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Assembly OKs 30% water rate hike; will show up in June bills

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly has approved a 30% boost to water rates effective May 1 instead of a 21% rate hike with additional smaller, staggered increases until 2026 originally suggested by staff.

The assembly approved the increase April 26 after it postponed a decision on the 21% rate increase at its March 22 meeting. Several assembly members including Patty Gilbert said they had wanted to hear more public comment on the issue.

At the April 26 meeting where the 30% increase was approved, no one from the

public showed up to speak on the issue.

Assemblymember David Powell, who had amended the original resolution in favor of the 30% hike, on April 26 said his motivation for going for a larger one-time increase as opposed to the incremental rate increases over several years was not because he doesn't trust future assemblies, but because he didn't think it was fair to lay the burden on them to pull up rates to where they should be now.

The original proposal had called for annual rate hikes of 5%, 3%, 2% and 2% through July 2026, following a 21% increase this spring.

Water rates last increased in 2019.

The rate hike, which is intended to help pay the financing costs of water treatment plant improvements, will start showing up in utility bills sent out in June.

The residential rate for unmetered water service will increase by \$14.15 from \$47.15 to \$61.30 a month. The metered residential water rate goes up to \$40.25 per month from \$30.96, a \$9.29 increase, plus water use charges by volume.

The assembly on March 22 approved a multiyear fee increase in sewage services, effective May 1 as well. This year's 21% hike in sewage rates will take the monthly fee for a single-family residence from \$40.74 to \$49.30. Further annual rate increases of 5%,

3%, 2% and 2% will continue through 2026.

Wrangell is not alone in utility rate increases this spring. Petersburg currently charges \$40.40 a month for residential sewage services, and on April 18 its borough assembly voted to increase rates for water and sewage by 3% each year for the next four years beginning this summer, according to the Petersburg Pilot.

Petersburg doesn't have an unmetered water rate, Utility Director Karl Hagerman said Friday. Residential metered will go up to \$36.37 from \$35.31, a \$1.16 increase in the base charge. The residential sewage charge goes up to \$41.61.

Borough considers spending \$350,000 to remove, replace two underground fuel tanks

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

As borough staff finalize the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, the Capital Facilities Department is requesting \$350,000 toward a fuel tank project to bring the high school and Public Safety Building into regulatory compliance by replacing underground diesel storage tanks with aboveground tanks.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation inspected the now almost 40-year-old underground tanks in 2020 and determined they were out of compliance with regulations, and recommended they be taken out of service and removed.

The Public Safety Building tank can hold 4,000 gallons; the high school tank 10,000 gallons.

Capital Facilities has hired RESPEC, an engineering consulting company with offices in Juneau, to provide a fee proposal to design the project for new aboveground tanks, "in order to ensure we have compliant fuel tanks to supply both the backup oil-fired furnace and the standby generators for full building power, at both locations," Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad wrote in a request to an April 27 budget assembly work session.

Al-Haddad expected a report from RESPEC this week on de-

sign for the new tanks. Company personnel have made a site visit to both locations.

Al-Haddad estimates environmental and engineering services to cost \$125,000 and the new tanks and installation to cost \$225,000. Capital Facilities is seeking half of the money from general fund reserves and half from the federal Secure Rural Schools fund reserves to cover the costs.

Capital Facilities has connected with Shannon & Wilson, a geotechnical and environmental consultancy, for services associated with the tanks' closure and site assessment, "which will require a certain level of environmental sampling to determine if fuel releases have occurred," Al-Haddad wrote.

The borough is not under contract with RESPEC to perform the work, nor has funding been approved, Al-Haddad said last Thursday. The assembly will take action on the budget request before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

"In the future, with the 'install' design in hand, the construction work will be competitively bid," she said.

Similarly with Shannon & Wilson, they have been asked to provide a fee proposal for the environmental assessment around the underground tanks and possibly design the removal of the tanks.

Carving out history



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Luella Knapp, right, listens to master carver Doug Chilton as he advises her on the paddle-making process. Knapp and about 14 other participants worked on paddles made of cedar during a class on April 23 to use as part of the Shx'at Kwaán dance group and at Celebration in Juneau this June.

Paddle workshop connects crafters with Native culture

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

For as long as the Tlingit people have built canoes, they have carved paddles. Just as there are many different sizes and styles of canoes for various purposes, paddles are created to be just as unique to their users.

The tradition of carving paddles continues today throughout Southeast for cultural celebrations, dancing, decorations and even paddling canoes.

In Wrangell, a workshop held April 22-24 educated about 15 participants on the type of wood to

use, how to carve it and properly finish it.

"We wanted to bring people together here before we headed to Celebration this June (in Juneau)," said Dixie Hutchinson, one of the leaders for the Shx'at Kwaán dance group, which organized the workshop. "We thought this would be a great community opportunity to get people excited about the culture and get ready to represent Wrangell at the Celebration."

Celebration, sponsored by the Sealaska Heritage Institute, is a biennial festival of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures. The 2022 event,

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Vans art entry wins top 50 spot; students use social media to get votes

Students (from left) Susan Neff, Peter Houser and Jacob Herman sat in the bleachers at a school assembly on April 25 and used their school laptops to navigate to the Vans Custom Culture shoe design contest website to vote for Wrangell High School's entry.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

High school students were urged to use their smartphones and laptops during an assembly for once.

It was announced last Monday that the painted and decorated shoes entered into the Vans Custom Culture design contest had won Wrangell High School a spot in the national top 50 and a chance at \$50,000.

Staff and students are calling on family, friends, neighbors and the online universe to go to <https://customculture.vans.com/>, click the "VOTE NOW" button and choose Wrangell.

Public voting closes at 4 p.m. Alaska time this Friday.

"We get \$500 for our class (in the school budget) to get what we need for a year. So, think about how far \$50,000 could go for us to make a difference in our art program," said Tasha Morse, the art and music teacher for the high school, when talking to students at the assembly. "This is a big opportunity. Even if we get second through fifth place, we get \$15,000. That's a lot of money."

Morse urged students to broadcast the voting link on TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and

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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, May 4: Phebe Garcia, Dewyo Young, Nonay Young.

Thursday, May 5: Yenell Cummings.

Friday, May 6: Kathy Appleman, Kaylyn Easterly, Maylee Haggard.

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

Sunday, May 8: Wess Strasburger.

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

Tuesday, May 10: Waka Brown, Alesha Jabusch, Jeff Wiederspohn; Anniversary: Karl and Adrian Kohrt.

Wednesday, May 11: Jessie Oates Angerman, Jeff Petticrew; Anniversary: Jay Neal and Mercedes Angerman.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 5

Crispy chicken, steamed spinach, fruit slaw, boiled potatoes

Friday, May 6

Mac and cheese with ham and broccoli, carrot raisin salad

Monday, May 9

Chili with beef and cheese, Texas coleslaw, corn bread

Tuesday, May 10

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

Wednesday, May 11

Beef noodle casserole, peas, sunshine 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, May 6

Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.

Friday, May 13

Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.

Friday, May 20

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, May 28

Matanuska, 12:45 a.m.

Southbound

Monday, May 9

Matanuska, 9 a.m.

Monday, May 16

Matanuska, 7:15 a.m.

Monday, May 23

Matanuska, 9 a.m.

Monday, May 30

Matanuska, 2 a.m.

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

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May 4	03:13	15.9	04:14	13.2	09:38	-0.3	09:31	4.7
May 5	03:43	15.0	04:55	12.4	10:15	0.5	10:08	5.5
May 6	04:18	14.1	05:45	11.6	10:58	1.4	10:55	6.2
May 7	05:01	13.2	06:52	11.3	11:50	2.2	11:58	6.8
May 8	06:04	12.2	08:10	11.5	12:53	2.7
May 9	07:35	11.8	09:14	12.4	01:18	6.8	02:01	2.9
May 10	09:00	12.1	10:03	13.6	02:43	6.0	03:07	2.7

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

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

STIKINE RIVER BIRDING FESTIVAL through May 7, including a story trail scavenger hunt at 10 a.m. Friday at the Volunteer Park Nature Trail (read a bird-themed book along the way). Bring your own hammer and build a birdhouse at 9 a.m. Saturday, outside the Nolan Center. Events sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Wrangell borough. For more information, visit www.stikinebirding.org or call 907-874-2323.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER, no movie this weekend.

PARKS and RECREATION is offering country line dancing Monday and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the community center gym for adults 18 years and up until May 30. \$5 fee and no registration required. For more information visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

SOUTHEAST SENIOR CENTER is offering free virtual Tai Chi online for ages 60 and up. Two courses offered for eight-week series twice a week through June 23. Improves strength and balance, reduces risk of falls. Taught by a certified instructor. Call 907-463-6113 for registration and more information.

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.

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: 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.

May 11, 1922

The first interschool meet even held in Alaska came to a close on Monday evening. The first basketball game was held Wednesday afternoon, when the all stars of Wrangell defeated the Douglas team, 38-17. This initial victory for the local school was followed by winning the Wrangell versus Juneau High School game that evening 22-17, and the high school debate the following morning when Wrangell had the affirmative against Ketchikan. Other points won by Wrangell pupils were: rapid calculation, John Grant, third place; elementary declamatory, Margaret McCormack, second place; high school declam-

atory, Elton Engstrom, third place; spelling, oral and written, Thelma Shangle, second place; written English, Alfred Royalty, third place; and elementary oral English, Catherine Matheson, first place.

May 9, 1947

Canvassers started work this week lining up residents to take advantage of the free X-ray program offered in Wrangell by public health officials the latter part of this month. Findings in your chest X-ray will be strictly confidential, treated as guardedly as a consultation with your own physician. But you will be warned of any infection or disturbance of lungs or heart. "It's just good insurance to have a check-up now and then," as one party put it. Ordinarily, a chest plate would cost \$10, but these are free. Tuberculosis is not inherited, medical authorities tell us, but is caused by a germ spread person to person. Young or old, rich or poor can be early victims of the disease - and not be aware of the fact that they are infected unless an X-ray tells them so.

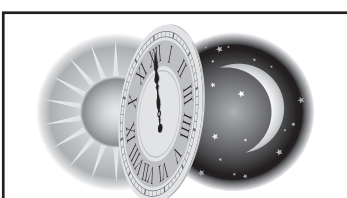
May 12, 1972

Wrangell's new municipal flag will be white with a red, white and blue circle emblem, and the likenesses of the Shakes Island meeting house, totems, a salmon, a tree and Alaska's famous "Dipper" of stars upon it in gold, black and blue. The design chosen by judges this week is the combined work of two of the 15 artists who sub-

mitted entries in the contest. Judges said they liked what they saw in the designs of Mrs. Fannie Nauska and of Brian Castle, a 14-year-old eighth grade student, so the judges got the two of them together and they combined their flags. The winning flag design also includes the words "Wrangell, Gateway to the Stikine" in blue around the outside of the circle. The first new flag should be back from the manufacturer and ready for the Fourth of July celebration.

