

Public employee strike likely

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Unionized public employees may soon strike as negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement with the city reaches an impasse.

The escalation follows the City and Borough Assembly's effective rejection on June 8 of a last best offer made by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #1547, which represents 24 employees of various departments and utilities.

The proposal directly to the Assembly was a unique break from traditional collective bargaining negotiations, a provision that had been agreed to when the two parties reached a legal settlement in December. The extensive negotiations have been ongoing since the summer of 2014, when the last collective bargaining agreement (CBA) expired.

In the latest exchange, the union had conceded to the city's position that public employees contribute 15 percent of health insurance costs for themselves, and 30 percent for their families. The city had likewise agreed to the union's request that the bottom six steps of the 16-step wage table be dropped, with three additional steps added to the top, with two-percent increments between steps across the board.

A point of contention remained over wages, with IBEW arguing that the employees it represents be compensated for the additional cost of their share in health insurance premiums. Pointing to other municipalities, its position is that Wrangell's public employees tend to be underpaid, something their benefits make more acceptable. In the package it put forward on June 8 then, the union suggested a \$2.50 hourly wage increase across the wage table to make up for the additional costs.

Following the Assembly's rejection of that offer, on June 9 the city's bargaining team submitted a package that included a \$0.75 across-the-board wage increase, an amount it argues would cover the added cost of insurance for its employees. In a table prepared by its finance department, the city calculated that over the next three years of a new CBA IBEW-represented workers' share of insurance would amount to around \$175,000. This rough projection

comes with a number of assumptions, but it projects a \$0.75 raise would cover this, at \$189,394 over the same period.

The union's bargaining unit rejected this offer as inadequate the day it was presented, standing by its June 8 offer as its last and best. Mark Armstrong, an electrical department line foreman who also serves as one of the bargaining unit's three shop stewards, explained there were problems with the city's calculations.

Under the current insurance model, city employees are assigned into tiers, depending on whether they began working for the city before or after July 1, 2011. For those starting beforehand employees and their families are fully covered, while those hired after pay 30 percent of their families' premium costs. With the prospective CBA that distinction would be removed, with all employees paying in to the 15 percent for themselves, plus the share for their spouses and dependents.

Armstrong pointed out the city's proposed hourly wage increase would not cover the new cost for higher-tier employees' families, which for them would effectively mean a pay cut.

Additionally, he noted there were a number of problems with the wage table as proposed. For one, even with the shift in scale he noted employees who had been working for the city eight or nine years would remain locked in place on their steps, albeit in a lower position than on the ladder. New hires would start at the bottom of the scale, in some cases only a step or two below longer serving staff.

Since 2010 the table has only seen two adjustments, each by 0.6 percent. Subsequent CBAs have included lump sum arrangements made to employees, while the bulk of the table has remained largely locked in place. As a result, starting staff begin at a wage which should have been raised since it was first adopted. In other cases, when the wage table was adopted workers had been assigned to steps arbitrarily, to their closest current pay rather than by their time served.

"Unless someone addresses the wage grade table, they won't address it," Armstrong said. "We have felt very strongly about the dollar per hour. Whatever hap-



DAN RUDY / WRANGELL SENTINEL

A color guard consisting of members of the American Legion and BPOE give weather-worn flags a dignified retirement on June 14. Flags are supposed to be burned rather than discarded when no longer fit for display.

Public ceremony marks Flag Day

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Several service organizations came together last week to pay tribute to the Stars and Stripes, holding a special ceremony for Flag Day.

Falling on June 14 each year, Flag Day celebrates the adoption of the United States' current flag on that day in 1777. Though not an official holiday, the anniversary was first recognized by President Woodrow Wilson by proclamation, and later by Congress in 1946. It has been observed since 1907 by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a patriotic fraternal organization, which had encouraged the day's wider adoption.

The local Elks' Grand Exalted Ruler, Jack Pino, explained the American flag is emblematic of those virtues the order espouses: charity, justice for all, fidelity and brotherly love. As such, a ceremonial service was held last Wednesday at the Lodge with members of Wrangell's American Legion and Emblem Club to mark its adoption.

The ceremony was preceded by a visual history, assisted by ladies of the Emblem Club.

"Heraldry is as old as the human race," Pino began. Inasmuch as a flag reflects the character of the nation it represents, the history of the flag itself reflects the country's own progression. In the early days of colonists' struggle with the United Kingdom in 1775, several different banners were used by those calling for independence.

The Pine Tree Flag was one of the earliest adopted by the Continental Army, commissioned in October 1775. The yellow Gadsden Flag, with its recognizable rattlesnake and the message "Don't Tread on Me," was adopted by the Continental Marines later that December.

That same month, one of the earliest versions of the Stars and Stripes was adopted for use by the burgeoning country. Called the Grand Union Flag, it bore the now familiar 13 red and white horizontal stripes, but instead of today's blue field and white stars Britain's "Union Jack"

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pens, we want to see the wage grade table affected, because that's a permanent change."

Hearing no further offers from the borough after its exchange the previous week, on June 16 members of the bargaining unit voted to strike.

"For us it's a question of fairness," Armstrong explained of the decision. "What we wanted was an equal compensation so we aren't going backwards."

The decision to strike would only be acted upon if workers felt negotiations had reached an

impasse, he went on, and then only "to get the city to the negotiating table." As such, no immediate action had been taken as they waited for the Assembly's response, to be taken at a special session Tuesday evening.

On Monday City Hall already began cautioning residents about the possibility of a strike on the part of its workers, with accompanying disruptions to service expected. A prolonged power outage for line maintenance scheduled to begin this week by Southeast Alaska Power Agency

was postponed in light of the situation, as it was uncertain whether Wrangell Municipal Light and Power would be able to run its generators for a two-week stretch.

At its special meeting, members of the Assembly decided to implement the CBA it had offered on June 9. Questioning finance director Lee Burgess, Julie Decker wanted to know how employees covered under the contract would be impacted by the changes being proposed.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

June 22: Gerri Mesack, Jacob Dow, Avea Neel, Renate Davies, Charleigh Nixon. **June 23:** Augie Schultz, Glen Decker, Vena Stough, Stone Riley. **June 24:** Tina Mickle, Tyler Dailey, Aleisha Mollen, Andrew Helgeson, Tymon Teat. *Anniversary:* Doug and Sheila Wickman. **June 25:** Melvin Gadd, Susan Moore, Scott Curley. *Anniversary:* Brent and Dawn Mill, Robbie and Liz Rooney. **June 26:** Erika Jabusch, Summer Siggins, K.C. Anderson, Olson Anderson, Scott Gile. *Anniversary:* Craig and Margaret Villarma, Mike and Angela Allen, Dan and Carlene Nore. **June 27:** Harry Sundberg, Trey Torvend. **June 28:** Penny Allen, Allison Rolf, Rip Draper, Ginny Helgeson, Kendall Kaer, Elaine Torvend, Robbie Rooney, David Powell. *Anniversary:* Avery and Rachelle Grossardt. **June 29:** Kendra Meissner, Jim Tuttle, Lucas Shilts, Janice Kalkins, Amber Walker. *Anniversary:* Scott and Tamara Eastaugh.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, June 22:

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

Friday, June 23:

Tuna Salad, Egg ham and cheese, roll.

Monday, June 26:

Creole Pork, rice, carrots honey orange salad.

Tuesday, June 27:

Oven baked fish, fries, cabbage slaw.

Wednesday, June 28:

Baked Chicken, peas baked potato, tossed salad.

Thursday, June 29:

Beef burrito, Spanish rice, calico corn, sunshine salad.

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

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, June 24
Matanuska 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday, June 27
Matanuska 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 1
Matanuska 8:15 a.m.
Sunday, July 2
Malaspina 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, July 4
Matanuska 6:30 p.m.

Southbound

Friday, June 23
Matanuska 12:00 a.m.
Monday, June 26
Matanuska 6:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 28
Columbia 4:45 a.m.
Thursday, June 29
Matanuska 10:30 p.m.
Monday, July 3
Matanuska 4:15 a.m.

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



TIDES TABLE June 22 - June 29

High Tides				Low Tides				
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
June 22:	12:28	15.6	6:01	-2.5	6:02	1.7
June 23:	0:20	19.3	1:20	16.3	6:51	-3.7	6:53	1.5
June 24:	1:09	19.7	2:10	16.7	7:38	-4.3	7:42	1.4
June 25:	1:58	19.6	2:58	16.8	8:25	-4.3	8:31	1.6
June 26:	2:46	19.1	3:46	16.6	9:11	-3.8	9:21	2.0
June 27:	3:35	18.1	4:34	16.2	9:58	-2.8	10:13	2.5
June 28:	5:19	15.2	6:17	15.2	11:35	-0.1	11:09	3.1

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, June 22

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.

SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

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

Sunday, June 25

Singspiration: 6:30 pm, at The Presbyterian Church. Enjoy great songs and hymns, followed by refreshments and fellowship after the service. Everyone is welcome.

Monday, June 26

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

Tuesday, June 27

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

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

Continuing Events

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

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

June 21, 1917:

Homer Worden was pleasantly surprised by a party of his friends last Monday evening, the event being his eleventh birthday. The guests assembled during Homer's absence and they presented him with many appropriate gifts on his arrival. At nine o'clock lunch, consisting of sandwiches, cookies, cake and chocolate, supplemented by ice cream, was appreciated. The smallest children departed at 9:30, while the others enjoyed games until a late hour.

June 19, 1942:

Even Ripley and his "believe it or not" never found a better one than this, and Miss Rosalie Wozny, nurse at Bishop Rowe hospital, knows what the thrill of a lifetime is. Sunday at the Elks picnic at Big Bay Zarembo Island Miss Wozny, who still didn't believe everything she had heard about fishing in Alaska, was idling along in a skiff on the stream near the picnic grounds. Water was shallow and the steelheads were finning in the vicinity. Curious but bold Miss Wozny happened to have a corkscrew in the boat with her. Grasping it firmly, she struck at one of the steelheads. The curved barb sank into the fish just above the tail. Elks are still debating who was the most excited Miss Wozny or the steelhead but the nurse put up the best battle and she

landed her trophy by mean force.

June 14, 1967:

City Council at its meeting Tuesday night approved the annual school budget, a new building to be constructed by Fred and Leonard Angerman near to the Wrangell Wharf for installing a city float off the dock in the usual location on the south side for the summer months. The new totem building, estimated to cost round \$70,000, will be a two story structure 75ft by 30 ft.

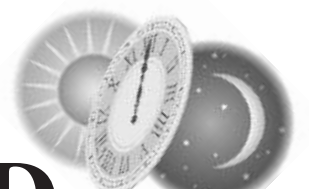
June 18, 1992:

Gov. Walter J. Hickel has called legislators back to Juneau for a special session which began June 15 for the express purpose of passing a subsistence bill before the federal government takes over permanent management of Fish and Game in Alaska on July 1. Alaska needs to regain complete control of the management of Fish and Game in Alaska. Alaskans must change the Federal Subsistence law, but we must first change our state subsistence law. Alaska needs to change the state law, not the state constitution.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
June 12:	51	46
June 13:	52	46
June 14:	54	46
June 15:	55	46
June 16:	78	37
June 17:	82	38
June 18:	83	36
June 19:	80	35



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
June 22:	4:01am	9:38pm	17:37h
June 23:	4:02am	9:38pm	17:36h
June 24:	4:02am	9:38pm	17:36h
June 25:	4:02am	9:38pm	17:36h
June 26:	4:03am	9:38pm	17:35h
June 27:	4:03am	9:38pm	17:35h
June 28:	4:04am	9:38pm	17:34h
June 29:	4:04am	9:38pm	17:34h

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Strike

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By Burgess' estimation, three currently on the lower six steps of the wage ladder would be bumped up, while three employees locked at the top of the scale would be able to climb three additional steps.

Among members' list of considerations was the projected cost of an increase in wages and corresponding benefits. As proposed at a \$0.75 increase, the net cost to the city for its IBEW-represented staff would with assumptions amount to \$76,834 over a three-year period. Burgess explained that historically changes to the CBA also influenced non-unionized workers' compensation, and so estimated the cost of a raise to all employees would come to \$126,009 per year. As a point of reference, the mill equivalent for property taxes of this figure would be 0.92.

With the union's offer of a \$2.50 increase, Burgess pointed out additional costs to the borough would be \$151,762 per year for unionized employees, or \$410,046 in all. An increase of 2.99 mills to the tax rate would be needed to offset this, he

reported.

During the Assembly's discussions, several problems were identified with the city's financial situation. For one, it was unclear to members how well Wrangell's wages and benefits compared to other communities. Comparing its scale to Petersburg's for example, some positions were paid considerably less, while others came higher in the topmost brackets. For a number of positions the scales appeared comparable in the later steps, but a Wrangell employee might have to work eight or nine years to get to that point.

Burgess explained the comparisons between the two communities were not "apples to apples" in any case, and recommended that an independent wage study be undertaken. Asked by Decker when the last such study had been implemented, Burgess was uncertain.

"I think it was in the 2000s," he said. "It's been long enough that I don't think it would be trusted by anybody."

Burgess made the case that an independent study would provide the most accurate assessment of the city's wages, with a

Police report

Monday, June 12

Caller reported person setting off seal bombs behind residence. Officer made contact.

Harry Churchill Sr., 83, arrested on charges of DUI.

Domestic Dispute.

Tuesday, June 13

Agency Assist: Power: Campers reported power out at Shoemaker campsite: Light and power notified.

Wednesday, June 14

Nothing to Report.

Thursday, June 15

Agency Assist: Boat sinking: Owner notified called FD.

Citizen Assist: Officer unlocked vehicle.

Caller requested assistance with fire alarm system that has been beeping for a week.

Caterer's Permit.

Suspicious Incident.

Report of possible assault.

Friday, June 16

Agency Assist: Officer did Ex-Parte transport

Controlled burn.

Person reported they hit a deer.

Call received that GCI cells are down at this time.

Saturday, June 17

86'd Letter served: Two individuals served.

Report of stolen cell phone.

Agency Assist Fire: Person reported an alarm going off. FD dispatched.

Found Property: ID turned and owner picked it up.

MCA: Citations issued to McKinley Bosdell, 17, Alicia Bales, 17, Morgan Torvend, 17, Kaydee Howell, 18, Curtis Wimberley, 19.

Sunday, June 18

Citations issued to Vanessa Deacon, age 25, for dog at large and dog license required.

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

greater degree of objectivity and honesty than an in-house study could do.

Member Patty Gilbert noted the majority of IBEW-represented employees work in enterprise-funded departments such as the water and harbor departments. These departments are similar to businesses, in that they operate separately from the city's general fund and are supposed to be self-financing. Increases in overhead could subsequently translate into increases in rates, she said.

"This brings up a sticky wicket," Gilbert commented.

In a larger issue, Decker pointed out a downward trend in revenue to the general fund over the past decade, while personnel

costs have been on the rise. While some effort has belatedly been made to increase fees for utilities and facilities in recent years to offset this, with the state becoming a decreasing source of funding she felt the city might need to look toward other avenues.

"What we've seen is we've had very tight infrastructure budgets, and we're starting to see some failings," she remarked. "Really the wiggle room is in property mill rates."

But these problems would take time to solve. For the present, Assembly member Dave Powell felt the negotiations over wages had reached a roadblock. He pointed out that the last offer, raising wages by \$0.75, had been

put forward by the city. He put it to IBEW to come forward with a new counterproposal.

"The way I look at it is, if you're not going to come back with a counteroffer it puts us at an impasse as an assembly," Powell said.

Assembly members voted 6-0 to implement their offer, with only Mark Mitchell absent on business.

Afterward, Armstrong was unclear what would happen next. Only one of Wrangell employees' three shop stewards, next steps would need to be discussed with fellow bargain unit members. The decision coming late on Tuesday's press time, a call to the IBEW local's business manager in Ketchikan was unanswered.



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 peacehealth.org/outreachcalendar

Court report

May 31

Robert J. Shilts, 80, was ordered by First District Court Judge Chris Ellis to pay restitution to the State of Alaska in the amount of \$150. The order followed a guilty plea entered by the defendant for the charge of Unlawful Retention of Undersized King Salmon, a first offense. In addition, Shilts was ordered to pay \$1,510 in fines and surcharges with \$1,000 suspended, and to forfeit one king salmon for use at Wrangell Senior Center. He has been placed on probation for one year.

June 6

Trever D. Harder, 30, appeared before First District Court Magistrate Judge Chris Ellis on the charge of Violating a Protective Order, a Class A misdemeanor. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge, and was ordered to serve 180 days with 160 suspended. The unsuspended time is to be served with credit for 160 hours of community work service if completed before November 6. Harder was ordered to report for fingerprinting, pay \$150 in fines and surcharges with \$100 suspended, and to pay \$200 for cost of appointed counsel. He has been placed on probation for one year.

June 13

Leann M. Brusell, 22, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Chris Ellis on the charge of Driving Under the Influence. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge and was ordered to serve 30 days with 27 days suspended, pay \$1,791 in fines and surcharges with \$100 suspended, and to undergo evaluation and treatment. In addition to one year of probation, Brusell's license is revoked for 90 days and she will have to make use of an ignition interlock device on her vehicle for six months following the return of driving privileges.


Logan C. Padgett, 18, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Chris Ellis on the charge of Driving Under the Influence. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge and was ordered to serve 30 days with 26 days suspended, pay \$2,291 in fines and surcharges with \$600 suspended, and to undergo evaluation and treatment. In addition to one year of probation, Padgett's license is revoked for 90 days and he will need to make use of an ignition interlock device on his vehicle for six months following the return of driving privileges.

Harry M. Churchill, 83, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Chris Ellis on the charge of Driving Under the Influence, a Class A misdemeanor. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was ordered to serve 30 days with 27 suspended, pay \$2,721 in fines and surcharges with \$1,100 suspended, and to undergo treatment. Churchill's license was ordered revoked for 90 days, and after the return of driving privileges he will have to make use of an ignition interlock device for a period of six months. He has been placed on probation until June 13, 2018.

June 15

A Civil Bench Warrant was issued for Shannon Lindley by Magistrate Judge Chris Ellis for failing to appear, after failing to respond to a jury summons questionnaire. Bail was set at \$25. The warrant was subsequently ordered vacated when the court learned Lindley had completed the questionnaire the day prior. Aaron Angerman, Margaret McLaughlin and Adrienne McLaughlin appeared as directed, and were assigned to the summer juror panels with a \$25 sanction imposed. A summons to Clinton Lewis was returned unserved, as he no longer lives in the state.

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Obituary:

Shannan Lee Phillips, 41

Shannan Lee Phillips, 41, passed away on June 2, 2017 from health complications in Wenatchee, Washington.

Shannan was born on June 10, 1975 to Leland and Arlene Phillips, in Wrangell, Alaska and lived in Wrangell for most of her life.

While still in high school, she started her family young by having her first daughter with her first husband, John Moody. She graduated from Wrangell High School and proceeded to live in Wrangell where she and John added another daughter into their family. After John and Shannan divorced, she met Jesse Bowman who she eventually married and had two sons with.

Shannan loved many things including, God, music, cooking, and most of all her family. She grew up always smiling and making other people laugh. She had one biological sister, Yenell Cummings, but was like a sister to many of her friends growing up.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandfather Orden Phillips and maternal grandmother Janette Riley.

She is survived by her parents Leland and Arlene Phillips; paternal grandmother Nadine Phillips; maternal grandfather Donald Riley; sister Yenell Cummings and husband Mark Cummings; children Devyn Johnson and husband Dustin Johnson, Bailey Scheib and husband Erik Scheib, Jase Bowman, Leland Bowman; grandchildren, Jude Johnson, Nolan Johnson, Sawyer Scheib; boyfriend, George



Shannan Lee Phillips

Howell; and numerous nieces, nephew, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A service will be held at 3 p.m., Friday, June 30, at the Harbor Light Assembly of God Church. Kem Haggard will officiate. A potluck style reception will follow.

To leave condolences, visit the website www.danekasfh.com

Celebration of Life

Potluck for Jamie Bryson on Monday, July 3, 2017 at 1:00 pm Shoemaker Bay Park.

Please come join us and visit with the family.

Bring your favorite dish, there will be a potluck.

Loni Bunes Pursuing Nursing Degree



Loni graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Public Health and received a scholarship to attend the University of New England in her pursuit of a degree as a Registered Nurse.

Loni Bunes has been added to the Dean's list of the Westbrook College of Health Professions at the University of New England, Portland, Maine.

A 2012 Wrangell High School graduate, Loni is the daughter of Liz Bunes and Tim Bunes of Wrangell.

Letter to the Editor

The views I am about to express are of my own, and not representative of my employers or unions, past or present.

I worked for the City and Borough of Wrangell for approximately six years, two as a Harbor Security/Maintenance, and four as a Water/Wastewater Treatment Operator. Last year my family and I had to make the hard decision to move to Petersburg. The main contributing factor for us was, as in most cases, money. While working for the borough in those six years, there was no true C.O.L.A. (cost of living adjustment.) We received a \$750 check July 1 starting a few years after my employment, as an "adjustment."

The problem with this is it's not permanent. It doesn't affect any overtime, callouts, and overall didn't make any significant change to our daily lives. The real kick in the pants was that even after the union had agreed to the last contract, anything that was positive that we had bargained for was immediately given to non-union employees. The reason being, from what I was told was, "to make sure no one is left out, and for there to be no hard feelings around the city."

If that was the case, and you can make that adjustment strictly on people's feelings, why has it gotten so bad that the union is on the verge of a strike?

The cost of living has risen dramatically and there had been no attempt by management to take care of its blue-collar employees. The general message was "you are replaceable, so shut up and take what we give you." That kind of attitude does nothing but breed malcontent and makes your workers not want to put in their best effort. Just at public works there are countless years of personalized experience that they can't get from someone they just pull off the street. You ask someone "what kind of pipe did they lay up Pine Street when it was under construction?" and the average man or woman would look at you with befuddlement. Then you can ask the guys at the city shop and they can tell you off the top of their head. Ask a lineman where the nearest cutout is to your house, and they will answer immediately. It is like that throughout the city, and don't even get me started on the inner workings of the water plant. These men and women have had years of on the job training that you can't find anywhere else.

Replaceable they are not.

As many can tell, this strike has been a long time in the making, as it has taken three uncontracted years for the union employees to finally say enough is enough and to take a stand. I hope for everyone involved and for the city of Wrangell in general that they can reach a solution sooner rather than later.

Jeffrey L Davidson
Petersburg

Correction

In the June 15 issue of the Sentinel it was reported that police suspected a car burned during a spree of vehicular thefts to be done intentionally. In the criminal complaint subsequently filed against Lief Boddell, the state alleges now the vehicle caught fire incidentally. After appearing again in court for a preliminary hearing last week, Boddell's indictment will next be reviewed by a grand jury. He is currently being charged with seven felony counts of vehicular theft and three misdemeanor counts of criminal mischief.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Harborlight Assembly of God
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. 874-2244

St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Church
Sunday Masses 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Enrichment in Faith- All are welcome, 10:00 a.m.
874-3771 or 305-0654

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.
874-3047 or 874-4480

First Presbyterian
Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

The Salvation Army
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.,
874-3753

Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA
Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,
Faith Walking Saturday 10 a.m., 874-2743

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Priesthood Relief Society & Primary at noon.;
Sunday School 11 a.m.; Sacrament 10 a.m.,
874-3976 or 3778

Wrangell Community Church of God
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964

Bible Baptist Church
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;
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Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

207 North Nordic Dr. , PO Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

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Co Publishers Ron & Anne Loesch
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Production Ola Richards

The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email wrgsent@gmail.com; website: www.wrangellsentinel.com

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Single Copy.....\$1
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Tons of scrap being removed from island's nooks and crannies

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Mountains of metal are in the middle of being moved this week from the island's landfill and storage spaces.

The city is working with Channel Construction to remove as much of the miscellaneous waste as it has on hand. Since Tuesday the company's barge has been busy at the loading yard piling on assorted scrap, discarded autos and bulky items.

It has been at least five years since the city was last able to offload a consignment of scrap, after depressed metals prices made transport an expensive proposition.

Communities have been stockpiling since, and Wrangell's transfer facility is just about out of room with its assortment of collected vehicles, appliances and industrial scraps. One such example the city is keen to dispense with is its old open-topped dumpsters.

"We've had quite a bit of those still sticking around," Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad explained.

Based in Juneau, Channel Construction had been up for a separate project at the 6-Mile mill site earlier this spring, and Al-Haddad said the company had been approached with an offer to take on the city's surplus of scrap.

"We have said 'you can have it,'" Al-Haddad recounted. "We're all excited about it."

The city will forego the usual recycling rebate, while the contractor will take any metal it can free of charge. The only condition the borough gave was that the exchange be concluded before July 1, a goal that is expected to be met. Channel Construction anticipates wrapping up its work Saturday, or Sunday at the latest.

During the transfer, materials at the waste transfer facility are being loaded into trucks and conveyed to the barge yard for transport. They will eventually be conveyed southward for reprocessing. During the week of work, the city's two sanitation workers will stay busy. One will continue regularly scheduled roadside pickup, while the other will mind the landfill.

Hours at the municipal dump will be affected this week, trimming down through Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Those with questions can call Public Works at 874-3904.

As large trucks will be moving to and fro between the two sites, Al-Haddad said safety will remain a concern. Residents are advised that large, heavily laden work vehicles will be making runs on Evergreen and other roads in town. Public Works staff may be diverted from other duties to help direct traffic during the week, if necessary. The project will also have to work around a pair of cruise ships docked this week, scheduled for Tuesday and today.

Once the transfer facility has



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Contractors with Channel Construction arrange scrap for transport at Wrangell's barge ramp on Tuesday. The Juneau-based company agreed to remove the largely ferrous metal waste the city has accumulated, waiving fees in exchange for the city foregoing the usual compensation. Currently no estimate is calculable for the tonnage of metal to be removed.

been stripped of its metallic waste, Al-Haddad said her department will have an opportunity to reorganize how its collections are maintained and stored. A system had previously been in place, but became less of a priority to maintain as space became more scarce.

"You have to put some thought into how you're going to store it," she explained.

Contractors and businesses around town have also been encouraged to use this opportunity to offload some of their own stockpiles of scrap. Individual residents have even contributed to the pile, bringing in four stripped and prepped vehicles late last week.

The problems of transporting bulky waste have led to similarly opportunistic

drives to get rid of items. Earlier this spring, Wrangell Cooperative Association arranged for the collection and disposal of about 5,000 pounds of electronic waste, and shipped out around five tons of discarded gillnets this month. In both cases, items will be reprocessed in Washington, where materials will find new life in other products.

Plenty of opportunities for fun in the sun this summer

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Summer officially began this week, with the solstice marking the year's longest day on Wednesday.

For hundreds of Wrangell children, the months-long break between school years began at the end of May, and programming to keep them active and socially engaged started up soon afterward.

Wrangell Parks and Recreation kicked off its summer activities at the start of June. The library's summer reading program began June 1, and young residents have already begun taking lessons in horseback riding and swimming.

A fee structure is in place for participation in such programming, with day passes and weekly and season-long passes available at a discount. The department maintains an assistance grant of up to \$50 as well; applications are available at the front desk at the pool and rec center.

So far over 30 kids have signed up for the various programming, with 20 to 22 participating each day. In addition to the aforementioned activities, there are cultural and educational components too, explained Parks director Kate Thomas. In one, a Native dancing group imparting traditional songs and dances to local youth has been arranged by one resident.

Parks and Recreation is always open to new ideas for summertime programming, and its four to five seasonal staff members often partner with community contractors, organizations and volunteers for projects.

"We discuss a number of program ideas in house," said Thomas. "With those ideas that are generated we reach out to various community members."

Later next month, the department will be partnering with Wrangell Cooperative Association's environmental office to get kids out onto the beaches. The Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) has since last year been monitoring area shellfish for toxicity caused

by roving algal blooms.

IGAP technician Kim Wickman explained the joint activity is intended to get kids acquainted with local shellfish, making a game out of finding clams and mussels. She said the activity will also make them aware of some of the dangers posed by eating them and the science behind measuring samples for saxitoxin and other compounds.

IGAP will not be the only federal teammate Parks and Rec will seek out this summer. Partnering with the Forest Service, every Tuesday morning the city department holds a "Forest Explorers" hike to learn about the island's flora and fauna.

Wrangell's Ranger District has a number of its own programs it maintains during the summer. A pair of interns have been brought up to assist this season, organizing a collection of events to help keep Wrangellites outdoors and engaged.

"They've been doing pretty well," explained USFS interpreter Corree Delabruce, who heads up the annual effort.

A big component of their summer is youth activities. For instance, last weekend USFS staff helped equip and assist junior anglers at Pats Lake. Different lure-building and crafts stations were set up at the site, while kids were able to cast for trout from the shore.

The USFS also joins forces with Irene Ingle Public Library's seasonal reading drive each week. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday mornings younger children are invited to "Read with a Ranger," getting some quality story time with an ecological message.

The Forest Service will also be holding its 6:30 p.m. potlucks at Nemo Point each Friday through the summer months. Some special presentations may be arranged for the gatherings, but mostly it is an opportunity for people to get together for a group meal.

Both USFS and Parks and Rec may be holding other activities through the coming months. Check with their programs' updates at their respective offices or websites.

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Basketball camp hones skills and values

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

About five dozen kids were able to sharpen their skills on the basketball court last week, during a two-day clinic hosted at the high school.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood Association brought down Damen Bell-Holter, a professional player and life coach whose “Blessed 2 Bless” program reaches out to youth around the country. Having grown up in Hydaburg, he was a hit with Wrangell’s own aspiring athletes as an example of what hard work can accomplish.

Raised in Hydaburg, after being signed with the Boston Celtics for the 2013 season, Bell-Holter has played with regional and national leagues in Maine, Hungary, Turkey and Finland. He is currently the power forward for Italian A2 League team Fortitudo Agrigento, one of two Americans playing on the team’s starting lineup.

Kids came down to the high school gym on June 13 and 14, with drill and training sessions held a couple of hours at a time throughout each day aimed at specific age groups.

“It was great,” said Lovey Brock, ANSA president. “We had about 50 kids the first day, and more the second.”

Healthy, high energy snacks were provided to keep participants on their toes, and they learned how to improve their shooting, control, passing and other fundamentals of the game. Bell-Holter also took the opportunity to encourage skill sets for off the court, like respect and community pride. He draws on his own experiences living in rural Alaska, and speaks to a number of issues that are felt most distinctively in area communities, such as suicide.

“We like the message he gives to kids,” Brock commented. “I think there’s a real need for older figureheads



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Professional basketball player Damen Bell-Holter leads a youth clinic in Wrangell last week, showing a group of elementary school students how to practice their free throws. Hailing from Hydaberg, the athlete hopes to be a positive role model for other rural Alaskans – on and off the court.

that they can look up to. He’s excellent, because he’s been through it.”

First bringing his clinic to Wrangell last summer, the positive experience kids had with it prompted ANSA to bring Blessed 2 Bless back for another round this year. The group partnered with sponsors to raise funds: Southeast Alaska Rural Health Consortium and First Bank each contributed \$2,000, for example, and smaller businesses and individuals like Grand View Bed &

Breakfast, Dave’s Welding and Willy Eyon also donated.

Costs were covered in a way to make participation free to interested children. The end goal was to raise \$7,000 in all for the two-day camp, a sum Brock expected should be reached once a pair of system-wide tickets donated by Alaska Airlines are raffled off. Tickets for the raffle will be sold starting July 1, wrapping up September 1.

The organization plans to host other

activities through the summer, aimed primarily at youth but also at adults. “Our goal is to bring different events for the kids to be involved with,” said Brock.

In August, ANSA will host a course on building bentwood boxes – a distinctively Alaskan, wooden container made without nails or fasteners – complete with a design component that will teach participants how to paint in traditional patterns.

Mussel samples indicate PSP risk at Shoemaker helipad

A recent reading on shellfish taken from around the Shoemaker Bay helipad has shown elevated risk of paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Blue mussel samples from the site were taken by the local Indian Environmental General Assistance Program office on June 12, and sent to the laboratory maintained by Sitka Tribe of Alaska the next day. The readings came back positive for saxitoxin, the underlying agent responsible for PSP in humans. As a result, residents are advised to avoid eating shellfish from that area for the time being.

Since last year Wrangell’s IGAP office has been monitoring shellfish species found at commonly used beaches, partnering with Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research in Sitka to test for several harmful contaminants. It has previously reported elevated levels of saxitoxin in butter clams gathered from beaches around Shoemaker Bay and Pats Landing, cautioning the public to avoid eating that species from those sites for the present. Specimens at Zarembo Island also came back with dangerously high levels.

Saxitoxin is produced by the phytoplankton Alexandrium, large blooms of which can taint nearby waters. Area filter feeders like clams and oysters absorb the toxin, which can be transmitted to humans upon ingestion. Symptoms of PSP tend to begin with numbness of the oral membranes, and severe cases can entail nausea, vomiting, neurological effects, paralysis, respiratory failure and ultimately death.

Different species absorb but also relinquish such toxins differently than others. Wrangell IGAP technician Kim Wickman explained blue mussels do so relatively quickly, which makes them a particularly good indicator species with which to gauge current water conditions at

local beaches. When the mussels test positive for toxicity then, it means other species are likely affected as well, and may be so for longer. Of the local species, butter clams tend to take the longest to pass the toxins.

Once collected, specimens are sent live to the Sitka laboratory to be examined and measured. For a sample of blue mussels between 80 and 130 need to be collected to produce a reliable measure.

Test samples are taken on a weekly basis, providing an up-to-date picture of the health of available shellfish. Wrangell

Cooperative Association, through its IGAP, is one of 14 other tribal organizations participating in the toxins monitoring project for Southeast Alaska. Results for this wider area are posted on SEATOR’s website, at www.seator.org/data.

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Permits for visiting Anan to be available in town soon

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Very soon visitors will be able to start picking up daily permits for the Anan Wildlife Observatory.

The United States Forest Service makes four of these available for every day of the season to accommodate for last-minute planning and local visitation to the mainland site. The permits need to be requested for in person at the Wrangell Ranger District, up to one week in advance. Requests are made by filling out a form at the office's front desk. With the exception of family members, individuals listed on the form must also be physically present at the time of request.

Weekly requests will be collected by Monday at 4:30 p.m., awarded Tuesdays by noon. So for example, for the week of July 12 to 18 requests will be accepted from the 5th to the 10th, with permits awarded that Tuesday, July 11.

If several requests are for the same day, a lottery for awarding reservation space will be held those Tuesdays at 9 a.m. If any space is left, requests will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis through the front desk during regular business hours, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Requests for the four permits

will begin to be accepted starting June 29, for permits to visit Anan beginning July 5. The season where permits are required to visit the site will last from there through August 25.

Since February 1, prospective visitors were already able to book permits through the USFS reservation system, made either online or by phone. As visitation to the popular observatory is limited, a share of permits – amounting to four a day – are held aside to be called for in person.

Information on the observatory, including site restrictions and a list of authorized guiding services can be found at the Tongass National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/AnanObsrv

Work at the site improving its trailhead and facilities has largely been completed, having begun in March. Ranger Bob Dalrymple explained final inspections were completed by the start of the month, ahead of a planned finish date of June 15.

Work included a widened welcome area with gravel padding to accommodate visitors disembarking from Anan Bay. Improvements to Anan's commodes were the most significant change this season, with the privy at the



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Setting the nets for Summer 2017

A fisherman offloads his catch at Trident Seafoods last Friday, following the end of the season's first commercial gillnet fishery opening. Along with the start of the Dungeness crabbing fishery on June 15, it marks the start-up of the seafood production season in Wrangell.

"We're ready and we're anticipating a pretty good, robust year for pinks and chums," reported John Webby, Trident Seafoods' regional manager for Southeast Alaska. He was in Petersburg earlier this month reviewing Trident's facilities there. With the cod, lingcod and other groundfish fisheries already underway, Petersburg's season has already begun. Wrangell plants for Trident and Sea Level Seafoods are expected to start getting into the swing of things starting next week. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is anticipating an overall increase in commercial volume across the state this season, projecting 204 million salmon to be harvested. While sockeye are expected to take a slight hit over last year's harvest, pink salmon may see 102.7 million more according to the forecast. For Southeast, 55.7 million salmon are projected to return to the region. The majority of these are pink salmon, which at 43 million constitutes a little more than three-fourths of the run. The next largest number is to be chum at 8.55 million, 85 percent of which may be through hatchery production. Coho follow at 2.8 million, and sockeye are projected at 1.3 million.

observatory itself actually moved over to its enclosure. Previously visitors had to travel a ways outside of the structure for respite, occasionally coming into contact with the site's famed bears in the process.

"It's now incorporated into the deck," said Dalrymple.

Some minor work remains to be done, including some drainage improvements along the trail itself. During the course of rearranging the observatory's deck and latrine,

some weakened or worn materials became apparent to contractors. Some board replacement and structural reinforcement will be undertaken right away, before the bears and tourists begin to show up in full force.

Two dogs fall 200-feet on Petersburg Mountain

By RON LOESCH,
Sentinel Publisher

PETERSBURG — Five hikers and 7 dogs were taking a Father's Day hike up Petersburg Mountain last Sunday when atop the summit, two dogs playing together fell over an obscured ledge, dropping over 200-feet onto a rock and snow-covered bench on the backside of the mountain. One dog survived the fall with severe lacerations and the second dog died

two hours later while enroute back down the mountain.

Ola and Brian Richard's dog Roxy suffered deep puncture wounds in her pelvic area. She suffered from severe impacts to her head and neck that left a dent in the thick metal I.D. tag riveted to her collar.

Emma, a black pit-bull mix, owned by Beth Loesch, survived the fall but died two hours later, from internal injuries, as she was being carried back

down the mountain.

Richards said the drop-off is obscured by alpine shrubs and brush, some of which, actually hangs over the edge of the cliff.

Richards said Roxy found her way back up to the group but Kaitlin DuRoss and Ben Muir had to descend the mountain edge to find Emma.

The group headed back down the mountain at about 1:50 p.m. after bandaging Roxy's wounds with clothing, including socks and some underwear.

At about 2:38 p.m. Richards reported that Emma seemed OK and was lying down during a rest break. By 4 p.m. the 3-year old dog died.

Richards said Ben and Kaitlin carried Emma 90% of the way down the mountain — no small feat since she weighed nearly 80 pounds. Richards carried her 50-pound dog the last 20 minutes of the 5-hour trek down the mountain.

Richards called her husband Brian to contact Waterways



PHOTO BY OLA RICHARDS

Roxy (top) and Emma (bottom) resting after one of many hikes around Petersburg.

Veterinary Clinic to provide medical care for their dog, once they reached Petersburg.

Richards and Loesch both said this was an accident and don't blame anyone for the incident, but wondered if signs should be placed along the ridgeline, warning hikers of the

sheer drop-offs that aren't readily visible from atop the summit.

Editor's Note: This story involves two Wrangell Sentinel employees, Ola Richards and Ben Muir and the publisher's daughter Beth Loesch.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Since 2011 China has been the number one customer for Alaska seafood

China holds big promise to become a top customer for Alaska salmon, and not just for the bright red fillets.

Since 2011 China has been the number one customer for Alaska seafood with purchases nearing \$800 million and comprising 54 percent of all Alaska exports to China.

In Chinese food culture, fish symbolizes abundance and prosperity, which plays into a growing middle class that now earns the equivalent of about \$25,000 in U.S. dollars a year. That gives buyers significant disposable income to spend on more high-end foods, such as salmon. Add in increasing public concerns about food safety and pollution, and it means Alaska is well poised to send even more salmon to China.

A photo-filled Alaska Sea Grant report – called Consumer Preference and Market Potential for Alaska Salmon in China – gives a glimpse of that potential in a country with 1.4 billion people. Researchers from the University of Alaska/Fairbanks and Purdue spent over three months surveying more than 1,000 urban supermarket shoppers in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou to get their results. Here's a sampler: While nearly 40 percent of Chinese consumers said they eat seafood at least once a week, only about nine percent eat salmon that often, and seven percent have never eaten salmon. The most popular fish consumed by Chinese is carp.

Over 66 percent considered seafood to be healthier than other foods, and more than 25 percent preferred wild-caught seafood. Nearly the same number did not pay attention to or understand the difference between wild and farmed fish.

Almost 40 percent of Chinese consumers said they eat salmon in restaurants and prefer it raw, as sashimi or sushi. Nearly 18 percent eat salmon in the same uncooked ways at home.

On average, consumers ranked the method of harvest as the most important salmon attribute, followed by environmentally friendly certificates, color, the method of preservation, country of origin, and fat content

Over 68 percent said they would be more likely to buy Alaska salmon after knowing it comes from a clean environment and is sustainably harvested. Nearly 59 percent of Chinese urbanites said they definitely or probably would buy Alaska salmon if it was available at an acceptable price. They also find appealing parts

of the fish that most Americans consider toss in the trash.

Chinese culinary traditions include cooking fish heads, tails, and bones for various soups and stews. Supermarket prices showed salmon heads selling for \$4.99 USD per pound, salmon skins at \$2.46, and salmon bones at \$5.10 per pound.

The report said those low-value parts can add significant value to Alaska seafood exports to China.

"The survey responses show that consumers, if presented with more opportunities to purchase Alaska salmon, would favor the wild fish because of its health benefits, pristine source waters and sustainability," said Quijie "Angie" Zheng, a study co-author along with H. Holly Wang, Quentin Fong, and Yonggang Lu, all professors within Alaska's university system.

The salmon potential has not been lost on Norway, the world's top producer of farmed fish. The national fish news site Seafood.com reports that Norway plans to export 343 million pounds of farmed salmon to China by 2025, worth about 4.4 billion yuan, or \$646 million USD.

Salmon at sea – Alaska is the second largest salmon harvester in the North Pacific, topped only by Russia, and leads all other nations for releases of hatchery-reared fish.

That's according to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) which revealed last month that salmon catches reported by its member countries – Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the U.S. – remain at all-time highs.

Since 1993, the Commission has tracked the abundance and origins of chum, coho, pink, sockeye, Chinook, cherry salmon and steelhead trout in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk.

Salmon abundance is based on the aggregate commercial catches of the five nations which in 2016 totaled nearly 440 million fish, just slightly below previous years.

Russia ranked #1 for total salmon catches at 51 percent (967 million pounds), U.S. fleets took 33 percent at 617 million pounds – and all but 19 million pounds of the U.S. catch came from Alaska!

That was followed by Japan at 13 percent (245m pounds), three percent from Canada (47m pounds) and less than one percent of the North Pacific salmon catch was taken by Korea.

Pink salmon made up 41 percent of the total catch by weight, with Russia hauling in 75 percent of the pink pack. That was followed by chums at 33 percent, sockeyes at 21 percent, coho at three percent

and Chinook salmon made up one percent of the North Pacific catch.

Hatchery releases of salmon from NPAFC member countries topped 5 billion fish in 2016 (38 percent of the total salmon catch), similar to numbers over the last three decades.

The U.S. released 37 percent of the hatchery fish (1,898 million fish), followed by Japan at 37 percent (967 million), Russia at 19 percent (282 million) and Canada at six percent (22 million fish).

Sixty-five percent of the hatchery releases were chum salmon, followed by pinks at 24 percent. Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon releases were five percent of less.

Pinger pay backs – Alaska salmon fishermen can get rebates on pingers aimed at keeping marine mammals away from their gear. The six-inch, battery operated tubes are tied into fishing nets and transmit animal-specific signals every five seconds.

"Pingers can be really helpful to alert the whales to something in front of them, so you have less entanglements, explained Kathy Hansen, director of the Southeast Alaska Fisheries Alliance.

SEAFSA received a \$25,000 Hollings Grant from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to fund the pinger program, which pays out

\$25 rebates for up to five pingers per permit per vessel.

The pingers retail for about \$100 each, which adds up by the time you put the number needed for the length of a salmon net. "A Southeast gillnet that is 200 fathoms long needs at least five," Hansen said.

The rebates are good for any Alaska salmon fishery. Along with Southeast Alaska, Hansen said, pingers are also used by fishermen at Kodiak and Sand Point.

Hansen uses pingers in her salmon gear and swears by them. "It's not 100 percent effective – kind of like a red stop light. Ninety nine percent of the people will stop, and there's that one percent that might not. But we've used them on our fishing gear for about six years and are completely sold on them," she said.

And, she added, pingers don't act like a dinner bell for whales, nor affect the salmon catch. "In our personal experience and all the people we've talked to say they have not seen any kind of dinner bell effect with the pingers," Hansen said. "And they do not scare the fish away. We constantly see fish clumped up next to the pingers." The rebates will continue while the funds last. Get forms from the SEAFSA website and at local gear shops.

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Alaska legislature works to avoid government shutdown

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Legislature remains on pace for a statewide government shutdown as lawmakers renew discussions they hope will bridge the gap between the House and Senate.

Gov. Bill Walker said he is confident the Legislature can avert an economically catastrophic shutdown July 1.

Officials' top priority during the special session is the state operating budget.

"At this point, I must focus solely on one issue and one issue

alone, and that is the operating budget so we do not have a shutdown in this state," said Walker, who sets the agenda for the session.

Walker said he has not changed his mind about the need for new revenue to erase a \$2.7 billion annual deficit, but the state has enough savings to cover that deficit for one year without significant consequences.

The Senate Majority agrees with Walker's approach, while the House Majority appears to be standing firm in its requests for a



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

The main loading gate at Wrangell's state ferry terminal. With the unprecedented threat of a full government shutdown looming, the Department of Transportation is currently assessing its personnel and services in preparation. At worst, the ferries would cease to operate in that scenario. However, the Department of Justice is currently reviewing the operations of Alaska Marine Highway System to see whether continuation of its services would be required under the State Constitution. A ruling is expected later this week.

plan that addresses both Alaska's long-term deficit and the government shutdown, the Juneau Empire reported.

"Let's focus on the people of Alaska instead of trying to get other items onto the agenda that are not on the agenda," said Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel and co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "Let's close this down and let's get the people's business done."

The House Majority's plan,

passed through the House months ago, includes new taxes that have not been endorsed by the Senate. While both the House and Senate favor diverting some money from the earnings of the Alaska Permanent Fund and reducing Permanent Fund Dividends in the process, the House is asking for more, including more money from the oil industry and some kind of progressive tax to balance the regressive elements of a dividend

cut. "We said from the very beginning that we were not going to be taking the only source of new revenue being a reduction in PFDs. That became a crux of the problem," said Rep. Paul Seaton, R-Homer and co-chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Gov. Bill Walker called both the House and Senate into special session on Friday, but after brief floor sessions, each body adjourned.

PUBLIC NOTICE WRANGELL LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Local Emergency Planning Committee, or LEPC, is a voluntary organization, which is established in an Emergency Planning District designated by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

Both SERC and LEPCs were established to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (SARA Title III) for emergency response planning. The Wrangell LEPC is required to receive annual Tier II (Chemical Inventory) Reports from local industries. The LEPC uses this information to perform hazard assessments for the community and ensure first responders are aware of potential hazards.

For information regarding requests to review any of the reported Tier II information, or for general LEPC information, contact Jamie Roberts at 874-2811.

This notice was prepared under a grant from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM).

Publish: June 22, 2017

Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



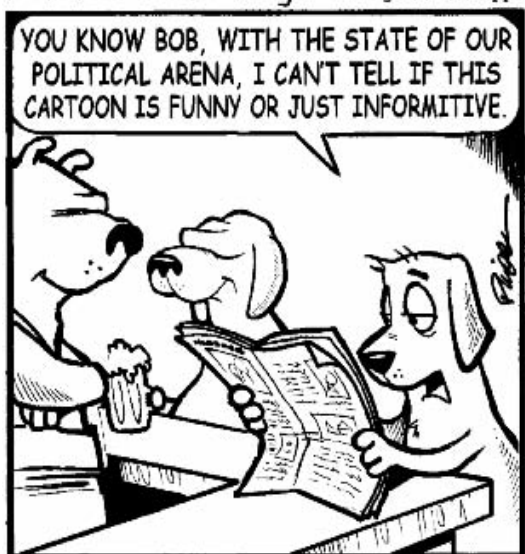
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7		1			5				
	9		7						6
		8		4	3				
		9	7			1			
2				9			7		
	4			6	2				
	3	8					5		
		1		5	9				
6				7	2				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lingerie buys
- 5 Poet
- 9 Gas stat
- 12 "That hurts!"
- 13 Divisible by two
- 14 Ailing
- 15 Bullets
- 16 Crumbly cheese
- 17 Prompt
- 18 Jet forth
- 19 Raw rock
- 20 Contemptible
- 21 It holds the mayo
- 23 Masseur's workplace
- 25 Native range horse
- 28 Psychedelic
- 32 Second president
- 33 Green shade
- 34 Hat
- 36 Spurn
- 37 Schedule abbr.
- 38 Ostrich's cousin
- 39 Piglet's papa
- 42 Rx meas.
- 44 Silent
- 48 Abrade
- 49 Venus de —
- 50 Item on stage
- 51 Anger
- 52 Responsibility

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
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18					19					20			
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34						35		36					
39	40	41			42	43				44	45	46	47
48						49					50		
51						52					53		
54						55					56		

- 53 Lip
- 54 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 55 Shrek, for one
- 56 Stratagem
- 8 "CSI" evidence
- 9 Layered mineral
- 10 Calculator key
- 11 Merriment
- 20 Court no-show
- 22 No liability
- 24 Preface
- 25 Grimalkin
- 26 Fuss and feathers
- 27 Shrill bark
- 29 Slapstick missile
- 30 Plastic piping
- 31 Still
- 35 PG-13, e.g.
- 36 Rest
- 39 Cheese choice
- 40 Yours and mine
- 41 Help hoods
- 43 Speak unclearly
- 45 Pakistani tongue
- 46 Apparel
- 47 Duel tool
- 49 Cattle call

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

BOATS AND MARINE

IFQ'S AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT UNFURNISHED, has washer dryer hook up, electric stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Call 907-305-0619.....4x6-1b20

JOB

RECORDS ANALYST POSITION: Full-time, benefited position at Wrangell Medical Center. Experience in Health Information Management preferred but not required. Must have excellent computer skills, be familiar with MS Word, experience with Excel preferred but not required. Applications at

WMC business office. Questions? Contact Tammy White, Human Resources at 874-7101. Wrangell Medical Center is an EOE. Open until filled.....tfn6-22b57

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR at Wrangell Medical Center. Full time, benefited position, RHIT certification required. WMC is

an EOE, open until filled. Full job description and applications available at the front desk or contact Tammy White at 907-874-7000.....tfn6-22b40

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOL IS EXCEPTING applications for the following extra-curricular positions for the 2017-2018 school year: High School Boys' Head and Assistant Basketball Coach, Elementary School Student Council Advisor, Freshmen Class Advisor, Senior Class Co-Advisors, Middle School Volleyball Assistant Coach.....tfn6-22b43

to Shirley, Kim, and Corree for leading the way and showing us once again. "This is how you do it." Thanks to all the great kids for bringing their families along to show them a good time. Stay tuned for more focus on Pats Lake in the near future.....1x6-22b101

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who came over and shared all of Eddy's pictures. Thank you for all the wonderful food you brought, it was wonderful. It meant so much to us. Clara and Little Clara.....1x6-22b21

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfn6-22b21

FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Fax number 874-2303.....tfn6-22b21

LEGAL NOTICE

The Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that would allow the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) to use off-highway vehicles to transport personnel and equipment to conduct maintenance along segments of the Tye electrical transmission line. The Responsible Official for this project is: Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK, 99901, 907-228-6281 or estewart@fs.fed.us.

The EA is available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42841. The EA is also available for review at the Wrangell Ranger District, 525 Bennett Street, Wrangell, AK 99929 and the Petersburg Ranger District, 12 North Nordic Drive, Petersburg, AK 99833. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: David Rak, 525 Bennett Street, Wrangell, AK 99929, 907-874-7566 or drak@fs.fed.us.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the Ketchikan Daily News, the newspaper of record for this project. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day (11:59 pm).

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

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to: David Rak, Project Leader, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell AK 99929, (hand delivery at 525 Bennett Street, Wrangell AK 99929), or drak@fs.fed.us, or comments-alaska-tongass-wrangell@fs.fed.us, Fax at 907-874-7595, or Phone at 907-874-3824. Business hours for hand delivered comments are: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

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Publish: June 22, 2017

CORRECTED NOTICE

This notice corrects and replaces the notice published in the *Juneau Empire* on 06/14/2017, and the publication date of this notice in the newspapers of record initiates the 30-day comment period on the Sonar Cabin Replacement project.

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

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

How to Comment and Timeframe

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

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

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

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Publish: June 22, 2017

LEGAL

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

ORDINANCE NO. 935

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS TO CHAPTER 15.04, WATER, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 936

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE MINOR OFFENSE FINE SCHEDULE IN CHAPTER 1.20, GENERAL PENALTY, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

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

Publish: June 22, 2017

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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O	U	C	H		E	V	E	N		I	L	L	
A	M	M	O		F	E	T	A		G	U	E	
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I	R	E			O	N	U	S		E	D	G	E
E	S	T			O	G	R	E		R	U	S	E

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	2	6	1	8	3	4	5	9
4	9	3	5	7	2	1	8	6
5	1	8	6	9	4	3	7	2
3	6	9	7	2	8	5	1	4
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1	4	7	3	6	5	2	9	8
9	3	2	8	4	1	7	6	5
8	7	1	2	5	6	9	4	3
6	5	4	9	3	7	8	2	1

Flag

Continued from page 1

held the upper inside corner.

In 1777 a new flag was commissioned by the Continental Congress, designed by Betsy Ross. In her flag the blue field and circle of 13 white, five-pointed stars supplanted the Union Jack, and gave the new country a distinct banner of its own.

Pino explained the first formal salute was given this new banner in February 1778, as vessels of the French fleet gave recognition to the "Bonhomme Richard," captained by John Paul Jones.

Inside the Elks Lodge, more iterations of the U.S. flag were shown, charting the country's path from its successful bid for independence through years of westward expansion, a tumultuous civil war and two world wars. Since the addition of states to the country's original 13 in 1795, more stars were added to the flag's "immortal constellation," as Pino put it. For a stretch of 47 years the flag bore 48 stars, before

adding on its last two in quick succession.

"Then on July 4, 1959, a star was added for Alaska," he said.

How the flag is viewed – as a symbol of freedom, or else of imperialism – is reflective of how the nation itself is viewed, Pino explained, and its colors symbolize the American way of life, whatever it is we may make of it. Quoting Wilson's first Flag Day address, he defined the flag as "the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us."

With remarks and prayers, the ceremony was concluded with an "honorable retirement" of worn flags by burning. A color guard of Legionnaires and Elks members saw to the procedure, as laid out in the Flag Code.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

As G.E.R. Jack Pino explains its significance, a member of the Emblem Club displays the Grand Union Flag, the predecessor to Betsy Ross' design adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777. The flag was one of many displayed during last week's Flag Day presentation at the Elks Lodge.

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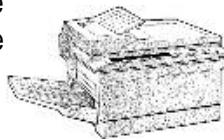
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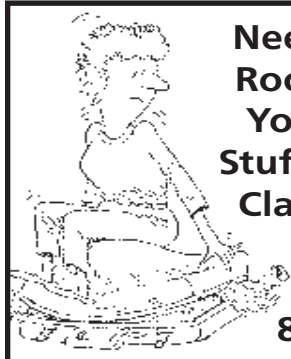
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\$600K rebate anticipated from SEAPA, diesel run delayed

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The governing board for Southeast Alaska Power Agency has approved a draft for next year's budget, as well as a hefty rebate to its member communities' utilities.

The decision was supported by a fair financial position for the agency, which supplies hydroelectric power to Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg. In a meeting held at Wrangell's Nolan Center Tuesday afternoon, SEAPA chief executive Trey Acteson explained sales revenues had come in higher than expected. Power sales to Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg together totaled \$11.1 million, more than \$1.15M above what was budgeted, and \$1.56M better than the prior year to date. Administrative and operating expenditures were about \$1.1M lower than budgeted for as well, at only \$4.26M by the end of April.

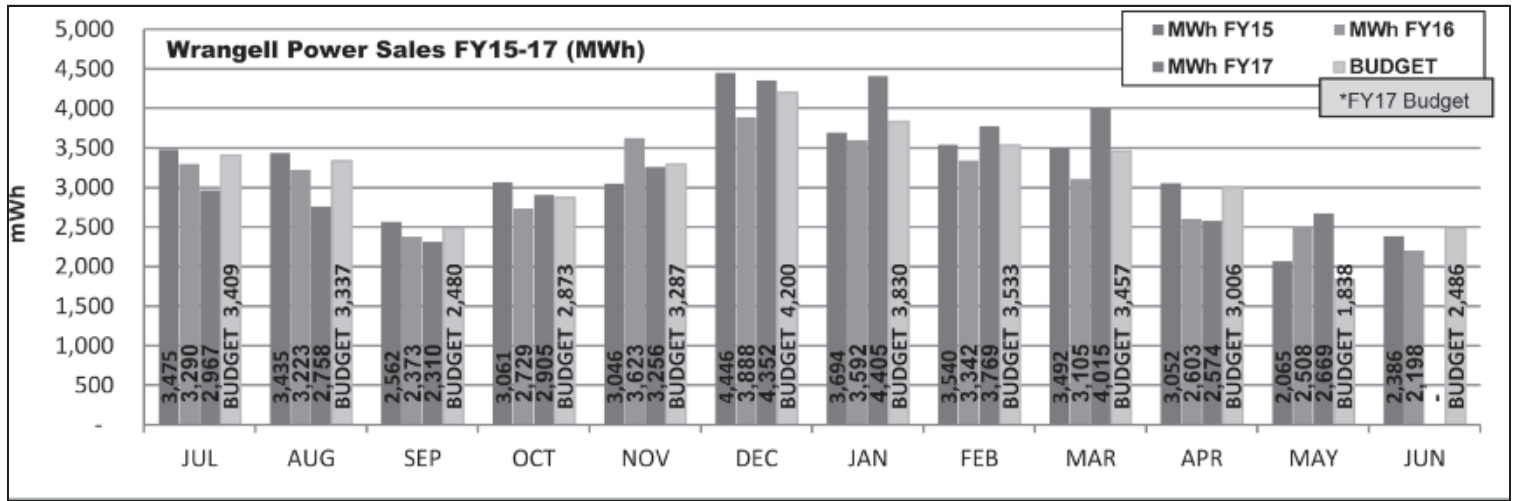
As of the end of May, expenditures for the year's largest project, the expansion at Swan Lake hydropower facility, came in under budget. Undertaken last summer, the project saw the raising of the dam and redesign of its spillway gate control system and debris boom. In all the raise is designed to increase reserve capacity by 25 percent. Expenditures for the project came in at \$10.98M, down from an approved budget of \$11.1M.

Reserve funds are also reportedly healthy. In addition to the \$6.6M the agency has in its operating fund, as of last month it has over \$15M in dedicated reserves and \$4.78M in restricted funds. Along with trustee funds, SEAPA's total funds stand at \$26.9M.

In light of increased revenues, Acteson recommended a rebate worth \$2.7M to member communities. Figures calculating the rebate are based on three-year averages of power sales, with the rebate divided up proportionally to individual communities. As Petersburg has used roughly a quarter of overall power, it would receive \$685,403 in the FY17 rebate, while Wrangell would receive \$606,137 back. By the agency's calculations, the rebate would reduce the wholesale power rate for the year by 1.4 cents.

"Certainly there are other things we can do with the excess revenue," he added, such as setting it aside for future projects. Board members agreed to the rebate provisionally, provided no particular fiscal hurdles have to be leapt coming from the state or federal governments. Wrangell delegate Stephen Prysunka explained the rebate issue may be relooked into come December.

Board members also debated whether to alter wholesale power rates. At 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour, the rate has



SUBMITTED GRAPH

Above, a graph shows SEAPA's total power sales to the community by month over the past three fiscal years. The chart shows sales for Wrangell areas. With FY17 on its way to wrapping up, the year's usage has been given a systemwide boost by colder than usual winters.

remained consistent for the past 19 years. Maintaining that rate was recommended by Acteson.

"I took a real hard look at it this year and thought about it at length," he explained.

Operating and maintenance costs are expected to continue increasing, and it would be prudent to continue saving for large scale projects that will eventually become necessary, such as underwater cable replacement. But given the state of SEAPA's revenues and reserves, he felt a rebate would be manageable.

"I think we were able to make our budget work this year," Prysunka commented. "We've got some good reserve funds and we've got some extra cable."

Board members also approved a small payment of \$3,307 to Ketchikan Public Utilities, reimbursing the utility for a short diesel fuel run last month. The run had been necessitated by a forced outage, caused by a SEAPA contractor working on switchgear relay protection at the Swan facility.

Due to uncertainty surrounding the Wrangell City and Borough's ongoing negotiations with its public employees union (see Assembly story), Acteson announced that maintenance along the Tye Lake transmission line scheduled to start this week has been put on hold. Similar work along the lines emanating from Swan Lake and the Swan-Tye intertie were already completed this month.

The project was supposed to last for two weeks, during which time Wrangell and Petersburg would be left to their own devices for power generation. There are only a few ideal windows of opportunity to undertake such work, such as late spring and early autumn, when demand tends to be at its lowest.

With Wrangell's electrical workers potentially joining other public employees in a strike, the city's ability to manage running its diesel generators during the planned maintenance shutdown is doubtful. To minimize impact on SEAPA customers, Acteson

explained, the agency would wait until the situation becomes more clear before moving ahead with the project. The Wrangell Assembly was scheduled to meet in an emergency meeting Tuesday evening, after SEAPA's board meeting.

During the meeting board members also withdrew into a closed executive session to discuss SEAPA's hydrosite investigations. The agency's attorney, Joel Paisner of Ascent Law Partners, recommended the course of action. Acteson explained the decision to do so

was influenced by strategic considerations.

Prior to the session, Ketchikan board representative Andy Donato wanted to know whether addition of a third turbine at the Tye Lake hydrofacility would be included in the discussions. Acteson responded that it would be, to an extent. Considering the cost of such an investment he noted that the amount of use a third turbine would receive would be important. Presently the two turbines at Tye are sufficient for power demand, but one benefit of having a third would be

the added backup generation capability.

Meanwhile, plans to alleviate silting issues at the harbor area of Tye Lake are awaiting support from the Army Corps of Engineers. SEAPA operations manager Steve Henson reported the Corps' Anchorage office tentatively plans to send staff to the site for a review of the proposal.

The board's next meeting is set for September 28 in Ketchikan. Its next meeting in Petersburg is scheduled for two days beginning December 13.

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