

Artistic shoes win
spot in top five,
Page 3



Wrangell, Alaska
May 11, 2022

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 120, Number 19

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages \$1.50

Learning in the air



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Mia Wiederspohn, 15, prepares a Tlingit language radio broadcast aired on KSTK. She is working to help keep the language alive by learning it and teaching it to others.

Teen broadcasts lessons for survival of Tlingit language, culture

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

It's not uncommon for high school students to learn a second language. It's a bit rarer for them to take what they've learned and teach it to others.

That's exactly what sophomore Mia Wiederspohn has been doing the past two years with the Tlingit language and by extension the culture.

As a freshman, Wiederspohn, 15, began learning Tlingit from Virginia Oliver, whose Tlingit name is Xwaanlein (the frost on the beach when the glacier passes over). She teaches the language at the high school, middle school and elementary school. Oliver took an applied learning approach to the lessons she taught to Wiederspohn.

"(Virginia) taught me by having me teach the elementary school kids through Zoom," Wiederspohn said. "There would be a little piece in the day where their teachers would show our videos

and they would learn colors and letters and numbers."

She said the videos also focused on common phrases like "Dáa sá iyatéen? (What do you see?)" or "Wáa sá i duwasáakw? (What is your name?)"

This school year, Wiederspohn expanded her teaching by working with Oliver to broadcast daily Tlingit lessons on KSTK. Beyond that, she is starting her own podcast which will be available on the radio station's website, kstk.org, by summer. Each episode will focus on teaching the language and culture by interviewing people in the community.

According to a 2010 report published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Tlingit is among many North American Native languages considered critically endangered.

Continued on page 4

Borough, SEARHC negotiating 10 years of voluntary payments in lieu of property taxes

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly on Tuesday was to consider a draft agreement for the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium to make voluntary payments of \$45,000 per year for 10 years on property owned by the nonprofit health care provider in town.

The borough had initially asked for \$225,000 a year.

SEARHC is not legally required to pay taxes — state law exempts nonprofit religious, charitable, hospital or educational organizations from municipal property taxes — and it has been in negotiations with the borough for several months for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes (PILT).

SEARHC paid a \$331,287 property tax bill from the borough for the new Wrangell Medical Center in 2021. A draft payment agreement original-

ly provided with the assembly agenda stated that the borough would refund last year's tax payment, but Finance Director Mason Villarma on Monday said the latest negotiations had taken out that stipulation — the borough would not have to return the payment.

The assembly agenda for Tuesday included the draft agreement for consideration, noting a possible executive session to discuss the issue before a public vote to accept or reject the agreement.

The tribal nonprofit owns the hospital, clinic and other office and rental housing properties in Wrangell, including the Amanda Building on Lynch Street across from City Hall, where contract staff such as traveling nurses and their families are housed.

The borough and SEARHC signed an agreement in 2018 after it took over operations of

the hospital from Alaska Island Community Services which stated that SEARHC had no obligation to pay property taxes on the hospital or its assets.

In the draft agreement before the assembly, the borough acknowledges that last year's property tax assessment was in violation of that 2018 contract.

"After discussions with SEARHC's administration, they noted their exempt status, yet paid the (2021) taxes on the hospital as a one-time exception. As SEARHC does not want to establish the precedent of paying property taxes as a tribal nonprofit, the borough and SEARHC began negotiations over a payment in lieu of taxes," according to the summary statement provided for the assembly by Borough Manager Jeff Good and Villarma.

The health care provider does not make payments in lieu

Continued on page 5

Trident's Wrangell plant shuttered for third year in a row

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Seattle-based Trident Seafoods will not open its Wrangell processing plant this summer, the third year in a row the operation has been closed.

As in the past two years, the company cited weak chum salmon returns for its decision not to run the plant.

Company officials did not return calls to the Sentinel last Friday or Monday. News of the plant closure was presented in Borough Manager Jeff Good's report for Tuesday's assembly meeting: "They have notified us that they do not intend on running this year but are hoping for next year."

"We would love to see them back," Good said Friday. In addition to the jobs, the plant is a big paying customer of electricity and water when it is operating.

He said a company official talked of low chum returns when notifying the borough of the decision to remain closed this year.

Though the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pre-season forecast for this summer's Southeast commercial chum

harvest is ahead of last year's catch, it's still below the 10-year average. Last year's commercial harvest was 7.4 million chum, with the department projecting 8.4 million this year.

Last year, when a Trident official notified the borough that it would keep the processing lines shut down for a second summer in a row, the company indicated it needed Southeast returns of more than 12 million fish to make it economically viable to run the plant.

Predictions of weak salmon returns drove Trident's decision to temporarily shutter its Wrangell plant in 2020. The commercial chum harvest that year came in at 5 million fish.

The company bought the Wrangell operation more than 10 years ago.

"Since Trident acquired the Wrangell facility, we've ran it in good times and bad, but predictions for the coming season (2020) of low abundance for both pink and chum salmon in Southeast Alaska led us to the extremely difficult decision to not operate the plant," a company spokeswoman said

Continued on page 5

Wrangell could receive \$4 to \$5 million state aid for water treatment plant

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell is moving closer to receiving at least a \$4.1 million state grant to add to \$11 million in federal funds for construction of a new \$15.4 million water treatment plant.

The House Finance Committee version of the state capital spending bill — the public works budget — includes a \$5 million appropriation, while the Senate on Monday amended its version of the bill to include \$4.1 million for the Wrangell project.

Lawmakers will need to merge and reconcile the two versions of the capital budget in the next week. With money in both the House and Senate bills, Wrangell is well positioned to remain in the final spending bill — though more likely at the lower Senate number.

The Legislature faces a May 18 adjournment deadline.

The capital budget, which appropriates hundreds of millions of dollars for projects statewide, is usually one of the last items lawmakers finish before adjournment as House and Senate members negotiate over items in the final package.

"It's paramount that the state does what it can" to help fund the new water treatment

plant, said Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz, a member of the House Finance Committee. "It's apparent that Wrangell is in significant need ... to address the problem." The representative's district includes Wrangell.

High buildup of sediment has been a problem at the water plant over the years, affecting water quality, flow and treatment costs.

The borough assembly last month approved filing an application for a state loan of almost \$4 million to complete funding for the project, as a potential backup plan if state money or other grant funds fail to come through. Paying back that loan, however, could add as much as an additional 30% to water utility rates, Borough Manager Jeff Good said May 4. That would be on top of a 30% rate hike approved by the assembly to take effect this month.

The borough also has applied for additional federal funding for the project, including from the Denali Commission, which distributes congressional appropriations for water, sewer and other infrastructure projects statewide.

"We have our hand out anywhere we can," Good said.

Continued on page 4

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, May 11: Jessie Oates Angerman, Jeff Petticrew; Anniversary: Jay Neal and Mercedes Angerman.

Thursday, May 12: Anniversary: Ken and Lou Rae Davidson.

Friday, May 13: Bart Churchill, Everly Rose Cook, Stone Guggenbickler, Gaven Hunt, Harley Johnson; Anniversary: Joe and Donna Kuntz.

Saturday, May 14: "Vienna" Angerman.

Sunday, May 15: Terry Hosford, Trista Szeffler, Eliza Villarma, Hunter Wiederspohn.

Monday, May 16: Harlow Marshall; Anniversary: Alan and Leslie Cummings.

Tuesday, May 17: Lovey Brock, Della Demerjian, Brody Hommel, Kristin Mill, Peighton Royster; Anniversary: Wayne and Dani Easterly.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 12

Tuna salad sandwich, summer garden soup, cottage cheese with tomato slices

Friday, May 13

Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian vegetables, honey orange salad, fry bread

Monday, May 16

Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, mixed veggie, cabbage slaw

Tuesday, May 17

Chicken sandwich, honey orange salad, cottage cheese with tomatoes

Wednesday, May 18

Hotcha baked beef, steamed broccoli, marinated green bean salad, roll

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Friday, May 13
Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, May 20
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 28
Matanuska, 12:45 a.m.
Friday, June 3
Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.

Southbound

Monday, May 16
Matanuska, 7:15 a.m.
Monday, May 23
Matanuska, 9 a.m.
Monday, May 30
Matanuska, 2 a.m.
Monday, June 6
Matanuska, 6 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

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

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May11	11:01	13.9	11:22	16.1
May12	11:50	14.8	11:58	17.3
May13	12:36	15.6
May14	00:34	18.2	01:21	16.0
May15	01:12	18.8	02:06	16.1
May16	01:51	19.1	02:52	15.9
May17	02:33	18.9	03:41	15.4
			09:05	-3.7
			04:54	1.8
			05:37	1.5
			06:18	1.3
			06:58	1.4
			07:38	1.7
			08:19	2.2
			09:04	2.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

PARKS AND RECREATION is looking for help to weed the downtown garden beds, plant annual daisies and lay fresh mulch. Meet this Saturday at the covered pavilion on Front Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring along work gloves, a rake, spearhead shovel and a bucket. Lunch will be provided. For more information call 907-874-2444.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "The Bad Guys," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the animation adventure comedy film that runs two hours and 23 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold a 9-hole best-ball golf tournament sponsored by Totem Bar & Liquor this Saturday and Sunday starting at 10 a.m.

WRANGELL BLESSING OF THE FLEET at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial. Everyone is invited to the annual event, and boat owners may bring their vessels to outside Heritage Harbor and drift offside the memorial starting at 12:55 p.m.

SOUTHEAST SENIOR CENTER is offering a series of free online Tai Chi classes for ages 60 and up twice a week through June 23. Improves strength and balance, reduces risk of falls. Taught by a certified instructor. Call 907-463-6113 for registration and more information.

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

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 907-874-2301.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

Arthritis class, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap swim, 6 - 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap/tot swim, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., weekdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Weight room: 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

AA Meetings: North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

May 11, 1922

The high school students appreciate the aid and cooperation they received from the citizens, merchants and teachers in staging their play. A great part of its success was due to the interest shown by the people of Wrangell. Mr. Palmer accommodated us with lights in the afternoon for the matinee. The St. Michael Trading Co. made frequent loans for stage property and costumes to Mr. Havens, who donated his artwork. Special thanks is due.

May 9, 1947

May 24 will be Poppy Day in Wrangell and throughout the United States, Mrs. R. H. Armstrong, president of the

Wrangell Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary, announced today. On that day everyone will be asked to wear a memorial poppy in honor of the dead of the two world wars and to make contributions for the welfare of disabled veterans, their families and families of the dead. "The Saturday before Memorial Day has been observed as Poppy Day in all parts of the country for many years," said Mrs. Smith, in announcing the date of this year's observance. "Poppies have been worn in memory of the war dead ever since the close of World War I. They are replicas of the wild flowers which grew on the battlefield of France and Belgium fought over in both wars, but they have come to symbolize memory for those who died in any part of the world."

