of genetic continuity in the region, "the genetic data and the oral traditions are consistent with each other," explained Aquil.

"Our people have been stewards of the land, we have been historians of this area," said Reese. "We have been here since time immemorial and the fact that science is upholding our stories is not surprising at all." She expressed appreciation for Lindqvist's work and for Jane Smith of the U.S. Forest Service, who was also involved in the project.

Working with Tatóok yík yées sháawat has been "probably one of the most exciting projects I've done in my Ph.D.," he continued. "The thing about human stories is that we find them intrinsically interesting."

The research was funded by the National Science Foundation. Reese is listed among the authors of the paper. It was recently published in iScience, an open-access journal.

To read the study, visit sciencedirect.com and search for the article's title: "A paleogenome from a Holocene individual supports genetic continuity in Southeast Alaska."

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Students dissect, build, study and play in science trip

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

They tested their abilities to follow instructions. They designed and built structures to withstand seismic activity. They studied the inner workings of marine life. They looked at sea lion poop.

Over the course of seven days, six students from Stikine Middle School attended the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska Anchorage campus.

ANSEP began in 1995 as a scholarship program but has since become an educational program to help Alaska Natives follow career paths into the fields of science and engineering, starting in elementary school and continuing through college.

According to ANSEP's website, the program's objective is to promote more hiring of Alaska Natives for science and engineering jobs. That includes improving academic outcomes, eliminating the need for costly remedial programs at the university level, and increasing the number of Natives who stay in those academic studies.

Six of Wrangell's middle school students from Laura Davies' seventh and eighth grade class were able to make the trip from April 17 to April 25, immersing in science, technology, engineering and math lessons while making cultural and social connections with students from across the state.

Natalia Ashton, Jackson Carney, Madelyn Davies, Alana Harrison, Mariah Mork and Jackson Pearson made the trip with Davies.

The excitement of the trip began well before the students even got off the ground in Wrangell, however, as they flew

on the last flight of Alaska Airlines' Salmon Thirty Salmon jet before it received a new paint job. Students and teacher all received vouchers for a free flight as part of their trip.

In Anchorage, students stayed in the dorms, ate at the university cafeteria and dodged moose.

"We were walking to the computer lab from the commons where we ate our breakfast," said Ashton. "We were pretty behind the other groups. Right when we were about to cross the road, there were two moose on each side of the road. We had to cross pretty quickly, but once we got to the other side, (one of) the moose actually started coming toward us. We had to run to the place (to get away from it)."

The abundance and frequency of moose was the most surprising part for the Wrangell kids. And along with the classroom education, students were schooled in cultural differences.

"We had all these protocols for crossing the street. It's because a lot of the kids come from rural Alaska where there's no street," Madelyn Davies said. "This was an actual skill we had to walk through. It was the blending of cultures."

Some of the kids had never been in a swimming pool, she said. "We went swimming one night, and some of the kids are like, 'Oh, we don't have to dodge logs. We don't have a current.'"

In the classroom, students built a computer, dissected a squid, built a bridge to test for seismic durability, studied sea lion feces to understand their diets and listened to a presentation from Jessica Vos, a crew systems engineer from NASA.

Students had to follow precise instructions on building their computers to achieve the de-

sired outcome: An operational PC that actually turned on when the power button was pushed. The computers will be sent to the students to keep.

For bridge building, the kids not only had to build a bridge from K'nex, a kind of construction modeling toy, they had to make sure it would withstand seismic activity when placed on a "shake table," plus they had to have a specific purpose for the bridge.

"They had to calculate the cost of the bridge. They had to have a team logo. And they had to have a scenario," Laura Davies said. One group designed a bridge connecting the Ketchikan airport to the town, while another focused on connecting Wrangell to the mainland. Yet another created a bridge to help a bobcat cross the river.

Carney's team built the Ketchikan airport bridge, which survived the earthquake, but was eliminated from competition by shrapnel when a piece of another team's structure broke free, flew off and struck their bridge.

"Ours got destroyed by their (Pearson and Davies' team) clips," Carney said. "Their bridge was really flexible. Ours was detailed and strong."

The students also played a lot of basketball, which they had in common with the students from the Kenai Peninsula, Wasilla, Fairbanks and Tok (about halfway between Fairbanks and Canada).

At the end of the trip during a closing ceremony, the students gave slideshow presentations on what they had learned over the seven days.

Funding for the trip came through a combination of \$9,000 from Sealaska Corp. and \$9,000 from the Indian Education Act, said Wrangell IEA coordinator DaNika Smalley. The funding



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA DAVIES

Natalia Ashton follows instructions to build a computer during a trip to Anchorage as part of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program from April 17 to 25. Ashton and her classmates get to keep the computers they build.

was enough for six students, however Laura Davies would like to expand that for next year.

"One district had funding to send 24 students, but we only had six. My goal is to find funding for next year so more kids can go," she said. "You can only go once (during middle school)."

ANSEP offers an accelerated three-year high school program, but students need to live and attend classes in Anchorage. All of Davies' students enjoyed their trip and would go again but none expressed interest in moving to Anchorage to attend the high school.

School funding

Continued from page 1

to the schools is common for the borough. "Our (Secure Rural Schools) fund is in a sense, an extension to the school's fund balance, at least in precedent," explained Finance Director Mason Villarma. "85% is spent on the school budget, at least."

The district budgeted for 263 students in the next school year, about the same as this year.

Burr also informed the assembly of an issue that had come to his attention since the school board and assembly budget meeting in March and asked that \$240,000 of Secure Rural Schools funds be held in reserve in case the district needs them.

"We have an influx of early education students" with special needs, he explained in a subsequent interview, and the district needs to hire an additional teacher to support them. School districts receive more money from the state for students with special needs, but this money is approved on a student-by-student basis and the district won't know the amount of state funding until after they hire the teacher.

"We're adding an early elementary instructor to work with those students," said Burr. "That may be offset depending on funding. ... We need them in the fall, but we may not get the funding for it until January. Regardless, we have to meet the needs of these students whether the state agrees with us or not."

If state funding increases, the \$240,000 may not be necessary. But the district isn't banking on getting any extra money from the state this year.

Different legislative proposals

to boost state funding could generate between \$300,000 and \$600,000 additional for Wrangell next year. A decision is not expected much before the Legislature's adjournment deadline of May 17.

"We may be able to make it on our own," said Burr. "That's what we're planning, but we can't guarantee it."

He and School Board President David Wilson stressed the district's importance to the community before the assembly April 25.

"We want our school district to continue supporting the education to all our students with options and clarity that they're going to make it beyond their K-12 education," said Burr.

"Without funding ... the teaching staff has decreased, the electives have decreased, we're still making staffing cuts and we can't cut anymore," he said. "Communities are in tough straits in Alaska. A school closes and the town is reduced substantially. We want our kids to not only make it thought school but to excel."

