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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Tulley to step down as Evergreen Elementary principal

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Virginia Tulley moved to Wrangell in late July of 2018, ready to take on her new position as principal of Evergreen Elementary School. Coming from Arizona, Tulley has worked in a variety of teaching po-

sitions before the move to Alaska. Coming here was a bit of an adventure for her.

"I always wanted to live in Alaska," Tulley said to the *Sentinel*, back in July. "I don't know my specific reason other than I wanted to explore."

After one school year as principal, however, Tulley

decided to put in her resignation. Her resignation letter was accepted by the Wrangell School Board in their meeting on April 15. Tulley said that she will finish up her contract through the end of the school year, but afterwards plans to move back to Arizona. It is a decision she has been pondering since February, she said. There were some unspecified medical reasons, she said, but the main reason she decided to leave was because she missed her family. One of her children is graduating from college this week, she said, and other family events she has missed out on have made her want to return to Arizona.

"My kids are wanting me to come home, I'm up here by myself," she said. "Even though I've made friends here, some great friends, I miss my family. My grandkids are growing and I feel like I'm not part of their lives anymore."

As much as she misses her family, Tulley said she is still sad to leave. The hospitality she has received from Wrangell has been incredible, she said. Working alongside Superintendent Debbe Lancaster and Secondary School Principal David Macri was a good experience, too. The three of them made a good team, she said.

Lancaster said that it was with a heavy heart she was letting Tulley go. She was a great fit for the principal role at the elementary school, she said, and also a good friend. Lancaster said she plans to visit Tulley in Arizona later on in the summer, and Tulley added that she definitely plans to come back and visit Wrangell someday.

"I just want to say how much I have, from the time I came off the ferry, I have been welcomed by the community," Tulley said. "I really feel like I've established some close friendships and I am going to miss this beautiful place, I will miss it."



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wrangell Superintendent Debbe Lancaster (left) and Evergreen Elementary Principal Virginia Tulley (right). Tulley turned in her letter of resignation after one year as principal in Wrangell, citing missing her family and unspecified medical issues as her reasons.

Alaska Raptor Center visits for Birdfest

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Alaska Raptor Center is a Sitka-based rehabilitation center that cares for sick or injured birds. The Center cares for raptors, primarily, such as eagles, hawks, and owls. However, according to their website, they will care for "any bird in need." As a part of the Stikine River Birding Festival, two human and two avian representatives of the organization came to Wrangell to teach people about Alaska's raptors.

Raptors have several distinct characteristics from other types of birds. These characteristics include curved beaks and sharp talons, and powerful neck muscles for tearing away meat, and incredibly keen eyesight. A raptor's diet is largely carnivorous, while other species of birds rely on different sources of food.

"They're not a genetically separated group," said Sheila Swanberg. "They're separated from other birds by characteristics that they share."

Jennifer Cedarleaf and Swanberg gave a presentation at Evergreen Elementary school last weekend with Glaucus, a barred owl and Sophie, an American kestrel. Glaucus came to the Raptor Center from Ten-

nessee, where she was found with an injured wing from her nest tree being cut down. Her wing did not develop properly, so she is only able to fly short distances. Sophie was found in Washington, as a nestling unable to fly. She has an extra toe due to a genetic deformity, and cannot fully extend her wings. Cedarleaf said that they are not certain about what caused Sophie's deformity, but she thinks it had something to do with pesticides.

"I suspect she has these deformities due to pesticides that were on the field," she said. "Kestrels are having a lot of problems with pesticides these days. They're having a big population decline because they're eating insects, insects are big part of their diet, and insects are affected by the pesticides."

Both birds are about eight years old, and have been with the Raptor Center since 2011. While they were not born in the area, both species can be found in Alaska. Barred owls used to only be found in the Rocky Mountains, but the species has migrated to Alaska and taken up a spot in the food chain that was once occupied by the spotted owl. According to the Alaska Raptor Center's website,

barred owls tend to inhabit "wooded swamps, deep moist forests, and woodlands near waterways," which makes Southeast Alaska a very nice territory for them.

"There's 10 species [of owls] in Alaska," said Cedarleaf. "I would say we get about six out of the 10 species that live here year-round."