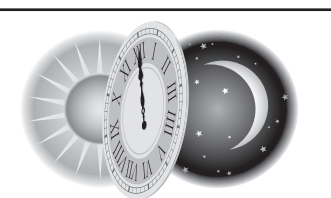
May 12, 1972

Bobby Ball, of the Ball Ranch near Glenora, 150 miles up the Stikine River, was in town this week along with three companions on his first trip down the river since the spring thaw. Ball said the winter at his place was "tough, with plenty of 50 below temperatures and north winds." The party, which included Ray Henry, Charlie Larson and Howard Pete, all of Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, traveled in a 32-foot open river scow that Ball is putting into service for the first time this season after buying it at Dawson and trailering it 900 miles to the ranch. Ball said the Stikine is very shallow for the first 100 miles from his

ranch west, but that the channel is well clear of ice. The party came to town for supplies and for Ball to meet with three Outside (two from California and one from Pennsylvania) bear hunters - the first of the season - who were scheduled to be on their way to the ranch this week.

May 8, 1997

As part of a tour of Southeast, members of the Seattle Seahawks football team matched basketball skills against an eight-person Wrangell all-star team at a packed gymnasium Monday night. Those who came to watch some good basketball weren't disappointed, as both teams played hard, while making the game fun to watch. Even with hijinks and prolonged breaks and foul shots, the game moved steadily along to a fourth quarter tie, 75-75. Going into a three-minute overtime, Wrangell pulled out all stops to win 84-75. The game was brought to town by Alaskans for Drug Free Youth with assistance of the Benefit Basketball Association and its "Score Points Against Drugs" program, now in its eighth season. Through NFL athlete appearances and speeches, such as those Monday at the elementary and high schools, the program seeks to inform young children on the advantages of a drug-free life. Money raised from the Wrangell game will go to support local drug-free events.



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
May11	4:41a	8:51p	16:10h
May12	4:39a	8:53p	16:14h
May13	4:37a	8:55p	16:18h
May14	4:35a	8:57p	16:21h
May15	4:33a	8:59p	16:25h
May16	4:31a	9:01p	16:29h
May17	4:29a	9:03p	16:33h

Wrangell readies for arrival of Ocean Victory cruise ship

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The chamber of commerce is planning a welcome ceremony for the first ship on Wrangell's official cruise calendar, which also happens to be a brand new vessel making its inaugural sailing to Southeast.

The 186-passenger Ocean Victory, chartered by American Queen Voyages, is scheduled to arrive at 8 a.m. Thursday at the City Dock.

Chamber Executive Director Brittani Robbins on Monday said the ceremony is planned for 10 a.m. Thursday and will feature Tlingit dancers, a presentation of a key to the city and a commemorative plaque exchange — the borough to Ocean Victory, and Ocean Victory to the borough.

The event is open to the public.

Virginia Oliver is overseeing the Tlingit dancers, Robbins said. High school student dancers will be supplemented with grown-ups, because although it is the first ship on the borough's calendar, its arrival is during the school day.

The ship is scheduled to stay in Wrangell until 5 p.m.

Sweet Tides Bakery will be catering Thursday's welcoming. "We're going to do a variety of goodies," Sweet Tides co-owner Devyn Johnson said Monday.

A company branding team is on the vessel, with a videographer, photographer and the capability to capture drone camera footage, Robbins said May 4.

The 342-foot-long ship was put into service in November, after construction in a shipyard in China. It's a higher-end, small ship cruise, with rates starting at \$4,200 to \$5,400 per person, depending



PHOTO COURTESY ALBATROS EXPEDITIONS

The 342-foot-long Ocean Victory, shown here on its first voyage to Antarctica, is scheduled to stop in Wrangell on Thursday during its inaugural season in Alaska. The vessel, completed in 2021, is chartered by American Queen Voyages for Alaska and Pacific coast cruises.

on the Alaska sailing.

CEO and Chairman John Waggoner, who founded American Queen Voyages, is on the ship as it tours the Inside Passage.

Waggoner on Monday via a phone interview said Ocean Victory has 14 visits planned for Wrangell. It carries a crew of up to 100.

"It's my first time to Wrangell, so I'm very excited about it," he said. "I try and go on all of our trips, take every shore excursion that I can. That way I get to see it up close and personal, if we want to make any changes."

Waggoner is also a runner.

"I look forward to running through Wrangell. Make a loop around the city, and stop in and try the local coffee, and get the local fishing that I can," he said.

Spokesperson Michael Hicks at American Queen Voyages, who is also aboard, said they want to be "a part of the community."

"We know Wrangell is a special port, we know not all the large cruise ships come in," Hicks said. "We want to be respectful and responsible."

The Ocean Victory departed Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 7 and will



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/
WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left: Britni Birchell, Carter Griss, Kristi Birchell, infant Raelynn Birchell and Kory Birchell take a stroll past the City Dock ramp to the summer float last Friday. The Port and Harbors Department installed the ramp and float that day, in preparation for the summer season of tour boats and other users.

sail between Vancouver and Sitka on 12- and 13-day cruises through September.

The Wrangell itinerary offers passengers excursions to Anan Wildlife Observatory and Chief Shakes Tribal House.

The ship also will stop in Sitka, Ketchikan, Metlakatla and Petersburg on its Southeast voyages.

Michelle Fournet, director of the Sound Science Research Collective and an acclaimed acoustic ecologist and expert in the communication of North Pacific humpback whales, will be on board for the ship's inaugural Southeast run.

Wrangell could receive almost 19,000 cruise ship passengers this summer, if all of the ships scheduled to call on the community are full.

Community garden springs forward and opens up new beds for growers

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

What started as the seed of an idea has germinated into a full-grown program to help the community get involved in gardening.

Over the past couple months, the Wrangell Community Garden board has been meeting, planning and organizing clean-up days. As such, the garden, located at the old Lions Ball Field at 1.5 Mile, is ready for gardeners looking to grow their own plants and produce.

Once overgrown with weeds, the site is now cleaned up, garden beds are set up and soil is piled up and ready to be shoveled in. Though the board is still waiting to obtain the new, larger-volume composter, a cold-compost box is available, all thanks to the work of volunteers.

"The new composter was built by Alex Rooney as his senior project," said Kim Wickman, board member. "The Forest Service helped a ton, helping us move and dismantle the old (compost) bed two weeks ago. There's been lots of volunteer effort in labor and supplies."

A foot deep of 4-inch rock was laid down for the approximately 60-foot-by-90-foot garden area, covered by three inches of smaller rock. Eighteen low-lying garden beds are organized in rows and two taller standing garden beds are available for people with mobility issues. Beds are available to rent for the season for \$15 or \$25, depending on the size chosen.

Grace Wintermyer, board treasurer, said when she moved to Wrangell five years ago she got involved in the community garden. At the time, those in charge were hoping to pass on the project to keep it going.

"There were bigger questions then about whether it would stay here (at the old Lions Ball Field) or if we were going to have to move the location com-



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/
WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left: Community garden board members Kim Wickman, Grace Wintermyer, Sage Smiley and Valerie Massie, along with other volunteers, have been busy preparing the expanded garden.

pletely," Wintermyer said. "I'm excited to see it has been able to stay and that we're actually putting down big infrastructure works and making it more of a permanent feature."

Wintermyer, who is a tour guide for Alaska Waters, earned a degree in agriculture and organic farming. She said it can be daunting for those just getting into gardening.

"Starting out ... is intimidating for new gardeners if it seems like there's a lot of work and a lot of questions still. People are hesitant to dig in," she said.

Sage Smiley, who built the group's website and set up its social media presence, reserved a garden bed herself in the hopes that she could continue the hobby she enjoyed in childhood.

"I grew up around gardening, either at community gardens or gardening with my mom, depending on where we were living," Smiley said. "In my adult life, I've lived in apartments or

the desert of the Middle East. I'm a beginning gardener. I might completely fail, but I'm excited to have a chance to grow things."

Board member Valerie Massie said it's taken about two years to get the community garden ready for use.

"You can't tell how much has gone on," Massie said. "(Parks and Recreation Director) Kate Thomas has helped out a lot, even though she's stepping away. She's guided us through the red tape ... and how you do all that."

Wickman said they would like to partner with Parks and Rec to offer a free gardening program for kids.

"I used to work with a lot of kids, and it was amazing the amount of food they threw away," Wickman said. "I thought that if we could help them connect the dots with where the food was coming from, the amount of effort that it took for them to grow the food they ate, they might actually start consuming more (produce)."

To find out more about the community garden, visit bit.ly/wrggarden or email them at wrggarden@gmail.com. They can also be found on Instagram at [wrggarden](https://www.instagram.com/wrggarden).

Correction

The May 4 Sentinel incorrectly reported that the borough assembly at its April 26 meeting approved an ordinance to hold boat owners liable for disposing of derelict vessels. The assembly on April 26 considered the ordinance in first reading only. The second reading, a public hearing and an assembly vote were scheduled for May 10.

School art program guaranteed \$15,000 in shoe design contest

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Wrangell High School's art program is closer than ever to a \$50,000 prize.

Teacher Tasha Morse was notified on Monday that the shoes her class entered in the Vans Custom Culture art contest had won a spot in the national top five. Being in the top five schools, Wrangell is guaranteed at least a \$15,000 prize. The \$50,000 grand prize winner will be announced Friday.

Morse said she received an email Monday morning which read, "We will be announcing one school each day this week that is included in the top five schools on our Instagram account (@vanscustomculture)."

The email was a welcome sight for Morse, who said it made her "stupid excited."

She was able to share the news with some juniors and seniors, but the rest of the

students were in testing and wouldn't be notified until later.

The students' entry of two pairs of Vans canvas shoes depicted scenes of Wrangell on one pair and Tlingit form line art and fur cuffs on the other. Though the shoes could be turned into complete works of art, Morse's students who worked on the project wanted to keep them wearable.

Wrangell was one of the schools initially picked by the clothing company as part of the 250 first cut of entries. That was narrowed down to 50, which then was open to public voting. Students and staff and members of the community were encouraged to share the voting link on social media. Those efforts were enough to win Wrangell a spot in the final five.

The final five will be ranked by judges for Vans, not social media voting as the last round.

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



"Non-owned auto coverage is an essential part of your business insurance package. This covers accidents that occur while your employee is operating a personal vehicle on the behalf of the business. If this is coverage you might be interested in, give us a call today!"

