



Borough takes ownership of 6 Mile mill property

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

After finding a solution to a contractor lien against the property owner, the borough this week completed the purchase to take over ownership of the former sawmill property at 6 Mile.

"The intent is not to hold on to the property," Mayor Steve Prysunka said at the June 14 assembly meeting. The purpose in buying the 39 acres is to guard against the seller further piecing out the land in small parcels that could hinder future large-scale development. "Site control of this area has been really important," he said.

The owner has been "chunking it out over the years," the mayor said in April, noting that the remaining acreage "is still the most industrial piece" of the property.

It's one of the last deep-water port development sites in Southeast, Prysunka said at last week's assembly meeting. The plan is to ensure the property is used "in a way that brings economic benefit to the community." He added, "This will help secure our future."

The assembly voted without opposition to buy the

property for \$2.5 million.

The owner, Betty Buhler, had been asking \$2.7 million for the entire 39 acres, but also was willing to further carve it up into smaller parcels for buyers. The property measured about 110 acres when the borough looked at possible development six years ago. Buhler and her late husband, Richard Buhler, operated the Silver Bay Logging sawmill until it closed in 2008.

Closing had been delayed on the borough purchase until the seller, a contractor who did work for the seller and the borough could settle on a way to deal with the contractor lien. Under the deal, \$701,654 of the sale proceeds — the amount of the lien — will be held in trust until the seller and contractor can resolve their dispute.

"We will get the title," Prysunka said at the assembly meeting. "We won't have any involvement in that at all," he said of the lien and funds held in trust.

William "Shorty" Tonsgard Jr., owner of Channel Construction, a scrap metal collection company that serves Wrangell and other Southeast communities, filed the lien in March against a company owned by Buhler, claiming he is owed money for work taking apart and

scrapping a barge at the mill property.

The lien will be resolved between the two parties after the borough closes on the purchase, Borough Manager Jeff Good told the assembly. The sale was scheduled to close on Tuesday.

The borough will pay for the purchase by drawing \$1.2 million from general fund reserves and \$1.3 million from its Economic Recovery Fund, Finance Director Mason Villarma said Monday. The fund holds federal dollars granted to Wrangell in the late 1990s to help the community recover from the fall in the timber industry.

The assembly did not set a timeline for selling or leasing the property. The plan is to reach out to private parties that have in the past expressed interest in the location, Good said the day after the assembly meeting.

Borough officials declined to identify the parties. The borough would prefer that a single developer take over the site, Good said, though subdividing the land for multiple users is a possibility.

Whether the borough sells or leases the property is up for discussion, Good said.

Rooms to grow



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Clarissa and Joshua Young, owners of J&W's Fast Food, stand in the large room that will serve as the dining area when they open the Cedar House Inn later this month. They are taking over operation of the Harding Sourdough Lodge and renaming it.

J&W's owners add innkeeper to job title

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Most will recognize Joshua and Clarissa Young as the owners and operators of the popular lunchtime spot J&W's Fast Food. Now the couple are tackling another business: Innkeepers.

Most will recognize the inn they are keeping as the Sourdough Lodge at 1104 Peninsula St. Under their ownership, the lodge is being renamed the Cedar House Inn.

The 15,000-square-foot building has been in the Harding family since it was built by Lloyd Harding and his sons in 1984. It's now owned by Bruce and Darlene Harding, who ran the lodge from 1990 to 2017. Since then, it has been an assisted-living facility and was leased by the borough from June of 2020 until the end of 2021 in case it was needed for pandemic isolation housing.

It was put on the market and the Hardings had it listed at \$750,000.

"We going to run it for 12 months and see if it's something that we can make work," Joshua said. "Bruce and Darlene have been amazing with us and have given us an opportunity to really get our feet wet without having to solely commit to the purchase price."

The Youngs are looking to open lodging to the

public by July 1 to take advantage of the remainder of the tourist season, though they will only operate with eight to 10 of the 18 rooms available. They will also serve breakfast seven days a week and set up 10 tables in the large room.

If there's an increase in demand, the Youngs will expand the number of rooms and tables, which will also depend on being able to staff the business. "We just don't want to take on more than our staff can handle and be able to provide the best service possible," Joshua said. "That's the key."

Family and friends will be helping to start out, which will include preparing the Cedar House Inn to receive guests. The Youngs said they will be putting in full days to set up rooms, clean and prepare and get management software in place. They are hoping to have online booking available this week.

The couple plans to make some modern updates such as electronic keylocks on guestrooms, but they want to keep the homey feel of the building. They see it as a place where community members can gather for breakfast, have coffee or just socialize.

The inn is a new commitment for the Youngs,

Continued on page 4

SEARHC could receive first shipment this week of vaccines for children

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium has placed its order with the state for COVID-19 vaccination doses for children as young as 6 months old, and could start distributing them to its facilities across the region this week.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Saturday approved the children's doses of Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech.

"At this point in time we do not have pediatric vaccine clinics scheduled, as we are waiting for approval and a definite timeframe for receiving our supply of vaccines," Randi Yancey, SEARHC medical office coordinator in Wrangell, said in an email last week.

"Once approved, we will hold vaccine clinics on an as-needed and ongoing basis depending on

the volume of demand," she said. Parents who are interested in getting their children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years old vaccinated can call the Wrangell Medical Center at 907-874-7000 to schedule an appointment.

SEARHC continues to offer vaccination shots to older children and adults, also by appointment only.

"We are not currently offering walk-ins or same-day appointments for COVID vaccines," Yancey said last week. "The reason being that Pfizer vaccine comes in six-dose vials and Moderna in 10 full-dose or 20 booster-dose vials, so we continue to try and group patients together for vaccine clinics in an effort to reduce waste of the vaccine," she explained.

"Once the seal is punctured the doses have to be used within six hours, then any remaining

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First Music in the Parks concert features Powers-full performance

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A babbling creek and screeching eagles weren't the only music that could be heard among the swaying trees at Shoemaker Bay.

The first Music in the Parks concert was held at Shoemaker Park last Wednesday evening, with about 200 people listening to the tunes played by artists Kaylauna Churchill-Warren and The Powers.

First Bank and Alaska Marine Lines sponsored the free concert, which was organized by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Wrangell Police Department donated 250 hamburgers and 250 hot dogs, and Chief Tom Radke spent the evening grilling them up for hungry attendees.

Lucy Robinson, of Parks and Recreation, said they want to hold more concerts and not limit it to Shoemaker.

"I think (the series) has the potential to be staged in multiple parks," she said. "Our goal is to host an annual event. I don't want to restrict it to Shoemaker, but it's a fantastic venue."

Robinson said City Park couldn't host such an event since it is in need of repairs, and the turnout at last Wednesday's event proved more space is necessary than at City Park. "Just the set up and parking, we think Shoemaker is where it's at."

The evening opened with Churchill-Warren singing a mix of country, rock and pop songs while playing an acoustic guitar.

Continued on page 5

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, June 22: Renate' Davis, Jacob Grina; Anniversary: Eric and Jenn Yancey.

Thursday, June 23: Glen Decker, Augie Schultz, Vena Stough.

Friday, June 24: Andrew Helgeson, Aleisha Mollen; Anniversary: Doug and Sheila Wickman.

Saturday, June 25: Scott Curley, Melvin Gadd; Anniversaries: Robbie and Liz Rooney, Brent and Dawn Mill.

Sunday, June 26: Scott Gile, Erika Jabusch; Anniversary: Craig and Margaret Villarma.

Monday, June 27: Trey Torvend.

Tuesday, June 28: Rip Draper, Landen Gillen, Ginny Helgeson, Kendall Kaer, Laura Demerjian Meyerhoff, David Powell, Robbie Rooney.

Wednesday, June 29: Lucas Shilts, Amber Sumner; Anniversaries: Scott and Tamara Eastaugh, Thomas Gerken and Aminda Skan.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, June 23

Baked chicken, peas, sunshine salad, biscuit

Friday, June 24

Beef burritos, beans, fruit slaw, Spanish rice

Monday, June 27

Ham and bean soup, tomato slices, cottage cheese, cornbread

Tuesday, June 28

Tuna and noodles, steamed spinach, honey mustard coleslaw

Wednesday, June 29

French dip sandwich, oven fries, Danish 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, June 24
Matanuska, 11:30 p.m.
Friday, July 1
Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, July 8
Matanuska, 6:15 p.m.
Friday, July 15
Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

Southbound

Thursday, June 23
Matanuska, 1:45 p.m.
Monday, June 27
Matanuska, 12:45 a.m.
Monday, July 4
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.
Monday, July 11
Matanuska, 5:15 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
June 22	08:36	12.6	09:10	15.5	02:25	3.3	02:23	2.7
June 23	09:47	12.5	10:01	15.9	03:36	2.5	03:23	3.5
June 24	10:49	12.7	10:48	16.3	04:38	1.5	04:21	3.9
June 25	11:44	13.1	11:32	16.5	05:30	0.5	05:14	4.2
June 26	12:33	13.4	06:13	-0.3	06:00	4.3
June 27	00:13	16.6	01:17	13.7	06:51	-0.8	06:40	4.4
June 28	00:52	16.5	01:58	13.9	07:27	-1.1	07:17	4.5

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

PARKS and RECREATION is hosting a Cheer Camp June 27 to July 2 for ages 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 at the community center gym. There will be a Fourth of July parade expo. Space is limited. Register online at www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444 for more information.

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

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "The Bob's Burgers Movie" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the animation adventure comedy film that runs one hour and 42 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No movie next weekend.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold Ottesen's Ace Hardware 9-hole best-ball, four-person-teams tournament starting at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Registration starts at 9 a.m.

"**READ WITH A RANGER**," sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, at 11 a.m. Fridays through July. Join Forest Service naturalists for a summer of nature-themed books and fun activities. Meet at the gazebo outside the Irene Ingle Public Library.

IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY summer reading program is open for registration, for students entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library. The reading program runs through July 30. There will be more than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for all those who complete the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

PARKS and RECREATION is offering multiple activities and programs to get your body moving. For more information on any of the activities visit www.wrangellrec.com 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.

June 22, 1922

Wrangell now has an exclusive permit for water power development on Mill Creek, at Virginia Lake on the mainland across from Wrangell Island. The application made by the town was in conflict with an application made by J. G. Galvin. The executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission recommended that the application of Mr. Galvin be denied and that the town be given an exclusive permit. Following is the letter which accompanied the permit: "Mr. J. E. Worden, City Clerk, I am enclosing herewith, for your files, the original copy of the preliminary permit for project No. 269, which was executed June 1. There is also enclosed a certified copy of that portion of the minutes of the Commission which refers to the authorization for the issuance of the permit. The District Forester, Mr. C. H. Flory, Juneau, has been re-

quested to exercise supervision over the investigational work to be carried on under the permit. All correspondence relating to it should be addressed to him. Very truly yours, C.H. Merrill, Executive Secretary."

