

Wrangell, Alaska
September 28, 2022

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 120, Number 39

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages \$1.50

Super-sized stopover



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Holland America Noordam visited Wrangell last Wednesday, bringing 1,664 passengers and 700 crew members to town.

Noordam brings 1,664 tourists to Wrangell

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The 935-foot-long Holland America Noordam made a stop in Wrangell last Wednesday, bringing 1,664 passengers and 700 crew members to town.

Curious travelers flooded along Front Street and walked as far down as Peninsula Street and out to the Volunteer Park Nature Trail, stopping in shops and taking as many photos as they could during the seven hours the ship was in port.

The Noordam wasn't originally scheduled to stop in Wrangell; cruise lines typically schedule their routes about two years in advance. The stop was on the ship's final Alaska summer voyage, which took it from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Hubbard Glacier and Misty Fjords. The day before its stop in Wrangell, the Noordam was in Ketchikan and was scheduled to stop in Juneau next.

Fred Angerman, Wrangell port manager for Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska, said the 1,664 count included "revenue and non-revenue passengers." Non-revenue passengers are usually entertainers or others who aren't counted as part of the crew. He said the ship is "pretty much as big as we can get within 50 feet," though it's not the largest ship he can remember Wrangell receiving.

"We had the Serenade of the Seas. It was a 962-foot vessel," Angerman said. That ship, run by Royal Caribbean, came through rough weather in Sitka and was rerouted to Wrangell. "That particular vessel got their butt kicked the week before."

Though the Noordam brought more tourists to town, that didn't necessarily equate to more bookings



for local tour operators, said Caitlin Cardinell, executive director of the Stikine River Jet Boat Association.

"We did not get contacted by our ship contact until about a month ago, and that's where a tour operator needs to present her tour pitches," she said. "Since Wrangell was added so late onto their itineraries, I'm sure they were scrambling on their end to get tours available onboard."

Cardinell said many of the passengers she spoke with said Wrangell had "just popped up on their itineraries," making jet boat and other tour bookings more difficult. Two of the jet boats in the SRJBA fleet were booked before the Noordam came to town, but one of those was canceled due to having only three passengers. The other jet boat had 32 and was able to provide a scheduled tour.

She said she didn't think the Noordam would make Wrangell a regular stop on its routes since Wrangell and Sitka were added on "last minute."

Continued on page 4

Borough can use \$291,000 unforeseen state payment as cushion for bond debt

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

Wrangell has received \$291,566 that it was owed by the state but never expected to receive, and could hold it as a cushion to soften the debt payments on bonds to repair school buildings and the Public Safety Building.

Borough Finance Director Mason Villarma said last week he would recommend to the assembly that it move the money into the debt service fund, keeping it there if needed to help with payments on the proposed bonds, easing the pressure on property tax payers.

Wrangell voters are being asked in the Oct. 4 municipal election to approve two bond sales for the building repairs, totaling \$12 million. The borough has not issued such general obligation bonds in a dozen years, and paid off the last of that debt three years ago.

Borough officials have scheduled a town hall meeting for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Nolan Center to explain and take questions about the proposed bond sales.

The state this year had so much oil revenue coming in that legislators and the governor appropriated more than \$200 million to municipal-

ties to make good on missed payments going back to 2017. Alaska law requires the state to reimburse municipalities for 60% to 70% of the annual cost of payments on school construction and maintenance bonds, but starting in 2017 the Legislature and governors short-funded the reimbursement payments.

This year's appropriations made good on those past missed payments, giving Wrangell \$291,566 it was owed but never counted on receiving from the state.

The money goes to the borough, which owns the school buildings and paid the bond debt, not to the school district. There are no state restrictions on how municipalities can spend the catch-up funds.

The largest checks went to Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, in particular the Mat-Su Borough which borrowed heavily to build new schools in the past decade.

Faced with low oil prices and state budget deficits, then-Gov. Bill Walker vetoed about 25% of the state's share of school debt reimbursement for fiscal year 2017. Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed 50% of the payment to municipalities in fiscal year 2020, and then vetoed 100% of the money in 2021.

Volunteers ready roller rink to reopen after 3-year break

BY CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The roller rink, a community gathering place which has been vacant the past three years, is slated to reopen this fall.

According to Jim Freeman, one of the cleanup coordinators, the rink, housed at the Church of God, was a mainstay of Wrangell social life in the 1980s. It was "one of the most popular things

in town," he said, and hopes that skaters will feel a sense of nostalgia once the facilities are up and running again.

Organizers are not yet sure when the rink will be open to the public, but they hope the space will be functional by Halloween. The organizers are doing what they can to return the rink to working order while juggling jobs and other commitments.

Continued on page 4

Forest Service to start improvements on Wrangell blueberry lands next spring

BY CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Next spring, the Forest Service will begin thinning portions of second-growth forest around Nemo Loop to improve blueberry yields in those areas.

The blueberry enhancement project is a collaborative effort between the borough and the Forest Service. It has been funded by a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The grant is part of the USDA's Southeast Sustainability Initiative. The initiative seeks to partner with Alaska Native corporations and municipal governments to bolster local economies and improve food security throughout Southeast.

Bob Dalrymple, a borough assembly member and retired district ranger, played a central role in the project's implementation. "A group of elders approached me and told me they were

concerned about losing their blueberry patches out in the second-growth," Dalrymple said, describing the original motivation behind the initiative.

A second-growth forest has regrown after logging. However, once a forest has been logged, it cannot naturally recover its pre-logging conditions. Second-growth forests are often overcrowded, full of thin, densely packed trees that block light from reaching the forest floor. In a darkened second-growth forest, edible plants on the ground struggle to survive, which can impact wildlife and harm the favorite blueberry patches of area foragers.

The "vaccinium component" of the forest understory — which includes fruiting shrubs like blueberries, huckleberries and cranberries — is "really difficult to get back" once it has died, explained Dalrymple. "Without man-

agement," he said, "(the forest) is completely devoid of understory in 20 to 30 years." For those leading a subsistence lifestyle, losing these natural food resources would be particularly harmful.

The 2023 blueberry enhancement project will have a larger scope than a similar project Dalrymple undertook around 2015. Like they did years ago, Forest Service contract workers will thin and prune the blueberry lands to allow light to reach bushes on the forest floor.

But this time around, they will also do slash treatment on the pruned limbs to provide easier access for berry pickers. Slash treatments may include scattering, piling or burning fallen plant matter. Performing slash treatments improves soil quality and reduces the risk of insect infestation after thinning.

The Wrangell Ranger District identified 11 areas, comprising about 45 acres

of blueberry lands, that would be eligible for thinning, pruning and slash treatment. Each area stretches about 100 feet into the forest on either side of a road. The Forest Service prioritized roadside-accessible lands on gentle terrain to make the blueberry patches available to all.

Dalrymple described the project as "a good example of a collaborative effort, different government agencies working together." The borough, Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are all involved in the project's planning and implementation.

He hopes to solicit community feedback once the project is complete and will continue to monitor blueberry growth in the thinned areas. Based on the success of the Forest Service's previous management efforts, he anticipates that the upcoming project will effectively bolster Wrangell's blueberry yield.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, Sept. 28: Michael Brock, Sue Brown, Patrick Mayer, Allen Rooney; Anniversaries: Wayne and Kathleen Harding, Jake and Rachel Harris.

Thursday, Sept. 29: Brandy Grina, Kylee Kvernvik, Matt Nore, Jozlyn Privett, Neal Soeteber.

Friday, Sept. 30: Cami Bakeberg, LeAnn Bryner, Rick Churchill, Kahlan Speers.

Saturday, Oct. 1: Adalyn Angerman, Dean Bakeberg, Mark Cummings, Victoria Garcia, Georgia Lewis, Brittani Robbins, Scott Phillips.

Sunday, Oct. 2: Margie Bartels, Kay Jabusch.

Monday, Oct. 3: None.

Tuesday, Oct. 4: Connor Dilg, Finley Jane Filer, "Millee," Bill Privett, Eva Roher; Anniversary: K. Rick and Trish Kohrt.

Wednesday, Oct. 5: Tony Byford, Kari Massin, Gerrit Southland, Tara Stutz.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, Sept. 29

Chicken enchiladas, black beans, calico corn salad

Friday, Sept. 30

Half tuna sandwich, cream of tomato soup, cucumber and onion salad

Monday, Oct. 3

Country pork stew, romaine and radish salad, biscuit

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Roast beef, spinach, fruit slaw, mashed potatoes with gravy

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Spaghetti with meat sauce, brussels sprouts, tossed green salad, fry bread

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, Oct. 7

Kennicott, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Kennicott, 12:01 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 15

Kennicott, 2:30 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 21

Kennicott, 6:30 p.m.

Southbound

Monday, Oct. 10

Kennicott, 7 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 14

Kennicott, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 16

Kennicott, 11:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 24

Kennicott, 6:15 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
Sept. 29	03:32	15.4	03:30	17.2
Sept. 30	04:14	14.4	04:06	16.7
Oct. 1	05:04	13.2	04:51	15.8
Oct. 2	06:11	12.0	05:52	14.8
Oct. 3	07:44	11.5	07:22	14.0
Oct. 4	09:16	12.2	08:59	14.2
Oct. 5	10:24	13.6	10:17	15.2

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Sept. 28	6:47a	6:31p	11:44h
Sept. 29	6:49a	6:29p	11:39h
Sept. 30	6:51a	6:26p	11:35h
Oct. 1	6:53a	6:23p	11:30h
Oct. 2	6:55a	6:21p	11:25h
Oct. 3	6:57a	6:18p	11:21h
Oct. 4	6:59a	6:15p	11:16h

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

TOWN HALL MEETING 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Nolan Center, where borough officials will discuss and answer questions regarding the proposed general obligation bonds for building repairs and the ballot proposition whether the borough should sell and/or lease the former 6-Mile mill property. All three questions are on the Oct. 4 municipal election ballot.

COMMUNITY MARKET from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Nolan Center. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Barbarian," rated R, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday for the horror thriller film that runs one hour and 42 minutes. Retro movie (1984) "Gremlins," rated PG, at 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

PARKS and RECREATION Jiu-Jitsu one year anniversary celebration Oct. 8-9 with guest instructor Alexandra Peterson at the community center gym. On Oct. 8, 10 a.m. intro to BJJ, noon lunch will be provided, 1 p.m. feet-to-finish gi seminar, 4 p.m. open mat. On Oct. 9, 10 a.m. feet-to-finish no-gi seminar; 1 p.m. open mat. Free and open to ages 13 and up. Register online <https://bit.ly/WRGPRJJ> or call 907-874-2301.

WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 community birthday scholarship calendar fundraiser is underway. \$5 per listing for an anniversary, birthday or an in-memory-of listing. All proceeds go to scholarships for Wrangell High School graduates. Deadline for listings is Oct. 3. Call 907-874-3901.

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY, 10 to 11 a.m. Fridays starting Oct. 7. Come enjoy the stories, crafts and snacks at the Irene Ingle Public Library. Call 907-874-3535.

