

Man charged with seven vehicle thefts in joyride spree

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A suspect has been charged and arraigned following a destructive string of vehicle thefts around Wrangell last week.

Lief Cheyenne Bosdell, 20, was arraigned June 9 on seven counts of first-degree vehicle theft, each a Class C felony carrying up to five years in prison and a maximum \$50,000 fine. Three charges of fifth-degree criminal mischief were also filed, Class B misdemeanors which together carry up to 30 days jail time and \$6,000 in fines.

Before his appearance at Wrangell Courthouse, events kicked off that preceding weekend. The afternoon of June 4 a missing vehicle was reported to police by Levi Dow. The red Chevrolet pickup truck was later found the afternoon of June 6, abandoned in the vicinity of Pats Creek Road with its engine seized.

Joyriding was suspected as a motivating factor in that theft and those to follow. Chief Doug McCloskey noted most of the seven vehicles bore signs of excessive use and damage, being abandoned once they could go no further. In all cases the vehicles were thought to have been unlocked, with ignition keys left inside.

Following Dow's report, after midnight on the morning of June 8 Officer Rick Groshong went to investigate noises at the horse track near Volunteer Park. A white pickup truck was apparently "hot-rodding" around the track, McCloskey recounted, and allegedly driven by Bosdell. According to the responding officer, alcohol did not appear to be a factor and the driver of the vehicle had given "a plausible story at the time" for having the vehicle, said McCloskey.

Groshong was called away by a notification of death at around 12:31 a.m. Being the only officer on duty at the time due to staff shortages, the call took priority over the matter of the vehicle and Groshong left. Once that call was concluded, at 1:25 a.m. the officer contacted the truck's owner, Mike Lane, to follow up about the circumstances.

When it was determined permission had not been given to use the truck, Groshong returned to the track directly. Since his last exchange with the driver, the truck had been driven off the shoulder of the gravel road connecting Spur Road with the Volunteer Park parking lot. McCloskey was at that point



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Burnt to the rims and with melted windows, a car belonging to a Wrangell retiree was discovered in another resident's yard early June 6. It had apparently been taken from a mechanic's garage the previous evening and driven to the site before catching fire. Whether the vehicle was burned intentionally or incidentally is being determined by law enforcement officials.

called out at 1:57 a.m. to assist.

"The driver of that vehicle contacted a friend of his to help pull him out," the chief said.

One arrest was made, though not of Bosdell. Instead a sports utility vehicle had been driven to the scene by Leann Russell, 22. Apparently intoxicated, she was arrested at 2:15 a.m. for driving under the influence. While his department was still assessing the situation, McCloskey said Bosdell was meanwhile given a ride back to his residence at 2:24 a.m.

About an hour later, another arrest was made at the horse track. This time it was Logan Padgett, 18, who returned to the scene at about 3:30 a.m. driving the same SUV Russell had. An officer was still on the scene and charged Padgett for driving under the influence.

Padgett was one of two men pleading guilty to the illegal entry and robbery of Alpine Mini Mart on May 23, for which he had received community service hours and a suspended 10-day sentence.

Police at this time do not have reason to suspect Padgett and Russell of complicity in the vehicle's theft, and the DUI allegations are incidental.

"We don't believe that they actually knew that the truck was stolen," McCloskey said.

Still that same morning, at 5:18 a.m. WPD received a call from fisherman Mark Mitchell, who found the charred frame of a four-door sedan in the yard outside his home near the Silver Bay Logging Company at Six Mile, Zimovia Highway. The vehicle had been thoroughly burned at some point during the evening, but using a combina-

tion of VIN and license plate details police were able to identify the car. The sedan was found to have belonged to Angelika Hall, a retired resident.

WPD believes this vehicle had been taken by Bosdell before Lane's truck had been, sometime in the evening of June 5. McCloskey reported the vehicle had been at Stikine Auto

Works when it was stolen, and its disappearance was news both to the owner and the garage.

Describing the scene, McCloskey noted that deep treads had been left in the earth by the car's tires, suggesting the sedan had negotiated a turn at some speed before it came to a stop in Mitchell's yard. It is suspected the car was then set alight

intentionally. Just north along the beach from the Mitchell residence by about a quarter mile, police believe its suspect had then proceeded to the Lane residence, which is visible from the car site. It was from there the white pickup had been taken.

Later that afternoon, Dow's vehicle was discovered on the Pats Creek road system in an inoperable state. From what police can tell, the vehicles had all been taken with the intention of taking them for rough rides. "Basically running them to death," McCloskey commented.

Police suspected the three incidents were all related, and Bosdell was questioned but not charged at that point. A fourth vehicle believed connected to the spree was taken from Don McConachie either the night of June 3 or morning of June 4.

McCloskey explained the department needed "sufficient probable cause" before filing charges, such as determining whether the car fire had been set intentionally or was incidental. A further interview with Bosdell was set for the morning of June 8, with a policeman from Craig to be brought in to assist. The suspect is deaf and requires help from an interpreter, and the

Continued on page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hometown pride

A group of about 30 Wrangell residents take part in an "Equality March for Unity and Pride" on Sunday afternoon, joining marchers around the country to mark the first anniversary of the Orlando nightclub shooting. Forty-nine people were murdered and many more wounded by a gunman at the gay venue, and the nationwide marches were held to demonstrate the strength of love in the face of hatred. Put together in only a couple days' notice, Wrangell's march is likely the first pride event ever held on the island.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

June 15: Dacia Dailey, Kayla Hay, Quinn Carey, Grover Mathis, Chris Weber, Shayna Schultz, Bert Nore. *Anniversary:* Karl and Stacy Altepeter, Kyle and Katie Penney, Phil and Kara Carey. **June 16:** Lana Mike, Hollis Montgomery, Louise Smith. **June 17:** Jason Fennimore, Frank Rice. Forest Anasogak. Layla Mill, Elizabeth Graves, *Anniversary:* Vern and Anne Philips. **June 18:** William Barker, Darrell Smith, Shannon Lindley, *Anniversary:* Matt and Leslie Richard. **June 19:** Anna Hagelman, Jason Clark, Ken Davidson Jr., Tammy Davidson, Jared Stevens. *Anniversary:* Kevin and Teresa Wallace. **June 20:** Greer Kagee, Brian Cooper, Danica Mike. **June 21:** Terree Pino, Andrea Gillen, Griffey Angerman, Jonah Comstock, *Anniversary:* Kim and Jeanette Covalt, Keith and Cherrith Young. **June 22:** Gerri Mesack, Jacob Dow, Avea Neel, Renate Davies, Charleigh Nixon.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, June 15:

Vegetable soup, half cheese and tomato sandwich, fruit slaw.

Friday, June 16:

Mac and cheese, half of a tuna sandwich, cottage cheese and tomato salad.

Monday, June 19:

Salisbury Steak, baked potato, peas, spicy fruit cup.

