

Student films
will be shown
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Wrangell, Alaska
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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Paddlers prepare for weeklong journey to Celebration



PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN ASHTON

Canoeists sync up their paddle strokes during practice April 29 to prepare for the 150-mile journey to Celebration in Juneau at the end of May. They have been practicing in a 30-foot cedar canoe but will make the journey in a 39-foot fiberglass canoe donated by SEARHC. (Starting with the stern and moving forward; back row first): John Martin, Isaiah Hale, Ken Hoyt, Jerry Knapp, Chuck Jenkins, Colette Czarnecki, Vydell Baker, Quinn Davies, Becca Clark, Lane Fitzjarrald, Jonas Crabtree and Marina Fitzjarrald.

BY BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

On May 29, a 39-foot canoe of Wrangell paddlers will start the week-long, 150-nautical-mile journey to Juneau for Celebration, the biennial Native culture festival.

This year marks the first time Wrangell will have its own canoe making the journey since 2014, signifying a return of enthusiasm for canoe culture in town.

Canoes from other communities will make the journey alongside Wrangell, including Juneau, Kasaan, Metlakatla and a veterans' canoe — all beginning here.

Up to seven other canoes are expected to arrive in Wrangell in the days leading up to May 29.

A community potluck will be held the evening of May 28 at the Nolan Center to welcome and send off the paddlers.

The journey itself will follow a more mainland-hugging route for the first

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More state money possible for school budget, building repairs

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has indicated he is willing to accept a one-year increase in state money for schools as legislators work toward a \$175 million addition to the funding formula before their scheduled adjournment deadline May 15.

The increase would cover almost two-thirds of the projected revenue gap in the Wrangell School District operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Districts statewide face significant budget deficits after more than seven years without an increase in the state's per-student funding formula.

Though both the House and Senate have approved \$175 million in one-time money for school districts, the two chambers have passed differing versions of the state budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. Those differences will go to a conference committee to negotiate a final package acceptable to a majority of the two chambers.

The governor last year vetoed half of the legislative appropriation of one-time aid to schools, and earlier this session vetoed a bill that included

a permanent increase in the state funding formula.

But Dunleavy in a news conference on May 1 signaled he may not repeat his vetoes. "I've told people I'm open to the increase," he said, "an increase in one-time funding, especially to help with the inflationary issues."

While it would provide significant help to cash-short school districts, the \$175 million in one-year funding covers a little less than half of the inflationary loss to districts since the state last increased the formula.

The \$175 million would provide about an 11% increase in what's called the base student allocation.

If approved in the final budget and signed by the governor — assuming Wrangell's enrollment holds steady at around 260 kids — the district would receive about an additional \$440,000 in state funding for the next school year. The money would reduce the need to draw on reserves to balance spending for the 2024-2025 school year.

The district's \$6 million operating budget for next year assumes taking about \$687,000 from re-

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Forest Service wants to hear from the public on fees for new cabins

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The U.S. Forest Service plans to build six new cabins and a new campground in Southeast Alaska and wants to hear from the public on proposed fees for the facilities.

One of the new cabins will be constructed at Little Lakes, on a former logging road about 25 miles from downtown Wrangell and near the Long Lake Trailhead.

The proposed fee for the Little Lakes cabin is \$75 a night, which is at the high end of the range of fees charged for use of existing cabins in the Tongass National Forest. Cabins in the Wrangell district range from \$30 to \$75.

"The proposed fee prices are based on a market review of similar recreation opportunities within the state," said Paul Robbins Jr., Forest Service public affairs officer based in Ketchikan.

The revenue "will assist the Forest Service in closing the gap between normal appropriations and cost to maintain and operate (the cabins)," he said May 2.

The Little Lakes cabin is planned for 2025 construction, Robbins said. It is the Wrangell Ranger District's top priority for a

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Advisory council report warns Native languages at risk

BY CLAIRE STREMPLE
Alaska Beacon

Before an advanced Tlingit language class, Raven Svenson and her classmate discussed how to conjugate the verb "boil" in the context of cooking. The University of Alaska Southeast class in Juneau was headed into finals last week and students were preparing for dialogues that will test their conversational skills.

Professor X'unei Lance Twitchell walked in and sug-

gested the specific verb for cooking meat by boiling. He answered a few questions in English, then switched to Tlingit as he started class on April 29. All his students switched languages, too. For the next hour, conversation was almost exclusively in the original language spoken throughout Southeast Alaska and the foundation for Tlingit cultural identity.

The classroom is a microcosm of the change that

Twitchell and other members of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council have called for statewide: An Alaska committed to increasing the number of Alaska Native language speakers and promoting common use of the languages.

"Tlingit, the thing that it has in common with most of the other languages in Alaska is that there's fewer than 50 speakers remaining," he said. "The majority of Alaska's lan-

guages are severely endangered."

The group has issued biennial reports to advise a dozen years of Alaska governors and lawmakers, but this January it issued a call to action instead. The document is titled Ayaruq, the Yup'ik word for walking stick, to reflect that it is a guide on the path forward. It asks Alaskans and lawmakers to affirm the right to Indigenous education, acknowledge oppression and intergenerational

trauma, commit to language equity and normalize the use of Alaska Native languages.

"We wanted to make sure that at least we would challenge people to not just receive it and move on. However, there hasn't been any real action on it," Twitchell said.

Council members made specific policy suggestions, including that one semester of an Alaska Native language be a prerequisite for high school

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Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, May 9

Fish chowder, half a cheese and tomato sandwich, apricot salad

Friday, May 10

Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian vegetables, honey orange salad

Monday, May 13

Shelf-stable meal delivered on Friday, May 10

Tuesday, May 14

Chicken sandwich, vegetable chili, honey orange salad

Wednesday, May 15

Hotcha baked beef, steamed broccoli, marinated green bean salad, buttermilk rolls

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

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, May 12

Kennicott, 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, May 19

Kennicott, 8:45 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

Kennicott, 4:15 p.m.

Sunday, June 2

Kennicott, 8:15 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, May 15

Kennicott, 6:15 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22

Kennicott, 6:15 a.m.

Wednesday, May 29

Kennicott, 5:15 a.m.

Wednesday, June 5

Kennicott, 5:45 a.m.

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

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	PM Time	Ft
May 8	01:14	02:06	19.5	07:39	07:39	-3.9	07:39	07:39	1.4
May 9	01:54	02:52	19.3	08:21	08:20	-3.8	08:20	08:20	2.3
May 10	02:35	03:38	18.6	09:04	09:00	-3.0	09:00	09:00	3.3
May 11	03:16	04:26	17.5	09:48	09:44	-1.9	09:44	09:44	4.4
May 12	03:59	05:17	16.1	10:34	10:32	-0.5	10:32	10:32	5.4
May 13	04:46	06:17	14.7	11:25	11:31	0.8	11:31	11:31	6.2
May 14	05:42	07:26	13.3	12:23	12:23	2.0



ALASKA AIRLINES CLUB 49 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be in Wrangell on Thursday, May 9. Immunizations, birth control and STD screening, well-child exams for kids up to age 6, TB screening and medication, Narcan kits and medication disposal bags will be offered. The Public Health Center is in the Kadin Building, 215 Front St. Call 907-723-4611 to make an appointment in advance so the nurse knows what immunizations to bring.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR KIDS at the Irene Ingle Public Library now open for registration. Open to children entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library. The reading program runs May 28 through Aug. 3. More than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for everyone who completes the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER - the movie for this weekend had not been announced by the Sentinel's printing deadline on Monday.

CEDAR BARK GATHERING CLASS Thursday-Saturday, May 9-11. Registration required. The goal is to provide a supply of bark for community weaving and other projects. Call Lovey Brock 907-660-7054 or Tis Peterman 907-660-7722.

POTATO AND PLANT SALE 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11, at the community garden at City Park. Buy, sell or swap. Sponsored by WCA Earth Branch.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFTS WORKSHOP 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11, at the Irene Ingle Public library. Join us in making Mother's Day crafts. All ages welcome.

BOOK CLUB MEETING 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Irene Ingle Public library. Call or email to join the book club; 907-874-3535; library@wrangell.com.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Angerman's Inc. and Stikine River Gifts nine-hole best-ball golf tournament Saturday and Sunday, May 11-12. The Wrangell IGA nine-hole best-ball golf tournament will be Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19. Tournament play starts at 10 a.m.; register by 9:30 a.m.

STIKINE STORIES FILM FESTIVAL, a showing of student-produced short documentaries, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Nolan Center. Free.

SMALL BUSINESS and COMMERCIAL FISHING LOANS 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21; 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday May 22 hosted by the State of Alaska Division of Investments at the Wrangell Assembly Chambers. Small business loans: microloans, small business economic development; rural development initiative; mariculture; commercial charter fisheries. Commercial Fishing loans: permit purchases, vessel purchases and upgrades; gear purchase and upgrades; engine fuel efficiency upgrades; product quality; improvements quota share purchases; tax obligations. No appointment needed. Call for more information: 1-800-478-5626 or 907-465-2510.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK the evening of Tuesday, May 28, at the Nolan Center (time still to be determined). The potluck is to celebrate the arrival of the canoes - the "Paddle to Celebration" journey will kick off in Wrangell and then head to Juneau. For more information, contact Danika at 907-470-440 or Christie Jamieson at 907-305-0117.

