

Wrangell, Alaska
June 29, 2017

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 115, Number 26

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages

Public employees union calls strike, workers take up pickets

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

It was out of the workplace and into the streets for many Wrangell city staff last Thursday, as two dozen unionized workers began a strike over prolonged contract

negotiations.

The City and Borough has been negotiating for a new collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 since the summer of 2014, when the

previous CBA expired. The process has at times been tumultuous, with court proceedings through the fall of 2016 being settled prejudicially by both parties in December. The ongoing strike is the latest escalation as talks have reached an

impasse.

That point was reached after a pair of meetings held this month. As part of December's settlement, the union was able to make a pitch directly to the City and Borough Assembly with its last best offer if the city's negotiating team rejected it. That came on June 8, and was rejected after deliberation with the city's attorney.

In the latest exchange, the union had conceded to the city's position that public employees contribute to health insurance costs for themselves, their spouse and dependents, up to 15 percent. A tentative arrangement where workers enrolled in a wellness program cover only 10 percent was scrapped when the city learned earlier this month that a related discount would no longer be offered through insurer Premera.

For its part, the city had likewise conceded to the union's request that the bottom six steps of the 16-step wage table be dropped, with three additional steps added to the top, and two-percent increments between steps across the board. Under the current table, the first six steps vary in their incremental increases.

The main disagreement between the two parties has been over wages, with IBEW contending that employees it represents ought to be compensated for the additional cost of their share in health insurance premiums. Pointing to other municipalities, its position is that Wrangell's public employees tend to be underpaid, something their benefits make more acceptable. In the package it put forward on June 8, the union suggested a \$2.50 hourly wage increase across the wage table to compensate for the additional costs.

Following the Assembly's rejection of that offer, on June 9 the city's bargaining team submitted a package that included a

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A group of workers take up positions outside of City Hall on June 20, shortly after calling their strike. IBEW members intend to stake out four public sites eight hours a day, five days per week, until a more favorable wage settlement is reached.

Wrangell's salaries: a look at the numbers

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

With the public employees' union going on strike late last week, numbers have proven a key issue in the ongoing debate over fair compensation.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 – which represents 24 of the City and Borough of Wrangell's staff – has proposed a new collective bargaining agreement that would include a \$2.50 hourly increase across the board for its member employees. The city's offer of \$0.75 an hour's increase appears slight by comparison, but how much would each actually cost?

Calculating income

In discussions now for almost three

years, the major sticking point between the city and union in negotiating a collective bargaining agreement has become wages. Union employees have held to the same wage table since their CBA, which expired in 2014, was adopted in 2011. Since 2010 the wage table has been adjusted twice, by 0.6 percent in both cases.

Since July 2011, most of Wrangell's union-represented employees have earned annual wage increases of between 1.0 and 3.1 percent. Like other employees, their hourly income is determined by a wage table generally reflecting time served and credentials. Outliers from this set of averages include the sewer and water treatment lead positions, which were reclassified in last year's budget and have seen an increase

of 14.1 and 14.8 percent. There is also a pool maintenance employee, who began in the current fiscal year and so has no opportunity yet for step increases, and an electric lineman position, which jumped an average of 13.1 percent per-year because of an advancement from apprenticeship.

Currently, of the 24 employees on strike, six make less than \$20 an hour. Twelve employees make between \$20 and \$30 per hour, five make more than \$30 but less than \$40, and the electric line foreman tops that at \$40.31 hourly. Once a worker reaches the top of the wage table, there is no further to climb unless the table itself sees increases. The position of lead mechanic, for example, has been locked at the top of his pay scale since FY14, at \$29.51 an hour.

In eight shops, IBEW-represented employees make up the majority or entirety of staff. This includes Public Works maintenance, water, sewer, sanitation, garage services, Municipal Light and Power, harbors and the boatyard. Non-union employees largely include administrative staff at City Hall, department heads, police and fire officials, library and museum staff, and most recreation staff.

The highest-paid union employees are the line foreman and one of the linemen, making \$76,275 and \$79,260 respectively. The lowest-paid permanent employees are relatively new, with the library assistant and light maintenance technician – both non-union – each making \$14.00 an hour.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

June 29: Kendra Meissner, Jim Tuttle, Lucas Shilts, Janice Kalkins, Amber Walker. **Anniversary:** Scott and Tamara Eastaugh. **June 30:** Verda Villarma, Trixie Bennett, **Anniversary:** Jim and Penny Early. **July 1:** Emily Mason, Lauren Helgeson, Bruce Siggins, Susan Neff. **July 2:** Charlie Kirschner, Jaci Wright, Howard Fennimore, **Anniversary:** Jeff and Dawn Angerman, Curt and Jonna Kautz, Andre and Caitly Shafer. **July 3:** Colin Anderson, Lacey Churchill, Christian Kaer, **Anniversary:** Roy and Nancy Guthrie. **July 4:** Madelyn Davies, Alexandra Bennett, **Anniversary:** Floyd and Sue Ramsey. **July 5:** Mathew Mjoore, Tamela Dailey, Tyman Comstock. **July 6:** Cheney Chrisman, Cameron Rilatos, Laura Helgeson, Jennifer Miller, Shane Bennett, **Anniversary:** Daniel and Tammie Kirschner, Miles and Waka Brown.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, June 29:

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

Friday, June 30:

Chef salad, Potato soup, hot roll.

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

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, June 29

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.
SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.
Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.
Yoga: 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Sunday, July 2

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

Monday, July 3

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

Tuesday, July 4

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

Wednesday, July 5

Retired Teacher's Potluck: 1-4:00 pm at Shoemaker Park. Open to all.
 Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

Continuing Events

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

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

June 28, 1917: Judge Wm. G. Thomas who has resided in Wrangell more than 40 years, and who has been U.S. commissioner for 11 years has tendered his resignation to take effect June 30. When seen by the Sentinel reporter Judge Thomas gave no special reason for resigning except that the fees are quite

small, and that his wife being in poor health he wished to take her up the Stikine for a month or two in the hope of benefiting her health. Judge Jennings, in accepting the resignation stated that he did so with regret as he had been in Wrangell so long and had always given satisfaction and there had never been any complaint of graft or partiality. In resigning Judge Thomas recommended C. E. Weber as his successor. Judge Jennings has decided to appoint Mr. Weber U.S. Commissioner at Wrangell to take office July 1. Asked regarding his plans for the future Judge Thomas stated that upon his return from Telegraph creek he expected to take up the practice of the law in connection with his fire insurance business.

June 23, 1942: Wrangell Drug store, operated by James and Elsie Nolan, moved into its newly renovated quarters in the Nolan building this week. The drug store and the Den O' Sweets, a long established Nolan enterprise, will be operated jointly with Pharmacist Jack Phillips in charge of the drug department. Remodeling work on the Nolan building is now virtually completed and with its large display window space is one of the outstanding places along Wrangell's main thoroughfare.

June 23, 1967: More than 75 Elks and family attended the annual Elks annual Father's Day picnic at eight-mile beach last Sunday. For the first time in years the weather cooperated which accounted for a much larger

turnout. entertainment was offered by the arrival of Bud Hodge and August Schultz in Hodge's cruiser with water skiers Fred Pully and Dave Churchill in town. Loretta Stokes and Dave Churchill then gave quite a show. Alysse Neyman, Bob Maxand and Ken Skulstad gave a performance of offshore swimming and diving feats. Sheila Camm, who was taking movies has one for Art Linkletter's book. Linkletter started the gag on TV of going through Women's purses and giving fabulous prizes if some odd item was present. After taking the movies of the skiers, Sheila put her camera in her purse which flipped on and it

took a movie of the interior.

June 25, 1992: More than any other state in the union, federal power in Alaska has its limits within which Alaskans must seek to realize the promises made by the Alaska Statehood Act. Federal control over Alaska lands and resources has produced a sense that Alaskans are not the masters of our own economic destiny. Our reliance on oil for 84 percent of Alaska's income has compounded this sense of helplessness. Each year, hundreds if not thousands of young Alaskans who go outside to attend college fail to return to the state, seeing no economic future, for themselves or their families in Alaska.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

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

Southbound

Monday, July 3
 Matanuska 4:15 a.m.
Wednesday, July 5
 Malaspina 3:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 6
 Matanuska 11:30 p.m.
Monday, July 10
 Matanuska 5:30 a.m.
Wednesday, July 12
 Malaspina 9:15 a.m.