"We've been suffering a loss in our district for well over a decade," added Wilson.

"We've cut back on our programs, loss of courses, loss of options, loss of staff. ... Families, they'll be leaving Wrangell because they'll be seeking a place that can offer more to their children."

As declining oil revenue squeezes Alaska's state budget, legislators are deciding between fulfilling campaign promises of a large Permanent Fund dividend and sufficiently funding schools, Rep. Dan Ortiz explained to the assembly. In the fiscal year 2013, the state spent more money on education than it did on the PFD,

but now the opposite is true. Years of flat education funding have cut down on districts' purchasing power, he said.

"Let's say \$5,680 (state funding per student) back in FY12, that was worth a heck of a lot more than the \$5,960 in FY23,"

Ortiz said. "That's the reality of the impact of inflation on the ability of the school district to meet its obligations." He anticipates that the state will send some additional money to schools this year, but likely in the form of a one-time

payout, not an increase to the base student allocation, which determines how much money schools get per student.

"I heard loud and clear from the Wrangell school district ... that they do need an increase to the base student allocation," he said.

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Sealaska Heritage publishes start of comprehensive research on Tlingit clan crests

Volume will be revised as more clans are added

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Whether it's the Naanyaa.aayi, Kaach.ádi, Taalkweidí or one of the six other Tlingit clans represented in Wrangell, each has a story of its origins, handed down over thousands of years. One organization is working to preserve those stories, as well as stories of all Southeast Alaska clans, as accurately as possible.

About two years ago, the Sealaska Heritage Institute began researching and compiling information on an initial six Tlingit clan crests and how they came to be. The work was published last month in the book "The Crests of Tlingit Clans."

It is the first-ever registry of Tlingit clan crests.

Chuck Smythe, the editor of the book, said information was gleaned through interviews and other sources, sometimes finding it by happenstance.

"We've four sources in literature, in some of our other publications and videos. We have recordings of clan leaders and spokespersons," he said. "We've done interviews on other topics, but they start talking about crests. We're trying to find the authoritative voices within each clan."

Sealaska Heritage Institute researchers have identified about 40 active Tlingit clans, Smythe said, with somewhere in the vicinity of 200 different crests, but that number could change as

they conduct more research.

"We don't like to stand by those numbers because they're so large and we'll be working through it all a bit at a time," he said. Federal grant funds helped make the initial publication possible, focusing on six crests. Additional funding will be sought for the next six crests and so on.

If a large enough grant is secured, Smythe said they will expand the number of crests they include. Instead of adding volumes to the book, revisions will be made and released.

The six crests featured in the inaugural publication are Kaawashagi Gooch (Panting Wolf) Crest of the Kaagwaantaan clan; T'anaxéedákw (Wealth-Bringing Woman) Crest of the L'eeneidí clan; X'áakw (Fresh-Water-Marked Sockeye Salmon) Crest of the Lukaax.ádi clan; Xeitl (Thunderbird) Crest of the Shangukeidí clan; K'eik'w (Kittiwake) Crest of the T'akdeintaan clan; and Tóos' (Shark) Crest of the Wooshkeetaan clan.

According to the book, clan crests were acquired by ancestors and represent "crucial encounters with animal persons and spiritual beings that determine the unique identity and character of clan members."

Crests can also depict significant historical events, whether ancient or modern, and can determine clans' land claims and they were "often acquired as payment for the life of an ancestor, usually the ancestor who was involved in the event."

Wrangell's clans will be included, but when is undecided.

"Wrangell is definitely on our



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The frog is the crest for the Kiks.ádi clan in Wrangell. It's displayed on one of the poles in Totem Park, just off Front Street downtown. A new book from the Sealaska Heritage Institute has begun the work of documenting the crests of the Tlingit clans in Southeast.

list," Smythe said. "Naanyaa.aayi is on our list. That's an important one, as many crests can be identified with their origin."

Naanyaa.aayi is the clan descended from Chief Shakes. The other Wrangell clans are Kayaashkeiditaan, Sik'nax.ádi and Xook'eidí of the Wolf/Eagle moiety, and Kaach.ádi, Kaas'agweidí, Kiks.ádi, Taalkweidí and Teeyhíttaan of the Raven moiety.

The information gathered by Smythe and his team will be put into digital format and will be made available to the clans so that there will always

be an historical record that cannot be lost, which can be vital for clans.

"I think it's pretty important," said Richard Tashee Rinehart, the leader of the Kiks.ádi, whose crest is the frog. "We have a thing, generally known as a potlatch. We had one when my Aunt Marge passed away. In those, as clan leaders, we tell our clan history so that everybody knows."

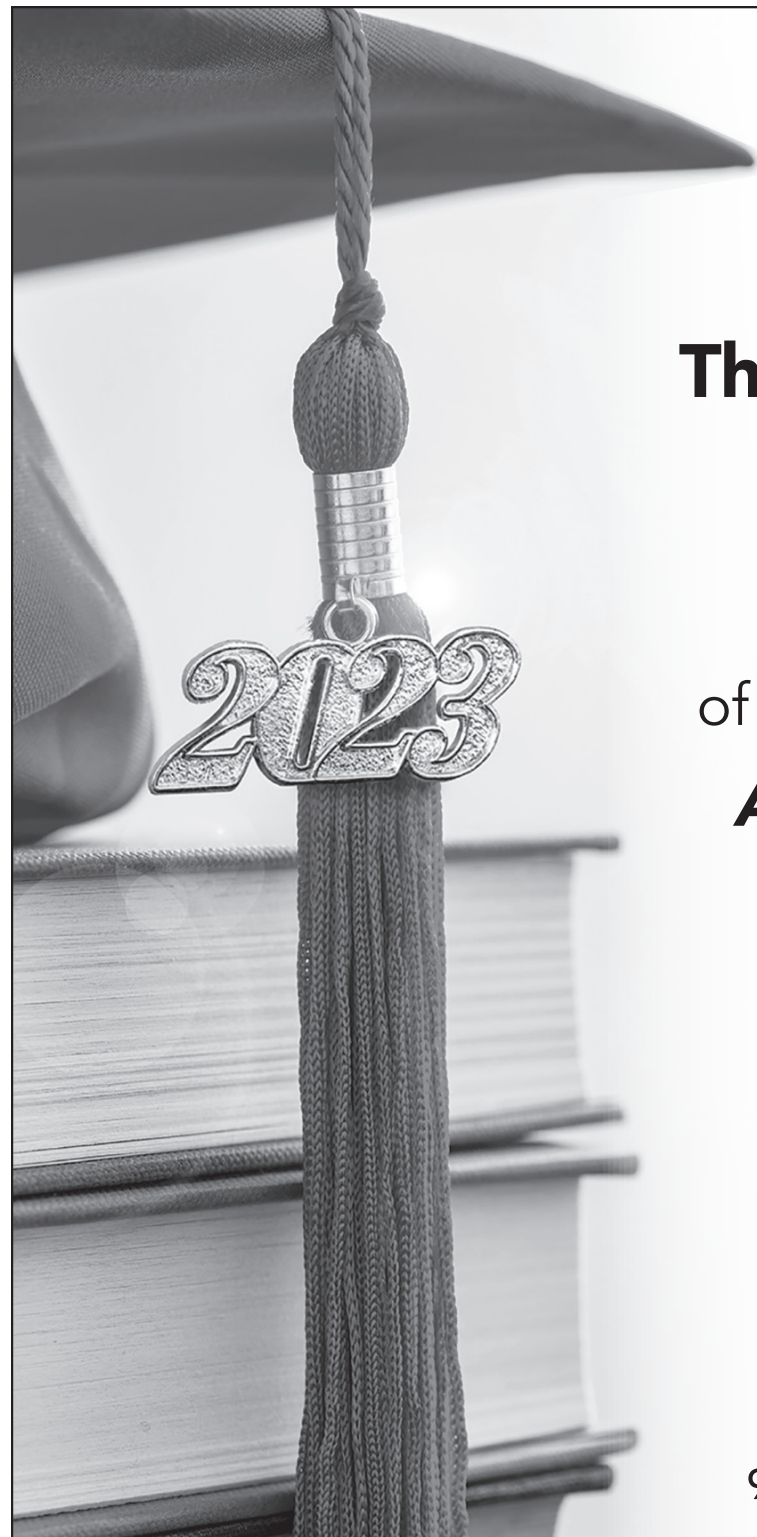
But, Rinehart pointed out, having a written and digitized account would be preferable, especially for accuracy.