Tuesday, June 20:

Sweet and sour pork, broccoli, rice, tossed salad.

Wednesday, June 21:

Chicken Cacciatore, Italian blend, hot roll, raisin salad.

Thursday, June 22:

Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potato with gravy, cabbage slaw.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations. Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, June 17-
Matanuska 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 18
Columbia 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, June 20
Matanuska 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 24
Matanuska 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday, June 27
Matanuska 5:30 p.m.

Southbound

Thursday, June 15
Matanuska 11:30 p.m.
Monday, June 19
Matanuska 4:15 a.m.
Wednesday, June 21
Columbia 4:15 a.m.
Friday, June 23
Matanuska 12:00 a.m.
Monday, June 26
Matanuska 6:00 a.m.

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



TIDES TABLE June 15 - June 22

| High Tides | | | | Low Tides | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM |
| Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft |
| June 15: 4:46 | 14.0 | 5:59 | 13.6 | 11:14 | 0.7 | 11:40 | 4.7 |
| June 16: 5:39 | 13.2 | 6:53 | 13.8 | | | 12:04 | 1.2 |
| June 17: 6:48 | 12.6 | 7:53 | 14.3 | 0:43 | 4.4 | 12:59 | 1.8 |
| June 18: 8:09 | 12.5 | 8:52 | 15.2 | 1:52 | 3.7 | 2:01 | 2.2 |
| June 19: 9:25 | 12.9 | 9:47 | 16.3 | 3:01 | 2.4 | 3:04 | 2.4 |
| June 20: 10:32 | 13.7 | 10:40 | 17.4 | 4:07 | 0.8 | 4:08 | 2.3 |
| June 21: 11:32 | 14.7 | 11:31 | 18.5 | 5:07 | -0.9 | 5:07 | 2.1 |
| June 22: | | 12:28 | 15.6 | 6:01 | -2.5 | 6:02 | 1.7 |

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, June 15

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.
SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.
Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.
Yoga: 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Saturday, June 17

Pats Lake Family fishing Day 10:00am-2:00pm @ Pats Lake

Monday, June 19

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

Tuesday, June 20

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

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

Continuing Events

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

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

June 14, 1917: The School Board has elected Miss Edith Carhart principal of the Wrangell Public School for the coming term. Miss Carhart is not a stranger in Wrangell, having been principal of the school here during the term of 1909-10. She was re-elected but preferred to return to the States. She has had 17 years experience. For the past three years she has been principal of the Fobes school at Snohomish, Washington Miss Tressa Curtin has been elected teacher of the primary department. Miss Curtin has had 11 years as a teacher, seven of which were spent in the Fobes school at Snohomish. She has worked with Miss Carhart for the past three years. Miss Carhart and Miss Curtin had both been reelected in the Snohomish School for another year, but preferred to come to Alaska. A primary teacher has not yet been selected.

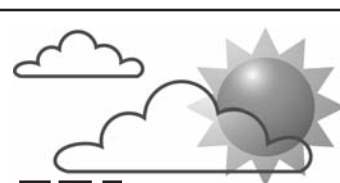
June 12, 1942: The following announcement is made by William T. Mahoney, U.S. Marshal, First Division: The United States Marshal has been requested by Gen. Buckner to assist the army officials in preventing the sale by firms or individuals of any photographs and photographic postcards showing views of cities and military objectives in the First Division. The public is also warned that anyone found in possession of a camera or binoculars within the military area or vicinity of any town or base in the First Division in the Territory of Alaska will be subject to arrest and may be excluded from the Territory of Alaska. All stores or individuals having pictures of scenes of waterfronts, oil tanks or communication centers should withdraw them from sale. A record must show name and address of purchaser with date of

sale. It will be subject to periodic inspection by army officials.

June 9, 1967: A Search and Rescue squad to coordinate air, sea and land searches in cases of missing persons in the Wrangell area was formed here this week with C.V. Henderson of the state Fish and Game Department appointed chairman. Other officials of the group are Bob Hillier, secretary, Ed Morarity, treasurer, Al Ritchie Jr. and Charles Traylor, board members. Outlining its program. a group statement said: "The two obvious ingredients of any search are man power and money." The man power for this organization will necessarily come from the community as will the funds. A fund raising drive will be held Tuesday evening, June 20, under the direction of the Wrangell Fire Department.

Anyone interested in assisting in the work is asked to contact C.V. Henderson. "If you are going out, picnicking or for any other reason tell some responsible person where you are going and when you expect to return." In the event anyone is overdue call Stikine Air.

June 11, 1992: A bone marrow drive will be held on June 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the St. Philips Episcopal Church Parish Hall. The Wrangell Lions, who are sponsoring the drive, are looking for people between the ages of 18 and 55 to become donors. It is estimated that approximately 150 cancer patients live in Alaska who could benefit from bone marrow transplant. Since individuals inherit tissue typing in the same manner as eye, hair and skin color, chances are best of matching within the same racial group.



Wrangell Weather

| Date | High | Low |
|----------|------|-----|
| June 5: | 53 | 48 |
| June 6: | 69 | 52 |
| June 7: | 67 | 54 |
| June 8: | 61 | 47 |
| June 9: | 51 | 46 |
| June 10: | 55 | 48 |
| June 11: | 54 | 46 |
| June 12: | 51 | 46 |



Daylight Hours

| Date | Sunrise | Sunset | Daylight |
|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| June 15: | 4:01am | 9:35pm | 17:34h |
| June 16: | 4:01am | 9:36pm | 17:35h |
| June 17: | 4:01am | 9:36pm | 17:35h |
| June 18: | 4:01am | 9:37pm | 17:36h |
| June 19: | 4:01am | 9:37pm | 17:36h |
| June 20: | 4:01am | 9:37pm | 17:36h |
| June 21: | 4:01am | 9:37pm | 17:37h |
| June 22: | 4:01am | 9:38pm | 17:37h |

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Car

Continued from page 1

Craig officer is familiar with sign language.

The evening prior to this scheduled interview, police allege Bosdell went on another spree of vehicle thefts. Shortly after midnight the morning of June 8, Dan Doak reported his pickup truck was missing from outside his residence. At 1:23 a.m. report of an abandoned, illegally parked vehicle was received, another pickup truck belonging to Dusty Cowan. McCloskey explained it was left outside the Stikine Inn, apparently because it could no longer run.

A third vehicle, a flatbed

pickup truck taken from 2nd Avenue, was reported taken and pursued by police. The vehicle ended up being left in front of Wrangell Truck & Auto on Peninsula Street.

By 7 a.m. Doak's vehicle was reportedly found, high-centered atop some log seating at the far side of the horse track. The truck had apparently been driven up the hill across from Evergreen Elementary School in an attempt to jump the log arrangement, after doing circles in the parking lot below. The attempt failed, and McCloskey reported the vehicle had suffered "significant" damage.