DANCE FOR BABIES, TODDLERS and their FAMILIES on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through Oct. 27. This free activity is hosted by The Salvation Army. Adults must be present. If you are interested in volunteering as a live musician (guitar, piano, etc.) to play some nursery rhymes, call 907-874-3753.

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.

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.

Sept. 28, 1922

A party of prospectors came into town last week with an extensive collection of samples of various kinds of ore taken on the Iskoot in British Columbia. Some of the metals were gold, silver, lead and copper. The samples were forwarded to the government assay office at Victoria, and there is no doubt that the returns will show high values. While the samples brought in from the Iskoot attracted some attention, they caused no great surprise locally. There is little doubt that the Iskoot district is as highly mineralized as the Portland Canal region. It is hoped that a beginning is now being made which at no distant date will result in the opening bonanza which will attract as much attention to the Iskoot and make it of as great importance as the Portland Canal. Wrangell is the port of entry for the Iskoot district and the

opening up of that region would mean that as it increased in importance, Wrangell would benefit proportionately.

Sept. 26, 1947

Wrangell Public Schools have an enrollment this year of 247 pupils, 20 over the number last year. Last year the grades had 179 students and the high school 48. This year the grades have 191 pupils and the high school 56. Numbers of students in the various classes so far this year are: First grade, 38; second, 27; third, 31; fourth, 20; fifth, 21; sixth, 17; seventh 17; and eighth, 20. In the high school there are 15 sophomores, 15 juniors and nine seniors. Supt. George Fabricius said the large enrollment in the lower grades has made it necessary to put some of the first and a few second students under another teacher in City Hall.

Sept. 29, 1972

A 10-bed nursing home addition costing nearly a half-million dollars is proposed at Wrangell General Hospital. Voters will be asked on Tuesday to approve \$200,000 in general obligation bonds as the community's share in the cost. State and federal grants would finance the balance. Preliminary plans for the structure, which will adjoin the 16-bed general hospital to the west, have been drafted by the architectural firm of Sands & Ackley, of Juneau. Mrs. Emma Ivy, hospital administrator, said the nursing home addition

would be of concrete construction, one story with a daylight basement suitable for conversion to doctors offices, storage and other uses. Mrs. Ivy estimated five additional hospital employees - aides and nurses, plus a part-time physical therapist - would be required to staff the new wing.

Sept. 25, 1997

There's no X marking the spot, says state geophysicist Laurel Burns, but the fault lines and rock formations shown in Wrangell's latest geophysical survey are "interesting." Looking over the data released Monday, Chamber of Commerce President Mark Robinson said one section along the Duncan Canal resembles the formations that mark the Greens Creek mine near Juneau. The survey, which began last March, was funded with \$200,000 from the city of Wrangell and additional funds from the federal Bureau of Land Management. Dighem Power, of Canada, was contracted to fly an instrument-equipped helicopter over 1,180 square miles around Wrangell, producing data that now has been incorporated into five maps: north Duncan Canal, south Duncan Canal, Zarembo Island and east Prince of Wales, western Etoin Island and Groundhog Basin on the mainland. The maps show various properties of subsurface rocks, including natural magnetism such as found in iron and magnesium, and electromagnetic resistance or conductivity.

Community garden plans for end-of-season work

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Now that the community garden has put down roots and harvested a successful return, committee members are mulling over what comes next for the budding group.

At its monthly meeting Sept. 20, a few members gathered at the community garden site at 1.5 Mile to discuss end-of-season plans, a final harvest wrap-up party and what will happen next year.

Committee member and co-founder of the group Valerie Massie said there was still work left to do this season, such as building an eight-foot-high fence around the perimeter of the garden to keep out deer and dogs, cleaning out garden beds and tearing down an old wooden outbuilding.

Even though there are a few items left to take care of, Massie said she believed the season turned out well.

"I'd say this year was a success since we had almost every single bed rented," she said. "Basically, we're just trying to finalize the last date for folks to have stuff out of their beds so we can winterize everything. We'll kind of get a sense of who wants to be involved with beds and the committee next summer, and anything that worked or didn't work this year."

Since Massie and co-founder Kim Wickman began surveying residents last November to gauge interest in reviving the community garden, the group has torn down old, dilapidated beds, weeded, cleaned out garbage, laid down crushed rock, installed new beds and smokehouses, planted seeds and grown and harvested all manner of produce.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL
Community garden members Mya DeLong, left, and Valerie Massie talk about end-of-year plans for the garden on Sept. 20 and what could take place for the next planting season.

Massie credited Wickman for all her hard work and pushing for the garden, and Parks and Recreation director Kate Thomas for her guidance in getting things approved through the borough and planning and zoning. "(Kate's) had quite a lot on her plate, but she wanted to finish strong with the garden."

The garden was able to move forward with funds from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, and support from the Wrangell Cooperative Association, Indian General Assistance Program and

volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service and borough, Massie said. A commercial-size composter was purchased earlier this year with the help of the Alaska Division of Agriculture and was hooked up two weeks ago with the aid of the borough and electrical contractor Tim Buness.

Along with renting out garden beds so that members could grow their own lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, potatoes, tomatillos, strawberries and more, the community garden obtained 50 pounds of seed potatoes and sold them in less than an

hour at the community market in May.

Committee members are also planning educational workshops with Sarah Lewis, an agent with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, in December. Lewis presented food preservation classes in Wrangell in late May. They would also like to bring Meda DeWitt back. DeWitt presented "Alaska Plants as Food and Medicine" at the Sharing Our Knowledge conference earlier this month.

At the Sept. 20 meeting, the topic of cleaning up garden beds and winterizing them cropped up.

"If they want to redo their beds, they'll rebook," Wickman said. She said the beds needed to be cleared out of all plant life, "unless they've planted strawberries. We'll leave those there. We still want to make sure that everything, other than, like, perennials, are pulled out. I want them to at least put down seaweed or something so that everything they worked really hard on with their soil doesn't just wash away."

Hoop houses and gillnet covers also need to be taken down, Wickman said.

The group discussed having a harvest party that would include cleaning beds, light weeding and taking sign-ups for next year. There could also possibly be a celebration to follow the housekeeping items.

In all, the group had positive views on the past season.

"I think, for the most part, it was pretty successful," Wickman said. "We obviously have lots of very happy gardeners. There's lots of things that are growing, and the deer did not annihilate everything."

Ballot includes bond issues, mill property, mayor and 7 other borough officials

Sentinel staff

It's been 12 years since Wrangell voters were asked to approve the borough taking on debt, and next Tuesday's municipal election ballot will include two such proposals to repair worn-down public buildings.

The Oct. 4 ballot also will include the election of a new mayor, two borough assembly members, two port commissioners and three school board members.

In addition, the ballot asks voter permission for the borough to sell or lease the former sawmill property at 6-Mile. The borough bought the property this summer for \$2.5 million, and is looking to sell or lease the site for private development, but needs voter approval before it can sign a deal.

No developer has come forward to take over the property, but the borough assembly decided to ask vot-

er permission in advance to speed up the process in case a potential developer steps up.

The polls will be open for registered voters 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Nolan Center. Voters may cast an early ballot, for any reason, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Monday, Oct. 3, at City Hall.

As of last Friday, 38 residents had voted early or requested an absentee ballot, said Kim Lane, borough clerk. That is equal to almost 10% of the total turnout in last year's municipal election.

Election results will be announced the evening of Oct. 4.

One bond issue on the ballot would authorize the borough to take on \$3.5 million in debt to fund repairs at all three school buildings, all of which are three to four decades old. In addition to borrowing money for the local share of the project cost, the borough would seek a \$6.5 million state grant to fully fund the repairs.

Borough officials believe that increased sales tax revenues and federal assistance payments would fully cover the cost of repaying the local bond debt.

The other bond issue ballot measure seeks voter approval to take on \$8.5 million in debt for major repairs to the water-damaged, 37-year-old Public Safety Building. Borough officials estimate repaying the debt could cost about \$224 a year in property taxes on a \$200,000 home.

In municipal elections on the ballot, Patty Gilbert and Terry Courson are running for mayor. Alex Angerman, Brittani Robbins and incumbent David Powell are running for two openings on the assembly, with the top two vote-getters winning the seats.

Running unopposed for port commission are Winston Davies and incumbent John Yeager.

Running unopposed for school board are Elizabeth Roundtree, Esther Ashton and incumbent David Wilson.

New strategic plan could create specific goals in coming years for school district

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

During its regular monthly meeting on Sept. 19, the Wrangell school board started discussions on revising its strategic plan.

Strategic plans provide school districts with guidance on reaching specific goals over the course of five years. The current plan expires in 2023 but can be updated at any time.

In its recent accreditation assessment of the Wrangell Public School District, Arizona-based company Cognia determined the strategic plan was too vague.

Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said Cognia came to that conclusion because plan timelines were "more generalized rather than specific. ... Or (for example) curriculum alignment will occur by this (specific) date, but what that actually looks like at the end is missing."

Since the current strategic plan "took the better part of a year to come up with," according to Kimberly Powell, the district's administrative assistant, it is better to get started on the new plan sooner rather than later. The timeline to complete the plan depends on the amount of planning, people

and public hearings involved, she said.

Board president David Wilson brought forward the discussion on a new plan at the Sept. 19 meeting.

"I know we've accomplished a lot on our strategic plan; there are still several things that are works in progress," Wilson said. "If we revise or redo our strategic plan, it doesn't mean things can't be carried over. Do we want to continue with what we have or start work on a new strategic plan?"

If a new strategic plan is created, Burr said some of the items that could potentially be consid-

ered are:

- Consolidating the elementary and middle school campuses
- Modern education changes in instruction
- Staffing
- Course offerings
- Curriculum reviews
- Four-day school weeks or subsistence calendars, which could be timed to match household food-gathering needs
- Plan for exit-based instruction
- Post-kindergarten through 12th grade opportunity challenges
- Instructional updates

- Technology education
- Project-based outcomes

"If we were looking at something that was a major change, that is part of our strategic plan," Burr said. "It's not declaring that we're doing any of those things. It's that if the board thinks the district needs to pave a new path, then earlier is better."

Burr said planners would seek input from the community on successes they'd want to achieve and challenges they would want to face. He said

a strategic plan focus group would also be created if the process moves forward.

Wilson pointed at that a new plan was just an idea at this point.

"It's not that we're making a decision tonight, but I wanted to open up the discussion, wanted everybody to be thinking about it, and we'll probably have it on our agenda again next month," Wilson said. "I want it to be on the forefront of everybody's mind as to what we want to do."

WMC Foundation offers
A REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
UP TO \$1200 YEARLY
for individuals traveling
outside their community
for cancer care.

www.wmccancercare.com



I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date. Contact me today.



"It is never too early to buy life insurance. Secure your family's future and take out a life insurance policy today!"

Katie Eddy,
Commercial Lines Agent

Email: katie@p-wins.com
Toll Free: (800) 478-3858, Fax: (907) 802-3225
www.p-wins.com
PO Box 529 Petersburg, AK, 99833



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Reason for concern over state finances

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Workers, families and retirees are not the only Alaskans squeezed by inflation, rising interest rates and tumbling investments.