June 20, 1947

A bottle and note, still fragrant with the smell of its former contents, was brought into the Sentinel office by Rogy Crogg and M. E. Hammer, who found the mysterious communication floating in Burnett Inlet. It was found May 27, 1947, and contains the following message: "This bottle is thrown in the Pacific Ocean on June 11, 1946, from the S.S. La Grande Victory, carrying troops from Korea to the good U.S.A." It was signed by a crew member whose name, difficult to decipher, seems to be John Bruyfever. It appears possible, from the writing, that the inscriber may have assisted in helping to empty the bottle before penning the note. The note concludes by requesting that the closest newspaper please be advised and asks all other newspapers to copy. Mr. Crogg and Mr. Hammer said the bottle was tightly sealed and then covered with wax. The bottle and note are at the Sentinel office.

June 23, 1972

Wrangell is to share the wealth in the state budget, according to a message from Rep. Ernie Haugen to City Manager Kester Dotts. Haugen reported that the budget was adopted in the waning hours of the now adjourned Leg-

islature. Items for the Wrangell area includes \$50,000 for the hospital, \$100,000 for harbor maintenance, \$25,000 for completion of the Shakes Island project, and provisions under a bond issue for airport work and new harbor improvements to include the projected new small boat harbor to be located between the old airplane turnaround approximately four miles south on Zimovia Highway to near Wrangell Institute waterfront. The new harbor project has been estimated at \$700,000.

June 19, 1997

Wrangell's 45th King Salmon Derby, sponsored by the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, came to an end Sunday evening, June 15, and the local harbors were busy with returning fishermen. Some were disappointed, but most were satisfied with the past month's catches. Smiling the most was Robert Blank, who emerged as the 1997 derby winner with his catch at 44.2 pounds, caught near the state ferry terminal. He will receive \$5,000 as his prize as well as the special weekly prize of \$500 for the largest king entered during the week of June 2 through June 8. Doug Sandberg won second prize and \$3,000 for his fish at 43.8 pounds, and Dick Stokes won third place and \$1,000 with his 43.5-pound salmon. Jim Early was the Special Derby Days winner, bringing in \$2,500 for his 43.1-pound catch during the Memorial Day weekend May 24-26.

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
June 22	3:59a	9:43p	17:44h
June 23	3:59a	9:43p	17:44h
June 24	4:00a	9:43p	17:43h
June 25	4:00a	9:43p	17:43h
June 26	4:01a	9:43p	17:42h
June 27	4:02a	9:43p	17:41h
June 28	4:03a	9:43p	17:40h

Chugach Ranger will be unwrapped for viewing over the Fourth

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Plans to make the almost-century-old U.S. Forest Service Chugach Ranger workboat a permanent display at the Nolan Center are slowly moving forward, but until then the 62-foot wooden vessel will be temporarily on display for the Fourth of July weekend.

The protective wrapping on the boat will be removed by next Sunday so the vessel can be inspected and assessed in order to proceed with plans to eventually build a protective shelter and walk-around ramp for easier viewing. Those who want to see the uncovered boat will only have two weeks before it's put back under wraps.

"We have two Forest Service architectural historians arriving in Wrangell on June 27, Kathryn Buchholz and Ken Sandri. They will spend the week documenting the boat by taking detailed photographs and measurements," said Keri Hicks, the Forest Service heritage program leader, based in Juneau. "They will also assess the current condition of the boat."

Hicks said the assessment will help Buchholz and Sandri collect data to create a historic property management plan, which will inform the Nolan Center and the Forest Service on how to keep the boat maintained, retaining "her historic integrity."

Cyni Cray, director of the Nolan Center, said she is hoping to make the unwrapping more of a ceremony involving the Forest Service and other officials.

A contractor will handle the unwrapping and rewrapping of the vessel in a protective plastic cover.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The historical Chugach Ranger wooden boat, built in 1925, is being unwrapped this week and will be on display for about two weeks before going back under the plastic. The former U.S. Forest Service work boat is on permanent loan to the Nolan Center, where it resides next to the 19-foot runabout Emerald that had been owned by former Gov. Frank Murkowski.

The Chugach was built in Seattle in 1925, one of 11 ranger boats the Forest Service put into service at the time. The boat was used for 90 years before being retired. It sat in storage at the boatyard in Wrangell from 2016 until March of 2021, when it was moved to its present location outside the Nolan Center next to a display of the runabout Emerald, which belonged to former Gov. Frank Murkowski.

"The boat will be rewrapped approximately July 11," Hicks said. "We plan to complete the interpretive plan this year and we should be able to install some of the interpretive panels, but the rest of the exhibit will be on hold until the shelter, walkway and viewing platform are constructed."

Cray said the panels are 60% complete. The panels will contain pictures and written history of the Chugach

throughout its 90-year run and will be mounted inside the center and outside next to the boat.

Since the boat is on permanent loan, the Nolan Center and borough are working on raising the funds to build the protective shelter, walkway and viewing platforms. The Forest Service paid for a conceptual design that provides ideas on what the shelter and walkways would look like and which materials are recommended in the construction and upkeep.

Moving forward on the project will depend on the report submitted by the architectural historians.

"It really depends on funding," Cray said. "The Forest Service is paying for the whole conceptual design, and then there is some money that's been set aside ... through the Forest Service. Then we're looking for grants and other ways we can fund it because the (borough) doesn't have any sort of budget for matching it."

The protective shelter could be built with roll-down doors for when the weather becomes too harsh, or it could be built with glass-panel walls so that visitors can still view the boat in the off-season. The conceptual design also showed options for a solid roof using various materials or a glass roof allowing for more natural light into the display.

Once the work is completed, Cray sees it as a valuable addition to the Wrangell Museum and its myriad displays.

"It's kind of the not only the perfect place for the boat to be preserved, it's an incredible piece of history," Cray said. "We're hoping it attracts tourists. I think it's a win-win."

State ferry service returns this week to Prince Rupert after 3-year absence

Ketchikan Daily News
and Wrangell Sentinel

Alaska state ferry service between Ketchikan and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, resumed on Monday afternoon. The last state ferry voyage to the Canadian port city was in late fall 2019.

The Matanuska made a quick round trip Monday and is scheduled for another voyage on Friday.

"(The) Matanuska made a test sailing to Prince Rupert about a week ago and all went to plan," state Transportation Department spokesperson Sam Dapcevich wrote in a Friday email.

This summer's service is limited, with two round trips scheduled the third week of July, two in the third week of August, and one in September.

In each of those weeks, after calling on Prince Rupert, the Matanuska is scheduled to continue on its route to Wrangell and other Southeast ports.

The state has not released the fall/winter schedule yet.

The more than 30-month gap in service to Prince Rupert was due to a new federal require-

ment for armed U.S. Customs agents and the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown of Canadian waters. Canada lifted its pandemic closure to ship traffic earlier this year, and a revised U.S.-Canada agreement now allows U.S. border agents to be armed.

Prince Rupert is about 90 nautical miles south of Ketchikan, about a six-hour ferry ride. It's the last stop on Canada's east-west Highway 16, about 900 road miles northwest of Bellingham, Washington, which is the southern end of the Alaska Marine Highway

System. The ferry system operates weekly service year-round from Bellingham to Alaska.

Rupert was popular with drivers as a cheaper alternative than the longer ferry voyage from Bellingham. The fare for a car from Bellingham to Wrangell

in August is \$1,066, plus \$389 for the driver. The rate from Prince Rupert is about \$350, plus \$112 for the driver.

Rupert was the original southern terminus of the Alaska ferries when the system started up in 1963 until the state extended

its route to Puget Sound in 1967.

Prince Rupert officials in 2019 said about 14,000 travelers used the Alaska ferry terminal each year. The state has a long-term lease on the dock and terminal building, which is owned by the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

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EARLY DEADLINE

Due to July 4th holiday, all ads, letters and news due 10 a.m. Friday, July 1, for the July 6 issue.

WRANGELL SENTINEL

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Losing money is a lesson worth remembering

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Legislators, the governor, members of the public — and most certainly candidates in this year’s state elections — should be paying attention to stocks, bonds, real estate and other investments.

Energy prices are fueling high inflation; stock markets are tumbling steeply downhill; Russia’s war on Ukraine is disrupting most everything in the world of finance and commerce; and a growing number of economists are talking “recession.”

But rather than focusing on their own savings, elected officials and candidates need to pay close attention to the falling value of investments held by the Alaska Permanent Fund.

The fund, on which the state depends to cover the biggest share of public services and annual dividends paid to Alaskans, has lost \$5.2 billion in value from its monthly statement high of \$82.4 billion on Dec. 31 (net of liabilities) to \$77.2 billion as of last Thursday.

No reason to panic. The fund has lost money before, same as everyone else who has seen the market value of their savings drop at times. Such as during the 2000-2002 dotcom bust, when the fund fell 11% in value, or \$3 billion, over two years.

And such as fiscal year 2009, when the Permanent Fund’s market value crashed 18%, falling on the coattails of the collapsed housing bubble and global financial meltdown, recording a \$6.6 billion loss from the year before.

The Permanent Fund investment staff has a solid track record over the years, but no one is immune from the turmoil and market mess of recent months. As long as the fund maintains enough in reserves to continue its essential role

of helping to pay for schools, roads, prisons and dividends — and everything else our communities need — Alaska will make it through this painful downcycle and emerge in good shape when the fund returns to making healthy profits.

The lesson is that no matter how much Alaskans love the Permanent Fund, no matter how much several lawmakers see it as an inexhaustible supply of cash for dividends, no matter how much it has grown over the years, it can lose money. A lot of money in a bad year. Political calls to plug in the ATM card and withdraw a few billion dollars to pay out extra-big dividends are irresponsible and jeopardize the future of the fund.

The Permanent Fund has come close a couple of times during its miserable investment years to not having enough available in its earnings reserve account to pay a dividend to Alaskans. Since then, with some great investment years, the reserve is back up over \$10 billion

in available funds, but Alaskans depend on that account for more than \$3 billion a year to cover the largest portion of the budget for public services and the dividend.

Taking out more money to satisfy a reelection craving could mean lean years at the dinner table in the future if the earnings run low.

Though painful to see on paper, the fund’s loss in market value is not surprising this year, nor is it a cause for worry. It’s normal, just as there are good years and bad years for salmon returns. But just as overfishing in the good years can destroy salmon runs, so too could overspending the Permanent Fund earnings reserve leave the state fishing for a way to pay the bills in the future.

Be careful when candidates promise more than the fund can afford.

“Taking out more money to satisfy a reelection craving could mean lean years at the dinner table in the future if the earnings run low.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friends of the Library seeking help to continue history project

The Friends of the Library recently received a \$950 donation from the Juneau Community Foundation toward our ongoing effort to digitize every page of the Wrangell Sentinel, 1902 to present. The plan is to put the easily viewed images online for researchers, family members, students and all the curious people who want to look through the community’s history.

The project started several years ago and received a big boost in 2019 when the Wrangell Cooperative Association contributed to the effort as it secured an \$8,250 grant for the work from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

With the available funds, including community donations, the Irene Ingle Public Library has completed the electronic file work through 1956. The online newspapers also include the Sentinel’s predecessors: The Stikeen River Journal (1898-1899), Fort Wrangel News (1898) and Alaska Sentinel (1900s). You can search the early newspapers at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/batches/ak_arcticfox_ver02/. All those pages, plus half a century of the Wrangell Sentinels, are now online and searchable, but we would like to help the

library finish the job and bring the database current.