Bosdell, who had only been in town visiting his parents since the weekend, appeared at the police station as scheduled at 11 a.m. During his court hearing on June 9, the prosecution asserted that the accused had confessed to a number of details during this interview. Bosdell was formally charged immediately afterward at 11:12 a.m.

Accompanied by three law enforcement officers and his father, Bosdell appeared before Deputy Magistrate Leanna Nash for his arraignment. His hearing impairment presented the court with some new logistical challenges. Lacking the means for a sign linguist to be on hand during the proceedings, the accused communicated in writing using a Kindle device, which was then communicated to the courtroom via phone by an interpreter.

Police report

Monday, June 5

Nothing to report.

Tuesday, June 6

Officer responded to report of reckless driver. Suspicious Caller: Stated someone ringing doorbell several times, then left.

Criminal Mischief: Report of damage at outdoor shooting range.

Theft: Items taken from individual's home.

Disturbance Threats: Person reported receiving threats while they were at the harbor dock.

Criminal Mischief: Reckless driving: Person 86'd from business after they did brodies in lot.

Unauthorized Use: Caller reported person left in vehicle without permission.

Road Hazard: Report of truck losing boxes off the back.

Agency Assist: Report of business alarm going off. Officer responded, all ok.

Trespass Unfounded: Caller requested officer to come get individual.

Suicidal Person: Officer responded.

Drug Info.

Wednesday, June 7

Citizen Assist: Person requested help unlock residence.

Suspicious Incident: Person reported that their vehicle door had been left open.

Animal Control: Report of bears, one in a

tree.

Thursday, June 8

Stolen Vehicle: Officer responded to a complaint.

Person requested courtesy ride due to cab not running.

Intoxicated Person: Officer responded to call of intoxicated person.

86'd letters: 86'd letters received to be delivered.

Traffic Complaint: Caller reported someone roaring through town.

Friday, June 9

Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlocked.

Caller reported abandoned trailer at 3 mile pull out.

Saturday, June 10

Citizen Assist: Intoxicated person: Title 47 Curfew warning given.

Agency Assist: Alaska Trooper notified in regards to injured baby seal.

Sunday, June 11

Caller reported disturbance next door: Officer responded.

Traffic Complaint: Caller concerned about vehicles tearing up the road.

There were four ambulance calls and two dog complaints during this week.

Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents

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SHOWTIMES:
June 16-18
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SAT • 7 pm
SUN • 7 pm

Tickets: \$5 for 12 & under,
 \$7 for 13 & up
 Buy movie gift certificates
 at the Museum gift shop
 Check out more movie info at
www.imdb.com

The Wrangell Ranger District in partnership with ADF&G and the Stikine Sportsmen Association is hosting the 6th Annual

Pats Lake Family Fishing Day
Saturday, June 17, 2017
10:00am - 2:00pm at Pats Lake

Free Outdoor Fun for the Whole Family!
 Special Youth Fishing Regulations,
 Games, Lure Making, Fish Print T-shirts,
 Lunch, and Youth Prizes!!!

For more information, please contact
 the Wrangell Ranger District, 874-2323.



Charges were presented, and following a query on Bosdell's financial standing a public defender was assigned to his case. Judge Kevin Miller has been assigned to the case, with a preliminary hearing to be set for 3:15 p.m. this afternoon.

At the recommendation of the attorney general's office, bail was set at a performance bond of \$10,000, with an additional custodial requirement. In the event of release, Bosdell was instructed not to have any contact with 10 alleged victims, nor to leave Wrangell at any point until the case is resolved.

Nash explained the court was taking the matter very seriously: "These alleged crimes are very serious, especially here in Wrangell," she told Bosdell. "This is a community that prides itself on trust in its neighbors."

Unable to meet bail, the accused remains in police custody. In addition to the local charges, Bosdell is already awaiting criminal proceedings in Anchorage for four misdemeanor counts stemming from

Court report

June 15

The following residents were summoned to Wrangell Courthouse at 9 a.m. to explain to the judge why jury questionnaires sent to them for the 2017 term have not been completed and returned: Aaron Angerman, Dawn Davidson, Jean Kim, David Johnson, Clinton Lewis, Shannon Lindley, Adrienne McLaughlin, Margaret McLaughlin and Asia White. Both jury summonses and reminder notices have been sent to their listed addresses. Failure to respond to a jury summons or to appear for service as instructed could result in an Order to Show Cause. A person failing to do so may also be found in contempt of court, fined, and/or reassigned to jury service at a later date per Alaska Statute 90.50.010.

two different offenses. In one, allegedly transpiring on March 31, Bosdell is accused of tampering and damaging property, and faces one reckless injury charge. The other, on April 4, is another charge of property damage.

Bosdell has previously been convicted of one offense in Wrangell, for driving without a license back in August 2015. He had also been cited for possession of tobacco by a minor in July of that year.

At the next hearing, Nash

said Wrangell's courtroom will be equipped with the necessary accommodations for Bosdell. This will include a proper computer and an interpreter streamed in for proceedings. "The equipment we needed was all in Juneau," she said.

Bosdell did not have much to say for himself during last week's arraignment. Through his teleconferenced interpreter, he explained he has anxiety and post-traumatic stress issues he is currently seeking treatment for.

TEMPORARY REDUCED HOURS / CLOSURE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The Solid Waste Transfer Station will have reduced hours that the facility will be open to the public from Tuesday, June 20 through Saturday, June 24. The reduced hours of operation are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday, June 20 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June 21 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, June 22 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Friday, June 23 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, June 24 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. |

These reduced hours are necessary to complete the scrap metal stockpile's clearing and hauling project without jeopardizing the safety of the public and the safety of the staff members of Channel Construction and the CBW. If the contractor completes the work early, the transfer station will reopen the facility to regular hours.

Normal residential and commercial garbage collection service will continue during these dates.

The Borough and Public Works appreciates the patience of Wrangell citizens during this project. To minimize inconvenience during the closure, the CBW encourages citizens to make alternate plans if you regularly haul garbage to the facility or have a clean-up project planned during these dates.
 Publish: June 15, 2017



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New elementary principal selected, up for visit

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A new principal has been hired for Evergreen Elementary School and is expected later this summer.

A selection panel made up of Wrangell Public Schools teachers, paraprofessionals, the secondary schools principal and superintendent have unanimously approved the hire of Gail Taylor for the position. Taylor is currently the elementary principal with Haworth School District in Haworth, Oklahoma.

Relating her background, Taylor explained she is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University with an associate's degree in business, a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in school administration. She has two decades of educational experience, having taught kindergarten, second and fifth grade classes for 12 of those years.

Taylor plans to transition to Wrangell during the third week of

July with her husband, Keith, and their daughter, McKel.

"I've been looking to leave Oklahoma," she explained, particularly as the Sooner State deals with its own budget crisis.