Nicole Olsen,
Commercial Lines Agent

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



FROM THE PUBLISHER

State budget as much about saving as spending

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The Legislature is working toward the largest capital budget in a long time. Municipalities are hearing “yes” instead of years of “no” to some of their public works funding requests. In addition, more state money is headed to schools. And Alaskans are likely to get a check from the state this fall more than double the amount of last year’s Permanent Fund dividend.

All thanks to elevated oil prices – more than 50% higher than a year ago – and the large tax and royalty payments that are flowing to the treasury from North Slope oil producers.

Lawmakers know the stratospheric oil revenues are temporary and a consequence of Russia’s killing war on Ukraine. And although there are some who believe the first priority for all that extra cash should be even larger dividends to Alaskans, as if the money were burning a hole in the pocket of their legislative campaign Carhartts, most know saving is a longer-term virtue.

A bigger dividend is the wrong answer, the shortsighted answer when prudent fiscal management should take precedence over popularity at the polls. The one thing certain during Alaska’s nearly half-century of oil money is that prices never stay constant. They rise and fall, not as scientifically predictable as the ups and downs of the tides but just as dependable in their movement.

And when they fall, Alaska comes up seriously short of covering the needs of its 735,000 residents. Just as it’s dangerous to get caught on the beach or river sandbar when the tide rises, it’s financially risky to get caught without savings when oil prices drop.

For now, however, Alaska is temporarily rich again. Knowing that oil revenues eventually will come down, the Senate Finance Committee worked up a multipart plan that could put away into savings and the Permanent Fund more than \$2.5 billion if oil averages \$100 for the next year, even more if prices are higher.

The Senate plan has several provisions that would move money into the Statutory Budget Reserve Fund, maybe as much as \$1.6 billion this fiscal year and next, depending on oil prices and how much is left over at the end of the two fiscal years after the state pays its bills.

Another provision would deposit into the constitutionally protected principal of the Alaska Permanent Fund anywhere from \$100 million at \$101 oil to almost \$1 billion if prices hold around \$110 a barrel.

In addition, assuming oil prices average around \$100, the Legislature wants to use some of next year’s oil largesse to prefund state spending on K-12 education for the following year, essentially “saving” \$1.2 billion of revenues from the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2022, for spending in the 2023-2024 school year. Think of it as using your big bonus check at work to prepay next year’s mortgage, protecting yourself in case your income next year comes up short.

The Senate plan ties the savings deposits to oil prices. If the money is available, put it away. But if oil prices slide back to Earth, then the non-existent money does not go into savings.

There are political issues in stashing the money in the Budget Reserve Fund, and certainly big policy calls in taking so much money off the table of easy spending, but the intent is solid: Save wisely. And don’t get caught treading in the cold water the next time the tide of low oil prices washes ashore.

“A bigger dividend is the wrong answer, the shortsighted answer when prudent fiscal management should take precedence over popularity at the polls.”

Wiederspohn

Continued from page 1

In a post on kstk.org, Oliver said Sealaska statistics show that less than 10% of tribal shareholders speak Tlingit. “Unless this current trend reverses, the Tlingit language will be extinct or nearly so in about 40 years,” she said. “If the language is to be preserved, it will require the effort of the entire community.”

Wiederspohn said she would have liked to become involved in the culture earlier, since her grandmother belongs to the Killer Whale (kéet) clan. At a recent paddle-making class, Wiederspohn adorned her work with the killer whale in honor of her family ties.

Though she loves to learn and finds ways to integrate Tlingit words into her everyday activities, Wiederspohn said some things are harder to learn than others and she checks with Oliver to make sure she’s getting pronunciations correct.

“It’s hard to speak, honestly, because the X’s are like (makes a throaty noise) ... and you have to make X pinches,” she said. “You want to make it sound perfect for the elders because they are all lis-

tening to you. It’s just pure respect for everyone’s at.óow – a clan-owned thing.”

The sophomore’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. At the annual chamber of commerce awards dinner on April 9, she was honored as the young leader of the year. Last Saturday, she was awarded the Dreamer Award at the Spirit of Youth Awards, which “highlight dedicated young people and unsung heroes from around Alaska.” The award was given for her work on Tlingit radio lessons.

“Mia really stepped up her efforts this year, not only in Tlingit but across the board,” said Bob Davis, assistant principal at the high school. “I have a mantra I use with kids: Take charge of your education. It’s too important to leave to others. Mia has taken charge of her education in a big way.”

Wiederspohn is also involved with the BASE (Building a Supportive Environment) school group, and she organized the homecoming pep rally this year. On top of her extracurricular activities, she is working hard in school to get as far ahead as possible.

“I want to get close to a semester

of college done by the time I graduate,” she said. “This year, I’m getting all my required classes done. The year after next, as a senior, I’ll take all prerequisite classes and fill my schedule so I’m prepared for college.”

She plans to become a sonographer, working with ultrasound equipment, but she also wants to work for the U.S. Forest Service because of her love of the outdoors. As a tour guide during the summer, Wiederspohn will integrate the Tlingit words for various animals that can be spotted during an outing like séek for black bear.

As much as she would like to be fluent, she admits that could take some time.

“It’s such a complex language,” Wiederspohn said. “(Virginia is) not fluent even though she’s been learning for 20-plus years. Do I think I’ll ever be fluent? No.”

She’s had people tell her they look forward to the radio spots each day. “It’s interesting that people don’t usually think about Tlingit, but whenever they get a chance to be exposed to it, they really enjoy it,” Wiederspohn said. “I’m glad I provide that exposure.”

EDITORIAL

Wrangell benefits from high oil prices

It’s looking increasingly hopeful that Wrangell will receive \$4.1 million as a state grant toward a new water treatment plant.

While not exactly a gift from heaven, it feels like a blessing nonetheless. Without the state funding for the \$15-plus-million project, the borough would face the financially painful option of borrowing money for the needed water plant.

The borough already has \$11 million in assembled federal funds, which is a solid start, but that last \$4 million or so could come at a hefty price to water utility ratepayers if Wrangell has to sell bonds to raise the money. Borough officials estimate paying back the debt could add almost 30% to water bills, pushing the rate for many residential accounts close to \$80 a month.

The community should know next week if the Wrangell grant added to the state budget in the House Finance Committee last week and in the Senate on Monday survives the final week of House and Senate negotiations over their merged spending plan for next year. The water plant money also would need to get past the governor’s veto pen, which he has used in past years but he may be less inclined to start crossing out community projects this year during his reelection campaign.

And while borough officials, the community’s lobbyist in Juneau and Wrangell’s state legislators – Rep. Dan Ortiz and Sen. Bert Stedman – put a lot of work into getting the request this far, residents should remember the big reason it’s even possible to get money from the state this year for community public works projects: High oil prices.

Those same high prices that have made gasoline and diesel so expensive have plumped up the state treasury fatter than a Butterball turkey at Thanksgiving.

Legislators are looking at using some of that oil money to distribute payments to Alaskans this fall more than twice the size of last year’s Permanent Fund dividend check. Lawmakers also have added money to the budget for schools – desperately needed for Wrangell – as they work to undo at least some of the years of cuts to services from roads to state ferries to education and children’s services.

In addition, and this is where the water treatment plant money can be found, the Legislature is working to finish assembling the largest public works bill in years – called the capital budget. A long stretch of low oil prices forced legislators and governors to significantly scale back money for new construction and maintenance across Alaska. This year’s \$100-plus oil is paying to dig into that backlog.

Which means grouse and grumble at the price you pay at the pump or when you get your heating oil tank filled for next winter. Just remember those same high prices could help provide the community with a new water treatment plant.

– Wrangell Sentinel

Water plant

Continued from page 1

Wrangell has long had problems with its water treatment plant, constructed almost 25 years ago. The plan is to construct a new plant next to the existing facility, replacing the plant’s sand filtration system with a more efficient flotation system that binds pollutants and other material to air bubbles, which rise to the surface for removal.

Plans to rebuild the treatment system date back at least to 2015.

If the Legislature appropriates a state grant, and if it survives a potential veto by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, the borough would like to have the new treatment plant up and running by the end of 2023. The assembly already has approved spending about \$1.1 million on engineering and design, which Good said should be completed by November.

The borough would plan to put the project out for bid in January 2023, with construction to start that spring and continue through the fall, he said.

Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

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

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

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

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

Sentinel staff:

Publisher Larry Persily
Editor Marc Lutz
Reporter Sarah Aslam
Office Manager Amber Armstrong
Production Marc Lutz

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

Subscription rates:

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

Tidal Network internet tower delivery delayed

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A pair of mobile towers on wheels that were anticipated to arrive this month in Wrangell for a pilot broadband network have been delayed until around September.

Chris Cropley, network architect at Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, said delivery is 16 to 18 weeks out. One of the components for the towers got "kicked out" of the global supply chain, Cropley said May 4.

The delayed order which Cropley placed in early February for the two mobile cell towers on wheels come from Pierson Wireless in Omaha, Nebraska.

Those two towers combined with installation will cost \$1.5 million.

Also delayed in the shipment are Wi-Fi routers that will go inside homes, and a 4G receiver that will attach to the outside of the building to pick up the signal.

Cropley said the postponed delivery doesn't surprise him, amid the global shortages. The towers consist of "generators, and batteries, it's all a bunch of different parts."

The tribe was granted a broadband license from the FCC in December but has until September 2024 to "defend it" — which means half of the coverage area should have the option to opt in. Deploying the foundation for the network — cell towers, receivers and routers — will be

crucial to maintaining the license.

While the Wrangell pilot project and network is fully funded through federal pandemic aid legislation, Cropley said Central Council did not receive a federal grant of \$50 million it had applied for, which it wanted to cover the full build-out across more of Southeast, providing 32 towers in 22 different communities.

The federal Tribal Broadband Connectivity Network on May 4 announced the funding of four Alaska grants totaling \$41.5 million. Central Council was not among them.

Cropley said he is hopeful for more funding rounds to be announced, possibly this summer, from the \$980 million federal program under the National

Telecommunications and Information Administration, which received \$2 billion more from the federal infrastructure law.

The tribe will initially set up the network in Wrangell, for a service area that eventually could stretch from Yakutat to Ketchikan, if it can obtain more funding. Central Council will set up temporary cell towers in Wrangell and "get internet served off of both those towers as far down the road system as we can south of Shoemaker (Bay)."

Cropley said he is still targeting fall to start setting up the network, but is not rushing to fill a position to guide residents through installations until the equipment arrives.

Legislature moves closer to suspending 8-cent motor fuel tax for 1 year

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The state House has passed legislation that would suspend Alaska's 8-cents-a-gallon motor fuel tax for a year to help consumers pinched by high prices at the pump.

