

Winner of BearFest  
pie contest takes  
the cake, Page 7



Wrangell, Alaska  
August 3, 2022

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Assembly takes step to ask voter approval for repairs to buildings

By LARRY PERSILY  
*Sentinel writer*

The borough assembly has taken the first step toward seeking voter approval for borrowing up to \$15 million to pay for long-needed repairs at the Public Safety Building and school buildings.

The assembly last week voted to hold a special meeting Aug. 8 to introduce an ordinance placing the question on the Oct. 4 municipal election ballot. A public hearing on the ordinance would be held Aug. 23.

If approved by voters, work could start in 2024, after the bonds are sold, engineering plans put together, the jobs bid out and contractors selected.

The borough currently owes no debt, having paid off its latest school bonds three years ago.

"We're really risk adverse," Borough Finance Director Mason Villarma told the assembly at its July 26 meeting, when members agreed to schedule the special meeting for Aug. 8 to start consideration of the ordinance.

"It's OK for an appropriate amount of debt service," Villarma told the assembly.

The borough estimates it would pay about 4% interest on the borrowed money. And while that's higher than last year's rates, it's low by traditional measures.

But interest rates are rising on bonds, mortgages, car loans and most everything else. "You're not going to see interest rates this low on municipal financing for three to five years," the finance director said.

Bond debt generally is repaid from tax revenues, and assembly members discussed how the public would react to that prospect.

"That's my quandary," said Assemblymember Patty Gilbert. "Everybody loves the schools," she said. Convincing voters to approve debt for repairs to the Public Safety Building will be a harder sell, she said.

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## Prep work



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Krysta Gillen, a maintenance worker for the school district, paints a classroom last Friday at Evergreen Elementary School in preparation for the start of the school year. Classes begin Aug. 25.

## School maintenance crew prepares buildings for return of students, staff

By MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

One by one, facilities staff is checking off their to-do list in preparation for the first day of classes Aug. 25.

Each building in the school district has items that need fixing, patching, painting and more before students and staff return for the 2022-23 school year.

"A lot of what we do in the summertime is just get the school ready in general," said Josh Blatchley, facilities director for the district. "We've gone through and carpet cleaned and waxed all the classrooms. That's a process. There's 117,000 square feet, whether it's all carpet or linoleum or tile or what."

Getting the floors cleaned and prepped included resurfacing the high school gym floor. Crews had to sand down the surface, clean it off, pour the surfacing solution over it, then let it dry for a week.

"I'm trying to resurface it every other year," Blatchley said. "In order to make that happen, we have to maintain it throughout the school year. When COVID hit, it kind of threw the schedule

off because we didn't have that many people in the gym for a year. We kind of skipped a year and the gym (floor) was getting slippery."

The gym floor will eventually need to be replaced, a project that is included in a list of other needed repairs, rebuilds and replacements totaling \$12.9 million. The borough assembly is looking to land a spot on the state's list of school maintenance projects that could potentially pay for 65% of that bill. The assembly is also considering seeking voter approval this October for bonds totaling \$4.5 million to cover the rest of the cost.

"Bonds would go toward projects like the elevator, new roofs, the HVAC systems, carpets, windows, siding and ... condition surveys done by professionals," Blatchley said. Those professionals would be able to give better assessments of what work actually is needed and the costs associated with each project, he said.

Blatchley said it would be good to focus on the structure of the buildings first. "After that it would be the HVAC systems. Then we could save some money on heating costs," he said. "If everything is good inside and the building is falling down,

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Robert Johnson, retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, presented a bear safety class last Wednesday at the shooting range.

## Class gives tips on staying safe when in bear country (hint: carry pepper spray)

By MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

It's safe to assume that people can avoid bear encounters if they stay out of a bear's natural habitat. Since that's likely not to happen in Southeast, a BearFest safety course offered advice on staying as safe as possible when enjoying the outdoors.

Last Wednesday at the gun range, Robert Johnson used his 32 years of experience at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to instruct six people on how to negotiate their way out of a face-to-face occurrence with a bear, and when pepper (bear) spray should be used.

According to a report by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services covering

2000 to 2017, 74 bear attacks resulted in 68 people being hospitalized and 10 being killed in the state. In most instances, it was because a sow perceived a threat to her cubs. Seven of the fatalities were caused by brown bears, while black bears were the cause of the other three.

"Brown bears and black bears are wired differently. I try to never let my guard down against black bears," Johnson said. He likened the interactions to playing cards. Brown bears, he said, will let you know what they are going to do based on their body language, "but black bears have the perfect poker face. You never know what they're up to."

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## Invasive European crabs found at Annette Island

By ERIC STONE  
*KRBD radio Ketchikan*

An invasive species with the potential to wreak havoc on important commercial and subsistence fisheries has been found in Alaska for the first time. Biologists with the Metlakatla Indian Community said they've found growing evidence of European green crabs at Annette Island.

Scientists said the crustaceans uproot eelgrass beds in search of food, which serve as habitat for herring and salmon. They also compete with native crab species and prey on other shellfish, including scallops and juvenile oysters.

Scientists had been looking for the crabs for years. And to their relief, they had come up empty. Then came the first troubling find on the beaches of Annette Island: three shells from European green crabs, discovered July 19.

"Well, everybody was pretty much shocked, I guess, is the best word," Dustin Winter, director of Metlakatla Indian Community's Fish and Wildlife department, said July 22.

Winter said the find, credited to Natalie Bennett, an intern with Sealaska Heritage Institute assisting with the program, was the first evidence of the invasive species' presence in Alaska.

After the first three shells were discovered on a beach, "five more carapaces and two fully intact juvenile carcasses were identified," Metlakatla Indian Community said in a statement.

Then came worse news. Monitors found 13 live green crabs in the waters around Annette Island. The Metlakatla Indian Community announced July 27 they had found 10 live crabs — four late last week and six on July 26. Then the mayor said

three more crabs were caught on July 28, for a total of 13.

The crabs are largely falling into salmon traps around Tamgas Harbor.

The tribe has been working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to monitor the seas and shores for signs of the crab. The crustaceans are two to four inches wide, not counting their legs, with spines on their heads.

Metlakatla biologists started setting traps in 2020 after a shell fragment was found in Haida Gwaii, an island chain off the coast of northern British Columbia.

"It started out kind of small, but it's turned into quite the project now," Winter said. "We have three, sometimes four, people working every other week, setting pots and pulling pots and recording what kind of

Continued on page 5



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Wednesday, Aug. 3:** Edna Nore, Jillian Privett, Ben Schwerin.

**Thursday, Aug. 4:** None.

**Friday, Aug. 5:** Kody Davidson.

**Saturday, Aug. 6:** Avani Adams, Kendyl Appleman.

**Sunday, Aug. 7:** Courtney Haggard, Rosemary Rooney, Rosemary Jane Rooney, Charlee-Ann Seimears, Daren Wickman.

**Monday, Aug. 8:** Preston Gushwah, Karl Kohrt, Brian McCloskey, Emma Olson, Rick Wiederspohn; Anniversaries: Jeff Brown and Jen Banks, Harley and Lana Johnson.

**Tuesday, Aug. 9:** Chase Jeffrey Good; Anniversaries: Adam and Melinda Messmer, August and Loretta Schultz.

**Wednesday, Aug. 10:** Katie Brock, Debbie Mathews.

## Senior Center Menu

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

### Thursday, Aug. 4

Pineapple lemon chicken, green beans, sukiyaki salad, rice and vegetable pilaf

### Friday, Aug. 5

Creole pork steaks, harvard beets, danish salad, bran muffins

### Monday, Aug. 8

Chicken and peach saute with noodles, peas and carrots, apple cabbage raisin salad

### Tuesday, Aug. 9

Beef vegetable soup, crackers, peaches and cottage cheese

### Wednesday, Aug. 10

Halibut olympia, steamed spinach, fruit slaw, rice, vegetable pilaf

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

## Ferry Schedule

### Northbound

**Friday, Aug. 5**  
Matanuska, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Aug. 12**  
Matanuska, 8:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Aug. 16**  
Matanuska, 5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Aug. 20**  
Matanuska, 2 a.m.

### Southbound

**Monday, Aug. 8**  
Matanuska, 1:15 p.m.  
**Monday, Aug. 15**  
Matanuska, 9:45 a.m.  
**Thursday, Aug. 18**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.  
**Monday, Aug. 22**  
Matanuska, 3:15 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.  
Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information  
or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

## Tides

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Aug. 4	05:36	13.0	06:06	15.0
Aug. 5	06:40	12.1	07:01	15.0
Aug. 6	08:04	11.5	08:09	15.2
Aug. 7	09:32	11.7	09:20	15.7
Aug. 8	10:47	12.5	10:28	16.6
Aug. 9	11:49	13.7	11:30	17.6
Aug. 10	....	...	12:43	14.9

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Aug. 3	4:55a	8:54p	15:59h
Aug. 4	4:57a	8:52p	15:54h
Aug. 5	4:59a	8:50p	15:50h
Aug. 6	5:01a	8:48p	15:46h
Aug. 7	5:03a	8:45p	15:42h
Aug. 8	5:05a	8:43p	15:38h
Aug. 9	5:07a	8:41p	15:34h

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**WCA and BRAVE** are seeking assistant and substitute coaches to coach third through fifth graders for the I Toowú Klatseen (Strengthen Your Spirit) program. Sessions will be Sept. 6 through Nov. 18 on Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Participants don't have to commit every week and don't need to be a runner -- just have a sense of spirit and fun. The program is open to Native and non-Native children. To learn more, contact Kim Wickman at kwickman1299@gmail.com or 907-305-0423.

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** presents "Thor: Love and Thunder" rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the action adventure comedy film that runs one hour and 58 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**MUSKEG MEADOWS** will hold a Women's Rally for Cancer Care sponsored by the WMC Foundation at 10 a.m. Saturday. The coed cancer care benefit golf tournament sponsored by the WMC Foundation, a nine-hole, four-person best-ball tournament, is set for 10 a.m. Sunday. Must register by 9:30 a.m. on both days.

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK** and gathering Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Shoemaker. Everyone is invited. There will be activities for children. A time to celebrate and share hopes for the wellbeing and future of Wrangell. Hosted by Wrangell Baha'is. Call 907-209-9117 for more info.

