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Owner accepts borough offer for sawmill property

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The owner of the former sawmill property at 6-Mile Zimovia Highway has accepted the borough's offer of about \$2.5 million to buy the 38.59 acres, which the borough sees as an economic development opportunity for the community.

Borough Manager Jeff Good declined to name the exact amount but said Friday, "we did make an offer, they accepted."

Bennett McGrath, of Anchor Properties, in Petersburg, the representative for property owner Betty Buhler, said the borough initially offered \$2.3 million and they "met in the middle" between \$2.3 million and the \$2.7 million asking price.

Anchor Properties on Friday declined to name the exact figure.

During the borough assembly executive session Feb. 22, in which the purchase was discussed, Good said the assembly "provided me some room to negotiate for the property."

The property is "on a deep-water port with three existing warehouse-type buildings and one mechanic shop. Most of the land has existing concrete and a boat launch," according to the listing.

"I would love to sell the mill as a whole to somebody, but I am also tasked with breaking it down to 23 individual lots and selling them individually," McGrath said Feb. 21, while the borough was mulling a purchase of the entire site. Anchor Properties would have asked \$549,000 for a 2.3-acre lot in a proposed subdivided development.

In making an offer, "the biggest thing is making sure it wasn't split into a

bunch of different pieces," Good said last Wednesday. The borough sees the potential to develop the waterfront industrial-zoned property into an economic gain for the community.

"As far as what we'll do, we're looking at the bigger picture," Good said. "There is an economic development plan for the mill property that was developed a while back. We'll have to dust it off, start conversations with different entities. There's a lot of potential."

Finance Director Mason Villarma said the borough met with the CEO of one of those entities, Sealaska Corp.'s Anthony Mallott, on Feb. 9.

Discussions, which are still in a very preliminary stage, included a potential partnership with Sealaska for the property as a deep-water port for tourism or a

specialty mill for the corporation's wood products division, said Villarma, who is a Sealaska shareholder.

Sealaska spokesperson Matt Carle said there are about 350 Sealaska shareholders in Wrangell, but the for-profit Native corporation, which has been having "productive conversations" with the borough, doesn't have any business operations here.

"It's important for us to be aware of what's happening in the region," Carle said Friday. "We've been having community meetings with every major Southeast Alaska community — tribes, village corporations, city administrations. It's important to see what's happening in these communities ... that is the crux behind what we're trying to accomplish with these conversations."

Right tools for the jobs



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Junior Jacen Hay listens as teacher Winston Davies talks about a boat building project during a welding fabrication class at the high school last Wednesday.

Shop class teaches students how to build a better future

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The high-pitched grinding of metal on metal, the whirr of saw blades ripping through cedar, the crackle of a welding arc on aluminum are all sounds of building in progress and a brighter future for Wrangell's students.

Fabrication classes, whether woodworking, metalworking or welding, give kids an alternative avenue when it comes to life beyond high school, bucking the traditional pathway of enrolling in college.

According to Alaska Department of Labor,

construction managers earn an average of \$50 an hour, electricians \$35 an hour and welders an average of \$29 to \$34 an hour. A 2019 New York Times article found that Anchorage was one of five metropolitan areas with the highest share of top-paying jobs for people without traditional college degrees.

"One of the problems we're faced with in school because we've had to cut so much staff, we've really lost a lot of classes," said Winston Davies, the shop class teacher at Wrangell High School. "In

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School board OKs optional masking to start Wednesday

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The school board voted unanimously Monday to make face masks optional for students, staff and visitors in school buildings beginning Wednesday.

The board adopted changes to the district's COVID-19 mitigation plan, including removing quarantine requirements for close contacts of infected individuals and for students and staff returning to town after traveling.

After hearing from students and members of the public, the board voted unanimously to approve the changes. The face mask requirement has been in effect since the start of the school year, after carrying over from the past school year.

Under the revisions, masks will be optional as long as one of four circumstances continues to apply to the community: "The district and schools adopt a random testing program at school sites to access possible outbreaks at school; the CDC rates Wrangell in 'low' or 'moderate' with significant evidence of a return to 'low'; the vaccination rate (with booster if beyond five months) at the

school and community is in the top 35% of the state or 70% (with steady increases); recognition that other mitigation measures could be put in place to limit spread during optional masking even when counts are low."

Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said certain language is being retained in the mitigation plan in case COVID counts spike again and the district needs to act quickly to prevent further spread of illness. As such, the plan says masking and other protocols will be reviewed monthly by the school board.

"Part of this is so we can readjust if there is something where we would have to go back to them, they're already in the plan and it would allow for fast movement in times of necessity," Burr said.

He said testing at school sites would be random and only for a short while to gather data and to determine if masking and other masking protocols would need to be reinstated.

A question was raised regarding the accuracy of active case numbers, since not all are

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State will switch Sitka to paid airport parking; Wrangell could come later

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Sitka will be the next Southeast airport to make the switch from free to paid parking. Petersburg made the move in December, when a private operator leased state airport property that had been used for free parking and converted it to a paid long-term lot.

The Alaska Department of Transportation said parking management at the Sitka airport "has become an increasing challenge" for its crew. The department plans this month to advertise "to find a professional parking management company" to manage the lot in front of the terminal.

The effort "will be the first of several planned to solve similar parking issues throughout the state airport system," according to the department's announcement last month.

"The Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport parking request for proposals is a pilot program for the department's smaller airports," Sam Dapceovich, department spokesman, said last Thursday. "After it's implemented there, the department will start rolling it out to additional airports."

Dapceovich said "no changes are in the works for Wrangell's airport at this time," but confirmed changes to the free airport parking lot across the street from

the Wrangell terminal could come in the future.

In addition to Sitka, Wrangell and Petersburg, the department manages the airports in Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Skagway, Yakutat and several smaller Southeast communities, in addition to airports across Alaska.

The Juneau and Ketchikan airports are managed by the borough in each community, and there is a fee for airport parking.

The request for proposals for a private operator to manage the Sitka parking lot will go out in early March. The department said it "anticipates a company will be managing the lot by early April." The

operator will set and collect the fees.

The parking rate in Petersburg went from free to \$7 per day in December after the state leased the frequently used, state-owned parcel to a private operator — at the request of the company that wanted more space for its own business.

The Wrangell parking lot is on state land, with no private involvement and no fees.

In an interview with the Sitka Sentinel late last month, Dapceovich said the state decided to outsource lot management in Sitka because the department "doesn't have the resources to manage parking." He added, "We've been in dis-

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, March 2: Ella Guggenbickler, Calleigh Miller, Genesis Reign; Anniversary: Jim and Juli Gillen.

Thursday, March 3: Brodie Gardner, Josh Rice, Stacie Torvend.

Friday, March 4: Alan Cummings, Judy Guggenbickler, Donna Loucks, Betsy McConachie.

Saturday, March 5: Jessica Davidson, Kevin Roope, Niecy Steele, Pat Warfel.

Sunday, March 6: Sierra Hagelman, Michael Lockabey.

Monday, March 7: Jack Keller.

Tuesday, March 8: None.

Wednesday, March 9: Jerry Massin, Tanner Thomassen, Ashley Young.

Senior Center Menu

Open for in-person dining.

Must be fully vaccinated.

Thursday, March 3

Chinese pork, steamed broccoli, garden salad, rice pilaf

Friday, March 4

Meatloaf, carrots in orange sauce, romaine radish salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

Monday, March 7

Honey glazed ham, molasses yams, spinach salad, roll

Tuesday, March 8

Porcupine meatballs over pasta, brussels sprouts, carrot raisin salad

Wednesday, March 9

Cheese sandwich, split pea soup, apricot salad

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, March 4

Matanuska, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8

Matanuska, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13

Matanuska, 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 15

Matanuska, 7 p.m.

Southbound

Monday, March 7

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Friday, March 11

Matanuska, 5:45 a.m.

Tuesday, March 15

Matanuska, 2:45 a.m.

Friday, March 18

Matanuska, 7:15 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	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
March 2	00:39	16.9	12:37	18.5	06:26	0.9	06:54	-2.7
March 3	01:17	17.5	01:20	18.3	07:07	0.2	07:29	-2.2
March 4	01:53	17.7	02:01	17.6	07:46	-0.2	08:03	-0.3
March 5	02:26	17.5	02:40	16.5	08:24	-0.1	08:34	0.0
March 6	02:58	16.9	03:17	15.1	09:01	0.3	09:05	1.4
March 7	03:29	16.1	03:57	13.6	09:39	1.1	09:37	2.8
March 8	04:01	15.2	04:41	12.2	10:20	1.8	10:13	4.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE, the Sig and Helen Decker Memorial Run, is planned for Saturday, March 19. Half-marathon, 10k and 5k distances. Starts and ends at Rayme's. Start times will be announced soon. Proceeds will go toward the Sig and Helen Decker Memorial Scholarship Fund.

WRANGELL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS will host a viewing of "Alaska Nets" at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Nolan Center. The two-hour film is an award-winning documentary about the 2018 Metlakatla High School boys basketball team, which won the state championship in their division. Tickets are \$20 each, and seating is limited. Each ticket also gets you a chance to win two Alaska Airlines tickets. For more information, call 907-305-0576 or contact a high school basketball player or coach.

NOLAN CENTER Community Market from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items.

FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION every Saturday through April 14 at the Nolan Center. Sponsored by the AARP TaxAide Foundation. Open to everyone, regardless of age. IRS-certified volunteers will prepare and e-file your return at no charge. Refunds can be direct-deposited into your bank account. By appointment only. Call Paula at 907-874-3824 or 907-305-0309.

WRANGELL PARKS & REC advisory board will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at City Hall. Meeting information is available on the borough website www.wrangell.com/calendar. The public is encouraged to attend. To submit a comment to the board, email kthomas@wrangell.com.

WRANGELL PARKS & REC registration for the American Red Cross lifeguard course is open through March 29. The course will run March 31 to April 3. Fee is \$150. There is a fee waiver for eligible individuals who intend to work for Parks & Recreation. Register online at wrangllrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY will hold Story Time every Friday at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Meeting ID: 935 4298 0052; passcode 8743535.

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

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 907-874-2301. Or go to the Sentinel website, click on the Calendar tab, and submit your entry online.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

Arthritis class, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap swim, 6 - 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap/tot swim, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., weekdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity: 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.

March 2, 1922

The representative of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, W.L. Paul, favors a bill prohibiting fish traps in any bay or channel less than three miles wide, one mile from creeks and one mile from the entrance to bays. Mr. Paul said the enactment of such a law would remove all the traps around Etolin Island, most of the traps on Prince of Wales Island, and some of the traps around Ketchikan, but would not affect the traps in the larger channels. However, Mr. Paul adds that

owing to the wording of the law (should such a law be enacted), "we will have the right to proceed against the big traps that tend to exterminate salmon."

March 4, 1947

The chamber of commerce discussed additional school facilities for Wrangell. Superintendent George Fabricius pointed out the critical situation which exists at present. He said that in 1931, when the school was built, it had a daily average attendance of 124 pupils. It gradually increased until 1940, when the average was 184. During the war, when many people left Wrangell, the enrollment decreased but now has stepped up to a daily attendance of 230 pupils, with prospects of a still higher number to come. Fabricius pointed out classes that are now doubled up under one teacher, such as the fifth and sixth grades, and others are so large that each should have its own teacher in order that the children get the greatest benefit from their schooling. However, lack of space prevents such separation.

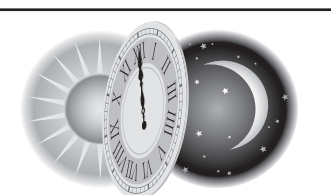
March 3, 1972

Wrangell went on strict water rationing this week as the town's two frozen-over and rain-starved reservoirs threatened to go dry. The city council met in emergency session Tuesday and ordered water shut off except for the hours of 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 8:30 to 10:30

p.m. each day. Meanwhile, the U.S. Weather Bureau office at Annette Island reported little chance of rain soon for Southeast Alaska, as a high-pressure area holding out the moisture remained stationary over Interior Alaska. Mayor Don House said there is no plan at present to pump salt water into the city water system, as was done in a two-month freeze in 1969.