May 1, 1997

As the sounds of drums, chanting and steam filled the air last Saturday at Shoemaker Bay, Natives and other residents witnessed a rare ceremony. April 26 was the long-awaited day when Wrangell's newest canoe was to be blessed, steamed and readied for launch. Two brothers, John and Roy Martin, began talking about carving a canoe in the traditional manner more than two years ago, and others in the Native community soon became interested. The project was funded by the Nolan Trust, T-shirt sales and a raffle to benefit the Wrangell Canoe Project. Master carver Steve Brown, designer of the canoe, was the first on the scene. Totem- and canoe carvers Will Burkhart, of Sitka, and Wayne Prince, of Haines, also were on hand. Brown and other carvers had crafted the canoe from a single red cedar log.



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
May 4	4:56a	8:37p	15:36h
May 5	4:54a	8:39p	15:41h
May 6	4:51a	8:41p	15:45h
May 7	4:49a	8:43p	15:49h
May 8	4:47a	8:45p	15:53h
May 9	4:45a	8:47p	15:58h
May 10	4:43a	8:49p	16:02h

Worker shortage 'is real,' says state labor economist

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Anyone who wants to get a pizza midweek at the Marine Bar or a steak or burger at the Elks Lodge knows that worker shortages have forced employers to reduce their days and cut back on offerings.

"This worker shortage is real, and it's not going away anytime soon," Dan Robinson, research chief at the Alaska Department of Labor, told legislators last month.

"For nine years in a row, more people have left the state than have come here," he told the Senate Finance Committee.

The population has been stable as births have outpaced deaths, but the years of net migration loss of several thousand people a year since 2012 has cut into the labor pool.

"Is Alaska desirable, compared to the other states? We're not doing terribly well by that measure," Robinson said at

the April 13 committee hearing.

"Alaska is no longer the premier state in the nation for wages," said Fairbanks Sen. Click Bishop, co-chair of the Finance Committee and a former Labor Department commissioner. "Our wages have not kept up here."

Whereas Alaska led the nation in median wage in the late 1970s, after the oil pipeline boom, the state now ranks around No. 10, depending on the survey.

Anchorage Sen. Bill Wielechowski asked Robinson what jobs are most in need of new hires in Alaska, in particular as policy makers consider education and job training programs. "All of them," the labor economist answered. "Someone who's really good at almost anything can make good money."

The worker shortage in Wrangell shows up every week with Facebook postings and other help wanted ads and signs around town. The chamber of commerce is trying to act as a clearinghouse to help publicize job vacancies —

Wrangell has no state jobs service office.

The school district's chronic shortage of substitute teachers and aides has gotten worse, prompting the schools superintendent to issue a community plea for applicants last month.

And last week two food service operations announced service cutbacks due to lack of staff. The Elks Club on April 26 posted: "Friday and Saturday meals will be suspended at the Elks until we can hire enough staff."

A day earlier, the Marine Bar and Hungry Beaver Pizza posted it would be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays until further notice "until we can find help."

It takes seven people to fully staff the bar and restaurant, said owner Patty Kautz. The last time she had that many workers was three years ago, pre-pandemic, she said last week. "I was a full-time pizza cook all last year," before she decided it was too much and retired from kitchen work.

The business last week was trying to manage with three employees, Kautz said.

"It's unbelievable," she said of the lack of job applicants. "We can't figure out what people are doing to pay the rent and mortgage."

Part of the problem, she believes, is that younger people are not staying in town after school.

Lack of housing often is cited as a problem in attracting new residents, and workers, to Wrangell. And the housing shortage, particularly affordable housing, is not limited to Wrangell. Housing is especially tight in coastal communities, making it hard on employers looking to bring in new hires, said Sitka Sen. Bert Stedman, a co-chair of the Finance Committee.

The housing shortage, and its barrier to new hires, extends from "Dutch Harbor (in the Aleutian Islands) to Dixon Entrance (south of Ketchikan)," Stedman said at the April 13 hearing.

Borough will apply for state loan toward new water treatment plant

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly has approved applying for a \$3.8 million loan from the state to fund construction of a new water treatment plant, estimated to cost nearly \$15.4 million.

The borough has nearly \$11.1 million in funding from two federal grants and one federal loan, leaving a shortfall of \$4.3 million, according to information presented to the assembly for its April 26 meeting.

The assembly approved seeking a loan from the Alaska Drinking Water Fund, to be paid back over 20 years. It would cover construction of a new building to house what's called a DAF (dissolved air floatation) system to filter the water supply, as well as reusing the existing buildings to serve and support the new system. "It's a mixture of both," Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad said of the plant construction Monday.

The project also includes adding a generator at the site and "a lot of pipework" will need to be done, she said last Thursday.

The low-interest loan program is administered by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

In addition to the loan, Al-Haddad said her department is planning to go after a grant from the Denali Commission, a federal agency based in Anchorage that provides infrastructure and utilities funding to communities statewide.

The commission has \$10 million available for new infrastructure projects, she said. Wrangell would be eligible to apply for up to \$2 million for its project.

Al-Haddad said the borough also plans to apply for additional federal funding from the Economic Development Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"We're hopeful for the Denali (Commission) option. It's a grant, not a loan, and it could serve as match to any additional grant," she said.

The \$15.4 million water treatment plant price tag includes \$1.1 million for the design by DOWL, an Anchorage-based engineering consultant.

Al-Haddad last Thursday said the design phase will be about one-third completed by the end of this month,

two-thirds done by the end of summer, and 95% complete in January 2023.

"You start chipping away at things, and start getting more and more refined," she said. "There are still some fairly significant components that we are trying to make decisions on that will dictate or inform the rest of the design process."

For example, she said, what to do with the backwash — the waste that is left over from the filtration process — and how best to get it to the wastewater treatment plant.

Capital Facilities has done some site work with geotechnical engineers surveying "exactly where we're going to put the (new) building. How much rock excavation will be needed. We have a conceptual design, and now it's getting more and more specific."

Another logistical issue, Al-Haddad said, is the chemical treatment process. "How shipping those materials and storing is going to go. How it's going to make a difference. Trying to figure out bigger picture details here now, that way we can have a more refined design as we move forward."

Bear cub wandering Shoemaker Loop euthanized after mother not found

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A black bear cub seen wandering Shoemaker Loop off Zimovia Highway at 5.5 Mile last week was euthanized in Petersburg on April 24, a day after a state wildlife trooper and U.S. Forest Service officer captured it following several sightings by residents who live along the roadway.

Trooper Chadd Yoder with Alaska Wildlife Troopers got a call from Wrangell police about people seeing a bear cub for days without its mother.

"It was apparent the bear was separated," he said April 25. "What happened to mom, we don't know."

Jimmy Nelson, a Forest Service law enforcement officer, and Yoder found the cub in a tree. "It was pretty easy to catch," Yoder said.

They put it in a dog carrier, and discussed possibilities of where it might go, possibly to the Fortress of the Bear sanctuary in Sitka, but they had heard it was at capacity.

"It spent the night at my house, and went over to Petersburg on Sunday

(April 24)," Yoder said, recalling the cub sat next to him on the boat.

Yoder said he was aware the cub might be euthanized if placement at a zoo or sanctuary wasn't likely.

"It's a difficult situation because these small animals can't be domesticated," he said. And they don't stay small forever.

Best-case scenario would have been reuniting it with its mom, but without the sow, it would have faced a slow death on its own, Yoder said.

Sgt. Cody Litster, an Alaska Wildlife Trooper in Petersburg, said they conferred with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to figure out the best thing to do.

"To our knowledge, there weren't any placements at the time, and unfortunately the bear cub was euthanized," Litster said April 25.

A lot of things go into the decision, he said, including the size and age of the animal, and the stress level of the animal to get to the location where it could be housed.

"From my department's side, cubs of this age aren't found abandoned at this

time of year," Litster said. "It's a relatively unique circumstance. At some level, somewhere, there was a sow bear that was killed one way or the other. We're concerned whether that was a natural death or a poaching."

If anyone has information of how this cub was abandoned or left by its mom, Litster asks they contact either Yoder at 907-874-3215 or Litster at 907-772-3983. Alaska Wildlife Troopers have a toll-free number for Fish and Wildlife Safeguard, a service that can be called anonymously: 1-800-478-3377.

Another tool the department has which is fairly new, Litster said, is an online app called AK Tips, which can be downloaded in your phone's app store for free by searching Aktips. Information can be sent anonymously through the app, as well.

Curator Claire Turner at Fortress of the Bear, a refuge in Sitka, said she didn't receive a call about a bear cub in Wrangell but that was likely because they are listed at maximum capacity.

"We are currently maxed out with our eight permanent residents, five

brown and three black bears," Turner said Friday.

"If there was a possibility for a temporary hold, we would have made ourselves available, but we were not contacted, and it would be unlikely we would have been contacted unless there was a permanent placement," she said.

It's always really tough to hear of a bear cub having to be killed, but it's important to remember that from troopers to Fish and Game officials, no one wants to euthanize a bear, she said.

Prevention is the key, being as mindful as possible to keep bears out of human populated areas, and "reduce the number of orphans we see," she said.

That translates to securing trash, as it's bear cub season.

Yoder said being aware of trash disposal day, and not putting scraps out days before is important. Freeze them, if you can.

"That's our responsibility, living in a rural community to coexist and not have a problem," he said.

Truckload of mail burns up on its way to Kenai Peninsula

HOMER (AP) — A trailer containing mail intended for a dozen communities on the Kenai Peninsula caught fire and was destroyed, including all the contents.

The driver of the truck hauling the trailer was not injured in the April 25 fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation, the U.S. Postal Service said in a statement.

The contract truck left a processing center in Anchorage and caught fire near Mile 38 of the Seward Highway, or just north of the intersection of the Seward and Sterling highways, near Tern Lake.

Mail in the trailer was intended for Kasilof, Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, Anchor Point, Homer, Fritz Creek, Halibut Cove, Nanwalek, Nikolaevsk, Port Graham, Nikiski and Seldovia.

One thing that made it hard to put the fire out is that the area has limited access to water. Fire crews had to shuttle water from 16 miles away.

Anyone who believes they might have had mail on the truck should contact the postal service. If a lost package was insured, a claim can be filed online.

