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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Developer now wants borough lots for free

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The pending sale of the former hospital property to Wayne Johnson, a Georgia-based real estate developer, has been delayed due to further negotiations.

Johnson still plans on purchasing the former hospital for \$200,000, but now wants the additional six lots behind the building for free in exchange for demolishing the former hospital.

The original purchase and sales agreement, which was set to close May 31, stated that Johnson would purchase the hospital property for \$200,000 and the six lots for their appraised value of \$316,800. The original agreement did not include a requirement that Johnson demolish the old hospital building or develop any buildings on the land.

The borough assembly approved the sale of the hospital property and six lots under the original agreement in April.

Johnson has said he plans to develop 36 to 40 two- and three-bedroom condos on the combined properties.

A public hearing on the new agreement will be held at a special borough assembly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 1, at City Hall. Final

approval is up to the assembly.

According to the new purchase and sale agreement, if the demolition of the old hospital building is complete by June 30, 2026, Johnson will then receive title to the six lots for zero dollars.

The new agreement also states that if Johnson wishes to purchase the six lots before demolition is complete, he can do so for \$60,000 per lot. If he does so, his payments will be refunded upon the completion of demolition.

Because the new agreement proposes selling the six borough-owned property for less than fair market value, it went before the economic development board in a special meeting June 19. The board unanimously agreed to recommend that the assembly get more information about Johnson's plans through an in-person work session with the developer before approving the sale.

Board members agreed that they didn't believe they had enough information from Johnson to make a recommendation to approve or deny the sale of the properties under his proposed new agreement.

Questions arose at the meeting about Johnson's plans and why he

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PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Never too young to learn

Ander Hurst, age 2, tried out the driver's seat of a forklift, one of the many vehicles at the annual Touch-A-Truck event at Volunteer Park during a rainy afternoon on Sunday, June 23. One of the biggest attractions was a Jayhawk helicopter that flew in from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Sitka.

Mountain lion killed on island; first sighting in SE since 1998

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

Mountain lions are not commonly spotted in Southeast Alaska, but earlier this month one was killed on the south end of Wrangell Island.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were notified that a mountain lion had been shot and killed on June 3. They took possession of the carcass and are conducting an investigation. Troopers leading the investigation declined to comment.

Riley Woodford, information officer with the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation in Juneau, said he knew of three other documented sightings of mountain lions in the region, though the most recent was 26 years ago.

On April 20, 1998, one was photographed near Meyers Chuck. In December 1998, a Wrangell trapper caught a mountain lion in a wolf trap on Kupreanof Island. In November 1989, a mountain lion was shot near Wrangell.

Woodford said mountain lions likely get to the region by traveling down river corridors from British Columbia. "They're certainly not crossing icefields," he said.

Apex predators like mountain lions will disperse as young adults to find their own territories. Young male mountain lions especially will travel quite far to find their own territory, Woodford said, and there have been cases down south where single mountain lions have traveled as far as hundreds or even thousands of miles.

He said predators like bears and mountain lions will become extremely aggressive over their territory and will even kill each other for encroaching on their territory.

Mountain lions mostly eat deer in western North America and elk if that's available. They will also eat hares, rabbits and smaller animals.

Woodford added that people should not be worried about mountain lions. "They are not like wolves," he said, "they are very shy and elusive." The animals tend to stay far away from people, and incidents of them injuring humans are extremely rare.

There is no hunting season for mountain lions in the state, Woodford said. The only time they would be killed legally is in defense of life and property, he added, and in that case, the animal would become property of the state.

Parks and Recreation will trim services to match budget reduction

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Director Lucy Robinson has announced there will be changes to Parks and Recreation hours and services coming soon, due to a pending cut in borough funding for the department.

Recreation Coordinator Devyn Johnson said last week the details were still being worked out.

As proposed in the draft budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, the borough contribution to the Parks and Recreation Department would drop from \$640,000 last year to \$554,000. Borough funds cover more than 70% of the budget for the department's programs and maintenance, including the community center and swimming pool.

In an email to Wrangell residents and a Facebook post on June 17, Robinson said, effective July 1, Parks and Recreation will implement changes to its "schedule and programming to en-

sure we can continue to provide you with the high level of service you expect, albeit with some adjustments."

She said activity and program hours will be impacted, while some services may be streamlined or otherwise adjusted. There will also be staffing adjustments, she said, but "rest assured, this will not compromise the safety and quality of our services."

At the June 5 budget work session, Robinson told the borough assembly: "People are going to see a reduction in hours, a reduction in swims" because of reduced staff hours. "We're just going to have to bite the bullet. ... We're definitely going to see a reduction in services."

The borough manager also recommended reduced spending in several other areas, including the police department. The assembly was scheduled to adopt a final budget, with any amendments, at its meeting Tuesday, June 25.

Fourth events run Saturday through Thursday

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

With just days to go before the start of Fourth of July activities, organizers still are looking for more volunteers and sponsors — and, of course, hundreds of people ready to run, paddle, stuff their faces with pies, throw pies at public officials and everything else that goes into the holiday celebration.

"You can never have too many volunteers," said

Tommy Wells, executive director of the chamber of commerce, which organizes the events calendar.

As of Monday, the chamber still needed volunteers to run the log roll and greased pole events on Tuesday, July 2, and the "crazy craft" races on Wednesday, July 3.

"We'll wait until the very last moment" before canceling the events if no one volunteers, Wells said. "We're hoping someone will step forward."

In addition to a few more volunteers, the chamber continues to accept donations and sponsorships to pay for prizes at multiple events, said Kimberly Szczałko, the chamber's treasurer.

The chamber hands out about \$7,500 in cash prizes at Fourth of July events, including the street games, toddler games and junior Olympics, she said.

Continued on page 5

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, June 27

Baked pork chops, applesauce, mixed vegetables, spicy fruit salad

Friday, June 28

Hotcha baked beef, steamed sliced carrots, fruit slaw

Monday, July 1

Shelf-stable meal delivered on Friday, June 28

Tuesday, July 2

Moose meatloaf, peas, cabbage pear raisin salad, potatoes

Wednesday, July 3

Barbeque chicken, mixed vegetables, potato salad, cornbread

Thursday, July 4

Closed for Independence Day

Call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch or to request delivery.

The senior van is available to take seniors to medical appointments, errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, June 30

Kennicott, 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

Kennicott, 3 p.m.

Sunday, July 14

Kennicott, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 21

Kennicott, 1:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, July 3

Kennicott, 4 a.m.

Wednesday, July 10

Kennicott, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 17

Kennicott, 3 a.m.

Wednesday, July 24

Kennicott, 8:30 a.m.

Listings are scheduled departure times. Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or 907-874-3711 for recorded information.

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

| | AM | | PM | | AM | | PM | |
|---------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|
| | Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft |
| June 26 | 04:12 | 16.1 | 05:21 | 15.0 | 10:41 | -1.4 | 11:02 | 3.6 |
| June 27 | 05:06 | 15.1 | 06:11 | 15.3 | 11:29 | -0.5 | | ... |
| June 28 | 06:10 | 14.0 | 07:06 | 15.6 | 00:05 | 3.2 | 12:21 | 0.7 |
| June 29 | 07:26 | 13.0 | 08:04 | 16.1 | 01:13 | 2.6 | 01:17 | 1.8 |
| June 30 | 08:46 | 12.6 | 09:03 | 16.6 | 02:25 | 1.8 | 02:18 | 2.9 |
| July 1 | 10:01 | 12.7 | 10:01 | 17.1 | 03:36 | 0.7 | 03:24 | 3.6 |
| July 2 | 11:09 | 13.2 | 10:56 | 17.5 | 04:43 | -0.4 | 04:30 | 4.0 |



ALASKA AIRLINES CLUB 49 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

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

ROLL ON THE ROCK roller skating 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturdays at the TouchPoint Ministries rink on Bennett Street. Children 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Skaters must complete a registration form. \$5 per person.

MUSKEG MEADOWS Alaska Airlines Golf Tournament 9-hole best-ball, Saturday and Sunday, June 29-30. Special prizes, win a free airline ticket. Tournament play starts at 10 a.m., register by 9:30 a.m.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER no movies until mid-July.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR KIDS at the Irene Ingle Public Library open to children entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library by June 29. The reading program runs through Aug. 3. More than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for everyone who completes the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL backpacks now available for tribal youth; applications accepted through July 7. Tlingit and Haida provides backpacks in partnership with Southeast Alaska village tribes. Children must be Alaska Native and/or American Indian, between the age of preschool to grade 12, and live in the Tlingit and Haida service area. Apply online: www.tinyurl.com/TH24B2SApp. For more information, call 907-463-7158.