March 6, 1997

Wrangell, so far, is doing well on its capital projects requests to the state, having landed two major projects and several minor ones in the governor's recommended capital improvements budget. The trick now, says Mayor Doug Roberts, is to keep them on the list as it makes its way through the Legislature. More and more Alaska communities are competing for a share of the state's dwindling capital improvements budget. In the budget is \$1.6 million for Phase II of the water filtration system, \$1.29 million for Phases III and IV of the Zimovia Highway sewer and water extension, \$20,000 for a sidewalk or trail to Petroglyph Beach, \$75,000 through the Department of Natural Resources to help develop value-added timber products, \$65,000 to help fund Reid Street road and utility improvements and \$185,000 for various improvements to harbors and docks.



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
March 2	6:38a	5:25p	10:47h
March 3	6:35a	5:27p	10:52h
March 4	6:33a	5:30p	10:56h
March 5	6:30a	5:32p	11:01h
March 6	6:28a	5:34p	11:06h
March 7	6:25a	5:36p	11:11h
March 8	6:22a	5:38p	11:15h

Subsidies discussed as possible child care center solutions

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Public officials, community leaders and businesspeople from Wrangell and Juneau met online Feb. 11 to discuss possible solutions to Wrangell's lack of child care options.

Representatives of the Wrangell Cooperative Association, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Wrangell borough, SEARHC, Sealaska Corp. and Little Eagles and Ravens Nest (LEARN) talked through the problems.

WCA IGAP Coordinator Valerie Massie, one of the meeting attendees, said she and others "saw child care and housing as the two main hurdles to economic and social development here in Wrangell, just like many other towns."

Massie said part of the problem is being able to pay child care staff a living wage without charging parents unaffordable fees.

"(We) discussed how a facility in Wrangell would need to be a combination of supplemental funding and private pay," she said.

Jamie Shanley, the administrator of LEARN, attended the meeting since her facility in Juneau is seen as a model of

how a child care center in Wrangell could be created. Along with the fees paid by parents, LEARN also receives a block grant from the Juneau Native corporation, as they partner with them to provide child care.

LEARN employs 17 full-time staff and one AmeriCorps worker, who is partly paid by LEARN plus an AmeriCorps stipend.

"We have a big range (of salaries)," Shanley said. "We bring people in around \$18.50 an hour and lead teachers make upwards of \$26 per hour. We're also offering a premium pay right now since they are working on the frontlines with unvaccinated children." Shanley said that premium pay is \$4 more per hour.

Each employee also receives full medical and dental insurance and a retirement plan. She said the partnerships with larger entities that need child care options to attract qualified workers is the key to sustaining child care.

"Really, in order for child care to be successful, you need to have subsidies," she said.

Ashley Snookes, program manager at Juneau-based Spruce Root, a nonprofit organization that helps develop small businesses in Southeast, echoed Shan-

ley's thoughts.

"It's incredibly difficult to create sustainable financial models for day cares," Snookes said. "It's difficult to create that if you want to pay employees more than \$14 an hour or provide benefits or a 401k. In my opinion, the only way that child care centers can attain sustainability, while increasing benefits for employees and increasing education without outrageous fees for parents, is partnering with municipalities, partnering with large employers to provide priority care, or investment funds to sustain centers over time."

Snookes said that as pandemic relief funds begin to wind down, it's a good time for local governments and institutions to see how Southeast communities can innovate and sustain child care centers.

LEARN has 34 children currently enrolled, however it has capacity for 60. Its rates are on par with the rest of the market, but parents can apply for child care assistance depending on their income level, Shanley said.

Having received \$8.3 million in federal pandemic aid funding in 2020 and 2021 — though much of the money has been allocated for food and utility assistance and other programs — the WCA council

has asked for ideas from its membership and staff on ways to use the funds.

"Both Brooke (Leslie) and I saw expanding child care options as a crucial step for the community, especially during the pandemic," Massie said. Leslie has been researching and pushing for child care services in Wrangell since last summer.

"Other communities and tribes have invested in expanding child care and other social services during these past two years," Massie said. "WCA is in a unique position after being inundated with CARES and ARPA funds (federal programs) through 2020 and 2021."

However, Massie noted, no funding has been earmarked for child care services yet, and several steps would need to be taken to move forward with some sort of plan.

"Next steps would be to formally put interested parties in writing, do a needs assessment (formal and informal) on families that would potentially use child care, and find locations that could work (and) figure out how close they are to licensing standards (adequate square footage, bathrooms, fire code, etc.)," Massie said. "These are all things that were discussed at the (Feb. 11) meeting."

WCA receives \$620,000 in federal funding for cultural preservation

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The Wrangell Cooperative Association was told last month it will receive \$620,000 in federal funding from the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, a \$25 million U.S. Forest Service investment to diversify the economy of Southeast communities.

The tribe plans to spend \$500,000 on a project to carve new totem poles, \$60,000 on a cultural symposium and \$60,000 toward cultural preservation, such as promoting traditional, healthy foods and adding the Tlingit names to signs around town.

WCA plans to hire a master carver and obtain the logs to carve totem poles in Wrangell, tribal administrator Aaltséen, Esther Reese said on Feb. 18.

"It's anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per linear square foot," she said. "We're hoping the \$500,000 will go toward carving multiple totems, or toward other community members who are interested. It would be an amazing opportunity for people to come learn. We're envisioning this as a totem raising."

Reese said after deciding when to start, the tribe estimates it would take 18 months to complete the project.

A cultural symposium slated for September would consist of three to four days at the Nolan Center with Native speakers, artists, academics and researchers, Reese said. The symposium would also bring together linguists, archeologists and musicians. Topics would include Native history, museum studies, cultural anthropology, Indigenous law, clan protocol, fishery and ecological knowledge.

The tribe also plans to hire a videographer for \$30,000 (half

of the symposium budget) to document the teachings.

The \$60,000 for cultural preservation funding would go toward sharing traditional knowledge and awareness, such as adding an additional sign onto existing signposts with a Tlingit name.

"We also received funding for cultural signage, to have all the road signs in English and Tlingit. We will utilize the rest for interpretive signing at Totem Park, Chief Shakes Island and the Chief Shakes grave site." Having cultural signage "instills that we're on the land of the Shtax'héen Kwáan," she said.

Cultural preservation includes traditional food sovereignty to "support the physical and mental health of our tribal citizens," Reese said, and help them "cultivate their own healthy, fresh food."

The tribe plans to organize a culture camp at Old Town, a former Tlingit village site down on the south end of the island, consisting of elders teaching children about traditional foods, and also have the elders "train the trainer" — pass on the knowledge to adults so it lives on.

WCA plans to construct two additional smokehouses near the existing smokehouse at the community garden adjacent to City Park, including a cement pad for the smokehouses, and providing all three for community use.

Reese announced the federal funding during a Feb. 18 borough planning and zoning commission meeting, where the WCA requested transfer of ownership to the tribe from the borough of a gravel parking lot across from Chief Shakes Island, which it plans to resurface and clean up. WCA plans to reconstruct a

shorter bridge from the parking lot to the island and take down the current bridge, which has reached the end of its 10-year lifespan.

The commission approved the request, which will go before the assembly at a future meeting.

The U.S. Forest Service launched the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy last summer to help promote "a diverse economy, enhance community resilience and conserve natural resources."

The agency last fall sought input from communities and tribes for projects that could fulfill that strategy. Applicants submitted 240 project proposals for the \$25 million, according to the Forest Service website.

The borough and WCA both submitted lists. The borough received \$100,000 for wild blueberry management and \$103,000 for trail upkeep.

The blueberry management

Continued on page 4

WCA to hold election for tribal council on March 8

By Sentinel staff

The Wrangell Cooperative Association has announced the candidates for its March 8 tribal council election.

There are 11 candidates for four seats on the eight-member council: Heidi Armstrong, Lavina Brock, Robyn Byrd, Samuel Campus, Frank Churchill Jr., Caroline Demmert, Timothy Gillen Sr., Olivia Main, Edward Rilatos Jr., Amber Lynn Wade and Asia White are on the ballot, according to a list provided by tribal administrator Esther Reese last Friday.

Rilatos, Churchill and Brock currently serve on the council.

Voters are instructed to vote for no more than four candidates, according to an official ballot form posted to the tribe's Facebook page, by marking an X next to each name. There is also space on the ballot for write-in candidates. Voting for more than four candidates will invalidate the ballot.

Voters should drop their folded, filled-in ballot in the ballot box at the WCA tribal headquarters on the corner of Wood Street and Zimovia Highway (1002 Zimovia Hwy.).

Anyone who would like to turn in a ballot ahead of time for the WCA election on March 8 can contact WCA at 907-874-4304 or email receptionist.wca@gmail.com. Ballots must be received by WCA before 7 p.m. on March 8.

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AMHS is on the lookout for focused, hard-working individuals for several full time, year round professional and entry level positions within our organization. Positions are available throughout Alaska in our administrative offices, terminal locations and onboard our vessels. Many AMHS positions do not require any prior maritime experience to apply!

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- Unlicensed Engine Personnel; Oilers & Jr Engineers
- Licensed Deck Officers
- Marine Engineers

AMHS offers competitive starting pay along with progressive compensation plans for advancement to higher level positions. The State of Alaska offers a full benefit package including medical and dental insurance with optional family coverage, retirement benefits, vacation and personal leave that accrues with years of service.

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment

Corrections

The Sentinel on Feb. 23 incorrectly reported the number of years Karl Altepeter has worked at Ottensen's. He has worked there 10 years.

The Sentinel news story on Feb. 23 about the "Alaskan Nets" film showing in Wrangell misspelled the Montana city of Bozeman.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

High oil prices are Alaska's alcohol of choice

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

It's not often you hear political debates that invoke religion and booze but have nothing to do with temperance, the social ills of alcohol or strict adherence to church teachings.

In Alaska, those points are being offered in the context of the state budget and oil prices — both of which are similar to alcohol and religion in the 49th state. They can be intoxicating, debatable and divisive.

High oil prices of recent months — and even higher in recent days after Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine — have made Alaska rich again, for now. The state treasury hasn't enjoyed the tax and royalty deposits of \$90-per-barrel oil in almost eight years. Alaskans, and their elected officials, are back to debating how to spend the riches rather than arguing what services to cut, as was the budget routine of the past several lean years.

Of course, all that money is pouring more oil on the burning argument over how high can — should — the state go in spending money on services, and how high can — should — the Legislature go in appropriating a larger Permanent Fund dividend.

Some advocate for writing checks on the high oil revenues almost immediately, particularly to boost this year's PFD into the \$2,500 range, as proposed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who is running for reelection on the Large Dividend Ticket.

Others, however, argue for a dividend certainly above last year's \$1,114 but less than the governor wants, saying it's best to save some of this year's oil windfall for next year and the next year, and when oil prices invariably go down, which they always do. Up-and-down oil prices, like rain in Southeast, is one of the few guaran-

tees in life.

Senate Finance Committee members last week considered legislation to set a new formula in state law for determining the amount of the annual PFD. No surprise, members reflected the stark division among their constituents — whether to give more money to Alaskans (voters), or save the temporary pot of gold for later.

Anchorage Sen. Natasha von Imhof was among those who said banking on high oil prices and paying out large dividends is a bad idea. "Just like you don't build a church for attendance on Christmas and Easter, you don't pass a dividend bill based on \$90 oil. ... We need to find something that's sustainable and affordable over time."

Senate Finance Co-Chair Bert Stedman, of Sitka, did not invoke the church but nonetheless cited his own equivalent of scripture and verse: Do not overspend on an unaffordable, unsustainable dividend, no matter how politically popular it might be.

"I personally would rather not be like drunken sailors and give a big fat PFD, like, 'Woohoo, we can do this now,' because I just don't think it's good policy."

Rep. Adam Wool

Among House Finance Committee members, Fairbanks Rep. Adam Wool was quoted by the Anchorage Daily News: "I personally would rather not be like drunken sailors and give a big fat PFD, like, 'Woohoo, we can do this now,' because I just don't think it's good policy."

Calling in from Dillingham to testify in support of large

dividends, Magnus Sampson asked the Senate Finance Committee on Feb. 21: "We've been calling and calling for the past how many years now? Do you guys listen? Or do you guys have cotton swabs in your ears?"

No, not cotton swabs. But hopefully enough legislators have the common sense not to cash out Alaskans' future by overspending on a one-time excessive dividend in an election year. No need to drink to that or pray for it, just hope lawmakers think longer term than today's oil prices.