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

- **OPEN GYM VOLLEYBALL** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays at the community center gym. Wear sporty clothes and gym shoes. For ages 14 and up. Drop-in rates apply.
- **KICKBOXING**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday with Victoria Carney. Drop-in fee \$5; \$3 senior discount; or facility punch card.
- **PICKLEBALL** 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 7 to 9 p.m. Fridays; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays at the community center gym. Must be 14 years or older. Workout clothes and clean gym shoes. Fee \$3 for youth; \$5 adults; \$3 seniors.

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

May 8, 1924

It is with considerable pleasure that the Sentinel is able to report that the ice making department of the Wrangell Ice and Storage Co.'s new plant will soon be in operation, and Oliver D. Leet, the manager, says the fish freezing department will be complete within another week. This new plant, from a standpoint of efficiency and economy of operation, cannot be surpassed by any plant of equal capacity. The power is furnished by Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines of the latest type, and a 256-kilovolt generator furnishes the electricity for the several small motors used about the plant and also for the lighting. The ice machinery was

furnished by the York-Ohio Ice Machine Co. In order to guard against any interruption of operation on account of any breakdown in power or refrigeration, two engines and two compressors have been installed, making two complete operating units.

May 13, 1949

The diesel river tug, Totem, of the Ritchie Transportation Co., was successfully launched at 1 a.m. this morning at the Campbell-House Shipyard. This climaxed a month's work to convert a floating cannery barge hull to a river tug by the addition of two tunnels, two 225-horsepower diesels and a wheelhouse. The old deck house

was remodeled to allow for the new wheelhouse and a cargo hole. The most serious mishap on the Friday the 13th launching was when the bottle of champagne, donated by Brander Castle to christen the Totem, was dropped overboard before it could be put to a good purpose. "Admiral" Ritchie of the transportation company was passing the bottle to "Director" House when it missed connections and went beneath the waves. Two other members of the launching party, L. T. Campbell and Leo Berowski, are reported to have cried.

May 11, 1974

It appeared this week after a visit by Bureau of Indian Affairs

officials that the Wrangell Institute, the Native boarding school which has been a part of the Wrangell Island community for four decades, will be closed. With an annual budget in excess of \$1 million including a payroll of nearly \$800,000 the school is the victim of decreasing enrollment, rising costs and a campus in need of major renovation, according to the BIA. "We are," said Clarence Antioquia, acting director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, "having a difficult time justifying continual operation."

May 6, 1999

Horses and mules have been a part of Wrangell's history since the first gold rush times. Al

Binkley, one of Wrangell's oldest residents, says he doesn't remember seeing mules as a boy but knew miners used them because there were mule shoes at his family's farm on Farm Island. Horses were used for hauling freight in town until Bjorge's truck appeared in the 1920s. Horses hauled wood and other heavy items. Binkley's father, William, had one he used to help deliver milk from his dairy with a two-wheeled cart. Horses were also used on the family farm to plow before planting potatoes and to cut hay for the other horses and cows. When the family left Farm Island in 1943, they left the horse to the wild and it survived until old age, another 10 years.

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FREIGHT FOR LESS

Workshop this weekend will teach sea otter pelt sewing

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

“Wear sea otter, save a crab!” says Jeremiah James.

James will teach a sea otter skin sewing class in Wrangell Thursday through Sunday, May 9-12, at the Wrangell Cooperative Association cultural center.

The workshop, put on by Sealaska Heritage Institute, will teach about 15 students to hand sew a pattern of their choosing, including garments like hats, scarves, headbands and pillows.

James, who lives in Yakutat and Juneau, got into sea otter sewing in 2011 after taking a beginner sewing class in Yakutat where he made a headband. At the time, he was working construction in the winters and commercial fishing in the summers. He had no idea there was revenue in sea otters and seals. But today, James makes his living off of his sewing.

He started teaching sewing in 2014, and now teaches roughly 10 classes a year around Southeast Alaska. He harvests sea otter pelts and sews and sells vests, blankets and other garments, using his Bonis commercial sewing machine from the 1970s.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMIAH JAMES

Pete White, of Wrangell, stands next to freshly harvested sea otter pelts. Jeremiah James, who will teach a class on sea otter pelt sewing in Wrangell this weekend, hopes his class will interest more Alaska Natives in harvesting sea otters and sewing their pelts.

James’ garments were featured at the Far North Fashion Show at the Arctic Encounter symposium in Anchorage in April, which showcased garments and jewelry created by Indigenous artists from all over Alaska.

James said he hopes his classes will help get more people into harvesting sea otters.

Commercial crab harvesters have long complained that the growing population of sea otters is eating their way through Southeast Alaska Dungeness crab stocks. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, sea otters may only be hunted by coastal Alaska Natives.

The class fee is \$100, but all tools and supplies will be provided by SHI and each student will be provided with a sea otter pelt, worth \$450 in value. The sea otter pelts are limited to students who have at least one-quarter Alaska Native blood quantum, in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Students who don’t meet the blood quantum requirement will be provided with beaver hide.

The class is already full, with students on a waitlist.

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Class will teach sustainable cedar bark harvesting

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

As the art of cedar weaving continues to grow in popularity, so does the need for a supply of cedar bark.

Deborah Head of Craig will teach a class in Wrangell to

harvest cedar bark sustainably, without harming the trees. The sessions will run Thursday through Saturday, May 9-11.

The all-day class, put on by the Alaska Native Sisterhood, is free to the public and students can attend for one or all three days.

Head is an experienced teacher and great storyteller, said Tis Peterman, and often leads groups on Prince of Wales Island to gather bark.

In just one day of the class, students will go from absolute beginners to knowing how to harvest cedar bark on their own, said Peterman.

Very few people in town know how to harvest their own bark, Peterson said. Also, bark can only be gathered in May when the sap is running and then the bark must be dried for a long period of time. The goal of this class is

to increase the knowledge for harvesting in order to keep up with the growing popularity of weaving.

Currently, cedar bark is challenging to get — Sealaska Heritage Institute can supply bark for classes and workshops, but it needs advance notice and doesn’t always have the supply, and buying it gets expensive, Peterson said.

Collecting cedar for weaving, such as hats and baskets, is a time-consuming process because the bark must be hung to dry somewhere with good airflow. Red cedar must be dried for about four months before it can be used for weaving and yellow cedar takes two years, so having a supply takes planning ahead.

The first two and a half weeks of drying the cedar must be checked on regularly

to ensure no mold is growing on the bark. If there is mold growing on the cedar, it can be treated with vinegar.

The hope is that Wrangell can build a revolving supply of cedar bark for anyone to use, said Peterman. Hopefully, those who use the bark will repay by helping to harvest next spring.

Supplies for the class are all provided, but participants should wear proper boots or shoes for walking in the woods and should have a vehicle or arrange sharing a vehicle to access the locations where cedar trees are located.

The U.S. Forest Service is helping to identify cedar trees for the class.

The class is free of charge and is open to all members of the community. Reserve a spot in the class by calling Peterman 907-660-7722 or Lovey Brock at 907-660-7054.

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Zimovia Highway rockfall mitigation work to start before Memorial Day

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The Alaska Department of Transportation has contracted Hiex Construction of Haines to conduct rockfall mitigation and slope stabilization work between 5.5 and 8.5 Mile Zimovia Highway.

The work will likely begin just before Memorial Day, Hiex Construction said last week. One lane will be closed during the work and flaggers will direct traffic. Both lanes will be open during the holiday weekend, the company said.

The rockfall mitigation work is not related to the deadly Nov. 20 landslide, but rather is part of an ongoing project to address that section of highway after dozens of falling rock incidents between 2007 and 2019.

Borough Manager Mason Villarma announced at the assembly meeting April 23

that the work will cost the state roughly \$750,000.

Plans to help prevent future rockfalls include breaking off loose rocks and using pry bars or inflatable airbags to wedge and expand into tight spaces to help dislodge rocks.

Some rocks will be bolted together to help hold them in place on the steep hillside above the highway. More than 300 linear feet of bolts, each 25 feet long, will be drilled into rocks and grouted into place.

Vegetation will also likely be cleared, as tree and shrub roots can open up crevices. Additionally, falling trees can pose as much of a threat as falling rocks.

Villarma looks forward to making that section of highway safer. “I know we all drive a little faster, or run a little faster through that section,” he said at the assembly meeting.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Alaska might as well embrace the past

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

One proposal to solve the impending energy shortage for Alaska's population centers is to go back in time. To the 1970s, when coal was king in the U.S.

The governor, legislators, municipal officials and business leaders are worried that the Railbelt — the population corridor stretching south from Fairbanks, through the Matanuska Valley and Anchorage to the Kenai Peninsula — will run short of natural gas before the end of the decade.