There are still several decades of newspaper pages to turn into digital files, to ensure that the history is preserved and accessible for everyone to read far into the future. No yellowing, brittle newspaper pages to turn, and no old microfilm spools to spin through. Putting the past online is the future.

We ask your help.

Any donations would be warmly welcomed and would help preserve the community’s stories to share with future generations.

It seems a good time of year — when we are celebrating the nation’s birthday — to also celebrate and help preserve Wrangell’s history and 100 years of local library services.

Tax-deductible donations may be dropped off at the library or mailed to Friends of the Library, PO Box 679, Wrangell 99929.

Carol Rushmore, president
Friends of the Library

Pies needed for annual teddy bear July 4th fundraiser

Did you know that when a child goes to the emergency room at our hospital or their family suffers a house fire or a boating accident, that they can

be given a beautiful, comforting teddy bear to snuggle with? These bears are provided by the Beta Sigma Phi sorority and we hope that any family who has a situation where the children could use a comforting friend, that they will ask for one of the teddy bears.

The only fundraising event that Beta Sigma Phi holds to raise money for these bears is the Fourth of July pie sale. And it’s a hit every year. This year, the sorority will be joined by the Wrangell Medical Center Foundation to make the pie sale better than ever. Can you help out?

We are looking for pie donations from the community. Pies should be covered. They can be a full-sized nine-inch or 10-inch pie, or one of the smaller, single-serving pies.

Pies can be dropped off any time after 8 a.m. on the Fourth at the pie sale booth at our traditional location on the porch behind the chiropractor’s office. You can specify whether your pie is for the benefit of the teddy bears or the WMC Foundation.

We appreciate all donations and we will continue to provide those warm, cuddly, comforting teddy bears.

The sisters of Beta Sigma Phi
Anne Winters

EDITORIAL

Borough is checking off long-standing to-do list

The borough is making progress on its long and expensive to-do list. The decisions are not easy and several are costly. Many have been around a long time. That’s not because anyone did anything wrong. Rather, it takes time to confront hard decisions to resolve long-standing problems. And, in many cases, it takes time to find money to pay for the solutions.

But the decisions are necessary and deserve the community’s support.

After wrangling over multiple options, the Wrangell assembly has put up for sale the former hospital building. The borough has been spending close to \$100,000 a year to heat and insure the structure since SEARHC moved out of the facility — much of which dates back to 1967 construction — and finished moving into the new Wrangell Medical Center in February 2021.

Borough officials considered whether the community might reuse the property for something else. Maybe it could be rebuilt as a new public safety building or as temporary quarters while the rot-damaged public safety building is repaired. After looking at the multimillion-dollar costs of those options, and the continuing upkeep expenses, they wisely decided the best use of the empty hospital building would be under a new owner.

Bids close June 30. The minimum is \$830,000.

Also on the decision list is a new \$15 million water treatment plant for the community. The existing facility is inefficient, and has suffered for years from a high buildup of sediment, hampering water quality and flow and driving up costs.

By making the project a priority and assembling sufficient funds — a pending state grant, subject to the governor’s review this month, plus a couple of large federal checks — the borough has now committed to design work and hopes to go to bid in January.

The assembly last week voted to approve the borough’s purchase of the 39-acre former sawmill property at 6 Mile. Though future uses for the waterfront property are uncertain, the assembly and borough officials are clear in their intent that private parties develop the site, not the borough. Buying the property intact will allow the borough to market the commercial property, with the goal of adding to Wrangell’s economic future.

The borough assembly next week will vote on a budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1 which could include spending almost \$1 million on long-needed repairs and new siding for the pool and recreation center building. The structure is in sad need of a new face on such a well-used community asset.

Solving the public safety building is still on the work list. Water and rot damage will be costly to repair, rebuild or replace, but the building — and its local, state and federal tenants — are essential to the community. Wrangell has no choice but to find the money to do the work.

Thank you to borough officials for checking off items on the list. The community will be better for it.

— Wrangell Sentinel

Cedar House

Continued from page 1

but it has a special place in their lives.

“This is where we had our wedding,” Clarissa said. “We got married in Germany, and then a year later, we came back and had a ceremony here for our families. We got married here in August of 2005.”

Finding guests won’t be a problem, the Youngs said, as they’ve had people reaching out.

“A representative from the hospital has already contacted us, so there’s a possibility of long-term apartments, but we’ll see where demand takes us,” Joshua said.

Bruce Harding is confident the Youngs will be able to run the inn, and he and Dar-

lene are offering their advice where possible.

“They have some ideas, I just had to finesse them a little bit,” Harding said. “We didn’t get too nervous about not selling it because the building is too good to go to waste.”

The Youngs also want patrons of J&W’s to know they have no intention of shutting down the business. As new staff comes on and gets trained, they said they might consider expanding their hours of operation at J&W’s. If their plan works out, the restaurant and the inn will both be theirs.

“If all goes well, we’ll be the owners of (the inn building) around April,” Joshua said. “At the end of the day, it’s just got to pay for itself.”

Policy for Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon for Wednesday publication.

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

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Music in the Parks

Continued from page 1

tic guitar. According to Dan Powers, whose family band took the stage next, it was Churchill-Warren's first concert performance.

For The Powers, which includes Dan, his wife Shelley Powers on vocals and son Cooper, 13, on drums, the event was one of many over the years.

Powers, 39, was born in Wrangell. When he was 2½ years old, his father was transferred by Alaska Airlines to Boise, Idaho. Powers grew up between Spokane, Washington, and Idaho, eventually meeting Shelley and getting married. His music career began when his grandparents, Al and Ruby Taylor, who owned Taylor's Music in Wrangell, asked him if he would like a musical instrument when he was 12.

"My mom called the local school and asked, 'What kind of instruments do you need,'" Powers said. "It happened to be the (school) orchestra director and he said violin and cello. I'd heard of a violin at that point, so that's what I picked. I wish I had said cello. Shortly after that, I started playing bass."

Powers joined his first band at 15, a death-metal Christian band, "screaming about Jesus," he said with a laugh. He then joined Aaron Richner and the Blues Drivers and said that's what stuck with him. He was making money by 16 and stayed with it for a decade. He played with other bands in various musical genres to gain the ex-



Left: Married duo Shelley and Dan Powers perform the bluegrass song "Man of Constant Sorrow" at the first Music in the Park concert last Wednesday evening at Shoemaker Park. A large crowd gathered to enjoy music and free food provided by the Parks and Recreation Department and event sponsors. Right: Kaylauna Churchill-Warren warmed up the audience, performing for about 30 minutes last Wednesday evening. Churchill-Warren sang country and pop tunes, ending her set with the Dean Martin classic "Everybody Love Somebody."



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

perience, and finally joined the Kelly Hughes country band in Idaho, playing with them for nine years.

Over the years, Powers has recorded around 30 original songs, and released a couple full-length albums along with singles under The Powers name and solo. Their music can be found on all streaming platforms.

The Powers family has only been in Wrangell since October of last year, having taken advantage of the pandemic to relocate.

"We were full-time musicians

down there and then, suddenly (in 2020), we had zero work whatsoever," Powers said. "Sure, we weren't making any money, but all the sudden we could breathe. All the sudden all the strings were cut loose. They call it hustling for a reason."

At the time, the Powers had six children, and they started making plans to scale back the number of gigs and relocate to Wrangell. They eventually made it, with seven children in tow, buying a home.

Along with music engage-

ments, Powers does smaller jobs and they have rentals. The flexible schedule allows them to still book gigs. The first two of the season were Music in the Parks and the Summer Solstice party last Saturday downtown. They will play again on July 4 at the street dance from 8 to 11 p.m.

Those who happen to be arriving on select cruises in Wrangell also have the opportunity to hear The Powers play live, as they have three onboard bookings coming up. "They come into town, we pop on, entertain them, and pop off," Powers said.

There is talk of another Music

in the Parks event in August, however nothing is on the calendar as of yet, Robinson said, though having musicians living and playing on the island has been a plus for planning such events. "We're open to different genres and different bands," she said. "We loved working with The Powers. Them being musicians, I think they have a handle on other bands."

Powers said he's thrilled to help out.

"I'm excited to see what the future holds. We love it," he said. "We love seeing people succeed."

Vaccinations

Continued from page 1

doses are discarded."

Advisers to the CDC recommended the vaccines for the littlest children and the final sign-off came hours later on Saturday from Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the agency's director. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisers gave their approval to the vaccines a few days earlier.

"We know millions of parents and caregivers are eager to get their young children vaccinated, and with today's decision, they can," Walensky said in a statement on Saturday.

While the Food and Drug Administration approves vaccines, it's the CDC that decides who should get them.

The shots offer young children protection from hospitalization, death and possible long-term complications, the CDC's advisory panel said.

The government has been gearing up for the vaccine expansion, with millions of doses ordered for distribution to doctors, hospitals and community health clinics around the country.

Roughly 18 million kids will be eligible. Less than a third of children ages 5 to 11 have been vaccinated since the FDA and CDC approved doses for them last November.

Pfizer's vaccine is for children 6 months to 4 years old. The dose is one-tenth of the adult dose, and three shots are needed. The first two are given three weeks apart, and the last at least two months later.

Moderna's is two shots, each a quarter of its adult dose, given about four weeks apart for kids 6 months through 5 years old. In studies, vaccinated youngsters developed levels of virus-fighting antibodies as strong as young adults, suggesting that the kid-size doses protect against coronavirus infections.

Vaccinations have been available for adults since December

2020. In that time, SEARHC has administered almost 40,000 doses at its facilities around Southeast, according to its latest website posting June 6.

Of those, more than 3,500 have been in Wrangell. That includes the first and second shots, and boosters.

As of last week, about 68% of eligible people in Wrangell — ages 5 years old and above — had received a vaccine shot, a few percentage points behind the statewide number, according to state health data. Wrangell's vaccination rate is the lowest in Southeast.

About 36% of eligible people in Wrangell have received a booster.

Among Wrangell adults

ages 65 and older, the vaccination rate is 79%, with 60% having received a booster, as of last week's state Health Department tally.

Just under 28% of Wrangell children ages 5 to 11 years old have received their first dose of a vaccine, according to the state website. The number is 49% for youth ages 12 to 18 years old.

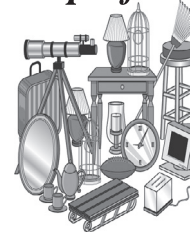
As of the state's June 15 tally, 640 COVID-19 cases had been reported in Wrangell, with seven hospitalizations and one death. Statewide, the total was 268,087 confirmed cases, 3,900 hospitalizations and 1,286 deaths.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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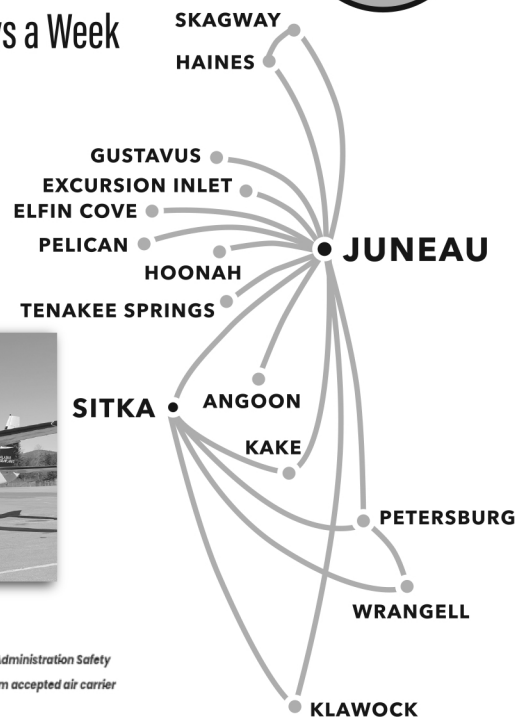
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Lifelong resident finds healing through Facebook history page

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

August Schultz Jr. was born June 23, 1960, in a hospital that's now an apartment building in Wrangell. He grew up in a house up behind that hospital, surrounded by family.