The bill was scheduled for its first committee hearing in the Senate this week as lawmakers push toward their May 18 adjournment deadline.

The measure also would suspend to June 30, 2023, the state tax on marine fuel (5 cents a gallon) and aviation gas (4.7 cents a gallon).

The legislation says dealers "shall reduce the cost of fuel to the final consumer" by the amount of the tax break, though there is no enforcement mechanism and the tax is paid by a limited number of fuel wholesalers and distributors, not the retailers and not as a separate, identifiable charge at the pump.

The bill passed the House 36-2 on May 4. Separate from the one-year tax holiday, the measure would increase by about half-a-penny per gallon the surcharge on refined fuel products sold or used in Alaska to help fund the state's spill prevention and response program.

The only votes against the measure were cast by anti-tax advocates Republican Reps. David Eastman and Christopher Kurka, both of Wasilla. Kurka is running for governor.

In an example of how legislators can amend the original intent of a bill, the measure, House Bill 104, sponsored by Anchorage Rep. Andy Josephson, started out last year as an increase in Alaska's tax rates. The motor fuel tax has not changed in more than half a century.

But with the state flush with high oil revenues and the public grousing about high prices at the gasoline pump, lawmakers amended the bill in the House Finance Committee in March to eliminate the provision to boost the motor fuel tax rate from 8 cents to 16 cents a gallon. The increase would have raised an estimated \$35 million a year that could have gone to increased road maintenance.

The only provision left in the bill by the Finance Com-

mittee was the half-cent for spill response and prevention, which would raise about \$3.6 million a year. Josephson said the small increase would keep the fund viable. The account is supposed to be self-supporting with collections.

"To me, this is a little bit of insurance," Big Lake Rep. Kevin McCabe said during House debate on May 4 of raising more money for the fund. "There is a little bit of Boy Scout in all of us," he said, repeating the scout motto of "Be Prepared."

The account is used to clean up spills at service stations, dry cleaners and other sites around Alaska. The state spent about \$11 million last decade to clean up the former Byford junkyard about 4 miles south of downtown Wrangell.

Without additional revenue, the Department of Environmental Conservation would have to reduce operations and cut positions at the spill prevention and response division, according to its budget presentation to lawmakers.

When the measure reached the House floor last week, Eagle River Rep. Kelly Merrick proposed an amendment to suspend the state's 8-cent motor fuel tax to June 30, 2023. If approved by the Senate and signed by the governor, the tax holiday would start the first of the month after the governor signs the bill into law.

The House adopted the tax-holiday amendment by unanimous consent, though Josephson told his colleagues it would create a \$35 million gap in state revenues for next year. "It takes us from the lowest tax in the country ... to nothing," he said of repealing the 8 cents.

Fairbanks Rep. Adam Wool later tried to amend the bill to restore its original provision to boost the rate to 16 cents a gallon, but not until July 1, 2023, allowing drivers to fill up free from state taxes until then.

"We had our dessert, it's time to eat our vegetables," Wool said of the future tax hike. "We don't pay taxes in this state. ... This is not a big leap."

His amendment failed 14-25. The one-year tax break will save about \$32 for a vehicle owner who drives 10,000 miles a year in a vehicle that averages 25 miles per gallon.



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Only the skeleton remains of a fabric-covered workshop at Svendsen Marine after a fire on May 3. The Quonset hut caught fire shortly after 3 a.m. No one was hurt, Fire Chief Tim Bunes said, but the hut was totaled.

Early morning blaze destroys workshop at Svendsen Marine

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A workshop at a Wrangell boat-building company on Case Avenue caught fire and was destroyed in the early morning hours of May 3.

A firefighter was hurt in the response to Svendsen Marine at 3:18 a.m. after falling but is OK, Fire Chief Tim Bunes said May 3. The firefighter was taken to the hospital and released.

An occupant inside the Quonset hut workspace — a half-moon, fabric-covered "tinker shop" — was also unharmed, he said.

It took 30 minutes for 18 firefighters to put out the blaze, including mop-up of hotspots, which originated from a woodstove inside the hut, Bunes said.

Bunes said there were multiple propane cylinders inside. "It's not a living space," he said.

The fire totaled the Quonset hut, which contained "a lot of equipment," Bunes said.

Because it was a fabric-covered hoop structure, he said most of the fabric had already burned off by the time firefighters arrived.

"They had aluminum-working, woodworking (equipment), a storage for equipment they may have used on the floats, things like that," he said.

The main shop upland from the hut was not affected.

Owner Dave Svendsen on May 4 declined to estimate a cost to the loss of equipment and said he was waiting for an insurance adjuster to come in from out of town and make an assessment, which he said could take a couple of days.

"It doesn't affect the business," Svendsen said. Svendsen said he has five employees.

SEARHC

Continued from page 1

of property taxes in Sitka or Juneau, where it owns significantly more property than it does in Wrangell.

The borough began negotiations with SEARHC in November, with borough staff proposing a \$225,000 PILT payment each year for the next 10 years on the hospital property, and full prop-

erty taxes on the organization's other properties.

SEARHC countered with a \$45,000 PILT that lasts 10 years and exempts them from taxes on any new property acquisitions in town.

The organization had given the borough a May 6 deadline to accept the agreement, but later agreed to extend it past Tuesday's assembly meeting, Good said last Friday.

Trident

Continued from page 1

in March 2020.

With the Wrangell closure, Trident in past years ran tenders to bring fish to its processing plants in Ketchikan and Petersburg. The company also owns plants in Cordova, Kodiak, Bristol Bay, St. Paul and out the Aleutian Islands.

Trident's decision will leave Sea Level Seafoods at Heritage Harbor as Wrangell's only processor serving the local fleet and buying halibut, crab, black

cod and salmon.

Trident's website describes the Wrangell facility as "ideally situated to service a fleet of independent purse seine and gillnet vessels fishing all species of wild Alaska salmon. Employing as many as 250 workers at the peak of the summer season, the plant ships some fresh fish, but is otherwise dedicated to the production of high-quality frozen, headed-and-gutted product. The Wrangell plant can handle up to 750,000 pounds of raw fish per day."

YOU CAN'T BEAT FREE

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

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

Limited to 30 words and two weeks in the paper

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

Legislation would allow online raffle sales to continue

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Unless the Legislature acts, Alaska nonprofits will have to stop selling raffle tickets online June 30. The state has allowed online sales by registered nonprofits since early summer 2020, as the pandemic shut down or made difficult group events and in-person ticket sales.

Temporary legislation allowing charitable groups to sell and draw winning tickets online expires in less than two months, though a bill under consideration would make the provision permanent.

The legislation "will modernize Alaska's charitable gaming program," Deb Moore, executive director of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, testified May 3 at the House Finance Committee, which is considering the bill.

Allowing online raffle sales reduces the burden on volunteers to sell fundraising tickets in person, she said, in addition to making it easier to market the tickets to non-residents, bringing in more money for the state's nonprofits.

Senate Bill 201, sponsored by Anchorage Sen. Mia

Costello, passed the Senate without opposition in March, and would go to the House floor for a vote after action in the House Finance Committee, which may take up the measure again this week.

The bill also includes a provision directed at helping relief efforts in Ukraine. It would allow charitable gaming proceeds to be used outside Alaska if the money benefits "the people of a country that has been invaded by another country."

Before the temporary pandemic-era waiver, state law prohibited using the internet for charitable gaming activities, such as ticket sales and drawings.

"A huge hinderance to these fundraising efforts is the requirement to sell raffle tickets and draw winners in person," Costello said in a sponsor statement accompanying her legislation. "In a state as vast as ours, this has limited the ability of charities to receive support from all corners of Alaska, whether that charity is located in a population center or a remote community."

The intent is to "give nonprofit organizations across Alaska an opportunity to increase their fundraising and expand their charitable efforts in our communities," the senator said. There are more than 800 licensed charita-

ble organizations in Alaska that can run fundraising raffles, she told the House Finance Committee on May 3.

Opening up sales online to out-of-state residents provided a huge boost this year for the Safari Club International Alaska chapter's annual hunting permit raffle, said Louis Cusack, executive director. More than half of the \$500,000-plus in ticket sales in the February raffle came from out-of-state buyers, he said in an interview May 3.

The club raffled off a Dall sheep hunt permit that was donated by the state. Tickets were \$100 each.

"That permit raised more money ... than any other sheep permit has raised in North America," Cusack said.

Alaska law allows the state to grant up to three Dall sheep hunt permits a year to nonprofits "dedicated to fish and game law enforcement, management of hunted game species, or use of game populations for hunting."

In addition to the permit, the Safari Club raffle winner — which turned out to be an Alaskan — received a 10-day fully guided hunt, 10 days of pre-guiding, a custom-built rifle and other gear.



Wrangell resident Melanie Schilling browses the shelves at River's Mouth Resale last Thursday. The shop is moving this week.

PHOTO BY
SARAH ASLAM/
WRANGELL
SENTINEL

New downtown thrift store moving into bigger space

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

After less than a month in operation, the River's Mouth Resale thrift store is moving into a new space twice as large.

They need more room "due to overwhelming support," owner Kelly Ellis said Thursday.

Ellis, who opened the store April 4, said they plan to accept their last donations at the current spot on Lynch Street next to Groundswell on Saturday — the same day River's Mouth plans to open in the Churchill Building, behind Baked for Breakfast. It's the storefront where Silver Liningz Boutique used to be before it moved to Front Street.

The thrift store hours will remain the same — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day but Sunday.

The type of donations accepted will be the same, too: Everything, as long as it's clean.

The bigger space will allow Ellis to spread out and better organize so people can see what they have.

"People have been really generous with their donations," she said.

Melanie Schilling was shopping in the thrift store Thursday morning.

"It's a nice place to get rid of stuff," she said. "Feels like a mall. They have new stuff a lot, and prices are right, and they always have friendly people working."

Trip helps teens get Close Up to political process

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Six teens returned to Wrangell on May 2 after nine days in Washington, D.C., and New York City. The trip is part of the national Close Up program which aims to get kids more engaged in the political process.

Along with chaperone Sarah Merritt, seniors Jimmy Baggen, Sophia Hagelman and Tyson Messmer, juniors Paige Baggen and Ashleigh Loomis and sophomore Sierra Hagelman were able to visit sites of historic interest, meet with and hear from various political leaders, and participate in lively debates.

The program and trip has been in Wrangell since the 1970s, after Close Up was established in 1971 to show students they can make a difference. In the past 50 years, more than 900,000 students and educators across the country have been involved in the program.