The state is in the same tight spot. And it could get worse.

The price for Alaska North Slope crude oil was down to \$86.57 a barrel as of last Friday, dropping a third from almost \$128 in early June.

The stock market, where the Alaska Permanent Fund invests much of its money, as of Friday was down 20% from the start of the year.

as rising interest rates, weakened consumer demand and other factors push the country closer to a recession.

The Permanent Fund's total market value of principal and investment earnings fell more than \$7 billion between Jan. 31 and Aug. 31, even before the stock market dropped an additional 6% in the first three weeks of September.

Managing state finances and public services is a lot easier when oil prices are high and investment returns at record levels.

Permanent Fund earnings have provided the largest and most consistent source of revenue for the state budget since elected officials in 2018 accepted the fiscal reality that it was time to start using some of those earnings for public services.

But even the Permanent Fund has its limits. In fact, there are two limits.

First, no one can spend any of the principal - that is protected by the state constitution. The Legislature can spend much of the accumu-

lated earnings to pay for dividends and public services. But it can't spend what isn't there, and that's the second limit.

The uncommitted fund balance, as the spendable money is called, or the earnings reserve account by another name, was down to \$3.6 billion as of Aug. 31. That's what's left after setting aside money to pay next year's contribution to the state general fund for public services and dividends, and deducting an estimated amount for transfer into the principal to protect it against losing value to inflation.

That uncommitted fund balance cushion of \$3.6 billion isn't all that much when you realize stock and bond and real estate values could continue falling, cutting deeper into that number.

And the cushion will be even thinner if oil prices continue to drop, leaving the state short of cash next year to pay for everything Alaskans need and want, especially their annual dividend.

If oil prices hang around the \$80s through the end of the fiscal year next June 30, the state could be in a budget deficit, needing a supermajority of legislators to tap a limited "rainy day" savings account to cover the costs of public services and the big dividend payout Alaskans started receiving last week.

It would not be optional - the dividend checks will have been cashed, and funding for schools and other public services will have been paid. Lawmakers will have little choice but to dip into the dwindling savings account, which was down to \$1 billion as of Aug. 31.

The facts are lower oil prices could deplete the only sizable savings account left. The Permanent Fund's market value is taking a nosedive and pulling the earnings reserve down on the dive. All the while candidates for state office are talking about all the good things they would spend more money on - particularly the dividend - and how they oppose any new taxes. It just doesn't add up.

We have no fiscal plan, and that's irresponsible.

"Managing state finances and public services is a lot easier when oil prices are high and investment returns at record levels."

Noordam

Continued from page 1

Despite that, Cardinell said visitors gave her lots of positive feedback, like one couple that said they've been taking cruises for 30 years and Wrangell was easily in their top two favorites.

"There was a different kind of buzz in the air with this ship," Cardinell said. "I had a lot more

conversations with people that were more personal than I've had with people off smaller ships. I saw so many locals chatting with tourists. I even saw people from the ship on the nature trail when I was walking my dog."

Angerman said the Noordam wasn't the last of the ships scheduled to visit Wrangell. Those came on Saturday and Sunday.

"We'll have one on Saturday, the Ocean Victory, then the one on Sunday is the Seabourn Odyssey," he said. "Those will be the last two of the year, unless something comes up weather-wise and someone decides to come here. I'm not going to put anything away just because the last ship on the schedule has come and gone."

Roller rink

Continued from page 1

About 20 volunteers showed up to assist with cleanup on Sept. 17, including the high school wrestling team and several local couples. Volunteers cleaned the facilities, the spaces underneath the church and roller rink, and the outside storage area.

Freeman described the return of the roller rink as a "chance to provide hope." As the cost of living in Wrangell increases and winter approaches, he explained, the town could benefit from a fun, communal space. In addition to providing an indoor gathering place, the rink is "something that sparks the town," he said.

Jack Carney, the new head wrestling coach at Wrangell High, spent about three and a half hours cleaning up with nine of his team members. He and the wrestlers hauled four truckloads and two large trailer loads of junk out of the Church of God and to the borough trash site, including old refrigerators and rickety desks.

physically demanding service is part of the job description, Carney explained. "We get asked to help out with ... moving, heavy lifting, things like that," he said. "We really value the community service aspect - helping out and volunteering."

The Church of God made a donation to the wrestling team in appreciation for the athletes' help.

Though most of what volunteers found had to be thrown out, their efforts did reveal a few useful items that were hidden in unused spaces, like high-quality lumber and some insulation in its original packaging, Schwartz said.

The pandemic and a lack of volunteers were among the primary reasons for the rink's initial closure, explained Schwartz. But while the facility was empty, humidity and cold caused the rink floor to bubble, which has complicated the reopening effort. The floor repairs are almost complete, but the church still has to make a variety of minor adjustments and ensure that its permits are in order.

Eventually, Freeman hopes to modernize the rink with TVs and a sound system, but those amenities are still a long way off. "Right now," he said, "we're focusing on getting it open."

EDITORIAL

Vote yes on bonds; repairs will not get any cheaper

Time may heal all wounds - but that doesn't apply to old buildings. Time just makes them worse and more expensive.

That's the case with Wrangell's school buildings and Public Safety Building, which are all three or four decades old. All are showing the signs of rot, mildew, ventilation, roof and siding problems, in addition to boilers, fire alarm panels and other safety features that need a contractor's care.

After years of dodging the costly building repairs and upgrades, the borough assembly decided - unanimously - to seek voter approval to issue up to \$12 million in bonds for Wrangell's share of the work.

No one likes borrowing money, but issuing bonds and paying back the debt at an affordable interest rate over 20 years is the smart way to finance the repairs. The borough is doing well on sales tax revenues. It is receiving more money from the federal government as compensation for all the national forest land that is off the property tax rolls.

The borough paid off the last of its bonds three years ago.

The work is needed; the problem is not going away; and voting "no" isn't going to solve the problem.

The borough is in the best shape it's going to be to take on debt for the building projects. The Sentinel recommends a "yes" vote on Oct. 4.

Candidates need to share their opinions with the public

Voters will go to the polls next week with only two contested races on the ballot - mayor and two borough assembly seats.

Choosing elected officials is an important decision for the community, and voters deserve to know where candidates stand on key issues. In Wrangell, do the candidates support or oppose the bond issues for repairs to the Public Safety Building and school buildings? And why?

What are their priorities for the borough budget? What past spending did they like or not like?

Declining newspaper and radio interviews is not fair of candidates to voters, who then have to make a decision with limited information. Not answering specific questions may be a politely cautious way of not offending anyone, but it allows candidates to hide their opinions from the public - and that is not helpful to voters who have to check one of the ovals.

The Sentinel is not going to endorse candidates in this year's municipal election. But it does recommend that voters consider what they know about the candidates and what they don't know because the candidate did not want to share their opinions.

- Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Maybe 'Animal Farm' more appropriate today than '1984'

I was in high school when I read "1984." It was an assignment and a tough slog for me. I couldn't see that happening here. We had too many examples of totalitarianism in South America and Eastern Europe for it to take root in America.

We had free and fair elections and we always had a peaceful transition of power. Then the MAGAs and their Dear Leader showed up. They have cast aspersions on every

national election since 2008. In 2020 they attempted a violent takeover of our Capitol in order to stop the certification of an election that they lost.

As a non-partisan voter (I am a democrat not a Democrat), that behavior is unacceptable to me.

I would suggest that the MAGAs look into George Orwell's "Animal Farm." As I recall, the pigs had a way of counting votes where 73.4 beats 81.

John Morse

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.

WRANGELL SENTINEL

P.O. Box 798, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929 Ph: 907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902
Published weekly by: Good Journalism LLC
PO Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: 907-874-2301

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

Sentinel staff:

- Publisher Larry Persily
Editor Marc Lutz
Office Manager Amber Armstrong-Hillberry
Reporter Caroleine James
Production Marc Lutz

Subscription rates:

- Local \$46
Other Alaska \$62
2nd class outside Alaska \$70
First Class \$102
Online-only subscription \$40

Wrangell Sentinel (USPS 626-480) is published weekly except the third week of July and the week after Christmas by Wrangell Sentinel, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929. Periodicals postage paid at Wrangell, AK. Phone: 907-874-2301; Email: wrgsent@gmail.com; Website www.wrangellsentinel.com. ©Copyright 2022.

Rain garden built to help filter out polluted runoff

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

What some would see as just a portion of muddy lawn at City Park, Angie Flickinger saw as an opportunity to better the environment.

A couple years ago, Flickinger, who works on a part-time basis with the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition in Juneau, conducted a community watershed assessment to determine areas that would be ideal for a rain garden in Wrangell.

Rain gardens act as natural filtration for rainwater that empties into streams and other waterbodies.

"Basically, I went around on city and borough land, so I didn't do the whole island but kind of the city area," Flickinger said. "I cataloged streams, I looked at the state's catalog of anadromous fish streams and just walked and mapped them, looked at culverts, and assessed the state of the streams and waterways within the city."

Anadromous fish are those, like salmon, that swim upstream from saltwater to spawn. Playground Creek, which runs through City Park, is used by coho for spawning. Flickinger's assessment identified the area next to the creek as ideal for a rain garden.

"Previously, if you had come down here on a really rainy day or any day in the winter when it's been raining for months, you'd see that the rain accumulates, runs down the highway, then it would funnel right along this track," she said. That track runs from 1.5 Mile on Zimovia Highway, along the road to City Park, in front of the public restrooms and into Playground Creek, which drains



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Angie Flickinger works the soil of the rain garden that was recently built next to the restrooms at City Park. The garden acts as a filter for rainwater that drains into an adjacent stream, reducing sediment, oil and other runoff from nearby Zimovia Highway.

into Zimovia Strait.

Runoff from the highway created a sort of ditch along the path, going into the stream.

"You would have all this sediment, all the junk from the highway, like you get oils and different pollutants, all kinds accumulate and dump into the stream," Flickinger said. "This seemed like easy, low-hanging fruit. Rain gardens are used to mitigate some of those stormwater issues."

A French drain was dug along the path down from the highway to funnel into the garden area, which is bowl-shaped to capture the water. A layer of drain rock is at the bottom, covered by topsoil, in which Flickinger is planting native vegetation. The garden will allow the water to filter down and enter the stream through groundwater.

Additionally, crushed rock was used to make a path from the road to the restrooms, so that Parks and Recreation trucks don't churn up soil or grass when they're trying to access the area for work.

Flickinger worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to identify and eventually determine a location that would work for the garden.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the rain garden project," said Kate Thomas, director of Parks and Recreation. "The practical application of a rain garden is perfect for that location with the runoff from the road, and the aesthetic improvement is fantastic."

Thomas said her department has been working incrementally to make improvements to all the areas they manage in the borough, and she believes the rain garden

is a "great improvement to the site overall."

Grants from the state and Alaska Clean Water Advocacy funded the assessment and the design, materials and construction of the garden.

Flickinger is aware of similar projects throughout Southeast through the watershed coalition, one of which she oversaw in Juneau near the airport.