Schultz, known to friends as Augie, still lives in the same house, though alone, being the last living member of his immediate family. Though it's been hard, he has found healing through the town's history in the form of a Facebook page.

At his therapist's suggestion, Schultz created "Wrangell yesterday — place where old friends stop and remember" on Facebook. He uses it to post old photos, newspaper clippings and other items of nostalgia. Members who join the page are able to do the same, creating a sense of community.

"That page has been incredible, and he's done an awesome job on that," said lifelong friend Janell Privett. "He still does the research. People have added to it. So many people have found family members and great memories."

Privett said she could send Schultz on a research project and he would dig in, often to his own detriment, hunching over newsprint or the library's microfiche machines trying to "find one more thing."

Helping others has been Schultz's default setting from the beginning. "My dad said, 'Don't hit your sisters and take care of your brothers.' So, I did. My whole life, that's what I did," he said.

When he wasn't taking care of his family, Schultz was working. He's had a total of only three different jobs in his life, first working at the sawmill from 1980-1994, then working for the Wrangell Cooperative Association and Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority from 1994-2012, and finally working for the Stikine Inn until present.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Augie Schultz uses his Facebook page — "Wrangell yesterday. place where old friends stop and remember" — to find healing through memories of the community he has called home his entire life.

In his late teens, Schultz left Wrangell to attend Bellingham Vocational Institute in Washington to study carpentry. That education was short-lived when he discovered he "couldn't read a book to save my life."

He said he has attention-deficit disorder, making it difficult to retain information by reading. Instead, Schultz has learned by watching others perform a task first, then repeating it himself. His father, who people called Rabbit, said Schultz was "too nice" for the world, dissuading his son from attending college.

Even though he was considered nice when growing up, Schultz had a mischievous side.

"He always had the big gumballs," Privett said. "I was the dentist's daughter, so he smuggled them to me."

Beyond sneaking sweets, Privett said

their group of friends were always "doing shenanigans," yet if somebody needed help, Schultz was right there, ready to be of assistance.

Schultz, who turns 62 on Thursday, said helping others and hearing their stories has been one of his greatest joys. Working at the Stik as a driver or behind the front desk has allowed him to meet a lot of people and learn about them. However, he admits, that can be temporary.

"I'm a people person," he said. "I just like to learn about people. I can't remember the stories or names, but I remember the faces."

In 2007, his helpful nature was lauded when Schultz was presented with the Alaska Commendation Medal by then-Gov. Sarah Palin "for outstanding service in the state of Alaska, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Alas-

ka Army National Guard, and the community of Wrangell, Alaska." His efforts to help recruit and retain guardsmen in Wrangell to keep the armory open led to the commendation.

The Facebook page is a reflection of Schultz's love of the history of Wrangell, especially during his childhood. He can recall where various businesses were, such as the art gallery being a dime store and the building that now houses the Sentinel being the movie theater. He remembers when the Airport Loop and Bennett Street didn't exist, nor did Evergreen Elementary or the neighboring hospital building.

"The shooting range used to be where the (old) hospital is," Schultz said. "The city limits used to be right where the police station is."

Schultz also fondly remembers his father taking the family down to Olive Cove to their cabin, teaching the children to swim, fish, dig for clams and hunt.

Over the years, Schultz provided care for his family where he could. Though he was third youngest child of three girls and four boys, he is the only one left after his younger brother Lester died last October. He stays in contact with the handful of nieces and nephews he has left.

Schultz has been sober for 23 years and stays active, walking every day, though he still has health issues, one of which is the effects of long-COVID. Privett said friends in their high school class still check on him "probably more than he'd like to know we are."

Those issues are what have Schultz considering retirement. He said when it gets too hard to commit to work, that's when he'll retire and commit to taking better care of himself, though he said it's hard for him not to focus on helping others.

"I took care of my family my whole life, but I did what I promised my dad I would do," he said.

Eric Halstead leads salmon derby at 43.4 pounds

Sentinel staff

Eric Halstead was at the top of the Wrangell King Salmon Derby scoreboard with a 43.4-pound catch as of Sunday evening, five days into the competition.

The derby runs through July 3, with \$7,900 in cash prizes.

As of Sunday evening, 27 salmon had been entered, according to the chamber of commerce, which sponsors the event. Halstead hooked his salmon last Friday, near Blake Island.

Stanley Johnson, of Wyoming, was in second place, with a 41.8-pound king that he caught near Found Island on Sunday. He won \$500 for catching the largest fish on Father's Day.

Dave Svendsen was in third, at 39.9 pounds. He won \$500 for netting the biggest fish on

the first day of the derby last Wednesday, out-weighing Diana Nore's 38.4-pound king. Nore was in fourth place overall on Sunday. Svendsen hooked his salmon near Blake Island.

Parker Mork was at the top of the leader board for kids 12 and younger with his 32.9-pound king, caught Sunday near Blake Island.

The largest king salmon entered in the derby will win \$3,000; second place is worth \$2,000; and third place wins \$1,000.

Tickets to enter the derby are \$25 and entrants also need to have a state sportfishing license and a state king salmon stamp. Alaska residents under 18 don't need a license, but they still need a ticket.

Last year's derby was the first in Wrangell since 2017, as the fishing effort was cut back to help protect weak king salmon returns.

New garbage truck on its way, but it will be a year for delivery

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Garbage trucks are no different than all the other things consumers order but have to wait an extra-long time to arrive.

The borough is spending almost \$300,000 on a new garbage can and dumpster picker-upper and trash-hauling truck. The company told the borough it could be a year before arrival.

"They can't even get the chassis from the manufacturer to make the truck," Borough Public Works Director Tom Wetor said last week.

A 16-cubic-yard, automated side-loader will be installed on a Freightliner chassis. It's basically the same as the borough's two existing trucks, Wetor said.

The fully assembled and delivered price is \$295,193, from an Anchorage equipment dealer.

The borough is covering the entire cost from state grant funds, distributed to the community to help make up for sales tax, harbor fees and other revenues lost during the worst of the pandemic slowdown in the economy. The grant totaled almost half-a-million dollars.

In addition to the garbage truck, the borough is considering using the grant to pay for replacing the exterior siding at the community center and swim-

ming pool building.

"The current garbage trucks are 12 years old. Industry standards call for replacing garbage trucks every eight to 10 years," Wetor reported in his write-up for the assembly, which approved the purchase without objection June 14.

"Over the last several years these trucks have been showing increased signs of aging. In 2021, the air brake systems, mechanical arms and paddles in both trucks needed significant work or full replacement. One of the trucks is leaking engine oil and another the differential is starting to go," he added.

"The wheel wells and bumpers are starting to rust out. The (garbage) boxes are starting to rot away, and pressure with the paddle (that pushes the trash to the back of the box) makes this a safety concern," Wetor wrote. "Wiring is beginning to be a problem."

The existing trucks will provide "the maximum supply of spare parts to get several more years before needing another new truck," he explained in his report for the assembly. "Garbage trucks are some of our heaviest used equipment."

The new truck could arrive sooner than a year from now, he said. When it does get here from the Alabama factory via Seattle, it will be blue.



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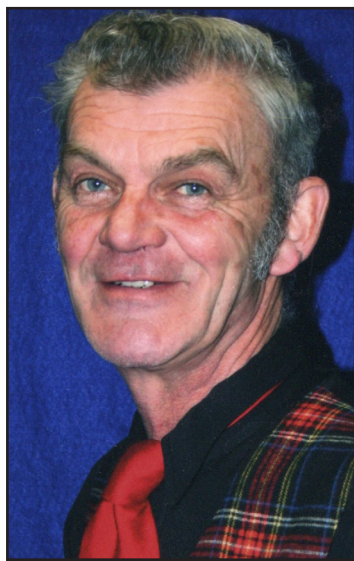
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Obituaries

Volunteer fireman Robert Wickman dies at 76



ROBERT "BOB" WICKMAN

Robert "Bob" Wickman, 76, of Wrangell, passed away on Jan. 13.

A celebration of life and pot-luck picnic will be held 11 a.m. July 6 at Shoemaker Park.

Bob was born in Ketchikan to Robert Wickman Sr. and Helen Gross Barr on March 3, 1945. The family moved to Wrangell shortly afterward. He went to Wrangell High School. Bob fished many years, worked as a longshoreman and worked in construction around town and on the North Slope.

The jobs he most enjoyed were working for Campbell Towing and Northland Services.

"Bob was a true Alaskan. He loved everything Alaska had

to offer," his family wrote. He spent many years as a volunteer fireman and participated in many search and rescues.

He was an avid fisherman, hunter and river rat. His golden rule was "if you shoot it, you eat it." Bob always had a smile on his face and a friendly wave.

Bob is survived by his wife, Cheri Wickman; sisters Maxie Wiederspohn, Penny Moriarity and Darlene Harding; brothers Charlie DeWitt and Tim Bunes; sons John Wickman and Tom Wickman; daughters Brenna Campbell and Kim Wickman.

He is preceded in death by his son, Bobby Wickman; brother Dan Wickman; and granddaughter Miah Wickman.

Services to be held July 6 for Rosemary Pagano (Kalkins)



ROSEMARY PAGANO (KALKINS)

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. July 6 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church for Rosemary Pagano (Kalkins), who passed away at the age of 87 on Nov. 7, 2021, in Anchorage, leaving behind two children and four grandchildren.

Rosemary graduated from Wrangell High School and was a cheerleader for the Wrangell basketball team when they won the 1952 state championship. After graduating in 1955, she attended college in Corpus Christi, Texas. She then became a flight attendant for Pan American World Airways and relocated to the San Francisco area.

She enjoyed working for Pan Am and traveling the world in the early 1960s. She married and continued working for Pan Am while pregnant with her first child.

Rosemary later worked as a social worker in the bay area while raising two children. She was an avid sports fan and enjoyed football, hockey, Olympic figure skating and aquatic sports. In her 40s, she took up swimming and joined a master swim team.

In 1983, she moved back to Alaska and lived in Anchorage, where she continued work as a social worker.

Rosemary was a lifelong learner, taking classes into her 70s. Her favorite subjects were math and Spanish. She also earned her real estate agent license.

Rosemary was involved with numerous churches throughout her life, most recently with Our Lady of Guadalupe in Anchorage. She was also a member

of the Catholic Daughters of America.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Edward Pagano; her father, Edward Kalkins, and mother, Elsie Vance Kilborne; brothers Edward Kalkins and Randolph Kalkins; and a sister, Darlene Kilborne.