Enjoying outdoor activities like fishing and hunting, the Taylors were drawn to opportunities in Alaska, and were happy to see an open position as principal in Wrangell.

Taylor and her husband will be in town this week for a site visit, arriving yesterday and staying on through Friday.

"We're coming up to meet everyone," she explained. No formal functions have been scheduled by the district for their visit, but the new principal will have an opportunity to meet with staff and various community members.

In addition to her certifications in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, Taylor has also served on several committees within her district and state, including the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gail Taylor, along with husband Keith and daughter McKel, will be Evergreen Elementary School's new principal starting this fall. Coming from Oklahoma, the family expects to arrive in Wrangell just after the middle of July.

One for the books

John Buness holds up the 31.1 pound fish that won him the fourth and final weekly prize in Wrangell's King Salmon Derby. All wrapped up, the competition's award night is set for this evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Nolan Center, where over \$30,000 in cash and prizes will be distributed. The year was one for the books, with the winning fish weighing in at over 64 pounds – the largest in 43 years and the first one over 60 pounds since 1986. The winner, Washington resident Gary Smart, has opted to donate back his \$6,000 prize money. Bumped down the line, the sizable pot will go instead to teenager Andrew Rowland, one of the three anglers with Smart when his fish was caught, and who himself caught a 41.9-pounder off Found Island.



John F. Kennedy Arts Center's Partners in Education program, Johnson O'Malley and the Oklahoma State School Board Association. That involvement is something she wishes to continue doing in Wrangell.

"We really like to be involved with our community and our church," she said.

She expressed her excitement at the opportunity to work with WPSD and its parents, staff and students. "Through a close and collegial partnership, I am confi-

dent that we can continue to create a successful learning environment for all Wrangell students," Taylor said. "Together we will succeed."

Death Notice

Shannan Lee Phillips passed away on June 2, 2017. Services will be held at Harbor Light Assembly Of God, Friday, June 30 at 3 pm. Full obituary to follow.

| FINAL: 2017 King Salmon Derby Ladder - Wrangell, Alaska | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Name: | Weight: | Location: | Date: |
| 1. | Gary Smart (Donated back) | 64.1 | Found Island | 5-24-17 |
| 2. | Andrew Rowland (\$6000) | 41.9 | Found Island | 5-24-17 |
| 3. | Greg Blair (\$4000) | 39.5 | The Mill | 5-27-17 |
| 4. | Randy Easterly (\$2000) | 35.7 | Babbler | 5-15-17 |
| 5. | James Rowland (\$1000) | 35.4 | Aarons Creek | 5-27-17 |
| 6. | Brennon Eagle | 34.6 | Ferry Terminal | 5-24-17 |
| 7. | Jodie Guggenbickler | 34.2 | Black Can | 6-3-17 |
| 8. | Jack Kvale | 33.9 | Front of town | 5-20-17 |
| 9. | Luella Knapp | 32.8 | Found Island | 5-25-17 |
| 10. | Travis Bangs | 32.0 | Babbler | 5-21-17 |
| \$500 WEEK 1 (May 13 th - 19 th) WINNER: Randy Easterly | | | | |
| \$500 WEEK 2 (May 20 th - 26 th) WINNER: Andrew Rowland | | | | |
| \$2500 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (May 27 th - 29 th): Greg Blair | | | | |
| \$500 WEEK 3 (May 30 th - June 4 th): Jodie Guggenbickler | | | | |
| \$500 WEEK 4 (June 5 th - June 11 th): John Buness (31.1) | | | | |
| SALMON DERBY SILVER BRACELET WINNER: Jodie Guggenbickler | | | | |




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WATER SAVING TIPS!

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WRANGELL! Crabbing starts on Thursday, June 15th, followed by gillnetting the following week. And the season of seafood processing begins! PLEASE, it is important to USE WATER WISELY! Reduce your water usage where you can and conserve where possible so we do not find ourselves in an emergency water situation! Regular updates on the status of water production and storage will be provided to the public throughout the summer season. Publish: June 15, 2017

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2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$67
First Class.....\$96

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FY18 budget approved, scrap drive set for next week

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At Tuesday evening's meeting of the City and Borough Assembly, the operating budget for the new year was adopted.

The fiscal year begins July 1, and for the coming year will use about \$457,311 in previous-year surpluses to cover the difference between revenues and expenditures. A number of critical capital expense items have made the borough's list of priorities this year, including exterior repairs to the Public Safety Building and swimming pool, and acquisition of a new excavator for the waste transfer facility.

Property tax rates will remain the same at 12.75 mills, and no increases or reductions are expected either to permanent staff levels or operating hours.

One additional capital item was requested, the extension of water and sewer service to a couple of lease lots on the eastern side of the Marine Service Center. The item was brought forward by contractor Don

Sorric, owner of Superior Marine Services and holder of Lot 7.

Winning the bid for that lot in 2013 and holding it since January 2014, Sorric has long been trying to get utilities extended to the welding shop and office space he constructed there. It was his understanding lots would be provided with water and sewer access, which drove the course of his investments. He estimates around \$250,000 have gone into the building itself, with considerably more than that in equipment and other materials.

While he has met with a number of city officials, Port Commission members and Public Works staff over the past three years, Sorric expressed some frustration with the lack of progress. He said he understood the logistical challenges: Public Works estimates extending a main connection to his lot from Front Street would run into the ballpark of \$110,000.

"I've tried to be patient," Sorric told the Assembly. His main anxiety is fire safety, a concern he said is shared by his neighbors. Being a welding shop, Sorric said the threat of a fire occurring was "not a matter of if, but when," and that his business was "operating on borrowed time" despite the presence of an emergency cistern and extinguishers on site.

Superior Marine experienced a fire at its covered work area on the yard's western side back in March, causing significant damage. "We had hoses at the other fire," he recounted. At the welding shop, in contrast, the nearest connection was around 300 feet away. "If we had a problem over there, it

puts a lot of people in jeopardy. ... What you really need when you're doing our kind of work is you need unlimited water."

Assembly member Mark Mitchell was supportive of the recommendation. "I believe Don is well within his right to ask these questions," he said. "I think we need to do everything we can."

The Assembly also adopted in a unanimous motion revised sections to city code providing for emergency water conservation measures, enabling the potential installation of meters for residential and commercial users, and updating the fine schedule to suit these.

Mitchell also initiated conversation for potential action later, which would change code to allow residents to exempt themselves from the requirement to maintain city water connections where available. With the city concerned about water production and scarcity, he felt it would be of benefit to allow residents to supply their own sources if they wanted.

"It makes absolutely no sense to force somebody to hook up to the water if they already have a source of water," he commented. Per state requirements, residences would still need to remain connected to the municipal sewage system.