FOURTH of JULY PIE SALE hosted by Beta Sigma Phi is seeking donations of homemade pies for their Fourth of July pie booth. Funds raised will go to their charitable activities. For more information, contact Olinda White 907-874-3078, Alice Rooney 907-305-0007 or Joan Benjamin 907-874-3252.

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

- **SWIM LESSONS** Monday-Friday starting July 8. Multiple two-week sessions with variable times available. Contact Parks and Rec for more details. Ages 5-12. \$40 fee. Registration required.

- **FOREST EXPLORERS** 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through Aug. 6 with Clarie Froehlich of the U.S. Forest Service. For ages 7-13; ages 6 and under must be accompanied by a guardian 14 or older. Meet at Volunteer Park. \$50 fee. Registration required.

- **KICKBOXING**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at the community center multipurpose room with Victoria Carney. Drop-in fee \$5; \$3 senior discount; or use a facility punch card.

- **ADULT SIGN LANGUAGE** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, through Aug. 8 at the community center multi-purpose room with Franki Gablehouse. Ages 16 years and up. \$30. Registration required.

The Way We Were

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

June 26, 1924

What enthusiasm and energy can accomplish was fully demonstrated last Thursday night when two bathhouses were built at the Wrangell bathing beach in a remarkably short space of time. The Civic Club's recreation committee was responsible for this valuable acquisition to the joys of sea bathing. When the men whose services made the buildings possible arrived at the beach armed with tools, lumber and nails, on hand were the ladies of the party who had prepared a substantial supper. After the edible had disappeared, the builders, under the expert direction of Ole Johnson and E.G. W. Morris, caused the

bathhouses to appear as if by magic. Only the doors, signs and a few other improvements remain for another occasion. The thanks of the Civic Club are due to the Redmen for the permission granted to build the houses on their dock, a particularly good location.

June 24, 1949

Wrangell Steam Laundry has just completed an entire renovation of its building and installation of new equipment, designed to give customers speedier and more modern service. A new boiler and 500-gallon hot water tank furnish unlimited water supply, and a new revolving drier delivers woolens and bath towels to the original fluffiness. Five new

clothes presses are lined up in front of the big ironing room. Two are especially designed for shirts and a smaller press dries and presses socks, preserving their original size. For curtains, there is the latest in a curtain stretcher which will handle the most delicate fabric without harm. "With our new floor arrangement," Phil Williams Sr. said, "It is possible to unload dirty clothes from the trucks to the rear of the laundry where they are washed. Therefore, no dirty bundle ever comes in contact with the clean clothes which are ironed in the front part of the building."

June 28, 1974

"Hey mom, quick tell me

again how to make a left-turn signal!" The scene was one day last week at the grade school playground where miniature three-foot stop signs, yield signs and foot-wide marked lanes were set up for a bicycle rodeo. Sponsored by city police and the public schools, the rodeo's purpose was to test the skills of young bike riders on an obstacle course set up by the police. Nearly 50 youngsters on various shapes and sizes of bikes turned out for the event and faced such obstacles as stop signs, curves, turns requiring signals and foot-wide lines to ride between. Each bike was inspected for safety prior to the rodeo. Bike drivers' licenses and stickers were issued to the participants upon

finishing the course.

June 24, 1999

Disappointment and the search for new options pervaded the public workshops held prior to the regular city council meeting on June 22. The first workshop's discussion topic was the failed cannery purchase. Speaking to a small group of community members seated in the chambers, Mayor Bill Privett stated repeatedly how disappointed he was with the results of the special election. The proposal to sell the city-owned cannery for \$1 million to Wrangell Seafoods Inc. was voted down by a narrow margin in a special election held June 1.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Historian tells story of a controversial curio shop owner

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

In his most recent work, historian Ronan Rooney published a blog post about Walter C. Waters, a man he calls the Walt Disney of Wrangell.

Waters was a businessman brought to Wrangell during the gold rush, who opened a curio store in 1922 called the Bear Totem Store which sold Native artifacts and attracted tourists from far and wide.

Rooney said this has been his most popular blog post yet, adding, "controversy is always popular."

Waters, Rooney explained, is a controversial figure. He was a successful businessman who did some great things for Wrangell, but he was also responsible for the loss of a lot of Tlingit heritage. After Waters died, many of the Native artifacts in his possession were sold and are still in museums and private collections around the world, the historian said.

Waters was also responsible in part for the Wrangell Institute: He was on the committee that helped pitch Wrangell as the location for the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school. Once the school opened in 1932, Waters had students make artifacts and curios to sell in his store.

Rooney is working on a larger project about the Wrangell Institute that will eventually be published as a podcast. But that project will likely take a couple years, and he realized that his piece about Waters was ready for the public. He hopes that publishing it now will help him gather more information for his eventual project on the institute — part of his goal of the blog post is to reach people who may have more information.

His website is Wrangell History Unlocked.

He also felt the Waters' story was very topical and timely, since some repatriated clan items recently made their way back to Wrangell.

In 1953, after the businessman's death, the Bear Totem Store sold roughly 600 items to the Denver Art Museum and Burke Museum in Seattle, Rooney said. In his research, he has found artifacts from Wrangell all over the world.

He said it's unclear how Waters ended up with so many totem poles and other clan items. Waters allegedly bought the items in his store, but the podcaster said it's suspicious that one man could have purchased items that belong to clans.

"Waters was clearly intelligent, had brains and a big vision. He made Wrangell a destination," Rooney said. "But Waters was willing to sell Wrangell's soul for tourism."

When Waters first came to Wrangell, he was a nobody, the historian explained. He stumbled his way into the fur trading and then Indian artifacts business. His store came at the cost of killing the culture that made him a somebody, Rooney said.

He wanted to be careful not to capture too negative an image of Waters in his blog post. People may see him as a villain, but he also brought a lot of good things to Wrangell, he said.

Rooney described Waters like Walt Disney, who took European fables and turned them into a theme park. "The Bear Totem Store was really like a small theme park destination," he said.

In his research, he finds postcards from the store almost every day — a testament to how prevalent Waters' store was.



PHOTO COURTESY JOELY ROWLAND

Never too young to start

Wylder Smith, 20 months old, is on his way to a career as a third-generation crab fisherman. He helped his dad, Steven Smith, skipper of the Rhyatt-Ryder, on June 13 get the crab pots out of storage and ready for the opening of the Southeast commercial Dungeness crab pot fishery on June 15. Wylder is the son of Smith and Joely Rowland.

Wrangell teens take first in Bible Bowl competition

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

The Wrangell team brought home the national championship trophy from The Salvation Army Bible Bowl competition earlier this month in Pasadena, California — the first time ever for the town.

The five Wrangell teens have been on a winning streak the past couple of years. They won the state title this year for the second time in a row and placed third at last year's nationals in California.

The Salvation Army's website describes the question-and-answer contest as "an academic game where teens match knowl-

edge about a designated portion of scripture in a competitive arena." The competition takes many hours of study and memorization, a good attitude and the ability to work as a team.

It was the first time since 2011 that an Alaska team has won the national tournament. Washington state placed second, while Hawaii came in third this year.

"It was pretty cool to see," said Capt. Chase Green of The Salvation Army's Wrangell district.

At the national level in Pasadena, 10 teams competed in a round-robin tournament. In the final round, Wrangell went up against four other teams from

Washington state, Hawaii, Southern California and Colorado.

Green pointed out that the most challenging factor in the competition was speed, as the quicker the players answer the questions, the more points they got, with at least five or six seconds per question. At the end of each round, the team average is tallied. "They all had to be that fast to have that high average," he said. "It was quite something."

The five team members range in age from 13 to 16, consisting of Clara and Everett Edens, Kaiya and Amura Brevick, and Arabella Nore. They studied and practiced two hours a day every day for the two weeks leading up to the event. "They deserve all the credit," Green said. "They put in a lot of commitment and discipline."

Green also commended Damon Roher for his work as coach. Roher coached last year's team and had been a Bible Bowl competitor over a decade earlier.

The nationwide Bible Bowl has been around for years, with Wrangell making several appearances at regional competitions in the 2000s.

Green noted that the team had been so dominant and won its matches by such a wide margin at the state meet in Juneau in March that Anchorage forfeited rather than compete against Wrangell.

Whether the same team will compete next year, Green said, "It's hard to see the future, but assuming they all want to, that would be the idea."

He added there's even room to add to the roster — the team can have as many as six members.