EDITORIAL

Borough smart to think long-term

Sometimes, governments just have to take a chance. They need to ensure the pieces are in place for economic development of their community, even if that means spending money on the potential — not a guarantee — of building jobs in the future.

In Wrangell's case, the almost 40-acre waterfront industrial property at the former 6-Mile sawmill site is one of those pieces.

The borough assembly decision to buy the property is smart, long-term thinking. It's about preserving the site intact for possible future use, rather than see it subdivided and sold off in chunks, which would limit the options for future development.

Industrial waterfront land is in short supply throughout Southeast. Keeping the property intact and working with potential developers could help entice a new enterprise to set up shop in Wrangell, something the community clearly needs to boost its economy, attract families to town and add to our declining school enrollment.

The decision is a \$2.5 million bet by the borough. Sometimes, towns need to take such chances to have a better future.

Wrangell cannot live on state and federal funding, uncertain salmon returns, tourism and health care spending alone. State and federal dollars fluctuate with oil prices and politics. Tourism is seasonal. The loss of Alaska Crossings hurts, too. Wrangell needs to take a chance on itself, and buying the former sawmill property is a good idea with potential to become a really great idea.

It will take time to encourage and work with potential developers for the property, and the borough needs to be careful and realistic in what may or may not be economically viable. Dreams of private investment and jobs have long steered Alaska communities to embrace ill-conceived projects.

If nothing comes from it, the borough later can subdivide the land and sell it off in pieces, recovering most or all of its money. Until then, it's time to nail up the "For Sale, Lease or Development" sign. And it's time to be patient, much like going after king salmon. One big strike makes the wait worthwhile.

Wrangell Sentinel

Wrangell needs child care services

Parents, community leaders, borough and tribal officials are talking about what can be done to help solve Wrangell's lack of child care options.

Valerie Massie, of the Wrangell Cooperative Association, said she and others at a recent meeting all see the lack of child care and housing as the biggest hurdles to economic and community development in town. Lack of child care keeps people out of the workforce, and it seems there isn't an employer in town without job openings.

Part of the problem in establishing and running a child care center is paying a living wage to attract workers, and then finding a way to cover those costs without charging unaffordable fees to parents. That will require a collection of funding sources, including state child care assistance and possibly borough and tribal funding.

The fact that everyone is working toward the same goal is a good start. The problem has gotten too big to set aside, though solving it will be a major challenge — and cost money. But making a place in the community for working parents is essential if Wrangell is to offer a future for families with young children.

Wrangell Sentinel

WCA funding

Continued from page 3

project would establish a plan to enhance wild blueberry production by thinning out overgrown trees along Nemo Loop Road to give the berries a better chance to grow, according to the borough's funding application in October.

"We are still learning all the

ins and outs of the contract agreement," Carol Rushmore, the borough's economic development director, said last Wednesday. "U.S. Forest Service can assist but (it) will not be directly their project."

How the project will be implemented is still unknown, Rushmore said. The borough is waiting for additional information and clarification.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yukon TV is no upgrade

Many will disagree, but in my opinion the vote is the key to American democracy. If after the votes have been counted, recounted, audited and litigated and someone other than the person with the most votes takes or remains in office, then American democracy is dead.

On the other hand, one thing most will agree with is that Yukon TV is the opposite of the advertised upgrade.

John Morse

Public testimony on state budget set for Wrangell on Thursday

The Legislature's main duty every year is passage of the state budget. Last week, the House made considerable progress by finishing up budget subcommittee work. Budget subcommittees meet with each department to navigate potential budget changes and create a plan for the upcoming budget. I am chair for three budget subcommittees: The departments of Education, Environmental Conservation and Transportation.

So far, our department budgets do not look much different than last year's budgets. For the Department of Edu-

cation, we added additional funding for pre-K grants and encouraged the WWAMI medical student scholarship program to plan to increase their Alaska student count.

In the Department of Transportation, we voted to fund the Alaska Marine Highway System at 2019 levels through a combination of federal infrastructure money and state unrestricted general funds. Using this combination of funds leaves more federal infrastructure money available for capital projects and reduces the use of ticket sales revenues so that we can build up the marine highway fund. Thanks to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, we have a potentially much brighter future for the state ferry system.

I am also a member of the University of Alaska and the Department of Fish and Game subcommittees. In the university subcommittee, we increased funding for library databases (which were frequently used during the pandemic) and increased funding to support the university's mariculture, North Pacific fisheries, Arctic and North Pacific ocean sciences programs.

The budget goes next to

the House Finance Committee, of which I am vice chair. We will hear overviews from each subcommittee on their specific department budget changes. Most importantly, we also will hear public testimony. This is an opportunity for you to comment on issues like education funding, ferry service, support or opposition of a larger Permanent Fund dividend in exchange for potential new taxes, and agency funding issues such as Department of Fish and Game management.

Ketchikan and Wrangell public testimony time is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday. You can visit the local Legislative Information Office or call in from your personal phone. There will also be off-net public testimony for anyone in the state, particularly in smaller communities that don't have a legislative office, starting at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The call-in number for people not able to visit the legislative office is 844-586-9085. You can also send written testimony to House.Finance@AKLeg.gov.

Rep. Dan Ortiz

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Forest Service ramps up efforts to take down invasive weeds

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

An annual 200-acre treatment limit on the U.S. Forest Service's invasive plant management program in the 3.7-million-acre Wrangell-Petersburg district has the agency revamping and possibly expanding its efforts to eradicate foreign weeds that could damage the ecosystem and economy.

Since 2015, the Forest Service has been pulling, digging and spot-spraying plants like knotweed and canarygrass that are not naturally occurring in Southeast. But project managers say it's not enough and they need to increase the acreage and means of killing the plants.

The proposed actions would include no annual acreage treatment limit, coverage of both national forest and non-national forest lands, treatment of emergent vegetation and treating aquatic formations of weeds.

Shop class

Continued from page 1

the past, where there'd be two or three sections of say, biology, and those kids could take welding and then take biology somewhere else. Now there's one section of those classes offered as part of mandatory classes. So, it's welding or mandatory biology, so it's really hard to get kids in the CTE (career and technical education) classes."

Davies has been teaching metal fabrication classes for two years. Before that, he taught middle school math and science for about 17 years, often telling his students college was a necessary path.

"I'm guilty of that," he said. "When I was a math and science teacher, I was preparing my kids for a traditional post-secondary education in a university or college, and that's not for everybody. I see that. Some of the kids that really struggle in the normal ed classes are the ones that excel down here."

According to Dave Brown, the former shop class teacher, Davies was one of those kids.

"He procrastinated a fair amount, but he got stuff done," Brown said. "I'd have to get after him. I think he's bringing it back. All the stuff he's teaching up there, those kids can go right to work. There's no one to fill those (skilled labor) jobs. All over the U.S. we're seeing a shortage of skilled workers."

Brown began the boatbuilding program about 1987, averaging anywhere from 12 to 18 students per class, and he's glad to see Davies continuing it. He said it teaches kids more than just welding.

"When they do one of these boats or any project in the shops, they see things through and they can problem solve," Brown said. "It's not all automatic. With computers, the computer did all the work. When they're building a boat, they're doing a ton of math. Let's say you want to buy a house and want to fix something, everyone can use those skills."

Another of Brown's former students, Jeff Wiederspohn, took his love of learning how things work and turned that into a career in aircraft mechanics. After graduating from Wrangell in 1987, Wiederspohn joined the U.S. Air Force, then attended Spartan College of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Now he's the assistant director of maintenance for NorthStar Helicopters in Juneau.

Wiederspohn recently visited Wrangell and spoke to the students about a desperate need for

On Wrangell Island alone, invasive plants are distributed over about 760 acres, said Joni Johnson, a forest ecologist.

"The invasive species that have a moderate or higher invasiveness ranking and are most prevalent on Wrangell Island include knotweed, the orange and yellow hawkweeds, oxeye daisy and reed canarygrass," Johnson said. "All but knotweed are commonly found on Wrangell Island, but the knotweed is extremely invasive."

Johnson said the weeds make their way into the environment mainly because humans bring them in. Ornamental plants like European mountain ash and knotweed "escape" and spread naturally. Other seeds will come in via hay or by adhering to clothing.

Whatever means by which the weeds spread, the results can be devastating.

"For example, the aquatic elodea plant that is spreading in the

aircraft mechanics.

"There's a shortage across the country," he said. There is a projected shortage of about 12,000 to 14,000 mechanics in the next year, Wiederspohn said, with a need of about 132,000 by 2040. "I'm at about half strength. I should have 10 mechanics and I have five."

He said he would not only hire new mechanics, he would include a hiring bonus and other perks.

Wiederspohn has cast a nationwide net trying to recruit new mechanics and he saw some interest on the part of Wrangell students, but schooling can take anywhere from a year to two and a half years. Median pay for entry-level aircraft mechanics starts around \$30 an hour, though that could increase soon due to the industry trying to attract more mechanics, he said.

Davies' students are working on all manner of projects, including boats, salmon gaff hooks and an old-school arcade game. Another student is working on the game components in Heather Howe's technology class to add to the arcade cabinet when it's finished.

Starting and completing projects is good, but Davies wants his students to know how to use the tools.

"The process is learning how to use tools, learning how to use them safely," he said. "The more tools you can get your hands on and know how to use safely and correctly, the better off you are."

Students are learning how to use milling machines and metal lathes, which Davies said haven't been used in years. The projects they are using the machines for "might not be something they do for a job, but they're using calipers. They have to be super accurate in their measurements. That's where the math comes in. They're thinking in 3D," he said. "I'm really just trying to expose kids to as many different things as possible."

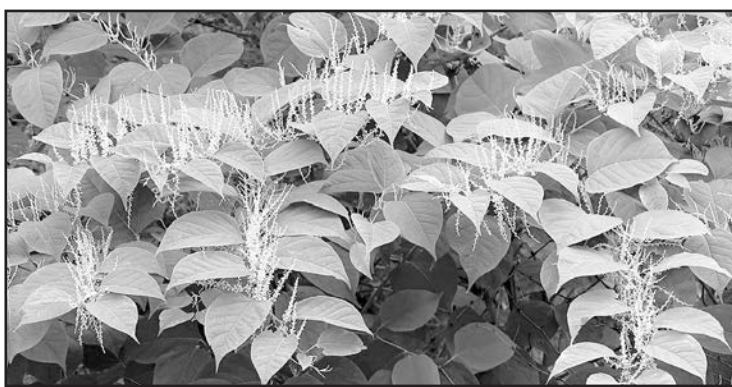


PHOTO COURTESY U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Japanese knotweed is among the invasive plants the U.S. Forest Service wants to target with a stepped-up eradication effort in Southeast.

Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai and Fairbanks lake systems could impact the sockeye fishery to the tune of \$159 million a year," Johnson said. "Knotweed (fishery damage) in the state of Washington is estimated at \$9.3 million a year."

Most of the project area in the Wrangell-Petersburg district, according to the Forest Service, "is undeveloped and primarily used for dispersed recreation activities. Viewing scenery and wildlife, boating, fishing, beachcombing, hiking and hunting are the primary dispersed recreation activities that take place within the project area."

She said ecological harm happens when the weeds "out-com-

pete" the native plants.

"When reed canarygrass or knotweed form a dense thicket along the stream bank, the plant community that contributes leaf litter to the aquatic invertebrates is no longer present and changes can occur to the food chain for fish species," Johnson said. "Reed canarygrass can also change physical processes in stream channels as the root mass can anchor substrate and change how sediment is moved and deposited."

By adding broadcast spraying to the ways in which herbicides are applied, the Forest Service reported it would be able to cover a greater area, thereby killing more invasive plants at a lower

cost. The biggest opposition the agency has faced from the public in expanding its coverage is the use of herbicides.

The herbicides used include "aquatic formulations of glyphosate and imazapyr, and aminopyralid," the report states, and "application rates for all three herbicides would be at or below the maximum rate stated on the product label."

To learn more about the proposed changes and what the entirety of the project entails, visit www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59576.

Objections to the enhanced effort against the plants are due by April 9, but may be submitted only by persons who participated in earlier comment periods on the proposal.

Johnson said anywhere from one to four Forest Service staff are typically involved when applying herbicides, but community members interested in participating in control efforts can contact the Wrangell District office. She also said control efforts tend to focus on areas where the Forest Service knows the weeds are growing.