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



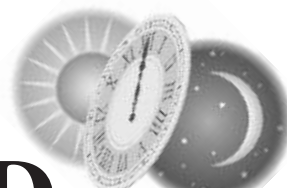
TIDES TABLE June 29 - July 6

High Tides				Low Tides			
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
June 29:	5:19	15.2	6:17	15.2	11:35	-0.1	...
June 30:	6:19	13.7	7:15	14.9	0:10	3.5	12:26
July 1:	7:30	12.6	8:14	14.8	1:17	3.7	1:22
July 2:	8:44	12.1	9:12	15.0	2:28	3.5	3:24
July 3:	9:53	12.1	10:04	15.3	3:38	2.9	3:24
July 4:	10:53	12.5	10:52	15.7	4:40	2.1	4:24
July 5:	11:46	13.1	11:37	16.1	5:30	1.1	5:17
July 6:	12:32	13.6	6:12	0.2	6:03



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
June 19:	60	45
June 20:	61	45
June 21:	62	46
June 22:	63	46
June 23:	62	45
June 24:	63	45
June 25:	61	46
June 26:	62	46



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
June 29:	4:04am	9:38pm	17:34h
June 30:	4:05am	9:37pm	17:32h
July 1:	4:06am	9:37pm	17:31h
July 2:	4:07am	9:36pm	17:29h
July 3:	4:07am	9:36pm	17:29h
July 4:	4:08am	9:35pm	17:27h
July 5:	4:09am	9:35pm	17:26h
July 6:	4:10am	9:34pm	17:24h

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'Not guilty' plea entered in car thefts

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The man accused of a spate of vehicular thefts earlier this month has entered a not guilty plea this week, and the case is expected to go to trial in August.

Lief Cheyenne Bosdell, 20,

appeared for his arraignment at Wrangell Courthouse on Monday. He had on June 9 been charged with seven felony counts of vehicular theft and three additional misdemeanor counts of criminal mischief. If convicted, the charges together carry a maximum jail sentence of 35 years and one month and up to \$356,000 in fines.

The alleged thefts took place in Wrangell between June 2 and 8, with most occurring on the nights of the 6th and 8th. Two vehicles – a Lincoln sedan owned by Angelika Hall and a Chevrolet pickup belonging to Levi Dow – were rendered unusable during suspected joy rides, with the car catching fire and the truck's engine seizing before being abandoned. The undercarriage of a Nissan pickup owned by Daniel Doak was also damaged, the vehicle high-centered on a log during an attempted jump at the horse track, while a Ford Ranger belonging to James Lane was stuck off a nearby road without significant damage.

Trial has been set for the week of August 21, scheduled to begin August 22 at 9 a.m. In addition to the local charges, Bosdell is already awaiting criminal pro-

ceedings in Anchorage for four misdemeanor counts stemming from two different offenses. In one, allegedly transpiring on March 31, Bosdell is accused of tampering and damaging

property, and faces one reckless injury charge. The other, on April 4, is another charge of property damage.

Bosdell has previously been convicted of one offense in

Wrangell, for driving without a license back in August 2015. He had also been cited for possession of tobacco by a minor in July of that year.

Pressing in for some sweet nectar

A swarm of hummingbirds press in close around one of Bill Neumann's feeders outside of his cabin on Farm Island this month. Between his three feeders, the bird-watcher estimates about 75 specimens this season. Normally he has counted anywhere from 150 to 200 birds by this time in the season, making this year's count leaner than usual. A group that big – called a "charm" of hummingbirds – can go through five gallons of nectar a day, or 135 pounds in a summer by his reckoning.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BILL NEUMANN

Correction

In the Sentinel's June 22 issue, it was mistakenly reported that SEAPA's governing board had approved payment to KPU in the amount of \$3,307. The motion had actually failed in a 3-1 vote by board members during the June 20 meeting.

B.P.O. ELKS #1595

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2 days of searching finds no sign of missing Juneau woman

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska State Troopers say two

days of searching has not found a 53-year-old woman missing on Thunder Mountain Trail in Juneau.

Troopers say family members first attempted to find Teri Heuscher and contacted emergency responders for help Saturday afternoon.

Volunteer rescue groups were joined by municipal, state and federal officials. A private helicopter searched from the air.

Groups and volunteers searched again Sunday.

Heuscher is 5-foot-4. She was last seen wearing a navy

blue jacket and black pants.

Court report

June 26

Criminal charges against Phillip Eullean Haskins, 34, were dismissed by prosecution at First Judicial District Court. Two counts of Theft 3-Value \$250-\$999 were dropped, and all charges in the case are now disposed.

Criminal charges against Steven B. Gerard, 48, were dismissed by prosecution at First Judicial District Court. One count of Criminal Trespass 2-Upon Premises was dropped, and all charges in the case are now disposed.

Police report

Monday, June 19

Citizen Assist: Officer unlocked vehicle.
Abandoned Vehicle: Sticker placed on vehicle.

Officer secured business door.

Tuesday, June 20

Vacation Patrol: Vacation check requested.
86'd letters: Two letters served.
Lost Wallet.

Agency Assist: Info given at Harbor Dept.

Wednesday, June 21

Micaelah Larsen, 19, charged with Criminal trespass in the first degree, Harassment in the second degree, and resisting or interfering with Arrest.

Criminal Mischief: Report of vehicle being keyed. VCOR: Arrested Micaelah Larsen, 19, Violating Conditions.

Parking Complaint: Report of vehicle with flat time and expired tags: Has been parked for over a week.

Thursday, June 22

Lost wallet and cell phone.
Report of broken glass in roadway.

Citation issued to Jennifer Ludwigsen, 30, for failure to permit visitation with a Minor.
Disturbance: Title 47.

Friday, June 23

Report of Disorderly Conduct.
Trespass Warning.
Control burn: Caller stated they would be burning.
86'd letter: Letter received and served.

Saturday, June 24

Suspicious Circumstance.
Traffic Complaint.
Agency Assist Fire: 911: Control burn that was not reported ahead of time.
Suspicious Person.
Parking: Vehicle parked on the street.

Sunday, June 25

Traffic Complaint.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for license plate off and Class C expired.
Agency Assist: Electrical department notified of power outage.
Agency Assist: Public Works notified of substation alarm going off.



THANK YOU

The American Legion through the Merlin Elmer Palmer Post #6 wish to express thanks to the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks for a joint presentation of the official United States Flag Day ceremony. This annual day for our American flag is of special significance to both our organizations commemorating the adoption of our flag.

A special thanks to the Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, & Chaplain for their presentation. Everyone's participation made this a beautiful ceremony. The parade of the American flags by the Emblem Club showing how our flag design developed over the years was memorable to all who attended.

It was a privilege to be able to join with the Elk's by conducting the Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags, outdoors to TAPS by outgoing high school senior, Joseph Hommel.

Thank you to all who joined us for this occasion.

Respectfully,

Charles Petticrew, Commander



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July 10 and 11, Wrangell
July 12, Petersburg

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peacehealth.org/outreachcalendar

Letter to the Editor

History of city negotiations

I feel as a City employee, who is in the union, I must say something. Circa 2004, the employees approached the council with the issue of wages and the fact that they had not

changed, plus the fact that we were behind something on the order of 8% (memory) in the cost of living. As the City did not want a union to enter into the fray, they offered to give us half of the cost of living we were behind in that year, and the rest the following year, plus a wage study was authorized.

That year all went well, sort of. The employees did in fact get a around half of the COLA as promised, and the wage study was performed.

The following year, the City reneged on their deal, and refused to pay us the rest of what they told us they would, citing the usual "we have no

money, but you are wonderful, and we love you, couldn't do it without you. Come see us next year." Having grown weary of the run-around and broken promises, 24 (I think) of us requested representation from IBEW 1547. At that time, Robert Prunella was the City Manager. Bob was a businessman by trade, had a decent head on his shoulders, and was fair and Honest for us (union members) to deal with. We were able to come to a contract that benefited both us and the City in quick order.

After Bob, came Tim Rooney. Tim was not from here, but he had enough common sense about him to know that a happy employee is a good employee. Again, we had no trouble getting a contract that benefited us and the City. After Tim Rooney left, the

reigns were handed over once again, and the trouble started.

First delay after delay followed excuse after excuse. When negotiations were entered into, they were never productive, and confrontational. This attitude has continued since the last contract was to expire (about three years), and has finally brought us to where we are today. Please understand that we do not wish a strike, and that this benefits no one. I am a City Employee who is a Union member. I am not an avid fan of the Union, that is not a secret. However I am very certain that without the union, ALL CITY EMPLOYEES would not be where they are today in both wages and benefits.