"The Postal Service regrets this unfortunate situation and any inconvenience it may cause," USPS wrote in a copy of the letter attached to the press statement. "If you are questioned by a mailer, creditor or correspondent regarding mail or packages that may have been destroyed in this fire, feel free to use this letter as explanation."

The postal service should be able to identify lost mail or packages that had tracking numbers, said James Boxrud, an agency spokesperson.

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OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
SUNDAY 10:00AM-3:00PM 907-874-3640

FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's hard to count to 11 in the Senate

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The Permanent Fund dividend ranks among the most divisive issues in Alaska politics, along with such longstanding battles as oil taxes, salmon fisheries catch allocations and subsistence rights. Sadly, the dividend has grown in political importance in recent years, overwhelming all other issues confronting the state.

Candidates scramble to find a dividend flag large enough to wrap around themselves for campaign speeches, reasonable voices get drowned out by chants of "I want my PFD," and state budget work is held hostage by advocates for a supersized dividend.

The size of the dividend should be a math calculation, not a political one. How much can the state treasury afford to hand out to Alaskans while continuing to provide quality schools and other public services, without overdrawing the Permanent Fund for short-term political pleasure and without resorting to heavy taxes to pay the bills.

But to solve that math problem requires another arithmetic equation. It takes 21 votes in the 40-member state House and 11 votes in the 20-member Senate to pass a spending bill. Even more when you consider other provisions of the budget process, such as the effective date and preserving several long-standing reserve funds, but let's keep the math easy and limit the numbers to 21 and 11.

Unfortunately, there may not be 11 votes in the Senate for any reasonable dividend this legislative session, which is due to end on May 18.

The Republican-led Senate majority is as divided on the dividend as the San Andreas Fault, and just as unstable. Half want to jack up the PFD to record heights; half want to pay out a dividend that will not drain savings; and several are trying to straddle the fault line and hope they end up on solid ground after the shaking stops.

Add in the Democrats (and some Republicans), who want to deny the big-dividend governor any sort of political win for his reelection campaign, and nothing so far has added up to

a firm 11 votes. Senate leadership has been reluctant to bring the issue to the floor and open it up to amendments, but it is on the calendar for this week.

The Democratic-led House majority is in a similar count-the-votes situation, though it did pass a budget bill last month that would send out payments this fall of about \$2,600 to every eligible Alaskan. The next move is up to the Senate.

The best thing now for lawmakers is to work the math of the state checkbook, not the math of election polling, and settle on an affordable dividend in the final two weeks of the legislative session. It's embarrassing that the budget for public services and community needs has to wait every year for 21 and 11 to add up to a dividend.

He stood up to politics

Unlike legislators who vote for big dividends because they know it will make them popular with voters, sometimes lawmakers stand up to

politics. Such as John Coghill, a former Republican state legislator from Nenana, one of 48 candidates in the June 11 primary election to fill the seat of the late U.S. Rep. Don Young.

This is not a campaign endorsement, just a story of a different time in politics and someone who did the right thing.

About 20 years ago, when Coghill was in the House, a

colleague wanted to amend a bill to allow child support enforcement investigators to carry guns. The pro-gun, pro-NRA, pro-tough-on-crime politics were obvious: Vote yes. And Coghill, no fan of gun control, normally would support personal protection legislation.

But he saw this one differently, and argued against the amendment: Why would child support investigators ever get in a situation where they would need to fear for their life and possibly shoot someone, he asked. Would the presence of a gun escalate the situation?

He was right, and the amendment was defeated. He voted on the merits, not the politics. That's in short supply these days.

"The size of the dividend should be a math calculation, not a political one."

Paddle making

Continued from page 1

scheduled for June 8-11, will be the first since 2018, as 2020 was canceled due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Past Celebrations have drawn up to 5,000 people, including more than 2,000 dancers.

Hutchinson said the workshop was free to participants thanks to sponsors Sealaska, the Sealaska Carving and Bark Program, the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Rasmuson Foundation and Alaska Marine Lines Wrangell office. The space was provided by high school shop teacher Winston Davies, and Doug Chilton, a master carver based in Juneau, was brought in to teach the class.

One of the participants in the class, Luella Knapp, AAnshaawasnook, who is the speaker of the Naanyaa.aayí clan house, said it was an exciting process because of the connection to her ancestral roots. Her Tlingit name Aanshaawasnook is among the Naanyaa.aayí ancestor names.

"It's part of my culture, that's why I was so excited (for the class)," Knapp said. "And then to be getting a bear (design) on it, that's one of our main clans in the Naanyaa.aayí. That's our emblem."

Though the shape and sanding are finished on Knapp's paddle, she has yet to paint the form line artwork bear with acrylic paints. She will coat it with linseed or other appropriate oil.

"They're not necessarily dance paddles, but they're creating the paddles we would use in a canoe," Hutchinson said. "They can modify them and make them dance paddles. We'll carry them in the Celebration parade so they'll have a nice cool look as they're going down the street with all the other dance groups."

According to a "Wood & Waterways: A Look at Tlingit Canoes," published by the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Tlingit canoes (yaakw) are dug-out vessels made from the red cedar and yew trees found on



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bucky Bjorge, a participant in the paddle-making workshop on April 23, uses an orbital sander to smooth the rough edges of a piece of cedar.

Native land throughout Southeast. Yaakw ranged from single-person canoes up to 30-person war canoes.

In Wrangell, the moon canoe (disi yaakw) was a smaller craft made for hunting and fishing,

Paddles (Axáa) were also made with yellow cedar or yew due to the sturdiness of the woods.

That same practice was used at the recent class, with red cedar being used for dance paddles since it is lighter, and yellow for canoe

paddles since it is more durable.

"Having this wood come from our traditional homelands from Sealaska is kind of monumental," Hutchinson said. "It's super clean wood, no knots. We want to make sure they have a clean presentation."

Chilton worked with each participant in the class, measuring arm lengths, body heights and hand grips to ensure each paddle was carved specifically for its respective user. He also provided form line templates, like the bear Knapp used, for anyone who wanted to adorn their paddle.

"I love this (the hand grip) here because he fit the paddle for me and for my height," Knapp said. "It's not too big, not too small. It's just right for me. I've never really made a paddle like this before in this size."

Along with the personal paddles, nine separate paddles were made to represent each of Wrangell's clans at Celebration. "We're going to carry those out in front of the group to show Wrangell," Hutchinson said.

EDITORIAL

The schools need more borough funding

Probably nothing is more important to the community than its school. Not just for educating students, but as a point of pride and center of activities, and a source of future workers needed to keep the town in business. Good schools also are an attraction to bring new families to town, and to keep them here.

It's a cliché, but good schools cost money. "Doing more with less" is not a sustainable education plan, and the risk of losing more programs from an already limited school district operation is an admission of defeat, not hope, for future students.

As the borough assembly puts together its budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, it needs to look at boosting the local contribution to the school district operating budget for next year. Which means residents, as taxpayers, need to accept the fact that someone has to step up and pay for education — someone other than the students.

The school district's budget problems extend past the borough contribution, but that is the only piece the assembly can control.

Enrollment is down about 20% from pre-COVID numbers, which has cut deeply into state funding for the district that is based on the student count. One hope of getting back some of those students from homeschooling and correspondence programs will be to offer their families something better than slimmed-down courses.

The formula for state funding, which covers more than 60% of the school district operating budget, has not increased since 2017. The Legislature is working to approve more funding, but it is uncertain and the numbers being discussed are not enough on their own to solve Wrangell's money problems.

Insufficient funding means more than holding bake sales for school projects or raising money for sports team travel. It shows up in the low wages and lack of benefits offered for teacher's aides and substitutes. The staff shortage has become so bad that the schools superintendent last month said distance-learning classes taught by out-of-town teachers on a screen may become an option in lieu of in-person classroom instruction.

That's where the borough can help. Wrangell funds the local contribution to the schools with a combination of sales tax revenues and federal payments, both of which are very healthy this year. In fact, Wrangell set a record last year for sales tax revenues.

The borough's annual contribution to the school budget has been unchanged the past three years, at \$1.3 million, but that is down substantially from more than \$1.5 million in fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. The district is asking the assembly for \$1.592 million for the 2022-2023 school year.

The district's federal pandemic aid will run out next year, and steep inflation is hitting the school district the same as anyone else. Pretending the schools can do a good job with less real money is not realistic. Assembly members should ask questions to ensure they fully understand the district's fiscal challenges, measure the request against what the borough treasury can afford, and come out in support of an increase for schools.

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Little League opening day pits Rays against Sharks

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The community turned out for Little League opening day last Saturday, with two Wrangell teams going head-to-head in a spirited game at the Volunteer Park ballfields.

Minor league teams the Rays and Sharks, comprised of 8-, 9- and 10-year-old players, played the first game of the season, with the Sharks winning 6 to 5.

Maintenance crews prepped the ballfield before the opening ceremony as teams, friends and families gathered in anticipation of the game.

"Thank you for coming out and supporting your Wrangell Little League," said board member Briana Schilling as she addressed the crowd. "I want to say thank you to our volunteers, our coaches — they put in a lot of time — our umpires, concession stand workers, score board and bookkeepers, field maintenance workers and board members. This program would not be

possible without you."

Board member Kaelene Harrison noted that it was the first year in a while that Wrangell had a junior league team.

"This is awesome to have these guys out here willing to commit when, at that age, there are a lot of things going on," Harrison said. "We're really proud of this team and hope that we can see great things this year."

The major league division only has enough players for one team, which means they will have to play each other in modified games unless they are able to play teams from other communities. The Little League board is working with Petersburg and other Southeast teams to set up more games at home and away for all divisions.

Major league players will break into two teams, the Lightning and Thunder, and are scheduled to play at 6 p.m. Wednesday The Sharks and Rays are scheduled for a rematch on Thursday at the same time.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Sharks had the first at-bat last Saturday during the first game of the Little League season. Connor Blake, the first batter of the game, hit a home run on the second pitch, as catcher Malachi Harrison of the Rays was left empty-handed.

July Fourth art contest draws inspiration from Stikine River

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

"A River Runs Through Us" is the theme chosen for this year's Fourth of July celebration in Wrangell, prompting event organizers to hold a first-ever art contest, with the winner's work being featured on posters and other swag. Plus, there's a chance to win \$1,000.

Entries can come from anyone and can be hard copies or digital. The piece should capture the theme of the contest, which refers to the Stikine River. The deadline is Friday by 4 p.m.

"It's a connection that everybody from here understands, whether they've been up (the Stikine) or not," said Brittani Robbins, the executive director of the chamber of commerce and the one who came up with this year's theme. She said it is important to the chamber to involve the community.

Tawney Crowley, the designer of last year's theme, "Find Your Adventure," said she wouldn't be entering the contest but is encouraging others to do so.