In solid waste matters, Public Works head Amber Al-Haddad reported residents have a window to remove junk vehicles and ferrous scrap from the island next week. From Tuesday through Saturday, Channel Construction of Juneau will be conveying such materials from the waste transfer facility over to the barge

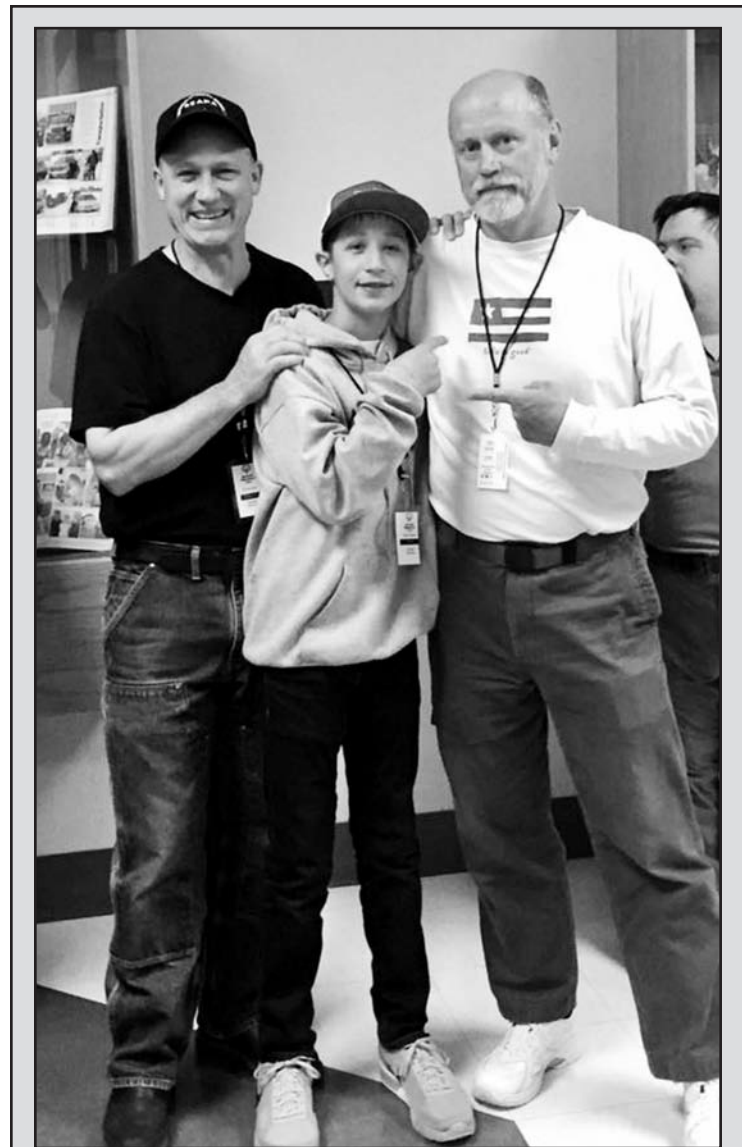


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY HOLLY HAMMER

Bringing home the gold

Along with father Clay (at left) and coach Bruce McQueen (at right), Carter Hammer attends the 2017 Alaska Special Olympics in Anchorage last weekend. A swimmer, Hammer brought home three gold medals from Saturday and Sunday's events, winning the 25-meter, 50m and 100m races. Hammer also rounded out a four-person team from the MatSu area in their 25-yard relay. He was welcomed back Monday by friends and teammates in the Wrangell Swim Club.

ramp, across from City Hall. From there the firm will load up a barge for repurposing elsewhere.

"They are going to be hauling all of that metal through downtown," Al-Haddad pointed out. To help keep streets safe

during that process, city staff will help direct traffic.

Residents are advised to bring in any unwanted vehicles to the municipal dump ahead of time this week. Before bringing in unwanted jalopies, they are reminded to make sure all tires are off, fluids drained, and titles ready to be presented. Otherwise Channel will be unable to take them.

Hours at the municipal dump will be affected during the week, trimming down Tuesday through Saturday to 2 to 4 p.m. Curbside trash pickup will still continue as regularly scheduled. Those with questions can call Public Works at 874-3904.

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Assembly rejects union offer, strike a possibility

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly rejected a last best offer on terms for a new collective bargaining agreement put forward by its public employees' union.

Negotiators with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 arrived in Wrangell last week to meet with members of the bargaining unit ahead of a special meeting June 8. Meeting with most of the Borough Assembly, an offer package was put forward for their consideration.

The city negotiating team and IBEW bargaining unit have been at odds over the terms of a new CBA since the previous agreement expired at the end of June 2014.

Negotiations turned fractious last year as both parties pursued legal action against one another over whether the city could be compelled to arbitrate an agreement. Arbitration involves use of a third party to render a decision in an ongoing dispute, sometimes binding depending on the terms agreed upon. Wrangell contended it could not be legally compelled to binding arbitration, a perspective the courts took last September.

In December 2016 the city and union abandoned legal action against one another, agreeing in a settlement conference not to pursue a motion to compel arbitration in the ongoing dispute. As per their agreement, all claims and counterclaims that could have been brought by the union, the city and their proposed arbitrator were dismissed permanently. Negotiations on a new CBA would continue, but language in the agreement gave the union a unique opportunity to pitch its last best offer directly to the Assembly if both parties again reached an impasse.

That point was finally reached last week, with union representatives rejecting a last best offer put forward by the city on June 7, and the city likewise rejecting its offer the

next morning. That offer was what was put forward for consideration by the Assembly during the June 8 meeting.

Up to this point the elected body has been removed from negotiations, which has been led by the city manager's office. Borough attorney Bob Blasco explained the situation of a direct offer was thus a unique one. "As far as we know, it's never happened before," he said. "We're just creating this procedure as it is."

In last week's presentation, IBEW could submit its terms to the Assembly without the input or opinions of former manager Jeff Jabusch, finance director Lee Burgess, or any other staff member involved in negotiating an agreement.

The meeting chambers at City Hall felt fairly stuffy as at least half of the city's 24 represented employees sat in on discussions, along with city staff members, lawyers and other representatives. An overview of the offer was presented by Serena Green, IBEW's associate general counsel.

The union's offer had conceded to the city's position on a couple of points, importantly on health care cost sharing. Due to a sharp rise in insurance costs in recent years, the Assembly last year passed a resolution which would require all city employees to cover 15 percent of their own premium costs. A proposal to reduce that to 10 percent for those partaking in an approved wellness program was scrapped after learning insurer Premera would no longer be offering such discounts to municipalities.

Green made the case that the copay requirement was problematic for represented workers, who have not been offered a corresponding raise in pay. Unionized employees are currently on a tiered system dependent on hire date, with the newer employees already covering a larger proportion of premium costs for spouses and children than longer-serving coworkers.

One lower-tier employee, Lorne Cook,

explained costs for his family were already such that he was having to consider opting out of coverage altogether if the additional copay for himself went through.

"We're not going to do it without a corresponding wage increase," Green said.