"They have a really big berm that we planted, and (we) installed a snow fence along Jordan Creek, which is super developed," she said. "That was meant to mitigate a lot of the snow that was being plowed right into the creek, where you get the same thing — all the crap you're digging up from the surface of the pavement."

As the native grasses and sedges that Flickinger planted in Wrangell continue to grow, she said she hopes it looks like a small wetland area. An educational sign will be put up to inform visitors about the purpose of the garden and how stormwater management impacts fisheries, and a cedar fence will be built to help people to walk around instead of through the spot.

Flickinger will conduct testing for turbidity and other parameters after the recent rains that have come through Wrangell. "We'll see what that looks like and if the rain garden is doing its thing. It's hard to tell, too, because we just planted it. It's got to settle in."

Controlled testing will be conducted in the stream above the garden and below it closer to the drainage area after the recent rains and again in the spring.

"It's such a visual project," Flickinger said. "Before we put it in, I'd come out here and there was a stream running across the lot. As long as that's not happening, we'll have a sense that it's working."

Borough commits to cover 10% of barge ramp project if grant covers the rest

By CAROLINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

At a special assembly meeting Sept. 20, the borough committed to match 10% of a possible \$2,584,650 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for design and permitting of a new barge ramp.

The borough has not received the grant but anticipates an update on the status of its application around Sept. 30. Last week, DOT Port Infrastructure Development

Program staff contacted the borough to confirm their ability to cover 10% of the project, meaning that the grant application has made it to the final stages of the selection process.

Typically, communities commit to a 20% match under the program, but rural communities like Wrangell can request to pay a smaller percentage. The borough submitted its application in May.

The federal grant would only cover design costs for the new barge ramp, not building costs,

Vice Mayor Patty Gilbert explained on a phone call after the meeting. She anticipates the actual build will cost around \$15 million to \$18 million. When the time comes to build a new ramp, Gilbert thinks it will "probably be in the same spot."

Though the borough will likely not decide the new ramp's location before consulting with an engineer, Assemblymember Bob Dalrymple would consider moving it to 6-Mile. The former sawmill property has "deep wa-

ter, flat ground, and is not intermixed right into the middle of downtown" he said.

Though the new location could bring "more space and more efficiency" to the barge landing, Dalrymple would like to see an engineer's report and hear community feedback before officially supporting the move. Placing the ramp so far out the road would mean trucking goods into town for each shipment.

Assemblymember David Powell also expressed interest

in moving the ramp to 6-Mile during his candidacy interview with the Sentinel two weeks ago. Moving the barge landing, he said, would allow the borough to enhance its tourism development downtown.

If the borough does not receive federal money, it will put the project on hold until more state or federal funding becomes available. The money in the municipal Harbor Reserve Fund is insufficient alone to finance the project.

THE PFD IS HERE! THE PFD IS HERE!



A great time to take some of that check and put it toward travel this year.

We are offering a **10% discount** for all travel booked **before Oct. 1.**

Travel must occur before Dec. 31, 2022, and be booked online.

A great opportunity to see more of Southeast Alaska, or get savings on a trip you were planning.

Business, personal, mini-vacay, you name it! Now's a great time to save on a Seaplanes trip!

To get the discount, **use Promo Code PFD2022** when you book online at flyalaskaseaplanes.com.

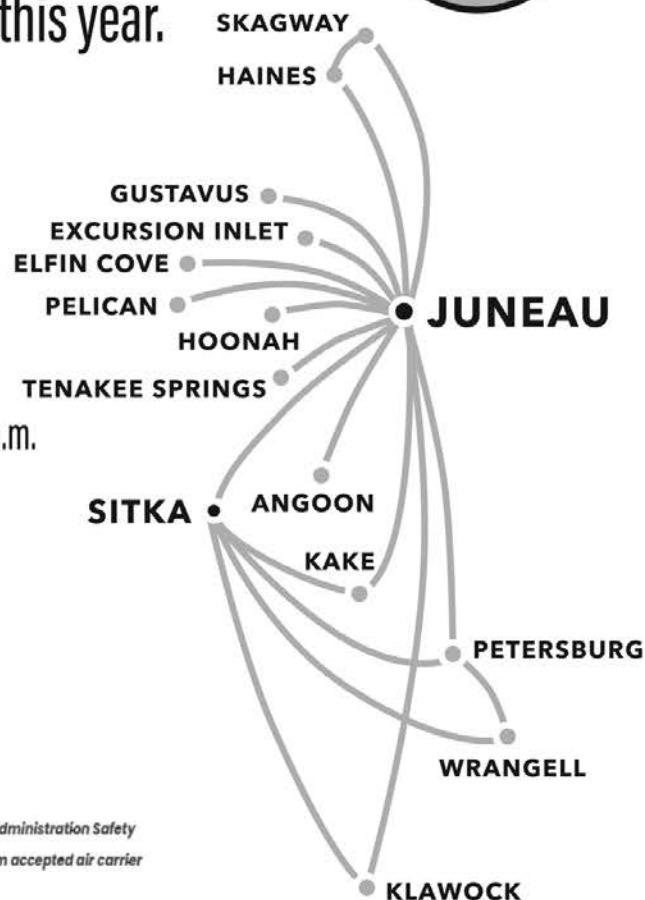


OPEN DAILY, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Daily flight to Sitka departs at 12:20 p.m.

Daily routes from:

Sitka to Petersburg, Petersburg to Wrangell, Wrangell to Sitka



24/7 online booking at www.flyalaskaseaplanes.com - where you always get the lowest fare!



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Winston Davies is running for his first term on the port commission.

Davies wants to encourage more boaters to home base in Wrangell

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Winston Davies is running for an uncontested three-year term on the port commission to give back to his community and support Wrangell's commercial fishing industry. He has no previous experience in public office, but when he heard KSTK's plea for candidates to fill the empty port commission seats, he decided to "step up to the plate."

Davies is a teacher during the school year and a commercial fisherman in the summer. He has taught a variety of subjects in his 18 years in education, including math, science, woodshop, and "Alaska Skills," a program of his own design that familiarizes students with hunting safety, knot tying and other outdoor essentials.

"We've got a lot of talent down there," Davies said of the Marine Service Center yard. He wants to support Wrangell's skilled marine service workers, who he believes are essential to keeping families on the island and attracting business from around Southeast, particularly full-time yachters. Many yachters call Wrangell their "home base" because of its high quality of service, Davies said, and he believes the borough will have to work hard to maintain its relationships with yachters as the cost of goods on the island rises.

Since Petersburg and Sitka are both considering investing in travel lifts, Wrangell will need to prepare a strategic plan to compete for boats that "might have other options in the future," explained Davies. He would hate to see any of the workers who comprise the backbone of the marine service yard move their operations elsewhere. "If you're not a fisherman or you don't own a big boat, you don't know what's going on down in that yard. There's a lot going on down there."

Davies also wants to support young gillnet fishers who have families or who are looking to put down roots. "Commercial fishing is something that's portable," he said. "You can be a commercial fisher in any community. We need to figure out how to keep those families here and attract more."

While harbor maintenance is an ongoing concern, Davies wants to ensure that the port commission also supports its facilities at Meyers Chuck, which are owned by the borough despite being geographically removed. "We kind of absorbed the Meyers Chuck harbor facility," he said. "We need to figure out how we can get them some new infrastructure down there, because they're our responsibility."

Davies will occupy the seat that commissioner Franklin Roppel is about to vacate.

Yeager wants to help promote Wrangell marine services work

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

John Yeager, sport fishing guide and commercial halibut fisherman, plans to keep promoting sustainable growth in Wrangell during his upcoming three-year term on the port commission.

"Fortunately, I have been on the port commission to see a lot of our projects started, like the Marine Service Center and a lot of our harbors," he said. "I want to stay on and see Wrangell's continued growth."

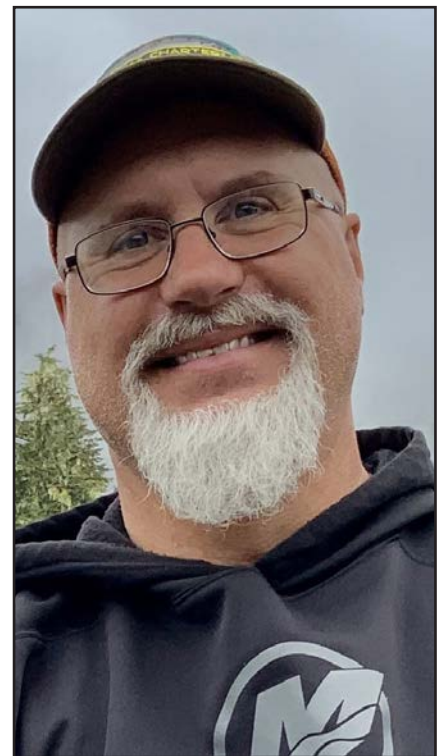
Yeager has served on the commission for six terms already, totaling 12 years. He believes that the borough's marine industry workforce is among the best in Alaska and hopes to promote their boat services to customers throughout Southeast and the Pacific Northwest.

He is one of two candidates running for two seats in the Oct. 4 municipal election. Both he and Winston Davies are guaranteed to win.

While he believes economic expansion will be an important part of Wrangell's future, he hopes the borough will expand strategically, to avoid overwhelming residents and retailers. "Wrangell is a very welcoming community for the independent traveler and yachter," he explained, and he wants to play a role in the continued development of those industries.

Like many of Wrangell's commissions and boards, the biggest problem facing the port commission in the coming years will be its budget, Yeager said. Updating harbors and providing a wide variety of quality services are essential for the port commission to keep up with its competitors. But continuous maintenance comes at a price, and the commission is always cobbling funds together from a combination of grant money and moorage fees.

"The Reliance and Inner Harbor



COURTESY PHOTO

John Yeager is running for reelection to the port commission.

are the next ones on our list to start working on," said Yeager. "The longer we wait down the road, the harder and more expensive it will be to repair. You are never ever caught up."

The cost of building a new harbor is twice as much as it was 15 years ago, and the port commission deals with a constant cycle of repairs at a constantly increasing cost. However, Yeager is proud to be working with a qualified team of commissioners. "Our harbormaster is doing a great job at keeping his eye on potential funding opportunities," he said.

"I really look forward to getting to work for the community," he said, "and hope to keep things moving in a positive direction for Wrangell."

Alaska, Canada tribal members talk of shared interests in protecting rivers

Sentinel staff

Tribal members from both sides of the U.S.-Canada border — the headwaters and downstream region of the Stikine River — talked about strengthening their relationship when they met at the recent Sharing Our Knowledge conference in Wrangell.

One of the common interests bringing the Indigenous people together is their concern for the river — protecting and preserving its salmon runs that have fed tribal members for generations.

The discussions during the conference were about "connecting and cementing those relationships," said Christie Jamieson,

assistant executive director of the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission.

The organization is campaigning for a permanent ban on toxic mine waste dams and a temporary halt to mining in Canada near the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers that start in Canada and flow through Alas-

ka to the sea.

About 200 people traveled to Wrangell for the conference of Tlingit-Haida-Tsimshian tribes and clans Sept. 7-11. The attendees included Kirby Muldoe "Hup Wil Lax A," of Tsimshian and Gitksan descent from New Hazelton, British Columbia, and Guujaaw "Gidandsa Giindajin

Haawasti Guujaaw," the hereditary leader of Haida Gwaii, also of British Columbia.

The two Canadian tribal leaders — along with Jamieson and Elizabeth Peterson, both descendants of the last Tlingit Chief Shakes — spoke at an event the first night of the conference. "The focus was on rebuilding relationships between the headwater First Nations and the downstream Alaska tribes sharing the Stikine River," the transboundary commission said in a prepared statement.

The commission's executive director, Guy Archibald, presented on the second day of the conference, talking about protecting food resources and an upcoming Wrangell seafood consumption survey. "Collecting this data is critical to support setting water quality criteria stringent enough to protect the health of tribal citizens who eat a lot of seafood, and also to protect the continued abundance of these food sources for future generations," the commission said in its statement.

Transboundary commission members also met with the Taku River Tlingit First Nations Land Guardian program and a delegation representing the Teslin Tlingit Council from Canada's Yukon Territory.

In its continuing effort to learn more about mining near transboundary rivers, Jamieson said she and others from the commission planned to attend a mining conference of the Upper Columbia United Tribes this week in Wenatchee, Washington.



Wrangell Voyage Schedule Change

A reminder for all AML customers: our barge service to Wrangell will begin departing Seattle on Friday (rather than Wednesday) beginning with voyage **S2412** on Friday, **October 7**. Cargo availability in Wrangell will be the following Wednesday.

Please visit www.shipaml.com for our current sailing schedules. If you have any questions, please email amlcsc@lynden.com or call **907-874-3314**.

Thank you for your continued support!



Ashton wants stronger partnerships with schools

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Esther Ashton sees an opportunity to strengthen partnerships between the school district and entities such as the borough and U.S. Forest Service. She is running unopposed for a one-year seat on the school board.

Ashton, 45, is the tribal administrator for the Wrangell Cooperative Association and had held the position for five years. She's been with the WCA since 2014. She has also served on multiple parent committees and is the chair for the Indian Education Committee.

In the past, she was on the board of directors for a women's shelter in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and volunteered with that city's chamber of commerce.

Collaboration and communication are the two areas she wants to see changed during her time on the school board.

"I would like to see increased communication between the school board, the administration, the parents and the community," Ashton said. "I'd like to see more partnerships and collaboration

with other entities in the community."

Ashton also wants to promote the longevity of staff, "retaining those important staff members."

She would also like to see more family involvement in school activities. She said the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the ability for families to be involved in their children's educational activities for safety reasons.

"I'd like to encourage a change for the ability for more family involvement, but safely," Ashton said.

She'd also like to see an increase in cultural components within the school curriculum.

Above any other issues, Ashton believes the budget is the most pressing challenge.

"I see the budget as the largest challenge, which is one of the reasons I decided to run because I feel like as the tribal administrator for the Wrangell Cooperative Association, we partner so well with different entities in the community and we have access to pots of funding that other entities might not have access to," she said. "We have some great collaborative movement with the city, with the Forest Service, and I think bringing the schools in to collaborate with the tribe to find additional funding and help with the budget is just going to be really beneficial."



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Esther Ashton is running for her first term on the school board.

Roundtree focused on budget and school lunches

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Elizabeth Roundtree is running for her first term on the school board.

Elizabeth Roundtree is running for one of two three-year seats on the Wrangell school board, and her main focus is creating more opportunities for students through funding.

One of her main concerns, like many involved with the schools, is the budget. That, and lunches. Roundtree, who went to school for accounting and is now the office administrator for Wrangell IGA, wants to find solutions to keep the school funded.

Declining enrollment has reduced state funding for the schools, creating holes in the district budget.

"I want to dig into the accounting of it all and figure out school lunches," she said. "We spend all this money, and I know some of the lunches are like a slice a pizza. That was one of the things I was talking to the superintendent (Bill Burr) about; seeing if there was a way to bring some more healthy choices."

Roundtree, 36, believes there is another way to bring in healthier alternatives and wants to work

with others on the board and in the district to figure out what that might be.

Roundtree and member David Wilson are the only two candidates on the ballot for the two seats.

She also wants to make sure extracurricular activities remain available for students, as she believes it helps children discover new opportunities as it has with her two daughters.

"I don't want the artistic kids to lose out on the experience because of funding," Roundtree said. "I don't think there's any threat to it at the moment, but it would be good to make sure it's something that sticks around."

Roundtree has worked for a year as a paraprofessional for the schools, and she sees a lack of paraprofessionals and substitutes and staff retention as other challenges the district is faced with.

"The last five years that I've been here (in Wrangell) it's been an issue," she said. "We moved here in 2017 and it's always been, 'We don't have enough substitutes.' ... It's definitely something we need to dig into and find out why people don't want to do the job."

Wilson wants to explore more funding for schools

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

David Wilson has served two three-year terms on the Wrangell school board and is seeking re-election for a third. He is serving as board president during his second term.

Since being elected to the board, Wilson, 67, said he believes the schools are "headed in the right direction," despite the challenges the schools face. When he originally ran for the board, the semi-retired cabinet maker said he was unhappy with how things were being run in the schools.

"I wanted to see our education improve," he said. "I thought we were heading in the wrong direction. I wanted to be a part

of trying to inspire or redirect things. Then we changed leadership (the superintendent) and that didn't change things. Then we changed leadership again. Now, we've got a whole new leadership team and we're headed in a much better direction."

Along with his time on the board, Wilson has also been a paraprofessional, a librarian, a football and baseball coach and is married to teacher Arlene Wilson for 41 years.

He would like to see the district work toward getting creative with funding and strengthen its collaborations with other entities such as the Wrangell borough.

"We need to get creative in our funding and try to find more

funding," Wilson said. "We've been looking at a few things. What can we do to increase funding? What can we do to ... utilize what we do have to the best degree? We used to have a higher student population, so we had a lot more teachers, a lot

more programs. I would like to see us try to bring back some of what we used to have."

Along with funding, Wilson said another focus for the coming year is the curriculum and strategic plan.

"One of the things we're going

to be working really hard on this year is going to be our curriculum development. That will be ongoing," he said. "We've had a strategic plan that we're going to be reviewing. We're going to see if it's something we're going to continue with or revising."

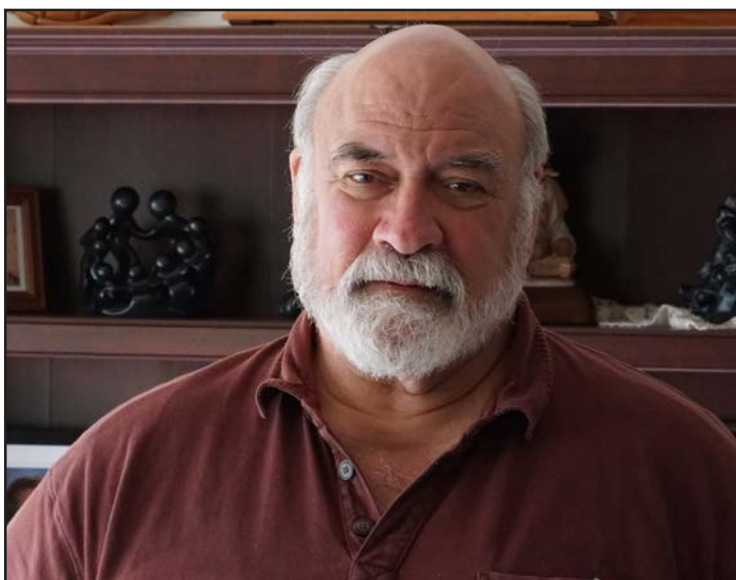


PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

David Wilson is running for another term on the school board.



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

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

Some of the positions we are currently recruiting for are:

- Passenger Service Workers; Stewards & Purser's
- Unlicensed Engine Personnel; Oilers & Jr Engineers
- Licensed Deck Officers
- Able Bodied Seaman
- Marine Engineers

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

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment

Gilbert runs for mayor to improve infrastructure and economy

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

After nine years in public service across four different councils, commissions and committees, Patty Gilbert is running for Wrangell's highest elected office.

Gilbert is a retired math and science teacher who left the Wrangell School District in 2018 after 23 years. The mayoral candidate has since served in a wide variety of government organizations, including the borough assembly, where she is vice mayor, and the school board, where she served a two-year term as vice president. She also sits on the municipal code committee and the investment committee.

During her time in office, she has advocated for an annual review of user fees to prevent steep, unexpected fee hikes, and supported expansion of the cemetery's capacity by purchasing a new columbarium.

She also pushed to amend the assembly's bylaws to ensure that any agenda item regarding an expenditure of \$25,000 or more must be fully vetted by the assembly. Supporters of this change say it increases government transparency; detractors say it lengthens assembly meetings unnecessarily.

If elected, Gilbert's primary focuses will be infrastructure and economy. By improving and properly maintaining infrastructure — or, as she calls it, the "bones" of the community — Wrangell will be better equipped to accommodate expansions in tourism, industry and housing that the borough so desperately needs, she said.

Gilbert's big-ticket infrastructure goals include upgrading the backup diesel power plant, stabilizing the upper water reservoir dam and expanding the capacity of the water treatment plant. She also



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Patty Gilbert is running for mayor.

has a series of smaller-scale fixes on her list, from repairing the City Park pavilion to installing public restrooms, which she believes will become necessary as Wrangell seeks to attract more tourists to the island.

"We can no longer afford to wait," she said. "We have no other option but to improve our infrastructure."

However, she recognizes that pandemic price hikes, transportation delays and supply chain issues have made it extremely difficult to carry out infrastructure improvement projects. By planning repairs far in advance, Gilbert believes the borough can deal with these pandemic-era difficulties. "One thing to overcome the supply problems ... is to plan early," she said. "Get the materials now and be ready to roll when the weather permits."

Gilbert's economic plan centers around getting borough land into private

ownership, where it can be developed into industry and housing to attract and support workers. "We have to move (the hospital property)," she said, "reach outside of Alaska, get it out of the borough's hands, whatever it takes." She also supports developing the former Wrangell Institute property.

For Gilbert, infrastructure improvement and economic development are intrinsically linked. Expanding the capacity of the water treatment plant, for example, would allow the borough to support more housing, which could attract more workers.

Gilbert supports collaboration, both within Wrangell and with communities throughout Southeast. A partnership between the borough, the Wrangell Cooperative Association, and Evergreen Elementary could provide necessary child care services that would free up parents and guardians hoping to reenter the workforce.

Despite her many years of experience in municipal government, Gilbert is quick to admit that she "(doesn't) have all the answers," which is why she prioritizes collaboration and community input. She hopes to increase government transparency, encourage dialogue and "earn the public's trust" in office by communicating the borough's goals and accomplishments more clearly.

She identified the bond issues as an area where trust and good communication are essential. In the upcoming municipal election, the borough will seek voter approval for bonds to finance repairs at the schools and Public Safety Building. But community members have expressed disappointment at the borough for letting the buildings deteriorate. "We have to earn the public's trust that we're going to maintain (them)," she said.

As the borough assembly prepared to put the bond issues to a public vote, Gilbert continued to push for transparency. She asked the borough to provide taxpayers with an estimate of how the bonds might affect community property taxes — for each \$100,000 of assessed property value, taxpayers could be obligated to pay an additional \$112 per year to repay the debt on the Public Safety Building work.

However, Gilbert acknowledges that this metric is imperfect. Due to the ongoing property reassessment in Wrangell, many residents do not yet know what the assessed value of their properties will be in the upcoming fiscal year. Financing the repairs, she said, comes with inherent uncertainty for residents. "That's a factor we just have to face."

Regardless, she believes that the repairs are necessary, and plans to vote yes on the bond issues at the Oct. 4 municipal election.

Mayoral candidate Courson declines interviews with news media

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Terry Courson, a firearms instructor and retired police

officer, is running for borough mayor. Though he declined interviews with KSTK and the Sentinel, he has posted flyers around Wrangell outlining his

stances and experience.

Courson served on the borough assembly from 2020 to 2021. He is a fiscal conservative and plans to vote no on the bond

issues on the Oct. 4 municipal election ballot, which would finance repairs at the schools and Public Safety Building.

Officials believe that the borough can cover the annual debt payment on the \$3.5 million in school repair bonds using higher sales tax revenues and federal aid — not property taxes. If the Public Safety Building repair bond is approved, homeowners would pay an estimated \$112 more in annual property taxes per \$100,000 of assessed property value, according to borough figures.

Courson supports moving borough property into private ownership. "I intend to get borough-owned real estate back into other hands and back on the tax rolls," he said in his flyer.

He believes Wrangell's most important industries are tourism and fishing and would like to identify "new innovative sources of revenue" to diversify the borough economy. He called the Wrangell Medical Center and the U.S. Forest Service "tertiary industries" that he will try to support as well.

AK-TRAILS Homeschool/ Correspondence Program

We are a guide to your child's education, but YOU choose the path to follow!

Serving Grades Pre-K through 12

AK Trails Offers:

- ❖ Generous allotments!
- ❖ Highly individualized course choices!
- ❖ Opportunities for students to participate in **sports or other activities** at any SISD School!
- ❖ The use of free, district provided technology!
- ❖ Dual credit and credit recovery options!

Enroll for 2022-23!

To learn more, visit
<https://www.sisd.org/o/aktrails>
or Contact AK-TRAILS
Coordinator
Cassandra Christopherson at
cchristopherson@sisd.org

Quotes from 2021-22 Families:

"My students like the freedom the schedule provides. They are able to spend more time with family, go on field trips when the weather permits, and experience more real life learning examples--all while still having the opportunity for social interaction through district sponsored sports and other activities."

"I received a lot of support for the academic side of the curricula. I am happy that the support helped me to stay on-target for making sure my daughter was learning the concepts for her grade level. I was always able to reach out and get clarification. The reimbursement process was pretty simple, too."

"I appreciate the support and encouragement that our AK-TRAILS guide gives. It has been such a great thing for us...we love the AK Trails program!"

Boys cross country team finishes third in Juneau

Sentinel staff

The Wrangell High School boys cross country team ran into a third-place finish last Saturday in Juneau at the Capital City Invitational.

Eight runners made up the group, with sophomore Daniel Harrison leading his team, finishing fifth out of 143 competitors. The team finished behind Sitka (first place) and Juneau-Douglas (second place).

Harrison finished with a time of 16:59.27. Senior Ethan Blatchley finished 11th at 17:48.17; senior Devlyn Campbell finished 12th at 17:49.11; freshman Boomchain Loucks finished 14th at 17:50.92; senior Elias Decker finished 19th at 18:06.89; freshman Ian Nelson finished

35th at 19:07.61; freshman Jackson Powers finished 52nd at 19:46.99; and sophomore Maxwell Lloyd finished 116th at 24:48.74.

"The boys did great," said head coach Kayla Rooney. "(I'm) unbelievably proud of them and the work they have been putting in and continue to put in. Daniel had a good race. He stuck with the Sitka boys the entire race. Ethan had a very strong race, staying with Devlyn and Boomchain in a group ... which we have been working on."

The girls team of Mia Wiederpohn and Miranda Ridgeway did not compete.

The Wrangell team is scheduled to travel on Saturday to Sitka for regionals.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Subscribe to
the Sentinel today
and stay up to date.

Call 907-874-2301

to subscribe to the print or online version

State requests 100% federal disaster funding to pay storm costs

BY YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Alaska officials are asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide 100% of the funds necessary for Western Alaska communities to recover from damages inflicted by Typhoon Merbok. That would match the 100% funding that was committed to help Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Fiona in President Joe Biden's federal disaster declaration.

Typically, FEMA covers 75% of disaster-relief costs, leaving the remainder to be matched by state, local or tribal governments.

For Western Alaska, "we feel that that's just not acceptable, particularly with how fast we need to move and the status of the communities out there." Bryan Fisher, director of the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said at a Sept. 22 news conference held by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

Along with the Dunleavy administration, which has submitted a request for a presidential disaster declaration, the Alaska congressional delegation argued the case for 100% cost coverage in a letter sent last Thursday to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. The three-member delegation cited socioeconomic factors in the rural region as well as the rapid approach of winter.

The typhoon-driven winds and flooding Sept. 17 slammed a 1,000-mile swath of coastline.

The coastal communities affected by Typhoon Merbok are "experiencing high levels of unemployment and poverty, and it is likely that many homes are not insured against the losses experienced. Additionally, the cost of providing immediate temporary housing will impede the financing available for housing construction," the letter said.

"As you consider requests for storm recovery funding and cost shares across the nation, including for Puerto Rico ... we expect you to deliver an equitable decision in Alaska," the letter said.

Criswell, who has been in Puerto Rico, is traveling to Alaska herself to survey the damage.

In case the 100% coverage is not provided immediately by FEMA, the governor has requested \$10 million from a state emergency fund, Fisher said.

As winter freeze approaches and is expected to arrive in Western Alaska in about four weeks, the speed of federal aid is critical, officials said.

Dunleavy, at his news conference, said he made that point earlier in the day in a phone call with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

"I just said to him, 'Look, the damage may not be as extensive as in Puerto Rico or some of the other places

where they have hurricanes. But it's our timeline that's the issue. It's our remoteness that's the issue. It's our lack of infrastructure that's the issue,'" Dunleavy said.

President Joseph Biden last Friday approved the state's request for a major disaster declaration from the recent storms that battered Western Alaska, unlocking additional aid to help communities with their ongoing recovery efforts.

"Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster," reads the declaration. It does not address the state's request for 100% funding.

According to the Department of Transportation, the state has secured federal highway relief funds, and is making \$15 million available for contractors to begin repair work to roads.

In addition, the Interior Department is allocating \$2.6 million through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to 45 communities for purchasing food, water and other critical supplies.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

Skagway looks for solution to rockslides that shut down largest cruise ship berth

MIKE SWASEY
KHNS radio, Haines

The busy cruise ship town of Skagway is looking for a solution to the rockslides that continue to roll down on its largest cruise ship dock. It also hopes to prevent a major rockslide that experts are calling inevitable.

And as winter approaches, the window to execute a workable solution gets smaller and smaller.

The forward berth of the town's largest cruise ship dock was shut down earlier this summer, about a week before a large slide hit the area. The town has been operating only three out of four berths ever since. That has resulted in the loss of about 125,000 passengers this season.

If the community wants to return to hosting four ships at a time in 2023, it has less than seven months to fix the problem.

Geotechnical engineering firm Shannon and Wilson made its initial pitch to address the slides at the borough assembly's Sept. 1 meeting. Anchorage-based Geotechnical Engineer, Kyle Brennan's tone was hopeful but realistic. "It's a complicated issue, and time is not helping," he said.

He said there are about 40,000 to 60,000 cubic yards of rock that need to be moved off the mountainside to prevent major and minor rockslides. The process would involve hauling equipment to the top, digging out the rock, moving it up over the top of the hillside and dumping the material out of the way in a safe spot, then repeating the process as the equipment moves down the slope until it is completed.

Brennan said there are two problems: One is the ongoing smaller rockslides, of which there have been several over the past few weeks. The oth-

er is the large unstable mass at the top of the slope that he said will eventually release and destroy the area below the slide zone — and potentially much more if left untouched.

"What we're trying to do is twofold. One, remove this very large hazard. But also, by doing so, we should greatly reduce the amount of rock fall that's produced along the slope because we no longer have that moving rock mass," Brennan said. "The rock fall hazard will never go away completely because you have a steep rock slope, and steep rock slopes over time generate rock fall occasionally, but the frequency of those rockfalls should be reduced dramatically."

Brennan said his firm will have preliminary design plans for mitigation completed soon, which would allow filing for permits and grants. But even if those plans are ready by mid-September, it's not likely that permits would be ap-

proved before mid-winter.

"If we can get that contractor on early, you know, there are certain components of the project that maybe they can start that don't really rely so much on the permitting: staging equipment, establishing access, maybe doing some work to prep the upslope disposal site for the rock," he said.

That may include improving road access to Lower Dewey Lake to get large excavators and dump trucks to the construction site.

Assemblymember Orion Hanson suggested progress needs to start on those developments immediately. "Any suggestion of a helicopter getting a 70,000-(pound) excavator up that mountain seems completely impossible to me," Hanson said.

And without helicopter-assisted access, road work would need to begin before the winter freeze.

State proposes making it easier to grade Alaska lumber for local use

Alaska Beacon

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is preparing a new program that would allow Alaska sawmills to sell lumber for local construction without having that wood graded for quality by an Outside inspector.

The program was announced by Alaska State Forester Helge Eng on Sept. 13 at Southeast Conference, a gathering of Southeast Alaska political and business leaders.

Eng said the program, which may take two years to implement, would encourage the growth of Alaska's lumber industry by making it easier to use locally produced lumber.

Many residential building codes require lumber be graded for strength and quality by a national organization before being used in

construction.

As planned by the state, the first phase of the program would allow builders to use ungraded lumber in some construction projects, if local building code officials approve. In a second phase, the state would set up a program to train sawmill operators to grade their own lumber for quality, expanding the possible uses.

Eng said the cost of bringing an Outside grader to Alaska is prohibitive for small sawmills.

Seven states, including Wisconsin and New Hampshire, have laws or regulations similar to the system proposed by Alaska.

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting public input on the proposal. It expects that it will take at least one year, and likely longer, to develop regulations for the program.

It all adds up!

25% off
all ads in the Oct. 12 Sentinel
that promote Wrangell's
Tax-Free Day
Oct. 15

Shoppers get a break that day and the
Sentinel wants to give businesses a break too
Call, email or visit Amber at the Sentinel to order your ad
Deadline to order your ad is noon Friday, Oct. 7

N K ELECTRIC

Here to serve all
your electrical needs

COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

907-874-2770, #21633

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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



Walker, Gara say new revenues needed to pay for public services, projects

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

In a Sept. 21 candidate forum hosted in Fairbanks by the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Democratic governor candidate Les Gara and independent candidate Bill Walker said that if elected they would seek new state revenue to pay for a variety of projects and reverse years of cuts to state services.