"I think it would be really cool if you can link in the (dig-

ital) stories (to audio or video)," he said. "Where did we get the frog stories? Why do we think this land is ours?"

"The Crests of the Tlingit Clans" is available on the Sealaska Heritage Institute website at <https://sealaska-heritage-store.myshopify.com> and on Amazon for \$10.

Smythe encourages any clan members with archival information, whether in written form, tape recordings, reel-to-reel or any other source, to contact him at chuck.smythe@sealaska.com or archivist Emily Pastore at emily.pastore@sealaska.com.



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Tire cutter back at work to make more room for trash loading dock

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The tire cutter that Wrangell shares with the rest of Southeast has returned to town early.

The Public Works Department is trying to complete a construction project that requires reducing the pile of old tires at the town's waste transfer site, so the communities on Prince of Wales Island, which were next in line to receive the hydraulic-powered cutting machine, have agreed to let Wrangell have an extra turn.

The pile needs to be significantly reduced before a permanent loading dock can be constructed at the solid waste transfer station. The machine will chop each tire into manageable pieces for packing into a closed-top container and shipment out of state by barge, clearing the land around the station for the construction work.

In January, the borough accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Denali Commission for the almost \$500,000 loading dock project, which officials said will make the trash disposal process cleaner, safer and more efficient.

As it stands, sanitation staff have to drive a forklift up an icy, precarious steel ramp to load trash into containers for shipment off the island. The process "has brought up some significant concerns with our staff safety," said Public Works Director Tom Weter.

Transferring trash using a loading dock is "how it's done in most places," explained Weter. "In Petersburg, they have three loading docks. We don't even have one."

The Denali Commission grant stipulates that the loading dock project must be completed by September 2024, but work can't start until the tire pile is reduced to a more manageable size to make room.

The project will include regrading the ground leading up to the loading dock and creating a new roadway. However, since the transfer station is hemmed in by bedrock cliffs, the roadway will have to go right through where the tire pile is now.

Last time the tire cutter was in

town, Public Works staff used it to clear about a third of the community's massive pile, which contained an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 tires. But since the chopping machine left in February, the pile has returned to its original size.

"Channel Construction operating in Wrangell and the amount of junk cars that were disposed of seems to be a primary reason," Borough Manager Jeff Good wrote in a report to the assembly for their April 25 meeting. Tires had to be removed before the scrap metal dealer would accept a vehicle.

The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority bought the machine for \$56,700 in fall 2021 using a grant from the Southeast Conference. Since Wrangell suggested this purchase, it was the first community in line to receive the machine. It had last been in Petersburg before returning to Wrangell about two weeks ago.

"We're going to try to get as many hours out of (the shear) as we can ... while we have it," said Weter. He doesn't plan to hire additional temp staff to operate it, but he might "see who else can hop on the thing for a day or two while it's here to get through as many tires as we possibly can."

Even with the equipment operating at full tilt through the summer months, it won't be possible to fully clear the pile, since many of the tires in it are too large for the machine to handle.

"Even if we ran that thing through the entire pile, we'd only chop about half the tires," explained Weter. "There's (Boeing) 737 airplane tires in there ... we have no way of dealing with those. They are far too big for that little machine to be able to chop up. ... We're going to get as far as we can with the little tires and the shear."

"We still do not have the solution for large equipment tires," wrote Good. But he is "in contact with companies in the Lower 48 who specialize in tire disposal to get an understanding of what that would require."

Volunteers picked up for cleanup



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Dennis Martin works his way through a drainage ditch last Saturday, picking up trash as part of the community-wide cleanup effort. Martin and many others focused on the Airport Loop, as a lot of trash collects along the roadside due to knocked-over garbage cans or refuse falling from vehicles on the way to the transfer station. A total of 69 volunteers collected 133 bags plus two trucks full of items too big to bag from throughout Wrangell, according to Kim Wickman, IGAP technician with the Wrangell Cooperative Association. IGAP and Paula Rak coordinate the effort each year.

Doctoral student studies Wrangell tourism industry

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

For communities around the globe, tourism can be both a blessing and a curse. The industry can provide a much-needed economic bump, but in Venice, millions of international arrivals inflate prices for residents and replace locally owned businesses with tourist traps. Closer to home, the city of Ketchikan has hosted cruise ships with capacities of nearly half its population, which can crowd out residents and risk the town's authentic character.

As the tourism industry expands, Alaska communities are seeking a path forward that will allow them to hold onto their decision-making power, keep economic benefits in town and retain their cultural distinctiveness. Doctoral student Ryan Naylor of Pennsylvania State University is conducting a research project on how tourism impacts a community's ability to determine its own future.

On April 25, he presented some preliminary thoughts from his work to the Wrangell borough assembly. After analyzing data throughout the summer and fall, he hopes to return to Wrangell in December to present more concrete findings.

Though this work is in the early stages, he hopes to produce something that Wrangell and communities throughout Southeast could use to guide their decision-making processes. "I want this research to be able to benefit local communities, rather than something that just sits on the shelf that will never be read," he said.