The American kestrel, North America's smallest breed of falcon, prefers more open areas to live. They tend to nest in tree cavities along roadways, bodies of water, or along the edge of the forest. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, kestrels do not live in Alaska year-round, but will migrate to the area around the spring and summer.

Besides their habitat and food habits, the Raptor Center representatives also shared some interesting facts about both species of birds. Barred owls, for example, have 14 vertebrae in their necks, compared to seven vertebrae in a human's neck. This allows owls to turn their necks so far around, as many owls are known for. American Kestrels, while being the smallest falcon in North America, are also the most common. They tend to eat insects



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jennifer Cedarleaf stopped by Evergreen Elementary School last week with Glaucus and Sophie, a Barred Owl and American Kestrel. Swanberg and Cedarleaf work with the Alaska Raptor Center, a Sitka-based rehabilitation center for sick or injured birds. The Center primarily cares for raptors, such as eagles, owls, and hawks, but according to their website they will help "any bird in need." They came to Wrangell as a part of Birdfest, to educate the public about Alaska's wide variety of raptors.

and small rodents, but will also go after small birds and reptiles, and occasionally amphibians.

More about the Alaska Raptor Center can be found at www.alaskaraptor.org.

Vierkant wins four Alaska Press Club awards

Wrangell Sentinel's news editor Caleb Vierkant won four awards from the Alaska Press Club for his work in 2018.

For business reporting he placed first with the story about the end of the cruise ship season. He earned another second place with his story about a Supreme Court ruling on a local property dispute in the crime and court reporting category.

For reporting on health he placed third with the story about staying healthy for the school year and another third place for best profile for his coverage of Jessica Whitaker's retirement as Lady Wolves volleyball coach.

The awards were announced at the Press Club's banquet in Anchorage this past weekend.

Ron Loesch, publisher of the Wrangell Sentinel, earned one award for news coverage of crime and courts, while Brian Varela brought home awards for culture reporting, business reporting and general reporting.

Freelance photographers Carli Byrer and John Havrilek won awards for best scenic photos.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc., (SSRAA), is soliciting bids from interested parties to conduct transport operations for the spring of 2020 season to tender live fry from SSRAA hatcheries to SSRAA remote release sites located in southern Southeast Alaska. Bids will be accepted until June 1, 2019 at 4:00 pm. For more information go to www.ssraa.org or call 225-9605.

Published: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2019

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska REVISED - BUDGET WORK SESSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly and City Administration will be holding four (4) Work Sessions in the Borough Assembly Chambers to discuss the following item:

FY 2019-20 Budget

Dates and times are:

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2, 2019 *to be held, immediately following the Special Assembly mtg (which will be held at 5:30 p.m.)*

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

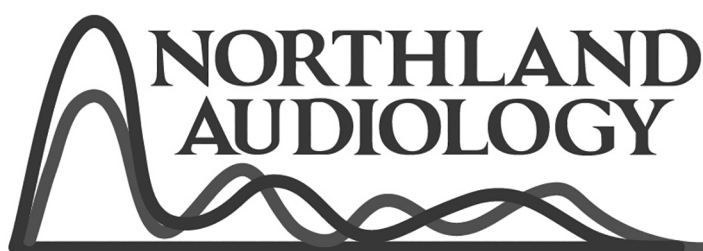
Thursday, May 9, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Although there will be a quorum of the Borough Assembly present, there will be no action taken.

The public is welcome to attend.

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

Publish: May 2, 2019



& Hearing Services

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June 10th - 11th

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Birds the star of the show at open mic night

Dan Willis performed at last week's open mic night. Going along with the bird theme of the evening, he played a song on the trumpet, which he said was inspired by the Hermit Thrush.

Golf Roundup

Angerman's Inc. sponsored golf tournaments, the first of the year, on April 27 and 28.

There were 16 participants in Saturday's tournament. First place went to a team composed of Eric Koding, Tyler Eagle, Dwight Nancy and Mick Andrews with a net score of 19 and team handicap of 16. Second place went to Rocky Littleton,

Marva Reid, Rodney Littleton, and Jim Brooks with a net score of 21 and a handicap of 13. Lloyd Word had the straightest drive of the day at 14 inches.