**PARKS and RECREATION** registration for the American Red Cross lifeguard training course Aug. 19-21 is open through Aug. 17. Must complete five to seven hours of coursework online before the first day of the course. There is a recommended prep class Aug. 8-11 to refine your stroke, practice surface dives and prepare for the prerequisites. For ages 15 and up. Fee is \$150. There is a fee waiver for eligible individuals who intend to work for Parks and Recreation. Register online at wrangllrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

**WRANGELL HEAD START** is accepting applications for children ages 3 to 5 years old. Class begins Aug. 23. Head Start is a nationwide, federally funded program whose purpose is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social, physical, and cognitive development of children. Head Start is provided at no cost to eligible families. Apply online at <http://cchita-nsn.gov/>.

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK** 6 p.m. Fridays through August at the sheltered site on Nemo Point Road. All are welcome.

**PARKS and RECREATION** is offering multiple activities and programs to get your body moving. For more information on any of the activities visit [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

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

## Continuing Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com)

**Weight room:** 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

**AA Meetings:** North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

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

### Aug. 3, 1922

The Wenonah, with A.M. Sobierski commanding, was in port Saturday and Sunday. This is a Coast and Geodetic Survey vessel and has been in Southeast Alaska the past two months during which time a precise triangulation has been extended from the completed work in the vicinity of Zarembo Island south to Ship Island. The topography along the west shore of Ernest Sound has been extended to the entrance of Zimovia Strait, including Menefee Inlet, Southwest Cove, Canoe Passage and off-lying islands. In-shore hydrography on the south coast of Etolin Island, part of the east coast of Brownson Island and part of Canoe Passage have been completed. In addition, the ship has taken some soundings in the area covered by the wire drag in order to furnish additional information for the chart.

### Aug. 1, 1947

Boy Scouts of Wrangell will have an opportunity for several camping opportunities under the leadership of Neil French, who is associated with the Wrangell Cedar Products Co., it was announced this week by Delbert Hanks, Scout official of the territory who was in Wrangell. Mr. Hanks said that Mr. French has expressed his willingness to help this summer in the absence of a scoutmaster. The Sea Scout ship will be used to transport the Scouts. Mr. French stated that the summer season is the biggest camping season for Scouts and he wanted to do what he could to make the summer experience available to boys.

### Aug. 4, 1972

An estimated 650 students are expected to head back to classrooms at Wrangell elementary and high schools on opening day of the fall term Sept. 6. Classrooms were being readied and administrative machinery geared up this week at both schools. Most of the faculty of nearly 40 educators will be back this year. Grammar school pupils will be using a new \$10,000 media center, installed this summer and including thousands of new volumes plus an electronic language arts program. New at Wrangell High School will be a coeducational home economics program including a wide choice of special nine-week courses in cooking, sewing and other home-making skills. The class will be taught in a newly redone and

re-equipped double classroom. Other new-this-year high school courses will include a work program in which students will gain experience in actual jobs with local merchants and craftsmen, expanded foreign language offerings and photography. The elementary school media center was financed largely by federal funds and includes recorders, tape machines and other devices to teach language arts.

### July 31, 1997

Anyone going up the Stikine this summer will see two young men regularly working along the shore, clearing trails, repairing cabins and talking with visitors. Mike Whelean and Bruce Brenner are Forest technicians/wilderness rangers working for the U.S. Forest Service in a temporarily funded program. Both have winter jobs elsewhere, but enjoy spending their summers working in the woods and wilderness areas throughout the U.S. According to Brenner, the two are attempting to do a lot of public relations this summer, letting people know they are there, giving the public an opportunity to offer ideas or suggestions concerning the area facilities or upkeep. They are staying at the Forest Cabin on the river, and will be found maintaining the two hot tubs, picnic areas and the five cabins in the river area. They will be monitoring the river use, charters and personal-use boats and checking permits occasionally.



## Borough hopes land clearing can start next year at Institute property

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is moving ahead with its review of the borough's wetlands fill permit application to develop the former Wrangell Institute property for residential lots. The borough hopes to start ground-clearing work next year, Carol Rushmore, the borough's planning and zoning director, said last week.

Permit review work had been on hold while state and federal agencies and the borough coordinated an archaeological records and ground survey of the property that had been used as a Bureau of Indian Affairs Native boarding school from 1932 to 1975.

The survey was required to ensure there are no human remains buried on the property, and to locate and preserve any cultural sites on the 134 acres. An Army Corps permit for wetlands fill to develop the property for residential use was on hold until the issues surrounding cultural resources or artifacts were resolved.

The results of the survey will be kept confidential, to guard against any disturbance of possible cultural sites, Rushmore explained. There was no indication of any unmarked graves on the property, she said.

The U.S. Department of the Interior last year ordered a records search of former American Indian and Alaska Native boarding schools, responding to concerns of unreported gravesites. Discovery of unmarked graves at boarding schools for Indigenous children in Canada prompted the action by U.S. officials.

The Interior Department report, issued in May, said "marked or unmarked" graves were discov-

ered at 53 of the more than 400 federally supported boarding schools that operated in the country.

There were 21 schools in Alaska, including the Wrangell Institute. Most of the schools in Alaska were operated by religious groups.

The borough took ownership of the property in 1996. The school buildings, dorms and offices were demolished in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The Army Corps will require the borough to monitor any construction activities at three areas of the property "that could provide cultural information," Rushmore reported to the borough assembly. Those areas include the trash dump, a remaining partial foundation of a building, and a man-made drainage ditch, she said in her report.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association has agreed to work with the borough in applying for grant funds to help pay for the cost of the monitoring work and a memorial area on the property, Rushmore said.

The borough has plans to develop, subdivide and sell the land near Shoemaker Bay into about 40 residential lots, with streets and utilities.

Clearing the land for roadbuilding could come next year, if the Army Corps permit moves along, Rushmore said.

Engineering and design, construction bids, roadbuilding and utility installation would come next before the lots could be ready for home construction.

The lots would range from 17,000 to 41,000 square feet. The development cost for streets and utilities in the first phase, for about half the 40 lots, was estimated more than a year ago at around \$2 million.

The borough assembly would need to approve any spending on the project.

## Candidacy filing opens for municipal elections

Sentinel staff

Candidates have until 4 p.m. Aug. 31 to file their declaration and signature petition at City Hall for a spot on the Oct. 4 municipal election ballot.

The offices of mayor, two borough assembly seats, three school board seats and two spots on the port commission will be on the ballot.

Mayor Steve Prysunka, who has served two terms (four years), said last week he is not seeking reelection. Before winning his first term as mayor in 2018, Prysunka served three years on the borough assembly.

The mayor's job is a two-year term.

The terms also expire this fall for assembly members David Powell and Patty Gilbert. Both seats on the ballot are for three-year terms.

Powell last week said he is undecided about running again. Gilbert also said she is undecided.

Unlike some municipalities around the state, Wrangell municipal code does not impose a term limit; elected officials can serve as long as voters support them.

Most of the five school board seats will be on the Oct. 4 bal-

lot. The terms of school board members Julia Ostrander, Dave Wilson and Jessica Whitaker will expire this year. Wilson is the school board president. The three ballot choices will include two three-year terms and a one-year term.

The terms of port commission members Frank Roppel and John Yeager are up this year. Voters will fill two three-year terms in October.

Persons interested in filing for office need to submit their candidacy declaration form and a petition signed by 10 qualified voters. The forms are available from the borough clerk's office at City Hall, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

The deadline to register to vote in the October election is Sept. 4.

Just under 500 people voted in last year's municipal elections, which tend to attract a lower turnout than statewide elections. Wrangell's 2021 municipal vote total was about a third less than in the 2020 statewide election when the president and U.S. senator's races were on the ballot, and almost a third less than in 2016, when Alaskans elected a governor.

## Borough turns to online surplus property website to try selling old hospital

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The borough will list Wrangell's former hospital building on a nationwide surplus public property website, hoping for better results than efforts the past two months which resulted in not a single bid.

"We've got to get rid of this," Mayor Steve Prysunka said at the July 26 borough assembly meeting.

The borough has been paying close to \$100,000 a year to keep the building heated and insured, and protected against water damage.

The borough ran an online auction in June to sell the property but received no bids. It then offered the building and land for sale over the counter — the first buyer at the minimum price of \$830,000 would get the property. No one made an offer.

The assembly at its July 26 meeting voted to turn to public-surplus.com, a nationwide business that lists real estate, police cars, trucks, school buses, backhoes, furniture, office equipment, musical instruments, computers and more — most anything a government agency is looking to sell.

The company charges a fee for its service, which can be passed on to the buyer.

Borough staff had recommended to the assembly turning over the sales effort to a real estate agent. "Our recommendation is to try to list it with a real estate agent, and let them do the work," Borough Manager Jeff Good told the assembly July 26. An agent could more widely advertise the property.

The borough would pay the agent only if the property sold.

The mayor and assembly members directed the borough manager to list the former hospital with the surplus property website rather than signing up a

real estate agent.

The borough a year ago used the surplus property website to sell the former National Guard armory on Bennett Street for \$110,000.

The \$830,000 minimum price for the hospital was set by a commercial appraisal of the property. Any change in the asking price would require assembly approval, something the mayor said might be needed if the property does not sell on this third attempt.

The property reverted back to the borough after SEARHC moved into its new medical center 18 months ago. The borough owns the property and had leased it to SEARHC until the health care provider could build its new facility.

The former hospital measures 30,596 square feet on 1.95 acres at Bennett Street between Reid Street and First Avenue, next to the elementary school.

The building is being offered for sale as-is. The hospital, originally constructed in 1967, includes additions built in 1974, 1988 and 1994. A 2018 survey detailed asbestos materials in the roofing, tiles, wallboard, window caulk and fire-rated doors.

"We need to move this along," Prysunka said of trying to find a buyer. No one on the assembly disagreed.

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- Marine Engineers

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Visit the employment page on our website for current positions open for recruitment and details on the application process.

**FerryAlaska.com/employment**



FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Political blame game doesn't do any good

BY LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

As American households strain under the weight of high gasoline prices, as cities and school districts look for extra money in their budgets to cover the cost of heating fuel, and as everyone is paying more to get everything delivered by diesel-fueled trucks, the election-year political rhetoric is accelerating to a high-octane level.

Big Oil and political opponents are just too tempting of a target to pass up as elected officials and candidates want to direct voter anger toward an easy scapegoat.

Republicans loudly blame President Joe Biden for high prices, as if he told oil companies to slow down investments in 2020 and 2021, ordered them to give back cash to shareholders instead of spending the money on new production, and conspired with Russia to start a war and drive up energy prices.

Biden, too, is guilty of misdirection. Though he took it to a higher level, seeking divine inspiration.