Wrangell, Petersburg and Ketchikan are his case studies. Each community has its own attitudes toward tourism and each is having different conversations about the future of the industry. For Wrangell and Petersburg, that might

involve questions about how to sustainably scale up. For Ketchikan, which anticipates more than 1.4 million cruise ship visitors this summer, the conversation is geared toward determining acceptable limits.

Naylor has been impressed with the Wrangell borough's community engagement efforts, particularly surrounding the 6-Mile mill site and the tourism best management practices program. "At the end of the day, I truly believe that tourism, unlike many other industries, is a community-wide industry that has community-wide impacts as well as community-wide responsibility to manage it properly," he said. Because all residents will be affected by the direction the industry takes in their town, they should be included in the conversation.

Living in Wrangell last winter, he conducted 40 interviews with community stakeholders, observed daily life and helped out around town where he could.

One of his favorite parts about living and working in Wrangell was experiencing residents' love for the town firsthand. "It's always fun to see the passion that individuals will have when talking about their town," he said. "Everybody here wants to ensure that the future of Wrangell is sustainable. That passion is surprising and exciting."

However, living through his first Southeast winter was "a shock." The darkness and heavy rain made it difficult to get around without a car, but he stuck it out. "Wrangell is an extremely inviting community and so it was very fun to be able to do my research here," he recalled. "If you come into the community with the initiative to want to give back, the community is going to welcome you with open arms."



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Barging in



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Rainforest Islander greets the monthly fuel barge on April 25 in Zimovia Strait. Eric Yancey, captain of the Islander, was using his vessel to act as the bow thruster for the tugboat Dale R. Lindsay and Petro Marine's barge. Since there is limited space in the harbor and certain safety and other requirements, Yancey is on hand to make sure the barge can enter and exit Reliance Harbor without incident. The Islander helps move the barge forward and backward as needed, Yancey said. "I take orders from the tug captain."

Legislative leaders talk about dividends and taxes

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Legislative leaders focused on the Permanent Fund dividend and taxes as they described the budget choices facing lawmakers trying to find a combination that will win enough political support to balance state spending.

"The dividend has been the massive rock in the middle of the road," making it difficult to find an affordable path to a long-term state fiscal plan, Anchorage Sen. Cathy Giessel, the Senate majority leader, said during an online discussion with Alaska Common Ground last week.

"The dividend provides a lot of benefits to Alaska families," added Anchorage Rep. Calvin Schrage, the House minority leader. But the state cannot afford a dividend so large that it takes away from funding essential public services, he said to the 32-year-old civic group at the April 25 event.

The state has paid out a dividend each fall from Permanent Fund earnings since 1982, but it's been a fiscal and political struggle in recent years as state revenues have been squeezed by declining oil production, tax and royalty dollars.

Giessel, a Republican, and Schrage, an independent, talked and answered questions about the status of budget negotiations and a state fiscal plan as the Legislature approaches its May 17 adjournment deadline.

"I think what is new ... we have our Republican governor" acknowledging the need for new revenues to bolster state finances, said Schrage, referring to Gov. Mike Dunleavy's recent announcements that Alaskans need to look at paying taxes as part of an overall fiscal plan.

While the governor as of Monday had yet to introduce his proposal for a state sales tax, legislators have offered multiple tax proposals. Though none appear headed toward likely

passage in the final weeks of the legislative session, lawmakers are hearing the bills.

"We're still in a little bit of an arm wrestle with each other," Giessel said of proposals to boost the state tax take from oil companies. The Senate majority is a coalition of Republicans and Democrats.

The Senate is considering a bill to extend the state's corporate income tax to closely held oil producers, such as Hilcorp, which bought out BP's Alaska assets in 2020. Currently, the tax applies only to publicly traded corporations, such as ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil.

Extending the reach of corporate taxes could raise maybe \$200 million a year for the state, the senator said.

Another bill in the Senate would increase the oil production tax take by as much as \$500 million a year by reducing a tax break at certain price thresholds. The Senate Finance Committee is hearing the bill this week.

Other tax measures introduced this year include a personal income tax, state sales tax, extending the state corporate income tax to capture more revenue from digital businesses, increasing the state tax on oil and gas property, and adding a tax to e-cigarettes and vape products.

Giessel noted that the House majority, led by Republicans, has shown no interest in moving any tax legislation this year.

Instead of looking at new revenues, the House majority proposed taking \$600 million out of savings to cover its spending plan for the fiscal year that starts July 1. Differences between House and Senate budget plans will need to be resolved before lawmakers adjourn.

Passing any tax bills in the last weeks of the session will be challenging, Schrage acknowledged, adding that the prospects may be better if lawmakers meet in a special session in the fall, as the governor has suggested, or perhaps legislators may decide to delay the hard decisions to next year.

It's a tough choice for many lawmakers between raising new revenues and reducing the dividend to its average of around \$1,300 the past 10 years before last year's election-year record-setting payment, the representative said. But without a decision, "we run the prospect of running out of money."

Dillingham Rep. Bryce Edgmon, who was not part of the Alaska Common Ground event, said in an interview that the large number of first-time legislators this year — one-third of the 60 members — may help explain the increased willingness to consider taxes as new members see the budget reality.

"It's a little bit of a lottery," with members putting in their own ideas for taxes, he said. Edgmon, a member of the House majority coalition, serves as co-chair of the Finance Committee.

Sentinel staff collects Alaska Press Club awards

Sentinel staff

Wrangell Sentinel staff won five awards in the annual Alaska Press Club competition, with radio station KSTK bringing home four honors in the statewide contest for journalists.

Marc Lutz won second place in the Best Feature Story category (small newspapers) for his report in the Sept. 21, 2022, Sentinel about retired teacher Jacquie Dozier's 1965 lunch with Queen Elizabeth II while in the U.K. on a teacher exchange program.

The judge commented on Lutz's work: "A timely memory of QEII, published just after the monarch's death. The reporter did a good job of extracting narrative details from the subject, making the queen in 1965 come alive for readers."

Lutz won third place for Best Education Reporting (all newspapers) for his story in the March 2, 2022, Sentinel about the high school shop class: "Right tools for the jobs." The judge commented: "Solid reporting throughout, and well-written."

Caroleine James took second place in Best Alaska History Reporting (all news media) for her story in the Oct. 19, 2022, Sentinel about the late Tillie Paul Tamaree and her act of civil disobedience 100 years earlier that helped win voting rights for Alaska Natives. The judge wrote: "Straightforward approach, solid reporting, great subject on a big anniversary."

Larry Persily took first place for Best Columnist (all newspapers) for his Nov. 23, 2022, column

about why Sarah Palin lost the election to represent Alaska in the U.S. House. The judge wrote: "The writer knows Alaska. His columns reflect intellect, experience and wisdom. He offers a compass for those who value honesty and reality."