Wayne McHolland

Obituary: Christopher Raymond Feller, 60

Christopher Raymond Feller, 60, passed away April 22, 2017 in Anchorage, Alaska at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

He was born in Wrangell, Alaska on March 5, 1957, the youngest and fifth child of John and Carol Feller.

Christopher lived most of his life in Wrangell and graduated from Wrangell High the class of 1976.

He was a hard worker on his brother-in-law's seine boat F/V Miss Susan. He worked at the local lumber mill until it closed in 1994 and again, when it reopened for a few years around 2000. Chris also worked for a short time out on the Bering Sea crabbing.

Recently, Chris enjoyed spending time with his son, Christopher Raven and spent the past five years living in Juneau with Scotty and Carol, helping them out. He also loved their family dog Xena.

Christopher is survived by: son Christopher Raven, step-son Steven Hernandez; mother Carol and stepfather, Brookner "Scotty" Brady;



Christopher Raymond Feller

oldest brother John Feller; three sisters, Susan Stevens with Floyd Ramsey, Helen Feller and Luella and Jerry Knapp; and twelve nieces and nephews and their children. He was married twice, to Cheryl Hamilton and Doreen Hernandez.

A memorial will be officiated by Pastor Matt Gerald at the Harbor Light Assembly of God in Wrangell on July 1 at 1 PM. A Celebration of Life gathering and potluck will follow at Shoemaker Park, weather permitting or at the American Legion.

Honorary Pall Bearers will be: Richard Johnson, Richard Rinehart, Daniel Rinehart, Albert Rinehart, Tom Wynne, Jason Wright, George Larsen, Arthur Larsen, Brookner "Scotty" Brady, Christopher Raven Feller, Steven Hernandez, John Feller, Tom "Buzz" Feller, Chuck Jenkins, Jim Jenkins, Jerry L. Knapp, Jerry Hunter Knapp, John B. Fowler, Gary A. Stevens, Mark Stevens and Steve Ramsey.

Wedding announcement

Joseph Rugo and Alexandra Surface tied the knot on May 29, 2017 in Cancun, Mexico, surrounded by family and friends.

Joe is the son of Barb and Mike Rugo of Wrangell, Alaska, and the bride is the daughter of Michael and Lisa Surface of Kansas City, Missouri. The best man was Joe's brother, Jess Rugo, and the maid of honor was Kristin Tremonti.

The newlyweds are making their home in Atlanta, Georgia.



James Christopher Gillen Jr.
 &
Solvay Ava Bakke

Request the honor of your presence at their wedding as they are united as husband and wife
Friday, July 7th at 6:30 pm, at Shoemaker Park
Reception to follow

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE
 for **Donna Larsen**
 will be held
 at the **Stiking Inn.**
Saturday July 8 at 1:30 pm
In memory of Donna
donations can be made to
Wrangell SAR dogs.

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

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

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

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

Sentinel Staff:

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 Production Ola Richards

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

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Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1
 Local.....\$42
 Other Alaska.....\$57
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Wrangell gal appears on British Television

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

With its abundance of mountains, seascape, wildlife and local color, Wrangell is no stranger to television.

For instance, contractors at the Marine Service Center were featured on National Geographic Channel's series "The Yard," with episodes first being aired in 2016. Another show has shined a spotlight on the island this month, with BBC Two exploring the fish-out-of-water theme in "The Life Swap Adventure."

The premise of the six-episode series takes residents from around the United Kingdom and has them trade places with people from around the world. In the five episodes aired so far, locales have included Guyana in South America, Malawi in Central Africa, Taiwan, Nashville and now Wrangell.

For the trade-off, Leslie Cummings was picked on the Alaska end of things. She had first heard of the proposed program in January 2016, after receiving an email.

"The BBC was looking for people to participate in a life swap adventure," she recounted. After checking to make sure the item wasn't some sort of scam, she went through the application process.

"It asked really strange questions, like: 'What is your biggest regret?' 'How do you feel about England?' That kind of thing," she said.

Cummings, who owns Grand View Bed and Breakfast and whose husband, Alan, works in the petroleum industry, caught the British network's attention. It reached out to her, arranging an interview over Skype.

Cummings said she had explained about her job, her family life, ambitions and pastimes. "They said, 'Oh, you like to hunt?'" After also speaking with her husband, Cummings said she was told they were among the series' final candidates, with another subject up in Haines.

As the selection process continued, the show's mechanics became worrisome. In particular,

"They put me in a blindfold, and they put me in a car. What I was thinking was they were going to do an extreme contrast, you know, Alaska girl, country, big city London."

- Leslie Cummings

Cummings was concerned about the bed and breakfast, and how the program might impact its business. Once she learned she had been selected to do the show, Cummings hired on Jill Privett as an assistant at the Grand View, to help see to business while she was away.

"She was perfect, because she was like Leslie Jr.," she said.

There was little preparation for the show itself, with the swap taking place last September. Cummings' counterpart was a similarly-aged woman named Lilian, who had no idea where she would be taken. Cummings only knew she was headed to the United Kingdom, and was flown into London. After clearing customs, Cummings was blindfolded and taken by car to a London hotel. She was instructed to avoid newspapers and television, and after a sleepless night was ready to start her 12-day adventure.

"They put me in a blindfold, and they put me in a car," she said. The show's runner took her on a drive for three and a half hours, providing no information as to what Cummings could expect. "What I was thinking was they were going to do an extreme contrast, you know, Alaska girl, country, big city London."

She was only half-right, ending up in suburban Yorkshire. "They take off the blindfold and I have no idea where I am. I'm in this big town square and I'm in Nottingham, England," she said. "The first thing is I look up at this big clock tower, clanging, and I'm like 'Oh my gosh, is that Big Ben?' And they all start cracking



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Leslie Cummings admires a portrait of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, during her September adventure in the United Kingdom. Cummings was chosen to trade places with an Englishwoman for 12 days as part of BBC Two's production of "The Life Swap Adventure," airing earlier this month.

up. So I come off as a stupid American right off the bat."

Cummings was then given a name, a placename and a £10 note, with instructions to find where she was supposed to be. She had to find a Lilian and Stuart in a Trowell Grove – it was not until much later she realized the place was a road in nearby Long Eaton, a suburb of Nottingham. Getting the information and catching a bus took her about eight and a half hours before finding her new, temporary home.

"I finally find the place. It's a military family, the husband is a colonel in the Queen's Army," Cummings explained. Once settled in, production kept to a hectic pace.

"I was definitely on a schedule," she said. "We were always on the run. We were filming 12, 16 hours a day. If I got to bed by midnight I was lucky."

Lilian works in a local clinic

as a nurse, so Cummings spent a day experiencing her counterpart's life there. She also got to experience different aspects of British life, and was surprised at the country's diversity and history.

"It was a life-changing experience for me, it was amazing," said Cummings. In particular she loved the country's history, "how it was really old and important-feeling. It's kind of like our motherland; the Pilgrims came from there, you know, and I could recognize so much that we've stole from them," such as the familiar place names.

In one anecdote, she recalled visiting Stuart's military base. "We walked into this entryway. There was this big cherry wood table, it was just gorgeous. And I comment on it, and Stuart said, 'Oh, it's Napoleon's table.' And I said, 'How do you know it was Napoleon's table?' 'Because we stole it from him!'"

In addition to the experiences the BBC production wanted her to try, Cummings had two things on her to do list. One of them was to see a real castle, of which there were plenty in the Yorkshire countryside. One day she was able to take an extensive ride to see her surrounds.

The other was to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, to see how those work on the other side of the Atlantic. "It was the same. It was hysterical, I loved it. They were the same as us, they just talk funny. Or we talk funny," she added.

While Cummings enjoyed the history of the place, what she didn't enjoy was the perceived impersonality of England. "Nobody will look you in the eye. It's very impersonal, there's no sense of community," she found. Another aspect had been British cuisine. "They didn't have coffee, and that was almost

a deal-breaker."

Meanwhile in America, Lilian had a relatively easier time of things. After arriving at the airport, she had met up with Margaret McLaughlin outside her home on Evergreen Road, and right off the bat was directed to the Grand View.

"Lilian's here, and it's in September. So it's hunting season, and Alan takes her over to Zarembo (Island) to go hunting, and she's absolutely petrified about shooting a deer," Cummings later learned. Overall, the experience had been a good one, and Cummings felt Wrangell came out looking the better for it.