The region has lived off the nearby underground warehouse of natural gas from the Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet for decades. The energy has been plentiful and generally affordable, but like all good things — particularly oil and gas reservoirs — the bottom of the barrel is in sight.

Looking at a shortage of gas for heat and power generation before the end of this decade, Railbelt leaders are scrambling for answers. They want to know what the state can do to help drillers find and produce more gas from the Cook Inlet region. But if that doesn't work, they need another solution.

That could mean lighting up interest in burning coal.

Alaska has vast underground coal reserves, so no problem with supply. The high hurdles are environmental, costs and feasibility. All are about as absolute as the law of gravity, but that doesn't matter to promoters.

A couple of months ago, a dubious report prepared under the sponsorship of an Alberta-based coal-power promoter, which is backed by a mining company with claims in Alaska, suggested that coal is the answer to the Railbelt's energy needs.

All someone needs to do is develop a coal mine, build a power plant, erect miles of transmission line to get the electricity to the grid and lay miles pipeline to move the carbon dioxide emissions from the power plant for burial deep underground. That last part — sequestering the

bad-for-global-warming CO2 underground — is a big part of the business plan. The federal government is paying billions in tax credits for developers who will pump the greenhouse gas where the sun don't shine.

Coal had its day, and it's not tomorrow.

More than 20 years ago, coal was the largest power generation fuel in two-thirds of the states. It's now down to about a dozen. The last large-scale U.S. coal plant was built more than a decade ago. The last utility coal plant of any size went into service in Fairbanks in 2020.

A second idea flowing through the Alaska pipeline of dreams also goes back to the 1970s. People could stay warm and keep their appliances running close to forever if they could get their burner tips on North Slope natural gas. That's just as soon as someone figures out how to pay billions of dollars to build 800 miles of buried pipeline over hill and dale, which in Alaska means tundra, permafrost, rivers, mountains, snow and ice and earthquake fault lines.

And there is the financial question of how maybe half-a-million people would pay the bills on a mega-billion-dollar project.

No matter, this is Alaska, where nothing has to pencil out if we dream hard enough.

The Alaska Gasline Development Authority, which has spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the past decade chasing the dream of building a pipeline and selling North Slope gas to Asia, has raised its hand and said, forget Asia for now, let's just build a \$10 billion line to serve the Railbelt.

Mostly, it's a ploy to keep the office open, as the state Senate has lost interest in the gas export delusion and recently voted to eliminate the agency from the state budget.

If people really want to give the agency a job, and hearken back to coal at the same time, change the name to Alaska Coal Development Authority, or ACDC. It would share a lot with the rock band which started in the 1970s. Its latest album was "Power Up."

School money

Continued from page 1

serves, unless the state comes through with more funding. State dollars provide more than 60% of the district's revenues, with the borough at about 30%.

In addition to looking for more state help with its operating expenses, the district and borough are hopeful their request for state grant funds for long-needed repairs to school buildings will win approval from the Legislature and governor.

Wrangell is No. 16 on a statewide list of about 100 major school repair and rebuilding projects. The governor's budget proposal covered only the top two schools on the list; the Senate version of the state budget covered through No. 15. But the House Finance Committee last week added enough money to get to No. 26.

If that number wins final passage and survives a veto, Wrangell would receive \$6.5

million to combine with the \$3.5 million voters approved to borrow in 2022 to pay for \$10 million in repairs to all three schools in the community, fixing or replacing roofs, heating and ventilation systems and controls, windows, siding, insulation and other parts of the decades-old buildings.

In a separate grant program, the borough earlier this year received \$695,000 in federal funds allocated by the state which will go toward a new roof on the Stikine Middle School.

Wrangell's legislator in the House, Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz, who serves on the Finance Committee, said he is hopeful that the money to reach far down the list of major maintenance projects — including Wrangell's work — will survive budget negotiations.

Besides ongoing budget negotiations between the House and Senate, a possible veto by the governor is a big unknown.

Dunleavy the past three years has used his veto powers to eliminate or significantly reduce legislative appropriations for school repairs.

Ortiz said lawmakers have not received any assurances from the governor that he would leave untouched the additional spending on maintenance and repairs. The House Finance Committee action puts the total appropriation at almost \$63 million, far more than has been spent in any year going back at least a decade.

For now, with increased state aid for school district operating budgets and so many repair projects funded under the latest spending plan from the House Finance Committee, Ortiz is calling it "a really positive year for education."

"I'm feeling more hopeful than before," Wrangell Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said May 2.

EDITORIAL

Use your head and get a free bike helmet

Wrangell kids will have a heads-up opportunity next month: Not only can they get free helmets to wear when riding bicycles and four-wheelers, but the offer also includes free paint, brushes and other supplies to decorate their new headgear.

It's a thoughtful giveaway to protect the center of kids' thought process.

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), which provides help and support services for people with disabilities, particularly brain injuries, will provide the helmets. Wrangell's Parks and Recreation Department will put on the event from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the community center multipurpose room.

Kids will provide the artistry to customize their new helmets.

Not only is there no charge, but it's easy. To register for a free helmet, go to the Parks and Recreation website at wrangellrec.com, click on "Register," then under "Programs" click on "Family Recreation and Aquatics," and at the bottom of the webpage log in at "Helmet Workshop."

SAIL, which is based in Juneau, has staff in several other Southeast communities and provides services throughout the region.

What better way to prevent brain injuries than to protect the head. And what better way to do it in style than with a custom-decorated helmet. Not only will no two look alike, but kids pretty much can do whatever they like.

Whether paint, glitter, stickers or whatever else a kid will think to glue or paint on the protective headgear, anything that encourages them to wear it is good thinking.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hospice hopes it can recruit volunteers to resume support services

I read with great interest the guest opinion by Laurie Overbay-Barker in the April 24 Wrangell Sentinel. She brought up important issues related to the challenging and invaluable work of paid caregiving. My thoughts are running in a related direction.

Our town's aging population has a growing number of folks who could benefit from support to maintain an enjoyable and safe quality of life. We currently have a patchwork system of family, community and paid supports that doesn't cover everyone. Current caregivers, paid and unpaid, often feel overburdened and burned out.

The hospital's long-term care unit provides great care for those who navigate the finan-

cial and medical hurdles for admission. However, a large majority of people would prefer to remain in their own homes as they become frail.

In years past, Hospice of Wrangell trained volunteers to provide respite care, help with errands or other services. This was curtailed by the arrival of COVID. We now hope to resume recruitment of people willing and able to go through an orientation training and then volunteer a couple of hours each week to support others.

Many people shy away from the idea of being a volunteer caregiver. We hope that providing sensible guidelines for the benefit of the client and the volunteer, plus basic training and ongoing supervision, will fill some of the holes in Wrangell's ragged patchwork of support services.

Alice Rooney, president
Hospice of Wrangell

Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

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

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

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Student film festival May 14 features life in Wrangell

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

A film festival featuring student-created documentaries about different facets of Wrangell life will be held at the Nolan Center at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14. Admission is free.

Middle school science teacher Laura Davies said the documentaries were created during the school year after two weeks of intense training with mentors from the nonprofit program See Stories.

"(We're) aiming for about 10 (documentaries), but it depends on how many finish their films in time," she said.

Based in Juneau, See Stories' goal is to build inclusive communities through what Davies described as "place-based videos."

Participating students in this year's film festival are members of an after-school documentary club called Stikine Stories. They were inspired to emulate classmates who made documentaries and podcasts after the program's two-week workshop last year.

"They saw the fancy equipment and the visiting instructors, Seth Bader and Javier Camacho, who were personable and 'cool,'" Davies said. "Many attended last year's film fest and a couple of students participated in last year's workshop. ...



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAURA DAVIES

Middle school students from the documentary club Stikine Stories videoed a segment for the short "Mariners' Memorial," which will be shown at the film festival at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Nolan Center.

(Other) students wanted a turn, and many had an interest in doing a documentary."

Davies had such success last year that she was able to raise enough money to buy video equipment and continue the club for this school year.

She said the filmmaking work was set back for about three months because of the November landslide. "We picked the pace up again in March."

Davies explained how, during the documentary interview

process, kids learned to approach subjects and come up with the right questions. "Not only are they learning about the community, they're seeing the people they interview as real people."

Whenever a student finishes their film, it's shown to at least one class, and their hard work and victories earned during production are celebrated. "That inspires other students," she said.

There will be a diverse range of themes featured in the festival

including the Mariners' Memorial, the annual Hoop Shoot, the history of Nore's Dairy farm, a paddle-making workshop, wrestling, community theater and moose hunting.

The Mariners' Memorial effort was led by eighth grader Lucas Stearns. Like many of the students new to making documentaries, he was initially apprehensive about the process but soon excelled at it, particularly one aspect. "He was really, really good at interviewing," Davies

said.

Lucas said his choice of subject was due to his interest in maritime history, and he appreciated getting to interview people and learn more about the memorial, including the story of the 1908 shipwreck of the Star of Bengal. He added that he might be interested in creating documentaries as a career, depending on the topic. "It would have to be something that would really interest me."