Happy Independence Day

from The Stik Family

Stik Cafe is open
7 days a week from
6 a.m.-4 p.m.

Open on the
4th of July

907-874-3388

Stik Restaurant
& Lounge is open
7 days a week from
2 p.m.-8 p.m.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Crime pays a lot better than newspapers

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Most everything pays better than newspapers. A lemonade stand in the winter, a barber shop at a convention of bald men, dry cleaning services for Carhartts — even canned farmed pink salmon at an Alaska street fair — all could be more profitable than running a newspaper.

I used to think that publishing a quality paper, full of accurate, informative and entertaining news, always taking care to spell everyone's name correctly, would produce enough revenue to pay the bills. But after reading more about political campaign donations, I realized there is an easier way to raise money: Crime.

Not stealing directly, like robbing an ATM, jumping a prospector's gold claim or bootlegging. Those are too risky of physical harm. And besides, they take too much work. After clocking in seven days a week for the paper, I'm too tired to carry out any crimes that require physical labor.

I think I have found the answer in Donald Trump.

Every time Trump is convicted of a crime, millions of dollars, tens of millions, pour in from supporters around the country.

In the days after he was found guilty of financial fraud in New York City in February, Trump's campaign committee went to work actively soliciting donors to show their love and support for the convicted crook.

And in March and April, as it was clear that Trump would need to post a multi-hundred-million-dollar bond for the penalties and interest in the fraud case while he appeals the verdict, the candidate's campaign committee and the Republican party opened the envelopes, downloaded the online clicks and answered the phone to collect millions more in donations.

Then in May, after he was convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to pay off a woman who said she had an affair with Trump, the fundraising haul totaled \$28 million in just two days. And that only counts donations of \$200 or more — smaller payments were not counted. The Trump campaign claims they raised almost \$53 million, but we know his financial math is never to be trusted.

Anyway, reading about all the money that can be raised after committing a crime, I realized I am doing this newspapering all wrong. Forget the fair and accurate and trustworthy reporting — it doesn't pay. Newspapers' economic salvation rests in committing a crime and soliciting donations. Even better if convicted.

But what crime to commit in Alaska that could evoke public sympathy and donations. Certainly not poaching fish. Alaskans will put up with a lot of lawbreaking, but stealing fish out of a stream and threatening the health of the salmon run is not one of them.

Stashing liquids in a carry-on bag on a flight is a crime, but it's too common of a violation to garner much sympathy — and donations.

Downloading pirated music is a crime, but that requires more IT skills than I possess.

Cheating on federal taxes is always popular and plays to public resentment over federal spending. But you have to show a profit to pay taxes, which eliminates a lot of newspapers in Alaska.

I struggled to think of the perfect crime, one that would produce public support and donations. Then it hit me: I'll sneak aboard a state ferry without buying a ticket. It would be a victimless crime, no one gets hurt, and everyone is frustrated with deteriorating ferry service. Only one hurdle: It would require perfect timing to catch the one ferry a week that stops in Wrangell.

EDITORIAL

Political cheats should pay the fine

A state Superior Court judge last week upheld fines of more than \$90,000 against a group that opposes ranked-choice voting in Alaska. The group wasn't fined by the Alaska Public Offices Commission for its views on the new voting system, but for cheating and lying in its ongoing effort to overturn the voting system, which was approved by voters in 2020.

Back in December 2022, the director of the anti-ranked-choice voting group Alaskans for Honest Elections and others established a tax-exempt church in Washington state "to promote Christian doctrines, establish and oversee places of worship, evangelize worldwide, support missionary activities" and promote "the preservation of truth."

And to funnel money back to the political campaign office in Alaska, without disclosing the donors. So much for preserving the truth.

Art Mathias, who led both the anti-ranked voting group in Alaska and the new "church" in Washington state, donated \$90,000 to the church, which then sent the money to the political campaign in Alaska.

Alaskans for Honest Elections did not initially disclose the source of the money, which the public offices commission determined violated state law. The group, along with Mathias, went to court, alleging that the fine violated their free-speech rights. Besides, they told the court, the state law against hiding the identity of donors did not apply to the ballot initiative campaign to overturn ranked-choice voting.

Essentially, among all their appeal points, they argued that campaign finance disclosure laws do not apply to them.

The judge, however, wasn't buying it, and upheld all but a few hundred dollars of the fines.

Litigation continues in court over whether Alaskans for Honest Elections has gathered enough valid petition signatures to win a spot on this fall's statewide ballot to overturn ranked-choice voting. The new voting system eliminated party primary elections, with all candidates running tother in the primary and the top four advancing to the general election.

If the initiative makes it to the ballot, Alaskans will have the chance to vote to repeal or retain ranking voting. That's how the system should work. Breaking the law to get on the ballot, hiding the identity of donors and cleansing the money through a pop-up church is not how the system should work.

Alaskans for Honest Elections should follow their name, behave honestly and pay the fines.

- Wrangell Sentinel

Hospital property developer wins primary for U.S. House

BY BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

Wayne Johnson, the real estate developer planning to purchase the former Wrangell Medical Center property, won the GOP nomination for U.S. Congress in Georgia's 2nd District on June 18.

Johnson said in an interview on June 20 that his election campaign won't affect his plans for building a condo development on the former hospital property.

He is still committed to Wrangell, he said, adding that he hopes people will like the idea of having someone in Congress with a special interest in the community.

With the campaign slogan "Stop the stupid in Washington," Johnson will face 32-year Democratic incumbent Rep. Sanford Bishop in November in a district that has comfortably favored Democratic candidates in recent years.

According to his campaign website, some of Johnson's goals are to save small businesses, put the American economy first, secure the rule of law and "back the blue (police)," stop relying on foreign energy solutions and supply chains, restructure the broken student loan system, protect the unborn, stand up for Second Amendment rights and end attacks on parents' rights in education.

Despite his ongoing campaign, Johnson planned to arrive in Wrangell on June 22 with his wife and grandchild. He plans to stay for a couple weeks, with extended family members coming to town for a few weeks this summer too.

In addition to his real estate development plans, Johnson also plans to open a food truck this summer that will sell fresh Wrangell seafood. The truck will be called "The Spirit of Wrangell."

Johnson noted that though he has a lot on his plate and will have to balance his commitments, he remains committed to Wrangell.

The developer planned to attend the June 25 and July 1 borough assembly meetings, where his development is on the agenda.

New deal for land sale

Continued from page 1
renegotiated the terms of the sale.

Board members also pointed out that Johnson has never appeared before the assembly in person to present his plans.

From the borough's standpoint, Economic Development Director Kate Thomas recommended approval of the sale because the borough would benefit from the demolition of the building and from the properties being added to the tax roll.

Thomas noted that in the original agreement, there was no way to require demolition of the old building without the borough being held liable in some way. But the new deal, which will give Johnson the six lots upon satisfactory completion of the demolition, allows the borough to ensure the building is demolished without being liable for any of the work.

Currently, the borough

spends around \$100,000 a year maintaining and insuring the property. In 2020, it was estimated that it would cost the borough roughly \$2 million to demolish the old building.

Borough Manager Mason Villarma said June 19 in an interview that it would likely end up costing the borough closer to \$3 million to demolish the building, which contains asbestos.

Thomas also noted that though she would love to have some sort of guarantee that Johnson would build housing or develop the land, the value for the borough is in saving the demolition expense.

The former hospital property has been on the market since 2022, with no real prospective buyers until Johnson.

Johnson said in an interview June 20 that he wants to renegotiate the price of the six

lots because he anticipates the demolition and removal of materials from the old hospital building will be costly.

He said demolition will take 60 days, noting that the work could be done during the winter months. He said he hopes the demolition will be complete long before 2026, hopefully by the end of 2024, with construction beginning soon after.

Johnson added that before demolition, he will allow people to salvage any materials from the building in exchange for a donation to a community playground fund in Wrangell.

The \$200,000 for the purchase of the hospital property, he said, is ready to be transferred as soon as the sale agreement is finalized.

Johnson said he planned to attend the June 25 and July 1 borough assembly meetings.

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No change in fall and winter ferry schedule for Wrangell

By SENTINEL STAFF

The Alaska Marine Highway System allowed only one week for public comment on its proposed ferry schedule for the upcoming fall and winter, but the draft is pretty much a non-issue for Wrangell: The level of service would be the

same as it's been the past couple of years.

The schedule for October through April shows one ferry a week northbound and one a week southbound, the same as this summer, last winter and the summer before that.

The stops would be south-

bound on Mondays and northbound on Fridays.