"Exxon made more money than God last year," Biden proclaimed last month at a staged event in Los Angeles, where people appear much more devoted to their cars than religion.

I don't pray at the altar of Big Oil, though I do acknowledge its role in life. And until I ditch my car (2006 VW Beetle diesel, 42 mpg on the highway), I accept the reality that I need oil. But what annoys me is the politically driven sniping and snideness directed at oil company profits while other, more profitable businesses are worshipped for their supposedly "good" contributions to the world.

Such as Apple. While its "devices" are not God, they have a God-like influence on daily lives, and it sure seems like some people wor-

ship their iPhones, iPads, Watches, AirPods and anything else with the Apple logo. Maybe the company could start letting churches use the logo to draw people into the pews on Sunday.

Yet, in a financially religious experience, Apple makes more money than Exxon. A lot more most of the time.

Second-quarter earnings reports show that Exxon recorded net earnings of \$17.9 billion in the three months ending in June.

Apple reported a net income of \$19.4 billion in the same period. That was a down number for Apple, after it had reported \$30 billion in net income in the previous three months, and \$34.6 billion in the three months before that.

Looking back, Apple has reported \$84 billion in net income the past nine months versus \$32 billion at Exxon.

Even if Exxon's profits look obscene to some people, consider that the company's net income was about 15% of its total revenues for the three months ending in June. Whereas Apple's net income was better than 23% of its total revenues for those same three

months. And that was down from a 31% profit margin in the three-month reporting period that ended in March.

Microsoft also earned a much fatter profit margin than Exxon in the past fiscal quarter, reporting net income of 32% on its revenues.

None of this matters when you gasp at the fuel charges on your credit card statement at the end of the month. But it is worth thinking about. What's more offensive: The profit margin on a \$1,000 iPhone 13 Pro or a \$6 gallon on gas? And what's an easier political attack: High gasoline prices or expensive phones?

Just because it's easy politics doesn't make it right.

**"What annoys me is the politically driven sniping and snideness directed at oil company profits while other, more profitable businesses are worshipped for their supposedly 'good' contributions to the world."**

EDITORIAL

# Listen to the facts about building repairs

The process will stretch over the next couple of months, with a public hearing and a lot of public information, but it looks like the borough assembly will ask voters in the Oct. 4 municipal election to approve borrowing as much as \$15 million for long-needed repairs to all of the school buildings and the Public Safety Building.

Selling bonds to finance the work will mean promising to repay those bonds, which will mean higher property taxes until the debt is repaid.

Anyone who has driven by and looked at any of the buildings can see they need a lot of work. And what isn't visible from the outside is just as bad, or worse. The list includes extensive rot in the walls of the Public Safety Building, requiring structural repairs, plus a new roof, insulation, vapor barriers and siding.

It's a similar list at the schools: New roofs, siding, flooring, windows, a new boiler at the middle school, and more.

The Public Safety Building is 35 years old. The school buildings range from 35 to 53 years old.

"We have underfunded our maintenance budget," Mayor Steve Prysunka said at the July 26 borough assembly meeting, where the members set a special meeting for Aug. 8 to start consideration of an ordinance to put the question before voters in the fall.

The ordinance will get its public hearing at the Aug. 23 assembly meeting.

If voters approve the bonds, if the engineering and design work is on time and the bids come in at an acceptable price, the work could start in 2024. Most of the \$15 million would go toward work at the Public Safety Building, with the borough betting on state funding to cover almost two-thirds of the cost of school repairs. The bonds would cover the borough's share of the school work.

Several assembly members talked at last week's meeting about the challenges in winning voter approval to borrow the money, acknowledging that many residents will balk at the prospect of paying more in property taxes.

No doubt that's true; few raise their hands voluntarily and say, "Tax me." But there is no other way to make the repairs to the buildings. Waiting for the damages of water and age to get worse is not a healthy or financially wise choice.

It's the responsibility of the community — and no one else — to maintain its schools and other buildings.

That means it's the responsibility of Wrangell residents to learn about the needed repairs, the proposed bond issue, the costs and repayment options.

And then, assuming the assembly puts the question on the Oct. 4 ballot, vote responsibly, based on facts and the needs of the community, not some false rumor or social media thread about doubling taxes or a City Hall conspiracy to boost property assessments, raise taxes and ruin the town's economy.

Listen the facts, then decide.

— Wrangell Sentinel

THE EDITOR'S DESK

# A year in Wrangell reaffirms big life decision to start anew in Southeast



BY MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

Each step was like planting my feet into water-soaked bath towels. Thirteen miles of nonstop sloshing in last Sunday's BearFest half marathon could be viewed by some as not so fun.

But for me, it was a chance to think about the past year. Most runners will tell you that the pastime is therapy, affording us plenty of time to ponder our path in life.

Just under a year ago, I arrived in Wrangell, with a U-Haul full of my past life. My decision has been reaffirmed every day since. Here's why:

I came from a place where a population of 45,000 people is considered a small

town, so 2,000 is a refreshing change of pace. I don't have to plan on leaving the house 30 minutes before something starts to fight traffic, get across town and get there on time. In Wrangell, it takes five minutes to get just about anywhere around town. My commute is a three-minute walk.

That small number means everybody knows just about everybody. Now, that could be a bad thing in some places, but in Wrangell it seems to only strengthen the community. Does everybody get along? Of course not, but we look past our differences to do what's best for this town. I believe everyone has a unique story to share, and most of the people I've met here — and I've met a lot — are happy to share their story with me.

Speaking of those differences, people here have strong opinions and beliefs. However, even if they know you think differently, that won't get in the way of them lending a helping hand and being a friend, or just by saying hi every time you see them. I look forward to things like Anny and Dan Newport walking by

the office in the morning and waving.

People here work to find solutions. Having sat in on a fair share of borough assembly and school board meetings, I've listened to the exchange of ideas and as members ask questions, raise concerns and eventually work together.

I get that I'm talking up Wrangell, which I think it deserves to be, but it's not all sunshine and roses. Sometimes it's snow and aggressive Indian celery. Before moving here, I was told by a few different sources that winters are mild. We proceeded to have — or so I was told — the harshest winter Wrangell has seen in a decade. That's not such a bad thing, except I grew up and lived in a place that only got snow every 20 years, and then only a dusting that immediately melted.

That didn't stop me from buying a home here. I even moved in that stupid snow.

I got here too late last year and I missed out on the Fourth of July and BearFest festivities. Even though I worked my tail off to photograph and report on the Fourth, it was amazing, and I can't wait

for next year. I'd never seen a town come out to organize, work and play the way this one does for its events.

BearFest was a scaled down version of the Fourth, but there were still a lot of people gathering for the events. This time, though, I had to join in. I signed up to run the half-marathon and made some new friends from that decision.

There were fewer runners this year, from what I was told. There were only about 10 of us running the 13.1 miles, and three ran the full 26.2 miles, one of which was 11-year-old Carter Howell. At the runners' pasta feed the night before, he said he wanted to be on the books as the youngest one to run the total distance. And he did. At the opposite end of the spectrum was 77-year-old George Benson, who ran the half.

Though things haven't been perfect — no journey is without potholes and speedbumps — it has been the best decision I ever made to move here.

I think I'll stay.

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# Bond sale

Continued from page 1

Everyone who supports the bonds will have to do “a real good job of selling” the proposal to voters, Gilbert said.

The cost of accumulated repairs at the buildings was inevitable, Mayor Steve Prysunka said. “We have underfunded our maintenance budget.”

The plan presented to the assembly last week – which could be changed before going to voters – would include two separate bond proposals: \$10.5 million for the first phase of repairs and rehabilitation to the 35-year-old, water-damaged Public Safety Building, and \$4.5 million as the borough’s 35% match on a \$12.9 million repair plan for all of the school district’s facilities.

Wrangell will seek \$8.4 million for the school work from the state, under the Department of Education’s major maintenance program.

“Everyone in the state is competing” for those maintenance dollars, which are subject to legislative appropriation, Tammy Stromberg, the Wrangell School

District business manager, told the assembly. There are almost 100 projects on the list, she said.

Districts apply for a spot on the list, and the department ranks the districts based on need and an assessment report of their facilities.

Flush with revenues from high oil prices, the Legislature this year appropriated \$100 million to the program. Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed down the spending to \$37.5 million.

The major maintenance grant program is the community’s only opportunity for state money, Stromberg said.

The state used to offer a program where it would reimburse municipalities for around two-thirds of the cost of paying back bonds for school projects, but the Legislature imposed a freeze on that program in 2015 to reduce state spending. State reimbursement of new debt would return for bonds sold after 2025, though lawmakers could extend the freeze.

“We have to keep maintaining the buildings,” or the borough is digging itself into a deeper hole of deteriorating

facilities and higher costs, Josh Blatchley, head of maintenance at the school district, told the assembly.

The school work would include new roofs, fire alarm panels, exterior siding and boilers, window replacement, a new gym floor, paving the parking lot at the elementary school, lighting upgrades and new floor coverings at the schools.

Annual debt payments on \$15 million in municipal debt would exceed \$1 million a year, depending on the interest rate. The borough this year is budgeted to take in almost \$1.8 million in property taxes.

The borough could reduce the annual debt payments by scaling back the work at the Public Safety Building or the schools.

The mayor also discussed at last week’s meeting the option of using some of the investment earnings from the borough’s permanent fund to help reduce the repayment burden on property taxes.

The savings account is projected to end the fiscal year next June with almost \$10.6 million. The borough has been withdrawing \$250,000 a year from earnings on the account to help pay for public

services. Based on five-year earning and inflation projections, the borough assembly could appropriate about \$380,000 in earnings a year from the fund.

The fund has been used in past years to cover debt service, Villarma said.

The largest users of the Public Safety Building by space are the police and fire departments, the jail and state court offices. The borough is budgeted to receive about \$527,000 this fiscal year in state payments for the jail and court space. The mayor and assembly members expressed concern that the borough needs to fix the problems at the building and keep the court system under a long-term lease – both for the revenues and to have a court office in town.

Major repairs are needed at the Public Safety Building because of water damage and rot, Amber Al-Haddad, the borough’s capital facilities director, said last week. “The principal problem is the deteriorating exterior structure.”

Much of the budget would go to new siding, insulation and vapor barriers, doors and windows, and replacing an obsolete fire alarm system.

# School work

Continued from page 1

it doesn’t do you any good. And if everything is good on the outside, then you have some time to address the issues on the inside.”