The average length of the videos is three to five minutes, though some are longer. "Editing is painful, and I feel like everyone wants to quit during editing," Davies said.

Many of the students agreed that editing was the most challenging part of the experience, including sixth grader Erica Jabusch, who worked on a documentary about the Hoop Shoot free throw contest with her seventh-grade brother Jimmy. "We had about 15 minutes of footage and then we got it down to about six," she said.

For eighth grader Susan Neff, editing wasn't quite as challenging as hauling the video and sound equipment to meet with her grandmother, retired nurse Linda Borge, the subject of her documentary. "It wasn't that far, though," Susan said. "It was like one-fourth of a mile."

Davies' students often pick the topics, and she lets them determine the narrative. "We focus on their interests, something that is accessible ... and often they pull from their own family, or family traditions or experiences," she said. "It brings families into the school in a positive way."

Davies added that some older residents who might be otherwise reluctant to be interviewed on camera are far more amenable doing so for their younger relatives. "They're willing to do anything for their grandkids."

Erica enjoyed the opportunity to interview her grandfather Jeff Jabusch, a longtime Hoop Shoot volunteer organizer, as well as kids who participated in the competition. "It was just a long process, but in the end, it turned out pretty good."

Other times, the subjects may not have much of a personal connection. "I have been very flexible and open to pursuing what topics interest the students, as long as it has a connection to Wrangell," Davies said. "I rarely say no to their ideas. ... It is really important that the student be invested and interested in the topic, or they won't want to keep going through the tedious editing phase."

Davies said a virtual option of the festival is being explored as a possibility for people who are out of town on May 14.

In addition to documentaries, Stikine Stories also produces podcasts. "We have three published podcasts, with two more in the editing phase, and two more to be recorded before the end of the year," Davies said.

To check out Stikine Stories' podcasts, visit podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/lauradavies.

Free disposal offered again for old vehicles, scrap metal

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Channel Construction, which runs the scrap metal recycling operation at the former 6-Mile mill site, has resumed accepting unusable vehicles and large appliances from the public — and it's free.

The company collects scrap metal from throughout Southeast Alaska and ships it by barge for recycling out of state. It has operated at the mill site for more than a year, and recently signed a five-year lease to use the borough-owned property.

The drop-off site reopened to the public on May 3 and will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Channel Construction announced last week. The recycling

yard phone number is 907-723-7562.

"All metals will be accepted as long as they are free of fluids, batteries and any hazardous materials," the company said in its announcement. "Automobiles will be accepted if all fluids, batteries and tires are removed — including the fuel tanks."

In the past, people would sometimes knowingly or unknowingly leave fuel in the tank, which would leak. "I'd rather have it out," a Channel Construction worker said last week of gas tanks.

In addition to gasoline and diesel, all oils and hydraulic fluids — anything that could be hazardous — must be drained out before dumping the vehicle.

Besides cars, trucks and vans, Channel

will accept appliances such as washers and dryers and other large kitchen appliances. "Anything that's steel," plus aluminum too.

If someone can't drive or tow or haul their old car or truck as far as 6-Mile, they can bring it to the borough's solid waste transfer station on the north end of the island and pay \$300 to leave it there.

Same as Channel Construction, the borough will not accept vehicles unless they are drained of fluids and their tires removed.

People can bring their appliances to the borough station, but it will cost \$40 to dump a washer or dryer, and \$80 for a refrigerator or freezer.



Wrangell Voyage Schedule Change

A reminder for all AML customers: starting in May, barge service to Wrangell will begin departing Seattle on Wednesday (rather than Friday). Cargo availability in Wrangell will be the following Monday.

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

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Native languages

Continued from page 1

graduation in the state, but none of them have yet materialized in proposals from lawmakers.

"If we want something other than language death, which I think is guaranteed for probably 20 of the 23 languages — just guaranteed — but if we want something different, then we have to have systemic change," he said.

A decade has passed since the last legislation to support Alaska Native languages became law. In 2014, the state updated a 1998 law that recognized Alaska Native Languages as official state languages.

Twitchell said part of the difficulty in implementing what he acknowledged are "pretty significant changes" is that a history of violence and colonial oppression underlie the shift from Alaska Native languages to English. Decades of colonial influence and Alaska Native boarding schools have steadily and often painfully reduced the number of fluent Alaska Native language speakers.

"It's very hard to push through political noise, and to talk about just trying to survive the brutality of colonialism, which is what a lot of people don't want to sort of talk about and face," he said.

He observed that Alaska is conceptually built on an idea of the prospector, a newcomer, and that it has a very white identity. He pointed to the state seal, which depicts a farmer, a train and boat; its motto, "North to the Future;" and its license plate, "The Last Frontier."

"I think to ask Alaska as an entity to see

itself as something more than just whiteness is a big ask," he said. "But I think it has to happen, if you're going to have the diversity that should be here."

Members of the council have cautioned for years that swift state action is needed to support language teaching and use, since many first-language speakers have died.

For example, half of the people who spoke the Kodiak dialect of the Alutiiq language died in the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Twitchell estimated that there are seven Tlingit speakers left who can "do everything" in the language and another 20 who have a high level of fluency. "It drops off pretty dramatically after that," he said.

But as the Alaska Native language community loses its older generation, Twitchell sees an exponential increase in the number of young people interested in learning. By his count, there are about 100 active Tlingit learners who ask questions and use the language.

"The reality is there are just not very many places to speak this language," he said. Twitchell said he is starting to see a shift in Juneau, however. Many of the elders he used to speak Tlingit with have died in the past 20 years. He remembered feeling worried that one day he would have no one with whom to speak the language. But then, on a trip to the post office, somebody walked by and greeted him in Tlingit: "Yak'ei yee x̄wsateení."

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Correspondence school funding program will stay in place to June 30

By IRIS SAMUELS, SEAN MAGUIRE

Anchorage Daily News

State laws allowing correspondence students to use public funds at private and religious schools will remain in place through the end of June, but not after, an Anchorage Superior Court judge ordered May 2.

Judge Adolf Zeman last month struck down two statutes governing Alaska's correspondence programs, finding that they violated a state constitutional prohibition on spending public funds at private institutions.

The decision affect hundreds or thousands of correspondence students across the state, depending on how the Legislature and Gov. Mike Dunleavy respond.

After Zeman's April decision, the plaintiffs in the case — a group of parents and teachers — asked for the decision to be paused through the end of the school year, allowing any affected students to complete the year with minimal interruptions.

The judge granted that request May 2, but denied a request from the Dunleavy administration to pause the decision for a longer period until the Alaska Supreme Court can hear the case on appeal, which could take months. Zeman wrote in his order that the state "has not shown a likelihood of prevailing on the merits on appeal."

The state filed its appeal with the Supreme Court on May 3.

Zeman in his May 2 order took issue with Dunleavy's expansive interpretation of his original ruling that struck down the statutes which allowed public funds to be spent on private or religious school tuition.

Dunleavy has said Zeman's decision meant no public funds could be spent on any private vendor — including textbook and transportation companies. That interpretation contradicted the legal analysis of nonpartisan legislative attorneys, who said correspondence programs could continue with small statutory or regulatory changes.

Zeman wrote Dunleavy's administration "mischaracterizes and misreads" the court's April decision.

The judge went on to reiterate that his decision only affects two state statutes from 2014

which expanded correspondence programs, including the one that allowed spending on private and religious programs. Those statutes were originally proposed by Dunleavy when he was a state senator.

The state pays correspondence programs per student, and the programs can use the money to provide an allotment of up to \$4,500 per student per year that parents can spend on educational materials or activities.

Families had been increasingly using the funds to cover the cost of tuition at private and religious schools — a practice that Zeman said was not allowed.

"This court did not find that correspondence study programs were unconstitutional," Zeman wrote, adding that "correspondence programs continue to exist after this court's order."

"This court finds that a limited stay is the best solution to ensure that students, families and school districts are protected from undue disruption," Zeman wrote on May 2.

Dunleavy had said — before the limited stay was granted — that he thought lawmakers should not pass legislation addressing correspondence programs until the state Supreme Court hears the case. The governor hopes the Supreme Court will overturn Zeman's ruling.

However, the governor on May 3 endorsed legislation that could resolve the dilemma, but lawmakers in the House and Senate have different proposals and there is limited time to act before the May 15 deadline for the end of the legislative session.

Without a new court order, or legislative action, Zeman's ruling would be in effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Senate proposal would put in statute regulations that existed prior to 2014. Those regulations included specific restrictions on how funds could be used, including a ban on using the funds for most out-of-state travel; a requirement that unspent funds be returned to the state at the end of each school year; and limits on use of the funds for gym memberships and other recreational pursuits.

The House proposal favored is far less direct. It would tell the state board of education to adopt regulations as they see fit.

Cabin fees

Continued from page 1

new public-use cabin in the area.

"The cabin site is on the north end of a small lake surrounded by muskeg. The site is easily accessible by the road system with 300-foot trail to the cabin," the Forest Service said in its description of the site.