The state released the draft schedule on June 18, with comments due by Tuesday, June 25. A virtual public meeting was scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, with ferry system management to adopt a final schedule as soon as practicable after comments close so that travelers can start making reservations.

The Kennicott, which is sailing weekly this summer between Bellingham, Washington, and Southeast Alaska, would stay on the run under the draft schedule through October, when the Columbia would come out of the shipyard to take over the job through April.

The Columbia has been in the shop since last November, with excessive rust in the ship's fire suppression system delaying its return to service.

The ferry system's other mainline vessel, the

Matanuska, continues to sit idle in Ketchikan, waiting for the state to decide the fate of the ship, which suffers from extensive rust in its steel plating.

The Matanuska is 61 years old; the Columbia is 51 years old.

The marine highway system anticipates that the Kennicott will be out of service for most of 2025 for a 10-month project to replace its generators to meet federal emissions standards. Losing the Kennicott for close to a full year will put Southeast at risk of service disruptions if the Columbia experiences any mechanical breakdowns during that time.

While the Southeast mainline route would get its standard weekly service under the draft schedule, there are the usual winter gaps in service elsewhere in the state.

Kake will get one ferry a month.

Prince William Sound communities of Cordova, Valdez

and Whittier will go without any service from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15 while the Aurora goes in for annual maintenance.

The coastal communities of Kodiak and Homer and Seldovia will be without service January through March when the Tustumena is pulled from the run for annual overhaul work.

"The schedule patterns proposed are based on the funding levels for (fiscal year 2025)," according to the letter by Marine Director Craig Tornga that accompanied the draft winter schedule.

The schedule proposes a total of 131 "operating weeks of service" for the fleet, down from 139 weeks planned for last's winter schedule. Each ship at work for a week counts as an "operating week."

The full draft winter schedule and related information are available on the ferry system website at <https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs>.

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Fourth of July

Continued from page 1

Anyone willing to help with donations or volunteer time can call the chamber at 907-874-3901.

The schedule of events is in this week's Sentinel (Pages 6 and 7) and will be updated and printed in the July 3 edition too.

Among the holiday highlights will be the royalty fundraising raffle prize drawings at 6 p.m. at the Nolan Center on Wednesday, July 3. Kayla Young and Alicia Armstrong have been busy all month selling raffle tickets and raising money to help put on the Fourth.

The evening will include a talent show; call or text Bonnie Ritchie at 907-305-1211 or Haley Reeves at 406-262-4360 to sign up to perform in the show.

Later that evening, the fireworks will go off at dusk, with a couple of warning shots 10

minutes before the show begins. The fireworks will be shot off from the water in front of the City Dock.

The parade on the Fourth will start at 11 a.m., but floats need to line up on Campbell Drive by 10 a.m. for judging, Szczatko said. People who just want to walk in the parade without a float or costume for judging can get in the line after 10 a.m. but before the parade begins, she said.

The theme for this year's Fourth is "Home Where We Belong."

The schedule of events starts with an Alaska Airlines-sponsored golf tournament at Muskeg Meadows on Saturday and Sunday, June 29-30. The last event of the week will be the street dance on July 4 starting at 8 p.m. at the downtown pavilion and Lynch Street, with music by the Wrangell band Shotrock.

While the races, runs, paddles, wiener toss, pies, children's fishing derbies, 3-on-3 basketball and all the other events are time specific, each on a scheduled day, there are two holiday displays that will be up all week.

Quilts by the Stikine Stitchers will be on display at several downtown businesses through July 10. And the Red, White and Blue Fair of handmade goods will be open to the public Saturday, June 29, through Wednesday, July 3, at the Nolan Center.

Anyone who wants to display their sewing, crocheting, art, jewelry, photography, baked goods, canned foods — most anything handmade — needs to bring the items to the Nolan Center on Thursday, June 27. The items will be judged the next day, with ribbons pinned to the displays.

And if they want, the creators can have their handmade goods shipped at no cost and entered in the Southeast Alaska State Fair in Haines later in July.

ROYALTY MENU

| | <i>Alisha for Queen</i> | <i>Kayla for Queen</i> |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| June 27 Thursday | L: Ford Curtis's fish tacos | L: Joe's tri-tip sammies |
| June 28 Friday | L: Sweet and sour burgers | L: Daily Menu D: Michelle T. enchiladas |
| June 29 Saturday | B: Breakfast burrito L: Sammy's meatball subs | L: Daily Menu Late night menu |
| June 30 Sunday | 9 a.m.: Pancakes, eggs, french toast, potatoes, bacon, and sausage. Bring your own coffee mug for coffee. Chef Wayne Harding | L: Seafood boil |
| July 1 Monday | L: Traditional queen tacos and brownie sundae | L: Daily menu Pie Sale |
| July 2 Tuesday | B: Grab and go breakfast L: Homemade take and go mac and cheese, loaded milkshakes | L: Leftovers Frybread |
| July 3 Wednesday | 8:30 a.m. to noon: Elizabeth's grab and go breakfast burritos. | No booth activity |

Daily lunch menu available unless otherwise noted.

Menu is subject to change.

B = Brunch 10 am to 1 pm

L = Lunch 11 am to 2 pm

D = Dinner 5 to 7 pm

Late night = 10 p.m. to

**Last day to buy
Royalty Tickets is
July 3 at 3 p.m.**

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4TH OF JULY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Mia Wiederspoeh takes a victory leap into the water in last year's log-rolling competition.



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jagger Campbell displays the flounder he caught during last year's scrap fish derby.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

(From left) Ryder Ritchie, Dane and Isaac Richard ride an ATV bedecked with the American flag during last year's Fourth of July parade.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wilma Stokes-Leslie and granddaughter Lola Pritchett walk as Wilma and Pebbles Flintstone in last year's Fourth of July parade.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Families gathered along the waterfront on Campbell Drive last year to ooh and aah over the fireworks above Zimovia Strait.

THROUGH JULY 10

4th of July Quilt Show
On display at downtown businesses
Presented by the Stikine Stitchers

JUNE 29-30

4th of July 9-Hole Best-Ball Golf Tournament: 10 am
Muskeg Meadows
Register by 9:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome. Multiple prizes. Call 907-874-GOLF if running late. Entry fee \$25.
Sponsored by: Alaska Airlines

JUNE 29 - JULY 3

Red, White and Blue Fair
Art, photography, crafts, jewelry, sewing, baked goods, canned foods and more.
On display at the Nolan Center
Chairperson: Ethel Dando

MONDAY, JULY 1

Demonstration - Remote Control Boat Races: 1 p.m.
City Dock
Chairperson: Greg Wood
Sponsored by: Stikine River Rats

SOLAS Lifeboat Deployment Presentation: 1 p.m.
City Dock
Presented by: Greg Wood
Sponsored by: Mike Bauer

3-on-3 Basketball: 5:30 p.m.
Kyle Angerman Playground
Sign-ups start at 5:30 p.m. \$25 entry fee per team.
Chairperson: Christy Good
Sponsored by: Parks and Recreation

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby: 9 a.m.
City Dock
Two age categories: 6-9 and 10-13
Rules: Volunteers ONLY on the float. Must wear a life jacket at all times. Hand lines only. Kids must bait their own hook. All bait allowed. Derby officials decisions will be final. 6 year olds who are participating in Tiny Tots Derby are ineligible to compete.
Chairpersons: Greg and Tammi Meissner

Tiny Tots Scrap Fish Derby: 11 a.m.
City Dock
Age: 0-6 years Rules: All children must be accompanied by an adult. Must wear a life jacket at all times. Hand lines only. Bring bait. Prizes for all children.
Chairpersons: Kim Powell, Pam McCloskey, AJ Roundtree

Pie a Public Servant: Noon
Lynch Street
\$5 gets you a pie tin filled with whipped cream to throw at the public servant of your choice.
Chairperson: Liz Roundtree

Log Rolling Competition: 2 p.m.
City Dock
May be canceled for lack of volunteer chairperson.
Sign-up starts at 1:30 p.m. 18 years and up. \$10 registration fee.

Greased Pole Event: 3 p.m.
City Dock
May be canceled for lack of volunteer chairperson.
18 years and up. \$5 registration fee.