What the union proposed was a \$2.50 hourly pay increase across the board to adjust to the increased copayments. Additionally, the union asserts that Wrangell's public employees are relatively underpaid compared to other municipalities, school district employees, and even non-union city staff. To address this, IBEW's offer included a refiguring of the current pay scale, eliminating the bottom six steps on the wage and grade table while adding three additional ones to the top. All steps would instead reflect a two-percent cost-of-living adjustment, rather than a three-percent increase currently in place between those first six steps. This would help account for increased payments for health coverage for existing employees, while also making public positions more competitive for new hires.

Three of the bargaining unit's 24 members are already at the top of the pay scale, and so no longer receive COLA in their salaries. Since the end of the previous CBA three years ago their salaries have essentially been locked in place, and as with other employees an uncompensated increase in premium copay would be seen as a cut.

"What we're asking for is not to lose ground," said Mark Armstrong, a line foreman and public employee for most of the years since 1994. "I understand things are difficult for the city, but it's not any different at my house. Insurance is killing everybody."

Green recommended the Assembly accept the union's offer, which with the exception of the wage increases is in accord with the city's last best offer. She offered as a concession that pay increases would not apply retroactively, which Green explained

is common in such negotiations.

Assembly members were allowed to ask strictly factual questions of Burgess, Blasco and Jabusch about the offer. Burgess explained full costs would be difficult to project, but estimated the pay increase would amount to an additional \$368,000 over three years, only about half of which would be offset by the added savings to health premiums. These rough projections come with a few assumptions, such as rates and staffing remaining static.

Taking about an hour in executive session with Blasco, the Assembly members present came back with a partial acceptance of the offer. In his motion to approve, Stephen Prysunka explained more work would be needed on the issue of wages.

"This was really a difficult thing for us to do," he admitted. The Assembly voted 4-0 in favor.

The partial acceptance was effectively a rejection of the offer, which was presented as a complete package. "It's a package deal," Green noted.

On Friday IBEW reps informed the borough it considered the decision as a rejection, sending a new proposal for review on Friday. A counterproposal agreeing to a 75-cent wage increase was rejected by the bargaining team, but affected Wrangell employees will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal this week, or a better offer should one arise.

Green explained that if they choose to reject the latest offer, there is the possibility a strike could follow. To her knowledge, Wrangell's public workers have never taken such a step. The 24 currently represented work in various utilities, from electricity and water to harbors and waste management.

"It's important enough that the employees feel frustrated," Green explained at the meeting. "They also feel undervalued." She said they were still waiting to hear from the city on a new offer in the meantime.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sonar Cabin Replacement project, which proposes to authorize construction of a new cabin to replace an original cabin used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for salmon monitoring. The cabin site is about 20 miles northeast of Wrangell, Alaska on the lower Stikine River within the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness. The Responsible Official for this project is: Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester, Alaska Region of the Forest Service, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628, (907) 586-8775.

The EA is available for review at the Wrangell Ranger District and on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47136>. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from: Robert Dalrymple, District Ranger, 525 Bennett Street, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929, (907) 874-2323, rdalrymple@fs.fed.us.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the *Juneau Empire*, the newspaper of record for the Alaska Regional Forester. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to: Robert Dalrymple, Wrangell District Ranger, P.O. Box 51, 525 Bennett Street, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929, fax number (907) 874-7595, or email comments-alaska-tongass-wrangell@fs.fed.us (note "Sonar Cabin Replacement" in the subject line). Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Publish Date: June 15, 2017

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL:
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LEGAL NOTICE

Southeast Alaska Regional Healthcare Consortium (SEARHC) is requesting separate bids for the following scopes of work described here for its AISCs Clinic Curb and Paving Project in Wrangell AK. Offerors have the discretion to submit on either Phase or both:

- **Phase 1:** Concrete work including minor excavation w/ backfill and compaction, construction of curb and gutter, and concrete collars for protection of existing lamp posts.

- **Phase 2:** Paving including fine grading and Installation of Asphalt Concrete Paving for the clinic. Phase 2 also includes Additive Alternate #1 for the fine grading and installation of asphalt concrete paving for the clinic access road.

The Contractor shall be responsible for any local permits required for their scope of work.

Qualified Bidders are invited to submit qualifications and bids for furnishing all labor, equipment and materials for performing the work as described by the construction documents. Detailed Bid Instructions and Construction Documents will be e-mailed to interested bidders upon e-mail request to dave@northwindarch.com.

Proposals are due at **4:00 pm AST on Wednesday June 21st, 2017**. Bids may be physically delivered to **Northwind Architects, 126 Seward St., Juneau, AK** or emailed to dave@northwindarch.com. All Bids must be received prior to the date and time stated. Bids must be on the form included herein and sealed if hard copies are submitted.

Published: June 15, 2017

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

ADF&G analyzing the impacts of a government shutdown on fisheries, as well as hunting

Want a fishing license to crew on a salmon boat this summer? Got friends or family visiting who want to wet a line for a prized Alaska catch? Don't count on it.

If the Alaska legislature continues to defy its constitutional obligation to pass a budget, those opportunities will be lost because there won't be any state workers to issue fishing licenses. Layoff notices went out on June 1 to thousands of state employees who will be off the job at the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

That's just one of the lesser impacts of the legislative impasse, hundreds of which are now being outlined by the governor and state agencies as the deadline approaches.

Here's an overview of potential fishery related impacts from various divisions:

The Commercial Fisheries Division, which receives nearly all its management money from the state general fund, will be hit the hardest. The budget deadlock would bring all state fisheries to a screeching halt, and thousands of processing workers who live in or come to Alaska each summer would suddenly find themselves out of a job.

The biggest punch, of course, would be felt by the salmon fisheries - and the harm could extend well beyond this year.

Field staff at remote weirs, towers and salmon sonar counting projects from Southeast to Kotzebue will be pulled, said Scott Kelley, division director with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

"A ballpark count is 40-50 projects for commercial fisheries. That doesn't include projects operated by Sport Fish which are oftentimes equally important for overall salmon assessment, as well as aerial and foot surveys," he said.

The stall means that managers' ability to forecast future

salmon escapement goals and collect other critical data also would be significantly compromised.

Cancelled harvests also could force too many salmon to head upstream and exceed the carrying capacity of food and oxygen in their home lakes or streams.

"That entirely depends on the strength of a given run," Kelley explained. "In rearing limited systems, where the more spawners we put in the more fry we get, we could see significant impacts in terms of future yields. If we put a big number of sockeye into a system above the upper end of an escapement goal, the result could be reduced yield when that brood year returns over 3 to 5 years. If there are more fry than feed, they could have reduced in-lake survival, reduced marine survival because they leave freshwater smaller and less fit than normal. Prey densities also take a hit and take a while to recover."

"This is not a conservation issue, but can be a yield issue," Kelley added.