"I've done a lot of stuff to get my artwork into the community," Crowley said. "There are quite a few people I had no idea who were harboring this talent."

Crowley said it's encouraging to see both adults and children working on submissions. She's been approached for her artistic guidance and critiquing.

"They lit up at the opportunity once they knew what the contest was for," she said. "They're not even concerned with winning, they're just glad



Natalia Ashton, left, and Amura Brevick work on their submissions for the chamber of commerce Fourth of July art contest. The theme of this year's celebration is "A River Runs Through Us."

PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

to be included."

Students at Stikine Middle School have been working on entries during Laura Davies art and technology classes. She saw the contest as an opportunity to teach about the purpose of art and what makes for good design.

"When you're a teacher and you try to come up with a good project, whenever you can integrate place — they all love the Fourth of July, they love the river, they love their community — they're suddenly motivated to draw things because it's their lives," Davies said. "If it was a logo contest for extra math homework, that's not going to go over well."

Davies has been teaching her students the elements of design, asking them to look at what makes a good logo. "You don't want it too cluttered. You want it to stand out. What's the message," she said.

During her art class last Wednesday, students huddled at benches over their sketchpads and iPads, drawing out ideas. Some were still brain-

storming, while others were partway through the process and still others had nearly completed works of art.

Natalia Ashton's drawing depicted the Stikine River pouring out of her sketchbook, while Amura Brevick worked on a picture of the fireworks exploding above the mountains and river.

"That's what Fourth of July reminds me of, the fireworks and all that," Brevick said about her work. "My favorite part is the parade. I get to ride with my dad. He's a police officer."

Robbins said submissions can be dropped off at the chamber of commerce office inside the Stikine Inn, mailed or emailed to info@wrangellchamber.com. The Fourth of July committee will select their favorites and the chamber board will select the winner, who will be announced Friday night.

"It's just nice to involve everyone because there are some (people) out there that are remarkably talented," Robbins said.

Art contest

Continued from page 1

other social media platforms. She reminded students that they are representing the school and community, much like the sports teams when they travel for competition.

If Wrangell amasses enough votes with its Tlingit- and Wrangell scenery-inspired shoes, it will win a spot in the top five. Those winners will be announced from May 9 to May 13. The grand prize winner will be announced the week of May 16.

"I kind of wasn't expecting

the amount of support that we've gotten in the past couple of days," said Rowen Wiederspohn, who was part of the team of art students who worked on the shoes. "I've been telling people all day to vote, and every single person is like, 'Already have. Already done it.' Everybody knows."

Wiederspohn worked on the project with Paige Baggen, Sophia Hagelman, Nathale Keith, Cassidy Cowan and Morse. He also supplied the fur for the red shoes with black form line drawings and forget-me-not

beaded flowers.

Morse told students to think about how many people follow them on social media and to multiply that by the number of students in the school to illustrate the kind of reach they can have. She mentioned the reach of the local and statewide news outlets. She also said the Wrangell entry had some star power behind it when Portugal. The Man, a band out of Wasilla, shared the story on its social media platforms.

"We're going to win," Morse said.

Assembly delays decision on sale of hospital building

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly on April 26 postponed a vote to put the old hospital building up for online auction after assembly members raised the question if the \$830,000 starting bid went up to or beyond the \$1 million limit in the law for selling municipal property without a vote of the people.

If that were to happen, the sale would have to be approved by voters at an election — either the regular one in October, or the borough would have to hold a special election.

The assembly will consider the issue again at its May 10 meeting.

"If it (bidding) went over a million dollars, staff is recommending — and it's the assembly's prerogative — that it go to the regular election, not a special, but we're not positive yet," Borough Clerk Kim Lane said Monday.

The borough assembly is considering a resolution to put the 30,596-square-foot former Wrangell Medical Center on nearly two acres along Bennett Street up for auction on publicsurplus.com.

Anchorage-based appraiser Reliant on April 21 submitted its valuation of the property at \$830,000, which would be the starting bid for the auction.

"Public surplus might get you \$2 million," Assemblymember David Powell said at the meeting, during discus-

sion of the proposed auction.

"You're not guaranteed anyone will bid," Assemblymember Jim Debord said.

"Our (home rule) charter says we will not sell anything above a million (dollars) without putting it before a vote of the people," Assemblymember Patty Gilbert said. "Are we in financial and legal jeopardy? That's a question for the attorney. We need to rethink this."

The borough has been spending almost \$100,000 a year on insurance and heat since SEARHC moved out of the building more than two years ago and the property reverted back to the borough. The oldest portions of the building date back to 1967.

If the assembly approves the auction, eligible bidders would have to pay a registration fee of \$5,000, refundable to the losing bidders.

Excluded from bidding would be people or businesses delinquent in property tax, sales tax, utility payments, or those who have other financial obligations to the borough.

The property is zoned public/open space, which is primarily for governmental purposes. The successful bidder would be required to submit a rezoning request for whatever uses they plan at the property.

The old hospital would sit on the auction website for no fewer than 30 days.

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End of COVID emergency could stop Medicaid for thousands of Alaskans

By ANNIE BERMAN
Anchorage Daily News

Thousands of Alaskans could lose Medicaid benefits as soon as July, when the federal government's COVID-19 health emergency is expected to end.

Alaska's state health officials face the daunting task of combing through pandemic-swollen Medicaid rolls to establish who will no longer be eligible for benefits when the emergency ends.

Health officials, who say they have been preparing for the shift for months, are concerned many of those Alaskans could soon find themselves without health insurance — particularly people who don't know what steps to take to keep their coverage, don't have up-to-date contact information on file, or who don't act in time.

Officials here say thousands of Alaskans could lose Medicaid benefits when a policy enacted during the pandemic expires. That's expected to happen sometime this summer.

Currently, nearly one in three Alaskans is enrolled in Medicaid, the country's largest public insurance program. Recipients include eligible low-income

adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities. States administer the program, which is funded jointly by states and the federal government. Alaska's Medicaid programs are known as DenaliCare and Denali KidCare.

Under a provision in the federal health emergency that began in March 2020, Alaskans who might otherwise have lost health care coverage were able to stay on Medicaid for the past two years without needing to submit annual paperwork — even if their income rose high enough that they were no longer eligible for the program.

In 2018, there were 238,000 Alaskans enrolled in Medicaid. In 2020, that number had grown to 258,000, an increase of at least 20,000 people, said Shawnda O'Brien, director of Alaska's Division of Public Assistance. Data for 2021 was not yet available, O'Brien said.

The roughly 20% increase here mirrored a similar jump in Medicaid enrollments around the country.

Earlier this month, the Biden administration announced it was extending the health emergency for 90 days, setting the next possible end date in July.

Many people no longer eligible for Medicaid will still be able to get covered through the Affordable Care Act marketplace or through their employers, said Jane Straight, a director at United Way of Anchorage who helps Alaskans find and enroll in health insurance.

But Alaskans who are dropped from Medicaid will have only 60 days after that happens to sign up for alternative health coverage under a special open enrollment period. That's why it's important for people enrolled now to make sure their contact information with the Division of Public Assistance is up to date, to open all the mail they get from Medicaid, and to fill out any Medicaid renewal forms they receive, officials say.

National estimates put the number of people who stand to lose Medicaid coverage at close to 15 million people, including children.

Officials in Alaska won't know exactly how many people could lose coverage until they look at each case individually after the emergency ends, O'Brien said.

"But our plan is to give as many residents as much notice as possible," she said.

The state's current plan is to send out

notifications to existing Medicaid-eligible recipients before the public health emergency ends to let them know what they'll need to do to stay enrolled, O'Brien said. Her biggest concern is that there may be Alaskans who are eligible for Medicaid but don't complete their annual renewal process, which hasn't been required of them for the past two years.

"If they don't complete the renewal process, we would have to determine them ineligible until they provide us with the additional information," she said.

Straight said her main worry with the Medicaid transition is that people might not know what to do once they've been dropped from the program.

"Even if they know about the marketplace, even if they know there's an annual open enrollment period that always starts Nov. 1, they might think they have to wait till then. But they don't," she said. "We love getting the word out to people that when this happens, help is available to help you figure out what your options are."

Calling 211 can connect Alaskans with health care navigators who can walk them through the process and answer any questions they have. The help is free.

A day on the green



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Glacier Larsen gets ready to chip in his ball from the rough last Saturday during the first day of the Angerman's 9-Hole Best Ball Tournament at Muskeg Meadows — the first golf tournament of the season. Five teams competed for prizes, with the team of Faye and Keene Kohrt, Matt Houser and Chris Johnson placing first. The second day of play was postponed due to rain and will be held at a later date.

Alaska distributor loses 5 million honeybees in airfreight reroute

The Associated Press

About 5 million honeybees bound for Alaska got waylaid when Delta Air Lines routed them through Atlanta, where most of the bees died after being left for hours in crates on the ground during hot weather.

The bees were the first of two shipments ordered by Soldotna beekeeper Sarah McElrea from a distributor in California. McElrea said the loss is devastating. She runs Sarah's Alaska Honey and also coordinates shipments of bees to beekeepers around the state to pollinate orchards and nurseries.

The bees were bumped from their original route to Anchorage on April 24, and instead put on a flight to Atlanta, where they were to be transferred to an Anchorage-bound plane, according to published reports.

McElrea said she worried

when the 800-pound shipment didn't arrive in Atlanta in time to make the connecting flight. On April 25, she said, Delta told her some bees had escaped, so airline workers put the crates holding the bees outside a Delta cargo bay.

In a panic, McElrea reached a beekeeper in Atlanta, who rushed to the airport and discovered that many of the bees had died from heat and starvation, according to The New York Times.

Delta called it an "unfortunate situation."

In an emailed statement, Delta spokeswoman Catherine Morrow told The Associated Press last Friday, "We have taken immediate action to implement new measures to ensure events of this nature do not occur in the future."

Morrow said Delta apologized to McElroy.

The beekeeper in Atlanta, Edward Morgan, called more than a dozen people to go to the airport and try to save any bees that were still alive.

"It's devastating to see that many dead," Georgia beekeeper Julia Mahood told Atlanta broadcaster WABE. "Just clumps of dead bees that had no chance because they were left outside with no food and basically got lost in Delta's machinery."

McElrea said she had received previous shipments of honeybees on Delta from Sacramento, California, to Anchorage via Seattle many times. The airline told her that last weekend's shipment didn't fit on the plane, so they were rerouted through Atlanta.

Her supplier in California will replace the shipment, which was worth about \$48,000. She said she is hoping Delta provides some help, although she acknowledged that shipping live animals carries risk.