Welcome Home Picnic: 5 p.m.
Shoemaker Park
Chairperson: Georgia Selfridge

Pie Eating Contest: 6 p.m.
Shoemaker Park
Chairperson: Georgia Selfridge

Disc Golf Tournament: 6:30 p.m.
Muskeg Meadows
Register by 6 p.m. Youth under age 14 must have a parent present.
Multiple prizes. \$10 registration fee.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Target Competition: 8 a.m. to Noon
Gun Range
Firearms and ammo provided. No personal firearms. Adults must accompany minors. Cash prizes.
Chairperson: Allen Rooney

Canoe Races: 9 a.m.
City Dock
Cork capture, short sprint, long sprint, war canoe - male, female, co-ed in each. All participants must wear PFDs.
Chairperson: Kate Thomas

Crazy Craft Race: 10:30 a.m.
City Dock
Anything that floats except a boat. Must be on/in your device and wear a life jacket.
Chairperson: Alicia Gillen

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****
City Dock will be cleared of spectators at noon to enable fire crew to set up the fireworks display for the evening show.

Dog Show: 1 p.m.
City Dock cul-de-sac
Registration starts at 12:30 p.m.
Chairperson: Joan Sargent
Sponsored by: Cooper's Corner

Big Wheel Races: 3 p.m.
Lynch Street
Age: 3 and up. In the event of rain, the event will be moved to the covered playground.
Chairpersons: Bailey Scheib, Stephanie Cook
Sponsored by: Wrangell Sentinel

Elks Lodge: Beer Garden: 4 to 9 p.m.
French dip sandwiches 6 to 8 p.m.

Royalty Coronation/Talent Show: 6 p.m.
Nolan Center
Crowning of royalty and talent show
Chairpersons: Bonnie Ritchie and Haley Reeves

Show-and Shine Boat Show: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Campbell Drive
Chance for race fans to get up close to Race Boats and ask Racers questions.
Sponsored by: Stikine River Rats Racing

Wiener Toss: 8 p.m.
Lynch Street
Chaired and sponsored by: KSTK

Fireworks

Starting at dusk (usually about 11 p.m.)
Shooting from City Dock
Two preliminary fireworks will be shot to signal that the main display will begin approximately 10 minutes later.
Chaired by:
Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department
Sponsored by:
Wrangell Chamber of Commerce

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day Fun Run/Walk/Bike: 7:30 a.m.
Starts at the pool entrance
Register by 7 a.m. No entry fee.
Sponsored by: Parks and Recreation

Independence Day Community Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Wrangell IGA parking lot
Chairperson: Wrangell Ministerial Association

Pie Sale: 10 a.m.
Covered patio at Arctic Chiropractic
Until sold out.
Sponsored by: Beta Sigma Phi

Elks Lodge Events
Club opens at 10 a.m. with a full bar, Bloody Marys and mimosas. Beer Garden open noon to 9 p.m. Horseshoe tournament at 12:30 p.m. with registration at noon. New York steaks only for dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

4th of July Parade: 11 a.m.
Downtown
Theme: "Home Where We Belong"
National anthem 11 a.m. in front of Wells Fargo. Participants line up by the Nolan Center. Entrants after 10 a.m. will not be judged but may participate. Float categories: businesses/organizations, families/reunions, churches. Also: Adult costume, kids costume, horses/pets, ATV, motorcycle, bikes/trikes/wagons, cars/trucks, marching units. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards. Cash prizes for each category. Grand Marshal: Christina Florschutz
Chairperson: Kathy St. Clair
Sponsors: Wrangell Real Estate, Dando Financial

Royalty Ticket Drawing: 12:15 p.m.
Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Downtown Pavilion
Prizes: \$2,500 for first, \$1,500 for second and \$1,000 for third.

Logging Show: 1 p.m.
City Dock
Sign up at 12:30 p.m. Open to age 18 and up. Entry fee is \$40 total for all events or \$25 each event.
Chairperson: Thomas Roland

Toddler Games: 12:30 p.m.
City Hall Lawn
Age: Infant to 5
Chairperson: Barb Neyman

Junior Olympics: 12:30 p.m.
Lynch Street
Tug-of-war, 50-yard dash, cash prizes.
Age: 4-8.
Chairperson: White Enterprises

Street Games: 1 p.m.
Front Street
Running races, gunny sack race, 3-legged race. Ages: 4-99 years old.
Chairpersons: Dairan Gerald, Meissner and Ottosen families

Egg Toss: 3 p.m.
Ages: 4-99 years old. Multiple categories.

Boat Races: 4:30 p.m.
City Dock
Registration following boat check at 2 p.m. Safety meeting at 3:30 p.m. All times mandatory for racers.
Presented by: Stikine River Rats Racing

Street Dance: 8 to 11 p.m.
Pavilion/Lynch Street
Live music by local band Shotrock featuring Doc Rock, Jason Beaty, Glen and Kelley Decker.

*****Schedule is subject to change*****

Contestants in KSTK's wiener toss last year might have wanted to use their hands to catch the flying hot dogs, but no hands allowed. It was an open-mouth contest.

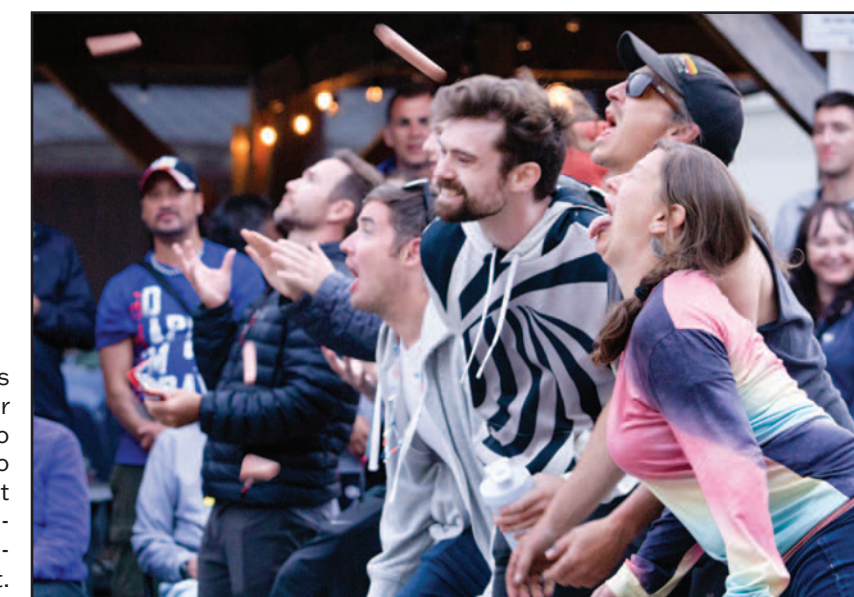


PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

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PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Joan Benjamin, organizer of the Stikine Stitchers' 18th annual Fourth of July Quilt Show, displays one of her own creations, a quilt that features depictions of Alaska Natives by Anchorage-based artist Barbara Lavallee. The group's quilts will be exhibited in the windows of participating downtown businesses through July 10.

Annual quilt display up through July 10 at downtown shops

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

The quilting guild Stikine Stitchers is putting on its annual Fourth of July Quilt Show. For two weeks, members will display their work at various businesses around town.

Setup is Wednesday, June 26, and the show will come down July 10.

About 12 to 15 residents will participate in the show, said organizer Joan Benjamin, displaying their quilts at Midnight Oil, Angerman's, Stikine Drug, Ottesen's Ace Hardware and more.

"This is our 18th time putting on the show," she said. "It would've been 19 if not for COVID."

Benjamin said it all began in 2005, when several storefronts had closed, due in part to the sawmill closing in the mid-1990s. "Fourth of July was coming up and so somebody in the guild said, 'Well, why not put our quilts down there?'" she said. "I've been doing it ever since."

She thinks the popularity of quilting, both in making and viewing them, lies in their detailed patterns. "A lot of them are pretty intricate and they're hard to put together, but I don't think people realize how much work it is, until they start working on them," she said.

Benjamin's own quilt entry is a colorful blue, yellow and red spread approximately 70-by-90 inches, featuring a grid of squares that depict Alaska Natives by Anchorage-based artist Barbara Lavallee. Benjamin said she had help from her sister-in-law Joyce Delestry in Wisconsin who machine quilted her sections while Benjamin hand quilted the rest which took longer.

"It looks like this is all pieced together but actually it's just all printed," she said. "This is the first time I've ever made a quilt this size like that. I kind of like it."

She plans to display her creation in either Angerman's or Stikine Drug.

Benjamin added that the methods of craft vary from person to person, from machine stitching to quilting by hand, as well as the size of the finished product, explaining they can sometimes be as small as postcards. "We have some people that do really small ones for wall hangings," she said. "We have people that make king-sized ones too."

Another variation is the amount of time participants spend on their creations. "Some people can just sit down and put a quilt together rather quickly, but it usually takes (others) a couple of months," she said.