Merritt, who runs the Wrangell Legislative Information Office, has been teaching the Close Up class and taking students on the trip since 2007. Having gone on the trip as a junior in high school, Merritt wanted to be able to provide the experience for others.

This year's trip was the first in three years due to the pandemic. Each student had to raise \$2,400 for the trip, which includes six days in Washington, D.C., and three days in New York City.

Upon arriving, students had dinner, sat through an orientation and workshop and participated in a debate on domestic issues. Merritt prepared her group for the debate by having them form their opinion on the topic of police brutality. They then had to argue the opposite point of view.

It was an exercise that Loomis said opened her eyes to differing opinions and helped her to become less reserved. "It definitely made me more talkative," she said. "I thought, 'No one knows me here. I might as well try.' With the debates, it helps you get out there."

Among the sites visited by the group, the Holo-

caust Museum had the biggest emotional effect on the students, since they'd been learning about it from Merritt before the trip. They also visited the World War II, Korean and Vietnam War memorials, the Jefferson, Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. memorials, attended a play at Ford's Theater where Abraham Lincoln was shot, and attended congressional committee hearings among many other things.

Merritt said it was the best group she's ever taken, with no complaints heard despite the packed schedule and miles upon miles of walking.

Sierra Hagelman said both the Vietnam War Memorial and the Holocaust Museum were emotional experiences, and the trip overall was truly memorable. She said her advice to others thinking about taking the trip would be to just do it. "Don't be tucked away," she said. "I feel like a lot of teenagers who were there were kind of tucked away, but then the debates brought us together."

The group had a short visit with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, in which she helped them create a social media post about the high school's art class entry in the Vans Custom Culture shoe art design contest. Baggen was one of the students who worked on the art project.

"Paige did a fantastic job when Sen. Murkowski put her on the spot to speak to all the schools and teachers sitting on the Senate side of the stairs outside," Merritt said. Students were able to ask the senator questions on a variety of topics.

Prices on next year's trip are expected to go up by about \$170, Merritt said, but if students are considering joining the program, they can lock in the \$2,400 rate if they sign up by June. The fee includes housing, but not air fare.

Loomis said it's a trip she will take again if she can and encourages other to do it as well.

"I've always been involved in politics, it's something my parents are passionate about," Loomis said. "I wouldn't say I learned anything new (about the political process), but I did learn to open my mind to different perspectives."



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

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

Some of the positions we are currently recruiting for are:

- Passenger Service Workers; Stewards & Pursers
- Unlicensed Engine Personnel; Oilers & Jr Engineers
- Licensed Deck Officers
- Marine Engineers

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

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment

Sentinel receives four Alaska Press Club awards

Sentinel staff

The Wrangell Sentinel received four awards in this year's Alaska Press Club contest, including third place for best weekly newspaper in the state.

The Nome Nugget was judged the best weekly in the state.

The awards were announced April 30, based on work in 2021.

Sentinel reporter Sarah Aslam won second place among small newspapers in the best short feature story category for her Oct. 21, 2021, reporting, "Tlingit culture, language lives on through heritage learners." The judges described it as "an important story told with heart and purpose."

Sentinel editor Marc Lutz took third place among small newspapers in the best profile category for his story about Brad Traxler, the Wrangell Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor who has recovered

from injuries to become an ultra-marathon runner. The news story of Sept. 9, 2021, was titled: "Pastor credits strong spiritual walk for running after being quadriplegic."

The judges commented: "Strong piece. Compelling lede. ... It tells the story of a man who beat the odds without veering into sentimentality. Detailed without being overwhelming or dry. Insurance ... company angle was wisely placed and very effective for context."

Sentinel publisher Larry Persily took second place for humor writing in the state for his Nov. 21, 2021, column, "Supply chain makes me nutty," a look at the shortage of Grape Nuts. The judges commented: "The hunt for his Grape Nuts cereal during pandemic shortages is something we all can relate to, but we may not tell the saga with this humor."

Organizers rev up interest in Fourth of July car show

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

It's time to dust off that Duster and shine up that Chevelle. Proud owners of anything from classic cars and clunkers to tricked-out trikes and awesome ATVs will have a chance to cruise into infamy on July 2.

A yet-to-be-named car show is scheduled to be part of the Fourth of July festivities, with prizes awarded to best in show and other categories.

Ellen Jellum, a masseuse at Arctic Chiropractic, had the idea for a car show to raise funds for Wrangell's schools. It's something she used to do with her family in Long Beach, Washington, since she was a baby.

"I've always enjoyed car shows. ... I knew that activities needed to be had because I saw a post on Facebook saying, 'We need ideas and volunteers,' and I wanted to get involved because I'm new here and I wanted to make friends," Jellum said.

The chamber of commerce will be sponsoring the event by promoting it, collecting the \$25 entry fee, and providing the prizes. Executive Director Britanni Robbins believes it will be a good addition to the events held over the July 4 weekend.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ellen Jellum, who is organizing the Fourth of July car show on July 2, stands next to her "little red potato," a 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage. Though she won't be entering her own car, Jellum said anything with a motor is eligible for entry in the show.

"I think it will be new and interesting, and we already have people expressing interest in being involved," Robbins said. She knows of a few people in town who own classic cars, but the entries aren't

limited to a mint '57 Chevy Bel Air or a custom 1948 Packard Woody station wagon.

There will be a best-in-show category, people's choice and others like the Thun-

der Dome category, which would be "for cars that look like they have either been through the apocalypse or are ready for it," Jellum said. "Anything with a motor, really."

Entrants will be asked to provide the year, make and model of the vehicle, along with a short explanation of how they came to own their vehicle and any other interesting trivia about it.

Jellum's current vehicle, which she refers to as her little red potato, is a 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage. Though it's not her car of choice, she said she has come to respect it. If she could have any car, she said it would be a tie between a 1959 drop-top Cadillac with a white leather interior and metallic green-flake paint job or a 1972 cherry red Chevy Corvette Stingray.

Anyone interested in entering their vehicle can contact Jellum on Facebook or the chamber of commerce at info@wrangellchamber.com.

If all goes according to Jellum's idea, there will be a chance for entrants to show their car in action before parking it for show.

"I'm hoping, unless someone sees a major problem with it ... have people cruising through (the festivities) circa 1976," she said.

Carnival cruise ship pulls into Seattle with COVID outbreak

SEATTLE (AP) — Passengers on the Carnival cruise ship Spirit that docked May 3 in Seattle say more than 100 people aboard the ship tested positive for COVID-19 and the crew was overwhelmed.

Multiple passengers said they were quarantined at Seattle-area hotels after testing positive or being exposed to someone with COVID-19. Carnival Cruise Line would not confirm how many people tested positive but said there were a number of positive cases, Seattle KING5 TV reported.

Darren Sieferston, a passenger on the cruise from Miami to Seattle, was in quarantine after testing positive. He said the crew's response was chaotic.

"They didn't have enough staff to handle the emergency that was happening, period," said Sieferston. "They were overwhelmed and they didn't have a backup course in how to handle about 200 people affected with COVID. We all suffered."

Passengers told KING5 they waited hours for meals, weren't properly isolated and couldn't get ahold of medical staff.

"We couldn't call anybody. ... Basically, we sat in the room, you call and it would ring, ring, ring and ring all day long" said Sieferston.

The ship unloaded in Seattle on May 3 and headed to Alaska. The Spirit, with capacity for almost 2,700 passengers, arrived in Juneau last Saturday.

"The Carnival Spirit team managed a number of COVID

cases during its Panama Canal journey that departed Miami on April 17 and arrived in Seattle on May 3. There were no serious health issues, and while some guests showed minor symptoms, most were asymptomatic," said Matt Lupoli, a senior public relations manager for Carnival Cruise Lines, in an email.

"In addition, all guests who were scheduled to continue on with the ship's next cruise to Alaska were tested and any guests who tested positive were disembarked."

The company's website says passengers are required to be fully vaccinated and tested before a trip. Some exemptions are accommodated with proper testing.

Borough raises rates to help pay for cemetery expansion

Sentinel staff

The assembly has raised rates for cemetery plots and other fees to help pay for the expansion of Sunset Gardens.

The fee for a full-casket cemetery plot went up by \$670 to \$1,000, effective April 26. Previously, a grave plot cost \$330 and plots for children under six years of age were \$150.

Opening and closing of the plot during the weekdays remains at \$900, but a weekend opening/closing now costs \$1,500, an increase of \$415.

Headstone installation costs \$200, an \$80 increase.

The borough plans to start work later this year to add 50 gravesites at the cemetery, with plans for an additional 50 plots possibly next year.

And to pay for a new columbarium that will be installed later this year, the fee for each niche will increase to \$550 from \$330.

The new columbarium will have two side

walls "for those who do not require a niche to intern ashes but still wish to memorialize their loved ones," according to the borough assembly resolution setting the rates. The fee for each memorial space on the wall is \$100, an increase of \$70 from \$30 for the old columbarium. Plaque installation costs \$35.

A maximum of two full-casket burial plots and two niches in the columbarium can be reserved at a time for immediate family members. Previously, there was no limit, which led to multiple plots being booked at a time. Borough staff had asked if anyone wanted to relinquish reserved space, but there were no takers.

A bit of history remains in Wrangell's municipal code: "No person shall drive any horse or vehicle in or through the cemetery, its roads or paths, for ordinary purposes of traffic and travel, nor permit any cattle, horses, sheep, hogs or other stock of any kind to enter in or upon or to feed or graze in the cemetery."

It all adds up!

25% off

all ads in the May 18 Sentinel
that promote Wrangell's

Tax-Free Day

May 21

**Shoppers get a break that day and the
Sentinel wants to give businesses a break too**

Call, email or visit Amber at the Sentinel to order your ad
Deadline to order your ad is noon Friday, May 13

N K ELECTRIC

Here to serve all
your electrical needs

COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

907-874-2770, #21633

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

N K ELECTRIC

Here to serve all
your electrical needs

COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

907-874-2770, #21633

Petersburg assembly opposes 'landless Natives' legislation

By CHRIS BASINGER
Petersburg Pilot

The Petersburg Borough Assembly has voted to write a letter opposing federal legislation that would transfer federal land to new Native corporations proposed for Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, Ketchikan and Tenakee Springs.

The assembly action was prompted by a request from Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski for a Senate committee hearing on legislation to create the corporations as an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The bill would allow the so-called "landless Native communities" to form corporations and receive 23,040 acres of land each, similar to the 200 village corporations created by the 1971 federal law. The five Southeast communities did not meet certain requirements for corporation status under the law, though Native residents of the towns have long challenged that decision.

Alaska's congressional delegation has repeatedly and unsuccessfully introduced legislation to create the five corporations.

The Wrangell Borough Assembly in 2016 came out in support of the landless Natives effort, and though members have discussed the issue over the past six years the assembly has not adopted any measure changing or contradicting its 2016 position.

The Tongass National Forest land that would be conveyed to a Petersburg corporation could include parcels at Portage Bay, Point Agassiz Peninsula, Mitkof Island and along Wrangell Narrows on Kupreanof Island.

Petersburg Vice Mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor made a motion at the assembly's May 2 meeting to write a letter of opposition to the legislation, seconded by Bob Lynn. The assembly voted 4-3 to send a letter opposing the bill. Members Chelsea Tremblay, Thomas Fine-Walsh and Jeff Meucci opposed the motion.

Stanton Gregor said he was against the bill because he had "a real heartache with taking, for any reason, lots and lots of public land and giving it to private business with the sole goal of for-profit use."

Member Dave Kensinger spoke in support of helping landless constituents but said he was against the disjointed land selections proposed in the bill and said the transfer would make it impossible for the U.S. Forest Service to have future timber sales.

"I'd have a lot easier time supporting this if it was one block of land, but it makes your head crazy if you look at all the selections they've made," Kensinger said.

Lynn said he was against the bill because he did not support giving away the federal land.

Meucci said he believed the community should be given more time to speak on the bill and felt that the questions the assembly had sent out on the issue had not been answered.

"It's a real emotional issue in Petersburg and I get that and I want to make sure before I vote one way or the other on it that I've had the opportunity to listen to the folks in town and some of the folks who are involved with it who don't live in Petersburg, but just hear what they have to say and see what we can do," Meucci said.

Mayor Mark Jensen said members of the community have had enough time to make comments and said he did not agree with giving land to private owners.

Supporters say the legislation would return a tiny fraction of territory taken from Alaska Natives. Future shareholders say the new corporations would spur economic development with possibilities for tourism or other uses such as food or cultural activities. The subsurface rights would go to Sealaska, the regional Native corporation, while the five corporations would hold the surface rights to the land.

Juneau may drop sales tax on food in exchange for higher summer tax rate

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

Juneau voters will likely be asked this fall if they're willing to increase the city's 5% sales tax to 6% during the summer in exchange for exempting food from sales tax year-round.

The Juneau Assembly, meeting as the Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously May 2 to have city administrators draft language for an ordinance that would repeal the food tax if voters approve the summer sales tax increase.

But numerous questions were raised about exemptions for nonprofits, effects on businesses that don't get summer tourists among their customers, and if the amount saved on food purchases is significant enough to benefit residents.

"We'll discuss it in more detail later," Mayor Beth Weldon promised after the committee's vote.

The assembly is required to hold a public hearing and approve the ordinance in a subsequent meeting by Aug. 28 for it to appear on the October municipal election ballot.

City Finance Director Jeff Rogers told the committee the food tax exemption would save the average household about \$143, with the city losing about \$400,000 a year as a result.

"Admittedly that's not a lot of money, but when you think of trying to reduce the sales tax burden on the public and take in the same amount of revenue \$143 isn't nothing," he said.

Increasing the summer sales tax would result in the average summer visitor

spending about \$1 more, he said.

The motion approved by the committee does not specify the duration of "summer months," nor was the length discussed by the committee, but documents provided by the finance department assume six-month summer/winter periods.

Reaction from assembly members was mixed, but more supportive than previous discussions. Assemblymember Wade Bryson said, "I've started this conversation completely against" the idea, but now sees some benefits to eliminating the food tax, and if there are ways to offset other impacts "it will make the decision easier."

"I've been hesitant to increase the sales tax during the summer months," he said. "While many businesses do depend on summer tourism there are businesses

where Juneau residents are their primary customers. I would like to get businesses' input at the very least to see what the impacts on them will be."

Assemblymember Alicia Hughes-Skandijs said she's less concerned than Bryson about the impact on non-tourism businesses.

"My decision to purchase or not to purchase something is not going to be influenced by a 1% difference in the sales tax," she said.

How much a \$143 annual savings will actually benefit households was questioned by Weldon, although she said that's among the reasons it's important the issue be decided by a vote of the public. "I guess we won't know what everybody else's viewpoint is until we send it to the voters."



CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATES!

The Sentinel is offering discounted
"Congratulations Graduates"
ads at \$50

Send in your message and a photo
of your favorite grad for the May 18 Sentinel
Ad deadline is noon Friday, May 13.

Help the students celebrate their
years and share your pride with
the community.

Call, email or stop by to see Amber at the Sentinel
to place your ad.


WRANGELL SENTINEL

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

Federal panel to focus on murdered and missing Native Americans

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN AND FELICIA FONSECA
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Nearly 40 law enforcement officials, tribal leaders, social workers and survivors of violence have been named to a federal commission tasked with helping improve how the federal government addresses a decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced last Thursday.

The committee's creation means that for the first time, the voices guiding the Interior and Justice departments in the effort will include people most affected by the epidemic, said Haaland, the first Native American to lead a cabinet department.

She said the panel includes members with diverse experiences and backgrounds, representing communities from Alaska and Washington to Arizona, Oklahoma and Michigan. It will craft recommendations on how the government can better tackle a disproportionately high number of unsolved cases in which Native Americans and Alaska Natives have disappeared or been killed.

"It will take a focused effort — and time — to unravel the many threads that contribute to the alarming rates of these cases," Haaland said during a virtual event.

Some members of Congress have expressed concern that work to address the crisis as required under the law isn't on track. In the case of appointing members to the commission, federal officials are more than a year behind schedule.

The Not Invisible Act, signed into law in October 2020, required that the commission be named by February 2021 and that findings be made public last month.

Another law signed around the same time directed the U.S. Attorney General's Office to find ways to increase cooperation among law enforcement agencies, provide tribes resources and address data collection. Savanna's Act was named for 22-year-old Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, who went missing while pregnant in 2017 before her body was found in a North Dakota River.

U.S. Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, who faces a tough reelection campaign; Jon Tester of Montana; and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, the vice-chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, outlined their concerns in a letter earlier this week.

"Both of these laws outlined specific time frames and deadlines for implementation; however, it is unclear which provisions have been undertaken, and it appears that almost every deadline has been missed," the lawmakers wrote.

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Lisa Monaco said Thursday the naming of the commission marks a major milestone that follows ongoing work by a separate steering committee to marshal more federal resources to address the problem.

She also announced the creation of a new position within the executive office of U.S. attorneys that will be responsible for working with victims and families to ensure they

have a voice while navigating the criminal justice system.

Federal officials also highlighted work being done by the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which now has 17 offices across the country that have at least one agent dedicated to solving cases involving missing or slain Native Americans.

As for the 37-member commission, its mission includes tracking and reporting data on missing-person, homicide and human trafficking cases and increasing information sharing with tribal governments on violent crimes investigations and other prosecutions on Indian lands.

The commission is expected to hold hearings and gather testimony before making recommendations to the Interior and Justice departments to improve coordination among agencies and to establish best practices for state, tribal and federal law enforcement. The panel also is tasked with boosting resources for survivors and victims' families.

Meanwhile, some communities already have created their own response plans to address the problem. In New Mexico, officials last Thursday rolled out the state's plan, highlighting goals that in-

clude building more support services for survivors and families, doing more outreach on education and prevention and leveraging resources for tribal judicial systems.

Fawn Sharp, president of the tribal advocacy group National Congress of American Indians, said during Thursday's virtual event that although funding for law enforcement in Indian Country has increased in recent years, it doesn't come close to meeting the needs.

She pointed to research showing that failure to provide funding undermined the ability to provide adequate public safety in tribal communities.

"Having the authority to hold perpetrators accountable is an important first step, but tribal nations cannot follow through to hold bad actors accountable without adequate and consistent funding for tribal justice systems," she said.

Other advocates said they were hopeful the federal commission's recommendations will cover the need for safe housing for victims of domestic violence and other social services and health care that could help prevent violence.



AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, seen here outside the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument in Jackson, Mississippi, on Feb. 15, announced last week the appointment of a new federal commission to help improve how the federal government addresses the decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Candidate Race on Ballot

United States Representative

On Saturday, June 11, 2022 there will be a special primary election to fill the vacancy in the office of United States Representative. This election will be conducted by mail. There will be no polling places open for regular in-person voting on election day. The deadline to register to vote or update your voter registration is May 12th.

Ballots will be automatically mailed to qualified registered voters beginning April 27th. You will vote by selecting one candidate. You must sign your ballot envelope, provide an identifier and a witness signature, and return or mail your ballot by June 11th. If you will not be at your current mailing address or do not receive a ballot, you can contact the Division of Elections.

The Division of Elections' regional offices will offer early and absentee in-person voting beginning May 27th. They will be open on weekdays between 8AM and 5PM, on weekends with limited hours, and on election day between 7AM and 8PM. For the full schedule and a list of additional early and absentee in-person voting locations throughout the state, visit the Division's website at AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov.

www.elections.alaska.gov

<u>Region I Office</u>	<u>Region II Office</u>	<u>Region III Office</u>	<u>Region IV Office</u>	<u>Region V Office</u>
Juneau	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Nome	Mat-Su
(907) 465-3021	(907) 522-8683	(907) 451-2835	(907) 443-8683	(907) 373-8952
1-866-948-8683	1-866-958-8683	1-866-959-8683	1-866-953-8683	1-844-428-8952

Language Assistance 1-866-954-8683 Toll Free TTY 1-888-622-3020

The State of Alaska, Division of Elections, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special assistance and/or accommodation to vote, please contact your regional Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements.

Capitol rally held in support of investigating missing Alaska Natives

By MICHAEL S. LOCKETT
Juneau Empire

Adorned with red handprints across their mouths and carrying signs bearing the faces of the missing, hundreds gathered last Thursday at the Capitol in Juneau.

Elected officials and Alaska Native dignitaries spoke before a solemn crowd amid flags bearing the red hand symbolizing the missing and murdered Indigenous persons awareness movement. The rally was held on Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day.

"I think the turnout was great. The message was shared across the state. ... It's gaining more attention on national levels through political streams," said Jamiann Hasselquist, who took part in the rally. "That's exactly what we need. We need other people to amplify our Indigenous voices and come up with solutions for this epidemic."

Speakers emphasized the need to reinforce the values that made the Alaska Native cultures resilient. Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience some of the highest rates of violence in the country, and Native women and girls in particular sustain appallingly high rates of sexual and gender-based violence in addition to disappearances, according to a U.S. Department of Justice news release.

The issue of missing and murdered Indigenous people has been a contentious one in Alaska, with critics calling for more attention to the problem.

President Joe Biden recently signed an executive order ordering multiple federal departments to work directly with tribes in order to improve public safety and criminal justice for Indigenous people.

"People are still looking for answers. With Anne Sears coming back onto the force, I'm really excited to see what kind of work she's going to do and what she's

going to accomplish," said Hasselquist. "There's a lot of cases that have been mishandled, and in my opinion neglected. I'm hoping she can get some answers for the cases but more importantly for the families."

Anne Sears, newly announced investigator for the state of Alaska's missing or murdered persons initiative, spoke during the rally. Sears, who is Alaska Native, began her career at the Juneau Police Department before going on to a 22-year career in the state troopers, retiring and transitioning to the new initiative in April. The program is funded by a federal grant.

Native speakers voiced their appreciation for the support, but urged officials to work with Alaska Natives on their terms to stop the scourge.

"We have heard you, those who are working for the state. You want to help us," said community elder Paul Marks. "Work with us with kindness and re-

spect. We don't want to be talked down to. We don't want to be treated like children. We are a proud people. A strong people."

Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska offers logistical support for families conducting search and rescue, Hasselquist said. There's also the Red Blanket Fund, administered by the Na'ah Illahee Fund, which offers financial assistance in the form of a grant to Native American and Alaska Native families searching for a missing family member, or dealing with the many steps that come after the search.

Sears said some of her work will involve taking a new look at cases and seeing if something was missed, while also establishing new partnerships to bridge the gap between the Native communities and state government.

"That is one of my goals before I retire is to establish partnerships with our tribes here in Alaska," she said.

Operator will temporarily shut down Maine dams to help Atlantic salmon

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The owner of hydroelectric dams in Maine has said it's going to make changes to some of its operations to try to help save the final remaining wild Atlantic salmon in the United States.

The country's last wild populations of the fish are found in a few Maine rivers. Salmon counters found fewer of the fish on one of those rivers, the Penobscot, last year than in any year since 2016.

Atlantic salmon were once plentiful in American rivers, but factors such as dams, overfishing and pollution hurt populations, and they are now listed under the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. The fish is familiar to seafood consumers because it's heavily fish farmed.

Brookfield Renewable U.S. said May 2 that it has begun shutdown procedures for dams on the lower Kennebec River to help the salmon migrate. The company is a subsidiary of a larger Canadian company that owns many dams in Maine.

A spokesperson for the company, David Heidrich, said the shutdowns will continue until the

end of the salmon migrating season. The company said it made the voluntary move to shut down some operations after the detection of young salmon in the Sandy River, a tributary of the Kennebec.

The company is also working with regulators, including the Maine Department of Maine Resources, to help ensure safe passage of the salmon, Heidrich said.

"We are working closely with the DMR and the National Marine Fisheries Service to limit any potential impact to smolt during their downriver migration," Heidrich said.

Environmental groups have long pressured Brookfield Renewable to take steps to help protect the few salmon that still return to Maine. Nick Bennett, staff scientist with the Natural Resources Council of Maine, wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in April to say Brookfield should begin its protections at the beginning of that month, when young salmon start migrating.

"It's too little, too late," Bennett said May 2 in an interview with The Associated Press.

Maine terminates application to build 120-acre salmon farm

GOULDSBORO, Maine (AP) — A state agency in Maine has terminated an application for a 120-acre salmon farm opposed by lobstermen in Frenchman Bay.

American Aquafarms, which was notified of the decision April 19, proposed a pair of 60-acre, 15-pen sites that together could produce 66 million pounds of Atlantic salmon a year.

The Department of Marine Resources said the Portland-based company backed by Norwegian investors failed to find a state-approved hatchery for salmon eggs for the operation. The company also failed to prove the hatchery met requirements of state law for fish health and genetics, officials said.

The company was notified eight months ago of the defi-

ciencies and failed to rectify them, officials said.

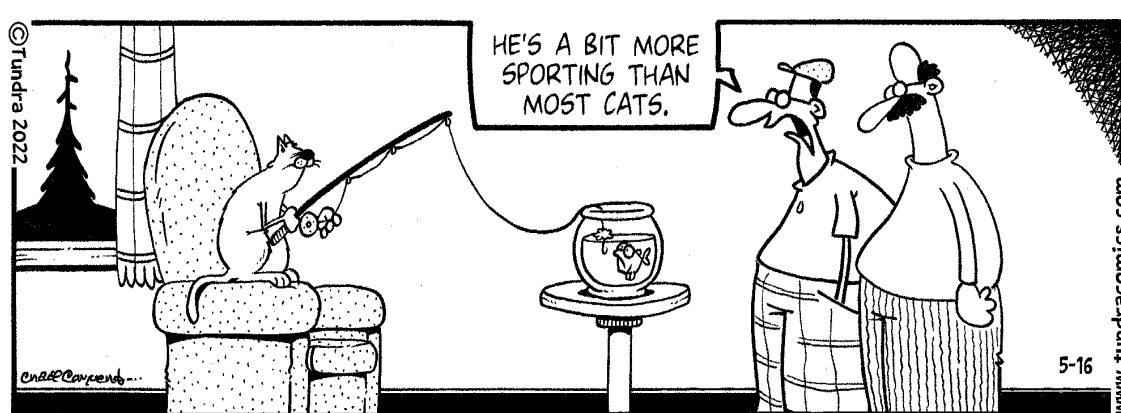
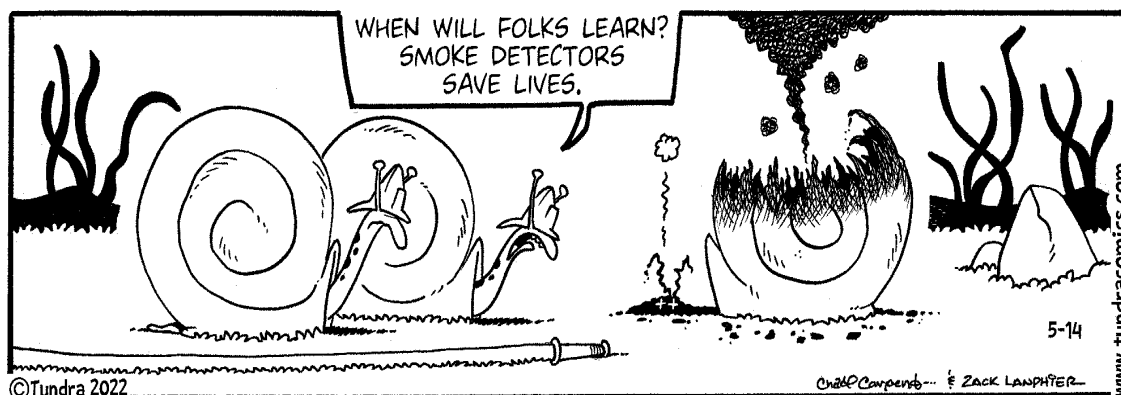
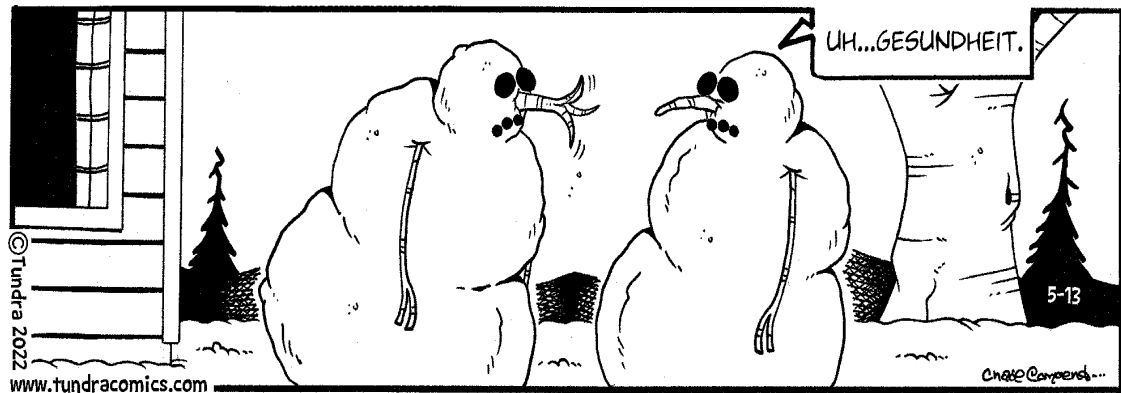
The group that for the past year has been leading the fight against the operation, which included a proposed processing plant on the mainland, praised the decision.

"We hope that the company has finally gotten the message that they are not welcome here and that it's time to pull the plug on this destructive and ill-conceived project once and for all," said Henry Sharpe, president of the Frenchman Bay United board.

The company could submit a new application but that would add several years to the permitting process. The company didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, May 2
Theft/fraud: Under investigation.
Agency assist: Fire Department.
Subpoena service.

Tuesday, May 3
Agency assist: Fire Department.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for not stopping at stop sign.

Wednesday, May 4
Citizen assist.
Dog complaint.
Parking complaint.
Civil standby.

Thursday, May 5
Random breath test.
Found property.
4-wheeler complaint.

Friday, May 6
Dog at large.
Subpoena service.
Subpoena service.

Saturday, May 7
Harassment.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlights off.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlights off.

Sunday, May 8
Letter served for removing a person from a licensed establishment.
Agency assist: Grass fire.

During this reporting period there were six agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Subscribe to
the Sentinel today
and stay up to date.

Call 907-874-2301
to subscribe to the print or online version

CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for multiple positions. All positions are open until filled.

- **Custodian:** This is a full-time, year-round classified position with benefits earning \$15.45 to \$23.39/hour DOE, 7.5 hours per day, working at Wrangell High School. Job duties include but are not limited to keeping our school complex clean and assisting with setting up rooms for classes, large presentations, and business meetings as needed; and assisting with minor repairs. A High School Diploma or equivalent is desired.
- **Elementary School Secretary:** This is a full-time, 10-month classified position with benefits earning \$16.25 to \$24.59/hour DOE, 7.5 hours per day, working at Evergreen Elementary School. Responsibilities include performing office functions at a public school and serving as secretary to the school administration, students, and staff.
- **Paraprofessionals:** These are part-time, 9-month positions working with students one-on-one or in small groups at Evergreen Elementary School. Salary placement is Column B on the 9-month Classified Salary Schedule, earning \$14 to \$23.42/hour DOE, 5.75 hours per day. The successful applicant must have an associate degree or equivalent (or higher) or the ability to pass the para-pro assessment (administered by the district). Responsibilities include using specialized strategies and techniques to support students in an academic setting. Training is provided.