In preparation for the new school year, maintenance workers are also pressure-washing the buildings and sidewalks, cleaning out loose grout and debris caused by winter conditions and ice melt, which is eroding walkways.

“I’m trying to figure out how to preserve the concrete,” Blatchley said. “The ice melt (product) is just killing it.”

Blatchley said he will apply a waterproofing solution and cement sealer to the walkways to see if that helps them to last longer. The wear and tear from use and

weather has caused certain areas to buckle, which can lead to ponding and icing during the winter and can cause further problems, such as tripping and slipping.

A few of the classrooms have been repainted and a few more will get a fresh coat as well, he said. A yearly rotation schedule ensures all the classrooms get new paint, so it doesn’t all have to be done at once.

Other fixes include florescent lights that are gradually being phased out in favor of brighter, lower-cost LED lights, upgrades to showerheads in locker rooms, and changing filters in air handling systems.

The elementary school has landings and steps that have become unlevel from settling, so those will be shored up and made safe.

Snow stops on some of the roofs have come off from the heavier snowfall last winter, causing unsafe conditions in the courtyard between the high school and middle school. Blatchley said they will work to install new stops where needed. The flat rooftops need to be checked for holes or areas that could be the site of future leaks.

Blatchley said all the work is on track to be finished before the first day of school, but at the same time, the days can slip by quickly.

“The summer seems like it goes a lot faster than you think,” he said. “‘Hey, we’ve got months.’ But the cross country team is starting up soon. The teachers are going to get ants and want to get into their rooms.”

# Green crabs

Continued from page 1

crabs they’re catching.”

As of July 22, they still haven’t located a live specimen, Winter said. But NOAA Fisheries biologist Linda Shaw said the discovery means it’s time to take action.

“I think that it definitely is a reason for concern, but not any kind of panic. I think that it’s a wake-up call that they are moving our way,” she said. “They are detected here now, so we need to take it seriously, but we are not in the situation – yet – that Washington state is,” Shaw said July 22.

In Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee declared an emergency in January over the state’s green crab infestation. The state has spent millions fighting the spread of the species. Last year, the Lummi Nation, near Bellingham, reported capturing 70,000 during a five-month span.

“In the past year, their populations have exploded in Washington state and Oregon,” Shaw said.

They’re a particular threat to fellow shellfish, she said. “They compete with juvenile Dungeness crab. They are shellfish predators, so things like clams, they would directly eat,” she said. “And then there’s also anecdotal information from British Columbia that they predate on juvenile salmon.”

Invasive European green crabs have been found in U.S. waters since the 19th century – scientists say their microscopic larvae likely hitched a ride in the ballast tanks of ships crossing the Atlantic. And they’ve hurt native species – the crabs are blamed for the decline of the soft-shell clam fishery in Maine.

They were first found on the West Coast in 1989 in San Francisco Bay and have been spreading north and south ever since.

Shaw said the crabs tend to spread with El Niño, the

weather pattern characterized by higher-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific. She said warming ocean temperatures associated with climate change also play a role.

“Warmer temperatures would allow for greater survival and reproductive time-frame,” Shaw said. “If it’s warmer, they have more chances to reproduce, they have better growth and they have a longer season to survive in.”

Trapping the crabs is, for now, thought to be the most effective approach, the fisheries biologist said.

“Enclosed bays and areas are places where we might be able to do intensive trapping to, if not eradicate, at least control

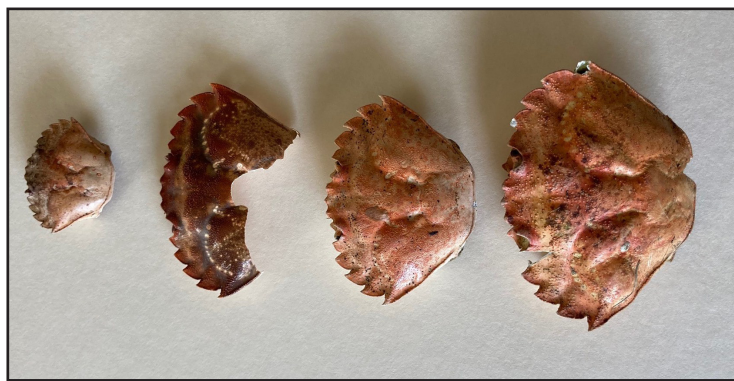


PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN WINTER/METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY

Carapaces, or shells, from invasive European green crabs were found on the beaches of Annette Island last month, followed by the discovery of live crabs.

them, especially in areas where you have resources at risk that are important,” Shaw said.

It’s also important to know where the crabs are, so scientists are asking the public

to keep an eye out for them. Though they’re called green crabs, they’re found in a variety of colors. Shaw said they’re most identifiable by the spines on either side of their eyes.

“We like to say, ‘find the five spines,’” Shaw said. “Green crab have five spines on either side, right and left, of their eyes, and then three bumps in the middle. And those are the only crabs in Alaska right now with those characteristics.”

Officials are asking anyone who finds green crabs to report them to the Alaska Invasive Species Hotline at 1-877-INVASIV.

Additional reporting by KRBD’s Raegan Miller.

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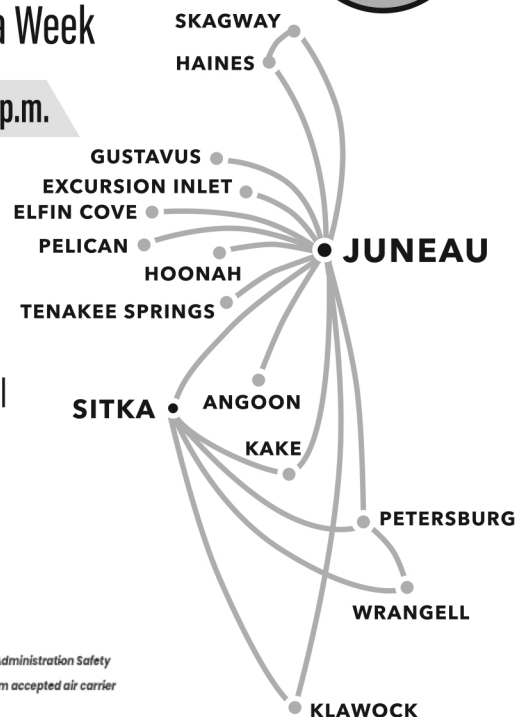


Alaska Seaplanes began service to Wrangell in May. Photo credit: Deni Hoy

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# Sealaska Corp. endorses Walker and Murkowski

Sentinel staff

The Sealaska Corp. board of directors last Friday endorsed Bill Walker for governor and Sen. Lisa Murkowski in her reelection bid for U.S. Senate.

The board also announced its opposition to the measure on the Nov. 8 statewide election ballot that would call a constitutional convention to consider revisions to Alaska's founding laws.

"Reassessing Alaska's constitution could fundamentally endanger not just the rights of all Alaskans, but specifically Native sovereignty," Jaeleen Kookesh, Sealaska vice president of policy and legal affairs, said in a prepared statement.

The board a week ago announced its support for Mary Peltola in her campaign to fill the seat of the late U.S. Rep. Don Young. Peltola is a former state House member from Bethel.

"Sealaska rarely endorses candidates, choosing to support only those candidates who are closely aligned with Sealaska's vision for Alaska and the interests of its 23,000 Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian shareholders," the corporation said

in announcing the Walker and Murkowski endorsements. "Sealaska is deeply engaged in public policy issues impacting Alaska Natives, including traditional values and way of life, economic opportunity and land rights."

Former Gov. Walker is running to defeat Gov. Mike Dunleavy. The Sealaska board said it is endorsing Walker because of his decision to expand the state's Medicaid program, his support for the preservation and teaching of Alaska Native languages, and his support for fair wages and working conditions.

The board announcement said, "Murkowski is an emphatic advocate for Alaska Native people in Washington, where she serves in several crucial leadership positions impacting Alaska Native and American Indian policy."

In endorsing Peltola, the board said its support "is based on her long track record of working for and with Native communities across the state and because of her deep experience at all levels of government in Alaska."

# Smokey joins in bear-themed afternoon of reading

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

Downpours sure to quell any blaze didn't stop kids blazing a trail to the Irene Ingle Public Library for the final Reading with a Ranger story time for the summer.

About 20 children joined U.S. Forest Service staff and Smokey the Bear last Friday during BearFest, listening to stories about bears.

The kids listened to intern Claire Froehlich as she read from three different books, "How Do Bears Sleep?" "I am a Little Bear" and "Smokey the Bear."

The first book talked about the hibernation habits of bears, while the second focused on perils of bear cubs in nature. The third book focused on the origins of the Smokey the Bear character and how a forest fire played a role in that.

As children listened to the stories, a Forest Service intern dressed as Smokey the Bear ambled up behind the kids, drawing sounds of delight from most and cries of fright from others. Smokey sat down as Froehlich read the last book.

Froehlich, who attends the University of Arizona in Tucson, went over Smokey's rules from the 1955 Little Golden Book:

"1. Remind your parents and friends to break matches into two. When they can hold the burned end between two



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Smokey the Bear listens as U.S. Forest Service intern Claire Froehlich reads his biography "Smokey the Bear" to children last Friday at Irene Ingle Public Library during BearFest.

fingers, there's no fire left. 2. Crush out smokes, then use the ashtray. (I don't think that pertains to anyone here.) 3. Drown campfires, then stir the ashes to make sure they are out. 4. Never burn grass, brush or trash on windy days. When you do burn it, you should have plenty of help.

"Please help your friend Smokey to prevent forest fires.

Remember his rules and help other remember them too."

Corree Delabruce, recreation management specialist with the Forest Service, said the program, held Fridays at the library, was attended by about 10 kids on average. Last Friday's event brought out twice that, and children were given a goodie bag with a coloring book, balloon and sticker for attending.

# Bear safety

Continued from page 1

Johnson said black bears under 200 pounds are generally the ones responsible for people being injured or killed because they are typically dominated by other bears and are trying to put on weight before the winter. "Then they become predatory on people."

Because of their superior senses, bears can sometimes detect a human before the person realizes a bear is in the vicinity.

"Their noses are a hundred times more sensitive than the best dog's. Some of them can see as well as a human being," Johnson said. "I've been spotted up in the alpine (by a bear) two miles away."

But, just like humans, bears can have poor eyesight and diminished smelling and hearing. A person coming around a blind corner on a trail can quickly take a bear by surprise, putting it into an attack posture. Knowing how to respond can help a per-

son negotiate enough distance to let the bear go on its way.

The first thing people should do is make noise.