While some shows have had an overall theme, she said this year they are welcoming whatever quilts people want to put in the show. Also, for those who want to sell their quilts during the show, they can put a price in the description with the display, along with contact information.

For more information on the event, call Benjamin at (907) 874-3252.

Salmon derby catches come in strong; contest closes Sunday

By SENTINEL STAFF

With less than a week left until the 69th Wrangell king salmon derby closes on Sunday, June 30, more than 135 people had bought entry tickets and 18 kings had been weighed in as of Monday.

The leader as of Monday was Charlie Webb. The Anchorage resident caught his 43.5-pound king near Point Warde while fishing with Alan Cummings of All In Charters on June 15, the first day of the derby.

Webb's king is the largest caught in the derby since Gary Smart, of Sequim, Washington, won the contest in 2017 with a 64.1 pounder. Smart's fish was the largest derby catch in 43 years.

As of Monday, second place was held by Wrangell's Diana Nore, with a 38.1-pound king, also caught at Point Warde, according to the chamber of commerce, which organizes the annual fishing contest.

Six of the top nine fish as of Monday came from Point Warde, just off the mainland at the southern end of Wrangell Island.

Of the top 16 entries as of Monday, five were out-of-town fishers, showing the popularity of the event for visitors. The out-of-towners were from Anchorage, Juneau, Wyoming and Oklahoma.

Stuart Woodbury was atop the leader board for fishers 12 and younger as of Monday. He caught his 20.9-pound king at Anita Bay, on the east side of Etolin Island.

There will be cash prizes for the largest kings caught in the 12-and-under category: \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third, sponsored by the Totem Bar.

The chamber as of Monday had not yet determined the prizes for the largest fish in the derby and other awards, said Tommy Wells, the organization's executive director.

Grant will help Southeast look for cheaper waste disposal options

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority, or SEASWA, an organization trying to reduce the cost of trash disposal in the region, has received a \$500,000 grant from the federally funded Denali Commission to study more economical and efficient options for getting rid of waste.

Waste disposal costs in the region have increased dramatically over the past few years, Wrangell Public Works Director Tom Wetor said. Increases could be due to a number of reasons like inflation, COVID disruptions or fuel and other costs charged by barge companies that haul the garbage out of state.

Due to cost increases, Wetor said Wrangell and other communities have had to implement rate increases. SEASWA applied for the grant in an effort to figure out how to reduce costs.

SEASWA consists of nine communities in the region: Wrangell, Petersburg, Tenakee Springs, Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, Craig, Klawock, Kasaan and Coffman Cove.

Some communities in the region still have open landfills, while others, like Wrangell, ship trash out.

Wrangell currently works with the waste management company Republic Services to ship waste to Seattle via barge, where it then gets transferred on railways to a landfill in southcentral Washington.

Wetor added that it's only a matter of time before landfills run out of space, with costs to build new landfills upwards of \$20 million.

The Denali Commission grant will allow SEASWA to conduct deeper research than has been possible in the past and really crunch the numbers, Wetor said. It's possible the research will conclude the current model is the best option. He said that in

the past, the current model was found to be the best option, but the recent cost escalations have warranted a second look at things.

Wetor wondered if there might be options for a larger regional facility, or a way for communities in the region to work to lower costs.

Wrangell's contract with Republic Services is up in two years, said Wetor, who hopes

that research into other options will be done before then so that the borough can plan ahead.

Congress created the Denali Commission in 1998 to promote rural development in Alaska, including improved water and sewer systems, waste management, telecommunications and energy systems.



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New hobby business provides patrons with worlds of imagination

BY MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Nestled among the trees and neighboring houses, a two-story residence at 212 Second Ave. serves not just as the home of a growing family but also a growing business in fantasy games and collectibles.

An outer staircase leads to the house's upper level, where Wesley Seward lives with his wife, state wildlife trooper Alisha Seward, and their sons Kaden and Ryder, ages 3 and 2, respectively.

On the lower level, Wesley Seward has built a world of trading cards, role-playing games and figurines. A welcome mat at the store entrance bears a graphic of a polyhedral-sided die used in role-playing games with the message, "DEFINITELY NOT A TRAP DOOR! (Roll for dexterity-saving throw)."

Affixed to the door's window is a logo featuring a stylized dragon with the store name, AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S. Games and Collectibles, using an acronym of the family names: Ryder, Alisha, Wesley, Kaden and Seward.

Inside, display cases and shelves hold collectible card packs and statuettes of franchises like Dungeons and Dragons, Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic: The Gathering. A

door leads to a backroom with a larger table for participants to play D&D campaigns, role-playing games that can take several months to a year to complete.

On most weekdays, Seward is focused on caring for his sons, and going fishing or hunting. His store is currently open for business 4 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday. "I am a weekend player for everybody that enjoys the weekend," he said.

He can sometimes make exceptions for customers who call him at 907-942-1356 during off-hours, and they can also check his AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S. Facebook page for updates and sales.

During a warm afternoon June 15, Seward sat with fellow enthusiasts Brandon Brown and Joseph Hommel as they played Magic: The Gathering in Commander format; up to four players each use 100-card decks filled with characters using different themes like demons or werewolves. The goal is to be the last one standing. "This could be a three-hour game," Seward said.

Brown, also experienced in D&D having just finished a two-year campaign, said learning the rules of the games takes time. "The best way to learn how to do it is to just play," he

AK Hobby R.A.W.K.S. business owner Wesley Seward displays his custom-made game mat that features a photo of his house with the northern lights overhead. Seward buys, sells, trades, collects and plays various trading cards and role-playing games.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

said. "We'll play with new players and teach them everything they need to know."

Hommel also enjoys playing Magic but his focus in D&D leans more toward writing the campaigns as well as novels. "I write a lot of high fantasy," he said.

Seward said his wife also plays Magic, but other players often balk at playing against her dinosaur deck. "She's really good at it. ... It's a really mean deck. It's fast, it's scary strong, but she loves it."

Kaden and Ryder often help their father organize stock and have their own binders of cards. Frequent customer Tristan Botsford arrived during the game with his toddler son Wally, who went upstairs to play with the Seward boys. "Now my two kids have a best friend," Wesley Seward said.

The store is also youth-friendly to older kids in town. "It's something new, and everyone wants to try something new," he said, adding that parents have told him they're glad for the presence of the shop in town.

When he was in middle school he collected Pokémon cards, but that quickly changed when a teenage tutor at a Boys and Girls Club in Eagle River introduced him to his first Magic game. "I loved it then and there," he said.

Seward said he could have opened his own hobby shop in Kodiak in 2014 but decided to work as a fishing guide, instead. Later, he met his soon-to-be wife, who had transferred from Homer. After they married and had toddler son Kaden with baby Ryder on the way, the couple made the decision that he would close his guide business in 2021 to be a stay-at-home dad while Alisha Seward worked as a

wildlife trooper.

While living in Kodiak, he helped his friend Thor Johnson open and run his own hobby shop, the Emerald Game House. It prompted him to get a business license to start doing online sales as he continued to develop contacts across Southeast Alaska. When the family moved to Juneau, Seward considered opening a shop there as he saw similar businesses like Coop's Collectibles and Riddle Valley Games. But he and his wife soon realized that they preferred small-town life.

When Alisha Seward came to Wrangell to assist with landslide relief efforts last fall, she told her husband of the similarities with their former home in Kodiak and took over the post when it became available in February. After they moved at the end of March, Wesley Seward opened the shop at their new home to gauge local interest.

Before moving to Wrangell, he hadn't had much opportunity to play in-person games in Kodiak or Juneau, as COVID had led to more virtual or remote gaming across the country. It had been hard to find his own community.

"I have friends that show up all the time now," Seward said. "It worked out."

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
Southern Southeast Area Office**

Preliminary Written Finding under AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.945

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF), gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary Best Interest Finding decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and 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 regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: East Charley Timber Sale (SSE-1386-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Commissioner will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Commissioner bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after July 15, 2024.

The draft Forest Land Use Plan is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 201 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. The Forest Land Use Plan is expected to be available to the public with or after the issuance of the final decision.

The area of the sale is proximate to the community of Edna Bay, approximately 1/2 mile to the north of the community of Edna Bay. The timber sale area is found within Sections 10 and 15, Township 68 South, Range 76 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig D-5 NW USGS quadrangle. The main access for this sale area is from the existing USFS Kosciuszko Road System, specifically the 1520000 and 15250000 Roads.