Sunday's tournament saw 20 participants. First place went to the team composed of Rocky Littleton, Rodney Littleton, Ken Madsen and Jim Brooks, with a net score of 18 and a team hand-

icap of 14. Second place went to Eric Kading, Tyler Eagle, Wayne Harding, and Faye Kohrt with a score of 21 and handicap of 16. Brian Smith had the straightest drive of the day at eight inches. Rodney Littleton was closest to the pin at 23 feet and 3.5 inches.

There will be an annual meeting at the Elks Lodge on May 2, at 7 p.m.

Wrangell IGA will be sponsoring next weekend's tournament, on May 4 and 5. Those wishing to participate are asked to sign up no later than 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, with the tournament starting at 10 a.m. They will hold their annual dinner and auction on May 5, from 5 to 8 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc., (SSRAA), is soliciting bids from interested parties to conduct rearing operations for the spring of 2020 season at its McLean Arm rearing site located in southern Southeast Alaska. Bids will be accepted until June 1, 2019 at 4:00 pm. For more information go to www.ssraa.org or call 225-9605.

Published: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2019

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB BULLETIN

Facilities Maintenance Specialist Lead Capital Facilities Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for a Facilities Maintenance Specialist Lead. This is a full-time, benefited position, paid at Grade 23 ranging from \$28.55 - \$36.00 per hour. This position is part of the IBEW collective bargaining agreement.

The Facilities Maintenance Specialist Lead is a supervisory position responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of all Borough-owned facilities. Applicants must meet the qualifications of the position listed in the job description. The full job description and employment application can be found online at www.wrangell.com/jobs.

To be considered, a cover letter, resume, and a completed employment application must be submitted to Aleisha Mollen either by e-mail to amollen@wrangell.com, in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, or by postal mail to PO Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Applications will be accepted until end of business May 10, 2019.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Wrangell Borough Manager

Publish: May 2 and 9, 2019

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The meetings shall be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Assembly Chambers, City Hall, Wrangell. 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 council meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk
City of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: May 2, 2019

City alters single purchase sales tax cap

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Starting April 1, according to a document from the City and Borough of Wrangell,

the cap on sales taxes for single purchases has been increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000 or above. According to Finance Director Lee Burgess,

this means that the sales tax for single purchases of \$3,000 or more are capped at seven percent of \$3,000, or \$210. Any large purchases made after

the beginning of April will have the new cap, while purchases before that date still have the old cap applied to them. Burgess emphasized that this only applies to single purchases in the amount of \$3,000 or more, such as a car or boat, and not multiple purchases that total to \$3,000 or more.

"Any purchases that were initiated after April 1 should have the new rule applied," he said.

The cap will also be computed on a monthly basis. The document provided by Wrangell gives an example to show how the altered sales tax cap will work. A customer hires a contractor to complete a job for \$5,000, which takes place over a two-month period. If the contractor completes \$4,000 of the job in the first month, the

customer will then owe the \$210 sales tax cap for that month. The final \$1,000 of work in the second month will incur \$70, or seven percent, in sales tax.

Burgess said that the city decided to raise the sales tax cap because of financial necessity. Wrangell has been taking on more and more expenses over the years, he said, in the form of wages, facilities, and other expenses. Meanwhile, the borough has also been seeing less money coming from the state government. This increase in costs and decrease in revenue meant that they needed to find some way to bring in money. Burgess said that he could not give an estimate on how much tax revenue this change will bring to Wrangell, but money is expected to come in.

"I know it'll bring in more money," he said.

Court report

April 16- Donovan Bean was brought before Judge Kevin Miller for a felony first hearing on charges of theft. His conditions of release include a \$10,000 performance cash bond and submission to Pretrial Enforcement Division searches. The trial date was set at June 25.

April 22- Donovan Bean was arraigned before Judge Kevin Miller on charges of theft. An omnibus hearing was scheduled for May 20, with a calendar call set for June 18.

Dusty Cowan was arraigned before Judge Kevin Miller on charges of online enticement of a minor and distribution of indecent materials to a minor. An omnibus hearing was scheduled for May 20, a calendar call for June 18, and a trial for June 35. His conditions of release include an \$8,000 cash performance bond, he is not to leave Wrangell without court permission, is to avoid contact with the alleged victim or their family, and to avoid contact with any minors aside from his own children, with the exception of incidental contact.

A dissolution of marriage was granted for Grace and Ian Carson.