"Granted, we are more likely to visit these locations, so there are always the exceptions," she said. "If you do know of any exceptions, please let your Forest Service staff know."

Airport parking

Continued from page 1

cussions with the city. They've determined they don't have the bandwidth to manage it either. So, we're going to ... get a parking management company in there, and some of the issues people have come to us with should be addressed."

One of the complaints is a lack of sufficient long-term parking, he said.

"We have 68 spots in the seven-day parking area and they're typically pretty full," Dapevich told the Sitka newspaper. "By having a company in there that can manage it, they should be able to adapt and be more flexible than us. If they decide they can use more of the short-term parking area for long-term, they may be able to do that. Also, they could go longer than the seven-day limit we have in place. If people would like to pay to keep their car there longer, they would have that option."

"The proposal is a long time coming," said Sit-

ka Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz. "We've been working with the state on a parking plan at the airport for quite some time. ... We've been trying to push this off for a long time, so that we didn't have to charge for parking at the airport. But at this point I believe it's an inevitability." He added, "I hope the rates are kept reasonable."

Dapevich hopes the move will reduce the number of cars left or abandoned in the Sitka lot for extended periods of time.

"An ideal situation would be that we don't have abandoned cars, because someone is there and our maintenance and operations staff wouldn't have to be trying to track people down, and then end up if you can't track them down needing to involve a towing company and then following up with people so they can get their car back," he said. "We would prefer that they're focusing on their regular responsibilities, like keeping the runway clear and keeping Sitka's roads clear."

School masking

Continued from page 1

reported. Burr said that is another reason for the testing. It was also a matter of trusting parents.

"We're counting on the integrity of the parents to report it (if their children test positive)," said Board President David Wilson. "Overall, I trust the parents to be positive and to let us know what's happening."

During the public comment period, Penny Allen, a parent and senior class adviser, said she and others in the commu-

nity had gathered 497 adult signatures calling on the district to drop the masking requirement.

"With only four days to collect these signatures between work and family, those numbers are very good for our small population," Allen said. "Given more time, we're completely confident we would get a great deal more. We've had overwhelming support from the community."

Burr said the changes to the mitigation plan are being made due to the declining case counts in Wrangell. The

borough reported 17 COVID cases in February, and just one since Feb. 11, after a record surge in January.

Quarantine language has been removed from the mitigation plan since the district is adopting "test to stay," which says that if students have had close contact with an infected individual or have recently traveled, they will not need to quarantine if they test negative within five days. Students who opt out of test to stay will be required to quarantine for five days.

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Partners move out of their kitchens to open bakery

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Sweet Tides Bakery co-owners Shawna Bunes and Devyn Johnson, who have been working together almost a year, will open their new shop Thursday, offering cakes, sourdough loaves and pastries, along with deli sandwiches featuring cheeses and meats smoked on-site and served on freshly baked bread.

The store also will carry its own sauces and aiolis.

A ribbon-cutting at 11:45 a.m. will precede the opening at noon Thursday. They plan to open for breakfast at 7 a.m. the next day.

The bakery is in the same building as Twisted Root Market on Front Street, with an entrance down the gravel alleyway on the right-hand side.

You can't sit and eat, but that's a goal in the future, Johnson said.

Johnson and Bunes first worked together on a "Toy Story" cake in May 2021, under Johnson's then-Moody Folks Bakery, an homage to Johnson's maiden name. "Devyn baked, I decorated," Bunes said Feb. 22. "That was our first collaboration."

The pair started talking in June 2021 about going into business together, established Sweet Tides Bakery in August 2021, then the location was purchased in September 2021.

Bunes and Johnson live on the same street, have small children and until now, baked and decorated out of their home kitchens. Their goods have been available at Drive Thru Brew, Twisted Root, the backseat of the car in Bunes' driveway. Customers have left cash under a box full of bread loaves after popping the trunk to take their loaf with their name on the bag, or picked up their order off



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Sweet Tides co-owners Shawna Bunes and Devyn Johnson will hang personalized name plaques above their baking nooks at Sweet Tides, which will open on Front Street on Thursday. They have been running the business out of their home kitchens since August.

the porch. It's a Wrangell thing.

Opening their own bakery felt like a dream, something to aspire to "when the kids are grown," Bunes said.

But everything started falling into place. The space in September, then the equipment started popping up. Together with help from their handy husbands, Bunes and Johnson have been getting the bakery ready for its debut, installing floors, doing the lighting, exhaust hood, oven, upright refrigeration, etc. The counter will be a slab of local cedar with the bark left on the edge — like the crust on a slice of bread.

A physical location opened the door to more food options, such as the line of deli sandwiches, including "The Tin Canny" for \$14. "It's a little loaf of bread I bake in a can," Bunes said.

The honey wheat bread is hollowed out and then stuffed with ham, lettuce, spicy mustard aioli, mixed berry compote, house-smoked cheddar cheese and red onion. There is also a gluten-free option, but that will come on a regular sliced bread, and the bread will not be baked in the can.

"The Blitzed Bird" for \$15 is smoked turkey, smoked provolone on Sweet Tides pesto focaccia bread with lettuce,

pickled red onion and a pesto aioli.

"The Cow Alley" for \$15 is freshly baked sourdough sandwich bread with house smoked roast beef, horseradish sauce, pepper jack cheese, grilled onions, lettuce and yes, more onions.

Moving all the cooking and baking to the storefront has been a transition.

"Everything has to be done here," Johnson said.

There has been a learning curve with getting to know their new commercial equipment. The upside is their home kitchens will go back to being their family kitchens.

Johnson said having a physical location and phone number — 907-660-7709 — should help make it easier for people to place orders. Between text messages, phone calls, Instagram messages, Facebook messenger, comments and replies on social media — it was a lot.

Bunes said it's difficult not to get teary-eyed at the support of the community.

"I follow (Outside) cake groups, and there are so many horror stories," Bunes said. People who neglect to pick up and pay for a painstakingly baked and decorated cake, or dodge paying.

Sweet Tides will personalize its shop with a gratitude board.

"There will be a cork board on the wall where people can write to someone who they think deserves a special treat from our bakery," Johnson said. Each week they will choose a note from the board and deliver a fresh goodie to the person in the note.

And they're encouraging kids to bring a bag full of garbage they picked up from outside. In exchange, they will receive a free cookie, she said.

A dog's nose catches the scent of salmon in Haines

By TOM MORPHET
Chilkat Valley News Haines

What dog doesn't love finding scraps of dead salmon. Usually it's a smelly cleanup for the dog's owner, but this time it was a real treasure.

In Haines, Lilly Ford's Siberian Laika puppy Sacha sniffs everything, which is how Rebecca Brewer's lost wallet was retrieved from a snow berm along Chilkat Inlet.

Brewer had noticed her salmon-skin wallet missing in early February. She posted notices around town at places where she may have left it behind. She notified the police. After a few days, she canceled the credit cards inside.

"I thought I'd never recover it. I'd given up hope," she said.

On Feb. 12, while walking Sacha along the beach side of Mud Bay Road, Ford noticed her dog

had stopped behind her. Sacha was walking in a circle around an object. "His nose pointed to it just as I turned around."

It was Brewer's wallet, soggy but intact.

Ford immediately started to approach others walking along the beach, trying to match the wallet with its owner. Brewer happened to be along River Road at the same time, not far away, making her regular walk with friend Sam Jackson and her own dog.

"It was a guardian angel moment," Brewer said. "I was extremely lucky."

She said the wallet may have fallen out of her pocket during an especially blustery hike there when she was crouching by some trees.

Brewer makes wallets, bags and jewelry with salmon skin, using tannin from tree bark as a natural tanning agent instead of chemicals. She wasn't surprised to learn that Sacha honed in on the wallet.

"I'm sure to a dog's nose if it didn't smell like food, it at least smelled interesting," Brewer said.

Its salmon-skin hide may have saved the wallet, but also had the potential of dooming it, she said. "I was afraid a raven might find it and eat it."

Assembly approves \$211,220 to repair barge ramp flotation tank

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The cost to cap a hole and rebuild the flotation tanks at the barge ramp has escalated since the problem was discovered last fall.

The borough assembly on Feb. 22 approved a \$211,220 contract with the only bidder for the job — Dave Miller, of Dave's Welding & Repair.

"The repair work includes sandblasting and recoating the inside and outside of both tank sections and their uprights and welding 3/8-inch-thick double plates to the bottom of the larger tank," staff reported to the assembly.

The assembly at its Nov. 9 meeting authorized \$115,000 for the project to repair the flotation tanks, but that was an estimate and inflation and rising costs have accelerated in recent months.

"Steel went up 30% and labor prices weren't included in the original estimate," Borough Manager Jeff Good said when he addressed the assembly last week.

The ramp has been out of service since September due to necessary repairs to the float tanks that lift and lower the ramp with the tides to line up with barges. Until the repairs are complete, freight barges will continue side-tying at the former sawmill dock next to the Marine Service Center.

Any delay in repairs past April could present

a scheduling conflict at the Marine Service Center boat lift. "If we continue into the summer, you can't take boats in and out," Good said at the Feb. 22 assembly meeting.

Before he can start work on the float tank repairs, Miller needs to get his contractor's license, which could take a month. Until now his work, primarily on fishing boats, hasn't exceeded jobs of \$25,000.

"As far as risk, I'm not going anywhere," said Miller at the meeting.

Good said the borough can order the materials now, but there's a risk. "If we do get the materials, the risk is if he doesn't have the contractor's license (by then)," he said. Adding to delays, the paint for the job is backordered and may not arrive until May.

Port Director Steve Miller at the last port commission meeting said Dave's Welding is the best bet for the job. Other estimates the commission shopped around would have been double the price.

Longer term, the assembly is looking to have a broader discussion with Alaska Marine Lines about potentially getting out of the barge ramp business. The borough owns the ramp and AML, and other users, pay a fee when they tie up and move cargo over the ramp.

"We are the only community (in Southeast) that owns our facilities," Good said.

Assembly approves fund investments in stocks, bonds

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Looking to possibly boost returns with minimal risk, the assembly has voted unanimously to amend municipal code to allow investment of the borough's enterprise funds in stocks and bonds.

The collective balance of the five generally self-supported enterprises funds was more than \$9 million last month — Municipal Light & Power, the water system, sewer system, sanitation services and port and harbors funds. Those five accounts are maintained separately from general fund government expenses.

Finance Director Mason Villarma told the assembly on Feb. 22 that investing enterprise funds in a wider range of options — lower-risk stocks, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds — could help shield investments from market volatility, while producing better returns in the long run. The borough has an investment adviser to guide them.

The changes to municipal code require that any funds invested in stocks, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds may not exceed 10% of the enterprise fund's unrestricted fund balance at the beginning of the most recent fiscal period.

The changes also require that

any investments can be sold within 30 days, if needed.

Before the amendments to the investment code, the enterprise funds were restricted to low-risk Treasury bills; federal, state or municipal bonds; or federally insured certificates of deposit at financial institutions.

"We want investments other than the (borough) permanent fund to be exposed to U.S. equities based on predetermined thresholds set by the assembly," Villarma said in a presentation to the assembly on Jan. 25. "We want to be able to invest a small portion of funds more aggressively."

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Students get carted away with senior work project

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

One of the goals of high school senior projects is seeing a need in the community and filling it. That's just what Ryan Rooney and Emma Martinsen are doing.

The two teamed up when their shop teacher Winston Davies told them that boat carts had fallen into disrepair. They saw it as an opportunity to put their welding skills to use by building new carts for people hauling supplies to and from their boats.

"It seemed pretty straightforward, and it didn't seem like there were very many carts there," Rooney said. "The ones that are down at the harbors aren't in very good condition, and it's not easy to find them."

Martinsen said the plan is to build two carts to start, see how long that takes, then build as many as they can before the senior project deadline on March 11.

Last Wednesday, the team spent their first class preparing to cut a shaped piece of aluminum that will be the body of the first two carts. The design came from existing carts, Martinsen said. After cutting the metal in half, they'll move on to other body parts.

"We will weld a front part on to keep stuff in and we'll keep the back part open so if you need to, you can slide stuff out," Rooney said. "We're going to bend some tubing to put in for the handle and the parts that hold the wheels on."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ryan Rooney and Emma Martinsen work on their senior project last Wednesday. The two teamed up to build boat carts for use at the harbors by people carrying items to and from their vessels.

Davies said it's important that his students be mindful of design aspects.

"It's reverse engineering, taking something and figuring it out," Davies said. "One thing I told them is if there's any way to make these (carts) better, we should tackle that right now because there are weak points in the design. I don't know what their plan is on that."

His viewpoint is one of experience, since he's also a commercial fisherman and "there are

never enough carts down on the docks and they're often broken. I told them, 'For your senior project, you should see if you can repair these carts or make some new ones.'"

Davies said Wrangell businesses have helped greatly with materials and advice, especially Svendsen Marine Works, Jenkins Welding and Aluminum Fabrication and Wrangell Machine. Outside of supplying the aluminum, the harbor master's office has also been integral in

the project.

"We are also supplying them with the tires," said Steve Miller, port director. "It's a good project for high school students to show what they have learned in our industrial arts class."

Miller said they try to get new carts built every year by local businesses, but that can be difficult due to heavy workloads. Heritage Harbor has four carts currently, so the carts being made by Rooney and Martinsen might be used at Shoemaker or the In-

ner Harbor. "Over time, these carts get overloaded and break," Miller said. "We fix them, but they don't last forever."

Martinsen and Rooney have looked to Davies for advice, and he's kept them on task since the deadline is just nine days away. Working together has taken some of the burden off both students, since both were in the welding class and neither had senior projects.

In addition to the project, Rooney is on the basketball team and is trying to finish building a boat for his father that he began last year. Martinsen works and goes to school, so working on the project hasn't been easy, "but we find a way to get it done," she said.

Both students say the problem-solving skills they've learned in their welding class will also serve them in future endeavors.

After high school, Martinsen will be headed to Tampa Bay, Florida, to attend Aveda Institute for cosmetology school. Rooney is still deciding between joining the U.S. Army or going to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, though he's leaning toward the Army to become a Ranger.

Neither is planning to return to Wrangell after school or service except to visit.

Though they are filling a need with their project, it can only help so much.

"There's always a need for more carts," Martinsen said.

Teen sticks together boat drawings to create new business

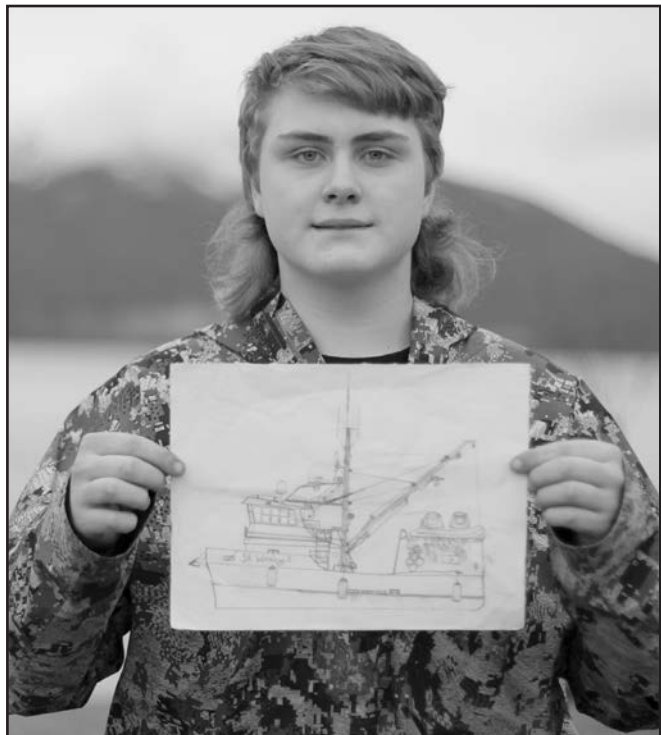


PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Nick Allen, a 16-year-old high school junior, enjoys drawing commercial fishing boats, with particular attention to rigs and booms. Often, the sketched boats are a "mash-up" of several different vessels, he explained.

BY SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Nick Allen, a 16-year-old high school junior, likes to draw boats.

"I live in a fishing community," Allen said. "Been around boats my entire life. Drawing them was even cooler."

Allen said he started drawing around the age of 12. First it was speedboats. About a year and a half ago he "moved into the commercial fishing side of art."

"I drew a seiner first and it was terrible," he said. "To see the progress over a year and a half, it's insane."

He's now making stickers of his artwork, and advertising them for sale online.

Allen said most of his sketches happen either at his drafting table at home, or at school. He pictures a boat in his head with a scientific focus on the construction. "I really try to focus on my rigging and my boom," he said. "I start at a baseline, and try and measure my lines. Make sure they are not sloppy."

A lot of the boats he draws are a mash-up, "multiple boats that I see in real life, and make them into my own."

He's made appearances in his art, too. "That's me in my raingear, and that is the other deckhand in his raingear," Allen said of the Charlene Marie, one of his sketches. The inspiration came from a job his cousin got him working a boat. He's going out this summer, too.

Allen is a child of Wrangell. "My dad owned the sawmill at 13-Mile," Allen said. His mom works at the hospital.

The inspiration was all around him. "Growing up, my buddies' dads, they fished. I always liked trout fishing. It was destined."

Allen said drawing makes him feel more relaxed, and creative. It also helps with problem solving, especially in school. "Sometimes you have to have a creative solution."

Allen got the idea to make and sell stickers in January after he drew a log shovel machine for his dad. "My older brother said that would be awesome as a sticker," he said. "I released the log shovel sticker first, and that did OK." Then Allen said he drew a specific boat sticker called the Summer Rose, and that sold out very fast.

Allen does 10 stickers of the same design at a time, and sells them for \$5 each. He uses an online vendor to produce the stickers. On average, it's been taking him two to five days to make a sticker-oriented boat design — he has to simplify the design to "pop" on a smaller scale.

"I draw the boat first on a page, then I crop it," Allen said. The final result is a die-cut sticker of the boat.

He's releasing the stickers on a limited edition basis. Once he sells out, he moves on to a different design. Next up is a boat called the Williwaw. After that, "I want to draw a trawler or a crabber."

Sitka lawmaker breaks his leg paragliding

JUNEAU (AP) — A Sitka lawmaker broke two bones in his right leg after crashing his paraglider in Anchorage on Feb. 19.

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins returned to Juneau on Feb. 23. He had been recuperating in Anchorage following surgery and attending committee meetings remotely.

He will be on crutches for about six weeks.

Anchorage Rep. Laddie Shaw was out paragliding with Kreiss-Tomkins when the accident occurred at Flat-top Mountain.

"We just got together and went for a little hike on Flat-top Mountain," said Shaw, a former Navy SEAL who regularly climbs the mountain and goes paragliding from the top. The peak is at 3,510 feet.

Shaw was on a separate paraglider than Kreiss-Tomkins, 33, who was taking his first flight from the mountain after becoming a certified paraglider pilot in California this winter.

The Sitka legislator got into "a bad spot" when it came time to land, leaving him with

few safe options, Shaw told the Anchorage Daily News.

Kreiss-Tomkins said he "just took a more roundabout flight plan and was not where I wanted to be for the landing." He struck trees in an open field of snow.

He said he's focused on recuperating. "If I do it again, I'll get back to basics and just drill the fundamentals. It can and should be done safely, and so I don't want to overreact. But I just need to figure out my mobility situation and take it one day at a time," he said.

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SENTINEL SPORTS

Teams take on Petersburg players with mix of wins and losses

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The high school basketball teams traveled to Petersburg last Friday for two days of intense play against the Vikings and Lady Vikings that resulted in a mix of wins and losses for the junior varsity and varsity boys teams and hard wins for the girls varsity.

Junior varsity

The competition began Friday afternoon when the Wrangell JV boys team took on the home team in two 10-minute periods. Due to illness, there weren't enough players, so a modified game of four-man teams took place.

Unlike the previous week when Petersburg came to Wrangell and the JV team far outscored the visiting team, this time Petersburg put up a much bigger fight during its homecoming weekend. It was a tight game at times, but the first period ended with Wrangell ahead, 21-15.

In the second period, Petersburg increased its defense and began sinking buckets. The score was tied in the final 90 seconds of play, but the home team started breaking through Wrangell's defense to score three goals, leading to a final score of 33-28, Petersburg.

Saturday's JV game was much of the same, with both teams presenting a strong defense. This time, Wrangell was able to hold on to its lead, winning 32-30.

Boys varsity

The Vikings put the first two points on the board in last Friday's game against the Wolves on free throws. Wrangell didn't score any points until four and a half minutes into play. Both teams presented a strong defense throughout the game, keeping each other from the net. By the third period, the score was 14-13, Petersburg. Neither team scored until almost three minutes into the quarter.

Every time Wrangell would catch up, Petersburg would pull ahead, eventually winning 29-26.

On Saturday, the Wolves were slow to get on the board, but once they started scoring, they started widening their lead. At times, Wrangell held a 10-point lead over Petersburg. The Vikings showed aggressive playing, stealing the ball every chance they had. In the fourth quarter, the home team surged from behind to a cheering crowd. Down to the last few seconds it looked like Peters-

burg could overcome the visiting Wolves, but it wasn't enough and Wrangell ended the weekend with a win, 39-37.

Girls varsity

After the close matches in the previous weekend's games against Petersburg, the Lady Wolves seemed to have a new confidence stepping onto court in last Friday's rematch.

Within 15 seconds of play, junior Kiara Harrison sank a three-pointer and followed that with another basket. The Lady Vikings weren't about to be shown up on their home turf and started upping their defense, while plowing ahead in points. The first period ended with Petersburg ahead, 10-7.

In the second period, a series of fouls against Wrangell gave the players a chance to keep the game tied with free throws. Throughout the third and fourth periods, the fouls kept coming, but Wrangell used them to slowly gain on the home team.

Much like the last time the Lady Wolves faced the Lady Vikings, there was only a two-point difference in the final score, and much like last time, the Lady Wolves won, 32-30.

Despite winning the tipoff in last Saturday's game, Petersburg quickly lost possession of the ball and Wrangell scored within moments. The play was often frenetic, with the Lady Vikings keeping defense solid. In the final few seconds of the first period, a Petersburg player made an overhand hook shot to tie it, 7-7.

Wrangell was not about to have a repeat of previous close calls. The Lady Wolves held their opponents to seven points in the second period until less than a minute left, when Petersburg finally scored to make it 22-10 Wrangell after two periods.

Wrangell continued with a strong second half, particularly a strong defense, and won 36-19.

"The Lady Wolves were focused and balanced this weekend," said head coach Christina Good. "Better passing and rebounding efforts helped tremendously in both games. I feel fairly good where we are right now, but we will continue to work hard on mental toughness and staying strong as a team."

Good said the team's theme for the season has been "play with a purpose, and that's what we intend to do."

Wrangell is scheduled to travel to Ketchikan for Southeast regionals March 9-12.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS BASINGER/PETERSBURG PILOT

Above: Junior Jacen Hay tries to evade two Petersburg players during a basketball game last Saturday in Petersburg. Below: From left, seniors Jamie Early and Kendra Meissner and junior Kiara Harrison face off against Petersburg's Ines Larson in varsity basketball at Petersburg last Saturday.



Mixed martial artist Nicco Montaña makes visit to Wrangell

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A mixed martial artist who was the inaugural flyweight champion on a 2017 television show — and made history as the first American Native woman Ultimate Fighting Championship title holder — punched in a short visit to Wrangell in February.

The purple-belt jiu jitsu holder, who was in town to visit a friend, made a surprise drop-in on a Wrangell class Feb. 16 without telling the participants who she was, at first.

"Normally, it's been Victoria Carney and I," Wrangell jiu jitsu instructor Matt Nore said Feb. 22. "Victoria said, 'Oh, have you ever done jiu jitsu before?' And she said, 'I'm a purple belt.' We got excited."

Nore and Carney didn't realize who they had on their hands until they started rolling — what sparring is called in jiu jitsu.

There were times she could control my arms with her feet and her legs. I haven't been used to rolling with someone like that in Wrangell. It was a very humbling and new experience," Nore, a white belt holder, said.

Montaña won the Ultimate Fighting Championship wom-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT NORE

UFC fighter Nicco Montaña (top) and Victoria Carney practice jiu jitsu at the community gym. Montaña swung by a couple of the classes while she was in town. She rolled — jiu jitsu term for sparring — with Carney and instructor Matt Nore on Feb. 15. Nore, as a white belt, said it was humbling to get schooled by Montaña, a purple-belt in jiu jitsu.

en's flyweight title, beating Roxanne Modafferi in the finale of "The Ultimate Fighter 26," a reality television show in 2017.

"You could watch my transformation through that show," Montaña said Feb. 20. "I talked

a lot about my culture and being Indigenous."

Montaña is of the Diné (Navajo People), from the Tódich'iinii (Bitter Water People) clan. She's from Lukachukai, Arizona, within the Navajo Nation.

She first got a taste for mixed martial arts hitting pads at the gym her late father and boxer Frankie Montaña owned in New Mexico.

In winning the flyweight title, she "was the second-to-last seed

against 18 others. It was a pretty cool Cinderella story."

Since then, Montano has had several fights canceled because of injuries and inability to make weight. She was stripped of the flyweight title in 2018, according to ESPN, after not making weight.

In 2019, she was suspended for six months by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for testing positive for ostarine, a banned substance, according to ESPN. Montaña, Sean O'Malley, Marvin Vettori and Augusto Mendes all failed random, out-of-competition drug tests for the substance, according to the April 23, 2019, news report.

After investigating, the agency determined the four fighters did not knowingly ingest the substance, and the positive tests were caused by contaminated supplements that contained ostarine.

In 2020, her coach got COVID-19. She got COVID. She missed a weight check-in by seven pounds to make bantamweight, the next weight class up from flyweight.

"I was pretty anemic. No matter what my calorie deficit, my weight wasn't coming off. I

Continued on page 9

Obituaries

Memorial gathering for David Matelski March 19

A memorial gathering for David "Dave" James Matelski will be held 2 p.m. March 19 at the pavilion in Coffman Cove. He died in his home June 20, 2021.

David was born in Petersburg on July 16, 1969. He and his family lived in Wrangell before moving to Palmer. David graduated from Palmer High School in 1987. He was a member of the Palmer swim team.

After graduating, David moved to Denver to attend a school for small engines. While there, he enjoyed skiing, his family wrote.

Meanwhile, back on Prince of Wales Island, "times were booming and David moved back to Alaska to help with the family business, Templin Land Surveying."

David had property in Naukati Bay but, as the story goes, he met someone who needed it more than he, and he sold it for \$1, his family wrote. He was generous that way. "If you needed a hand, whether building, carpentry, putting a motor back together or needed a wedding officiant, David was all in."



DAVID JAMES MATELSKI

David stayed with Templin Land Surveying for many years, taking him all over Southeast Alaska. Then changing lanes, he went to work for Southeast Roadbuilders, which took him all over the state and Canada.

While on vacation to Hawaii in 1995, David became a diving instructor. "His house was a testimony of his love of being underwater and of diving." The most notable item he recovered was a yellow Oriental teapot in very good condition. "Taking a compass reading of his find, David went back two weeks later and found the lid that went with it."

"David loved working and playing in the woods and he owned the biggest chainsaw mill anyone has ever seen," his family wrote. "It was custom made, like David."

He also enjoyed "tearing it up on 4-wheelers with his buddies and was always up for beachcombing."

"Bring your memories and your stories and help us celebrate David's life March 19," his family wrote. People may bring foods to share.

"David, you will be greatly missed. We love you."

Services Saturday for former mayor Dave Jack

Dave Jack, 78, died Feb. 23 at home in Wrangell. Services will be held at noon Saturday, March 5, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, followed by a graveside vigil at 1 p.m. at Sunset Gardens Cemetery.

He was born Oct. 10, 1943, to Jesse David Jack and Mae Dell Wagoner in Manassa, Colorado. "In his younger years he followed the usual boyhood pursuits of hunting and fishing, and anything outdoor related." His family wrote.

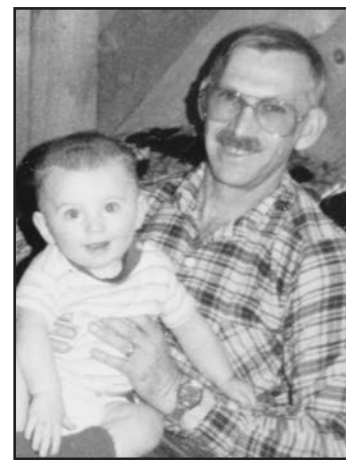
The Jack family moved around following work, eventually landing in Wrangell in Dave's teenage years. While here, he did some commercial fishing, eventually landing a job with the city doing "anything they wanted me to."

After turning 18 in 1961, he enlisted in the Army and spent the first year in Europe. While in the Army he volunteered for service in Vietnam, receiving two Purple Hearts.

After finishing out his service with the Army, Dave returned to Oklahoma, where he met and soon married Linda Sue Osburn. It was at this time that he entered into a partnership with his brother-in-law Sam Looney in a service station.

"It wasn't long before the call of Alaska took over, and he packed up his family and moved back to Wrangell," the family wrote.

He went to work at the 6-Mile sawmill, working there until 1977 when, due to the ever-present threat of shutdown, he went to work as the animal control officer for the police department. While employed there, he schooled himself and rose through the ranks to eventually become lieutenant. He spent the last three years of his city employment as harbor master, "where he helped to lay the foundation for construction of Heritage Harbor."



DAVE JACK AND SON JESSE IN A 1985 PHOTO

Upon retirement, he found other things to occupy his time such as his never-ending home projects, more schooling in his thirst for knowledge, and even a few years driving a log truck.

"Eventually, he returned to the life of civil service he loved," his family wrote, serving as an assembly member for several years and then mayor in 2013.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jesse D. Jack and Mae Wagoner; his wife, Linda; sisters Maxine Roberts and Patsy Moritz (Gary), and DeLores Jack; and brothers Roy Rossiter, Jesse W. Jack and Jimmy Jack.

He is survived by his sister, Alice Looney (Sam); his sons, Wayne McHolland (Alesia), Jonathan Jack and Jesse Jack (Jasmine); and daughters Jennifer Dalton (Max) and Theresa McHolland (Jan); 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"David was an honest and straightforward person, an exemplary family man, and an even better example of how one person can make a difference in the lives of those around him," his family wrote. "He will be greatly missed."

State announces catch limits for king salmon sportfishing

Sentinel staff

This year's king salmon catch limits in the Wrangell-Petersburg area are tighter for Alaska residents and nonresidents than the numbers that were in effect at the start of last year's sportfishing effort. However, they are essentially the same limits as mid-season catch restrictions imposed last June to manage the runs.

The sportfishing regulations announced last month close off most of the waters around Wrangell and Petersburg to retention of king salmon starting April 1 and continuing to either June 14 or July 14, depending on the area. It's the same schedule last year started with.

Specific hatchery return areas will be open this summer to king salmon fishing, with those rules announced later.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced the sportfishing possession limit for king salmon in the Wrangell-Petersburg area at two kings, at least 28 inches in length. The regulations also state that a resident may use two rods when fishing for king salmon, but "a person using two rods under this regulation may only retain salmon."

The sportfishing limit last year started at three kings for residents, though the department reduced the catch to two kings in June as sportfishing was headed toward exceeding its catch allocation.

This year's nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, at least 28 inches in length, the same as last year. The nonresident annual limit is three kings, a reduction from last year when the limit started at four kings but was cut by the department to three fish in June to preserve the runs.

Nonresidents also have to immediately record "the species, date and location on their sport fishing license or on a

nontransferable harvest record," the rules state.

Same as last year, the districts around Wrangell, Zarembo, Etolin, Mitkof, Kupreanof and most of Kuiu islands are closed starting April 1. While the District 8 waters in front the Stikine River will remain closed to king salmon retention through July 14, the other areas will open June 15.

"A separate news release will be issued at a later date announcing king salmon regulations for locations where Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon are expected to return," the department said. That would include Anita Bay on Etolin Island and Blind Slough on the Wrangell Narrows.

Martial arts fighter —

Continued from page 8

hardly watch fights anymore," Montano said.

Montano was released from UFC in August 2021.

Being on a pedestal was tough, "having to put myself as a spokesperson" for the Navajo people. "Coming up as an underdog, it held me down for a while."

Montano has been advocating for missing and murdered Indigenous women and teaching self-defense to women, kids, and in coed classes. She taught a two-day workshop in the spring of 2021 in Hydaburg.

Having a bay of traditional values allows her to "advise teens on what I have been through. How they can stay safe, physically, but also add in those traditional values."

Her friend in Wrangell, Jeremiah James, teaches skin sewing. "He invited me to check out Wrangell."

Her mom is vice president of the chapter house on the Navajo reservation. "(A chapter house) is where we can vote on things,

building a new school, or lowering trash rates," she said.

Her grandparents owned the only trading post for 50 miles that still goes off the bartering system. "It's a little convenience store. There can be an elder who comes in and trades a rug for mutton."

The COVID-19 era has battered the Navajo Nation. "We lost a lot of people (during the pandemic.) It was hard to find hospital beds for the elders," she said.

Her plan is to get back into shape and fight this year, despite chronic injuries. "I'm slowly getting the itch (to fight)," she said. "Settle down the noise, get back to grinding."

"In jiu jitsu, you have to know a lot about your body," she said. "Kids understand the importance of body awareness. How heavy one painful slap can be." That's why jiu jitsu is called the gentle art, "understanding your body can be used as a weapon, and also understanding when to apply it to prevent a situation from getting too far."

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Wrangell's Waterbody bath soak wins grand prize in Juneau

Waterbody, operated by Angie Flickinger, of Wrangell, won the grand prize for its Deep Blue Sea Bath Soak at the Alaska Symphony of Seafood awards ceremony on Feb. 24 in Juneau. Made with bull kelp and sea salts, the soak is described as "smelling like that first breath of fresh sea-salted air as you resurface from a skinny dipping swan dive."

Flickinger started her business in 2015 as Gathered and Grown Botanicals, when she wanted to give handcrafted soap as a gift. She later changed the name to Waterbody and expanded her offerings.

The Alaska Symphony of Seafood new products competition has been hosted by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation since 1994.

All of this year's winners will head to Boston's Seafood Expo North America show in late March.

The winners in the retail category are: Ocean Beauty won first place for its Echo Falls Wild Alaskan Smoked Salmon Tapas Sliced Mediterranean; Foraged and Found, of Ketchikan, took home second for its spicy kelp-based Arrabiata tomato sauce; and Barnacle Foods, of Juneau, took third with its Alaskan BBQ Sauce.

For food service: Seagrove Kelp Co., of Ketchikan, took first for its Alaska Grown Ribbon Kelp; Trident Seafoods took second and third honors for its SEA LEGS Redi-Shred and Surimi Seafood and Nacho Cheese Dipper.

Waterbody's Sea Soak also won the Beyond the Plate category, with AlaSkins Dog Treats, of Soldotna, taking second,

and Trident's Pure Catch Wild Alaska Salmon Oil winning third.

In the Bristol Bay salmon slot, Ocean Beauty won a first and third place for its Smoked Salmon Tapas and Wild Alaska Cedar Wrapped Salmon/Citrus Dill; Alaskan Leader Seafoods scored a second place win for its Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon.

For whitefish, Wild Alaska Cracked Pepper Pollock Jerky by Neptune Snacks took first place, followed by Trident's Food Truck Inspired Pollock Dill Pickle and Alaskan Leader's Alaska Black Cod in Japanese Miso Marinade.

Congressional delegation wants to ban Russian seafood

"If they don't buy from us, we shouldn't buy from them," Alaska's seafood industry has grumbled since 2014 when Russia abruptly banned all seafood imports from the U.S. and several other countries. Then, as now, the face-off stemmed from Russia's invasion and subsequent takeover of chunks of Ukraine, which prompted backlash and severe sanctions.

Yet over the years, U.S. purchases of Russian seafood through 2021 have totaled over \$4.6 billion and counting, according to federal trade data.

Alaska's congressional delegation wants to end the trade imbalance. On Feb. 9, Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan introduced the United States-Russian Federation Seafood Reciprocity Act of 2022 that would prohibit imports of any Russian seafood products into the U.S. until that country ends its

ban on U.S. seafoods.

That was followed by a companion bill on Feb. 23 by Rep. Don Young, demanding the same.

"It is frustrating when we go into a grocery store in the U.S. and see Russian seafood products sold at a much lower rate. We hear it from the processors and fishermen we work with," Jeremy Woodrow, director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, said at a recent Alaska House Fisheries Committee hearing.

"Think crab, pollock, wild salmon, halibut and cod — Russia competes with Alaska's seafood across the global market. Their products are imported and sold at a lower cost, and therefore undercut the value of Alaska seafood in our most valuable market, the United States. And since 2014, the U.S. has seen Russian seafood imports increased by 173%."

Russia was the eighth-largest exporter of seafood to the U.S. in 2021, sending nearly 108 million pounds worth \$1.2 billion, a 12% increase in volume and 34% increase in value over 2020, reported Undercurrent News.

The Russian seafood included roughly 80 items, but the most valuable were frozen snow crab at nearly 41.5 million pounds worth \$509.2 million, and 18.8 million pounds of frozen red king crab valued at almost \$420 million.

The proposed ban has caused pushback from an unexpected source: U.S. companies.

Undercurrent provided an analysis by market expert, Les Hodges, who said that the embargo would eliminate over

90% of Russian king crab imports and 30% of snow crab imports. That could put a number of companies that specialize in these products in danger of going out of business.

"Alaska does not have the resources to fill in for this potential loss of product. King crab and snow crab producing areas are limited. The largest production is in the Russian Far East and the Barents Sea," Hodges said, adding, "the U.S. and other world markets are now dependent on Russian, Canadian and other resources."

Almost 70 million pounds of Russian crab were imported by more than 30 U.S. seafood companies in 2021, with an import value of \$928.9 million, Hodges said.

He pointed out that king and snow crab are an important part of the product mix for many U.S. companies and industries. "In 2021, 78% of the crab from the Russian Far East was shipped to the Northwest, creating many jobs in everything from shipping, cold storage, reprocessing and, of course, marketing and sales throughout the U.S. The damage following passage of this bill would not be limited to importers. Seafood marketing companies, restaurants, food service, cruise lines, retail and hospitality sectors across the country would suffer. Consumers would lose the ability to have king crab, and several species of snow crab would simply disappear."

Hodges concluded: "The intent of this bill is good and I personally support the reopening of the Russian market to U.S. seafood producers, but this is not the way to success."

Elks Lodge shares \$7,500 in grants with four Wrangell nonprofits

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Elks Lodge has presented four nonprofits with \$7,500, bringing national grant funds to town.

Last Friday, lodge members presented Wrangell Head Start and Little League with \$1,000

each, \$3,500 to the senior center and \$2,000 to The Salvation Army food pantry.

Lodge member Dawn Angerman said the grant money came from the Elks National Foundation, which funds the grants using member dues and donations.

There are 444 Elks members in Wrangell. Angerman said if lodges meet their required member dues and exceed member donations, they could be eligible for an additional \$500, which the Wrangell lodge achieved.

The two national grants distrib-

uted in Wrangell are the Gratitude and Beacon Spotlight grants.

The recipients weren't expecting the donations, but said they are grateful and ready to put the funds to use.

"As long as this can stretch, we will make sure to get the containers we need and the food we need," said Sara Aleksieva, van driver for the senior center. "We go to the grocery store and buy all the fresh produce. We serve probably on average 60 to 70 people a day, just delivering."

Tlingit & Haida Head Start preschool will be able to use the money to send its graduates off with a little extra. "Because of COVID, our parents were unable to do any fundraising the past two years," said Sandy Churchill, a teacher at the school. "Usually, we always have a nice big graduation party with parting gifts, so that's what we can do with the money."

Little League concessions will be updated using some of the money, but another much need-

ed issue can be addressed, too.

"Right now, we're planning on ordering a bunch of new uniforms because our uniforms are very, very old," said Kaelene Harrison, a member of the organization's board.

The Salvation Army's Lt. Jon Tollerud said the money will help them with supplies for their food pantry for the next 60 to 90 days.

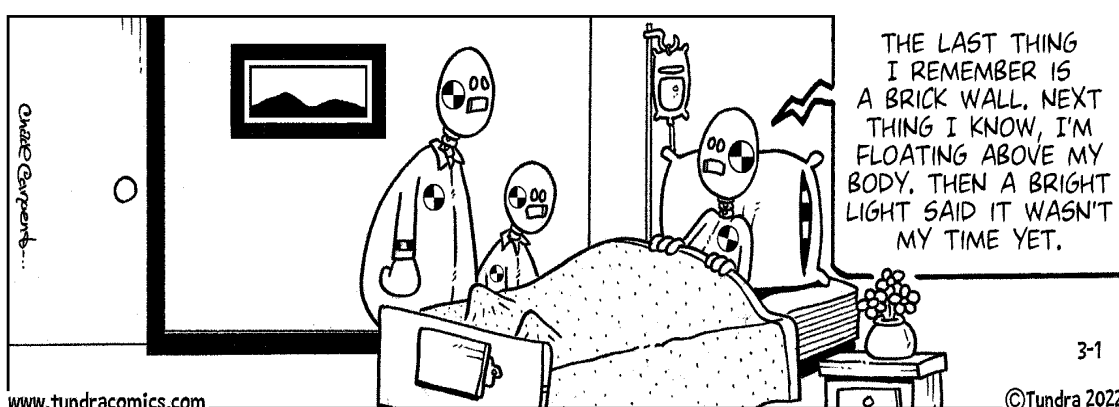
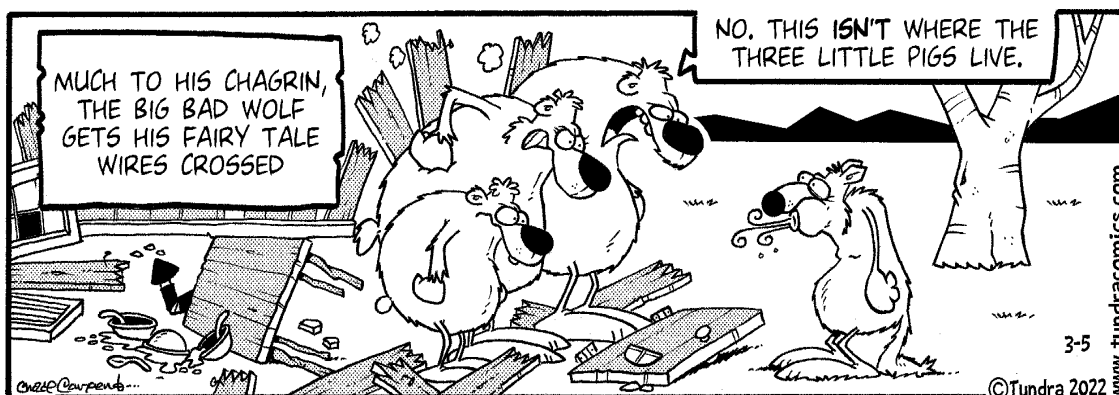
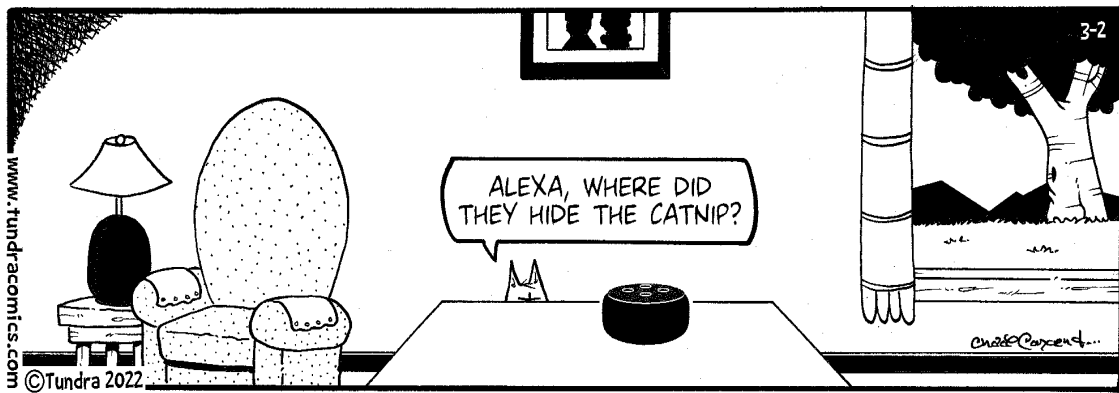
"It's great because, while we get a lot of donations from the grocery stores, they don't always meet the USDA (federal) guidelines," Tollerud said. "We try to keep our food boxes within those guidelines."

Though the donations are appreciated and unexpected, some of the recipients weren't surprised.

"As far as I know, Wrangell is probably one of the top places out of senior services in the Southeast that has the top donations," Aleksieva said. "We have a great community. I feel like that shows."

Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, Feb. 21
Agency assist: TSA.
Parking complaint.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Intoxicated person.

Tuesday, Feb. 22
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Criminal mischief.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for out-of-state expired registration.

Wednesday, Feb. 23
Motor vehicle accident.
Deer complaint.
Traffic stop.
Intoxicated person.

Thursday, Feb. 24
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Vehicle impound.

Friday, Feb. 25
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Vehicle impound.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Investigation.

Saturday, Feb. 26
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Vehicle unlocked.
Assault: Arrested for assault and disorderly conduct.
Trespass: Removed two people from the bar.

Sunday, Feb. 27
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Report.
Agency assist: Ambulance.

There were 10 subpoenas served during the reporting period.

Ketchikan schools apologize for insensitivity toward Metlakatla

By BECKY BOHRER
The Associated Press

The Ketchikan High School pep club's "country" theme, for which some students dressed like cowboys for a basketball game against Metlakatla, wasn't intended to be "racially provocative" but it had a negative effect that was "predictable and should have been prevented," according to an investigation of the incident.

The investigation, released last Friday, was conducted by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District following a Feb. 5 game between the Ketchikan Kings and the Metlakatla Chiefs.

The report from the borough school board and district administration said the high school pep club has long planned themed outfits for home games as a way to show school spirit. For the "country" theme, students wore outfits that included cowboy hats and plaid shirts, leading to an "association with a 'Cowboys vs. Indians' theme" that was foreseeable and should have been prevented, the report said.

"For this we must take accountability," the report said.

The report includes apologies to Metlakatla and the Native community.

"We acknowledge that our actions were not sensitive nor displayed empathy and understanding of the historical and ongoing hardships of our Native community members," the report said.

The situation was "escalated" by the behavior of some Ketchikan students who "included inappropriate racist remarks and sounds directed toward the opposing team," according to the report. The behaviors violated district policies and "have been handled according to the district's student disciplinary policy," the report said.

The report said the responsibility for what happened does not fall just on students, who "lacked adult guidance and adequate administrative oversight."

For many Native Americans, portrayals of "cowboys and Indians" conjure offensive stereotypes.

The report said the incident also hurt Ketchikan students and community members. "Ketchikan's Native community was devalued and our students experienced mistreatment by their peers and

others in the wake of the incident. Additionally, students who were committed to maintaining positive and appropriate behaviors have been implicated alongside the few who misbehaved."

The report said the district would take several steps in response to the incident. Those include instituting a plan for school theme selections "that thoughtfully considers culture, race, and gender impacts;" outlining expectations for Ketchikan student fan behavior that includes "zero tolerance for hateful speech;" and conducting a racial equity audit of district policies.

The district plans to consult with the First Alaskans Institute on a plan for training and professional development related to "racial equity and healing."



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is advertising for the position of Temporary Brushing Technician/Laborer. Base location is Wrangell, Alaska with work not to exceed (6) months. Work is performed as required along SEAPA's power line right-of-way corridor, with some prep and other work as required at other SEAPA-owned facilities. Majority of the work is conducted in remote wilderness locations, with minimal support. Position requires a broad range of experience, skills, and clear demonstration of the ability to successfully perform essential duties and responsibilities. Qualifications for the position include a High School Diploma and valid Alaska driver's license. The position is open until filled.

A complete job description and the electronic application process are available online at:

<https://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>

SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Published March 2 and 9, 2022

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

To the owner and/or lien holder of the abandoned 1982 Ford van in Shoemaker Harbor, Wrangell, AK 99929. This vehicle has been abandoned for more than six months. Kim Peterson intends to claim the vehicle on March 16, 2022, unless he hears from you. If the vehicle is yours, please contact:

Kim Peterson
PO Box 967
Wrangell, AK 99929

Publish Feb. 16, 23, March 2 and 9, 2022

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE PUBLIC NOTICE

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary decision under AS 38.05.035(e) regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: Whale Pass Timber Sale (SSE-1378-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Director of the Division of Forestry will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Director bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after March 22, 2022.