The three harvest units total approximately 201 acres and contain approximately 5,000 MBF of timber. This volume will be advertised and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.120, in the form of one or multiple sales.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments can be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or emailed to dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov. Comments must be received by the Division of Forestry office no later than July 15, 2024, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part or to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the final decision or the adopted FLUP, a person must have provided written comment by July 15, 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Contact: Greg Staunton
Phone: 907-225-3070
Email: greg.staunton@alaska.gov

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg, Wrangell and Edna Bay Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/215720>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection 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 June 19 and 26, 2024

Police report

Monday, June 17
 Summons service.
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
 Agency assist: Transportation Security Administration.

Tuesday, June 18
 Domestic dispute.
 Citizen assist.
 Courtesy transport.

Wednesday, June 19
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
 Domestic disturbance.

Thursday, June 20
 Agency assist: Wrangell Medical Center.
 Traffic stop: Citation issued for expired registration and driving while license suspended.
 Found property.
 Parking complaint.
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Friday, June 21
 Agency assist: Ambulance.
 Parking complaint.
 Citizen assist.
 Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
 Parking complaint: Citation issued for obstructing roadway.
 Driving under the influence: Arrested.

Saturday, June 22
 Agency assist: Municipal line crew.
 Traffic stop: Citation issued

for speeding.
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
 Agency assist: City Market.
 Agency assist: Ambulance.
 Report of suspicion of driving under the influence.

Sunday, June 23
 Suspicious circumstance.
 Motor vehicle accident: Citation issued for failure to provide proof of insurance.
 Bar check.
 Noise complaint.

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



“If you are a snowbird and flock away to warmer skies during the winter, your homeowner coverage may be in jeopardy while you’re away. Please call us today to discuss potential issues!”

Amy Hemenway,
 Personal & Commercial
 Lines Agent

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



Crossword

Answers on page 12

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | 22 | | | | 23 | | | |
| 24 | | | 25 | 26 | | | 27 | 28 | | | | |
| | 29 | 30 | | | | | 31 | | | | | |
| 32 | 33 | | | 34 | | | 35 | | 36 | 37 | 38 | |
| 39 | | | 40 | | | | 41 | | 42 | | | |
| 43 | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | | |
| | | 47 | | | | | 48 | | 49 | | | |
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| 57 | | | | 58 | 59 | | | 60 | 61 | | | |
| 62 | | | | 63 | | | 64 | | 65 | | | |
| 66 | | | | 67 | | | | | 68 | | | |
| 69 | | | | 70 | | | | | 71 | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 With a forward motion | 41 Getting on |
| 6 Guitarist --- Clapton | 43 Chop |
| 10 And others in Rome | 44 Base |
| 14 "Boléro" composer Maurice --- | 46 Part |
| 15 Lead vocalist of U2 | 47 Web address |
| 16 Sleepless in Seattle director --- Ephron | 48 Cleared |
| 17 Overweight | 50 E.g. Courvoisier |
| 18 Embryonic flowers | 53 Pricey |
| 19 --- Lane, Clark's love | 54 World's largest economy |
| 20 Shell lobster | 57 Stock-market debuts |
| 22 Exercise venue | 58 Monotonous routine |
| 23 --- the ground floor | 60 Daytona racing supervisory grp. |
| 24 Adeptness | 62 Established ceremony |
| 25 A lot | 63 Workplace regulation agency |
| 27 Think constantly | 65 Imperial sites? |
| 29 Badger | 66 Sweet |
| 31 Beloved | 67 It starts every Sunday |
| 32 Anti-ageist org. | 68 Fifty after |
| 34 Pulpit delivery | 69 ---, a plan, a canal, Panama |
| 36 Cushion | 70 Fictional Ozzie dame |
| 39 Comparatively costly | 71 Author/astronomer Carl --- |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Bouquet | 35 Donnybrook |
| 2 Toil | 36 Bringing forth |
| 3 Brought down | 37 Everyone |
| 4 Secluded retreat | 38 Stain |
| 5 Glows | 40 One paid to jump out of perfectly serviceable aircraft |
| 6 Abate | 42 Before, poetically |
| 7 Harsher | 45 Soon afterwards |
| 8 --- 500, car race | 47 Invisible |
| 9 Of worldwide scope | 49 Areas of land |
| 10 Sign up | 50 About |
| 11 Common odds ending | 51 Anything that stupefies |
| 12 Operatic solos | 52 Have to |
| 13 Endures | 55 Generous annual visitor |
| 21 "A Beautiful Mind" actor | 56 Fire-raising |
| 26 Record keeper | 59 Pre-loved |
| 28 Deform | 61 Mets' old stadium |
| 30 Emulator | 64 Alias |
| 32 Fire residue | |
| 33 Consumed | |

Looking good for the Fourth

Eric Scheib with the Public Works Department repainted a fire hydrant on Front Street on Friday, June 21. He said his department is trying to have all hydrants in the area powerwashed and repainted before the Fourth.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Doreen "Stretch" Keso

Nov. 29, 1939 - Jan. 7, 2024



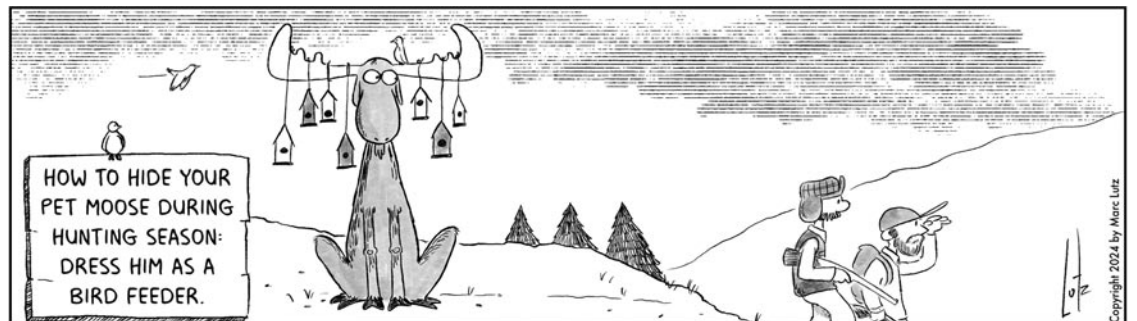
Celebration of life
 July 1, 2024 at 4pm
 at the Wrangell Elks Club.

Appetizers to follow.
 Please contact Monica at (907)223-0406 or Jennifer at (907)500-2750 if you can contribute.

Join us in sharing a funny story, favorite memory and/or photo.

Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
TRANSFORMERS PROCUREMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the Transformers Procurement project.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 16, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents should be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section.

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make an award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 26, July 3 and 10, 2024

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is seeking two road/trail maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and

applications are available outside the Wrangell Cooperative Association office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. Positions are open until filled. Contact Lizzy Romane at 907-874-3077 with any questions.

is DOE. Stop by Johnson's for an application.

FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick up.

FREE ADS

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

STAY UP TO DATE

Get a Wrangell Sentinel subscription today and enjoy the convenience of having the paper delivered to your mailbox each week. Subscribers also can enjoy free online access. Call Amber at 907-874-2301 or subscribe online at wrangellsentinel.com.

HELP WANTED

Johnson's Building Supply is accepting applications for the following position: Customer Service: Duties include counter sales, freight handling, customer deliveries, stocking and inventory. Full-time position; will require working Saturdays. Valid Alaska driver's license, must be able to lift 50 lbs., forklift experience a plus, starting pay

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Here to serve all your electrical needs
**COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL**
907-874-2770, #21633

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA DR-4767-AK**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by a Severe Storm, Flooding and Landslides occurring on Nov. 20, 2023. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) programs implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207.

Under a major disaster declaration (FEMA DR-4767-AK) signed by the President on April 6, 2024, the City and Borough of Wrangell, Southeast Island Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) and Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area have been designated adversely affected by the disaster and eligible for Public Assistance. All boroughs and REAA in the State of Alaska are eligible for HMGP.

This public notice concerns activities that may affect historic properties, activities that are located in or affect wetland areas or the 100-year floodplain, and critical actions within the 500-year floodplain. Such activities may adversely affect a historic property, floodplain or wetland, or may result in continuing vulnerability to flood damage.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 13690 (Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, reinstated by E.O.14030 and per Interim FEMA Policy 104-22-0003), and 11990 (Wetlands Protection) require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate, and are evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, future flood hazard conditions, legal and safety considerations. Where there is no opportunity to relocate, FEMA is required to undertake a detailed review to determine what measures can be taken to minimize future damage. The public is invited to participate in the process of identifying alternatives and analyzing their impacts through this notification.