Persily won third place in Best Editorial or Commentary (all news media) for his Jan. 20, 2022, editorial, cautioning the borough assembly to be careful about making decisions in executive session. "Good, old-fashioned watchdog journalism. What local editorial pages are for," the judge wrote.

KSTK news director Sage Smiley won four awards in the competition, including a first place in Best Arts Reporting (audio entries) for her reporting on Wrangell High School students' winning entry in the Vans shoe design contest (May 12, 2022).

Smiley also won first place for Best Sound-Rich Feature (audio) for her report on designing an expanded trail system for Wrangell (Oct. 31, 2022).

She won third place for Best Fisheries Reporting (all news media) for reporting on a salmon bycatch task force (Feb. 16, 2022), and third place in Best Culture Reporting (audio) for her report "Learning Lingit at lunch" (Nov. 14, 2022).

Wrangell resident Vivian Faith Prescott, writing for the Capital City Weekly in Juneau, won first place in the Best Feature Photo category for her picture of bears on Chichagof Island.

The awards were presented at the annual Alaska Press Club conference on April 22 in Anchorage.

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Governor says new taxes should be part of any fiscal plan

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Gov. Mike Dunleavy, once a staunch opponent of tax increases, said last Thursday that they are now a core part of any long-term state fiscal plan.

Speaking in a news conference, the governor said there is a broad recognition in the Legislature and in his office that the state can no longer rely on oil to balance the state budget.

"To simply ride oil in a do-or-die situation for the state of Alaska is folly," he said.

Dunleavy confirmed reports that he intends to propose a statewide sales tax, saying work on the proposal was almost done — though it was not clear when the bill would be introduced in the Legislature.

"I would start off with a low percentage sales tax, probably 1%. And the reason I say that is, it's really about stabilizing our fiscals," he said.

Regardless of the format, it's a significant change for a governor who has never proposed a tax increase since entering office in December 2018.

Last year, Dunleavy vetoed a bill that would have raised the state's minimum age for e-cigarettes because it included a

small tax on e-cigarette products. He said in his veto message: "Ultimately, a tax increase on the people of Alaska is not something I can support."

The year before that, he proposed making all new state taxes contingent upon a statewide vote.

Dunleavy said he now believes that "a broad-based solution that doesn't gouge or take huge parts from one sector (of Alaska) or another, or penalize one sector for another is probably the most important thing we can do."

State lawmakers this year have already introduced a variety of tax proposals, including bills to change the state's oil and gas tax system to raise more revenue, a statewide sales tax, a per-person tax and an income tax.

Alaska has never had a statewide sales tax or a statewide property tax (except for oil and gas equipment), and it hasn't had an income tax since 1980.

From 1980 through 2018, oil revenue was the state's main source of income, and since 2018, an annual transfer from the Alaska Permanent Fund's earnings has been the main source.

Adding a new tax would be a major change in state politics, and none of the ideas proposed so far has advanced

significantly in the legislative process. But lawmakers and the governor noted at last Thursday's press conference that there is a general consensus that at least one option is needed.

For years, lawmakers have tried in vain to agree on a plan that would diversify the state's revenue sources and make it more resilient to ever-changing oil prices, and also stock market fluctuations, which affect the state's investment income. Efforts to reach agreement on new revenue sources and a retooled Permanent Fund dividend formula have repeatedly failed.

This year, lawmakers are still divided. In the House, proposals backed by conservative Republicans would cut corporate taxes, levy a sales tax and impose a stricter spending cap. In the Senate, lawmakers have favored balancing the state's budget by providing a smaller dividend and increasing production tax revenues from oil producers.

Both the governor and members of the House majority at the April 27 press conference said that any tax must be accompanied by other legislation as part of a full long-term plan. Speaker of the House Cathy Tilton, a Republican from Wasilla, said those elements include a new

formula for the Permanent Fund dividend, something to encourage economic growth and a measure to raise revenue.

"It needs to be something that the entire Legislature can agree upon," Tilton said.

Getting agreement on those various pieces isn't easy in the Capitol.

"It's a diverse Legislature," Dunleavy said. "Certainly, I have my own ideas on what some of the components (of a fiscal plan) would be. But what I think is really important to remember is that the vast majority of folks in the Legislature ... want to solve this issue."

Lawmakers are still trying to figure out what the components of that plan will be and how they will fit together, he said.

"That's why something like this is taking a while," he said.

The Legislature's adjournment deadline is May 17, and Dunleavy said he is already discussing the possibility of a special legislative session — possibly in the fall — to address the issue of a fiscal plan.

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

House, Senate versions of state budget match on school funding increase

By SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

The Alaska Senate rolled out its latest version of the operating budget on April 26, with a \$1,300 Permanent Fund dividend, a \$175 million one-time boost for public schools and a \$90 million surplus to cover contingencies or if oil prices drop.

The 17-member bipartisan Senate majority caucus — unlike the House Republican-led majority — has insisted that lawmakers should not draw from state savings to balance the budget.

Following gloomy revenue projections last month, the House spending plan — with a \$2,700 dividend — was projected to create a \$600 million deficit, which would further balloon to almost \$800 million with additional capital expenditures for public works projects announced last week by the Senate.

Though the Senate had earlier announced it would trim back the funding increase for K-12 education to about \$128 million, that quickly changed after most members of the majority coalition expressed frustration behind closed doors with that figure and pushed for a \$175 million school funding increase — matching the House number.

If lawmakers settle on the \$175 million one-year increase in state funding to local school districts, Wrangell could receive an additional \$425,000 for the 2023-2024 school year, about a 14% gain in state aid. The state's per-student fund-

ing formula for education has not moved since 2017.

Separate from the budget bill, the Senate still is considering legislation that would adopt a permanent increase in the state funding formula, though its chances of passage this year are slim.

Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz is among the sponsors of legislation that would permanently increase the state funding formula for public schools. He is "disappointed" with the one-year increase proposed by the Senate, but added, "it's a negotiation process."

The Senate Finance Committee draft spending plan released April 26 conflicts with spending priorities pushed by the Republican-led House majority caucus, which passed its version of the state budget last month.

Big Lake Republican Kevin McCabe — echoing members of House leadership — said during an April 25 press conference that the Senate's \$1,300 dividend figure was "a nonstarter" for him and that the House's \$2,700 dividend was already a compromise from an even larger PFD, around \$3,500.

That big of a dividend would add \$500 million to the budget deficit, requiring either large-scale spending cuts on services, taxes or drawing on savings.

Typically, the House and Senate pass different versions of the budget, which are then reconciled through negotiations so a single bill can pass through both legislative

chambers and onto the governor's desk. But it's unclear how the two vastly different spending plans can be reconciled without one side capitulating.

Three-quarters of lawmakers from both legislative chambers would need to approve any draw from the Constitutional Budget Reserve, the state's \$2 billion savings account. Such a draw would be required to pay the larger PFD advocated by the House. Stedman said there are simply not enough votes in the Senate to support drawing from savings. "There's no reason to do it. We've got a balanced budget."

"We are absolutely divided between the House and the Senate," said Senate President Gary Stevens of Kodiak. "The basic problem is that (the House is) proposing an unsustainable budget," Stevens said at an April 27 press conference with the governor and legislative leaders to talk about the need for a long-term state fiscal plan.

To stabilize the budget and bridge a projected fiscal gap for the long term, legislators have introduced new taxes on Alaskans and the oil industry. But none have advanced anywhere near a final vote, and lawmakers from across the political spectrum agreed on April 25 that new taxes are unlikely to be approved before the legislative adjournment deadline of May 17.

Fluctuating oil prices have also been a factor in budget debates. Alexei Painter, direc-

tor of the nonpartisan Legislative Finance Division, said during an April 25 Senate Finance Committee hearing that the Senate spending plan would leave the state with an estimated \$93 million surplus, but that could quickly be erased by a small drop in oil prices over the next fiscal year.

Other differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget include state aid to help child care providers. The Senate version would add \$15 million to raise wages for child care operators after they reported the system was in crisis due to staffing shortages. Gov. Mike Dunleavy said last month he did not support a child care boost of that size when announcing a task force to study the problem.

A House plan to spend \$4.5 million for the state to take over management from the federal government of permitting wetlands for development was removed in the

Senate spending plan. But it could be added again during final budget negotiations with the House.

The Senate stripped out funding for a Dunleavy-backed parental rights in education advocate, which was largely intended to be a mediator answering questions from concerned parents about how sex education classes are taught in schools. The House previously cut the same position through its budget process.

The Senate's \$357 million capital budget — used to pay for infrastructure and maintenance projects at public facilities statewide — would largely be used for the required match to capture federal funding for infrastructure projects and highways.

The Senate budget is scheduled to head to the floor for a vote of the full body this next week, then likely to negotiations with the House to resolve differences.

THANK YOU

The Wrangell Golf Club board of directors would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual fundraising dinner and auction a success. This was our first time back at it since before COVID, and we couldn't have asked for a better event.

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals that donated items to auction and raffle: Alaska Airlines, Cindy Baird, Pacific Seafoods, All American Mechanical, Monterey Peninsula Country Club, Sentry Hardware, Angerman's Inc., Ottesen's Ace Hardware, Breakaway Adventures, Rayme's Bar, Lucy Robinson, The Bay Co., Ocean Reef Club, 56 North, Breakaway Ferry and Freight, Brenner Construction, Stikine Sportsmen Association, U.S. Forest Service Employee Association, Sylver Fishing, Totem Bar, Stikine Wilderness Adventures, Canoe Lagoon Oysters, The Stikine Restaurant, Alaska Vistas, City Market, Slappafish, Megan Powell, Rocky Littleton and Marva Reid, Jim and Betty Abbott, KSTK, the Houser family and the Delabrué family.

Thank you to Hump Island Oysters for the generous dona-

tion of 60 pounds of oysters to serve at our dinner, and Brian Lea and Jordan Gross for grilling them to perfection. Thank you to Frank Warfel, Frank Roppel, Spenser Stavee and the Woodburys for donating the prime rib. Thank you to our cook crew for serving such an amazing dinner: Jillian Privett, James and Laura Brenner, Spenser Stavee and Chelsie Ludwig. Thank you to Dorothy and Karl Gadsjo, Ryan Edgley, Joe Gartrell and Georgia Selfridge for setup and/or cleanup.

Thank you to Rosie Roppel for help setting up and selling raffle tickets during the dinner. Thank you to the Elks Lodge for the use of the lodge and also to the Elks crew Dawn Angerman, Jessica Stewart and Julie Williams.

Thank you to our members and supporters who brought desserts and appetizers to share. And thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a fun evening! This was truly a community effort to support our golf course. Thank you Wrangell, and see you out at Muskeg Meadows.

Police report

Monday, April 24

Potential drug problem.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Safekeeping.

Tuesday, April 25

Traffic stop: Citation issued for speeding.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Violation: Conditions of release.
Agency assist: State Office of Children's Services.
Agency assist: Pre-trial.

Wednesday, April 26

Welfare check.
Found property.

Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.

Trespass.
Agency assist: Fire Department drill.

Thursday, April 27

Citizen assist:
Break-in.

Friday, April 28

Papers served.

Saturday, April 29

Illegal parking.
Traffic complaint.
Gunshots: Unfounded.

Sunday, April 30

Alarm: Received carbon monoxide alarm for a residence. All was well.

Agency assist: State Office of Children's Services.

Agency assist: Department of Transportation for tree down in the road between 6- and 8-Mile Zimovia Highway.
During this reporting period there were seven agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.

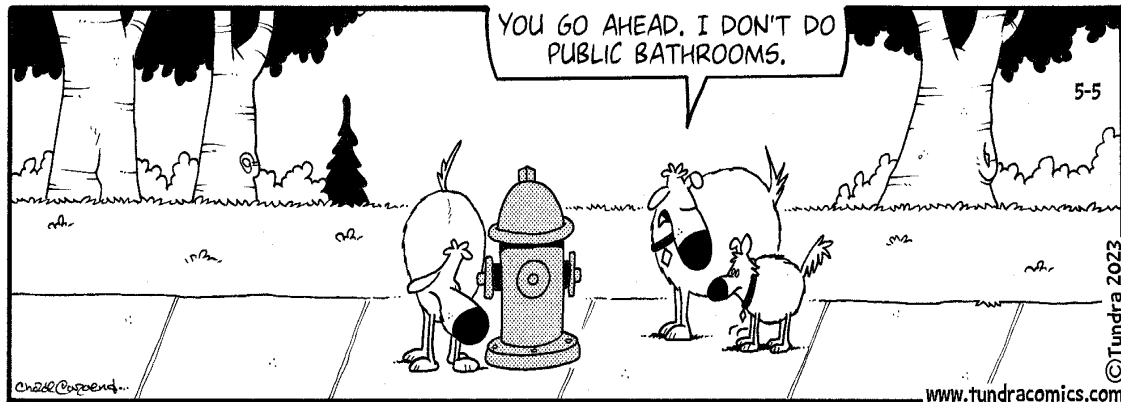
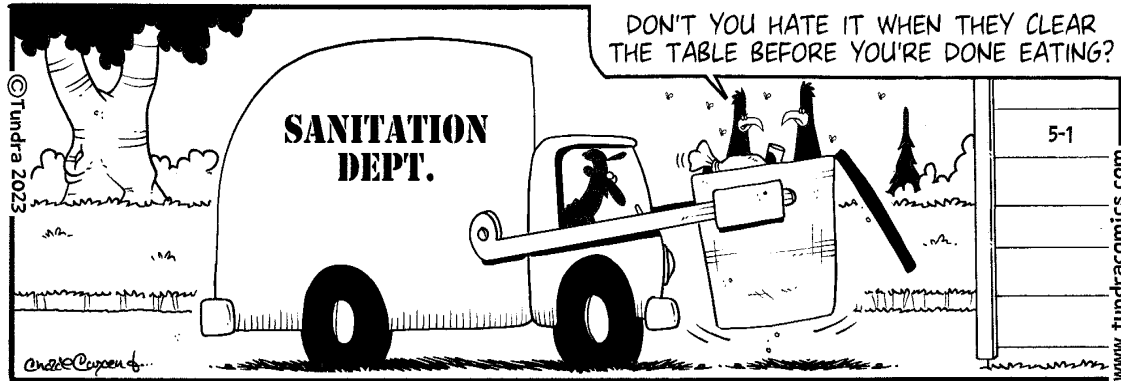
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