Insufficient sampling also could hinder assessment of the state's performance for Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations with Canada, ADF&G's ability to manage allocations set by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the International Pacific Halibut Commission's stock assessment program.

A shutdown will threaten annual production of 4.5 million salmon, rainbow trout and Arctic char at Alaska's two state-owned hatcheries, and prevent the collection of Chinook and Coho broodstock. It could take up to four years to rebuild that mature stock needed to sustain future generations.

The Dept. of Fish and Game's three patrol vessels and skiffs will be tied up.

Also halted effective July

2 would be issuance of Title 16 land and water use permits by the Division of Habitat that protect fish and wildlife areas. Similarly, the Dept. of Natural resources will be forced to delay issuing various permits and authorizations.

Say so long to subsistence harvest surveys done by the Division of Subsistence, and support to the Board of Fisheries and advisory committees. The issuance of subsistence and drawing permits could be delayed, interrupted or even not issued.

The budget impasse would delay or prevent fish cargo shipments. The Dept. of Transportation will tie up all 11 state ferries, meaning no passenger service and no fish transports to awaiting mainland customers. Likewise, many state airports will operate with reduced hours, preventing fish from getting delivered to buyers in a timely manner.

Core services by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation will be suspended, including testing for shellfish paralytic shellfish poison, air and water monitoring and permitting and inspections.

In a June 9 press release ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten said that the department is working with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Law to analyze the impacts of a shutdown

on the commercial, subsistence, personal use and sport fisheries, as well as hunting seasons.

Cotten said the programs and services at ADF&G will continue on their normal course through the month of June.

Fish watch - Many fisheries besides salmon are underway or gearing up.

Lots of cod fishing is going on at Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak and regions further west.

Southeast Alaska's summer Dungeness season begins on June 15. Several million pounds usually come out of that fishery.

In the Bering Sea, the summer season for Alaska pollock opens on June 10, and fishing for cod, flounders and many other kinds of whitefish continues.

Alaska halibut catches have topped seven million pounds with Kodiak the leading port, followed by Seward and Homer at a distant third.

Sablefish catches have reached 9.5 million pounds with Seward and Sitka leading all other ports.

The year's first red king crab should kick off in late June at Norton Sound. The catch is usually near half a million pounds.

The final wrap of the state's largest roe herring fishery at Togiak shows that just under 16,000 tons was taken, about 10 tons under the quota. An

advance price of \$100 per ton puts the fishery value at about \$1.75 million at the docks.

Stay stable - Fishing boats rock and roll, pitch, yaw, surge, sway and heave. A new iPhone app helps skippers respond to the movements as they navigate rough seas in tough weather. It is called SCraMP - for Small Craft Motion Program, and it has a variety of tools for boat operators.

"There is a view that gives them the accelerations they've seen so they can have a sense of how bad they are being beat up. There is a screen that will tell them how severe their roll motions have been, and a screen that gives them a choice of three different warning metrics and fishermen can plug in numbers they feel comfortable with," said app creator Leigh McCue, a professor at Virginia Tech's Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

She said stability indicators have been talked about for years, but prototypes were too bulky or expensive. McCue said she realized a few years ago that Smart Phones had all the computing power that was needed and fishermen's input helped her hone the app to their needs. It's also useful for large vessels.

The SCraMP app can be customized to each vessel and downloaded for free or visit www.vesseldynamics.com/

Residents asked to conserve power during diesel run

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The city's annual switch-over to diesel power is scheduled to begin next week, lasting just under two weeks.

Electrical superintendent Clay Hammer explained the temporary transition is to allow Southeast Alaska Power Agency - a utility providing hydroelectric power to the communities of Wrangell, Ketchikan and Petersburg - to undertake maintenance projects on its infrastructure. While those lines are down, it falls on municipalities to generate their own power during the interim, with Wrangell Municipal Light and Power firing up its diesel generators. The shutdown is scheduled to begin on Monday, continuing through June 30.

As fuel for the generators runs at a higher cost than that generated at the Swan and Tye facilities, utility users can expect to see a diesel surcharge on their electrical bills. To lessen overall costs, WMLP recommends that homeowners be mindful of how much electricity they use. The diesel run occurs just before seafood production picks up for the summer and when the days are at their longest for the year, both advantageous to that end.

To keep the run at the forefront of residents' minds, Hammer said his department will be partnering with radio station KSTK with daily updates on the borough's power usage, as

well as the progress of SEAPA's ongoing maintenance.

Last year SEAPA staff had their hands full with a project to raise the level of Swan Lake's dam, with a number of system wide maintenance projects and the corresponding diesel run deferred for the summer. "Now they've got to double up on that this year," Hammer explained.

Among the agency's projects will be marker ball placement along the southern Tye line, an at times harrowing job that requires use of helicopters and being comfortable with heights.

"It's not for the faint at heart," Hammer commented.

Wrangell's utility workers will meanwhile be focused on running the generators at the power house, diverted from their own ongoing projects. Work on replacing the poles and resetting the lines along Cow Alley are about complete. A line crew has been working on shifting the lines over to new poles, with telecommunications companies to reset their own lines soon.

"It's really coming along," said Hammer.

In-house work and cooperation on the part of homeowners along the alley have made the project run more smoothly, he added, and a considerable savings - perhaps up to \$100,000, compared to engineering estimates - is anticipated by its end. Once the telecom lines have been taken down from the old poles, Hammer said his staff will begin removing them from the alley.



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Boat race to make some waves this Fourth of July

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

An updated schedule for next month's Independence Day festivities was put out this week by Wrangell's Chamber of Commerce.

The big change in this year's lineup will be the return of boat racing, after a dry spell of nearly three decades.

Heading up the organization of that effort were Penny Allen and Clay Hammer, who with Jay Einert and John Waddington figured out what needed to be done to get the event back into the water. Routes have been plotted out, rules drawn up and insurance secured for the races, which so far will see five different classes of craft competing. Arrangements have been made with the United States Coast Guard to ensure safety for participants and spectators both.

"We're trying to make it as safe as we can," said Allen. The event was previously shelved after a serious mishap, but growing interest in recent years has prompted its return. "It's been a long time since we've had boat races, and it's been a big draw."

A full list of rules and events – which will include a GPS loop, jet boat slalom and straightaway race – can be found on the Chamber website at www.wrangellchamber.org/2017-boat-races.html, along with registration details and times. Spectators are invited to watch from the main dock and surrounding shoreline the afternoon of July 4 at 3:30.

The first such race in a long time, Allen said the event committee will be looking for feedback to see what worked, what might be added, and how to improve on the experience in future years. "We tried to put in as much as we could. Eventually we want to start adding in more classes."

Also making waves will be the rescheduling of the fireworks display to July 3. With the Fourth falling on a Tuesday this year, the holiday's

events will span out over a five-day extended weekend. At the request of the Volunteer Fire Department, the holiday's indispensable pyrotechnic display will be held that Monday evening starting at 11 p.m. and spill into early Tuesday morning.