FEMA has determined that for certain types of facilities there are normally no alternatives to restoration in the floodplain/wetland. These are facilities that meet all of the following criteria: 1) FEMA's estimate of the cost of repairs is less than 50 percent of the cost to replace the entire facility, and is less than \$100,000; 2) the facility is not located in a floodway; 3) the facility has not sustained major structural damage in a previous presidentially declared flooding disaster or emergency; and 4) the facility is not critical (e.g., the facility is not a hospital, generating plant, emergency operations center, or a facility that contains dangerous materials). FEMA intends to provide assistance for the restoration of these facilities to their pre-disaster condition, except that certain measures to mitigate the effects of future flooding or other hazards may be included in the work. For example, a bridge or culvert restoration may include a larger waterway opening to decrease the risk of future washouts.

For routine activities, this will be the only public notice provided. Other activities and those involving facilities that do not meet the four criteria are required to undergo more detailed review, including study of alternate locations. Subsequent public notices regarding such projects will be published, if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

In many cases, an applicant may have started facility restoration before federal involvement. Even if the facility must undergo detailed review and analysis of alternate locations, FEMA will fund eligible restoration at the original location if the facility is functionally dependent on its floodplain location (e.g., bridges and piers), or the project facilitates an open space use, or the facility is an integral part of a larger network that is impractical or uneconomical to relocate, such as a road. In such cases, FEMA must also examine the possible effects of not restoring the facility, minimize floodplain/wetland impacts, and determine both that an overriding public need for the facility clearly outweighs the Executive Order requirements to avoid the floodplain/wetland, and that the site is the only practicable alternative. State of Alaska and local officials will confirm to FEMA that proposed actions comply with all applicable state and local floodplain management and wetland protection requirements.

FEMA also intends to provide HMGP funding to the State of Alaska to mitigate future disaster damage. These projects may include construction of new facilities, modification of existing, undamaged facilities, relocation of facilities out of floodplains, demolition of structures, or other types of projects to mitigate future disaster damage. While developing project proposals, subsequent public notices will be published, if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Those actions or activities affecting buildings, structures, districts, or objects 50 years or older or that affect archeological sites or undisturbed ground will require further review to determine if the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Register). If the property is determined to be eligible for the Register, and FEMA's undertaking will adversely affect it, FEMA will provide additional public notices. For historic properties not adversely affected by FEMA's undertaking, this will be the only public notice.

As noted, this may be the only public notice regarding the above-described actions under the PA and HMGP programs. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10 office, 130 228th St. SW, Bothell, Washington 98021-9796 or by email to FEMA-R10-EHP-Comments@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing to Brian F. Schiller, Federal Coordinating Officer, at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

Publish June 26, 2024

**Raincountry Contractors
Septic tank pump
service available
until October 30, 2024
907-650-7028**

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Borough Assembly will be holding a Special Assembly Meeting on Monday, July 1, 2024, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Wrangell Borough Assembly Chambers at 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska, for the purpose of a PUBLIC HEARING with a decision on the following item(s):

- a. A Resolution of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Repealing and Replacing Resolution No 04-24-1853 to Provide for the Amended Terms for the Conveyance of Borough-Owned Real Property Within Wrangell Townsite (Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9) of Subdivision Plat Block 54, According to Plat No. 68-81, Zoned Open Space, to Wayne Johnson, DBA Wrangell Heritage House Development, LLC., and to Approve an Amendment the Purchase and Sale Agreement
- Members of the Assembly may attend via Zoom or in person.

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

Publish June 26, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
MEYERS CHUCK HARBOR REPLACEMENT
FLOAT PROCUREMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the Meyers Chuck Harbor Replacement – Float Procurement project. Base Bid Work consists of all activities necessary to design moorage floats and supply all fabricated moorage float materials and hardware and delivering those materials to the Marine Services Center storage area in Wrangell, Alaska, in accordance with the Contract Documents. Additive Alternate work consists of designing additional moorage floats and supplying those materials and hardware and Contractor assembly of the moorage float materials and hardware into complete float modules prior to shipping. The engineers estimate for the Base Bid work is approximately \$600,000 and for the combination of Additive Alternates is approximately \$345,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 until 2 p.m. prevailing time on July 17, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents should be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section.

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make an award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 26, July 3 and 10, 2024

New training could help improve care in violence and abuse cases

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The state of Alaska experiences some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault and abuse in the nation, yet most health care personnel are not trained to document and collect medical evidence crucial for aiding victims of assault and abuse. Creators of the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy, who visited Wrangell last week, are trying to bridge the gap in training.

ACFTA provides free training to nurses and health care providers that “teaches medical providers the correct way to collect forensic evidence from the onset of care, as well as the necessary knowledge and skills to offer dignity and respect to any victim reporting trauma and or violence in Alaska’s communities.”

Academy personnel met with health care professionals and community members in Wrangell on June 18 to give a presentation on their training program, which includes 20 to 25 hours of online coursework and 20 to 25 hours of live instruction via Zoom.

Following the presentation, they opened the floor up to feedback from about a dozen community members on how the training could be best utilized in Wrangell.

Every community in Alaska has its own unique issues and resources, said Angelia Trujillo, a nursing professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage who gave the presentation June 18. Providing necessary training is important, but it’s also important to tailor the training to specific communities so that people are actually able to get the training they need and use it effectively.

Trujillo and Kathi Trawver are currently visiting 20 communities across the state to host meetings like they did in Wrangell.

Part of their work, and their reason for visiting Wrangell, was to collect data on challenges and issues in individual communities in order to continue funding training that actually works. Their goal is to tailor the training to Wrangell so that it can be brought to health care personnel here.

Trawver asked community members what their concerns were, what they thought might be missing in the training, what the community needs and how to get people to buy into and participate in the training.

Community members shared the importance of making sure the training aligned with practices within the community, addressing shortages of administrative help, time constraints of documentation and paperwork and addressing the occasional lack of confidentiality in such a small town.

There are programs in the state designed to protect women and children from domestic and sexual abuse, but for other

demographics and other forms of abuse, there are gaps in care.

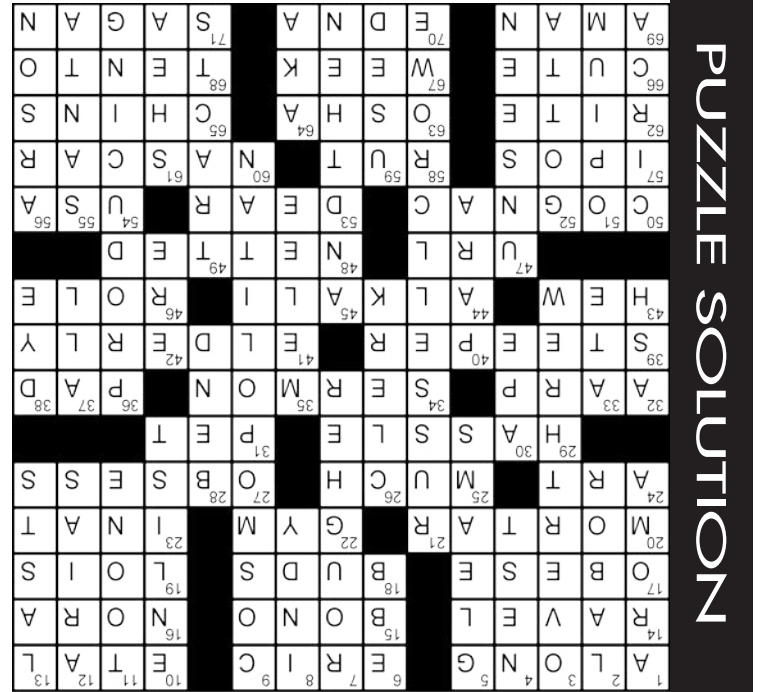
“The general public needs to feel confident in their health care personnel responding to their needs, and feeling safe when they go in there, and feeling heard,” Trujillo said. “When you have providers who haven’t had training or don’t know what to say or how to ask, it doesn’t make a person feel comfortable or confident in sharing something very personal.”

Trujillo said a broader approach is necessary to address the gaps in care. The skills required to document, collect evidence and talk to victims are more or less the same regardless

of the type of violence or abuse victims face. So providing training to deal with cases of violence in general can be extremely beneficial.

The goal of the program is to “have a critical mass of health care persons able to respond to all victims,” she said.

“So many people are such advocates for themselves now, this is another realm of advocacy,” Trujillo said. “It’s like, ‘wait a minute, I want my health care provider to know how to do that.’ People should encourage and push health care to be responsive to all of their needs, not just some of them.”



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CITY MARKET INC

Happy 4th of July

City Market and Sentry

Would like to thank all our customers for your continued support over the last year!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA