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Community cleanup day starts with trash, ends with lunch

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's annual community cleanup is planned for April 29, with free lunch, free trash bags, free disposable gloves, and cash prizes for volunteer picker-uppers.

And while organizers hope the incentives will get people to turn out, the real prize is a cleaner community.

"Trash is expensive," said one of the organizers, Kim Wickman, of WCA. It's expensive to buy the goods, which are shipped into Wrangell, it's costly to send the trash out to a landfill in Washington state, and it's unsightly when the garbage litters the town.

She hopes people will pitch in, pick up, and do their part to fill trash dumpsters.

The event will start at 8:30 a.m. April 29 at Evergreen Elementary School. Bags and gloves will be handed out, then volunteers can head out and clean up along streets, roads and parks anywhere in town. The organizers ask that everyone return their trash bags to the collection site at the school, where dumpsters will be lined up for fill-up and borough crews will be ready to haul them away.

Last year, the community

Continued on page 5

School funding, PFD separate House, Senate in final weeks

By SEAN MAGUIRE
Anchorage Daily News

With four weeks left before the May 17 adjournment deadline, legislators are focusing on the state budget and how to resolve big differences between the House and Senate over school funding and the amount of this year's Permanent Fund dividend.

The House approved its version of the budget on Monday, sending it to the Senate for certain changes.

And while the major disputes are over how much to spend on education and dividends, and how to pay for the spending this year, many lawmakers also are kicking around ideas to generate new revenues in the future to help pay for popular budget items.

The House's budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1 contains a \$2,700 dividend at

Continued on page 6

Iconic artwork soars into retirement



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

After 18 years, the Alaska Airlines flying salmon made its last run Monday. Brandon Farris, right, poses for a photo taken by Tonisa Bennett in front of the morning jet, the last flight of the Salmon 737 before it goes into the shop for a new paint job. The work is planned for mid-May, said Tim Thompson, spokesperson for the airline. Farris, a photojournalist with Airways Magazine, and Bennett were traveling on the flight to document the salmon's last run, which took it from Seattle, though Southeast and to Anchorage.

Stikine birding festival about to take off for 16-day flight

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Every spring when the eulachon spawn, the Stikine River flats are flooded with thousands of migratory shorebirds. And each year, the town responds in-kind with the Stikine River Birding Festival, filling the radio airwaves with bird songs and holding an array of avian-themed events.

This season, the festival will run for three weekends between April 21 and May 6. It will feature movies, crafts, workshops and more.

"Birding is such a nice welcome to spring," said Corree Delabruce of the U.S. Forest Service, who helped plan the festival. She loves listening to birds singing in the morning and is amazed by their migratory abilities. "They're world travelers," she said. "They're connected, they fly around everywhere."

To kick off the multi-week event, Forest Service naturalists will partner with

the Irene Ingle Public Library to share Earth Day-themed stories and crafts with children at 10 a.m. Friday, April 21. Then, the Nolan Center will show "Rio," a family-friendly film starring two animated macaws, at 4 p.m. Sunday.

At 6:30 p.m. on Friday April 28, in the Nolan Center, ecologist and keynote speaker John Marzluff will teach attendees how to think like a raven. Though ravens are a common sight around town, rooting through the trash or pecking at golf balls at Muskeg Meadows, these birds are uncommonly intelligent. Their abilities to use tools, solve problems, plan for the future and develop mental maps put them on intellectual par with children under 7 years old, according to a BBC report.

For the past several years, Marzluff has conducted research in Yellowstone National Park, studying the interactions between the area's ravens, wolves, pumas and people.

The University of Washington professor

is prominent in his field and has written several popular non-fiction books.

"Ravens have evolved in a very dynamic landscape," said Marzluff. "Things were shifting quickly, humans were coming in and having greater and greater effects. They've been able to track this very dynamic food resource in landscape. Most animals that were faced with that went extinct, but ravens were able to survive in large part because of their ability to keep tabs on these different resources."

During hunting season, they might follow human hunters, hoping to feed on their leftovers; in the winter, they might track wolves; when neither food source is available, they might visit the local dumpster or search for food along the seashore.

"They have a mental map of where these things exist in their world," he explained.

Marzluff has never been in Wrangell before and plans to use the festival as an

Continued on page 6

Lodge to continue operations under original name, new owners

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Zach Taylor stands before the Sourdough Lodge on Peninsula Street. Taylor and his father John Taylor have purchased the building from Bruce and Darlene Harding and plan to open the doors and run it as a bed and breakfast.

For nearly 40 years, the Sourdough Lodge has served the needs of Wrangell whether through tourist visits, assisted living or pandemic housing. During that time, it was owned by the Harding family, who built the lodge in 1984.