George Stolcan came before Judge Kevin Miller to have his charge of being likely to provoke violence dismissed by prosecution.

There was a sentencing hearing for Wilson Tylor Boon, who pleaded guilty to burglary. He will serve three years incarceration, two suspended. He has also been ordered to pay restitution, and is sentenced to two years' probation. He was also found guilty of violating his conditions of release, and will serve two months' incarceration concurrent with his one year of incarceration

April 23- Judge William Carey ruled that Peter Karras is to file paperwork converting his case to legal separation by May 23 of this year, or the case will be dismissed.

April 25- Charles Goldsbury came before Judicial Officer Leanna Nash to have his charge of failure to change residence address dismissed by prosecution.

Police report

April 22, 2019

Item found: Large vinyl sign found on Front Street.
Extra patrol.
86'd Letter served.
Found property.
Scam: Criminal activity on SS#.
Citation issued: Laura Massin, 43. Speeding in a school zone.
Report of theft.
Harassment.
Alarm.

April 23, 2019

Citizen assist.
Scam.
Catering permit.

April 24, 2019

Traffic complaint.
Disturbance: Verbal only.
Subpoena service.

April 25, 2019

Theft: Unfounded.

April 26, 2019

Domestic.
Child in need.
Two civil matters.
Inmate booking: Christopher Malcom, 30. For DUI.
Citation issued: Anthony Guggenbickler, 22. Driving with license revoked.