Former Wrangell minister Terry Whittlesey dies at 81

Terry Whittlesey, 81, "a man of great faith, was called home to be with his Lord and Savior" on June 6 in Spanaway, Washington. He had served as pastor at Harbor Light Church in Wrangell from 1979 to 1990.

"He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. He had an unconditional love for his family, and leaves behind a lasting legacy with many cherished memories," his family wrote.

He served more than 50 years as a minister and teacher, bringing him great fulfillment. Terry and his family spent many years as missionaries in Alaska from Unalaska/Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands to Wrangell. He later went to Anchorage, where he was president of Far North Bible College and served as a church pastor.

Later in life, he and his wife returned to Spanaway to care for their parents.

He believed in actively participating in his community and stepping in when there was a need. At points during his missionary work, he also served as a fire chief, U.S. Customs agent, school bus driver and school teacher.

"Terry loved people and was



TERRY WHITTLESEY

a devoted and faithful Shepherd. He loved his years of ministry, teaching and sharing his love of Christ with those around him," his family wrote. "Fellowship around the table with family and friends was one of his favorite pastimes. He was kind and compassionate with a fun sense of humor. His papa years brought him much joy and he loved being surrounded by his grandchildren."

Terry will be missed by his wife Dianne, four daughters

and son-in-laws Sarah and Brian Merritt, Rebecca and Dan Brossart, Angela and Paul Michael, Amy and Mike Martin; his grandchildren and their spouses Daniel Brossart, Tiffany and Rick Zhang, Matthew and Kellie Brossart, Kayla Martin and Aaron Wiggins, Kristyn and Taylor Turney, Joey Michael, Jacob Michael, John Michael, Jacquelyn Michael, Dylan Martin and Olivia Martin; his great-grandchildren Levi Turney, Piper Wiggins, Taryn Turney, Bella Zhang and baby Turney due this November; his siblings and their spouses Dee and Lloyd Johnson, Tom and Shirley Whittlesey, Ruby and Ray McGlothlin, and Geraldine and Howard Trimble; as well as his many nieces, nephews and friends.

"Terry's faithfulness to the Lord, contributions to his church and communities, and dedication to his family is how he will be remembered," his family wrote. "His life was a life well lived. He truly was a good and faithful servant of God."

A celebration of Terry's life will be held at 11 a.m. July 30 at Sound Life Church, 3425 176th Street East, Spanaway, Washington.

Former Anchorage legislator will stand trial for voter misconduct

The Alaska Beacon

A state Superior Court judge signed a scheduling order on June 7 that will put former Anchorage Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux on trial later this summer for voter misconduct. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 12.

The trial is expected to last 10 days; a start date has not yet been set.

"I'm looking forward to it because it's been a long time, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to clear my name," LeDoux said last week.

State prosecutors have accused LeDoux and two others of encouraging illegal votes in the 2014 and 2018 state legislative elections.

Those others are LeDoux's former chief of staff, Lisa (Vaught) Simpson, and Simpson's son, Caden Vaught. Both are also scheduled for trial in August. Simpson is running for a state House seat in northeast Anchorage.

Prosecutors filed initial charges in 2020, two years after election officials became suspicious of voting patterns in LeDoux's House district.

"Multiple text messages were found that showed that LeDoux requested at least two people to vote in her district — despite their having told LeDoux that they no longer lived in the district,"

charging documents stated.

LeDoux has denied the charges.

The courts postponed trials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trials resumed earlier this year.

LeDoux faces five charges of

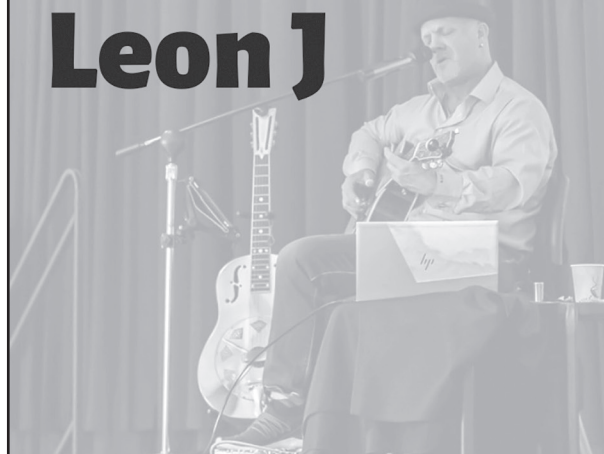
felony voter misconduct, each punishable by fines and up to two years in prison. She also faces seven misdemeanor charges of second-degree unlawful interference with voting.

Jerry Bakeberg
passed away peacefully
on June 14th in
Lynnwood, Washington.

*Obituary to follow
at a later time.*



Leon J



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Juneau summer program serves floor sealant to kids by mistake

The Associated Press

A dozen children and two adults were served floor sealant instead of milk at a day care summer program at a Juneau elementary school last week after workers poured from the wrong container.

Several students complained of burning sensations in their mouth and throats, and at least one child was treated at a hospital after the incident on the morning of June 14, Juneau Schools Superintendent Bridget Weiss said.

Juneau police are leading the investigation of how the mix-up occurred, "not really because we believe there's anything criminal or mal-intent at this point, but we do want a thorough investigation of what happened, how it happened," Weiss said June 15.

The incident happened while students in the day care program at Sit' Eeti Shaanax - Glacier Valley Elementary were served breakfast. The program is for kids ages 5 to 12.

NANA Management Services is the school district contractor that prepares the meals. Dawn Kimberlin, the company's vice president of marketing and communications, said in an email interview June 15 that the company is working closely with the district to determine

the cause of the mix-up.

"We immediately dispatched our safety team to Juneau," she wrote. "We are in the midst of a comprehensive internal investigation."

The breakfast items, including glasses of the supposed milk, were put on trays, which students took to tables to eat. Shortly after, children began complaining that the milk tasted bad and caused burning sensations in their mouths and throats.

After school district and contractor personnel looked at the label, it was discovered the clear plastic bag of liquid contained floor sealant, which resembles milk in appearance.

Poison control officials were contacted as well as parents. Two of the children who were picked up by their parents may have sought medical advice, the district said.

Weiss said the milk and the floor sealant, which is also a milky, white substance, both come in large plastic bags stored inside cardboard boxes.

A food service worker failed to follow a "sip before serve" policy when floor sealant was served, two top officials at the food service company told the Juneau school board during a special meeting Friday.

School District Chief of Staff Kristin Bartlett said by email Friday that as the investigation has progressed, school officials have determined that a pallet of floor sealant was mistakenly delivered to a district food commodity warehouse in spring 2021, at the same time as four pallets of shelf-stable milk. The warehouse is intended for food items only.

"The pallet of floor sealant remained untouched in storage with other food products until this week," when the district's food service contractor "ran short on milk and sent staff to retrieve shelf-stable milk," the district statement said.

Three boxes of floor sealant were picked up from the warehouse by the contractor, with one delivered to the summer program, the statement said. According to the district statement, a worker with the contractor "took the box of floor sealant and poured its contents into cups to be served at breakfast."

The other boxes of sealant were delivered to two other schools and remained unopened, according to the statement.

Donna Baldwin said her 8-year-old grandson was among those who drank the sealant. He told her the milk burned his throat, that his stomach hurt and that he was dizzy. Baldwin took him to the

emergency department at the hospital, where his oxygen levels were normal, she told Juneau public radio station KTOO.

But her grandson was still dizzy and nauseated a day later, and Baldwin told the radio station June 15 she planned to take him to Seattle Children's Hospital for follow-up tests.

Baldwin and other parents told KTOO the school should have notified families immediately after the incident, not hours later.

Superintendent Weiss said the reason it took so long to contact parents was that staff wanted to make sure the kids were safe before reaching out to parents.

There was no odor or chemical smell to the sealant.

The liquid was Hillyard Seal 341, which according to a safety data sheet is "expected to be a low ingestion hazard." Weiss said there is typically a 48-hour window for people who have ingested it to show symptoms.

A couple of children still had upset stomachs the evening of the incident, but many others were feeling well, she said.

The sealant later was placed in a separate storage area.

The Juneau Empire and Juneau KTOO radio contributed to this report.

Sitka direct-to-consumer seafood seller closes processing plant

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sitka Sentinel

Though sales boomed for Sitka Salmon Shares during the pandemic, the direct-to-consumer fish seller and processor has been unable to continue that success into 2022 and shut down its Sitka processing plant on June 6, laying off 40 workers.

Company co-founder Marsh Skeelee, of Sitka, said that despite the closure of its processing plant, the company plans to continue buying and selling fish, working with fishermen and other processors.

Skeelee said problems that led to the shutdown of the plant became apparent in December, when the expected number of new customers for Sitka Salmon Shares didn't materialize.

Sitka Salmon Shares specializes in shipping fresh seafood to buyers throughout the country. They bought the fish directly from Sitka commercial trollers and processed it for shipping.

Regular customers returned at a high rate in late 2021, Skeelee said, "but then trying to grow ... was proving ineffective, like our marketing wasn't working. We weren't able to add new members."

Despite the red flags, operations at the Smith Street center continued through spring.

"In April, it was like, 'Oh, these numbers aren't working,' but we were still hopeful that sales would

improve," Skeelee said. "By May it was like, 'OK, how are we going to figure it out? How to get through this.' And by mid-May as a management team, we were like, 'I don't know how we do this.'"

On June 3 the company announced it would shut down fish processing in Sitka.

The plant closed on June 6, giving workers only three days' notice, former Salmon Shares fleet manager Lauren Mitchell told the Sitka Sentinel via email.

"The suddenness of the plant closure hit everyone pretty hard, but I am proud to have been part of the Salmon Shares team for the last two seasons. It was an honor to work with such a dedicated group of fishermen who really care about the quality of their fish," Mitchell wrote. "We drove prices for all fishermen in the community, even changed the way other processors were buying fish. Overall, it was great while it lasted!"

Longtime Sitka troller Eric Jordan sold his fish to Salmon Shares for several years, and said he appreciated the company's business model.

"They were going to pay one price for each species of salmon, one price for king salmon regardless of size, whether it's white or red, and I really liked that they promoted quality ... and really sped up delivery times for us fishermen," Jordan said.

He said he's personally affected by the closure because his membership with the Seafood Producers' Cooperative ended when his business with Salmon Shares began.

"For one, the Seafood Producers Co-Op that my father and my son and I have been members of for years terminated our membership because they saw a conflict with me being a member of Sitka Salmon Shares," Jordan said.

Jordan said he has reapplied for membership in Sitka Seafood Producers Co-Op.

Sitka Salmon Shares got started in 2011 by selling Alaska seafood to a small cadre of friends in Illinois, Skeelee recalled, but grew due to the popularity of fresh Alaska salmon.

The company boomed in 2020 as Americans trapped at home sought out higher end seafood.

"Sales started to really skyrocket and all of a sudden our sales, it was incredible, like nothing you've ever seen," Skeelee said. "People are stuck at home looking for food, and we were in the right place at the right time. So we grew really quickly and added a ton of members. So basically for all of 2020 we were just trying to try to get enough fish."