The cabin site will be drivable by car in the summer and will be hidden from the road by a small hill. It will include a wood stove, vault toilet, water (not drinkable), food lockers and bear box.

Federal money for the Wrangell cabin and others in this round is coming from \$14.4 million allocated to Alaska projects in the Tongass and Chugach national forests under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021.

Another one of the six new Southeast cabin sites is close to Wrangell — the Woodpecker cabin will be built on the southern end of Mitkof Island, accessible by road and a 300-foot trail, with a south-facing view of Sumner Strait and Zarembo Island.

The other new cabins are

planned for closer to Ketchikan and Juneau.

Public comments on the proposed fees are due by July 2. People can submit their comments online, by email, phone, in person at any Forest Service office, or by U.S. mail.

The email address is sm.fs.tnfreecfee@usda.gov, or call 907-228-6215. Letters should be mailed to Recreation Program Manager, 648 Mission St., Suite No. 110, Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591.

More information is available on the Forest Service website bit.ly/3wn0XM1.



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SEARHC offers mobile kitchen class, plans other healthy cooking events

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

The SEARHC community wellness team is using a mobile kitchen to hold classes on healthy cooking in Wrangell and around Southeast.

A session is available to the public at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Wrangell Medical Center. Seating is limited.

"It was bought to just be another resource to talk about health and wellness," department case manager Kathryn Nuckols said of the mobile kitchen. "A fun way to participate in some education (on healthy eating)."

Over the past week, she has hosted several cooking classes in town, mostly in the medical center lobby. The instruction has included general tips on healthy cooking, diabetic meals and food preparation aimed at mothers with young children.

To reserve a space or for more information about the May 14 session, call Nuckols at 907-874-5139.

Acquired by SEARHC over a year ago, the mobile kitchen is on wheels, roughly the size of a desk with table extension leaves. It has a cooktop, oven and sink. It has been used by Nuckols and others in her department to promote healthy cooking while visiting several communities including Angoon, Gustavus and Klukwan.

Last summer, she conducted the first two sessions with the mobile kitchen in Kake. "Everybody had a blast," she said. "We handed out really nice aprons to everyone that participated, bento boxes to bring home leftovers. It was just super fun. I wish I could do it all the time because I love to cook."

"Those small locations don't have a WISEWOMAN that's there all the time," Nuckols said, referring to the women's health program she also represents called Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for WOMen Across the Nation. Staff takes



PHOTO COURTESY JONAS CRABTREE

Kathryn Nuckols demonstrates the uses of SEARHC's mobile kitchen, making healthy shakes for employees at Wrangell Medical Center on May 1. A class on healthy cooking will be held in the medical center lobby on May 14.

turns going to smaller communities, "and now we will take the kitchen cart with us."

She said the classes, put together by dieticians,

focus on adjusting eating and cooking habits to people's dietary restrictions, health needs and disease prevention. For example, people who suffer from high blood pressure can create meals with less sodium, substituting salt with alternatives like spices, onions and garlic. For diabetics, that means having less carbohydrates like bread, potatoes, noodles or rice, and more lean meat and vegetables instead.

Nuckols added that different staff focus on different services, such as diabetes education, disease prevention and smoking cessation.

The cart will only be available for Wrangell classes when it's in town, as it will be sent to other communities throughout the region, though its travel will be limited due to the reduced level of state ferry service.

Nuckols will continue to hold healthy cooking classes and events in town, as the Parks and Recreation Department has offered the use of the community center kitchen for regularly scheduled healthy cooking events. "We plan on definitely doing events there throughout the year," Nuckols said.

She hosted a healthy cooking class on May 1 in town for her WISEWOMAN group. Tlingit and Haida community navigator Tammi Meissner said the class spent the hour discussing other ways to modify their eating habits to substitute healthier alternatives. "It was great to have that little community," she said.

Meissner said one lesson involved replacing regular ice cream by creating a healthy milkshake that was a mixture of bananas, coconut and berries. "I'm really excited to have the mobile kitchen. I think there's a lot of great opportunities to use it in the community with instruction on how to eat healthier."

Nuckols' department will next transport the mobile kitchen to Klawock for healthy cooking events on May 16.

Sitka Tlingit clan houses listed among endangered historic places

By THE SITKA SENTINEL

A neighborhood of historic Sitka houses on Katlian and Kaagwaantaan streets, the Sitka Tlingit Clan Houses, has been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for inclusion in the 2024 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

The neighborhood was established by the Tlingit in the 1820s to trade with Russians living inside the adjacent stockaded New Archangel settlement. Russian administrators recognized their settlement was dependent on trade with the Tlingit village for survival.

Scores of clan houses lined the waterfront of Sitka Channel at the time of the 1867 treaty when the U.S. purchased Russia's land claims in Alaska. Over the years, the clan houses were rebuilt using contemporary building methods, though most maintained earlier clan house features and functions.

More than 30 clan houses were identified by the late Gil Truitt, an educator of Tlingit

heritage, on a 1945 map of the village. Today, only eight of the buildings remain standing, and one is in danger of collapse. All of the standing houses were built before the mid-20th century.

Jerrick Hope-Lang, a member of the Kiks.ádi clan, worked to nominate the village for the National Trust's listing. He is leading an effort, the X'aaká Hít Revitalization project, to rebuild the Point House, which was torn down in the 1990s. It would be the first Sitka clan house built in this millennium and would be located on a vacant lot across the street from the ANB Founders Hall, a listed National Historic Landmark.

The rebuilding project "is culturally significant to the Kiks.ádi clan. ... It is a place that holds deep cultural knowledge, practice and tradition, as well as profound cultural destruction and loss," said Alaska state historian Katherine Ringsmuth.

"Historic preservation can recognize the living traditions

of place of Indigenous people," Hope-Lang said. "Tlingit clan houses are more than historic artifacts."

America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places has included a Sitka property in the

past. In 1999, the National Trust listing helped in the effort to save Allen Hall on the historic Sheldon Jackson College campus. Once slated for demolition after the college closed in 2007, it was fully re-

stored and now serves as a venue for plays, concerts and weddings. It is operated by the Sitka Fine Arts Camp.

America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list debuted in 1988.

Parks and Rec hosts bike mechanic from Petersburg for 3 days

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

With some coordinating help from Parks and Recreation, bike mechanic Pat Blair with Wheelhouse Bikes in Petersburg will be in Wrangell Monday through Wednesday, June 3-5.

Anyone with a bicycle in need of repair needs to call Blair at 907-772-2453 in advance to schedule an appointment.

Bikes should be dropped off before the scheduled time at the community center multipurpose room by entering via the ramp on the north side of the building; using the same entrance for pickup after the work is done.

Blair's fees will vary, based on the repairs needed.

He will accept a variety of bicycles for service, including mountain, street and electric bikes.

"I've come over a couple of different times to Wrangell for bikes," Blair said. "It turns out that there's quite a need for bike repair guys. I'm getting calls from as far away as Ketchikan."

Parks and Recreation coordinator Devyn Johnson said she didn't know of any bike mechanics in town, "so he'll definitely have his work cut out for him."

There will also be a bike helmet giveaway from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 4 at the community center multipurpose room, sponsored by the nonprofit organization Southeast Alaska Independent Living, based in Juneau. Bike and ATV helmets will be available for children.

Attendees are encouraged to customize their helmets with materials to be made available at



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAT BLAIR

Pat Blair, of Wheelhouse Bikes, will leave his work in Petersburg (above) for a few days to come to Wrangell, where he will offer bike repair services Monday through Wednesday, June 3-5, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

the event, including stickers, paint and glitter, as well as protective sealant to shield decorated helmets from rain and inclement weather. "It'll be a fun family event for all," Johnson said.

To register for a free helmet, visit wrangell-rec.com, click on "Register," then under "Programs," click on "Family Recreation and Aquatics" and at the bottom of the webpage, log in to "Helmet Workshop" activity.

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Senior Jack Roberts competes in final swim meet

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

The only member of the Wrangell Swim Club to qualify, senior Jack Roberts competed and set several personal bests at the Alaska Swimming State Championship, a four-day meet held at the Bartlett High School pool in Anchorage on April 25-28.

Twenty-two teams from around the state competed in this end-of-season swim club tournament.

Roberts swam preliminaries and advanced to the finals in all of his events.

In the 50-yard freestyle, he placed fifth with a time of 22.17 seconds. In the 100-yard freestyle, he won fourth place with a personal best of 47.67. For the 100-yard breaststroke, he came in sixth with a personal best of 1:00.14. In the 100-yard butterfly, he earned sixth place with a time of 51.93, and in the 200-yard individual medley he placed sixth with a personal best of 2:00.20.

"I was happy that he was able to close out his swim club career with

some personal bests," said mother and coach Jamie Roberts via email on May 3. "He left it all in the pool."

This was his third swim meet in the past seven weeks, and his final one as a member of the Wrangell Swim Club. Earlier in April, Roberts attended the Western Zone Senior Championship in St. George, Utah, and the previous month he competed in the Speedo Sectionals in Federal Way, Washington.