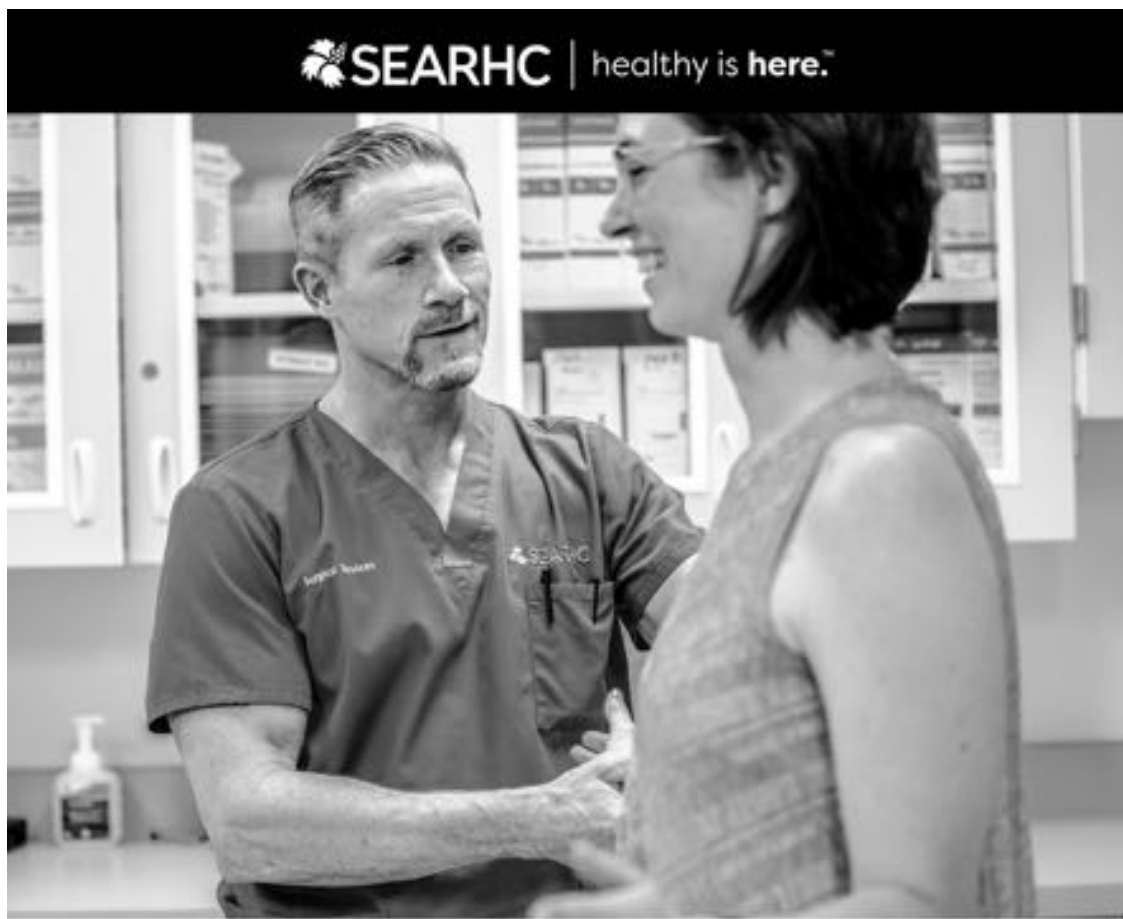
April 27, 2019

Arrested: Joel Franks, 53. Violating a protective order.
Report of no water.
Gunshots: GOA.
Citizen report of DUI.
Suspicious persons.

April 28, 2019

Citizen assist.
Traffic: Slow moving vehicle.
Gunshots: Unfounded.
Fireworks: UTL.
Threats: Caller reported being threatened.

There were two ambulance calls and one dog complaint this week.



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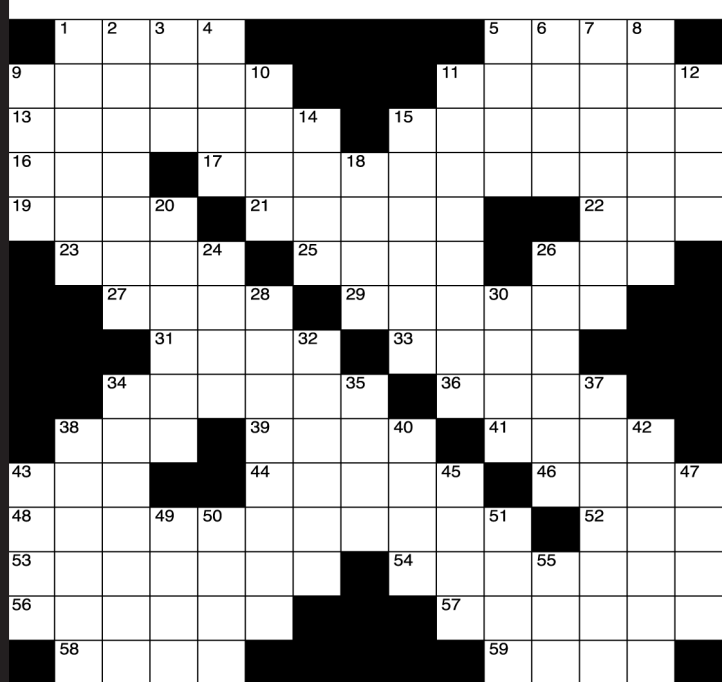
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Comics



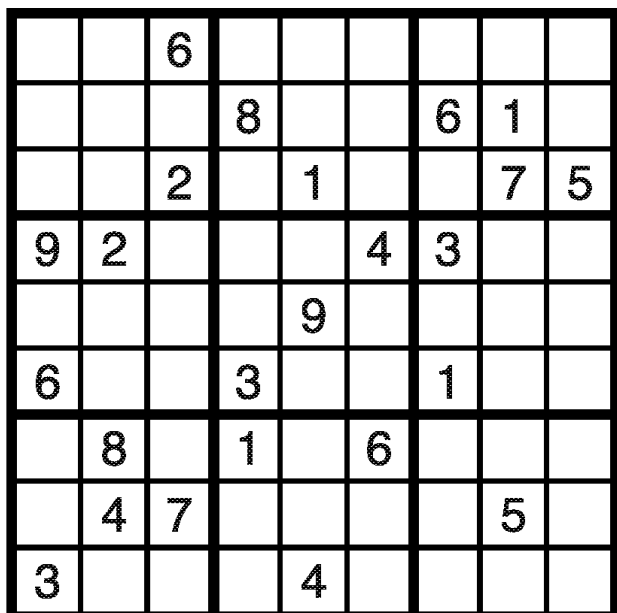
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Type of fruit | 33. Prevent from seeing |
| 5. Unit of time | 34. Disguised |
| 9. Oil company | 36. Comedian Rogen |
| 11. Benson's "partner" | 38. Afflict in mind or body |
| 13. Fictional mob boss Tony | 39. Sour |
| 15. Visual record | 41. People native to N. Mexico |
| 16. Small constellation | 43. No seats available |
| 17. Popular family TV series | 44. Ned __, composer |
| 19. Tough outer layer | 46. A fit of irritation |
| 21. Cut | 48. Ability to move objects mentally |
| 22. Vietnamese offensive | 52. Luke's mentor __-Wan |
| 23. Horizontal mine passage | 53. Herbal medicine ingredient |
| 25. Greek war god | 54. Oscar-winning director Bigelow |
| 26. Have already done | 56. Likes |
| 27. Six (Spanish) | 57. In a sound way |
| 29. Remarks for the audience | 58. Part of a staircase |
| 31. Relaxing spots | 59. Exemptions from play |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. How will it play in __? | 28. What people earn |
| 2. Grows | 30. Insect repellent |
| 3. Swiss river | 32. After first |
| 4. Canadian flyers | 34. Plays the viola |
| 5. Affirmative! (slang) | 35. Not good |
| 6. Root of taro plant | 37. Esteemed guest |
| 7. Large, long-legged rodents | 38. Where rockers ply their trade |
| 8. Recycled | 40. Office furniture |
| 9. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia | 42. Ancient Greek oracles |
| 10. Sometimes it's on you | 43. Quantitative fact |
| 11. Contrary beliefs | 45. Missing soldiers |
| 12. Remain as is | 47. Minute |
| 14. Spicy stew __ podrida | 49. This (Spanish) |
| 15. Play time | 50. Maintain possession of |
| 18. Italian monetary unit | 51. Knife |
| 20. Type of fuel | 55. What to say on New Year's Day (abbr.) |
| 24. Portable conical tent | |
| 26. Yazoo and Mississippi are two | |