The two finally met on Cummings' return to Wrangell. "She loved it, she never wanted to leave," she said. "She just had the time of her life. They were having barbecues on the beach, and sunsets, and orcas, and trips on the boat to Zarembo.

"I'll be forever grateful to the BBC for this opportunity," Cummings commented. "It changed my life and made me look at things from a new perspective. And Lilian and her family, and they were so gracious and kind and welcoming."

It was her first trip abroad, and while the experience had been hectic and more daunting than she first expected, she was glad to have participated. "If I'd have known what it was going to entail before I left, I probably wouldn't have done it."

Since its airing on June 4 on BBC Two, Cummings has received an outpouring of feedback from viewers in the UK, getting 55 one day before her interview with the Sentinel. The messages have mostly been positive, she said, like "You made me think of things that I haven't thought of," and "You're so inspiring."

We carry

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2017 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - "MAKING WAVES"

STIKINE STITCHERS 12TH ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY QUILT SHOW

Quilts on display in the Downtown area from June 26th - July 10th.
The Challenge Quilt will be using 1/2 yard or more of fabric off the same bolt.
Chairperson: Joan Benjamin

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST

COLOR RUN

8:30 am - Sign-up 9:30 am - Start time
Wear a white t-shirt!
Chairperson: Jodie Howell
Sponsored by: WMC Long Term Care

COMMUNITY MARKET

10:00 am - Noon Nolan Center

3RD ANNUAL RED WHITE & BLUE FAIR

Nolan Center Classroom
June 29th - Thursday, 6-9pm - Drop off exhibits
June 30th - Friday, 6-9pm - Judging
Exhibit viewing: Saturday, July 1st from 10-5pm
Exhibit viewing: Monday, July 3rd from 10-5pm
Chairperson: Aleisha Mollen

BIG WHEEL RACES

3:00 pm - City Dock Turnaround
Children 3-6 years of age Children can bring their own Big Wheels (some will be provided). Children race against children of the same age and gender. Cash prizes.
Chairperson: Drew Larrabee

Sunday, July 2nd

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Logging Show Set-up,
Please leave City Dock turnaround open and clear while the logging show is being set-up.
No Parking. Randy Oliver and crew

TINY TOTS SCRAP FISH DERBY

11:00 am - City Dock/Summer Float
Ages 0-5 years. Safety Rules: All children must be accompanied by at least one adult.
MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET AT ALL TIMES.
Hand lines only; bring your own bait (some bait may be provided). PRIZES FOR ALL CHILDREN!
Chairperson: Tessa Appleman

ART CLARK SCRAP FISH DERBY

Noon: Set-up, 1:00 pm: Start
City Dock/Summer Float
Two Age Categories: 6-9 and 10-13
Rules: No parents allowed on floats unless they are one of the volunteers. All children wear a life jacket at all times. Hand lines only. No rods or reels.
One hook per line, one line per person.
Contestants must bait their own hook. Any kind of bait can be used. Bait will be supplied for children who do not have their own. Derby officials will decide any questions not covered by the rules and their decision will be final.
Chairpersons: Meissner Family

WELCOME HOME PICNIC

5-9:00 pm - Shoemaker Park
4:45 pm - Baby Photo Shoot
Potluck. Everyone welcome!

Pudding Pie Eating Contest - cash prizes!
Chairpersons: April Einert and City Market

LIVE MUSIC

9:00 pm - The Luke Shuman Band, Rayme's Bar

MONDAY, JULY 3

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Community Center Gym
Middle School: Grades 6-8th
(Incoming 6th & Outgoing 8th)
Registration 9:00 am, Play starts at 10:00 am
High School/Adult - 9th Grade & Up
(Incoming 9th) Registration 12:00 pm/Noon,
Play starts at 1:00 pm

Fee: \$10.00 Cash Per Player. Ladies play first.
Winner takes all. 16 team limit, single elimination.
Sponsored by: Wrangell Parks & Recreation
www.wrangellrec.com

Target Competition

10:00 am-2:00 pm at the Shooting Range
Firearms and ammo provided. No personal firearms. Adults must accompany all minor participants. Eye and ear protection required for spectators and participants.
No drugs or alcohol. Cash prizes!
Chairperson: Allen Rooney

GREASED POLE

11:00 am City Dock/Summer Float
Ages 10+ Waiver of responsibility must be signed by the responsible adult and a life jacket worn at all times. \$5.00 per try
PRIZE: One hundred dollar bill at the top of the pole... if you make it before you drop!
Chairperson: Randy Oliver

CANOE RACING

1:00 pm - City Dock/Summer Float
All participants must wear PFD's. Prizes awarded for the male, female, and coed team of each.
Race Categories: "High Liners" 11-14 years old
"River Runners" 15-17 years old
"Sea Runners" 18-50 years old, "Lilly Dippers" 50+
Sponsored by: John Martin and Alaska Crossings

CRAZY CRAFT RACE

3:00 pm - City Dock/Summer Float
Anything that floats except a boat! All participants must wear a life jacket.
Chaired by: Aleisha Mollen

TALENT SHOW

(WRANGELL'S EXOTIC ART REVIEW)

6:30 pm - Nolan Center
Wearable Art Show *mixed with talent*
Chaired by: Cyni Cray and Bonnie Ritchie
Sponsored by: Wrangell Community Arts

CORONATION

8:00 pm - Nolan Center
"Crowning of the 2017 Royal Court"
Charley Seddon and Hailee Davis

FIREWORKS

Dusk (usually around 11pm)
In front of town, a couple of fireworks will be shot to signal that the main display will begin approximately 10 minutes later.
Presented by:
Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department

LIVE MUSIC

The Luke Shuman Band Before and AFTER the FIREWORKS at Rayme's Bar

TUESDAY, JULY 4TH

INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN RUN/WALK/BIKE

7:00 am - Register at the pool
7:30 am - Race begins at the crosswalk in front of the swimming pool and then proceeds to the ferry terminal, around the airport loop, back to Church Street, and onto the finish line at the crosswalk in front of the pool.
(Distance: 2.9 miles)
No entry fee. Anything goes.
For more information call 874-2444
Sponsored by:
Wrangell Parks & Recreation
www.wrangellrec.com

TOURS

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER BAILEY BARCO
8:00 am - Noon, Photo ID required

INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMUNITY

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 am Bobs' IGA parking lot
Pastors from churches in Wrangell are excited to start our celebration with a worship service.
Chairpersons: Wrangell Ministerial Association

PARADE

11:00 am - Front Street
Theme: "Making Waves"
2017 Grand Marshal:
Citizen of the Year, Dr. Lynn Prysunka
Floats gather on Campbell Drive at 9:30 am with the judging at 10:00 am (entrants after 10:00 am will not be judged, but may participate).
Floats:
Businesses/Organizations, Families, Churches.
Other categories:
Adult Costumes, Children Costumes, Bike/Big Wheel/Wagons, Wheeled Units, Marching Units,

Horses and Pets (must be on a leash).
1st, 2nd, and 3rd place cash prizes for each category.
Order of parade determined by chairperson.
Chairperson: Kelly Gunderson

ROYALTY TICKET PULL

After parade In front of Nolan Center
Winning tickets drawn for cash prizes:
1st - \$5000, 2nd - \$4000, 3rd - \$3000, 4th - \$2000
(Many thanks to Alex & Kyla for last years sales)

PIE SALE

Starting in the morning... until pies are gone!
Covered Area by Smith Chiropractic office.
Beta Sigma Phi and the Hospital Auxiliary

TODDLER GAMES

12:30 pm -1:30 pm City Hall Lawn
(this event will follow the ticket pull)
Candy Races: ages 0 to 4
Ball Races: ages crawling to 4
Running Races: 2 to 4 (time permitting)
Prizes awarded in each age group for each category.
Chairperson: Barb & Jenny Neyman

STREET GAMES

1:30 pm - Main Street
Running Races: 50yd, 100yd, and 150yd dash;
3- legged races and Gunny Sack races.
All games will be played in age groups from 5 to senior citizens and announced by the chairperson. Parents are asked to stay with small children during events.
Cash prizes for each category.

EGG TOSS

4:00 pm
Chairpersons: Meissner & Ottesen families

GAME BOOTHS AND FOOD VENDORS

Downtown Pavilion and throughout downtown. Enjoy!