"You make noise when you walk. You talk. You say, 'Hey, bear!' especially if it's windy or raining," Johnson said. The noise will give a bear notice that people are in the area, allowing it time to distance itself.

Second, pepper spray should be at the ready instead of packed away, and people should carry two cans — one for the trek in and one for the return trip if the first one gets used.

"You'll hear somebody was mauled," he said. "I didn't have time to get my pepper spray. It was in my jacket. If they do get to it and they deploy it, if they say it didn't work, I want to know what the expiration date is on that can because I'll bet you it's expired."

Johnson said it's important to store pepper spray in a cool place and to keep an eye on the expiration date. The spray will

lose its effectiveness over time. People should also be familiar with the smell of the spray, so if a can develops a leak they can get rid of it quickly.

If possible, people should also travel in large groups for strength in numbers, and to make more noise.

In the case of a bear encounter, Johnson said squaring your shoulders and raising your arms is a good practice, but people should never lock eyes with a bear, who will see that as a challenge. Instead, turn the gaze downward, and slowly back away, never run.

"A lot of people will tell you to raise your arms and make lots of noise. That's great," Johnson said. "The part they don't say is you don't want to engage it. You don't want to lock eyes with that bear. As soon as you square up your shoulders, no matter what else you're doing, and you stare at that bear, that means, 'I'm willing to fight you for dominance.'"

Johnson said in his thousands of encounters with bears, he's never had to kill one in self-defense. He also carries a gun with him, but believes that should always be a last resort.

Even before using pepper spray, which contains 2% capsaicin — the active ingredient in chili peppers — Johnson said people need to make sure the bear is actually going to charge. The animals will typically stop 20 to 30 feet away from a perceived threat, especially if they are protecting food they just buried.

During last Wednesday's class, Johnson acted the part of a bear while attendee Sarah Sedgemore pretended to be a hiker on a trail. Johnson the bear emerged from the brush surrounding the upper gun range, grunting and surprising Sedgemore. He demonstrated the common behaviors a bear in such a situation will make. Eventually, he charged Sedgemore, who sprayed him with fake bear spray — a can of Febreze.

Ironically, many bears love the smell of pepper spray, Johnson said. If a surface has been sprayed with it, bears will roll

in it. It's when their olfactory is wide open and they're in a rage that the spray works as a repellent, since the spice irritates their senses. Bears should be about 7 feet away when sprayed, otherwise, it won't have the same efficacy.

David Jellum, a new resident in Wrangell, was grateful for the information.

"I just moved up here a few months ago, and it's good to hear information from people that aren't the internet and random people," Jellum said. "I do plan to go hunting and fishing."

Johnson said last Wednesday's group was probably one of the smallest he's instructed during BearFest, but he's still grateful to share his knowledge if it helps keep people safe. Even though bear populations vary from region to region and some can seem more people-friendly, Johnson said the most important thing for people to learn is to never let their guard down.

"It's easy to let your guard down around them, but you can't because every time I've done that, they've reminded me," he said.

## Building Southeast's Future



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# Bear-y pie contest sweet success for five winners

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

In one of the sweeter decisions of their lives, judges sliced into the task of picking the best berry pie entered in this year's Bear-y Pie contest last Wednesday on the first day of BearFest.

Thirteen pies and pie-style dessert dishes were submitted to the contest, which was judged on criteria such as appearance, aroma, sweetness, thickness, flakiness and taste.

Entries consisted of thimbleberry, blueberry, pecan, apple, cherry and combinations of blueberry and lemon, thimbleberry and salmonberry, strawberry and rhubarb, and huckleberry and blueberry gelee with a vanilla bean curd layer.

In the end, the winner was Max Moulton with his Berry Diplomatic-Thimbleberry pie. A people's choice pie was also selected, which was a thimbleberry and salmonberry vanilla cream pie, concocted by Moira Eidahl and Kendra McDougall.

A group of three boys won the kids' category.

Jude Johnson, Michael Barnes and Dylan Brenner won for their caramel apple pie with sourdough crust. Dylan and Michael stayed over Jude's house the night before the contest and decided to bake the pie and enter it, according to a Facebook post by Jude's mom, Devyn Johnson, who owns Sweet Tides bakery. Sweet Tides also entered a pie in the contest.

"I'm pretty dang proud of that kid," Johnson said.

Moulton won bragging rights and a painting of a bear at Anan Wildlife Observatory created by Wrangell artist Brenda Schwartz-Yeager, who also sponsored the contest.

The people's choice winner was presented with a Wrangell-themed print and the kids category winners were given stickers, according to contest facilitator.

The judges simply enjoyed the process. "We are having a wonderful time," said Anne Luetkemeyer, one of the four judges and the creator of this year's BearFest statue. "I just need a cup of coffee and I'm all set."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Max Moulton was the overall winner in the BearFest Bear-y pie contest held last Wednesday at the Nolan Center. Moulton won for his Berry Diplomatic-Thimbleberry Pie. He was awarded bragging rights and a painting of a bear at Anan Wildlife Observatory by Brenda Schwartz-Yeager.

## 'Once-in-a-lifetime' broadband expansion will take years to roll out in rural Alaska

By RASHAH MCCHESENEY  
Wrangell Sentinel

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it's putting \$29 million toward connecting just over 1,200 people, a school and 45 businesses in Craig and Klawock on Prince of Wales Island and also Hyder to high-speed internet.

That funding is part of Alaska's \$116 million slice of \$401 million in grants to improve internet access in 11 states. It's part of an initial round of the more than \$90 billion the federal government has committed to spending on bringing affordable, high-speed internet to communities across the country.

Other Alaska communities in last week's round of grants include Cordova, villages around Bethel and in the southwest region of the state.

The grants are funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and are intended to bring internet to communities lacking anything close to high speeds.

And while Alaska communities are in the running for billions of dollars more in grants to expand broadband access, experts say the state's digital divide could be slow to close.

"I think it's hard for people to understand how long some of this stuff takes," said Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Network Architect Chris Cropley. "You have to buy property, do radio engineering, get steel — it has to be American steel. Just getting the (Federal Communications Commission) to acknowledge the lease is going to take a month or two."

Cropley has a running list of programs aimed at funding broadband services and accessibility — targeting everything from education and distance learning to telemedicine and funding for tribal governments. He said there are new programs coming online "all the time."

"The new funding is an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get broadband to the people" he said.

And, while the state will be competing with the rest of the country to get grants, the largest federal programs are prioritizing projects for unserved or underserved communities.

"Alaska doesn't have to game the system. We are worse off than everyone else," Cropley said.

He is working on Tidal Network, a pilot wireless broad-

band project for Wrangell. Central Council used funding it received from the American Rescue Plan Act. The federal infrastructure bill from 2021 earmarked \$25 billion for low-cost, high-speed internet.

But the Tidal Network rollout has been held up because two cell towers that were supposed to be delivered in May were delayed until September. Cropley said those shipments should still be on track. But other rural communities and newer projects might have to wait longer.

"Wrangell is lucky, he said. "It jumped the line by, like, two years. ... I'm ordering gear every day and I wish it was coming in September."

One of Wrangell's other telecommunications providers — Alaska Power and Telephone — is also experiencing equipment delays. According to its 2021 annual report to shareholders, the company expects supply chain issues to affect its operations for the next several years. "Lead times on some items will be very long and prices are increasing significantly."

Cropley blames the delays for digital equipment on supply issues, and he thinks those problems will get worse.

"They're dumping billions of dollars into getting guys like me to go buy this stuff. It's a double whammy. So, the supply chain

is recovering in some places but in other places — like, trying to get fiber right now? Good freaking luck," he said.

One bright spot around the tribe's pending Tidal Network rollout in Wrangell is that the program that allowed it to get the federal broadband licenses also requires "defending" it. To do that, it had to scale up to offering internet service to 50% of the area's population within the first two years of having the license and 80% of the area in five years.

Now, those defense windows have been extended, and Cropley said Central Council has eight years to reach 80% coverage.

"This has taken a lot of pressure off," he said, but "we are not letting the extension shift any of our timelines."

When it is installed in Wrangell, Tidal Network will mostly focus on serving areas of the community outside the coverage of existing high-speed internet services, or with weak coverage from those providers.

While Wrangell is well-positioned when compared to other parts of rural Alaska, nearby Southeast communities like Kasaan, Thorne Bay, Whale Pass, Coffman Cove and Kupreanof are completely unserved by high-speed internet, according to the state.

That makes them a priority

for federal funding programs. However, the state's broadband coordinator, Lisa Von Barga, said it could be years before projects come online in those areas.

Von Barga, Wrangell's former borough manager, heads up the state's new broadband office and is tasked with overseeing the state's broadband funding and managing rollout of the new programs.

Right now, Von Barga said she is extremely busy. Her office is recruiting for staff and responding to Notices of Federal Funding Opportunity — essentially grants — through the two federal programs the

state is focused on for broadband funds.

Once the state gets the money, she said the plan is to develop programs for new projects across the state. But, she said, it could be six to eight years before rural Alaskans see an expansion of their access to broadband.

To learn more about funding opportunities, possible timelines and coordination, federal, state and Native government and community members will meet with other stakeholders on Aug. 9 during a broadband summit and workshop at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL





# State ended summer Dungeness season early last Saturday

By CLARISE LARSON  
*Juneau Empire*

The summer Dungeness crab commercial season ended Saturday, with reports of low catch rates.

"On a regionwide level, there are no bright spots, and generally regionwide catch rates have been down," said Joseph Stratman, the lead Southeast Crab biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

It was a shorter-than-typical summer Dungeness season for the 201 permitted crabbers in Southeast. The department trimmed about two weeks from the season after data collected from the first week of the season, which started June 15, pointed to an estimated full-season harvest of about 2 million pounds, which is lower than the 2.25 million pound threshold in regulation.

It was only the third time in the past 20 years that the department had cut short the summer season.

But, Stratman said, Southeast Alaska can expect the fall Dungeness season to last at least a month and possibly longer pending port sampling data analysis that will be conducted in between the seasons. The sampling data will give insight as to what fishermen saw during the summer months and help determine the potential harvest numbers that could be expected for the fall.

He said people can likely expect the decision on the length of the fall season to be announced in mid-August. The

fall season will start Oct. 1.

Last year, the summer season lasted around two months — mid-June to mid-August — and the overall Dungeness crab harvest numbers for summer and fall clocked in at around 4.23 million pounds, well above the 10-year harvest average in the region but not nearly as high as 2020's nearly record-breaking harvest at 5.87 million.