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the May 9 edition

Classified/Legals

NOTICE OF UTILITY APPLICATION

The REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA (Commission) gives notice that on April 15, 2019, Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) filed an application for a new Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate). SEAPA proposes to provide wholesale power and transmission service to Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Wrangell, AK. Docket No. U-19-023 was opened to address this matter.

SEAPA is a Joint Action Agency organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alaska as an electric operating entity. The members of SEAPA are the City of Ketchikan, Petersburg Borough, and the City and Borough of Wrangell. In Commission Order No. U-17-084(6), the Commission required SEAPA to file an application for a Certificate to provide "wholesale electric public utility service from the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project, the Lake Tyee Hydroelectric Project, and the transmission line connecting these two projects."

SEAPA is a political subdivision of the state and is exempt from economic regulation pursuant AS 42.05.711(b). Economic regulation means regulation of matters concerning a utility's rates and charges, quality of service, management practices, and customer complaints. The Commission has no jurisdiction over matters that constitute economic regulation

A person who proposes to file an application to furnish the same, or substantially the same, service or facility to essentially the same service area or route, in whole or in part, thus creating the potential for mutually exclusive applications must file a notice of intent to file a competing application by May 24, 2019. The person must then file the competing application by July 23, 2019. If no notice of intent to file a competing application is filed by May 24, 2019, the Commission will proceed to grant or deny the SEAPA's application to amend its certificate in accordance with the applicable provisions of AS 42.05.221 - 42.05.281.

No motions for waiver or petitions for confidentiality were filed with this application. The Commission has not assessed the completeness of the application. The Commission may determine whether the application is complete by May 6, 2019.

You may obtain information about this application by contacting Trey Acteson, CEO of SEAPA, at 1900 First Avenue, Suite 318, Ketchikan, AK 9990; phone: (907) 228-2281. The complete filing is also available for inspection at the Commission's office at 701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501; phone: (907) 276-6222, or may be viewed at the Commission's website at <http://rca.alaska.gov> by typing Docket No. "U-19-023" in the *Find the Matter* search box.

To comment on this filing, please file your comments by 5:00 p.m., May 15, 2019, at the Commission's address given above or via our website at:

<https://rca.alaska.gov/RCAWeb/WhatsNew/PublicNoticesComments.aspx>

Please reference Docket No. U-19-023 and include a statement that you have filed a copy of the comments with Trey Acteson at the above given address.

Individuals or groups of people with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or service, or alternative communication formats, please contact Valerie Fletcher-Mitchell at (907) 276-6222; toll free (800) 390-2782; TTY/Alaska Relay: 7-1-1 or (800) 770-3973; or send a request via electronic mail to rca.mail@alaska.gov by May 8, 2019.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of April, 2019.