ELKS BEER GARDEN

Noon - Opening (Club opens at 10:00 am)
1:00 pm - Horseshoe Tournament
4 - 8:00 pm New York Steaks
Sponsored by: The Elks Lodge

STIKINE RESTAURANT BEER GARDEN

Noon - 7pm

STIKINE RESTAURANT HOT WING EATING CONTEST

1:00 - 3:00 pm

CHUCK OLIVER LOGGING SHOW

12:30 pm-Sign up;1:00 pm-Begin show City Dock,
Ages 18+ Entry fee is \$25.00 total for all events.
A waiver of responsibility must be signed before participating.
Prizes: 1st - \$75, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25 per event.
Events: Power Bucking, Axe Chopping, Hand Buck Ingle Jack, Choker Setting, Hand Buck, Idaho Style, Women's Rolling Pin Toss, Axe Throw

(the target: a \$100.00 bill, donated by AK Vistas & Extended Stay).
"All Around Logger" plaque and a \$500 cash prize will go to the contestant compiling the most points. "Bull of the Woods" plaque is to be awarded to the best sportsman of the show.
Chairperson: Randy Oliver

BOAT RACES

Returning after 20+ years!

3:30 pm - City Dock

Categories: Limited, Unlimited, Funny Boat, Jet Boat Slalom, & Rooster Tail. Prizes: 1st 1,000.00, 2nd 500.00 (Rooster tail prize TBA) Must be 18 or older & have all required equipment Must register. Complete Rules and Registration online.
www.wrangellchamber.org/2017-boat-races.html
ZERO tolerance for drugs and alcohol.
Chaired by: Penny Allen, Clay Hammer

SONNY WIGG LOG ROLLING

Immediately following the Boat Races
5:00 pm City Dock/Summer Float
Ages 18+ Men and Women classes. Entry fee: \$20
PRIZES: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50 - each class
Top Eliminator: \$100 (between 1st place man & woman) Single elimination. Bring your own boots if possible, some may be available. A waiver of responsibility must be signed before any contestant may participate. The decision of the chairman will be final! NO alcohol on the floats!
Chairperson: Alora Wigg & Irene Buethe

STREET DANCE - LIVE MUSIC

8:00 pm - City Dock Turnaround
The Luke Shuman Band

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5TH

THE WRANGELL RETIRED TEACHERS' AND STAFF PICNIC

1-4:00 pm at Shoemaker Park
Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun potluck gathering.
(Marje Bryson and Karen Dunlap will be in town for this).
Contact: Joan (Eagle) Kading: 874-3256

4TH OF JULY CHAIRMEN:

John Waddington & Jay Einert
Atlas Building and Contracting



This 4th of July Schedule is brought to you by the following sponsors

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Sealevel Seafoods
Sentry Hardware & Marine
SE Auto & Marine Parts (NAPA)

Sitka Vision Center
Stikine Drug
Stough Family Trust
Sunrise Aviation
Tongass Federal Credit Union

Tyee Travel
Wrangell Chamber of Commerce
Wrangell Elks Lodge #1595
Wrangell Medical Center
Wrangell Sentinel

Visiting carver crafts totem heads

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

While more commonly Wrangell leaves a lasting impression on its visitors, one thought to leave his mark on Wrangell instead.

With the aid of two chainsaws and assorted carving equipment, Denny Leak spent most of last week outside Wrangell Cooperative Association's Cultural Center as he worked on fashioning out part of one of the tribe's stored totems.

Hailing from Kansas, Leak was up for a visit with his daughter, who in March began work at Wrangell Medical Center as a physical therapy assistant. While in town he sat in on one of WCA's traditional dance presentations at the Chief Shakes Island clan house, and was moved by what he experienced.

One of Leak's hobbies is wood carving and chainsaw art. He has done a number of pieces for charities, schools and public organizations, and was interested in doing something for Wrangell in that vein. After noticing the totems stored at the Cultural Center, he approached WCA tourism director Rachel Moreno with a proposal to commission a piece.

"As a woodcarver I was dazzled by the big, tall posts inside, the carved figures," said Leak. "I went up and was checking out the carvings and was talking with ladies afterwards, and they invited me down to the carving shed."

"I was thrilled to pieces," she recalled. Moreno got Leak in touch with WCA Board president Richard Oliver, who was also interested in his offer.

"He was eyeballing a log in the back there, at the carving shed. I came down and said this log was here for a reason," Oliver explained.

The wood in question was designated to replace part of the Killer Whale Totem, formerly standing at Chief Shakes Island before it was taken down in 2012. One component of the totem is a pair of outward-facing whale heads, which had begun to split apart after more than seven decades in the elements. The totem itself is still in good condition, and the tribe hoped to be able to replicate the heads and another piece so it could be restored.

After viewing the original, Leak offered to attempt the project. "I told him I thought I could get after it," he said. Oliver spoke with the rest of the tribal board, and members unanimously voted to give the woodcarver a chance.

Assisted at first by Oliver, Leak got to work, beginning with the cedar piece's base. The wood itself was pretty sizable, over eight feet tall and more than two feet wide.

"The tree trunk had been sitting out back for five or six years," said Leak. Making exploratory cuts, he prepared a circular cut-out for the piece's mount. "It took me four or five tanks of gas and a Stihl chainsaw."

Once that was completed, he set the wood alongside the original piece and worked it down to an approximation of its form. He added faces using an electric saw. Working into the weekend, a pair of mouths and new eyes took form, and soon the piece looked like an unpainted, uncracked version of the original totem piece.

There was research and a couple of mysteries Leak had to work through during the process. One that he unraveled was the purpose of a missing block on the original, cut from the chin of one of the totem's twin whales. Progressing further along into his own replication, Leak was surprised to find evidence of rot inside the core of his stump. Coincidentally, it ran right along the same chin as the missing portion of the original. It is Leak's



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Denny Leak takes a break last Friday, while working on one of two killer whale faces for Wrangell Cooperative Association. Carved from cedar, the piece will eventually go on top of a stored totem, which had until 2012 been standing on Chief Shakes Island. Due to its age and proximity to the clan house there, the pole was taken down ahead of planned renovations.

theory that the conservation corps craftsmen who had built it had come across a similar problem, and had attempted to cut out and patch the rot. That core ended up eventually working its way into the top of the head-piece, a widening crack rending it apart over the decades.

Making a similar cut to his own before the end of his vacation Tuesday, Leak expressed hopes that he might return to finish the totem. Atop that piece there is supposed to be a head-dress, complete with potlatch rings and adornments. Leak was able to track down an old slide depicting the completed totem, and plans to blow up the image so it can be worked from.

Leak explained the project had felt like a privilege, noting the

pole's history. The pole his piece is replicating is itself likely a copy of an older totem, part of a process stretching back at least into the 19th century.

The whale totem itself was being stored at the old carving shed, next to Shakes, one of a number in storage. Seven more were moved last year from the boatyard into storage at the new facility, which itself had been constructed in 2014 with the intention of restoring aging and retired totem poles from around the island.

The WCA Cultural Center is also meant to host various other arts and crafting projects, as well as a place for local artists to sell and share their work. Since Moreno's arrival to the office this spring, work has been done

to set up a shop at the center, with a grand opening slated for Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Muskeg Meadows

The Summer Solstice Golf Tournament was held on June 23 at Muskeg Meadows sponsored by John Tullis Real Estate with 19 participants. The first place team was Faye Kohrt, Chris Ellis and Wayne Ellis with a net score of 20 and a handicap of 17.

John Tullis Real Estate also sponsored a tournament June 25 with 10 golfers. The first place team was Faye Kohrt, Grover Mathis and Eric Kading with a net score of 19 and a team handicap of 14. Straightest drive was Rodney Littleton and closest to the pin was Grover Mathis.

Next will be the Alaska Airlines Tournament July 8-9.

Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents

There will be no movie this weekend, our next film will be the weekend of July 7-9

'Like' us on Facebook for the most up to date info!

Tickets:
\$5 for 12 & under,
\$7 for 13 & up

Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop
Movie info: www.imdb.com

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The Wrangell Sentinel

office will be closed
Tuesday, July 4th

The Sentinel will be distributed on
Friday, July 7th
due to the holiday.

Happy Birthday America

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City Hall packed in post-strike meeting, excavator purchased

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Additional chairs had to be arranged in City Hall's meeting chamber Tuesday evening, as at least three dozen concerned residents crowded in to see the Borough Assembly at its end-of-month meeting.

On many minds was the ongoing strike of public employees, 24 of whom took up pickets on June 22. (See adjoining stories) Of residents in the room, seven opted to speak their mind on the matter during the meeting's "persons to be heard" segment.

Several exhorted the

Assembly to resume negotiations with the employees' union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547. Talks concerning a new collective bargaining agreement, ongoing since the summer of 2014, came to a conclusion with the Assembly's vote to implement the city's last best offer the previous Tuesday.