"I feel lucky to have coached him because I got to see his growth as a swimmer and was able to be at almost all his meets," said Coach Roberts. "It was bittersweet to walk away from the meet, as Jack has made many friends from around the state over the last 10 years. Swimmers become like family and swim meets are the reunion. Many are going off to college and there's no telling whether your paths may cross again."

In the fall, Roberts will attend Southwestern Oregon Community College and swim for the SWOCC Lakers swim team.



PHOTO BY JAMIE ROBERTS

Jack Roberts during warm-ups at the Alaska Swimming State Championship April 25-28 in Anchorage. It was his final meet as a member of the Wrangell Swim Club.

U.S. increases focus on cases of missing or dead Native Americans

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — It was a frigid winter morning when authorities found a Native American man dead on a remote gravel road in western New Mexico. He was lying on his side, with only one sock on, his clothes were gone and his shoes tossed in the snow.

There were trails of blood on both sides of his body and

it appeared he had been struck in the head.

Investigators retraced the man's steps, gathering security camera footage that showed him walking near a convenience store miles away in Gallup, an economic hub in an otherwise rural area bordered on one side by the Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo on the other.

Court records said the

footage and cell phone records showed the victim — a Navajo man identified only as John Doe — was "on a collision course" with the man who would ultimately be accused of killing him.

A grand jury has indicted a man from Zuni Pueblo on a charge of second-degree murder in the Jan. 18 death, and prosecutors say more charges are likely as he is the prime

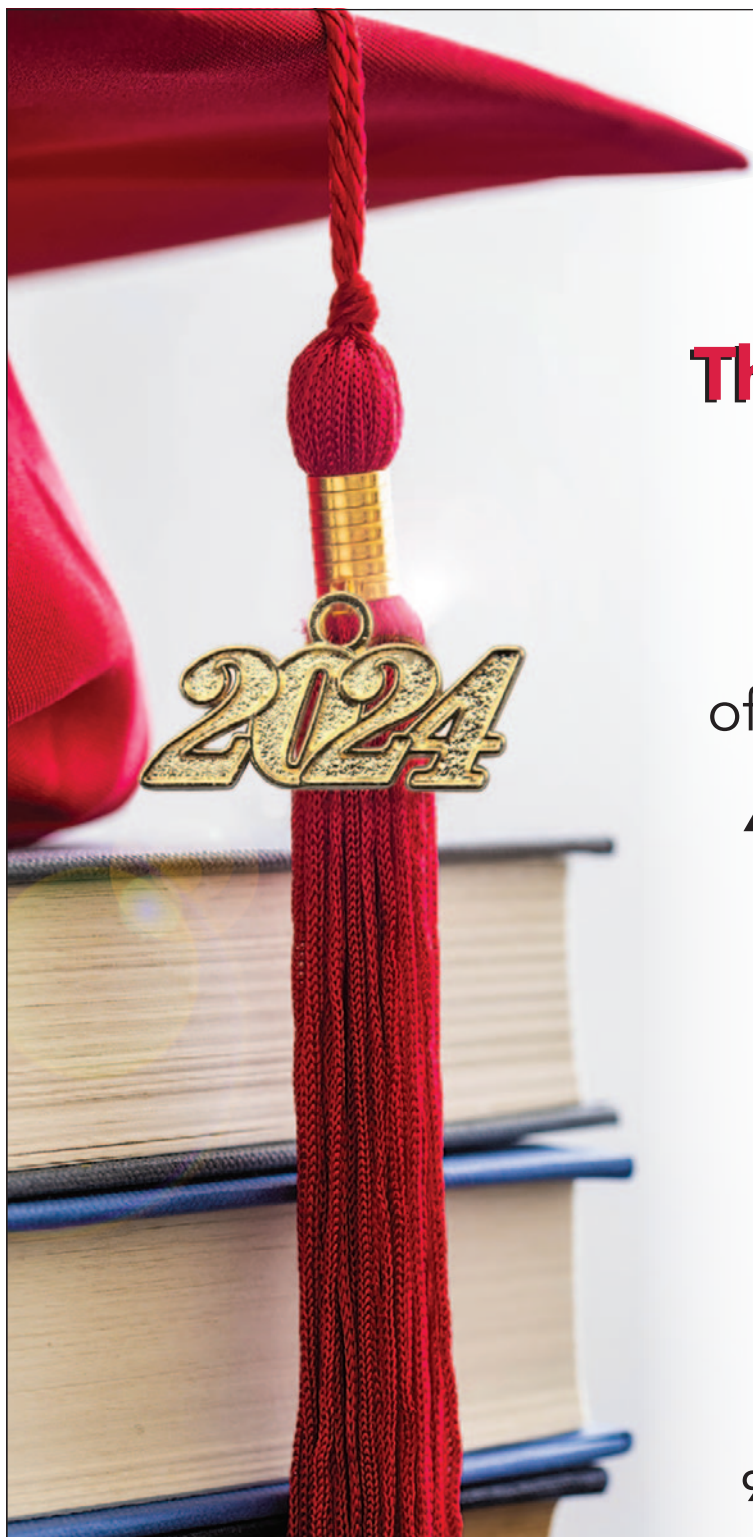
suspect in a series of crimes targeting Native American men in Gallup, Zuni and Albuquerque. Investigators found several wallets, cell phones and clothing belonging to other men when searching his vehicle and two residences.

As people gathered around the nation on May 5 to spotlight the troubling number of disappearances and killings in Indian Country, authorities say

the New Mexico case represents the kind of work the U.S. Department of Justice had aspired to when establishing its Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) outreach program last summer.

Special teams of assistant U.S. attorneys and coordinators have been tasked with focusing on MMIP cases. Their goal: Improve communication

Continued on page 9



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Tlingit Haida plans education, cultural campuses in Juneau

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

Plans to build a 12-acre tribal education campus and a 457-acre cultural immersion park in Juneau were unveiled at the 89th annual tribal assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

The projects combine efforts to reclaim tribal land, expand traditional cultural and educational activities and provide support to students in a state education system that “is failing our students,” said Tlingit and Haida President Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson in his speech to the assembly on April 17 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall.

Fundraising for the projects is expected to take three to four years, with construction beginning soon after. Peterson did not disclose cost estimates for the projects.

The educational campus will be built on a hillside behind Fred Meyer, just south of the Juneau airport. The cultural park is planned for near Tee Harbor, about 18 road miles north of downtown Juneau.

Peterson said the projects are part of the tribes’ “landback” efforts that have expanded their holdings by nearly 750 acres recently, which itself was part of his overall theme of economic and other tribal growth during his past decade as president and looking ahead to future years.

The theme of this year’s three-day assembly, attended by 118 delegates and many other participants, is “Rooted in Tradition, Growing a Sustainable Future.”

The education campus will



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE TLINGIT AND HAIDA CENTRAL COUNCIL

An illustration depicts a proposed 12-acre education campus the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska plans to build in Juneau.

include current tribal programs such as Tlingit and Haida Head Start, Haa Yoo X’atangi Kúdi (HYXK) language immersion program, and Little Eagles and Ravens Nest (LEARN) child care program, Peterson said.

“We’re trying to build a village, to bring land back,” he said. “This isn’t just a social movement. It’s our way of life. It’s bringing the lands that were traditionally ours, and taking them and making them ours again, and giving our people the space to thrive.”

Education spaces will offer K-12 and tribal college programs, ranging from traditional classroom instruction to hands-on activities such as greenhouses. The campus is located on 42 acres of tribal land, so Peterson said there is room for expansion as well as features such as a network of trails.

The initial plans also include an events center with a 2,000-seat basketball court, concert

space, activity rooms and other facilities.

“This is going to be a place that we can gather, that we can do our things from Celebration to Gold Medal (annual basketball tournament). We hope this will be the home to those events and more,” Peterson said.

He asked the delegates to approve naming the events center after a longtime state lawmaker from Angoon who died in 2021.

“There’s one person who keeps coming into my mind when I see this picture,” Peterson said, showing a slide of the events center. “And I would ask now for unanimous consent to call this the Sen. Albert Kookesh Gymnasium.”

The audience roared their approval with applause.

There are also plans to establish campuses in other communities, Peterson said.

“Everywhere we have a

Head Start now we hope to build an early education campus in all the communities,” he said, showing a slide with conceptual designs for such centers in Klawock and Craig.

In addition to tribal education programs implemented over the years, Tlingit and Haida has also sought a broader public influence including making Native language classes mandatory in the state’s K-12 education system.

“We have a system failing our students and we have to do something,” he said. “And that’s really what this is all about.”

Another major announcement was the cultural immersion park. Peterson said the tribal organization paid \$6.5 million to buy the 457 acres of land near Tee Harbor. Part of the deal includes leasing about 20 acres to Allen Marine Tours for a dock and bunkhouses.

“We’re going to build a vil-

lage site for our communities,” he said, describing it in similar language as the education campus. “Again, we want a place where language is thriving, our arts are thriving.”

Peterson said one of his goals is funding many of the cultural programs using revenues from tourism businesses. He noted the tribes’ ongoing expansion into that industry including the purchase of a hotel and other property in downtown Juneau.