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA
Stephen McAlpine
Chairman

Published: May 2, 2019

Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee Notice of Meetings and Call for Project Proposals

The Wrangell-Petersburg-Kake Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will be meeting on Saturday, May 11th 2019 and Saturday, May 25th 2019. The purpose of the meetings is to review the progress of previously funded projects, review new project proposals, and make recommendations for funding of projects through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (PL 110-343).

The meetings will take place via video teleconference at the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger District Offices. The RAC will meet from 8:00am to 2:00pm, or until business is concluded on May 11th, and from 8:00am to 3:00pm or until business is concluded on May 25th. The meetings are open to the public. A toll free teleconference number will be available for individuals who wish to attend by telephone. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, a one-hour public comment period beginning at 9:00am will be open during the meetings. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing at least five days prior to the meeting in order to be scheduled on the agenda.

Title II funds may be used for projects that benefit the National Forest and have broad-based support with objectives that may include, but are not limited to:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds
- Reestablishment of native species



New project proposal forms are available at the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger District offices. To be considered at a committee meeting, proposals should be submitted in writing no later than five days prior to the meeting. Proposals will continue to be accepted after that date, but sufficient funding may not be available to consider all proposals received. For assistance with the form, or for other information pertaining to the meetings, please contact Linda Slaght, RAC Coordinator, at 772-3871 or by e-mail at linda.slaght@usda.gov. For other information, contact either of the Designated Federal Officials; Ted Sandhofer, Acting Petersburg District Ranger, 772-3871 or Martin Hutten, Acting Wrangell District Ranger, 874-2323.

The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Publish: April 25 and May 2, 2019

New book features histories of S.E. canneries

By RON LOESCH
Sentinel publisher

PETERSBURG—Seafood industry researchers to casual history buffs will use and enjoy *Tin Can Country – Southeast Alaska’s Historic Salmon Canners*.

This copiously illustrated edition is filled with stories, essays, historic photographs, custom made maps and colorful salmon can labels that together tell the story of S.E. Alaska’s seafood industry from the time of tide-water Tlingit fish traps to today’s highly mechanized, competitive corporate-conglomerated industry.

It’s a perfect coffee table book, because it leaves room for coffee. Formatted in a horizontal or landscape layout, it allows for large reproduction of full-color salmon can labels from Karen Hofstad’s significant collection.

Editor Anjuli Grantham pulled material from over 50 years of historic collections and research performed by the late Patricia Roppel and Karen Hofstad and kept the subject matter filled with substance yet interesting.

Maps produced by David Johnson made it easy to track the cannery sites, and the inside of the dust cover jacket displays all of the S.E. Alaska cannery locations in a single 38-inch map.

While not a comprehensive, all-inclusive history text book, the editor allows space to feature

detailed essays and stories by Dave Kiffer, Wayne Short, Janet Clemens, Jim Mackovjak, Sue Jensen-Paulsen, Bob King and Howard Kutchin to name a few. They illuminate issues pertaining to civil rights, labor unions, state politics, war years, fish traps and the production of tin cans, wooden barrels, kegs and salmon boxes. And what about the article and illustrations on page 68 telling us how to open a salmon can by turning it on its side?

We were dumfounded by the detailed engineering drawings of the Kake Cannery buildings along with meticulous sketches of the “Iron Chink” fish processing machine from 1927.

Grantham states it succinctly: “This anthology is a seafood smorgasbord. It combines micro-histories of the operations of specific canneries within Southeast Alaska with interpretive essays that provide wider historical context.”

The best part of the project is that Petersburg’s Karen Hofstad bankrolled the entire cost of producing this book, and granted all proceeds along with the copyright to Clausen Memorial Museum. Hofstad modestly calls it her gift to S.E. Alaska and the Clausen Museum.

The book will go on sale at the museum gift shop and bookstores during this year’s Little Norway Festival.



PHOTO BY OLA RICHARDS/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Karen Hofstad holding “Tin Can Country”.

Financial planning, home maintenance covered in THRHA training

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority held a two-hour training session at the Nolan Center last Wednesday evening, April 24. The THRHA works across Southeast Alaska to create affordable housing, offers opportunities for home repairs, and even helps people learn about money management. Representatives from the organization came to Wrangell last week to offer training on financial planning and preventative home maintenance.