"It looks like headbutting is all I can see here," commented Gary Allen Sr. He observed that the strike was costing taxpayers and utility users money through delayed projects and legal disputes. Others concurred, and brought up other concerns, such as curbside trash pickup.

"We're being asked to take our garbage to the dump. But what about people without cars or the elderly, what are they supposed to do?" wondered Dave Andresen.

Because of the nature of persons to be heard segments, council members are not able to directly speak to speakers' concerns or answer questions. However, interim manager Carol Rushmore did attempt to speak to the city's perspective

on the strike and further negotiations. As of June 20, negotiations are considered over, with the contract terms that the Assembly adopted that day applying as of July 1. The city considered the process at an impasse when IBEW members rejected its offer from June 9, which among other things increased hourly wages by \$0.75.

It was due to that decision that unionized workers ultimately went on strike, hoping to bring the city back to the bargaining table. IBEW has since filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the state labor agency, which leaves open the potential for a reversal depending on the outcome.

In other business, Assembly members approved sole-source procurement of an excavator for the waste transfer facility, one of two capital project items deemed critical in next year's budget. The equipment is critical for moving waste at the dump, and the current model - pushing two decades old - is "held together with Band-Aids," as Rushmore put it.

The new model is a Caterpillar 311F, to be pur-

chased from NC Machinery in the amount of \$184,680. Purchase of a replacement had been budgeted for an amount of up to \$200,000, and funds were drawn from the Sanitation Department budget.

As Trident Seafoods begins its processing season, Rushmore reported conditions at the water treatment plant were good so far. Despite the strike, a dually-licensed plant operator has been found to temporarily manage operations, assisted by two previously hired seasonal workers. Two filtration bays were cleaned over the weekend, and treated water reserves are full.

And with such a large audience in thrall for the meeting, the Assembly was finally able to secure a volunteer for one of two board positions that have remained persistently vacant, on the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Sitting in for the union dispute, Heidi Armstrong put her name up for consideration and was appointed by the mayor, to serve until the seat's expiry in October 2018. She was sworn into the office by the city clerk while the Assembly sat in on a lengthy executive session. Consulting the bor-

ough's attorney regarding the strike, no course of action was taken or apparent after returning to the meeting.

Assembly member Dave Powell at one point wanted to put to bed rumors that the Assembly was behind plans to close down a proposed cannabis retail and cultivation business. Happy Cannabis owner Kelsey Martinesen had applied for and secured state licensing for the business after the Marijuana Control Board began accepting applications last year, navigating a lengthy zoning update process and receiving his conditional use permit last December.

The shop has not yet opened, and in April Martinsen had expressed disappointment at a decision by the Assembly to levy an excise on cultivated marijuana additional to state retail taxes.

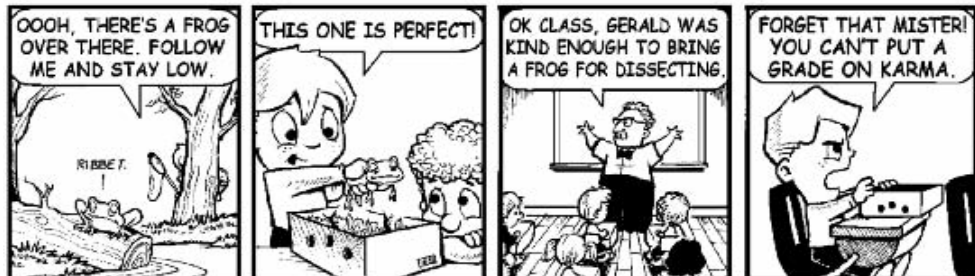
"That would be a business decision by him," Rushmore explained, referring to any decision not to open. By her reckoning the state licensing and local permitting had been approved, provided a fire marshal review was obtained.

"We've been waiting on that," she said. "If he's gotten one we haven't seen it."

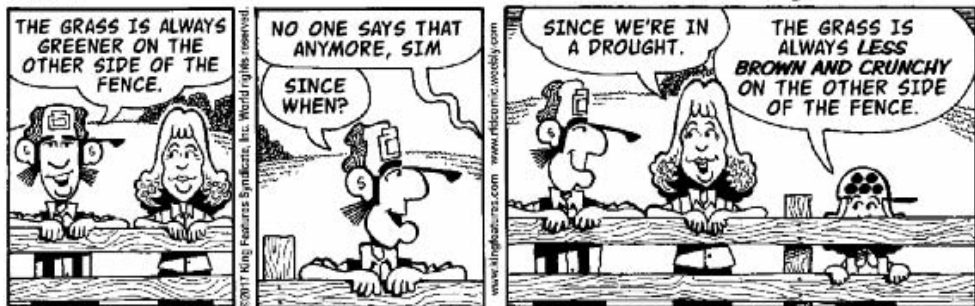
POSTED FUEL PRICES	
WRANGELL	
L N M:	\$3.65
Alpine Mini Mart:	\$3.65
PETERSBURG	
SE Island Fuel:	\$3.64
Petersburg Motors:	\$3.55
<i>Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, June 27</i>	

Comics

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



Just Like Cats & Dogs



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 One of the Three Bears
- 5 Unhappy
- 8 Stare
- 12 Exhibit "A," e.g.
- 14 Figure-skating leap
- 15 Give a home a makeover
- 16 Actress Sorvino
- 17 18-wheeler
- 18 Toxin
- 20 Support for a painting
- 23 Plant with fronds
- 24 Small salamanders
- 25 Went back on a promise
- 28 Put (down)
- 29 Partners
- 30 Churchill's gesture
- 32 Changed the title
- 34 Tempo
- 35 Matterhorn's range
- 36 Bamboo-eating critter
- 37 Nervous system disorder
- 40 Relatives
- 41 Frau's mister
- 42 Hertz deal
- 47 Too
- 48 Geometric

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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47				48						
49				50				51		

- figure
- 10 Nil
- 11 Verve
- 13 Satan's specialty
- 19 Raw minerals
- 20 Moray, for one
- 21 In the distance
- 22 Eyelid woe
- 23 Big parties
- 25 "O'er the — we watched ..."
- 26 Divisible by two
- 27 Out of play
- 29 Masculine
- 31 Greek vowel
- 33 Not wide
- 34 One of the bunch?
- 36 Pocket bread
- 37 Fellow
- 38 War, to Gen. Sherman
- 39 Approximately
- 40 Make a sweater
- 43 Before
- 44 Hollywood trickery, for short
- 45 The whole enchilada
- 46 In medias —

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1			9			6		
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2				6				9
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Alaska lawmakers pass budget compromise to avert shutdown

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Legislature, motivated by the threat of a government shutdown, approved a plan late Thursday to fund state operations for another year.

The proposal, advanced by budget negotiators and passed by the House and Senate, would continue to draw from savings to help fill the state's multibillion-dollar deficit, something Gov. Bill Walker had hoped to avoid.

It also would fully fund K-12 education, provide \$57 million for oil and gas tax credits and limit to \$1,100 the size of this year's dividend check Alaskans receive from the state's oil-wealth fund, the permanent fund.

The Senate approved the proposal, 16-1, Thursday evening. The House approved it later, 31-8.

A three-quarter vote was needed in each chamber to take money from the constitutional budget reserve to help fund government services, thresholds that were met.

Several members who were out of town hustled back for the vote. Sen. Mike Dunleavy, who missed the Senate vote, said he did not understand why the vote needed to be rushed and expressed frustra-

tion with a lack of communication on the issue.

Sen. Dennis Egan, a Juneau Democrat, said while the budget is problematic he voted for it to prevent a government shutdown. Many of his constituents are state workers.

Sen. Shelley Hughes, a Palmer Republican, voted against the proposal, citing concern with the limited dividend. She also announced that she was leaving the Republican-led Senate majority caucus.

Rep. Paul Seaton, a member of the House and Senate budget conference committee that advanced the proposal, called the measure a compromise.

It came seven days into a special session called by Walker to focus solely on passing a state operating budget and averting a shutdown. The new fiscal year starts July 1. A special session can last up to 30 days.

Typically, lawmakers deliver a budget in April. But the budget became enmeshed in a dispute between the House and Senate over how best to address a deficit that has persisted as oil prices have remained low. That debate remains unsettled.

"I wouldn't say it's satisfying at all," said House Majority Leader Chris Tuck, an Anchorage Democrat.