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Rising costs force developer to cancel new boat haul-out in Sitka

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sitka Sentinel

A developer has notified Sitka that high construction costs have caused the partnership to withdraw its proposal to build a new boatyard and haul-out.

Sitka's last haul-out operator, Halibut Point Marine, in March pulled up its last boat after it had converted the area into a cruise ship terminal. The decision by Sitka Community Boatyard to abandon its plans leaves no prospect in sight for a replacement operation in Sitka.

Wrangell's Port and Harbors Department has reported an increase in calls to use the community's Marine Service Center haul-out services after the Sitka business closed down.

Garry White, director of Sitka's industrial park, told the community park board at its April 18 meeting of the latest development in the quest for a haul-out and boatyard to serve Sitka's fishing community and other boat owners.

The proposed boatyard partners had sent a letter to inform the city of their decision to rescind their proposal and relinquish their right to the lease on land for the project at the industrial park.

"Although we had adequate funding identified to complete the project when we submitted the proposal, increased cost estimates have made the construction as proposed unaffordable," said project sponsors Linda Behnken (Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association), Jeremy Serka, Sean Hauvig, Dan Falvey (Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust), and Jeff Farvour.

Farvour told the Sitka Sentinel that the estimates from contractors came back nearly double the developer's estimates. The partners had planned to purchase a Marine Travelift and build a haul-out pier and a washdown pad, estimated at about \$3.2 million in total.



PHOTO BY JAMES POULSEN/SITKA SENTINEL

Sitka shipwright Mike Nurco works on the Sea Lark at the Halibut Point Marine haul-out on April 4. The 44-foot Sea Lark was the last boat in Sitka's fishing fleet to be hauled out at the facility before the area is fully converted to support the new cruise passenger terminal.

Organizers expressed disappointment in this setback for replacing the boatyard. "It speaks to the need for the city to take a larger role in this core infrastructure project for the community," Farvour said April 19.

"We're still working on it," Serka said. "We did as much as we possibly could to build a classy haul-out, something Sitka could have. And we put quite a bit of money into designing it. We are kind of at the end of our trail. ... We have a short-

term solution but we're still going to require funding from the city." The city is applying a third time for a federal grant for a Travelift, haul-out pier and washdown pad at an estimated \$7.35 million.

Senate committee questions definition of sportfishing guide

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Legislation to restore and increase the state licensing fee on sportfishing guides and operators ran into problems in the Senate Finance Committee last week, as lawmakers questioned why out-of-state boat owners who bring up guests are not required to get a license and pay the fee.

"My district has got to be one of the top guided areas in the state," said Committee Co-Chair Sen. Bert Stedman, whose district stretches from Sitka to Prince of Wales Island, including Wrangell. And while that means a lot of non-residents pay local operators for fishing adventures, "we also have a lot of fat cats" from out of state who come up with their boats and stay all summer long, cycling in friends and company employees for fishing trips, "not unlike a lodge," the Sitka legislator said.

Stedman asked the Department of Fish and Game whether such boat owners, who do not charge for their services but may collect from their guests to help pay for fuel and food, are considered sportfishing guides or operators who would be required to buy the annual license.

Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang said such boat owners are not considered

guides or operators unless they are paid by their guests.

Bethel Sen. Lyman Hoffman did not like that answer. Non-residents who provide sportfishing services — even if they are not paid — should be required to buy the charter license, Hoffman said, adding that he would like to see the legislation amended to cover such nonresident boat operators.

The commissioner said the issue of licensing such boat owners as commercial guides has not come up before and he would need to contact the Alaska Department of Law as to the legality of such a provision.

State law does not require Alaskans to register and get a license as a sportfishing guide if they take friends, co-workers or other guests out fishing, even if the guests help pay for food and fuel. Treating non-resident boat owners differently than residents could violate the U.S. Constitution, Vincent-Lang told the Senate committee.

The measure passed the House 25-14 a year ago, and faces a challenging schedule to make it out of the Senate Finance Committee, win passage by the full Senate and then resolve differences between the House and Senate versions before the Legislature's May 18 adjournment deadline.

By restoring the commercial

guide and operator license fees, House Bill 79 would raise an estimated \$600,000 a year for fisheries data management work. The bill, introduced by the governor, would reinstate the license fee, which expired in 2018, and restore the \$100 annual fee for resident guides and \$200 for resident operators. The measure would double the annual fee for nonresidents to \$200 and \$400.

The Southeast Alaska Guides Organization went on the record last year against the higher fee for nonresidents, saying it is not justified and is legally questionable. The Department of Fish and Game reports that in 2019, pre-pandemic, there were about an equal number of resident guides as nonresidents, about 1,200 each.

The intent is that the Department of Fish and Game would use the money to operate its saltwater fishing logbook program, which collects catch and fishing effort data. The logbook program has been ongoing since 1998 but without a designated source of funding.

The state is required to collect the data to meet its obligations under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty and for the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Without the revenue from license fees, the department has been using state general fund dollars to operate the

data collection program. The commissioner told senators the department would use the new revenue to move to-

ward setting up electronic logbooks, providing better access to the data than collecting it on paper forms.

Assembly requires owners pay for disposing of derelict boats

Sentinel staff

The borough assembly at its April 26 meeting approved an ordinance to hold boat owners liable for disposing of derelict vessels, after the port commission passed a resolution at its April 7 meeting requesting the change.

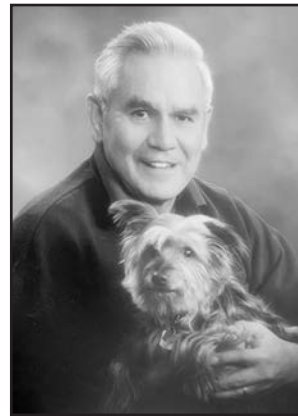
The change to municipal code says, "the owner shall be liable for the costs of disposing or destroying the vessel." The intent is to lessen the burden on the borough of paying for derelict and impounded vessels, which drains the Port and Harbors Department coffers when clunkers take on water or sink, leading the depart-

ment to pay the bill.

When the Bee, a 60-foot derelict tug, went down at Shoemaker Bay on Jan. 5, it was under the impound process the department began in September, and the former owner was absolved of liability.

Under the old municipal code on impoundment, the borough had to pay the bills for the \$26,580 salvage operation of the Bee — \$21,000 to hire a dive team and \$5,580 to get the tug broken down and stacked up in the parking lot at Shoemaker Bay in pieces — nearly wiping out the department's \$30,000 salvage budget.

Gilbert Gunderson Celebration of Life



A Celebration of Life will be held for Gilbert Gunderson on May 7th, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Assembly of God Church with Pastors Kem Haggard and Milt Michener officiating. There will be a luncheon after the service at the Legion Hall. You're welcome to bring your favorite dish.

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Senator wants Alaska to set up its own flood insurance program

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Alaska property owners have paid more than four times as much in premiums than they received back in claims under the National Flood Insurance Program going back to 1980.

"It's kind of ugly," Lori Wing-Heier, the state's insurance division director, told legislators this spring. "We don't have the storms they get in Texas or Louisiana."

The nationwide program, which is voluntary for states and communities, has been around for more than half a century. It pools together property owners from all the states and territories, much like group health insurance programs take in high-risk people, with low-risk, healthy people subsidizing care for those who have more claims.

"We're subsidizing the coastal states in the Lower 48," said Sitka Sen. Bert Stedman, sponsor of Senate Bill 180, which would

establish a state-operated Alaska flood insurance program as an alternative to the national program. "We've been looking at creating our own program."

An Alaska Department of Commerce report in October 2019 showed that Alaska property owners paid \$43.1 million in premiums to the federal program 1980 through 2017, receiving \$9.7 million in payments on claims. The only states with even lower returns on their premiums were Wyoming, Utah and Montana.

"Our flood premiums are horrendous," Wing-Heier told lawmakers at a Senate Labor and Commerce Committee hearing on March 25.

"Everybody that has a mortgage ... and it's federally insured, they require flood insurance," Stedman said at the same committee hearing. Insurance is mandatory for property in high-risk areas, as determined by flood maps, whether the mortgage is federally insured or held by a federally regulated lender.

Private flood insurance may be available for some properties, but the cost can be significantly higher than the federal program.

The average federal premium on a single-family home in a high-risk flood zone in Alaska was \$1,111 a year, according to the Commerce Department's 2019 report, with the average even higher, at \$1,328, for 141 property owners in the program in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

It's not an issue in Wrangell, which pulled out of the national program about 40 years ago, said Carol Rushmore, the borough's planning and zoning director.

"Our flood hazard zone is (only) the shoreline," not rivers or flood plains, and only a couple of residences ever showed up on flood maps, she said.

Stedman has been looking for a better solution than sending millions of dollars out of state for insurance coverage that is not used much. "We've been building on the waterfront (in Alaska) forever," he said, and a state insurance authority should be able to manage and insure property risks separate from the federal program.

The Labor and Commerce Committee moved the bill on April 18, sending it to the Finance Committee. But with a lot of regulatory

and financial questions to answer in trying to set up a new insurance pool, the bill is not headed toward passage before the Legislature's May 18 adjournment deadline.

Wing-Heier said her division would continue working on the bill before the next legislative session. Setting up and funding the state insurance program would cost millions of dollars.

The Senate Finance Committee, which Stedman co-chairs, has added intent language to the budget that directs the Department of Commerce to submit a report by Dec. 20, listing how much property owners in each participating community have paid into the federal program in premiums since 1980, and how much the program has paid out in claims in each community.

Legislative intent language does not have the force of law, and is often used to provide direction, not requirements, to state agencies.

A national property insurance association, a trade group for commercial insurance agencies, sent in written testimony against the bill in the Labor and Commerce Committee. "This type of program does NOT exist currently in ANY state," the trade group wrote.

The financial risk to the state and the cost to property insurers doing business in Alaska would be excessive and are better handled under the federal program that spreads the costs nationwide, the trade group said.

The National Flood Insurance Program's authority to operate expires in September, unless renewed by Congress. Similar deadlines and risk of shutdowns are common for the expensive program, which Wing-Heier called "a political football."



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

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!