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

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Senior Apartments is accepting resumes for a maintenance worker. Looking for a reliable, skilled maintenance worker to perform essential upkeep tasks throughout our facility. This position will be responsible for a wide variety of activities such as repairs and cleaning to ensure that our facilities are both tidy and functional. Being reliable and self-motivated is essential in this job. Significant work experience and solid technical knowledge is a must. Will need to have the manual dexterity and physical stamina necessary for this work. Job will be between 10 to 15 hours per week. Must be able to be on call 24 hours a day and week-ends. High school diploma or equivalent, pass a background check and provide experience as a maintenance worker or similar position required. Email resume with letters of recommendation to wrangellseniors@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

Wrangell IGA is accepting applications for multiple

positions. All positions are open until filled.

- **Cashier:** 40 hours a week. Starting \$13 to \$15 an hour based on experience, with advancement possibilities. Main IGA cashier, stock candy and clean front-end.
- **Frozen Food Stocker:** 40 hours a week. Starting \$14 to \$16 an hour based on experience. Advancement possibilities to Frozen Food Manager position is the goal for this position. Stock frozen foods and grocery. Some cashiering and boxing required.
- **Meat and Deli position:**

40 hours a week. 18+ years old required for use of equipment. Opportunities for advancement. Starting \$15 to \$18 based on experience and pay increases as more skills are learned. Stocking and cleaning meat and deli departments. Slicing deli meats and cheese, making sandwiches, wrapping chicken beef, pork.

Pick up an application at Wrangell IGA.

FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something?

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARING

The Board of Equalization that was scheduled for Monday, May 9, has been **rescheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Borough Assembly (on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.) will act as the Board of Equalization and shall hear testimony, both oral and written, **with a decision to follow**, on appeals received for the 2022 tax year.

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

Publish May 11, 2022

WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) is soliciting proposals and rate information from qualified firms and individuals to provide audit services for WCA. The audit service to be provided is for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, with the option to extend 2 years. For more information and to request a copy of the RFP, please contact Esther Ashton at wcatrube@gmail.com or call 907-874-4304. Deadline: May 16, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Publish May 4 and 11, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS LIBRARY FLOORING MATERIALS PROCUREMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of Library Flooring Materials, delivered FOB Port of Wrangell, Alaska.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 25, 2022. The full solicitation document for this project is available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

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

Publish May 11 and 18, 2022

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE INVITING BIDS HERITAGE HARBOR BOAT RAMP CONCRETE PAVING

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for construction of the Heritage Harbor Boat Ramp Concrete Paving.

The Work consists of all activities necessary to construct the Heritage Harbor Boat Ramp Concrete Paving, including asphalt demolition and disposal, excavation, base course, and concrete paving. The Owner's estimate for the project is approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section. Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on May 26, 2022.

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

Publish May 11 and 18, 2022

Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Public Works Mechanic

The Wrangell Public Works Department will accept applications for the position of Mechanic through May 13, 2022, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits. This position is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

The Mechanic is a journey-level position, responsible for performing a full range of equipment maintenance.

Responsibilities include performing complex work in the inspection, repair and maintenance of automotive equipment including tractors, trucks, power mowers, power sweepers, police cars and construction equipment, overhauling light engines, and diagnosing mechanical problems. Requires in-depth knowledge of the standard practices, techniques and tools used in repairing, maintaining and overhauling heavy and light equipment, gasoline, diesel, mechanical, and electric powered equipment, knowledge of the principles of internal combustion engines, and knowledge and understanding laws, codes and regulations pertaining to vehicle safety.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022

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

STIKINE RENTALS, LLC,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
THE ESTATE OF MATILDA PAUL, its beneficiaries,)
heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns successors in interest;)
and, anyone claiming right, title, estate, lien or interest)
in that real property described herein,)
Defendants.)

Case No. 1WR-22-05CI

SUMMONS AND NOTICE TO HEIRS

This Summons and Notice is directed to the Estate of Matilda Paul and the beneficiaries, heirs, devisees, legatees, assigns and successors in interest and all other persons or parties unknown claiming a right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title in this action, that the above-named plaintiff, Stikine Rentals, LLC, has commenced a lawsuit against you by filing a Verified Complaint to Quiet Title ("Complaint") in the Superior Court for the State of Alaska at Wrangell, to quiet legal title to real property located at Lot 10, Block 26, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and which is more particularly described as:

Lot 10, Resubdivision of Lots 8, 9, 10, Blk. 26,
USS 1815, according to Plat No. 80-7, Wrangell
Recording District, First Judicial District, State of
Alaska.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM: That portion
conveyed to the City of Wrangell by Statutory
Quitclaim Deeds recorded January 3, 1983, in
Book 9 at Page 688 and in Book 9 at Page 691.

Pursuant to Civil Rule 4(e)(5), you must file an answer to the Complaint filed by the plaintiff in this civil action within thirty (30) days from the last date of publication of this Notice in the Wrangell Sentinel. This Notice shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks. Your answer to the Complaint is your response to the allegations set forth in plaintiff's Complaint, which is on file as a public document in the Superior Court at Wrangell in Case No. 1WR-22-05 CI and can be reviewed by you and copied upon request to the Clerk of Court. You must file a written answer to the allegations in plaintiff's Complaint in the Superior Court at Wrangell within the time provided hereinabove. If you fail to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, a default judgment can be entered against you for the relief of quiet title requested by plaintiff in its Complaint.

Should you elect to file an answer to plaintiff's Complaint, you are also required to serve a copy of your answer and all pleadings you file with the Superior Court at Wrangell, with plaintiff's attorney at the following address: H. Clay Keene, Keene & Currall, PPC, 540 Water Street, Suite 302, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or by email: courtdocs@keenecurrall.com. The object of plaintiff's Complaint is to determine the legal title, rights, and interest in the above-described real property, the adverse claims, if any, and the rights of all parties to that real property.

Publish April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11, 2022

Alaskan Brewing wins awards for beer can art

By MICHAEL S. LOCKETT
The Juneau Empire

Juneau-based Alaskan Brewing Co. won a platinum and a gold Crushie — symbolized by a crushed beer can in a raised fist — for two of its designs from the Craft Beer Marketing Awards, an international industry award for art and marketing.

"To us it's a huge honor because we're trying to put art out," said Ryan Lange, the brewery's digital marketing specialist.

The brewery won a gold Crushie for its recently released pilsner and a platinum Crushie for its Island Ale, according to the marketing association news release. The pilsner can art with a Jeep carrying a kayak was designed by a Juneau artist, Glenn Fairchild.

"I'm glad people are enjoying it. I've seen the boxes in peo-

ple's hands leaving the store," Fairchild said. "Artwork is what moves the beer off the shelves."

The artwork of both cans was inspired by the environment, Lange said.

"We always like to use Alaska imagery and animals and all that. We want to showcase what's great about Alaska when we put a beer out," Lange said.

"Sometimes it starts with a story. One of our brewers went on a road trip down the Kenai Peninsula and was really inspired," he said. "They wanted a beer you could drink at the end of the day. Something light, something easy drinking, something with broad appeal."

With a broad vision in mind, they took a photo of the mountains on the trip. "This is a real location," Lange said. "We took a picture and had the artist, Glenn, recreate it graphically."

With that direction in mind, Fairchild worked with the photo of the mountains and the imagery of the Jeep and kayak to come up with a design for the can.

For the platinum Crushie-winning Island Ale, the brewery worked with Launch Beverage Consulting to design the brightly-colored can with its puffin on a background of greens and blues, but the genesis of the idea came from Alaska employee Cindy Burchfield, a longtime member of the brewery.

"She'd been dreaming of a puffin beer for a very long time, and we finally got the chance with that one," Lange said. "We came to those colors because it's that weird place where those tropical notes meet that Alaskan scene. I see them on the shelves and they get me excited."



Alaskan Brewing Co. won a craft beer marketing association's platinum Crushie award for the can design of its Island Ale, featuring a puffin.

PHOTO COURTESY ALASKAN BREWING

Landslide cuts off road access for 200 people near Seward

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

Efforts were underway Monday to clear a road where a 300-foot-wide slide — taking down dozens of fully grown evergreen trees as well as rocks and dirt — toppled into the bay in front of Seward, covering the narrow roadway and cutting off road access for about 200 people.

There were no injuries in the Saturday evening landslide about a half-mile south of downtown Seward, City Manager Janette Bower said.

A private contractor was handling the removal process and planned to use heavy equipment to clear the debris at the top first, working down to the road-

way, Bower said. The work has created additional slides within the original slide, slowing the process.

The slide could take up to two weeks to fully clear, she estimated.

The slide has prevented about 200 residents and tourists from reaching Seward from Lowell Point, on the west side of Resurrection Bay.

"There are a lot of cool things going on," Bower said of efforts to make sure those stranded are able to get back and forth to Seward, including a water taxi and landing crafts. "A lot of great community coming-together to get things done."

Before the landslide, traffic was stopped nearby because of falling rocks in the area. A police officer and city loader were on

scene to move rocks, some of which were the size of basketballs before one about 4 feet in diameter landed near the loader, said Josh Gray, who was with his wife, Nikki Holmes, watching sea lions float in the bay waiting for the all-clear.

They had driven about 125 miles south from Anchorage for a birthday party on the other side of the slide. They had just gone to a store for ingredients to deep fry the fresh halibut their friends had caught earlier in the day. Their friends had made it through the rock fall area 15 minutes earlier.

Gray said all of a sudden, the loader began backing up, and he believes the driver "started to get a sense that things are still pretty active," he said.

Gray estimated the loader was moving at

maybe 4 mph but was able to move away just in time. Things really picked up quickly," he said just before the slope collapsed.

Seward has not had heavy rain recently or other normal conditions that would trigger a landslide, prompting the state geologist to visit the site and assess conditions, Bower said.

"You can hear the whooshing of the rocks and earth and then as soon as the trees started falling, then we all knew it was like getting serious," Gray said.

He looked up the slope and saw the trees falling "like dominoes" and toppling into the water. "That was pretty alarming," he said.

WRANGELL! YOU ARE OUR NEWEST DESTINATION!

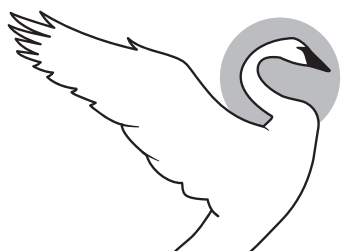


Daily Rountrip service between Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka - 7 Days a Week



YOU ARE INVITED TO WELCOME IN OUR FIRST FLIGHT!

Join us at our building at the Wrangell Airport for a Cake and Celebration for our Inaugural Flight to Wrangell! 1 p.m., Thursday, May 26



ALASKA SEAPLANES



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