There had been general agreement about using permanent fund earnings to help fill the deficit, but the House majority coalition, composed largely of Democrats, and the Republican-led Senate disagreed on what else needed to be done during a drawn-out regular session and an earlier special session. They failed to finalize a proposal that would have established a structure by which draws from permanent fund earnings would be made.

Absent such a plan, Seaton, one of three Republicans in the majority coalition, said there was a desire to avoid simply using fund earnings as a "piggy bank." Plus, he said, the earnings reserve account is a higher-yielding account than the budget reserve fund.

Tuck said the debate over the dividend may not be over and could be addressed further in the capital budget, which lawmakers will have to finalize at some point.

Earlier this week, S&P Global Ratings warned that if the state continued to significantly rely upon reserves to fund the

budget, it would likely lower the state's debt rating.

Walker on Thursday said he was pleased the conference committee compromised on an operating budget. "Now, it is time to compromise on a fiscal plan," he said.

After passage of the budget, he added oil tax credits to the special session agenda, saying that issue must be addressed this year.

Lawmakers, as part of the budget, included non-binding language indicating their desire during the coming fiscal year to end the program of providing cashable credits for small producers and explorers. This came in the absence of legislation that would have ended the program.

While the House and Senate agree the state can't afford cash credits, House coalition members wanted to go further in addressing oil taxes, leaving the two sides unable to come to an agreement on an oil tax credit bill previously.

House Speaker Bryce Edgmon said his members are resolved to do what's right for the state but "weary." Lawmakers have been meeting since January, either in regular or special sessions.

Classified/Legals

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THANK YOU

BIG THANK YOU TO THE community of Wrangell, the outpouring of love and support that we received in our time of loss was wonderful, and makes us feel even more grateful to call this place home. My father Edward Kuntz loved this island and all the people in it. He will always be a part of this island and this island will always be a part of him. Thank you so much Wrangell for your love and support. Rhonda and Ernie Christian.....1x6-29b83

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City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE
"VACATION RATES" DISCONTINUED FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICES
 On June 13, 2017, the Wrangell Borough Assembly approved Ordinance No. 935 amending Title 15, Public Services, Chapter 4, Water, which eliminates language concerning vacation rates and establishes a new rate schedule for all metered and un-metered water services.
 Effective July 1, 2017, unmetered residential water users will pay the residential rate of \$43.60 per month. Any metered residential users will pay the base metered rate of \$28.63 per month, plus \$2.69 per 1,000 gallons consumed in excess of 4,000 gallons. The fee to turn off water services continues to be \$35. The fee to turn water back on is also \$35. Commercial unmetered and metered rates have also been modified and these schedules can be found at <http://www.wrangell.com/publicworks>.
 Lee Burgess, Finance Director
 City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
Publish: June 29, 2017

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
 Marian W. Glenz)
 Deceased) CASE NO. 1WR-17-11PR
)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Clarie M. Moeser has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-entitled estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Said claims must be submitted to Clarie M. Moeser, c/o Chupka Currall LLC, 306 Main Street, Suite 326, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.
 Dated this 19 day of June, 2017
 Clarie M. Moeser
 Personal Representative
Publish: June 29, July 6 and 13, 2017

King Crossword

Answers
 Solution time: 21 mins.


P	A	P	A	S	A	D	G	A	Z	E	
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	A	X	E	L
R	E	N	O	V	A	T	E	M	I	R	A
	R	I	G	P	O	I	S	O	N		
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Salaries

Continued from page 1

Among IBEW workers, the lowest-paid position at the moment is the light maintenance custodian at \$17.32.

In this year's budget for example, total net personnel cost is calculated by taking into consideration regular wages, potential overtime and vacation liabilities, as well as retirement and insurance costs. These may not necessarily cost the city as much as is projected, with some costs like state pensions partially reimbursed and others simply not coming to pass.

However, whether the full amount of overtime budgeted for or, in the case of the city manager this year, departure before the end of the fiscal year, those full projections may not necessarily pan out as such.

At the Assembly's last meeting on June 20, finance director Lee Burgess recommended the city commission an independent wage study to examine compensation on a more scientific level, as there could be conflicting motivations that could be prejudicial to results if conducted in-house. The last one had been conducted more than a decade ago, to the best of his knowledge.

Health care costs

Per a resolution of the Wrangell Borough Assembly last June, starting this next fiscal year all Wrangell employees are expected to contribute 15 percent of their health insurance costs for themselves and their families. That decision had come after learning the city's cost for workers' health insurance was going to jump dramatically in the coming year, by about 20 percent. A balanced budget had been passed for the FY17 year without altering the property tax rate. This upcoming fiscal year, premiums under the borough's Premera Heritage Plus plan are expected to cost the city just over \$982,000.

Health coverage under this plan for public employees can vary from \$818.50 per month for an individual up to \$2,608.22 per month for a family, with packages in between for employees with just spouses or an employee with no spouse but children. At 15 percent, Wrangell workers would thus be looking at paying between \$122.77 and \$391.23 per month depending on the package.

Depending on the time they were hired, two of the represented employees are already paying a portion of their insurance premium, one has opted out from cover-

age, and the other 21 pay no match. Under the conditions adopted by the Assembly on June 20, all employees would pay the same percentage regardless of hire date or union status.

The \$0.75 wage increase put forward and later adopted by the city is calculated to pay for the added cost to employees. Taken together, the city roughly anticipates added costs to IBEW-represented workers from the cost share to be at \$175,248 over the next three years. This would apply only to the employees, rather than the plan covering their immediate family. With \$189,394 in additional wages from the pay raise over the same period it infers the

added costs would be more than covered.

IBEW has made the case that its Wrangell members are relatively underpaid, and that their benefits package has historically helped offset this. Citing that reason at its June 8 presentation to the city, it has since stood by its last best offer of a \$2.50 hourly pay increase. This increase would particularly help to offset the added cost to 13 staffers who will be expected to pay in for insurance not only for themselves, but for spouses or families as well.

In either scenario, the city would take on extra cost. A chart of extrapolated increases prepared

by Wrangell finance director Lee Burgess calculates that at a \$0.75 raise, net costs for unionized workers would amount to \$76,834 over the next three years. If the pay increase were extended to all employees, that cost would come to \$126,009. At the borough's current property tax rate, the mill equivalent would need to rise by 0.92 to offset this.

A \$2.50 increase would see greater costs over the same period, by \$455,288 for strictly unionized employees or else \$410,046 for all, equivalent to 2.99 mills. Wrangell's mill rate falls near the bottom of the upmost third among Alaskan municipalities, according to a 2015 chart comparing them.

Increased bear maulings puzzle Alaska wildlife officials

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – Two more Alaskans were mauled by bears over the weekend, bringing the number of bear attacks in the state to four in less than a week, including two fatalities.

Alaska wildlife officials say they don't know why there have been so many attacks in such a short time. But one official speculated Monday that perhaps bears are coming closer to people this year to follow available food sources such as moose.

Dave Battle, the state Fish and Game area biologist for the Anchorage region, also noted that more people also are spending time in the backcountry than they did in the past. But he cautioned that many factors could be involved.

"The long and short of it is that no one knows exactly what's going on," he said, noting that the number of bear encounters can vary widely from year to year.

On Saturday, two people were injured in separate brown bear attacks, one on military land in Anchorage and the other near the community of Hope south of Anchorage. Both of those cases involved a bear with a cub, indicating the animals were acting defensively to protect their young.

In the weekend attack on military land, bicyclists James Fredrick and Alex Ippoliti were on a recreational ride in the woods at the north end of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Saturday morning when they heard rustling in bushes and figured it might be a moose or porcupine, Ippoliti recalled Monday in a phone interview.

Suddenly, a brown bear charged at Fredrick and pulled him off the bike and began mauling him in the upper body, said Ippoliti, who was not injured in the attack. Fredrick was carrying bear deterrent spray and doused the bear, which ran into the bushes. It was only after that that he saw the cub up in a spruce tree.

Ippoliti said it was terrifying to hear the sow thrashing around in the bushes with the cub nearby. But he tried to help his bleeding friend, placing his shirt around his neck, and the two departed, leaving their bikes and other items behind. Ippoliti called for help, and responders arrived in about 10 minutes in an area a quarter mile from where the attack occurred.

Fredrick is being treated for his wounds at Providence Alaska Medical Center, where he was listed in serious condition Monday.

Altogether, the ordeal from the attack to help arriving lasted about 15 minutes, according to Ippoliti.

"It's probably the longest 15 minutes of my life," he said. "I've never felt time slowed down like that before."