Everything begins on Saturday, July 1, with a "color run" sponsored by the Wrangell Medical Center's long-term care program kicking off at 9:30 a.m. with sign-up an hour before. Participants are asked to wear a white shirt for the dousing.

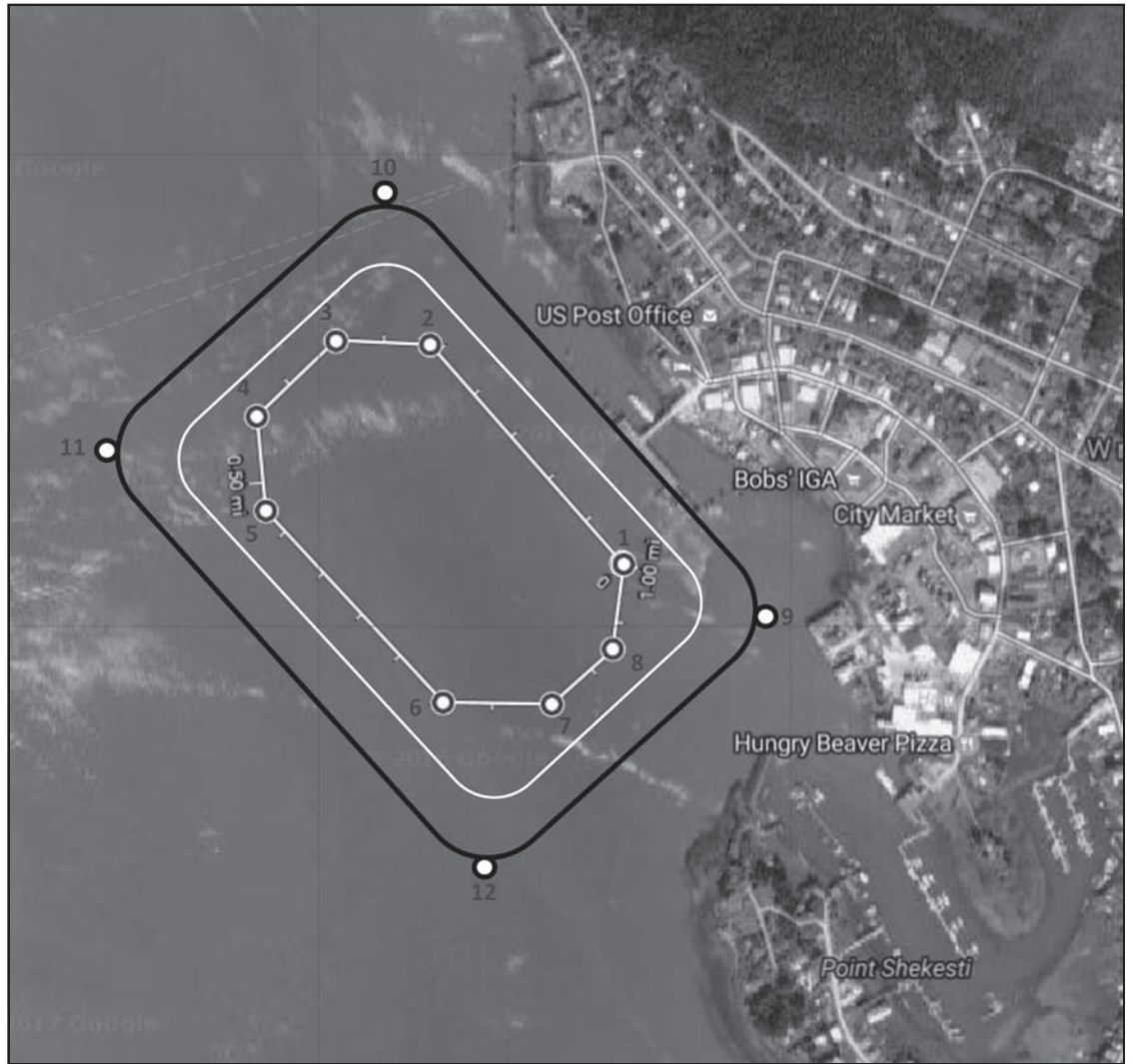
A community market will take place at the Nolan Center from 10 a.m. to noon, coinciding with the start of the 3rd annual Red, White and Blue Fair. Art exhibits need to be submitted by June 29th, with judging to take place the following day. The gallery will be open to the public Saturday and Monday.

Still on Saturday, children ages three to six can burn rubber at the city dock turnaround in the Big Wheel Races. Divided into classes of age and gender, the kids can compete for cash prizes.

July 2 will be another busy day, with the Tiny Tots Scrap Fish Derby held at the dockside summer floats for kids up to five years old. Starting at 11 a.m., participants are asked to bring their own bait, hand lines only. Prizes will be available for the young anglers. Just afterward, at 1 p.m. slightly older children can compete in the Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby.

A "welcome home picnic" for visiting friends and family will be held at Shoemaker Park from 5 to 9 p.m., with a pudding pie eating contest to coincide. The Luke Shuman Band will begin its extended gig over the weekend with a show at Rayme's Bar at 9 p.m. The band will also play down at the dock ahead of Monday evening's firework display.

A number of tournaments



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

The map shows the course of the GPS race in waters just out from Wrangell's main dock. The circuit will be one of five different races scheduled for July 4, allowing for a variety of vessels to compete for the first time in several decades.

and competitions mark Monday's festivities. A three-on-three basketball tournament for middle and high schoolers will be held at the community center at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. Firearms and ammo will be provided at the gun range for a target competition at the firing range, also beginning at 10 a.m.

Back at the summer dock, the annual greased pole competition begins at 11 a.m., followed by canoe racing and the Crazy Craft Race at 1 and 3 p.m. A talent show featuring Wrangell's wearable artwork will take place at the Nolan Center at 6:30 p.m., followed by the biggest competition of the weekend, with the 2017 Royal Court coronation at 8 p.m.

On July 4 itself, a slew of

events take up its own page on the calendar, which is currently available online at the Chamber website. This year's parade begins at 11 a.m., with the theme "Making Waves."

"Making Waves' is honoring our bringing back the boat races," Chamber executive director Cyni Crary explained. An armada of floats will be assembled by various families, churches, business and groups, to gather on Campbell Drive at 9:30 a.m.

The Royalty ticket drawing will take place in front of the Nolan Center after the parade, with first through fourth prizes garnering \$5,000, \$4,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 this year. Meanwhile, a variety of food items, rides, street games and the Chuck Oliver Logging Show will fill

out the day, followed by the Sonny Wigg Log Rolling at 5 p.m. and the annual street dance at 8 p.m.

Finally, ending the weekend on July 5 will be a welcome potluck and picnic for Wrangell's retired teachers and staff at Shoemaker Park, from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone's invited to bring a dish and say hello to a former teacher.

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