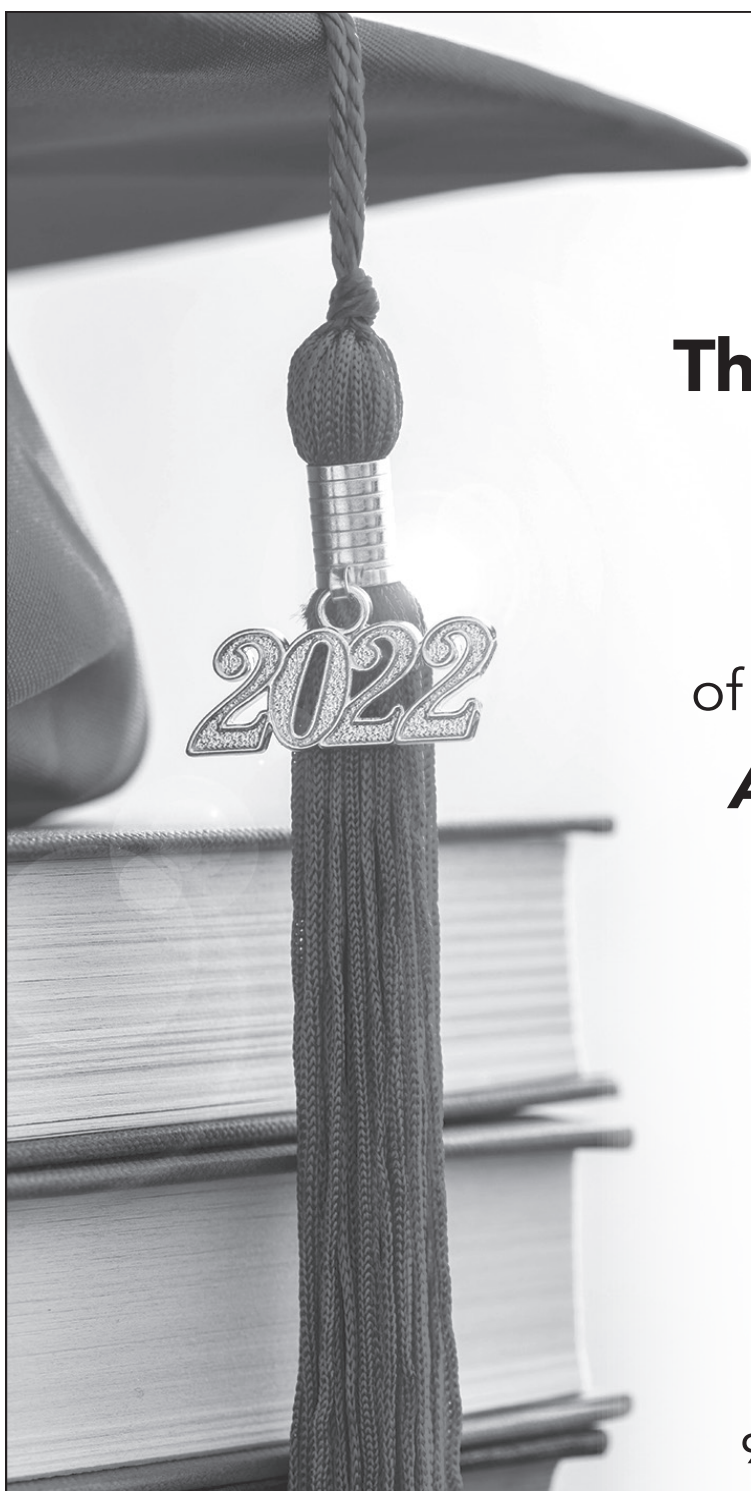
Some of the positions we are currently recruiting for are:

- Passenger Service Workers; Stewards & Pursers
- 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



CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATES!

The Sentinel is offering discounted "Congratulations Graduates" ads at \$50

Send in your message and a photo of your favorite grad for the May 18 Sentinel

Ad deadline is noon Friday, May 13.

Help the students celebrate their years and share your pride with the community.

Call, email or stop by to see Amber at the Sentinel to place your ad.



WRANGELL SENTINEL

907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com • 205 Front Street

Governor continues to push for larger dividend

JUNEAU (AP) — Gov. Mike Dunleavy last Thursday reiterated his push for payments of at least \$3,700 to residents this year, with the legislative session in its last weeks and the size of the annual dividend check paid to residents still unresolved.

The House in its version of the budget approved one-time “energy relief” payments of \$1,300 plus a Permanent Fund dividend of about \$1,250. The Senate Fi-

nance Committee is weighing a dividend of about \$2,600 as it works on a draft budget plan.

Annual dividends to residents traditionally have been paid with earnings from the state’s oil-wealth account, the Alaska Permanent Fund. But lawmakers in 2018 also began using earnings to help pay for public services and put a limit on annual withdrawals from the fund to protect its long-term growth.

A longstanding formula for calculating dividends was last used in 2015, amid large state budget deficits, and a new formula has not been adopted. Lawmakers instead have been setting the annual payout each year.

If the old formula were followed, checks would be in the \$4,200 range this fall, according to the Legislative Finance Division. That would cost more than an additional \$1 billion over the House and

Senate plans, pulling more money out of savings or generating a budget deficit.

Last year’s dividend was \$1,114. Dunleavy is seeking reelection this year, and nearly all legislative seats are up for election, too. The state, after years of deficits, faces a richer revenue forecast amid high oil prices.

The regular session is set to end by May 18.

House Republicans boot controversial member from their caucus

The Associated Press and the Anchorage Daily News

Alaska House Republicans have removed Rep. David Eastman from their caucus, citing tensions with the controversial Wasilla Republican that have built up over time.

The decision comes with less than three weeks left in the legislative session that began in January.

“I think it’ll help us be more productive as a caucus. Just sometimes, his demeanor gets in the way of trying to be productive,” Anchorage Republican Laddie Shaw said in an interview with the Anchorage Daily News.

“They finally said, ‘Enough’s enough,’ ” said Shaw, noting that freshman members of the caucus were instrumental in the decision to remove Eastman.

Eastman was removed from the House Rules Committee

and an ethics committee but will keep other committee assignments, said House Speaker Louise Stutes. That decision was ratified Friday morning by the House Committee on Committees, and the full House confirmed the decision in a 36-2 vote later in the morning.

Opposing the vote were Eastman and his Wasilla Republican colleague, Rep. Christopher Kurka, who is running for governor.

Minority Leader Cathy Tilton said informal polling of her caucus’ members showed more than two-thirds agreed to Eastman’s removal. The caucus had 18 members before his removal.

Tilton said his actions have “caused disruption and threat-

en the cohesion of the caucus.”

Eastman’s style has at times alienated and frustrated members of his own party, some of whom said his unpredictability had cost Republicans a shot at organizing a majority to control the House in 2019 and 2020 and campaigned for his Republican primary challenger in 2020.

Eastman’s removal came on the heels of a resolution passed by the Alaska Republican Party during its convention in Fairbanks on April 23 to rebuke the Foundation for Applied Conservative Leadership. Eastman is an active member of the organization, which seeks to pressure Republican lawmakers to vote in certain ways. The group had attacked Big Lake Rep. Kevin

McCabe after he tabled several budget amendments proposed by Eastman.

The foundation, known as FACL, is “part of what is causing the divisiveness in the Republican Party and in the Legislature right now,” said McCabe, who introduced the resolution at the party convention and said he has been targeted by FACL for his votes.

“I think that the Republicans need to do all they can to unite the party instead of what we call the circular firing squad,” McCabe added.

Eastman’s removal comes after years of altercations with fellow lawmakers. In 2017, he was formally reprimanded by the House after claiming that

women in rural villages try to get pregnant so they can get a free trip to a city for an abortion.

In 2020, the minority suspended him from legislative committees and placed him on “probation” after conflicts with fellow Republicans. Earlier this year, the House considered taking action to punish Eastman for his membership in the far-right Oath Keepers, whose leaders were charged with seditious conspiracy in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

“I think the message that sends to the public is a terrible one and it (sets) a terrible precedent,” Eastman said Friday, shortly before the vote in the House.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Candidate Race on Ballot

United States Representative

On Saturday, June 11, 2022 there will be a special primary election to fill the vacancy in the office of United States Representative. This election will be conducted by mail. There will be no polling places open for regular in-person voting on election day. The deadline to register to vote or update your voter registration is May 12th.

Ballots will be automatically mailed to qualified registered voters beginning April 27th. You will vote by selecting one candidate. You must sign your ballot envelope, provide an identifier and a witness signature, and return or mail your ballot by June 11th. If you will not be at your current mailing address or do not receive a ballot, you can contact the Division of Elections.

The Division of Elections’ regional offices will offer early and absentee in-person voting beginning May 27th. They will be open on weekdays between 8AM and 5PM, on weekends with limited hours, and on election day between 7AM and 8PM. For the full schedule and a list of additional early and absentee in-person voting locations throughout the state, visit the Division’s website at AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov.

www.elections.alaska.gov

<u>Region I Office</u>	<u>Region II Office</u>	<u>Region III Office</u>	<u>Region IV Office</u>	<u>Region V Office</u>
Juneau	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Nome	Mat-Su
(907) 465-3021	(907) 522-8683	(907) 451-2835	(907) 443-8683	(907) 373-8952
1-866-948-8683	1-866-958-8683	1-866-959-8683	1-866-953-8683	1-844-428-8952

Language Assistance 1-866-954-8683 Toll Free TTY 1-888-622-3020

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

Police report

Monday, April 25

Agency assist: Ambulance.
Citizen report: Driving under the influence.
Parking: Car had run out of gas and will be moved.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Tuesday, April 26

Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.
Noise complaint.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for registration.

Wednesday, April 27

Arrested: Assault and burglary.

Thursday, April 28

Dance permit.
Agency assist: Behavioral Health.

Friday, April 29

Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Dog at large.

Saturday, April 30

Welfare check: Everyone was good.
Parking complaint: Vehicle was moved.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for driving while license revoked.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlight out.

Sunday, May 1

Civil issue.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Reckless driving.

During this report period there were 11 agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.

Small quakes at Mount Edgecumbe are likely due to magma movement

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sitka Sentinel

While earthquake activity around Mount Edgecumbe has declined following a series of small quakes last month, further investigation by the Alaska Volcano Observatory shows that the area around the mountain has been steadily deforming since 2018, likely due to the movement of magma.

The observatory said in an online post: "The recent (earthquake) swarm inspired an in-depth analysis of the last 7.5 years of ground deformation detectable with radar satellite data." That analysis revealed a broad area, almost 11 miles in diameter, "of surface uplift" just east of Mount Edgecumbe.

"The coincidence of earthquakes and ground deformation in time and location suggests that these signals are likely due to the movement of magma beneath Mount Edgecumbe," rather than tectonic activity.

Since 2018, the land immediately surrounding Mount Edgecumbe has risen by almost 3.5 inches

annually, for a cumulative deformation of 10.6 inches, the observatory said on its website.

Other parts of southern Kruzof Island where Mount Edgecumbe is located have experienced lesser degrees of deformation, the observatory noted.