"Nobody did good at all, it's one of the worst seasons that I've heard of in I don't know how long," said Mitch Mork, a former crabber in Wrangell.

Stratman said he can't identify any specific causes as to why catch rates are down, but said it's not atypical to see numbers fluctuate from year to year. "From what I've heard, people weren't catching a lot of crabs."

Studies by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suggest that Dungeness populations will likely face challenges as climate change continues to grow as more of a threat to ocean sustainability.

Ocean acidification has been linked to a projected decline over the next 50 years in Dungeness crab, larval development rates and survival and an overall loss in economic value, according to a case study published by NOAA fisheries in collaboration with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and NOAA Ocean Acidification Program.

# Troll fishery closed 3 days to preserve coho

By GARLAND KENNEDY  
*Sitka Sentinel*

After the longest summer king salmon troll opening in nearly 20 years, the Southeast Alaska commercial troll fishery closed to the taking of all salmon for three days as a coho conservation measure, the Department of Fish and Game announced July 25.

The closure went into effect at 11:59 p.m. July 28 and ended at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 1.

Despite the lengthy four-week king opening, the fleet hooked less than three-quarters of its anticipated July catch. All told, trollers were expected to have taken about 87,000 king salmon by the time of the shutdown, leaving 67,000 fish in the summer allocation uncaught.

The troll fishery now will remain open indefinitely until closed by emergency order.

The goal of the three-day closure was to ensure that adequate numbers of coho salmon could make it to their home streams, said Grant Hagerman, troll management biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Sitka.

"It's just to ensure that we're getting enough fish that are passing to inside waters and moving toward more terminal areas for escapement and to the river mouths," Hagerman said July 26.

Regardless of coho catch rates, king salmon catch rates were low.

While a number of factors are in play in the low king salmon harvest, Hagerman said, reduced fishing effort and lower king salmon abundance likely have a significant role in the diminished haul.

At the start of July, about 580 boats were active in the Southeast fishery, he said, but as the weeks drew on, that number declined by roughly half. Initially, the department estimated that the first summer troll opener would last about 12 days, but it ran for 28. In 2003, a year of tremendous salmon abundance, the king opener lasted for 39 days.

The upcoming closure is the first-ever July coho conservation closure. Such closures have previously happened in August, and can sometimes last for more than a week.

A number of trollers have been targeting cohos instead of kings, which Hagerman said has further reduced the overall chinook catch and led to a longer king opening.

The brief duration of the closure is likely to cause bottlenecks for the fleet, said Alaska Trollers Association president Matt Donohoe, of Sitka.

"A three-day closure really bottlenecks the fleet. It screws up the plants for packers and ice. If, like us, you're out on the grounds trying to fish it's a day at least to get back to town," Donohoe said.

Meanwhile, trollers can continue to target hatchery salmon in designated terminal harvest areas during the closure.

# State will provide more help with high-cost electric bills

By JAMES BROOKS  
*Alaska Beacon*

Up to 82,000 rural Alaskans will see lower electric bills because of legislation signed into law last month.

Senate Bill 243, passed by the Legislature this spring, raises the maximum subsidy under the state's Power Cost Equalization program, which reduces the cost of electricity in rural Alaska. Gov. Mike Dunleavy signed the measure into law on July 14.

The bill, authored by Bethel Sen. Lyman Hoffman, increases the maximum available subsidy from 500 kilowatt-hours

per month to 750 kilowatt-hours per month. The average Alaska home consumes 552 kilowatt-hours per month, according to figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Alaska's average home electricity rate is 22.57 cents per kilowatt-hour, the third-highest rate in the country, according to the EIA, but prices in rural Alaska can be much higher.

In the Kuskokwim River town of McGrath, for example, a residential customer pays almost 58 cents per kilowatt-hour, according to figures from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

With the PCE subsidy, that falls to 37.21 cents — still above average for the state, but almost 20 cents lower than the unsubsidized cost.

The subsidy covers homes, apartments and community facilities.

Residential customers in Wrangell, which is not covered by the rural subsidy program, generally pay between 12 cents and 14.5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

As created in 1984, PCE was intended to serve as part of a grand compromise across the state: Coastal communities, including Wrangell, received hundreds of millions of dollars for hydroelectric projects; Southcentral Alaska received cheap natural gas; and rural Alaska received PCE.

The program originally subsidized up to 750 kilowatt-hours per month, but legislators reduced that to 500 in 2000 because of the cost of the program.

Lawmakers subsequently created an endowment fund to pay for PCE in perpetuity, and cost estimates indicate that the endowment's earnings are sufficient to pay for the 750 kilowatt-hour program.

The endowment also funds community assistance grants and renewable-energy project grants. Legislators were warned this spring that increased spending on PCE could mean insufficient money for those other programs.

Members of the Senate Finance Committee were told that an additional \$320 million deposit into the PCE endowment was necessary to avoid the risk. No deposit was made.

*The AlaskaBeacon.com is a donor-funded independent news organization in Alaska.*

## NOTICE OF PRECINCT BOUNDARY AND POLLING PLACE CHANGES

The Amended Interim Proclamation of Redistricting makes changes and/or renumbers all 40 house districts within the state. Based on those changes, the Division of Elections has adopted regulations that depict the precinct boundaries. Precinct boundaries were changed to fit within the election districts established in the redistricting plan.

In addition to changing the precinct boundaries, the division assigned polling places to each precinct based on the changes to the precincts.

A copy of the precinct maps and a list of each precinct polling place is available by contacting one of the division's regional offices listed below or on the division's website at:

<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/districtmaps.php>  
<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-polls/>

New voter identification cards will be sent to all registered voters starting on July 13, 2022. The card identifies the house district, precinct number, and polling place for each registered voter.

[www.elections.alaska.gov](http://www.elections.alaska.gov)

**Region I Office**  
Juneau  
House Districts  
1 – 6  
(907) 465-3021  
1-866-948-8683

**Region II Office**  
Anchorage  
House Districts  
9 – 24  
(907) 522-8683  
1-866-958-8683

**Region III Office**  
Fairbanks  
House Districts  
31 – 36  
(907) 451-2835  
1-866-959-8683

**Region IV Office**  
Nome  
House Districts  
37 – 40  
(907) 443-8683  
1-866-953-8683

**Region V Office**  
Mat-Su  
House Districts  
7, 8, 25 – 30  
(907) 373-8952  
1-844-428-8952

Language Assistance: 1-866-954-8683

Toll Free TTY: 1-888-622-3020

*The State of Alaska, Division of Elections, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special assistance and/or accommodation to vote, please contact your regional Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements.*

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your hometown agent,  
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**BUY or SELL!**  
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[movetowrangell.com](http://movetowrangell.com)



# State says public funds can help pay for materials, services at private schools

By LISA PHU  
Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Department of Law issued an opinion July 25 saying public money can be spent for homeschool students to attend one or two classes in a private school, but cannot be used for most of a student's private school tuition.

The 19-page opinion said it's sometimes legal to use public funds for private school classes through the state program that pays for students to attend a correspondence school or homeschool.

"But the more it looks like you're just trying to send your kid to private school and get subsidized by the state, I think that's when you start getting into unconstitutional territory," said Deputy Attorney General Cori Mills, who wrote the opinion.

The opinion found that public money may be spent for individual materials and services from a private school as long as it supports a public school correspondence education. But spending public money "to pay most or all, in particular, of a private school's full-time tuition is very likely unconstitutional," Mills said during a news briefing.

According to the opinion: "Using allotment money for one or two classes to

support a public correspondence school program is likely constitutional, whereas using public school allotment money to pay for most or all of a private school's tuition would not be."

School districts in Alaska can establish state-funded public correspondence schools for families who choose to homeschool their children. Correspondence programs can offer what's known as an allotment program, which reimburses families for educational-related needs of the student, like books, classes, school supplies, technology support, tutoring, music or activity lessons.

Wrangell schools do not offer a correspondence study program, though such programs provided by other districts in the state are used by students here, said Bill Burr, Wrangell schools superintendent. Those include the PACE program, operated by the Craig city school district, and IDEA, operated by the Galena district in Alaska's Interior.

While Alaska statute allows families to purchase nonsectarian services and materials from a public, private, or religious organization with a correspondence student allotment, the Alaska Constitution says, "No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational in-

stitution."

Mills said the core analysis of the opinion provides guidance. "The balancing act is determining whether any particular expenditure of public funds is really intended to supplant a public education or incentivize a private education over a public education with the backing of public dollars," she said.

For example, "things like private tutoring, public or private college courses, extracurricular classes or sports, certain educational materials that meet the requirements of the allotment program, are all very likely constitutional, even if they may provide an incidental benefit to a private school," Mills said.

In contrast, "using the student allotments to pay for the tuition of a student being educated full-time at a private institution would be highly unlikely to survive constitutional scrutiny," according to the opinion.

Mills said the facts of each student's situation matter in determining if the allotment is being used properly. For instance, answers to questions like: What are the specific classes that are being paid for? How do they meet statutory requirements? How is the learning plan set up?

Mills added: "You know it when you see it, like if the heart of something is

really trying to provide and meet those public educational requirements, that's a different picture than someone who really just wants to send their kid to private school, or a district that's trying to provide access to private schools."

In mid-May, Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor's wife Jodi Taylor wrote publicly on the Alaska Policy Forum website about her plan to seek up to \$8,000 in reimbursement from public funding for their two kids attending an Anchorage private school. It was published on some Alaska news sites and blogs. Attorney General Taylor recused himself on May 21 from all matters involving correspondence school allotments and delegated the review to Mills.

To help formulate the opinion, Mills looked at minutes of the Alaska Constitutional Convention to see what the framers of the constitution said.

"At the heart of it, I really believe the framers were concerned with supplanting a public education with a private education. That's what their worry was," Mills said. "That is different than supporting or supplementing a public education with the use of some private school resources."

## GCI continues to carry One America News

By JAMES BROOKS  
Alaska Beacon

Alaska cable company GCI has no immediate plans to drop the right-wing TV channel One America News, a spokesperson said July 27.

Verizon, the last remaining major carrier to carry the channel, stopped airing the channel last Saturday. That action follows a similar move in April by DirectTV. Their decisions leave the channel, once a reliable advocate for the administration of President Donald Trump, without a nationwide audience and without the revenue paid by those carriers.

Scott Robson, a senior research analyst at S&P Global Market Intelligence, told The New York Times that the channel will soon be accessible only to customers of smaller cable networks such as GCI's parent company, GCI Liberty.