The budgeting portion of the training session was handled by Administrator Shaun Guthrie and Energy Assistance Coordinator Megan Gregory. Having a better understanding of finances is important for a number of reasons, Guthrie said. One of the most important reasons is to be self-sufficient and financially independent, which he said was increasingly important in

today’s climate. “With the new federal and state administration these safety nets are being taken away slowly,” Guthrie said.

One of the first things people should do when creating a budget, Gregory said, was to consider their “wants” versus their “needs.” It is also important to determine what their priorities are. If someone puts a high value on their health, they should budget more money for medical expenses. If they value their community, they should budget for donating to charity. By prioritizing one’s values, putting together an accurate budget becomes easier, she said.

Understanding expenses is another important part of budgeting, they said. In general, a household’s expenses can be divided into three categories: Fixed, flexible, and luxury. Fixed expenses are things like rent and loan payments. Flexible expenses are expenses that are fairly regular, but

change in size over time, like groceries or credit card bills. Luxury expenses are, as the name suggests, for luxury items like vacations or eating out at restaurants. Guthrie said that in an ideal scenario, 50 percent of a person’s income should be set aside to cover fixed expenses, while another 30 percent is used to cover flexible expenses. The final 20 percent should be set aside for savings. This is not always realistic, he said, but that should be the general aim.

Lastly, there are four steps to follow when creating a spending plan. The first step is to track one’s income and expenses month by month. Secondly, assess the previous month to see if more money came in or if more money was spent. The third step is to take action and alter the spending plan in ways that cuts back on expenses and better matches one’s financial priorities. The last step, simply, is to save money wherever possible.

“It’s important to track how much you’re spending, how much you’re saving,” Gregory said.

Budgeting was not the only finance-related topic covered in the training session. Amber Hommel with First Bank spoke about how to avoid fraud. Fraud is a common occurrence across the country, even in Wrangell. Hommel said that she has heard from many customers complaining about phone calls from people claiming to be with the IRS, or from some organization stating the customer has won a contest and needs their personal information. Hommel said that there are several easy ways to protect oneself from fraud. First off, if the offer being made by the person on the other end of the phone is too good to be true, it probably is. Another tip is to not trust caller ID. Even if it is a Wrangell number that the scammer is calling from, phone numbers are easy to fake. Go to Google and search the person/organization that is calling to ask for personal information, if one has doubts. Finally, when in doubt, talk to family, friends, or people at the bank before giving away any account numbers or making any withdrawals.

Larry Gamez, development and construction operations manager for the THRHA, spoke about home maintenance. Taking care of one’s home is a good way to save money, Gamez said. With a little preventative maintenance and up-front expenses, homeowners can avoid major costs in the long run. It is better to handle minor repairs now than major repairs later, he said.

“Preventatively watch and repair your caulking around the base of your toilet, easy fix,” he gave as an example. “\$10 for a tube of caulking and

\$10 caulking gun, easy fix, \$20. Emergency repair months later: Damaged vinyl and vinyl repair, caulking, and labor. Might have to have someone come in there and do that, \$320. If times goes on and you wait for this leaky toilet to leak for a couple years, now you got a situation ... There’s \$1,000.”

Of course, not every homeowner will have the skills necessary to make a repair themselves. When a contractor is needed, Gamez had some suggestions on how to avoid getting cheated. The first step is to simply ask friends and family for recommendations on who to hire. Another good step is to get at least three written estimates from different contractors, to see who would be the most affordable. Get a written agreement before any work begins, and do not be afraid to ask to see the contractor’s licensing. Lastly, he said, never make a full payment until the work is complete. It is not uncommon to make a down payment, but the full expense should be paid only after the job is done.

Gamez went on to say that homeowners should routinely check their homes for any areas in need of maintenance. Everything from crawl spaces under the house to chimneys and roof tops should be examined for any damage, weathering, or other problems. Electric outlets, sinks, floors, and basically every other inch of the house should be checked. The sooner problems can be caught, the more likely it will be for a cheap fix. Dry rot is something homeowners should be on the lookout for, he added, especially in this region.

“Dry rot in Southeast Alaska is major. It’s always going to be a repair,” he said.

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