Both men are seeking to unseat incumbent Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who has advocated cuts to public services and opposes any new taxes unless approved by a statewide vote of the public.

Also competing in the Nov. 8 general election is Republican candidate Charlie Pierce. Neither Dunleavy nor Pierce appeared at the forum. Pierce did not respond to invitations from the Alaska or Fairbanks chambers, and Dunleavy was touring storm damage in Western Alaska.

Dunleavy finished first in the Aug. 16 statewide primary, followed by Gara and Walker. The incumbent's absence left his challengers with an open forum.

"This is a state that 20,000 more people have left in the last three years under this governor than have moved here," Gara said, explaining the need for a change in

policy. More people have left Alaska than have moved to the state for nine years in row, 2013-2021.

"Part of that has been the decimation of the capital and construction budget that puts people to work," Gara said.

Thanks to a surge in oil prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Alaska lawmakers this spring approved almost \$1 billion in state spending on renovation and construction projects statewide. That's a huge change from recent years, when the state spent as little as \$107 million.

Gara and Walker each said the state needs a stable fiscal plan in order to reliably pay for services, including construction and maintenance. Counting on the Russian invasion isn't a fiscal strategy, Gara said.

During the debate, a member of the audience asked what the candidates would do to address the closures of bathrooms at roadside highway pullouts. The question garnered quiet laughter from some attendees, but Gara and Walker addressed it earnestly.

"That started on my watch," Walker said, speaking about his first term in office. During that term, which ran from 2014 through 2018, oil prices plummeted and Walker directed service cuts, including to the maintenance of roadside bathrooms.

That made many Alaskans unhappy. "I found out how many people in Valdez had my cell phone number," Walker said, drawing laughs.

"But that's a terrible message to send to our visitors, and it is a terrible burden on the roadhouses," he said.

"We need to stop being a 19th century state," Gara said of the closures. "We need to bring sanitation across the state. We need to have the amenities that people love in the state, that make people want to live here. And that is not free."

Another member of the audience asked the obvious follow-up question: How will they pay for their ideas?

Gara's proposal is to change the state's oil production tax laws to eliminate a system of credits paid to producers. Doing so, he said, could save up to \$1.2 billion per year and free up revenue for a variety of programs.

"We should be equal partners with our oil industry. They're good neighbors, but right now, we're junior partners," he said.

Though Dunleavy was not present, he has advocated cuts to services and opposes even small tax increases without a statewide vote. This year, when the Legislature voted to impose a tax on e-cigarettes, Dunleavy vetoed it.

Walker said he thinks a "hard look" at the oil tax credits is warranted, but he doesn't want to promise something he can't deliver. A proposal similar to Gara's failed to receive a hearing in the Legislature this year, he noted, and legislative action would be needed to implement Gara's proposal.

Walker said he prefers multiple smaller revenue changes rather than "pulling one lever all the way down." He said he would support "broad-based revenue options," a term that some legislators have used as a euphemism for a statewide income tax or sales tax.

"You know, there's only so many ways you can earn revenue for our government," Walker said. "One is resources, which we've been doing. And the other is to capture some sort of sales or income taxes, some sort of use tax, something seasonal."

During his prior term as governor, "we talked about a seasonal sales tax. We looked at everything under the sun, and it's just a matter of what is palatable to the Legislature that we can work collaboratively and get through," he said.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. Alaskabeacon.com.

EPA will not decide on proposed restrictions that would block Pebble mine until Dec. 2

JUNEAU (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is extending until Dec. 2 the timeline to decide whether to proceed with proposed restrictions that would block plans for the contro-

versial Pebble copper and gold mine in Alaska's salmon-rich Bristol Bay region.

The agency, in a recent notice, said this would "help ensure full consideration of the extensive

administrative record, including all public comments." The public comment period ended Sept. 6.

The EPA earlier this year released a proposal that it said would bar discharges of dredged

or fill material into the waters of the U.S. within the mine footprint proposed by the Pebble Limited Partnership, the developer pursuing the mining project. The agency's regional administrator now must decide whether to withdraw the proposed restrictions or to advance to a higher level in the agency a recommendation on restrictions or prohibitions.

The debate over the proposed mine in a region known for its salmon runs has spanned several presidential administrations. The Bristol Bay region supports the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world and also contains significant mineral resources.

John Shively, CEO of the Pebble partnership, in a statement Sept. 7 suggested any EPA veto

of the project would likely be contested in court.

"The EPA's proposed veto of Pebble is legally, environmentally and technically unsupported," he said.

The Pebble partnership, owned by Canada-based Northern Dynasty Minerals, is appealing a decision from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Trump administration in 2020 that denied approval of a key permit for the project in Southwest Alaska. An Army Corps environmental review of the project several months earlier was favorable to the development.

Mine opponents have been pressing the EPA to provide protections against large-scale mining in the region.

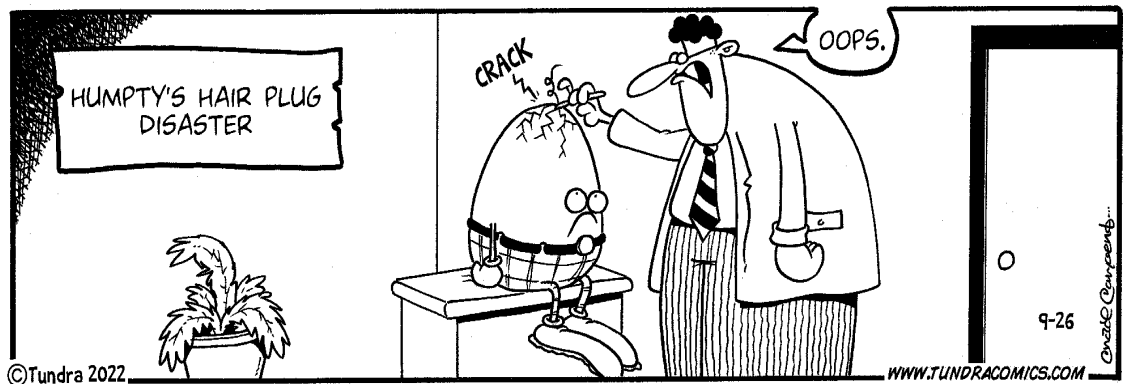
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, Sept. 19
Report of drunk driver.
Paper service.
Reckless driving.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Summons service.
Citizen assist: Vehicle unlocked.
Hazardous play.
Agency assist: Violating conditions of release.

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Report of drunk driver.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Pre-trial.
Violating conditions of release.

Wednesday, Sept. 21
Found property.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Parking complaint.
Agency assist: Transportation Security Administration.
Extra patrols.
Reckless driving.
Agency assist: Fire Department.

Thursday, Sept. 22
Agency assist: Pre-trial.
Citizen assist.

Agency assist: Harbor Department.
Citizen assist: Vehicle unlock.

Friday, Sept. 23
Civil issue.
Citizen assist.
Suspicious activity.
Citizen assist: Vehicle unlock.
Citizen assist.

Saturday, Sept. 24
Traffic stop.
Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
Traffic: Speeding.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for violation of provisional license.
Trespass.

Sunday, Sept. 25
Nothing to report.

There were five agency assists with the Hoonah Police Department, four traffic stops, and four traffic stops with citations issued for failure to provide proof of insurance during this reporting period.

ATTENTION SALMON FISHERS

The Board of Directors of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. seeks nominations for the following three (3) year seats:

- Seine - 1 Seat
- Gillnet - 1 Seat
- Power Troll - 2 Seats

Nominations must be in writing and include the permit holder's name, address, vessel name, phone number and a brief statement. Nominees must be "active" Southern Southeast Commercial Salmon permit holders. Permit holders should nominate person from their own gear groups.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
SSRAA, 14 BORCH STREET
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Or email: summerp@ssraa.org
For further information call (907) 225-9605
Deadline: 10/20/22

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED
Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following extracurricular positions for the 2022-2023 school year:

- High School Assistant Volleyball Coach
- High School Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Middle School Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach
- Middle School Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Freshmen Class Adviser
- Sophomore Class Adviser
- Junior Class Adviser
- Elementary Student Council Adviser

Contact the district office at 907-874-2347 for more information. Positions are open until filled. It is the Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

TRUCK FOR SALE
2002 Chevy Silverado 4-wheel-drive, 95,000 miles, new tires. \$8,000. Call or text 907-660-7569.

TABLE FOR SALE
New raised dining table for

sale. 36 inches tall, 42 inches across, with an 18-inch leaf. Lower linen/dish cubby. Originally \$1,200. Selling for \$400. Call or text 907-660-7139.

BOAT FOR SALE
32-foot Rawson Volvo Tamo-70. \$45,000 with hand troll permit or \$35,000 without hand troll permit. 907-305-0901.

FOR SALE
Monitor 441 heater, complete, \$600 obo. Kolstrand power

2-spool gurdy with wire, \$600 obo. Call 907-305-0901.

LAWN MOWER WANTED
Looking for a heavy-duty or industrial-grade lawn mower. Call or text 907-660-7139.

HOUSING WANTED
Looking for a trailer or fixer-upper home. Call or text 907-738-4883.

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

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

ABSENTEE VOTING for the Regular Borough Election, to be held Oct. 4, 2022, begins on MONDAY, Sept. 19, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at City Hall.

Qualified Voters may vote an Absentee Ballot until Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at 4 p.m. for the Regular Borough Election.

For those voters who cannot VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON, you may submit an application to have your ballot mailed or faxed to you.

Please stop by the Borough's Clerks Office to apply.

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

Publish Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 2022

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

**YOU CAN'T
BEAT FREE**

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

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

Limited to 30 words and two weeks in the paper

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

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

For the upcoming City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Election of Oct. 4, 2022, the following ordinance applies:

2.16.030 Write-in Candidates and Write-in Votes. Individuals who fail to file a declaration of candidacy but wish to run for office as a write-in candidate must file with the borough clerk a letter of intent no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election (Sept. 30, 2022) in which the candidate plans to participate.

Write-in votes cast for individuals who do not file a letter of intent will not be counted.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must, in space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the letter of intent filed with the borough clerk. In addition, the voter must mark the oval opposite the candidate's name.

Stickers shall not be used.

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

Publish Sept. 14, 21 and 28, 2022

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE
City Board and Committee Vacancies**

Persons interested in serving on the following City Boards and Committees, please submit your Letter of Interest to the Office of the Borough Clerk, City and Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929. You can also email your Letter of Interest to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com.

Deadline for Letters of Interest is 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, for the following vacancies:

- Planning and Zoning Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board: One seat, for 3-year term
- Wrangell Convention and Visitors Bureau: Two seats, for 2-year terms
- Economic Development Committee: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Investment Committee: One seat, for 1-year term

Appointments will be made at the Oct. 11, 2022, Regular Assembly meeting. A copy of the code chapter for any of the above boards and commissions can be obtained by contacting the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com

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

Publish Sept. 21 and 28, 2022

**STATE of ALASKA
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE
Whale Pass Timber Sale (SSE-1378-K)
Draft Forest Land Use Plan**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF), gives formal notice per AS 38.05.945 that the Division proposes to adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) under AS 38.05.112 and the administrative standards of AS 41.17.060 for the commercial timber sale: Whale Pass Timber Sale (SSE-1378-K).