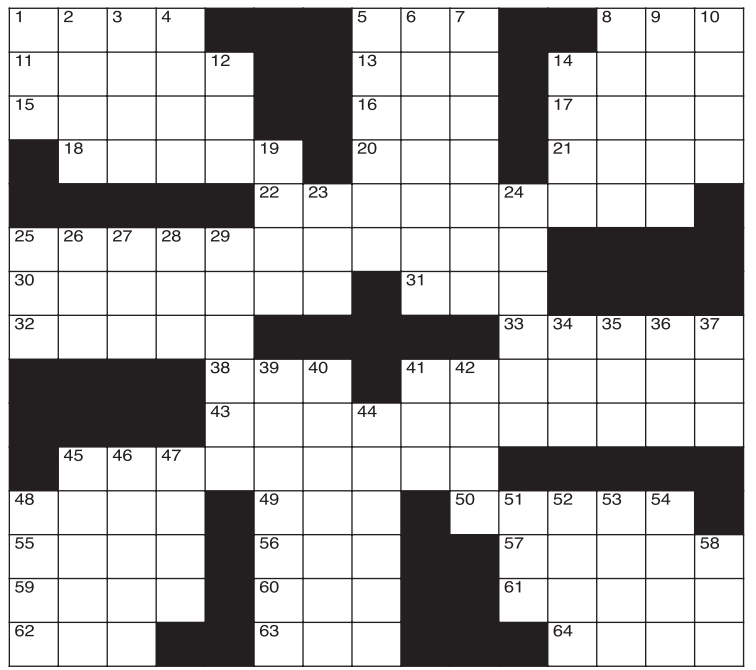
Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Crossword

Answers on Page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 5. A cirque
- 8. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Influential report author
- 13. Satisfaction
- 14. Recurring only at long intervals
- 15. Islamic calendar month
- 16. Neither
- 17. Gelatinous substance
- 18. American electronic music producer
- 20. Old computer system
- 21. Professional organization
- 22. Malaria mosquitoes
- 25. Not composed of matter
- 30. It's in the ocean
- 31. Peyton's little brother
- 32. French commune
- 33. Eyelashes
- 38. Equal (prefix)
- 41. Quality of little or no rain
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Sung to
- 48. Influential punk artist
- 49. Amount of time
- 50. Polio vaccine developer
- 55. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 56. Job
- 57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
- 59. Japanese wooden clog
- 60. Folk singer DiFranco
- 61. FL city
- 62. Naturally occurring solid
- 63. Language of indigenous Asian people
- 64. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 3. Venomous snake genus
- 4. Uninteresting
- 5. Straightforwardness
- 6. Expression of wild excitement
- 7. Arrange in order
- 8. East Indian cereal grass
- 9. Hillsides
- 10. Bird beak covering
- 12. Baseball stat
- 14. Edge of a surfboard
- 19. Wrapping accessory
- 23. Express approval
- 24. Deduce
- 25. Similar
- 26. Born of
- 27. Automobile
- 28. Obligated to repay
- 29. Live in
- 34. Influential journalist Tarbell
- 35. Set aflame
- 36. OJ trial judge
- 37. Scottish town
- 39. African nation
- 40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 41. Mimic
- 42. Frees
- 44. In slow tempo
- 45. Sword
- 46. Related on the mother's side
- 47. Mars crater
- 48. Plant of the lily family
- 51. Suitable in the circumstances
- 52. Hillside
- 53. Metrical foot
- 54. Amazon river tributary
- 58. Adult male human

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS WRANGELL DOCKS AND HARBORS SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the DOCKS AND HARBORS SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM project. Work consists of various quantities of mobilization, video surveillance, electrical and communication systems, constructing a city-wide surveillance network to monitor and record activities at each port, harbor and the Marine Service Center. The engineer's estimate for all work is approximately \$570,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 11, 2023, and publicly opened and read at that time.

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

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

Jeff Good, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish April 26 and May 3, 2023

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ALASKABROKER.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brenda L. Schwartz-Yeager, DBA Alaska Charters and Adventures, LLC is making application for a new seasonal liquor license, per AS 04.11.180 located in Alaska waters.

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

Publish April 19, 26 and May 3, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REAL ESTATE BROKER SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive proposals for REAL ESTATE BROKER SERVICES. The purpose of this RFP is to establish an exclusive contract for the provision of Broker Services to assist in the sale of Borough-owned real property.

Sealed proposals will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 12, 2023, and publicly opened and read at that time.

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

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

Jeff Good, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish April 26 and May 3, 2023

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following position for the 2022-2023 school year:

- **Custodian:** This is a full-time, year-round classified position with benefits, 7.5 hours per day. Salary placement is on Column B of the Classified Salary Schedule. Job duties include but are not limited to keeping our school complex clean and assisting with setting up rooms for classes, large presentations and business meetings as needed; and assisting with minor repairs. A High School Diploma or equivalent is desired.
- **Elementary Library Paraprofessional (tentative):** This is a part-time, 9-month position working 5.75 hours per day with students one-on-one or in small groups in the library at Evergreen Elementary School. Salary placement is Column C on the 9-month Classified Salary Schedule. The successful applicant must have an associate degree or equivalent (or higher) or the ability to pass the para pro assessment (administered by the district).
- Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:
- **Early Childhood Education Teacher:** This is a full-time teaching position working with children with special needs. The position requires an Alaska teaching certificate with appropriate endorsements in Elementary Education.
- We are also accepting applications for the following extracurricular positions for the 2023-2024 school year:
- Baseball Head Coach and Assistant Coach
- Basketball, Boys Assistant Coach
- Class Advisers:
- Freshmen Class
- Sophomore Class
- Senior Class Co-adviser
- Cross Country Running Head Coach
- Softball Head and Assistant Coach
- Volleyball Head and Assistant Coach
- Elementary Student Council Adviser

For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. These positions are open until filled. It is Wrangell Public School District policy to not discriminate based on age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

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for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

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CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **NOLAN CENTER STORAGE BUILDING SETTLEMENT REPAIR** project. WORK consists of installing helical piles to support the building foundation and slab. The Engineer's Estimate for all work is approximately \$100,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 16, 2023, and publicly opened at that time. The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section.