Alaska State Troopers said the man in the Hope bear attack sustained minor injuries and took himself to the hospital. The man, Joshua Brekken of Hope, could not immediately be reached for comment Monday.

Two other people were killed last week in separate black bear attacks believed to be predatory in nature.

On June 18, 16-year-old Patrick "Jack" Cooper of Anchorage was killed after he got lost and veered off a trail during a mountain foot race south of Anchorage. The following day, 27-year-old Pogo Mine contract worker Erin Johnson of Anchorage died and her 38-year-old co-worker Ellen Trainor of Fairbanks received minor injuries in a mauling about 275 miles northeast of Anchorage.

Before that, the last fatal mauling in Alaska occurred near Delta Junction in Alaska's interior in 2013, when a man was killed by a male black bear. The last fatal bear attack in the greater Anchorage area was in 1995, when two people were killed in the Turnagain Arm area by a brown bear protecting a moose carcass.

SEARHC opens new pediatric dental clinic in Juneau

An open house and ribbon cutting was held for a new and expanded Children's Dental Clinic in Juneau on June 22.

First admitting patients the previous month, the office is maintained by Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium at its dental building in the capital's downtown. The expansion has been in its planning stages since 2014 and was to its designers a logical next step in providing all children in the community.

Many of said patients are recipients of Denali Kid Care

with access to dental care. With more space and more dentists, SEARHC can care for the oral health of more children in Juneau.

The previous children's dental clinic SEARHC operated had been solely available for Alaska Native and American Indian patients. The pediatric program was opened to all community members in April 2015.

To meet the already growing needs of their existing patients, as well as the community as a whole, SEARHC added two new

pediatric dentists and made the decision to open their children's dental services to the entire community.

To finance this expansion, SEARHC applied for various grants and received several generous awards, including significant contributions from the Rasmuson Foundation; the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust; Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP; and the State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs.



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City responding to strike with temporary workforce

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

In the week since the city's public workers have gone on strike, the Wrangell Borough has had to work around the problem as best as it can.

Twenty-four workers from eight different public departments are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547, which represents employees around the state. Beginning June 22, they walked off the job to protest the City and Borough Assembly's unilateral adoption of a new contract two days prior, once drawn-out negotiations reached an impasse. (See main article) The two parties have been in talks over a new, three-year collective bargaining agreement since 2014, when the prior agreement expired.

Excepting department heads and casual help, the striking workers provide the bulk of public services, from garbage collection and water treatment to boat haulouts, electrical maintenance and road repairs. On top of that, if it can be said that there is ever an ideal time for a strike, now would not seem to be the time.

The city has in recent years experienced a number of infrastructural issues and risks, such as with water line ruptures due to corroded iron piping, or a number of overloaded and aging utility poles around the island highlighted in a 2015 system study.

The weightiest issue on its plate at present has been keeping up with water production at the treatment plant. Last summer

conditions were such that a state of emergency had to be declared, after problems with the plant's filtration system coupled with high demand had depleted treated reserves to very low levels. The city has sought to prevent a recurrence and improve production at the plant ahead of this year's season, in part by hiring on more seasonal staff.

For several reasons the slow sand filtration units are prone to clogging, and the effort to clear them of sediment can be labor-intensive and time consuming to do. Four seasonal staff were hired earlier this spring to help the two full-time staff already assigned there, one of whom is split between the water and sewage treatment plants. While their additional efforts had a reportedly positive effect on production, at its last meeting the Borough Assembly learned the number of temporary workers has dropped back to two as the summer season begins.

Both permanent staffers are members of the union, and so have gone on strike. As an emergency measure, interim city manager Carol Rushmore explained a state-certified water treatment operator and Level II distribution operator have been flown in from Anchorage after the stoppage was announced. It is hoped they will be able to keep things operating with the temporary staff until the dispute is resolved.

On the electrical front, a planned two-week outage by Southeast Alaska Power Agency to conduct line maintenance has

been put on hold due to the dispute. Scheduled to begin on June 19 and wrap up this week, instead contractors brought down for the project held off on starting, and work has since been delayed for the summer. The concern is that Wrangell would not be able to safely run its diesel generators during the shutdown, as six of Municipal Light and Power's eight budgeted staff are part of the union.

In the event of an emergency, strikers have shown themselves willing to put down pickets and respond. Shortly after the strike began, last Thursday morning a bird strike downed a line. Workers briefly paused their action to address the problem, prompting words of thanks from the city on its website.

"Linemen from the electrical department offered their assistance to return electricity to the area. The City would like to thank them for their response and assistance," it read.

Updates on a number of affected services have been posted at the www.wrangell.com website, under its community tab. In addition to electrical and water services continuing, those at Wrangell's harbors and boatyard are likewise expected to continue uninterrupted. Garbage collection has proven to be a trickier problem to manage, with roadside collection discontinued until further notice.

Citizens are asked instead to arrange their own trash disposal, schedule deliveries on or around their normal days as best

possible to reduce congestion at the transfer station. Hours during the week will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30.

Those able to do so can haul their garbage containers to the transfer station for disposal. For those without the means, garbage can be removed from the container, bagged if necessary and hauled. Burning at the dump will not be permitted during this time.

The city has also been advertising for temporary workers to fill in during the strike. Under National Labor Relations Board guidelines, strikes fall into two categories, economic and for unfair labor practices (ULP). Wrangell's IBEW workers are striking under ULP, alleging the city has been negotiating in bad faith during contract talks. Under this kind of strike, ULP strikers can be neither discharged nor permanently replaced. When the strike ends, provided they have not engaged in "serious misconduct" during the course of it, they are entitled to have their jobs back even if employees hired to do their work have to be discharged.

A "frequently asked questions guide" has been posted at www.wrangell.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/community/page/6381/final_faqs_6-25-17_7pm.pdf which hopes to answer most questions related to the strike. Updates are also being posted both at the city's website and on the Wrangell Borough's Facebook page.

Strike

Continued from page 1

\$0.75 across-the-board wage increase, an amount it argues would cover the added cost of insurance for its employees. In a table prepared by its finance department, the city calculated that over the next three years of a new CBA IBEW-represented workers' share of insurance would amount to around \$175,000. This rough projection comes with a number of assumptions, but it projects a \$0.75 raise would cover this, at \$189,394 over the same period.

The union's bargaining unit rejected this offer as inadequate the day it was presented, standing by its June 8 offer as its last and best. Affected employees voted on June 16 to approve a strike, awaiting the Borough Assembly's response before doing so. That came on June 20 in a special meeting, at which point the body unanimously approved implementation of its June 9 proposal, to take effect July 1.

Following that decision, IBEW filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the Alaska Labor Relation Agency on June 21, prior to the start of its strike the next day. A completed complaint packet was accepted by the agency on June 23.

The filing makes seven assertions, among which that the city bargained in bad faith, that its last offer on June 9 was "regressive and designed to foreclose future negotiations," and that it had withdrawn agreed-to provisions and engaged in dilatory tactics.

"Our hearing officer is working that case right now," explained Nicole Thibodeau, ALRA's hearing examiner and administrator. The hearing offi-

cer had initially found the filing insufficient, so a final packet was received on June 23.

The borough has until July 17 to file a response, typically an explanation or counterargument to the filed complaint. Receiving this, the hearing officer then will determine whether an alleged unfair labor practice was evident, and would work with both parties to resolve the issue.

If the issue remains unresolved, Thibodeau explained the matter could go to a panel of her and three Labor Board members selected by its chair. Their decision would be legally binding on the involved parties, though that could always be appealed to a superior court.

The strike itself began on June 22, with 24 city workers taking up signs and stationing themselves outside City Hall, the harbor, public works offices and the landfill. The employees involved belong to a number of departments, including power, water, garage, waste disposal, public works and harbors.

A press release from the IBEW Local accompanied the action: "The decision to go out on a ULP strike is not an easy one," it explained. The release made the following assertions:

"The workers have been negotiating with the Borough for more than three years for a fair deal. Unfortunately, the Borough has bargained in bad faith. Management made it clear that the most important thing to them was having employees pay a portion of their health care premiums. Despite numerous concessions on the part of the workers, including contributing to their own health care, the Borough Wrangell has ignored the funda-

mental issue of a modest increase in wages that simply keep up with the cost of living.

"Front line workers have not had a cost of yesliving increase

since 2011 while the former Borough manager enjoyed a 47-percent increase in salary over the past four years; (Wrangell Public) School District employ-

ees recently received a one- to 23-percent increase in pay; and private sector wages in Wrangell have increased over 12% between 2012 and 2015."



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