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

The harvest units total approximately 292 acres and contain approximately 5,000 MBF of timber. This volume will be sold under provisions of AS 38.05.115 or AS 38.05.118, in the form of one or multiple sales. The sale(s) will require in-state manufacture and will be negotiated contract(s).

The FLUP is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 292 acres and the management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DOF before the proposed activity can occur. This FLUP does not determine whether or not to access and sell timber within the timber sale area, nor the method of sale. Those decisions have been made previously in the May 13, 2022, Best Interest Finding and are not appealable under this FLUP.

The public is invited to comment on the FLUP. Comments should be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, AK 99901. Comments must be received at the Division of Forestry office no later than Oct. 17, 2022, in order to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the adopted FLUP a person must have provided written comment by Oct. 17, 2022.

For more information or to submit comments contact:

Alaska Division of Forestry
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Greg Staunton
Phone: (907) 225-3070
Email: greg.staunton@alaska.gov

Copies of the FLUP are available for review at the division's Area Office, the division's website along with the community libraries in Thorne Bay, Craig, Whale Pass and Ketchikan, and at the State Online Public Notice System at <http://notice.alaska.gov/208122>.

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

Publish Sept. 21 and 28, 2022

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of October 2022, in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Local Election will be held for the purpose of voting on the following Borough Official positions and propositions.

Borough Mayor:	One seat, for-2 year terms
Borough Assembly:	Two seats, for 3-year terms
School Board:	Two seats, for 3-year terms
School Board:	One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2023
Port Commission:	Two seats, for 3-year terms

PROPOSITION NO. 1
Ratification of Ordinance 1029
General obligation bonds for major renovation of middle school, high school and elementary school

PROPOSITION NO. 2
Ratification of Ordinance 1030
General obligation bonds for major renovation of Public Safety Building

PROPOSITION 3
Ratification of Ordinance 1031
Sale and/or Lease of the 6-Mile Zimovia Highway (former Mill Site Property)

The polls for said election will be open at 8 a.m. on the said day and will close at 8 p.m. on the same day.

Each voter must have the qualifications prescribed by state law. A qualified voter shall vote only once per election and shall exercise that right at the polling place established in the designated Wrangell Precinct (James and Elsie Nolan Museum/Civic Center) and in which he/she resides within the borough boundaries of the City and Borough of Wrangell.

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

Publish Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022

Alaska Native organizations receive \$35 million for education programs

BY CLARISE LARSON
Juneau Empire

Millions of federal dollars are going to Alaska Native organizations and entities across the state for education projects.

The U.S. Department of Education has announced it awarded funds totaling more than \$35 million dispersed over three years to support Alaska Native education programs statewide.

Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

were among the 30 organizations that were awarded the funds.

The program aims to improve curricula, education programs and education needs for Alaska Native students across the state, and can also go toward training for educators, early childhood and parent outreach and other similar programs.

“Every Alaska Native student — in rural and remote villages, in regional hubs, and in urban centers — should have access to high-quality and culturally responsive educational opportuni-

ties. These projects help fulfill that obligation by supporting existing partnerships between students, families, schools, and Alaska Native organizations,” U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in a prepared statement Sept. 2.

Sealaska Heritage received four separate grants totaling close to \$9 million.

“We will be using them in multiple areas in partnership with the Juneau and other school districts, tribes and tribal organizations, and the University of Alaska Southeast to regain ground in the academic

progress we had been making,” Lee Kadinger, chief operating officer at Sealaska Heritage, said in a prepared statement.

“Through the past years we have learned that integrating Native language and culture into schools has promoted the academic success of Native students and improved school retention,” Kadinger said.

One of the new programs Sealaska Heritage plans to use the money for is furthering its work in integrating traditional ecological knowledge into the sciences,

which Kadinger said he hopes will lead to an increase in the number of Alaska Native people in science and engineering.

Tlingit and Haida Central Council President Richard Chalyee Eesh Peterson said the more than \$1.2 million it received will be used to help increase the tribe’s Tlingit language immersion efforts, nurture the reemergence of Tlingit and Haida languages through future generations, and develop online educational resources for all tribal citizens and language learners.

Judge says Oath Keepers’ member likely ineligible to serve in Legislature

BY SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

An Anchorage judge said last Thursday that based on the limited evidence presented, Wasilla Republican Rep. David Eastman is likely ineligible to hold public office, but his name will stay on the general election ballot until a trial scheduled for December is held.

Former Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assemblymember Randall Kowalke, who filed the lawsuit, has argued Eastman’s membership in the Oath Keepers runs afoul of the state Constitution’s disloyalty clause, which bars a person from holding public office in Alaska who advocates for the overthrow by force of the U.S. or state government. The leader of the Oath Keepers and several affiliates have been charged or indicted relat-

ed to their participation in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Judge Jack McKenna granted the preliminary injunction last Thursday, and said based on the evidence presented Kowalke would likely succeed in arguing that Eastman is a member of the Oath Keepers, that the group is active, and that it is presently seeking to overthrow the U.S. government.

But, McKenna said, “the court emphasizes that this analysis is based upon a limited record and after the testimony of no witnesses, and it does not represent a final decision in this case.”

Kowalke had asked for Eastman’s name to be struck off the ballot, but Eastman’s attorney Joe Miller, former Republican U.S. Senate candidate, raised concerns during oral arguments Sept. 20 that kicking Eastman off the ballot would disenfranchise Wasilla voters, a majority of whom

have consistently voted for the Republican, most recently in August’s primary election.

Conversely, Savannah Fletcher, Kowalke’s attorney, said keeping Eastman’s name on the ballot could also disenfranchise voters if he is deemed ineligible to hold public office after the election because the governor would choose a replacement.

McKenna agreed that the risks of disenfranchisement are a concern. He said that striking Eastman’s name off the ballot now would effectively mean that the Wasilla Republican was barred from holding public office because he would not have a chance to be reelected.

“(He) would lose at the outset of the case before he had a full and fair opportunity to defend himself,” McKenna said.

Instead, the Anchorage judge or-

dered that the certification of election results for House District 27 in Wasilla will be delayed until after the December trial finishes. The Division of Elections’ target date for certifying all other election results is Nov. 29, three weeks after the Nov. 8 general election.

If Eastman wins the election, and is deemed eligible to hold public office, he can be seated in the House of Representatives in January. If he wins reelection and is deemed ineligible to hold public office, the Alaska Division of Elections can exclude Eastman from the ranked choice voting tabulation process, meaning votes for him would go to the voters’ next-highest choices.

Kowalke said he was “thrilled” by the compromise and that the judge had found a “really balanced, beautiful solution.”

Sitka processors will sell \$400,000 worth of seafood to cruise lines this summer

BY SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sitka Sentinel

Before departing Sitka on a recent cruise stop, The Serenade of the Seas took more than passengers aboard — it took 2,000 pounds of fresh Sitka seafood.

It’s the latest development in a collaborative effort that started decades ago among seafood processors, cruise lines and their chefs, and the industry organization Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska.

“We’ve had fish come off the (fishing) boats, into the processing room and onto the cruise ships within one and a half hours,” said Fred Reeder, Sitka port director for Cruise Line Agencies. “The ships are excited about the high quality.”

He said the ships used to purchase seafood from local processors, but the pandemic shut down that market in 2020 and halfway through 2021.

The ships started coming again last year, and to help restart the supply chain Reeder

sent the cruise lines an email that generally asked, “If you need fish, we can provide that — fresh and frozen — in Sitka.”

Reeder and processors said the Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal built in 2020 presented the lines the opportunity to buy more fresh seafood, since they can load quickly at the cruise dock during their port calls.

This season, local processors will sell over 20 tons, about \$400,000 worth of seafood to the cruise ships, said Reeder and processors.

Seafood Producers Cooperative said it’s worked out well for the 380-member co-op, which is one of the Sitka processors selling directly to the cruise companies.

Seafood Processors president Norm Pillen said seafood sales at the dock “has been good for both the cruise ships and SPC. We’re happy to have an opportunity to get our products out in front of people we normally wouldn’t.” He said the cruise lines are ordering 1,000 to 2,000 pounds per order in halibut, king and coho salmon, lingcod, rockfish and blackcod.

The business model makes sense in several ways, he said, since it saves the cost of shipping, which benefits both seller

and buyer.

“We’re saving costs on both ends,” Pillen said.

And besides that, he added, the product will arrive at its best, as close as possible to the processing facility.

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has been partnering with the cruise industry this summer to create educational opportunities for cruise passengers. Ashley Heimbigner, ASMI communications director, said the effort is to “build a better connection for visitors between the Alaska seafood they enjoy on board the ship and world-class fisheries, fishing communities and fishermen here in Southeast Alaska.”

Ketchikan Specialty Clinics.

Stay Hometown Healthy, Close To Home.

In addition to our outstanding local specialty Orthopedics, General Surgery, and Obstetrics & Gynecology teams, PeaceHealth is pleased to host specialty clinics in Ketchikan for your convenience. Get your expert specialty care close to home, call for your appointment today.

Cardiology	Nov 14-15	888-739-2700
Urology	Oct 3-7 Nov 14-18	907-225-7346
Gastroenterology	Nov 14-18	907-228-8101
Oncology	Oct 18 Nov 1-3, 29-30,	907-228-8101
Pulmonology & Sleep	Oct 17-20 Nov 14-17	907-228-7649



peacehealth.org/visitingcalendar

Former state attorney general indicted for sexual abuse of minor 31 years ago

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A former Alaska attorney general has been indicted by a state grand jury on three felony counts of sexual abuse of a minor, a special prosecutor announced Sept. 21.

The allegations against Clyde “Ed” Sniffen involve an Anchorage West High School student while Sniffen was in a position of authority in 1991, according to a statement released by the attorney general’s office on behalf of Gregg Olson, the special prosecutor.

Sniffen was arraigned Monday.

Olson in May filed the charges against Sniffen, 58, and the grand jury returned its indictment of the three felonies against him earlier this week.

Sniffen was a longtime attorney with the Alaska Department of Law. In January 2021, Gov. Mike Dunleavy appointed him as attorney general, the state’s top law enforcement officer. However, he resigned shortly afterward, before his

appointment was confirmed by the Alaska Legislature.

Sniffen was chosen to replace married and socially conservative Attorney General Kevin Clarkson, who resigned in 2020 shortly after details of text messages he sent to a female state employee were revealed.

The Anchorage Daily News and ProPublica in 2021 reported Sniffen’s resignation was announced as they were reporting on allegations of sexual misconduct with a 17-year-old girl three decades earlier.

The woman had told the news organizations that she and Sniffen began a sexual relationship in 1991 while she was a high school student. At the time, he was a 27-year-old attorney with a local law firm and a coach of her school’s mock trial competition team, the news organizations had reported.

The Anchorage Police Department investigated after the relationship became public in January 2021.