At its peak, the Sitka plant processed over 100,000 pounds of fish in a month, Skeelee said. But as 2022 wore on, the company would have needed significantly more throughput to cover overhead and make ends meet at the plant.

"The cost of every pound of fish that went through the plant was just astronomical and the model didn't work," he said.

Salmon Shares operates on a subscription model in which buyers pay a monthly fee for a salmon box, though one-time boxes are also for sale on the company website.

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peacehealth.org/visitingcalendar

Casting about for family fun



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Above: Gavia Delabrué, and her mom, Corree Delabrué, fish at Pats Lake during Family Fishing Day last Saturday. The day started in 2010 as part of a Boy Scouts event. This year's fishing landed about 16 fish, according to event organizer Shirley Wimberley. There were 27 children and about 28 adults signed up, with 11 staff and volunteers overseeing activities such as making lures and painting T-shirts. Below: Claire Froehlech, an intern with the U.S. Forest Service, guides Wyatt Thomassen, 7, as he fishes.



Finalists set for August election to fill U.S. House seat

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

The four finalists are ready for Alaska's special election to fill the last several months of the late U.S. Rep. Don Young's term.

Based on results tallied through last Friday, Republicans Sarah Palin and Nick Begich III, independent candidate Al Gross and Democratic candidate Mary Peltola will be the options for Alaska's first ranked-choice election on Aug. 16.

The winner of that election will serve in Congress until January, when the winner of the November general election will take over for a two-year term.

The Alaska Division of Elections will continue counting votes through this week, but with 150,036 ballots counted as of late Friday the finalists don't look to change: Palin had 27.6% of the vote, Begich 19.3%, Gross 12.7% and Peltola 9.4%.

The margin between Peltola and the candidate in fifth place, Tara Sweeney, increased as more ballots were counted last week and had widened to about 5,500 votes. Peltola campaign manager Kim Jones said she is confident her candidate's lead will hold through certification.

Peltola is a former state legislator from Bethel; Sweeney served in the Interior Department in the Trump administration.

Former governor Palin attributed her place at the top of the results to a variety of factors, including her "love and passion for Alaska" and Alaskans' frustration with the federal government.

Gross ran his campaign with a network of supporters from his unsuccessful run for the U.S. Senate two years ago. In that race, Gross won the Democratic primary as an independent and received extensive support from Democrats inside and outside the state.

The special primary election was Alaska's first-ever statewide vote-by-mail campaign, and Jones said the Peltola campaign's numbers show most Gross supporters picked him early in the monthlong voting window.

"It did take us a few weeks to get her campaign set up, and in that time, I think votes went to other candidates that will go to her in August. So I feel really good about it," Jones said.

All four finalists will now simultaneously run in the ranked-choice special election for the unexpired term set for Aug. 16 and the primary election for a full term in the

U.S. House on that same day. The top four from the August primary will go to a ranked-choice election in November.

More than two dozen candidates are running in the regular primary for the two-year term.

"This is the fun part," Jones said. "We're actually now running two simultaneous campaigns. We're running for the special general, and we're running for the regular primary."

As of last Thursday, three Democrats who placed far back in the special-election primary field announced they are withdrawing from the race for the full term, with two of them endorsing Peltola.

Christopher Constant, an Anchorage municipal assembly member; Adam Wool, a Fairbanks legislator; and Mike Milligan, a retired construction worker in Kodiak; all said they are ending their campaigns for U.S. House. Constant and Milligan said they are endorsing Peltola. Wool said he is making no endorsement at this time.

Their withdrawal leaves Peltola as the only registered Democrat running for the seat.

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

COVID testing company will shut down its last sites in Alaska

The Associated Press
and Wrangell Sentinel

One of Alaska's largest private COVID-19 testing providers plans to close its public testing sites in the state by the end of June.

The decision by the private company will not affect SEARHC's continuation of testing services in Wrangell.

The decision by Capstone Clinic is mainly driven by financial considerations, said Matt Jones, Capstone's director of non-clinical operations.

Jones said it began with an abrupt move by the federal government earlier this year to no longer cover the costs of COVID-19 tests or treatments for those without health insurance. Low testing volume in recent weeks compounded the

financial concerns, he said.

At one point during a surge in cases driven by the omicron variant, the company performed about 3,000 tests per day, he said. By this month, the number was closer to 200 or 250 tests per day statewide.

"While we were happy to provide testing for the public as long as we possibly could, we can't do it to the detriment of our own company," Jones said.

Capstone's remaining public testing sites include locations in Anchorage, Wasilla, Eagle River, Juneau, Ketchikan and Fairbanks.

SEARHC continues to offer testing at the Wrangell Medical Center. "Testing is still available for symptomatic patients or those who were close contacts or need a test for travel purposes," Randi Yancey,

medical office coordinator for the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, said in an email last week.

"We have, however, reduced the testing hours. They are now scheduled between 9 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday," Yancey said. People can call SEARHC at 907-874-7000 to schedule an appointment.

"We also have home test kits available for pick up at the pharmacy at no cost," Yancey said last Thursday.

Jones said there has been a broader, nationwide shift away from mass clinic-based PCR testing to home tests, which health officials have said are considered less sensitive than molecular-based tests but still accurate when used correctly.

During the height of the pandemic, Capstone operated 21 testing and vacci-

nation sites in Alaska. In some communities, it was the sole provider.

An Alaska Department of Health spokesman said there are still some community testing sites around the state hosted by other organizations or that are privately run.

SEARHC, which operates the Wrangell Medical Center and provides health care services in 18 other Southeast communities, has administered more than 207,000 COVID-19 tests across the region during the pandemic, according to a June 6 website posting.

Of those, 7,228 tests confirmed an infection.

State health officials on June 15 reported 640 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Wrangell since the count started more than two years ago.

Advocates question high ballot rejection rate among Native voters

By JAMES BROOKS
AND YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

As election officials count votes in Alaska's first-ever statewide election by mail, they have rejected thousands of submitted ballots, including one in six from a Western Alaska state House district, causing concern from observers who say the state's process is disenfranchising voters, particularly Alaska Natives.

At last week's meeting of the National Congress of American Indians in Anchorage, Michelle Sparck delivered a speech on behalf of a group whose mission is to improve Alaska Native voting rates.

When she described the issue, "there was a gasp in the audience. I think people are realizing or recognizing that it doesn't look like democracy" with that high a rejection rate, Sparck said.

Of the 155,326 ballots received by state officials through June 15, 6,205 have been rejected for at least one of 17 reasons to disqualify a ballot without being counted. Elections officials will publish detailed data about the reasons for rejection after the results are certified on or about June 25.

So far, the rate of rejection isn't

significantly different from the percentage of mailed ballots rejected in all elections since 2016.

What's different this year is the scale: Because almost every voter has participated by mail, the number of ballots being disqualified is much higher.

"By rejecting an astounding number of special election primary ballots, the state of Alaska is silencing the voices of our people who turn out to vote, many who are already facing increased barriers to voting access," said Kendra Kloster of Native Peoples Action, a nonprofit organization that advocates for increased voting by Alaska Natives.

"I think we should be looking at it," Sparck said, "because it really is going to inform our activities for our voter education, especially with ranked-choice voting in August, and then in November."

Historically, the Alaska Division of Elections has struggled to reach non-English voters, particularly Alaska Natives. In 2014, a federal judge ruled that the state violated the Voting Rights Act by failing to provide translations of voting materials in Alaska Native languages.

The state subsequently stepped up its translation efforts, but the

short-notice by-mail special election for U.S. House left officials with little time to advertise ballot instructions to voters.

"I would suspect that people got the ballots in the mail and didn't read the directions as closely as they could have," said Bethel Mayor Mark Springer. "You know, my observation out here in Bethel is that the messaging on the voting process could have been more comprehensive."

Historically, the No. 1 reason for rejected ballots is a voter's failure to have a witness co-sign their ballot.

In 2020, when a federal judge

waived the signature requirement because of the COVID-19 pandemic, ballot rejection rates plummeted to historic lows, even as a record number of voters participated by mail.

This year, the witness requirement has returned.

Mike Williams Sr., chief of the tribal government in Akiak and a longtime Yup'ik leader, said he suspected the witness signature tripped up many voters.

That was troubling him from the start, he said.

"That's what was worrying me. A lot of those votes that didn't have a witness signature might

have been thrown out," he said last Thursday. "In my area in Western Alaska, with 56 villages, I'm really wondering if they understood that extra witness signature."

Even he almost sent off his ballot without a witness signature.

"I knew that I had to recheck mine after I sealed it," he said. He tore off the flap to check, saw that he had left the space blank, got his wife to sign and then put the ballot in the mail, he said. "So even me, I overlooked it," he said.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact that state law does not allow voters to fix problems with their ballots once submitted.

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August 6, 2022

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Drag Queen Storytime in Ketchikan fills library reading room three times

By DANELLE KELLY
Ketchikan Daily News

The Ketchikan Public Library last Friday morning held a Drag Queen Storytime event that attracted so many participants that library staff held three readings. The reading room is able to hold 25 people, Children's Library Assistant Anne Marie Meiresonne said, and it was brimming for each reading.

The event has attracted much controversy in recent weeks, with supporters and detractors attending Ketchikan City Council and Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly meetings to share their support and opposition, as well as debating the issue on social media.

People gathered in groups outside the library to chat in the sunshine as they waited for the event to begin, and the parking lot overflowed. Ketchikan police officers kept an eye on attendees inside and outside the building.

The drag queen Luna, dressed in high heels and a calf-length iridescent dress with full gathers and sporting a fancy tall hairdo set off with glamorous face make-up, greeted attendees inside the library near the door of the large room used for reading events.

She read from a children's book, "The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish."

Outside, near the library entrance, was a protester, Sam Ryan, who had spoken against the event at last Thursday's city council meeting. Ryan was holding a sign inscribed with a Bible verse from the book of Matthew.

Attendee Rebecca King said she was there in support of the event.

"I'm here to support the children who want to come to this event," she said. "Just to let the

kids be kids."

Library Director Pat Tully said, "The library really does stand for being inclusive. "And, a place where people can feel accepted. It's not that we are advocating for any kind of agenda; we just want everyone to feel included. For kids especially, to kind of see that there are all kinds of different people in the world, and that you can be anything you want to be."

Tully continued, "That's why we do the police story time, and the fireman story time and the ballerina story time and now, the drag queen story time," she said.

Melody Thompson said, "I've known Luna since we were little, and I'd heard there was a bunch of negativity surrounding this event, and I wanted to come and show my support. Not everyone fits into the one-line category."

She added, "I know some people have issues surrounding religion - I'm a preacher's granddaughter - and I... think that if you are a Christian, you can't call yourself a Christian and not love all God's children."

Deborah Nance, who spoke against the event at the city council meeting, was standing near a friend's car with Bill Stewart, who also had spoken against the event at the council meeting. She stated that she was "just here to pray."

She said her main concern is that the drag queen agenda focuses on "sexual fluidity in children."

Nance added that the library is a "wonderful place" that holds much influence in the community, and she is concerned about the Drag Queen Storytime being held in a location having that strong influence.

"I don't think it's healthy," she said.

Governor names new Permanent Fund trustee to replace Ketchikan banker

By NATHANIEL HERZ
Anchorage Daily News

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has appointed a philanthropist-businesswoman to the six-member board of trustees of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp., which manages the \$79 billion investment account that pays for a huge share of public services and the annual dividend to Alaskans.

Lawmakers and Dunleavy's critics have been closely watching the corporation's board in recent months, after members voted in December to fire its former chief executive, Angela Rodell. That move came amid disagreements over the fund's management, and how much lawmakers can sustainably spend from the account each year.

Dunleavy's new appointment of Gabrielle "Ellie" Rubenstein, announced June 14, fills the board seat left open by the retirement of Ketchikan banker Bill Moran, who was the only trustee to vote against Rodell's firing. Moran had served on the board since 2006.

The governor's office, in its announcement, described Rubenstein as chief executive of a Vail, Colorado-based, food-focused investment firm, Manna Tree Partners, and a graduate of Harvard University and two Indiana master's degree programs in business and agriculture economics.

Rubenstein is the daughter of Alice Rogoff, the former owner of the Anchorage Daily News (then called Alaska Dispatch News) and billionaire David Rubenstein, co-chairman of the board of The Carlyle Group, one

of the world's largest investment firms.

Carlyle and affiliated firms are paid to manage some \$825 million, or 1%, of the Permanent Fund's investments, according to a breakdown provided by Pauly Swanson, a spokeswoman for the corporation.

Ellie Rubenstein has no investment or ownership interest in The Carlyle Group or related companies, a Dunleavy spokeswoman, Shannon Mason, said in an email June 15. And the Permanent Fund has no investments in Rubenstein's company, Manna Tree, Swanson said.

Dunleavy met with Rubenstein several times in recent months before naming her to the board this week, according to copies of his public schedule obtained by the Anchorage Daily News.

The governor spent an hour with Rubenstein and her father, David, during a Houston energy conference in early March. Three days later, Dunleavy had a dinner meeting with Ellie Rubenstein in Juneau.

At the end of March, Dunleavy flew to Colorado for a health forum hosted by Manna Tree, whose participants also included David Rubenstein. On that trip, Dunleavy, who's made food security a policy focus during his term as governor, also toured an indoor agriculture facility run by Gotham Greens, one of the companies that Manna Tree has invested in. "She is an Alaskan resident who would devote herself to the work of the board," the governor

Continued on page 11

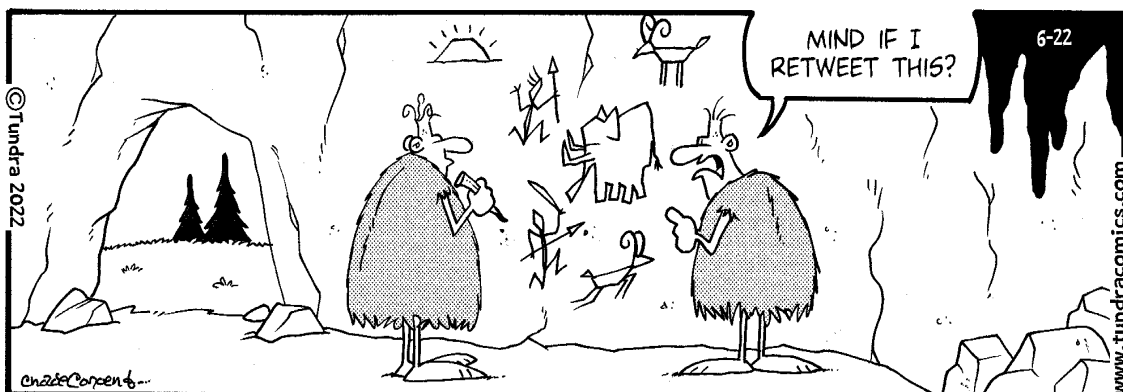
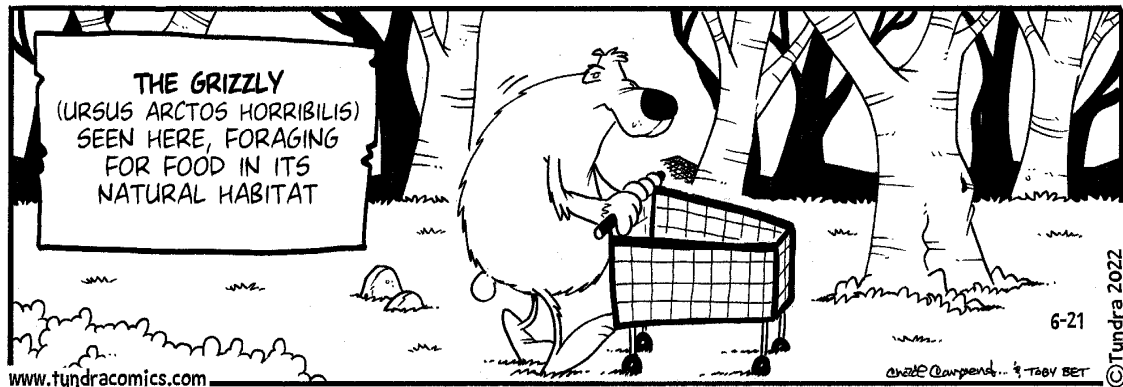
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, June 13
Intoxicated person.
Intoxicated persons.

Tuesday, June 14
Vehicle unlock.
Paper service: Domestic violence order.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Wednesday, June 15
Vehicle unlock.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Found property.
Welfare check.
Traffic stop.

Thursday, June 16
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Summons service.
Found property.
Alarm.

Friday, June 17
Traffic stop: Citations issued for no insurance, expired registration and verbal warning for cracked windshield.

Break-in: Unfounded.
Summons service.
Letter served for removing person from licensed establishment.

Assault.
Trespass.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.
Traffic stop: Citations issued for no proof of insurance and expired registration.

Saturday, June 18
Civil paper service.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlights off.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlight out.
Noise complaint.

Sunday, June 19
Subpoena service.
Automated alarm.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

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Mat-Su schools ban transgender youth from girls sports

By ZAZ HOLLANDER
Anchorage Daily News

PALMER — The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District board on June 15 approved Alaska's first local ban on transgender girls participating in girls sports and other school-sponsored activities.

The change requires schools designate school-sponsored athletic teams or sports as male, female or coed, and requires participation in a female sport to be based on the participant's biological sex at birth. Officials say the Mat-Su policy will not apply to visiting teams from other districts.

The Mat-Su proposal's language mirrors the wording in a bill introduced in the Alaska Legislature sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Shelley Hughes, a Palmer Republican. The bill failed to pass in the session that concluded last month.

The 6-1 school board vote came after lengthy public testimony, much of it from parents and students who said the policy addressed a problem that

doesn't exist but that could increase already dangerous levels of discrimination against transgender students in the district.

Rachel Levitt told the board that her transgender child, who graduated from a Mat-Su school, was attacked by four male students during their junior year, an assault captured on video and posted on social media.

The family didn't press charges because they "did not feel safe working with the adults in this community for protection," especially after anti-transgender and other inflammatory social media posts surfaced from Palmer's police chief, Levitt said.

"So please understand, when the officials in this community turn their backs on transgender youth, these incredibly vulnerable children are left with no one in authority to trust," she said.

Others said the action will open the district to lawsuits and said the board should be focused on bigger challenges facing students including drugs, bullying and poor academic performance.

Attempting to ban transgender girls from playing on girls' teams constitutes illegal discrimination under federal law, according to the ACLU of Alaska. The law prohibits sex-based discrimination in any education program or activity offered by a school that receives federal funding.

"The Mat-Su, and any other school board or district that's considering this, is putting themselves in legal peril, and this kind of litigation has ended up being very, very costly in other states," Stephen Koteff, the ACLU of Alaska's legal director, told the Alaska Beacon.

Supporters of the amendment to district policy, however, praised the school board's action as one protecting girls in sports from competition with "male-bodied" athletes at an unfair advantage.

"Sports are so important for everybody. They're important for boys. They're important for girls. It's just a wonderful thing for people," Palmer resident Rhonda Witt told the board. "I am afraid if some of these trends

continue, that there's not going to be sports for girls. And I really appreciate this board standing up for girls and women."

Testimony was occasionally interrupted by brief, angry outbursts.

A three-person committee of the school board proposed the amendments to activity policy. School board president Ryan Ponder, a member of the committee, before the vote cited federal court cases he said support the Mat-Su policy.

"Most importantly, however, this proposed policy ensures discrimination against girls and women does not occur," Ponder said. "That they are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in athletic programs compared to male-bodied athletes," adding, "If we don't do it, who will?"

Only one school board member spoke out against the change. Former Wasilla High School principal Dwight Probasco cast the only "no" vote. Probasco criticized the lack of transparency

as the committee developed the policy, which he said he learned about days before an initial hearing in early June.

Probasco called the policy a "solution to a problem that doesn't exist" that will lead to lawsuits even though district officials have said they are not aware of any transgender athletes participating in activities.

"I believe that this policy, if it is approved, is discriminatory toward our transgender youth," he said. "I believe it is a very invasive policy that cuts into the student's rights to privacy."

A district spokeswoman earlier this month said the district does not collect information on the number of transgender girls participating in sports.

There are apparently no other school districts considering a policy similar to the Mat-Su amendments at this time, according to Association of Alaska School Boards.

Trustee

Continued from page 10

said in a prepared statement.

Public records show that Rubenstein votes in Alaska but has never applied for a Permanent Fund dividend, which can only be paid to Alaskans who spend 180 days or fewer outside the state, except for allowable absences. Mason, the governor's spokeswoman, called Rubenstein a "legal resident" of Alaska and said that "her job requires an exceptional amount of traveling to other states and other parts of the world."

Rubenstein declined to be interviewed June 15 but said in an email that she has chosen not to apply for dividends for "personal reasons." She said the appointment came after Dunleavy "asked me to bring my experience running a global investment firm to the Alaska Permanent Fund."

Rubenstein is a registered Republican who was one of the honorary co-chairs of former President Donald Trump's campaign in Alaska in 2016.

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Wrangell Elks is looking for a part-time employee to work three to four hours on Friday/Saturday nights selling pull-tabs and raffle tickets. Inquire at the Elks Club or call Dawn at 907-305-0552. Great opportunity to earn extra money and support our local charity fundraising efforts.

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CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS REID STREET SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for construction of the Reid Street Sidewalk Replacement.

The work consists of all activities necessary to complete the work outlined in the contract documents, including asphalt cutting, concrete and guardrail demolition and disposal, excavation, base course, concrete paving, and metal guardrail installation. The owner's estimate for the project is approximately \$55,000.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 6, 2022.

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

Publish June 22 and 29, 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 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. 1026 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending Chapter 5.14, Borough Budget by adding Section 5.14.025, Annual Review and Approval of Fee and Rate Schedule Required, in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish June 22, 2022

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Notice of Intent to Claim Abandoned Timber Property

In accordance with Alaska Statutes 45.50.210 through .325, it is the intent of the State of Alaska to claim all abandoned timber property in the waters and on the tidelands of the state of Etolin Island southwest from Canoe Pass then northwest to Quiet Harbor, including but not limited to Onslow, Storm, Eagle and Stanhope islands. It is the intent of the state to make the claimed timber property available for salvage under 11 AAC 71.005 through .910, Timber and Material Sale Regulations.