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

Jeff Good, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish April 26; May 3 and 10, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

At their Regular Assembly meeting held April 25, 2023, the Borough Assembly approved **canceling the Regular Assembly meeting of May 9, 2023.**

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

Publish May 3, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE Board of Equalization Hearing

The Borough Assembly (on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.) will sit as the Board of Equalization (BOE) and shall hear testimony, both oral and written, with a decision to follow on the appeals that were received and not settled with the Assessor for the 2023 tax year.

If the appeals that the BOE will hear are not completed on May 8, the BOE will meet each day thereafter (excluding weekends) at 5:30 p.m., until completed.

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

Publish May 3, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **SWIMMING POOL SIDING REPLACEMENT** project. WORK consists of removing and replacing the exterior siding and column brick facade. The Engineer's Estimate for all work is approximately \$395,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 15, 2023, and publicly opened at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section.

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

Jeff Good, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish April 26; May 3 and 10, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Publish May 3, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Harbor Maintenance/Security

The Wrangell Harbor Department will accept applications for the position of Harbor Maintenance/Security through May 12, 2023, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits and is part of the IBEW collective bargaining agreement.

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

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

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

A High School Diploma or GED is required. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, valid TWIC card, and basic First Aid/CPR certification or the ability to obtain all within 6 months.

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

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

Jeff Good, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish May 3, 10 and 17, 2023

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Legal notice

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

- Ordinance No. 1039**, of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, adding Chapter 20.24, Single Family Residential – Medium Density District (SFMD) and Chapter 20.42, Rural Commercial District (RC) to Title 20, Zoning and amending several Sections in Title 20, Zoning, in the Wrangell Code.
- Ordinance No. 1040**, of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska amending the Zoning Map to effect a change Lots 1-5, Block 1; Lots 1-5, Block 2; Lots 1-3, Block 3; and Tract A, Shoemaker Bay Subdivision amended Plat 87-9; and a portion of Lot 26, USS 3403 from holding to Single Family Medium Density, Rural Commercial and Multifamily as part of the proposed Alder Top Village Subdivision.

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

Publish May 3, 2023

Legislators say not enough time left in session for a sales tax

By IRIS SAMUELS,
SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

Almost two weeks after Gov. Mike Dunleavy told lawmakers he would propose a new sales tax, legislators have yet to see the governor's bill — and are still far from reaching agreement on the state's fiscal future.

Lawmakers broadly agree on the need for new revenue sources amid declining oil taxes. But any proposal from the governor, along with other revenue measures considered by lawmakers this year, are unlikely to pass with only two weeks until the constitutional deadline marking the end of the regular legislative session, key lawmakers said.

"It's going to be hard to move a tax bill across the House and the Senate in that time," said Senate President Gary Stevens, a Kodiak Republican.

"Normally big issues like that take a couple years. Certainly, it wouldn't be 20 days," said Sen. Bert Stedman, a Sitka Republican who co-chairs the Senate Finance Committee.

"The likelihood of anything happening this particular session — I don't see it as very likely at all," said Rep. Dan Ortiz, a Ketchikan independent. "We're not going to get that fiscal plan between now and the next two and a half weeks. I just don't see it."

Dunleavy's promise for a sales tax bill has reinvigorated discussions among lawmakers about competing revenue measures. In the House, Rep. Ben Carpenter, R-Nikiski, has already introduced his own sales tax. Rep. Alyse Galvin, I-Anchorage, has introduced an income tax on earners who make more than \$200,000. In the Senate, lawmakers have introduced legislation that would increase the amount of taxes owed by oil companies and other corporations.

But no proposal has advanced out of either body, and the window for action is shrinking.

Dunleavy spokesman Jeff Turner said by email that the governor's sales tax legislation is "in the drafting stage" and will be introduced "as soon as possible this session." He did not respond when asked by email why the legislation had not been introduced earlier in the session, which began in January.

Even if the sales tax legislation were to advance, it is not necessarily the most popular among the revenue options considered by lawmakers.

"I'm not hearing from the people I talk to a lot of support for a sales tax," said Rep. Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak. She is one of several lawmakers who represent communities that already have local sales taxes, and pointed out such a tax would have a disproportionate impact on rural communities.

In the House, all bills related to the state's fiscal future, including ones to reform the dividend and

change the state's taxes, have been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. Any bill that advances out of the committee must then be considered by the more powerful House Finance Committee, which has yet to consider any of the bills pertaining to taxes or the Permanent Fund dividend.

In the Senate, leadership members have focused their attention on advancing a bill that would reform the way the Permanent Fund dividend is calculated each year. Senate leaders now favor a new 75-25 formula for calculating the dividend, which would divert one-quarter of the Permanent Fund's earnings to the dividend, leaving the rest for spending on public services.

But some lawmakers, including House majority members, prefer a 50-50 split, leaving half the Permanent Fund's earnings for the dividend — and requiring new revenue streams to make up the difference.

Rep. Kevin McCabe, R-Big

Lake, said a 75-25 split "would be a nonstarter" for him. The 50-50 formula, which translates to a \$2,700 dividend this year and would require hundreds of millions of dollars from savings to make up a revenue shortfall, "was the compromise position, not the starting position," McCabe said.

Still, members of the Senate Finance Committee are pushing for the smaller dividend — which would translate this year to a \$1,300 payment per eligible Alaskan — with increased fervor.

"The Senate is staying within the bookmarks of no overdraw of the Permanent Fund and no overdraw of the CBR, because it's perilously low in backup funds for the state," said Stedman, referring to the Constitutional Budget Reserve — a stop-gap savings account that can be used by lawmakers to make up funds if their budget calls for more spending than the state has in revenue.

"We're going to live within our revenue stream this year, which means something has to give," said Stedman. With lower-than-expected oil prices translating to lower revenue, Stedman said that avoiding a draw from savings would translate to a \$1,300 dividend, a one-year boost in education funding, and a "stripped down" capital budget — which covers building and infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

That is a far cry from the House majority's spending plan, which includes a \$2,700 dividend and an estimated \$600 million budget deficit, setting the stage for a battle over the size of the dividend and education funding in the final weeks — and leaving little time for the demanding conversations needed to reach agreement on new taxes or revenue sources.

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