The Volcano Observatory is a joint program operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

The quakes and uplifting terrain are not cause for alarm, said Dave Schneider, a USGS research geophysicist at the observatory. His Anchorage-based team will come to Sitka this month to investigate more thoroughly and present information to the public.

In the short term, Schneider wants to place sensors and gather additional data.

The recent series of small earthquakes beneath Mount Edgecumbe was detected by the Alaska Earthquake Center in Anchorage.

After a spike in seismic activity last month, quake activity beneath the mountain has declined.

Legislature considers if state should take over wetlands permit reviews

JUNEAU (AP) — Alaska lawmakers are considering a request by Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration that the state take over part of a federal environmental permitting program for development in wetlands, though some members of the Senate's budget-writing committee have expressed concerns with the potential costs.

Administration officials have said the idea behind the proposal is to speed the construction of roads, bridges, mines and drilling projects.

While the state would have to follow federal standards, critics of the proposal say the state has traditionally favored development and underfunded oversight capabilities. Industry groups say the current permitting process is too slow.

The House included a \$4.9 million increase to the budget of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, which would use the money to hire 28 new staff members. The funding was part of the House version of the state operating budget, which passed last month; senators currently are working on their version.

If the proposed increase is approved, department officials plan a two-year process to take over part of the federal Clean Water Act known as Section 404.

Permits issued under that section determine whether a developer can fill wetlands, rivers or other bodies of water during construction. It also determines whether a developer must take compensatory steps for wetlands destroyed by construction.

Such a wetlands-fill permit will be required for the Wrangell borough to proceed with its plans to develop the former Wrangell Institute property for residential lots.

Federal law allows for states to take over permitting if they meet federal standards.

Alaska lawmakers authorized a takeover in 2013 but the push was abandoned after oil prices fell and money ran short. With higher oil prices and rosier revenue projections this year, the idea was resur-

rected.

"We believe that we can develop this appropriately, get this submitted to the EPA ... and ask them to make a good decision for us, with the implementation in 2024," Jason Brune, the department's commissioner, said, referring to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which typically administers the permitting, has been neutral during legislative hearings.

Brune said if the state were to take over, he expects "similar timelines or quicker, especially for general permits" compared to the Army Corps. He also said he's committed to seeking more resources if those are needed.

The corps in Alaska has a regulatory team of about 50 people and an annual budget of about \$8.5 million for wetlands permitting, said John Budnik, a corps spokesperson.

Alaska wouldn't be able to take over all wetlands permits; those affecting the ocean, tidally influenced wetlands and navigable rivers or lakes still must go through a federal process.

The Senate Finance Committee removed funding for the proposal from the draft of the state budget it is working on. The budget bill still needs to go to the Senate floor for debate and possible amendments.

Differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget are generally hashed out in a conference committee.

Sitka Sen. Bert Stedman, Senate Finance Committee co-chair, said in addition to costs associated with the proposal, he's concerned about starting a major new project in the last year of a gubernatorial term. Dunleavy is seeking reelection this year.

"I think there's a timing issue, there's a budget growth issue, and there's a lot of concern amongst my district as far as just DEC and EPA growth and involvement in the overall economy. I'm a little cautious," Stedman said.

Obituary

Rose May Offley Shilts Sundberg dies at 92

Rose May Offley Shilts Sundberg, 92, passed away on Jan. 4, 2022, in Wrangell. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Rose was born in Vargas, Minnesota, on May 31, 1929. She moved to Wrangell in May 1962 with her husband Earl Shilts and their five children and never regretted the move. "Rose loved Alaska and seemed to fit right in," her family wrote.

Rose worked for several years at Wrangell Seafoods and at the Wrangell General Hospital. She was a member of the Emblem Club and Red Hat Society. "She was loved by all and sadly missed. Even though she's gone, she lives on

in our hearts and memories."

Rose is survived by her younger sister Betty, her children Darlene Berglof, David Shilts, Patty MacDonald, Mike Shilts and Brian Shilts. She is also survived by a large number of nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "Not to forget her extended family and friends," her family wrote.

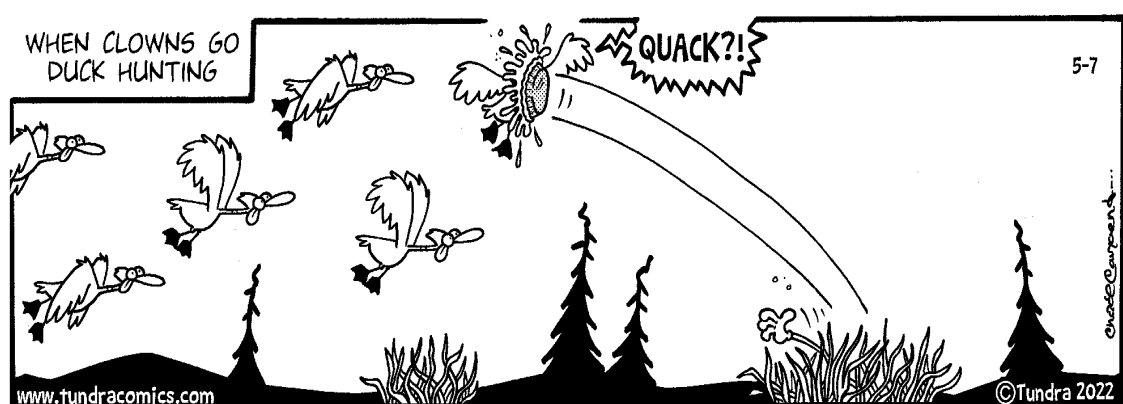
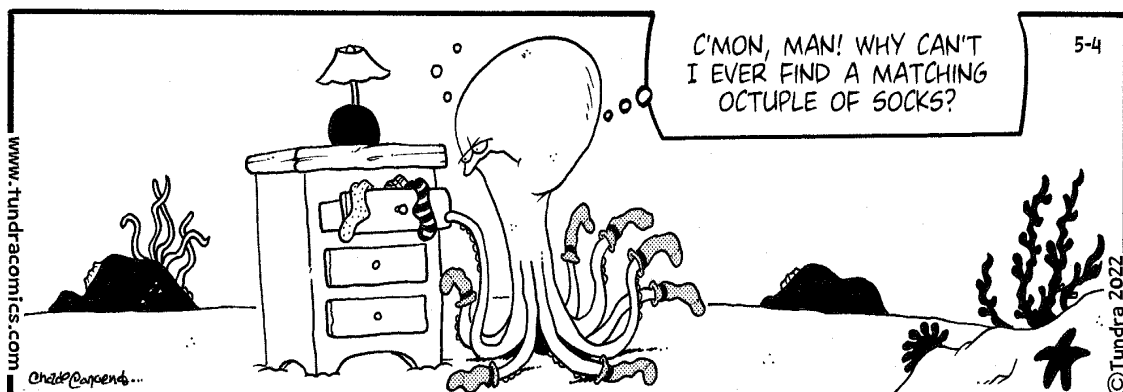
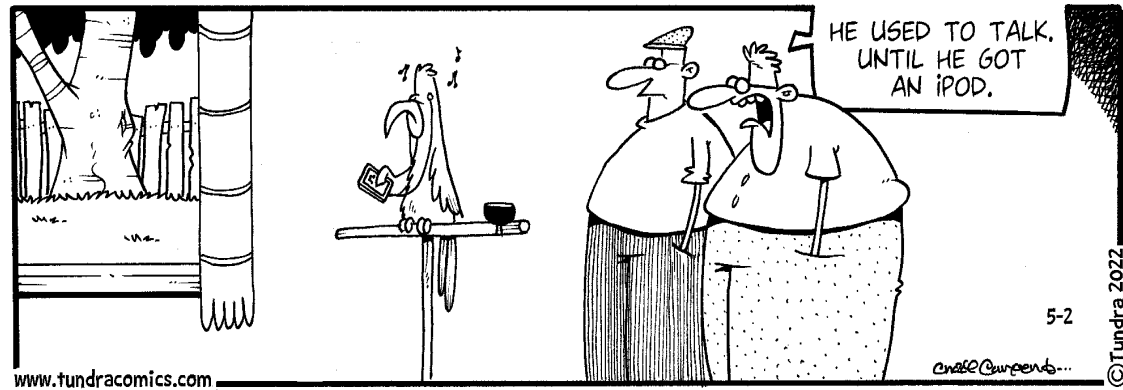
"She is preceded to heaven by her mother and father Arthur and Bessie Offley," eight siblings, husbands Clarence Earl Shilts and Harry Sundberg, and her granddaughter Renee MacDonald.



Rose May Offley Shilts Sundberg

Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

FOR SALE

FV Seeker, professionally built fiberglass sailboat hull converted to a troller. 31-foot boat includes trolling gear, power gurdies, all electronics and ready to fish. \$12,000. Call 907-305-0133.

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.

YOU CAN'T BEAT FREE

Classified ads in the Sentinel are now **FREE** for individuals and nonprofits

Whether you are selling, buying, borrowing, loaning, holding a garage sale or a fundraiser **THE ADS ARE FREE**



Limited to 30 words and two weeks in the paper

Call Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com

Juneau assembly questions department purchase of armored security vehicle

JUNEAU (AP) — Some elected officials in Juneau have raised concerns about militarization of the police force after learning of the police department's plans to buy an armored security vehicle that can seat 12 officers.

Critics have referred to the vehicle as a tank and worry it could harm the relationship between police and the community. Police counter that the vehicle is a way to help protect officers, especially when dealing with people firing weapons, the Juneau Empire reported.

"There's a policy question here about militarizing our police force and I don't agree with that," Juneau Assemblymember Carole Triem said. "I think we've heard from the community that they really desire transparency when it comes to operations."

Triem raised the issue at the April 25 assembly meeting, where she also objected to the police department's ability to buy the vehicle with a grant that doesn't require assembly approval.

The Lenco Armored Vehicle BearCat G3 will cost more than \$300,000 when custom built to Juneau police department specifications, Lt. Krag Campbell said.

Campbell said that despite some in the community describing the vehicle as a "tank," it's not a military vehicle.

"Generally, it's for our emergency response teams and our fire department," he said. "It's sort of a multi-use vehicle for different departments."

Its potential uses include high-risk situations involving people with weapons since the vehicle's armor can stop high-caliber fire that the department's existing ballistic armor cannot, he said.

"As technology has advanced throughout the world and these things become more readily available, it's really just something you can protect your officers with," he said.

He said while the purchase is pending, the department expects to take delivery sometime in 2023.

Assemblymember Alicia Hughes-Skandjics said police response to protests has been a foremost controversy nationwide, but it has been largely avoided in Juneau because the relationship between police and policymakers has been open.