Parties wishing to comment may do so to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Ave., Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901, phone 907-225-3070. Comments must be received within 30 days following the first date of this notice to receive consideration.

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester
Department of Natural Resources

Publish June 8, 15 and 22, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a Work Session from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, on the following topic: SCHOOL SAFETY.

Following the Work Session, and during the Regular Borough Assembly meeting of Tuesday, June 28, 2022, starting at 7 p.m., there will be a PUBLIC HEARING on the following items:

- Ordinance No 1027 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the Zoning Map to effect a change to a Portion of Tract Y, USS 2321, Parcel No. 03-006-305, from Light Industrial to Rural Residential 1.
- Ordinance No 1028 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Amending Certain Sections of Chapter 16.12 of the Wrangell Municipal Code.
- Resolution No. 06-22-1700 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, adopting the Budget for all funds of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The public is encouraged to attend.

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

Publish June 22, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL WRANGELL, AK 99929 Borough-Owned Property for Sale

Per Wrangell Municipal Code (WMC) Section 16.12.040, Notice is hereby given that the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will accept sealed bids for the sale of the Borough-Owned land and structure within the Borough boundaries in Wrangell. The property is as follows:

Legal Description - Lot A, Block 54, WMC Replat, Plat 2018-6 (Old Wrangell Medical Center)

Land Square Feet - 84,988

Minimum Bid Value - \$830,000.00

Sealed bids will be accepted by the City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, located in the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929 until 12:00 p.m. (noon) prevailing time on June 30, 2022, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Sealed bids must be submitted by US Mail, courier delivery service, or in person. Bids may not be submitted by email or fax.

All sealed bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the sealed envelope:

"Sealed Bid – Old Wrangell Medical Center and Property, Opening Date – June 30, 2022, 12:00 p.m."

The bid forms, maps, and all other important information regarding the property and building may be obtained at the office of the Borough Clerk at 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929 or by email to: clerk@wrangell.com, or online at: <https://www.wrangell.com/community/borough-owned-property-and-building-sale-sealed-bid>

Questions regarding this bid shall be directed to Amber Al-Haddad, Capital Facilities Director at 907-874-3902.

The City & Borough of Wrangell reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in a bid, and to make award to the highest responsive bidder as it may best serve the interest of the Borough.

Publish June 8, 15 and 22, 2022

Council declines to impose new salmon bycatch rules on trawlers

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Western Alaska villagers have endured the worst chum salmon runs on record, several years of anemic Chinook salmon runs in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, harvest closures from the Bering Sea coast to Canada's Yukon Territory and such dire conditions that they relied on emergency shipments of salmon from elsewhere in Alaska just to have food to eat.

Many of those suffering see one way to provide some quick relief: Large vessels trawling for pollock and other groundfish in the industrial-scale fisheries of the Bering Sea, they say, must stop intercepting so many salmon.

Advocates for tighter rules on those interceptions, known as bycatch, made their case over the past several days to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the organization that manages fish harvests in federal waters off Alaska. The council met in Sitka last week.

"The numbers are really low. There's nothing out there. It's like fishing in the desert," Walter Morgan, of the Yup'ik village of Lower Kalskag, said in online testimony to the council.

He described how conditions have deteriorated since his childhood in the 1960s, when his family could put a single net in the water and pull out enough fish to fill their boat. "It's getting even harder to go out and fish and catch those one or two salmon that we need," he said. "We need it. That's our identity. That's been my identity since I was born."

The council declined to impose any new bycatch rules that would affect the current season. Instead, they approved what members characterized as a rigorous research program to include the formation of a working group with tribal representatives and others from affected communities. The research will also consider

recommendations from a bycatch task force formed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

The council also urged more voluntary bycatch reduction by the pollock industry, the nation's largest single-species commercial harvest and supplier of the ubiquitous whitefish found in fish sticks, fast-food fish burgers and imitation crab meat.

The issue is tough, said Bill Tweit, the Washington state representative on the council. "This is certainly one of the hardest natural resource issues that I think I've ever dealt with. It doesn't look like it's going to get any easier, at least in the near future," he said.

But he, like the other council members, backed the idea of more research and consultation over new mandates.

Bering Sea bycatch of salmon has increased dramatically in the past two years, especially for chum salmon, a species that has traditionally been a dietary staple in western Alaska.

Last year, the Bering Sea and Aleutians Island trawl fishery caught 546,043 chum salmon in nets intended to harvest pollock, twice the 10-year annual average, according to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Analysis of genetics revealed that 9.4% of the chum were from Western Alaska and the Yukon River. The majority of the chum salmon netted in bycatch turned out to be from Asia, according to the report.

In absolute volume, nonetheless, the Alaska-originating chum dwarfs the harvests along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. On the lower Kuskokwim last year, only about 50,000 salmon in total were harvested, and only about 4,220 of them were chum, according to the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, with the remainder nearly evenly divided between sockeye and Chinook salmon.

Commercial harvests last year were likewise paltry — only 5,845 chum and 2,582 chinook in the Kuskokwim and absolutely no commercial harvest on the

Yukon, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Salmon are classified as a "prohibited species catch" in the trawl fishery, and the bycatch must be either donated or thrown overboard.

Shannon Erhart, deputy director for tribal development for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, advocated in favor of a zero-bycatch approach. She said trawlers cast thousands of salmon overboard at the same time that villagers are not allowed to fish.

Erhart expressed frustration as families in villages sit idle while salmon is being wasted as a bycatch of high seas trawling. "It hurts. Last summer was very hard on people not being able to fish at all," she said.

But scientific analysis so far points to something much larger than bycatch as the force behind Western Alaska salmon declines, experts told the council.

Fishery scientists from both NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in presentations to the council, described a myriad of problems related to warming conditions and climate change.

Those include marine heat waves that scrambled food supplies, forcing salmon at sea to switch from high-quality food like oil-packed capelin to low-quality food like jellyfish; low fat reserves carried over from summers to winters; skewed growth rates and smaller fish sizes for both chinook and chum; and heat stress in rivers that triggered large die-offs of fish before they were able to spawn.

The disruptions to Western Alaska runs coincided with the arrival six years ago of a multiyear marine heat wave in the Bering Sea, said biologist Katie Howard of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

But of all the factors, bycatch is the one that the council can control, said advocates for stronger action.

"The council doesn't have the jurisdic-

tion to take action on climate change. The council is supposed to be taking care of the fishery," said Lindsey Bloom of the nonprofit organization SalmonState.

What SalmonState and similar organizations wanted, Bloom said, was a firm cap on bycatch to be in effect this year, full coverage of the industry in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska by onboard observers who can monitor catches, and some mandates for specially designed nets used on some ships that trap pollock but allow 30% to 40% of salmon to escape.

Representatives of the pollock industry have pushed back against the idea that they're responsible for the salmon crashes.

Stephanie Madsen, executive director of the At-Sea Processors Association, a trade group of operators of huge ships that both harvest and process fish, said that although the situation in Western Alaska is "heartbreaking," bycatch is "clearly not the driver of the decline."

"You can put your hand on the dial and you can turn it down and hope there will be an impact to those that are in crisis," she told the council on June 11. But that will not address the real culprits, she said, listing climate change, lack of food and possible competition with hatchery fish.

As the council wrapped up its June meeting, there were more developments showing the dismal state of salmon in the Yukon and Kuskokwim areas. Early returns into the Lower Yukon River have been consistent with the forecasts of another poor season. And the governor on June 13 announced the first 2022 shipment of emergency salmon to the Yukon-Kuskokwim region, continuing a series of deliveries that started last year.

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

The Sitka Sentinel contributed to this report.

Complaints seek to block Wasilla Rep. Eastman from reelection ballot

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Challenges have been filed to keep Wasilla Republican state Rep. David Eastman's name off the ballot in his reelection bid, arguing that his affiliation with the far-right Oath Keepers disqualifies him under the state constitution.

Several people said they filed complaints related to a section of the constitution that prevents from holding public office anyone who "advocates, or who aids or belongs to any party or organization or association which advocates, the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States or of the State," the Anchorage

Daily News reported.

"He's a legislator and I just really hold any representative in the state up to a higher standard," said Jason Thomas, an Eagle River attorney who filed a challenge.

An Oath Keepers leader and other members or associates have been charged with seditious conspiracy related to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol, where many of the protestors wanted to stop the U.S. House certification of Joe Biden's election as president.

Eastman, a lifetime Oath Keepers' member, has said he attended the Jan. 6 rally in Washington, D.C., for outgo-

ing President Donald Trump that was held before protestors stormed the Capitol. But he has said that he did not participate in the riot. He has not been accused of any crimes.

Eastman, in an email to The Associated Press on June 13, said efforts "to repurpose the constitution to purify the candidate pool before an election have failed in the past and will continue to fail because it is fundamentally the right of the people to make good choices as well as bad ones on Election Day."

Eastman has previously called the indictment of Oath Keepers leaders "politically driven."

The three-term House member is one of three Republicans running in his Wasilla House district, which leans heavily to Republicans.

Tiffany Montemayor, an Alaska Division of Elections spokes-

person, said the division had received "a number of complaints about Eastman and others." She told the AP she did not have further details on the complaints. The deadline for complaints ended June 11.

Under state law, the division director is to determine a candidate's eligibility within 30 days of receiving a complaint.

Alaska House leaders earlier this year backed off a proposal to strip Eastman of committee assignments over his affiliation with Oath Keepers. House members instead held informational hearings on the group.

Eastman later was ousted from the minority Republican caucus weeks before this year's legislative session ended. The minority leader cited tensions with Eastman that had built over time. Eastman additionally was removed from two committees.

The Oath Keepers were founded in 2009. The group recruits current and former military, police and first responders. Its members pledge to "fulfill the oath all military and police take to 'defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic,'" according to its website.

Ivan Hodes, who was among the graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who last fall called on Eastman to resign, detailed the process for filing a complaint on social media. He said he filed one and urged others to do so. Eastman graduated from West Point.

Raven Amos of Wasilla said she filed a complaint.

"If the Legislature is incapable of defending the state's constitution, then it becomes the duty of the voting body to demand that the rule of law is followed," Amos said in a Twitter message.

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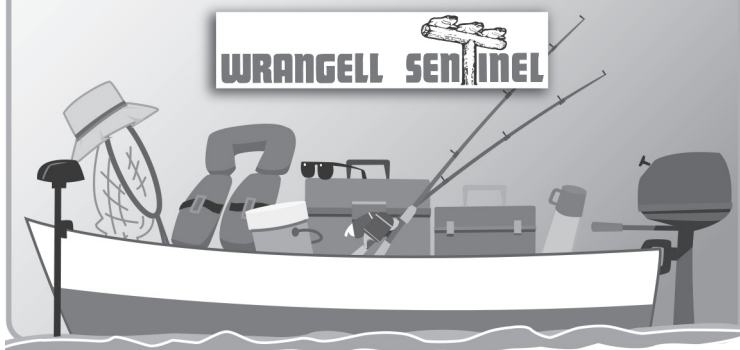
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