Tlingit and Haida has also made notable achievements during the past year, Peterson said. “In the 10 years that I’ve been here we’ve gone from 190 employees to just over 600. ... Today we have over 70% tribal citizen hire and, if you add other Alaska Natives and Native Americans, we’re at 80%.”

Tlingit Haida assembly accepts Portland as new tribal community

By MARK SABBATINI
Juneau Empire

Declaring the crisis with fentanyl and other deadly drugs its highest priority and accepting Portland as a new tribal community were among the highlights at the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska’s 89th annual tribal assembly in Juneau.

Resolutions approved at the assembly that concluded on April 19 also included calls for a permanent increase in the state’s base funding formula for public schools and supporting non-discrimination in student sports.

Among the resolutions singled out for discussion was one referring to deadly drugs as the tribes’ highest priority, which came in the wake of a federal report earlier this month stating that 2023 was Alaska’s deadliest year for opioid overdoses and that the state saw the highest increase in deaths nationwide.

A state bulletin published April 18 indicates the 342 overdose deaths in 2023 were a 38% increase from 2022, according to preliminary data.

Continued on page 10

Prosecutions

Continued from page 8

and coordination across federal, tribal, state and local jurisdictions in hopes of bridging the gaps that have made solving violent crimes in Indian Country a generational challenge.

Some of the new federal prosecutors participated in MMIP Awareness Day events. Marches, symposiums, art exhibitions and candlelight vigils were held nationwide on May 5, which is the birthday of Hanna Harris, who was only 21 when she was killed on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana in 2013.

In Wrangell, Kyle Hopkins, an award-winning journalist for his reporting work on sexual assault in Alaska, was the keynote speaker at an event for MMIP Awareness Day at Shakes Tribal House.

Having law enforcement agencies and attorneys talking to each other can help head off other crimes that are often precursors to deadly violence. The other pieces of the puzzle are building relationships with Native American communities and making the justice system more accessible to the public, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Eliot Neal, who oversees MMIP cases for a region spanning New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada.

Part of Neal’s work includes reviewing old cases: It’s time-consuming work that can involve tracking down witnesses and resubmitting evidence for testing.

“We’re trying to flip that script a little bit and give those cases the time and attention they deserve,” he said, adding that communicating with family members about the process is a critical component for the MMIP attorneys and coordinators.

The Department of Justice over the past year also has awarded \$268 million in grants to tribal justice systems for handling child abuse cases, combating domestic and sexual violence and bolstering victim services.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bree Black Horse was dressed in red as she was sworn in May 2 during a ceremony in Yakima, Washington. The color is synonymous with raising awareness about the disproportionate number of Indigenous people who have been victims of violence.

She prosecutes MMIP cases in a five-state region across California and the Pacific Northwest to Montana. Her caseload is in the double digits, and she’s working with advocacy groups to identify more unresolved cases and open lines of communication with law enforcement.

An enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and a lawyer for more than a decade, Black Horse said having 10 assistant U.S. attorneys and coordinators focusing solely on MMIP cases is unprecedented.

“This is an issue that has touched not only my community but my friends and my family,” she said. “I see this as a way

to help make sure that our future generations, our young people don’t experience these same kinds of disparities and this same kind of trauma.”

In New Mexico, Uballez acknowledged the federal government moves slowly and credited tribal communities with raising their voices, consistently showing up to protest and putting pressure on politicians to improve public safety in tribal communities.

Still, he and Neal said it will take a paradigm shift to undo the public perception that nothing is being done.

The man charged in the New Mexico case, Labar Tsethlikai, appeared in court May 1 and pleaded not guilty while standing shackled next to his public defender. A victim advocate from Uballez’s office was there, too, sitting with victims’ family members.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew McGinley argued that no conditions of release would keep the community safe, pointing to cell phone data and DNA evidence allegedly showing Tsethlikai had preyed on people who were homeless or in need of alcohol so he could satisfy his sexual desires.

Tsethlikai will remain in custody pending trial as authorities continue to investigate. Court documents list at least 10 other victims along with five newly identified potential victims. McGinley said prosecutors wanted to focus on a few of the cases “to get him off the street” and prevent more violence.

Police report

Monday, April 29
Nothing to report.

Tuesday, April 30
Dog at large.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for failure to register vehicle.

Wednesday, May 1
Abandoned car.
Fraud.

Thursday, May 2
Theft.
Civil paper service.
Agency assist: Fire Department.

Friday, May 3
Dance permit.
Animal complaint.
Traffic stop: Citation issued

for failure to provide proof of insurance.
Domestic disturbance.

Saturday, May 4
Citizen assist.
Dog at large.
Drug paraphernalia.
Fireworks

Sunday, May 5
Agency assist:
Transportation Security Administration.
Agency assist: Department of Transportation.
There were three agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department; three ambulance agency assists; and three subpoenas served during this reporting period.

Tlingit Haida assembly

Continued from page 9

"The work in the field, it's scary," said Helene Simpson, a Ketchikan delegate who was among those bringing the resolution to a floor discussion. "Every day is frightening for our young people."

Several other delegates discussed how drug abuse has affected them and/or people close to them before the resolution was adopted.

Another resolution singled out for discussion was expanding the tribe's foster care licensing program, with a plea in favor of the proposal made by Tasha Hotch, an Anchorage delegate, who expressed concerns about how tribal residents are faring under state and federal programs. The Tlingit and Haida program allows parents to be licensed through the tribes, the state, or both.

"I just feel like there's a lot of interest from our community members to be engaged with helping keep our children that are in the state foster care system engaged with our culture and that we should do everything in our power to make that a possibility," she said.

That resolution passed by an overwhelming voice vote.

The motion making Portland a designated Tlingit and Haida community was historically significant because it is "the first new community to be authorized to form since Tlingit and Haida was founded in 1935," according to a press release by the tribes. The resolution was sponsored by the Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council.

Tlingit and Haida can designate a new community if there are at least 200 tribal citizens who are eligible voters and reside in the community, and at least 25 tribal citizens sign a resolution. The tribes' Program Compliance Department reported 214 tribal citizens reside within a 100-mile radius of Portland and 30 tribal citizens of voting age signed a resolution requesting the formation of a Portland Tlingit and Haida community.

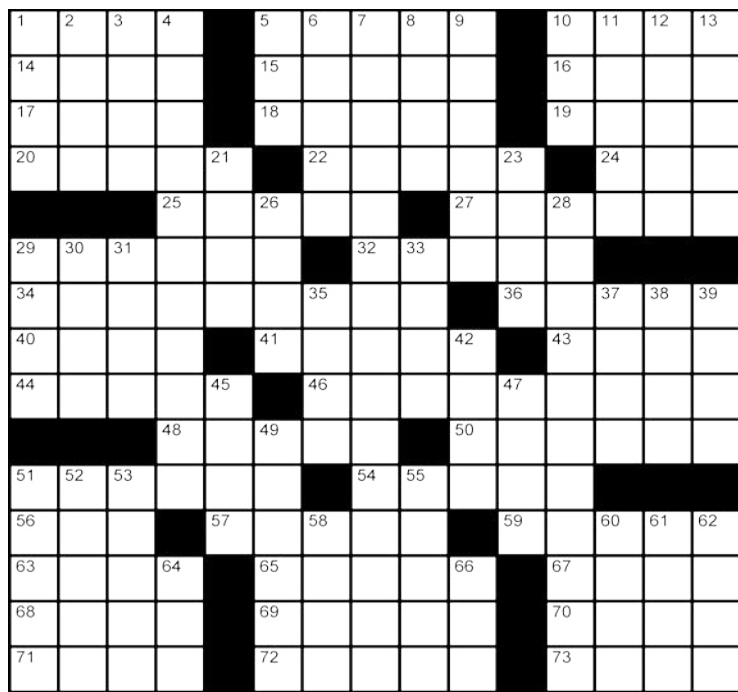
"I was actually born and raised in Portland and when I saw this come up, it was something that really spoke to me," said Mike Hoyt, a Wrangell delegate.

"I was in contact with a lot of my family still down there because this is an important issue. To me, when I think about growing up in Portland, it was kind of hard. I went to school with 800 kids and I knew only four Alaska Native kids in that entire school," Hoyt said. "This (the designation for Portland) is going to be a great way for our people to start getting together, recognizing each other, and making those connections."

A total of 83 of the 120 delegates voted in favor of the resolution, surpassing the two-thirds majority necessary for passage, according to the news release. Tribal citizens in the Portland area will be able to organize and establish a constitution to set the groundwork for electing delegates and community council members for Tlingit and Haida's next general election in 2026.