"I think one thing in our meeting with the leaders of our police department was that we were happy to have a much better relationship with our police department than other communities do," she said.

"I have about 200 questions about this tank," Assemblymember Wade Bryson said. "The moment the public hears about a tank, we're going to get questions."

Police believed the assembly members were aware of the planned purchase, and Campbell said he was working to get them more details. Mayor Beth Weldon said more discussion will be held on the planned purchase.

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WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) is soliciting proposals and rate information from qualified firms and individuals to provide audit services for WCA. The audit service to be provided is for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, with the option to extend 2 years. For more information and to request a copy of the RFP, please contact Esther Ashton at wcatrbe@gmail.com or call 907-874-4304. Deadline: May 16, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Publish May 4 and 11, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

John Taylor and Sons Inc., DBA Summit Charters is making application for a new seasonal liquor license, per AS 04.11.180 located in Alaskan waters. Interested persons should submit written comments to their local governing body (Wrangell Borough Assembly), to the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501, or email to alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4, 2022

IN SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL

STIKINE RENTALS, LLC,)
 Plaintiff,)
 v.)
 THE ESTATE OF MATILDA PAUL, its beneficiaries,)
 heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns successors in interest;)
 and, anyone claiming right, title, estate, lien or interest)
 in that real property described herein,)
 Defendants.)
 Case No. 1WR-22-05CI

SUMMONS AND NOTICE TO HEIRS

This Summons and Notice is directed to the Estate of Matilda Paul and the beneficiaries, heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns and successors in interest and all other persons or parties unknown claiming a right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title in this action, that the above-named plaintiff, Stikine Rentals, LLC, has commenced a lawsuit against you by filing a Verified Complaint to Quiet Title ("Complaint") in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska at Wrangell, to quiet legal title to real property located at Lot 10, Block 26, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and which is more particularly described as:

Lot 10, Resubdivision of Lots 8, 9, 10, Blk. 26, USS 1815, according to Plat No. 80-7, Wrangell Recording District, First Judicial District, State of Alaska.
 EXCEPTING THEREFROM: That portion conveyed to the City of Wrangell by Statutory Quitclaim Deeds recorded January 3, 1983, in Book 9 at Page 688 and in Book 9 at Page 691.

Pursuant to Civil Rule 4(e)(5), you must file an answer to the Complaint filed by the plaintiff in this civil action within thirty (30) days from the last date of publication of this Notice in the Wrangell Sentinel. This Notice shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks. Your answer to the Complaint is your response to the allegations set forth in plaintiff's Complaint, which is on file as a public document in the Superior Court at Wrangell in Case No. 1WR-22-05 CI and can be reviewed by you and copied upon request to the Clerk of Court. You must file a written answer to the allegations in plaintiff's Complaint in the Superior Court at Wrangell within the time provided hereinabove. If you fail to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, a default judgment can be entered against you for the relief of quiet title requested by plaintiff in its Complaint.

Should you elect to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, you are also required to serve a copy of your answer and all pleadings you file with the Superior Court at Wrangell, with plaintiff's attorney at the following address: H. Clay Keene, Keene & Currall, PPC, 540 Water Street, Suite 302, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or by email: courtdocs@keenecurrall.com. The object of plaintiff's Complaint is to determine the legal title, rights, and interest in the above-described real property, the adverse claims, if any, and the rights of all parties to that real property.

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR MUNICIPAL LEGAL SERVICES

The City and Borough of Wrangell is seeking proposals for Municipal Legal Services (RFP) from qualified attorneys or law firms to serve as the legal adviser the City and Borough of Wrangell's Borough Assembly, Borough Manager, Borough Clerk, and other staff as appropriate.

Proposals are due by **5:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, June 28, 2022.**

To view the full RFP that lists the scope of services, term, qualifications, submittal requirements, and other proposal information can be found on the Borough's Website at: <https://www.wrangell.com/community/rfp-professional-municipal-legal-services>.

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

Publish April 27 and May 4, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Publish May 4, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and 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.

a. Ordinance No 1022 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending certain Sections in Chapter 15.16, Cemetery, and establishing a new process for fees and rates by removing the fees and rates from the Wrangell Municipal Code and adding them to the Fee and Rate Schedule.

b. Ordinance No 1021 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending certain sections in Chapter 5.058, Revenue and Finance, in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish May 4, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Public Works Mechanic

The Wrangell Public Works Department will accept applications for the position of Mechanic through May 13, 2022, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits. This position is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

The Mechanic is a journey-level position, responsible for performing a full range of equipment maintenance.

Responsibilities include performing complex work in the inspection, repair and maintenance of automotive equipment including tractors, trucks, power mowers, power sweepers, police cars and construction equipment, overhauling light engines, and diagnosing mechanical problems. Requires in-depth knowledge of the standard practices, techniques and tools used in repairing, maintaining and overhauling heavy and light equipment, gasoline, diesel, mechanical, and electric powered equipment, knowledge of the principles of internal combustion engines, and knowledge and understanding laws, codes and regulations pertaining to vehicle safety.

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

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

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

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a regular board meeting on May 12, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. AKDT at The Landing Hotel in Ketchikan, Alaska. During the meeting the board may enter into an Executive Session to discuss sole-sourcing two contracts related to hydrosite analysis. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Publish May 4, 2022

Palin says she 'loves to work' and wants a job in Congress

By BECKY BOHRER
AND MARK THIESSEN
The Associated Press

WASILLA (AP) — Sarah Palin isn't used to sharing the spotlight.

In the nearly 14 years since she burst onto the national political scene, the former Alaska governor has appeared on reality television programs, written books, spent time as a Fox News contributor, formed a political action committee in her name and been a rumored White House contender. She more recently revived her status as a conservative sensation with an unsuccessful lawsuit against The New York Times.

Now, the first Republican female vice presidential nominee is vying to serve as a member of the U.S. House.

Palin is among 48 candidates running for Alaska's lone House seat following the death in March of Republican Rep. Don Young, who held the job for 49 years. If successful, Palin would be one of 435 members in a chamber where ambition runs deep but legislating is tough, in no small part because of the populist politics that took hold in the aftermath of the 2008 election.

Given those dynamics, it would be easy to dismiss Palin's candidacy as the latest headline-grabbing twist in an unconventional career. Some of her critics have sought to cast her as an opportunist seeking to bolster her brand. Critics remember she left the last major job she had in politics, as Alaska's governor, with about 16 months remaining in her term.

But in a recent interview with The Associated Press, Palin, 58, dismissed such critiques. She insisted her commitment to Alaska has not wavered and those who suggest otherwise "don't know me." She said she is serious about seeking the House seat and doesn't need a "launching pad for anything else."

In fact, she said, her unique

place in American politics would put her in a stronger position in Washington. Unlike other freshmen lawmakers, she said, she could "pick up the phone and call any reporter and be on any show if I wanted to, and it would be all about Alaska."

"I love to work, and anyone who is around me, they know," she said. "What I'm doing is applying for a job, for Alaskans, saying: 'Hey, you guys would be my boss. Do you want to hire me?'"

Palin faces several hurdles to get there.

One is navigating elections that will unfold in rapid order. A June 11 special primary will be Alaska's first statewide by-mail election. The four candidates who get the most votes will advance to an Aug. 16 special election, in which ranked-choice voting will be used. The winner will serve the remainder of Young's term, which expires in January.

There also will be an August primary and November general election to determine who will serve a two-year term starting in January. Palin is one of less than 20 candidates so far to have filed for the regular primary.

Some voters question Palin's decision to leave the governor's office, a move she has attributed to an onslaught of records requests and ethics complaints she said were frivolous and had become distractions.

She has spent time out of the state but maintains a home in Wasilla, her hometown and where she got her start in politics.

"Well, I'm sorry if that narrative is out there because it's inaccurate," she said of the perception she had left Alaska behind. She said Alaska is her home and that she was "shoveling moose poop" in her father's yard on a recent sunny day before calling a reporter.

She has regularly voted in



AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks to reporters as she leaves a courthouse in New York on Feb. 14 after hearing that the judge would dismiss her libel lawsuit against The New York Times. Palin is back in the news in Alaska after filing to run for the state's lone seat in the U.S. House.

state elections since leaving office, according to the Division of Elections.

The contest in Republican-leaning Alaska will do little to change the balance of power in Washington. But the election is being closely watched as a barometer of former President Donald Trump's connection to the GOP's most loyal voters.

In Wasilla, Trump 2020 or Trump 2024 banners fly from several homes. Palin said if Trump runs for president in 2024 and asks her to be his running mate, she'd consider it, though she said they haven't had such a candid conversation.

Palin said Trump was among those who contacted her after Young's death ask-

ing if she would be willing to run. She said this is a good time in her life to seek a return to office, politically and personally. Her family life has changed, she noted, with her four older children grown. Her youngest, Trig, is in middle school. Palin was divorced from Todd Palin, her husband of more than 30 years, in 2020. Palin said she feels like she has "nothing to lose" in running. After having her political and personal life in the media glare for so long, "what more can they say?" she said, adding later: "To me, it's freedom."

Trump has endorsed Palin and has made the state's senior U.S. senator, Lisa Murkowski, one of his top targets this year after she criticized

him and voted to convict him during his second impeachment trial.

Even if Palin doesn't win the election, she could emerge as a high-wattage critic of Murkowski, who faces voters later this year. Palin said she disagrees with Murkowski on some of her positions, including her vote to convict Trump during his second impeachment trial.

Palin has perhaps the highest profile among a list of candidates that includes current and former state legislators, a North Pole city council member whose legal name is Santa Claus, and Republican Nick Begich, who got into the race last fall and has been working for months to rack up conservative support.

Tim Burney, who lives in Wasilla, said he supports Palin. He said she resigned "for the good of the state" after her detractors "came at her with guns ablazing."

"She just lives right down the road here, and, you know, she grew up here," he said while smoking a cigarette outside the Mug-Shot Saloon after finishing lunch on a recent day.

"Her heart's here in Alaska, and I think that she's good for Alaska," he said.

Joe Miller, a former Republican and now Libertarian whom Palin endorsed in two of his unsuccessful Senate races, said Palin would be no ordinary House freshman and would have an "extraordinary" platform she could use to help Alaska.

Holly Houghton, who works as a pharmacy tech, is willing to hear Palin out. Houghton said she has mixed feelings about Palin, and doesn't like how Palin has carried herself in her personal life.

Jesse Sumner, a member of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, filed to run for the House seat as a joke at the filing deadline, on April Fool's Day. He later withdrew.

He said he doesn't see Palin around town much and that Palin's run seems to be "more like it's about the Sarah Palin show than about Alaska."

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