The timber sale area is found within Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, Township 66 South, Range 79 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Petersburg A-4 USGS quadrangle. The project area is within the boundary of the City of Whale Pass. The main access for this sale area is from the existing Prince of Wales Road System, specifically off the 3000 Road.

The harvest units total approximately 290 acres and contain approximately 7,100 MBF of timber. This volume will be negotiated and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.115 or AS 38.05.118, in the form of one or multiple sales. The sale(s) will require in-state manufacture and will be a negotiated contract.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments should be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Comments must be received at the Division of Forestry office no later than March 22, 2022, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part. To be eligible to appeal the final decision a person must have provided written comment by March 22, 2022.

For more information or to submit comments, contact Greg Staunton, Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Ave., Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901, or email gregstaunton@alaska.gov, or call 907-225-3070.

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at <http://notice.alaska.gov/205477>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester
Department of Natural Resources

Publish Feb. 23 and March 2, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID Lift Station Generator Enclosure

Notice is hereby given that the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the Lift Station Generator Enclosure. Work consists of all activities necessary to construct Lift Station Generator Enclosure and install ER Generator.

Sealed bids will be received by the City & Borough of Wrangell, PO Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on March 30, 2022.

Complete bidding/contract documents for this project are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City & Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs Section.

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

Publish March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City & 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 & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish March 2, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Ordinance No. 1017 of the Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending Sections 15.12.192, 15.12.200, 15.12.210, 15.12.215 and 15.22.222 in Chapter 15.12 Electricity and establishing a new process for rates and fees in the Wrangell Municipal Code by adding the fees to the established fee and rate schedule.

Ordinance No. 1018 of the Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending Chapter 5.14, Borough Budget and adding Section 5.14.030, Interfund Lending in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

Ordinance No. 1019 of the Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending Chapter 5.02, Investment of Borough Funds by adding Subsection E to Section 5.02.050, Investments, in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish March 2, 2022

CLASSIFIED/ LEGALS

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for multiple positions. All positions are open until filled.

Custodian: This is a full-time, year-round classified position with benefits, 7.5 hours per day. Salary placement is on Column F of the 10- to 12-month Classified Salary Schedule. Job duties include but are not limited to keeping our school complex clean and assisting with setting up rooms for classes, large presentations and business meetings as needed; and assisting with minor repairs. A High School Diploma or equivalent is desired.

Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional: This is a part-time, nine-month position working 5.75 hours per day with students one-on-one or in small groups at Evergreen Elementary School. Salary placement is Column B on the nine-month Classified Salary Schedule. The successful applicant must have an associate degree or equivalent (or higher) or the ability to pass the para-pro assessment (administered by the district).

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.

Changing ferry system to a state corporation a long voyage

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

A 45-page bill to restructure the Alaska Marine Highway System as a state-owned corporation, run by an appointed board of directors, similar to the Alaska Railroad, is going to take longer than one legislative session to review, amend and adopt — if even then.

"This is going to take a big lift," said Robert Venables, executive director of the Southeast Conference, an economic and community development nonprofit for the region that supports the concept of a ferry corporation.

"This is aspirational," he said Feb. 23, a day after the Senate Transportation Committee held its second hearing on the bill. No further hearings were scheduled as of this week.

Proponents of the shift from

an agency within the state Department of Transportation to a separate corporation have long said it would help shield the ferry system from political upheaval every time a new governor takes office. Supporters also contend it would help with long-term planning to better serve coastal communities, somewhat outside the political process of decision making by the Legislature and governor.

"We're going to start ironing out the lumps" of the bill, said Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl, who serves on the Transportation Committee. "A 45-page bill needs a lot of thinking and a lot of work," he said the day after the hearing, acknowledging the ironing will extend into next year.

The ferry system has been a state agency since its creation almost 60 years ago, often getting caught up in political and

budget debates over design, construction and use of new vessels, routes and the system's annual state subsidy.

However, even if legislators someday pass a bill creating a separate corporation, the ferry system will still require state financial assistance, Kiehl said, noting that "nothing that needs an annual appropriation will be free of politics." But a corporation could be freer of politics than a state agency, he said.

"Many previous reports have suggested that a public corporation would be the best structure for the Alaska Marine Highway System, primarily to allow for professional mariners and those with business expertise to oversee operations of the \$100 million-plus enterprise," Venables said last week.

However, Southeast Conference members understand "that

establishing a public corporation will take time and it is unlikely to happen very soon," he said.

The corporation would negotiate union contracts with its workers, decide on building new ferries and maintaining older vessels, set fares and service schedules throughout the system for Southeast, Prince William Sound and Southwest Alaska.

Senate Bill 170, offered by the Senate Transportation Committee this year, would create a seven-member corporate board of directors, all appointed by the governor and subject to legislative confirmation. Members would serve five-year terms, and the law would require that three of the members live in a community with ferry service.

At the Feb. 22 committee hearing on the bill, Kiehl questioned what would happen if the Legislature one year balked

at providing enough state money for the system to operate its scheduled level of service.

"We'll need some sort of subsidy," said Committee Chair Robert Myers, of North Pole.

Other questions raised by senators included whether the corporation should have authority to sell ships or ferry terminals owned by the state, and whether the corporation should be allowed to sell bonds on its own, without needing legislative approval, to make purchases such as new vessels.

The intent of the bill is to make the corporation's powers "as broad as possible," Myers said.

Sen. Peter Micciche, of Soldotna, said he is concerned about giving the corporation authority to borrow money "without a second set of eyes."

Plea deal ends PFD fraud case against Fisheries Board nominee

By JAMES BROOKS
Anchorage Daily News

A former nominee to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and a prominent Cook Inlet commercial fisherman pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of unsworn falsification on Feb. 18, ending a six-year legal struggle that saw him accused of multiple counts of Permanent Fund dividend fraud and improperly obtaining resident fishing licenses.

Roland Maw, nominated by former Gov. Bill Walker to the Fish Board in 2015 but never appointed, will pay a \$500 fine and restitution of \$9,582. He had been facing 12 felonies and five misdemeanors. The remaining charges are dismissed.

"I guess this is the end of these matters. Glad, sad, I don't think any of those describe what it is. Just, it's over," the 78-year-old Maw said on Feb. 21.

Juneau Superior Court Judge Amy Mead approved the plea deal on Feb. 18, saying the misdemeanor conviction carries a lot of weight.

"Because it is a crime of dishonesty," she said, according to Kenai public radio station KDLL-FM, which first reported the plea. "And I use that in the legal sense. I think the fact that you're walking away with a conviction is very significant."

Maw was the executive director of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, a commercial fishing industry group, when Walker nominated him to the Board of Fisheries in 2015.

Maw withdrew his name from consideration after officials in Montana began investigating whether he had inappropriately applied for and received resident fishing licenses in that state. He was fined more than \$7,000 after that investigation.

In 2016, Alaska officials filed PFD fraud charges against him. Alaska law says a person cannot receive the dividend if he or she has a resident hunting or fishing license from another state during the qualifying year. Prosecutors also accused him of being out of the state longer than typically permitted for a dividend recipient.

The charges against Maw were dismissed and refiled twice in the six years that followed; this month's plea deal followed a third round of charges approved by a grand jury in 2018.

Maw said he offered to repay the state for his dividends years ago, but was turned down. The state recently offered a plea deal, he said, and he decided to accept it.

He attributed some of his problems to time spent out of the state while working on behalf of the state with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, which regulates deep-sea fishing.

His attorney, Nicholas Polasky, said Friday's plea deal was a compromise.

"Each party comes to the resolution for their own reasons. And for Mr. Maw, this was a good resolution to close out the case and move on with his life," Polasky said.

Legislature may convert office building across street from Capitol into housing

JUNEAU (AP) — Legislative leaders are pursuing the idea of converting a building across the street from the Capitol into 33 apartments that could be used for lawmakers and staff during sessions in Juneau.

The Juneau Community Foundation last year donated the building to the Legislature. The three-story building currently is used for private offices and for COVID-19 testing for lawmakers and staff. Tenants have been told their leases will not be renewed.

Estimates prepared for the Legislative Council, a panel of House and Senate leaders, suggested it could cost \$5.5 million for design, permitting and construction to convert and upgrade the building. The plans propose a mix of one-bedroom and studio or efficiency units with shared laundry facilities on each of the three floors.

The idea stems from complaints that finding places to

stay, particularly during summer special sessions in Juneau, can be challenging.

Jessica Geary, executive director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, said the 9-5 council vote on Feb. 23 was to approve a project estimate of up to \$5.5 million in existing capital funds, a figure that includes \$250,000 to complete the design and compile bid documents.

Once a request for proposals is issued and a recommendation is made on a winning bid, that would come back to the council for consideration, she said.

Rental payments are expected to cover the building's maintenance costs, though those are not fully known yet. Legislators are expected to have first call on the apartments, which could also be offered to staff.

Some legislators suggested that the apartments could be made available when not in use for short-term rentals, as a way to help cover mainte-

nance costs. Others suggested that wasn't the main reason behind the plan.

"The main thing is having something available for us when we're called back in special sessions," said House Majority Leader Chris Tuck, of Anchorage.

While the idea came from a legislative subcommittee, some council members said the process felt rushed. Dillingham Rep. Bryce Edgmon questioned the level of demand for "dorm-like housing" for legislators.

Senate President Peter Micciche, of Soldotna, questioned the cost estimates prepared by the architectural firm. He noted the unpredictability of construction costs given inflation and supply-chain issues.

"It's not a detailed budget; it's not a detailed cost estimate, but it's a project budget that we think is a reasonable target," Juneau architect Wayne Jensen said in response.

Proposed Washington state tax on gasoline would cost Alaskans

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Three states, including Alaska, that would be affected by a proposed 6-cent-per-gallon tax on fuel exported from Washington state are pushing back on the plan, and threatening to retaliate if it is signed into law.

Most of Alaska's North Slope crude oil production is tankered to West Coast refineries, including several in Washington state, which ship refined products back to Alaska.

The tax — part of a \$16.8 billion transportation revenue package that has cleared the state Senate and is working its way through the House — is projected to raise around \$2 billion over the course of 16 years.

The Seattle Times reports lawmakers from Alaska, Oregon and Idaho are strongly opposed to the move, and making their feelings known through legislative resolutions, calls and op-eds.

"Washington taking unilateral action to increase gas prices for Oregon families and businesses is unacceptable," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said in a tweet last week.

Brown, who said she conveyed her displeasure to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in a phone call last week, wrote a newspaper opinion piece published on Feb. 22, urging Inslee to "put this bad idea back on the shelf, where it belongs."

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy encouraged his constituents to call Inslee's office to oppose the tax.

The Idaho House of Representatives on Feb. 22 unanimously approved a joint memorial calling on Inslee to veto the tax if it comes to his desk, warning that the Legislature "will take any and all actions necessary to block this new tax."

Idaho's governor and attorney general also asked Inslee in a letter to veto the tax.

Jaime Smith, a spokeswoman for Inslee, said that the governor will sign the transportation revenue package if it makes it to his desk. "Funding sources are always a point of debate, and this plan is no different," Smith said.

"Washington taking unilateral action to increase gas prices for Oregon families and businesses is unacceptable."

Kate Brown,
Governor of Oregon

The tax would apply to any fuel products exported from Washington's five refineries, which have historically been exempt from the state's gas tax. Lawmakers say the new revenue stream is needed in order to not raise the state's gas tax.

Washington has the fifth-largest crude oil refining capacity in the country. Democratic Sen. Marko Liias, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and other Democrats argue the tax would help spread out the environmental burden caused by Washington's refineries.

"This is a modest cost that has a huge return on investment, both for our state but also for our partner states," Liias said. As for the threats from neighboring states, Liias said, "I think a lot of it is rhetoric."

Ninety percent of the refined petroleum used in Oregon is imported from Washington, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Idaho has a more diverse array of sources, but has no refineries.

In Alaska, Republican Rep. Kevin McCabe is proposing a set of retaliatory taxes if Washington's tax goes into effect — 6 cents per pound of exported fish, much of which is caught by Washington-based boats; a 6 cent per-foot mooring fee, targeting those same fishing vessels; and a \$15 per-barrel surcharge on crude oil sent to Washington for refining.

"I want people in Washington to understand that Alaska is not going to take this taxation without representation lying down," McCabe said.