Crossword

Answers on page 12



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Arabian ruler
- 5 Following
- 10 Some providers of wood for furniture
- 14 Prepare
- 15 Larry --- in "The Iceman Cometh"
- 16 Largest island in the Marianas
- 17 Stage accessory
- 18 Fire prodder
- 19 A single time
- 20 Abandon
- 22 Overhaul
- 24 Aeronautics group.
- 25 --- Lama
- 27 Round Table leader
- 29 Baseball official
- 32 Lowest of the low
- 34 Eye defects
- 36 Notes
- 40 Heel
- 41 Sheltered spots
- 43 Short written reminder
- 44 Ethiopian capital --- Ababa
- 46 "The --- Dancers" (Jean Thesman)
- 48 About the eye
- 50 Did, once
- 51 "--- and her Sisters" (Woody Allen movie)
- 54 Intriguing group
- 56 --- Annie ("Oklahoma!")
- 57 Battalion XO, often
- 59 Moves cautiously forward
- 63 Names
- 65 Author Evelyn ---
- 67 It replaced the French franc
- 68 Noted scat singer --- Fitzgerald
- 69 Boredom
- 70 Former Mrs David Bowie
- 71 Move
- 72 Palm tree fruit
- 73 Sports defeat

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Smartphone programs
- 2 Brandy made from pressed fruit
- 3 Matinee idol --- Novello (d. 1951)
- 4 Disavowal
- 5 Egyptian cobra
- 6 Roman flower goddess
- 7 Consider
- 8 Garden west of Nod
- 9 Go over again
- 10 Self-esteem
- 11 Middle meal
- 12 Former Portuguese territory in China
- 13 Slander
- 21 Comedian Roseanne ---
- 23 Warrant
- 26 Bony
- 28 Deceptive decorative paint-work
- 29 Where the Wizard of Westwood coached
- 30 One of three in "The Mikado"
- 31 Formerly known as shell-shock
- 33 Inquires
- 35 Escherichia ---, potentially dangerous bacterium
- 37 Dweeb
- 38 Give off
- 39 Alone
- 42 Counterfoil
- 45 Irritating email
- 47 Straight --- arrow
- 49 Melted
- 51 Underworld
- 52 No longer a minor
- 53 Type of metal or gas
- 55 Debate
- 58 Country singer and actress -- - Kramer
- 60 Japanese heavyweight contest
- 61 Subdivisions of eons
- 62 Male heirs
- 64 Plant juice
- 66 Not hers

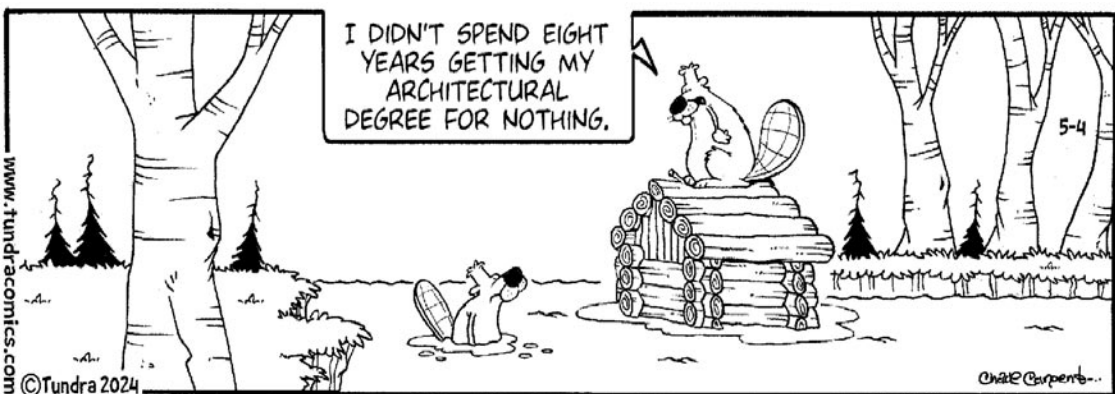
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Parks Maintenance Temporary Worker**

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications from which to hire Temporary Laborers for the Parks and Recreation Department. Employees will be selected from applications in the pool at the time employees are needed throughout the year. You must have a valid Alaska Driver's License, or a valid out-of-state Driver's License with the ability to obtain an Alaska license within six months.

This position will require someone to perform a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled work in landscaping, mowing, weed eating, grounds maintenance, repairing, installing and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields, cemeteries and park facilities. Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Successful applicant must be able to work in all weather conditions and weekends.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger St. (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929, or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com. Pay for this position starts at \$18.00 per hour DOE.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish May 8 and 15, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Finance Director**

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications for the position of Finance Director through May 15, 2024, at 5 p.m. The position will be posted for no less than 14 days and will remain open until filled. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits.

The Finance Director is a senior management position responsible for overseeing accounting operations, preparing for the annual audit, maintaining and integrating accounting systems, preparation and maintenance of the annual budget and implementing and monitoring internal controls governing business transactions such as purchasing, contracts and insurance. Advancement to this position is through promotion and compliance with the qualifications of the position.

This positions' full job description and employment application can be found online at www.wrangell.com/jobs. Employment is based on a successful background check and pre-employment drug screening.

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

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish April 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
WRANGELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
Correctional Officer/Dispatch**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting applications of employment for the position of **Correctional Officer/Dispatch** through May 22, 2024, at 5 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits.

The Dispatcher/Corrections Officer receives emergency and routine calls and assists with all aspects of Corrections. The position performs telephone investigation, preparation of call information, operation of computer terminals, operation of telephone equipment, and includes considerable contact with the general public and public service agencies. The position also assists with booking, processing and surveillance of inmates.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 14. Employment is based on a successful background check and pre-employment drug screening, including additional prerequisites outlined in the job description.

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

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish May 8 and 15, 2024

OBITUARY

Former resident Arnold R. Sandness dies at 89

Arnold "Arnie" R. Sandness, 89, passed away on March 23, 2024.

His celebration of life was held April 25 in Sun City West Christian Church, Sun City West, Arizona.

Arnie was born on Aug. 28, 1934, in Bellingham, Washington, to John and Randi Sandness.

He graduated from Bellingham High School in 1952, while serving in the Army reserves before attending Western Washington State College of Education. He served in the Naval Reserve

Combat Battalion in Bremerton from 1953-1957.

He was a mechanical engineer for the Department of Defense for 34 years, starting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) in Bremerton and later as supervisor of ship building at Sand Point in Seattle. He transferred to the Naval Sea Systems Command in Bremerton and later retired out of PSNS.

Arnie built five houses — four in Washington state and the last one in Wrangell, where he and Kathy spent 25 years. However, they did escape the winter cold to southern states and Mexico in their RV.

After selling their boat and home in Alaska, they took advantage of a senior citizen program in Duluth, Minnesota, and Logan, Utah, where the univer-



Arnold "Arnie" R. Sandness

sities would rent student dorm rooms and apartments to senior citizens during the summer months when the students were on break. They spent the past six summers in Star Valley, Wyoming, in their summer RV home.

Arnie eagerly accepted every challenge he encountered in life. He was also involved with teaching Bible studies in Bremerton and was a member of the Elks Lodge for 36 years. He enjoyed fishing for salmon and halibut, playing golf and traveling.

He gave 34 years to the Department of Defense and mentioned to his captain that he wanted 34 years of retirement. He got 34 years and six months. One of favorite sayings was, "I thank God for the life he gave me," his family wrote.

He is preceded in death by sisters Ruth, June and Doris; brother Adolf, who died at sea; and twin siblings, Raymond and Ruth, who died at 6 months of age.

He is survived Katherine (Kathy) Sandness, his wife of 38 years; sons Kenneth (Joyce) and Gregory (Leigh) Sandness; daughter, Jeannette (Paul) Towery; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED

Part-time work as an interviewer for a seafood consumption survey to be conducted in Wrangell. Paid training. Contact Guy Archibald at (907) 209-2720.

HOUSING WANTED

Moving to Wrangell on May 18 and looking to rent a small 1- or 2-bedroom home or apartment that will allow three poodles. Call 907-758-2122.

FREE ADS

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

ADVERTISEMENT

Do you have products to sell or have services to offer that you need to let folks know about? We can create your ad for the online and printed edition of the Wrangell Sentinel. Let us do the work for you so you can focus on other things. Contact Amber for pricing and more information at 907-874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

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

**Flaggers needed
for 2-3 weeks this summer
\$36.00/hr plus possible overtime**

Must be 18 with a valid driver's license

Please call 907-586-2860

for serious inquiries



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of Mitchell Julius Prescott, Notice to Creditors is hereby given that Joy Prescott has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute Title 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. Claims must be filed with the court (Case No. 1WR-24-00006PR) or be presented to:

Joy Prescott
5201 Larrabee Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Publish April 24, May 1 and 8, 2024

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

Notice of Intent to Claim Abandoned Timber Property

In accordance with Alaska Statutes 45.50.210 through .325, it is the intent of the State of Alaska to claim all abandoned timber property in the waters and on the tidelands of the State of the east side of Etolin Island from Canoe Pass to Olive Cove (including Brownson and other islands), Thomas Place to Blake Channel on Wrangell Island. It is the intent of the State to make the claimed timber property available for salvage under 11 AAC 71.005 through .910, Timber and Material Sale Regulations.

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

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester
Department of Natural Resources

Publish April 24, May 1 and 8, 2024