Josh Edge, a spokesperson for GCI, confirmed that OAN will remain accessible on GCI for the time being.

"GCI's current contract to deliver OAN content was signed in 2019. When the contract concludes, GCI will review the viewership numbers and determine whether or not to negotiate for a new contract. This is the regular business practice GCI uses for all contracts to deliver pay TV programming. For reference, GCI manages more than 50 programming contracts for nearly 300 channels," Edge said.

He declined to say when GCI's contract for OAN will expire.

"The terms of the OAN contract, like all content contracts, are confidential," he said.

Started in 2013 as an alternative to channels like Fox News, OAN gained viewership during the administration of President Trump, who repeatedly praised its coverage.

It has been a reliable platform for conspiracy theories related to COVID-19, vaccinations and the 2020 election. The network now faces several defamation lawsuits relating to that coverage.

GCI, formerly a standalone company, was purchased in 2020 and is now part of Liberty Broadband, a national company based in Colorado.

### NOTICE OF PRIMARY AND SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Polling Places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### Candidate Races on Primary Ballot

United State Senator  
United States Representative  
Governor / Lt. Governor  
State Senator (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S)  
State House Representative (All 40 Districts)

#### Candidate Race on Special General Ballot

United States Representative

To find your polling place, call any Division of Elections office or visit:  
<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-polls/>

#### Absentee In-Person and Special Needs Voting

Absentee In-Person voting will be available at many locations throughout the state beginning August 1, 2022. For a list of locations and information on absentee voting, visit the division's website at <https://AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov> or call your regional elections office below. If you are unable to go to the polls due to age, disability, or serious illness, you may use the special needs voting process by appointing a personal representative to bring you a ballot.

[www.elections.alaska.gov](http://www.elections.alaska.gov)

Region I Office	Region II Office	Region III Office	Region IV Office	Region V Office
Juneau	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Nome	Mat-Su
House Districts 1 – 6	House Districts 9 – 24	House Districts 31 – 36	House Districts 37 – 40	House Districts 7, 8, 25 – 30
(907) 465-3021	(907) 522-8683	(907) 451-2835	(907) 443-8683	(907) 373-8952
1-866-948-8683	1-866-958-8683	1-866-959-8683	1-866-953-8683	1-844-428-8952

Language Assistance: 1-866-954-8683

Toll Free TTY: 1-888-622-3020

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# New law allows prosecution for rape if victim says 'no'

TESS WILLIAMS  
Anchorage Daily News

A bill signed into Alaska law last Thursday will make it possible for the state to prosecute sexual assault on the basis of a victim saying "no," instead of requiring physical force or threats for such assaults to be considered crimes.

The bill — which will also reduce the maximum amount of time allowed for rape kit processing and reclassify revenge porn cases as domestic violence crimes to offer better protection for victims — was one of three pieces of public safety legislation that Gov. Mike Dunleavy signed into law.

The comprehensive sex-crimes bill brought forth by Anchorage Rep. Sara Rasmussen will expand the state's definition of rape and allow for more prosecution, she said.

Consent was previously not included in Alaska's sex crime statutes, meaning that if a victim said "no" but physical force or threat was not used — which can happen when a victim responds to trauma by freezing or becoming physically unable to act — it was not a crime, said Deputy Attorney General John Skidmore.

"That's a very frequent thing," Skidmore said about a freezing response from victims. "That's one of the things our prosecutors have found over the years as they've had to talk with victims and explain why we couldn't prosecute a case, even when there's that freezing or that fear aspect to it. We've seen it over and over, but we couldn't do anything about it because the law wouldn't allow us to do that."

The new law updates Alaska sexual assault statutes "to ensure the conduct the

vast majority of citizens think should be a crime is now a crime," Attorney General Treg Taylor said. "'No' will mean no in Alaska. When a person communicates 'no,' that's the end of it."

The changes will go into effect in January. The bill also will shorten the amount of time allowed by law for processing rape kits. In the past few years, the state has begun to address an enormous backlog in testing that resulted in thousands of rape kits sitting on the shelves for decades. The new law will require that tests are processed within six months to prevent future backlogs, Rasmussen said.

The bill also reclassifies cases commonly referred to as revenge porn — where intimate images are posted online without the subject's consent. That was already considered a crime, but will now be classified as domestic violence to offer better

protection for victims, Rasmussen said.

"A woman or victim couldn't previously petition the court for a restraining order when that occurred," she said. "So now that will qualify as a condition for a restraining order."

A number of victims also spoke at the signing. Blaze Bell, who is a survivor of sexual assault and has advocated for victims through her involvement with various nonprofits, said the bills will "increase victim rights, fix long outdated consent laws and create a path toward justice."

"I have worked so hard over the past 20 years to identify and fight for my rights and the rights of other victims in our state. It's been an enlightening, exhausting and unfair journey," she said. "But I'm here today filled with hope as I see that changes are being made."

# Sitka will vote on spending \$8 million to build boat haul-out

BY SHANNON HAUGLAND  
Sitka Sentinel

A proposal to build a boat haul-out facility in Sitka with the money the city received from selling its community hospital property will be on the Oct. 4 city election ballot.

On a 6-0 vote July 26, the assembly gave final approval to an ordinance on the ballot ques-

tion. If passed by the voters, up to \$8.18 million from the 2021 sale of the hospital building and property to SEARHC would go toward construction of a haul-out and boatyard at the Gary Paxton Industrial Park.

Sitka has not had a boat haul-out — an important piece of infrastructure in a fishing community — since Halibut Point

Marine closed its facility earlier this year to pursue tourism projects, particularly a cruise ship terminal.

The lack of a boat haul-out for repairs and maintenance has driven more business to Wrangell, where the borough leases out space at the Marine Service Center which offers boat-lifts of different sizes.

The ballot question in Sitka comes in the wake of three requests for proposals in the past decade that failed to generate private financing for developing a haul-out facility.

Ordinance co-sponsor Thor Christianson said the sale of the hospital is providing Sitka with a rare opportunity to start work on a haul-out without cutting elsewhere in the city budget. Also, he said, the city appears to be out of other options.

"We tried to get money from the feds, we tried to get money from the state, we tried private, we tried public-private," he said. "The one difference with this is I think it actually has a chance of working — \$8 million will get us hauling boats out of the water."

"It will cost us money, we're going to have to pay for this," said co-sponsor Kevin Mosher. "This is why we're doing this — because we've tried everything else and it just didn't work. At the end of the day, we have to pay for it. So, the question is: Do we want to support our fishing

industry, our marine industry? I believe we should and most people in this town believe that to be true."

The city deposited the \$8.18 million it received from selling the old hospital to SEARHC into the municipality's permanent fund, a savings account that requires a vote of the people for any withdrawal.

"I'm opposed to using the permanent fund for a purpose like this," Assembly member Kevin Knox said. He voted in favor of the ordinance but said he didn't know if he would be a "yes" in October.

While the haul-out will provide direct and indirect benefits for the community, there is a chance it could become a liability for various reasons, "and the city will have to make up for that somehow," Knox said.

Assemblymember Crystal Duncan said she's supportive of putting the question to voters, but hasn't seen any business plans for how the haul-out would be built and run.

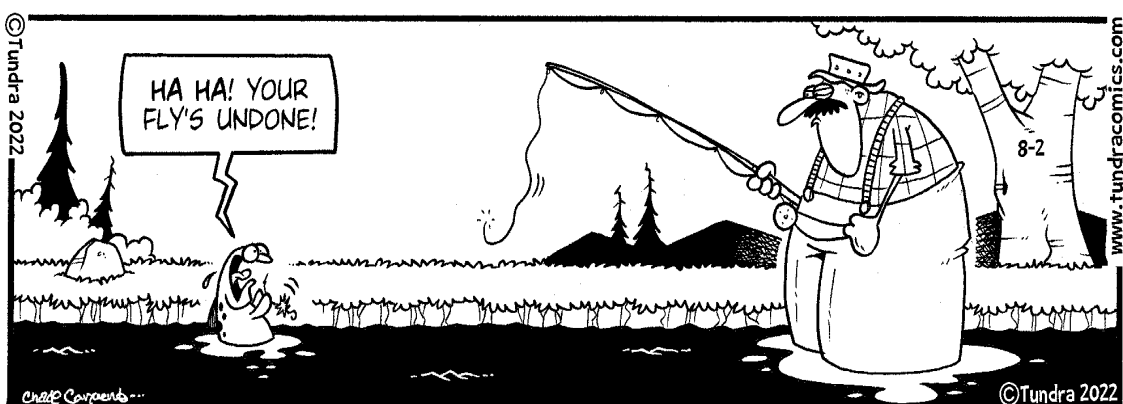
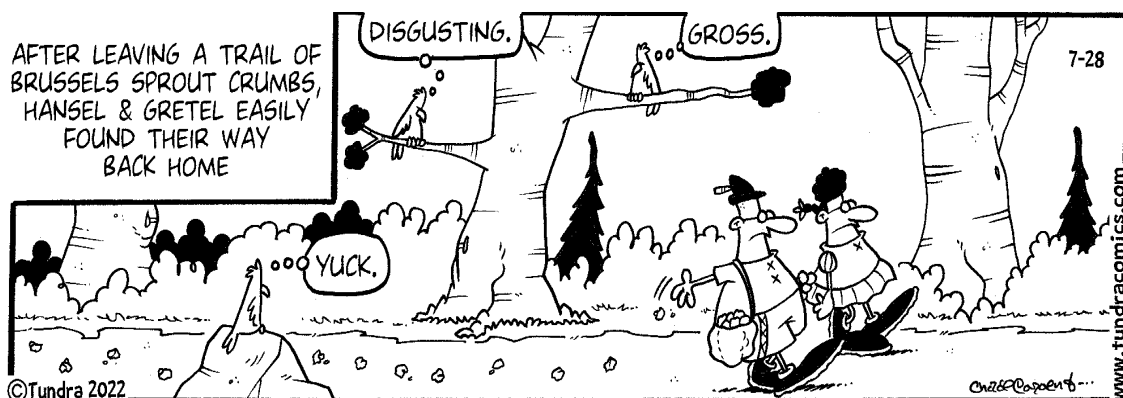
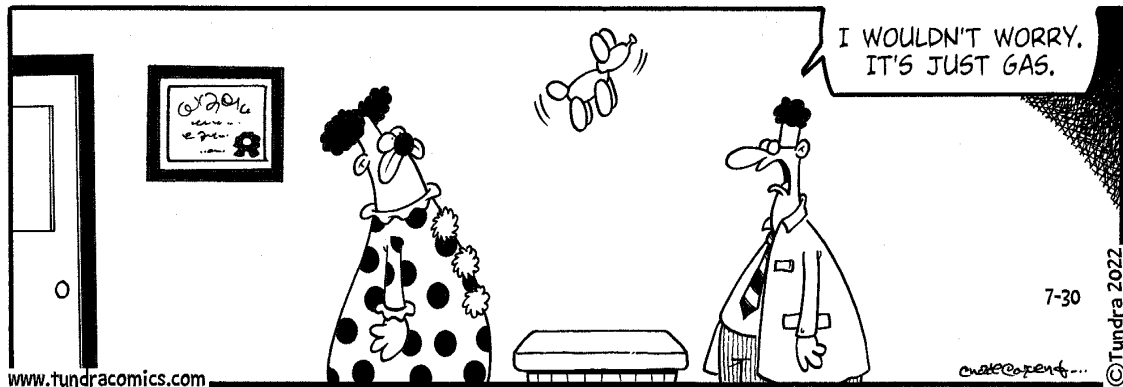
## Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



## Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



## Short on crew, state parks ferry for week

Sentinel staff

The state ferry Tustumena was tied up in Homer for several days last week, lacking enough crew to operate.

Due to crew shortages, the Tustumena's sailings were canceled as of July 26, and were scheduled to resume seven days later on Tuesday, according to an announcement from the Alaska Marine Highway System.

"A critical crew shortage required the vessel to stay in port for safety reasons," the state reported July 28.

"We ran out of stewards," Alaska Department of Transportation Commissioner Ryan Anderson said during a presentation to the

Juneau Chamber of Commerce last week. "Those crews have been working hard. The captain made the call that due to safety he wanted to do that."

Also due to crew shortages, "food and beverage service on the Tustumena will be suspended until further notice," the state's July 28 announcement said.

The ship has been operating with a "small but dedicated" crew in Southwest Alaska since July 16, Sam Dapcevich, state Transportation Department spokesman, told Juneau radio station KINY last week. The ferry serves Homer, Kodiak, and a monthly run out the Aleutian Islands.

## Police report

**Monday, July 25**  
Agency assist: Ambulance.  
Dog complaint.  
Fireworks complaint.  
Found property.

**Tuesday, July 26**  
Domestic violence order service.  
Domestic violence order denial.

**Wednesday, July 27**  
Civil paper service.  
Fireworks.  
Traffic stop: Driving under the influence; arrested.

**Thursday, July 28**  
Noise complaint.  
Dog complaint.

Citizen assist.  
**Friday, July 29**  
Order to show cause served.  
Dog at large.  
Traffic stop.  
Traffic stop.

**Saturday, July 30**  
Agency assist: Ambulance.  
Dog at large.  
Traffic stop.

**Sunday, July 31**  
Agency assist: Ambulance.  
Dead deer.  
Trespass.  
During this reporting period there were five agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.



## Ceremony officially opens Metlakatla Veterans Cemetery

*Ketchikan Daily News*

After two years of construction, the new \$3.1 million Metlakatla Veterans Cemetery officially opened on July 25. A pair of seven-foot-tall totem poles carved by David Boxely were dedicated to the cemetery at the event. Both totem poles represent traditional Tsimshian warriors.

The Fourth Generation Dancers, a Metlakatla dancing group, performed a warrior's song during the totem pole unveiling ceremony.

"It's so important to recognize our Native American, Native Alaskans who have served our nation and the families that have sacrificed," U.S. Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn said after the event.

"And to see the community come out in support of the veterans who were there, the youths who were there, just individuals wanting to recognize the service. ... That's why we do what we do, so that veterans are never forgotten," Quinn said.

Alaska U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan also attended the event.

Construction of the cemetery began in July 2020. The project was completed in the spring of 2022, according to a statement from the Metlakatla Indian Community.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided \$3.1 million in funding for the project. The work included roads, utilities, an assembly area, full-casket gravesites in crypts, a cremation memorial site, a memorial wall for veterans and a maintenance building for the grounds.

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Temporary Harbor Administrative Assistant Harbor Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications beginning July 21, 2022 (until filled) for the position of temporary Harbor Department Administrative Assistant.

This is a temporary 40-hour-per-week position lasting approximately six months. Applicants must have a valid Alaska driver's license, be proficient with Microsoft Office programs including Excel, Word, Outlook and Access, and have excellent customer service skills.

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

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

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

**Publish July 27 and Aug. 3, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE to Purchase Borough Owned Tidelands

As per WMC 16.12.040, notice is hereby given of a request to purchase Borough-owned Tidelands consisting of approximately 9,456 square feet of tidelands, described as Lot 6, Block 84B, Tidelands Subdivision ATS 83, Parcel No. 02-013-104 on Peninsula Street, for the purpose of improving the site that is currently being leased by the requestor.

The Wrangell Planning & Zoning Commission and Port Commission have reviewed this request and approved the request to move forward with the Tidelands Purchase with conditions.

Any person wishing to protest this application to purchase the proposed Borough-owned Property described as:

Approximately 9,456 square feet of tidelands described as Lot 6, Block 84B, Tidelands Subdivision ATS 83, Parcel No. 02-013-104 on Peninsula Street must file a written protest with the Borough Clerk, no later than August 30, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Written protests may be emailed to clerk@wrangell.com or delivered to 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929. Any such protest shall state the reason(s) for the protest in detail.

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

**Publish Aug. 3, 10 and 17, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID Packaged Water Treatment Plant Equipment Preselection

The City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive Bids for the Packaged Water Treatment Plant Equipment Preselection project. The work for the Packaged Water Treatment Plant Equipment Preselection consists of designing and furnishing related manufacturer's labor, materials and services for prepackaged water treatment plant equipment for installation in the Project entitled Water Treatment Plant Improvements, in Wrangell, Alaska. The treatment system specified will be used to meet a 2.26 mgd design water treatment capacity.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Borough Clerk, City and Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 until 2 p.m. prevailing time (Alaska Standard Time) on Aug. 24, 2022, after which time proposals will not be accepted. As such, proposal pricing shall be read aloud.

The Contract Documents may be downloaded free of charge on the City & Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381; Borough Clerks Office, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; or at clerk@wrangell.com.

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, and to make award to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder as it may best serve the interests of the owner.

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

**Publish Aug. 3, 10 and 17, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE Heritage Harbor Boat Ramp Closure

Heritage Harbor boat launch will be closed Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, and will reopen on Aug. 20, 2022, to accommodate parking lot repairs at the top of the ramp. The Shoemaker Bay Harbor boat launch and the Inner Harbor boat launch across from the Power Plant on Case Avenue will remain open.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Harbor Department at 907-874-3736.

Amber Al-Haddad, Capital Facilities Director  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish July 27, Aug. 3, 10 and 17, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

**Publish Aug. 3, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Declaration of candidacy for Borough Mayor, Borough Assembly, Port Commission and School Board, and signature petitions as required, will be available in the Borough Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 1, 2022, through Aug. 31, 2022.

Qualified persons may have their name placed on the ballot for the Oct. 4, 2022, City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Municipal Election by filing declarations of candidacy for Borough Mayor, Borough Assembly, Port Commission and School Board.

Borough Mayor: One seat, for 2-year term

Borough Assembly: Two seats, for 3-year terms

School Board: Two seats, for 3-year terms

School Board: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2023

Port Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms

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

**Publish Aug. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2022**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Temporary Workers Harbor Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications from which to hire Temporary Laborers for the Harbor Department. Employees will be selected from applications in the pool at the time employees are needed throughout the year. There are multiple immediate openings. You must have a valid Alaska Driver's license, or a valid out-of-state Driver's License with the ability to obtain an Alaska license within six months. A CDL license is preferred but not required.

This position will require someone with experience in carpentry and the ability to work independently in a marine environment. Work may include but will not be limited to replacement of bull rails, fascia boards, decking, plumbing, pile hoops and concrete patching. Duties will also include painting, pressure washing, cutting brush and grass, and working in the boatyard and office. Boatyard duties will include carrying blocking, boat stands, and various types of cleanup. Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Successful applicant must be able to work in all weather conditions and weekends.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger St. (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com. Pay for this position starts at \$16.54 per hour DOE.

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

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

**Publish Aug. 3 and 10, 2022**

## CLASSIFIED

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

Remote property for sale on South Wrangell Island (Thoms Place subdivision). 1.88 acres, waterfront. Lot 18, Block 2, Unit 3 of Alaska State Land Survey No. 81-234, Wrangell Recording District. Phone or text 907-321-3240.

### SHOES FOR SALE

New shoes. One pair is black slip-ons and the other pair is brown suede boots. \$40 each. Call Marline at 907-874-4414.

### ATV FOR SALE

ATV 200cc, manual transmission, 4-speed plus reverse, for sale. Looks and runs good. \$1,800. 907-660-7550.

### FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick some up.

### FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something? Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

James Leslie II is making application for a new common carrier license, AS 04.11.180 liquor license, doing business as motor vessels Dreadnaught and Chutine Warrior located at Reliance Harbor, to be dispensed on excursions by Alaska Waters.

Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501, or email alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

**Publish Aug. 3, 10 and 17, 2022**



# ALASKA VOTER ADVISORY

## August 16 Statewide Election

The **REGULAR PICK ONE PRIMARY ELECTION** and **SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION** are on the same ballot.



**THE AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup> ELECTION WILL BE AN IN-PERSON ELECTION**  
with polling places open on election day 7am-8pm

**WANT TO VOTE BY MAIL?**

Apply for an absentee by-mail ballot by August 6!

### RANKED CHOICE VOTING: HOW TO MARK YOUR BALLOT

**Fill in only one oval per candidate, in each column.**

You do not have to rank all the candidates. Your second choice is only counted if your first choice candidate is eliminated.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### MISTAKES TO AVOID

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you skip a ranking** your next ranking moves up. Here, if your first choice candidate is eliminated, your third choice counts as your second choice and your fourth choice would count as your third choice.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you give more than one candidate the same ranking**, nothing after those candidates will count. Here, only your first choice counts.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Your vote only counts once**, even if you rank a candidate more than once. When a candidate is eliminated in a round, they are eliminated from all future rounds.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you skip two or more rankings in a row** only the rankings before the skipped rankings will count. Here, your first choice counts and the fourth choice would not count.

For more detailed information, sample ballots, and explainer videos, visit [www.elections.alaska.gov/rcv.php](http://www.elections.alaska.gov/rcv.php).