Now, Zach Taylor and his father John Taylor have purchased the property from Bruce and Darlene Harding and will continue to operate the business as a bed and breakfast.

"We're going to call it the Sourdough Lodge," Zach Taylor said. "Bruce and Dar had it as the Old Sourdough Lodge. Anyone over 30 in Wrangell knows this as the Sourdough. We figured we'd keep it what everyone is calling it anyway."

Taylor, who also owns Muddy Water Adventures and Taylor Transportation, had plans to purchase the lodge in 2022. Before he could put the plans into effect, Josh and Clarissa Young, the owners of J&W's Fast Food, struck a deal with the Hardings to lease the lodge and run it as the Cedar House Inn last June.

The couple told the Sentinel at the time they were giving themselves a year to see if running the business was something they wanted to pursue.

When the Hardings put the lodge back on the Market on March 8, Taylor said he was quick to act.

"I jumped on it. I got ahold of Bruce. I don't think he posted it for two minutes before I gave him a call," he said.

For now, the 15,000-square-foot lodge at 1104 Peninsula St.

Continued on page 5

Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to everyone listed in the chamber of commerce community birthday calendar.

Wednesday, April 19: Anniversary: Jesse and Amber Sumner.

Thursday, April 20: Liam McCloskey, Lindsey McConachie; Anniversary: Jeff and Nadra Wedekind.

Friday, April 21: Anniversary: Don and Betsy McConachie.

Saturday, April 22: Rosslyn Elizabeth Nore.

Sunday, April 23: Andrew Guggenbickler, Logan C. Hammock.

Monday, April 24: Tommy Brown Jr., Jamie Reading.

Tuesday, April 25: Charlie Sumner.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, April 20

Roast beef sandwiches, corn chowder, creamy coleslaw

Friday, April 21

Chicken adobo, oriental vegetables, honey orange salad, rice

Monday, April 24

Roast pork, steamed carrots, honey mustard coleslaw, mashed potatoes and gravy

Tuesday, April 25

New England clam chowder, cheese and tomato sandwich, romaine and radish salad

Wednesday, April 26

Beef paprika, butternut squash, sliced banana, orange cup

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, April 23
Columbia, 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, April 30
Columbia, 5:45 p.m.
Sunday, May 7
Columbia, 12:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 14
Columbia, 5 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, April 26
Columbia, 5 a.m.
Wednesday, May 3
Columbia, 5 a.m.
Wednesday, May 10
Columbia, 4 a.m.
Wednesday, May 17
Columbia, 4:45 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	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
April 19	00:53	18.6	01:22	17.3	07:06	-2.0	07:14	-0.4
April 20	01:30	19.0	02:06	17.0	07:45	-2.7	07:50	0.4
April 21	02:06	18.9	02:48	16.4	08:23	-2.8	08:24	1.4
April 22	02:41	18.3	03:29	15.4	09:00	-2.3	08:58	2.5
April 23	03:14	17.3	04:10	14.2	09:38	-1.4	09:33	3.7
April 24	03:48	16.1	04:53	13.0	10:17	-0.2	10:10	4.9
April 25	04:25	14.9	05:44	11.9	11:01	1.0	10:54	6.0

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

NOLAN CENTER THEATER "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21, and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22. The action adventure comedy runs 2 hours and 14 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Next weekend, "The Super Mario Bros. Movie."

FAMILY GAME NIGHT, 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 28, at The Salvation Army. Free food, board games, video games. All are welcome. Call for more information, 907-874-3753.

PAINTING WITH MIXED MEDIA, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at The Salvation Army. Art class for ages 10-16. Food provided. Call for more information, 907-874-3753.

WCA IGAP is hosting a community cleanup from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 29. Meet at the covered basketball court next to Evergreen Elementary School. Bags and gloves will be provided. Free lunch and ticket drawings for cash prizes will start at noon. Call for more information, Paul Rak at 907-874-3824 or IGAP tech Kim Wickman 907-874-4304.

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY, 10 to 11 a.m. Fridays until April 28. Enjoy the stories, crafts and snacks at the Irene Ingle Public Library. Call 907-874-3535.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GRIEF presentation from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at the Episcopal Parish Hall. Presented by certified grief educator Rev. Julie Platson, from Sitka. Open to all. Sponsored by St. Philip's Church and Hospice of Wrangell.

MUSKEG MEADOWS will hold the Angerman's, nine-hole best-ball golf tournament Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, starting at 10 a.m. Register by 9:30 a.m.

LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS needed for coaching, umpiring, scorekeeping, concessions, pitching machine runners, field upkeep and more. Volunteer applications can be picked up at the chamber of commerce or filled out online at <https://bit.ly/3KO1ivZ>.

HEAD START is accepting applications for preschoolers. Apply online at ccthita-nsn.gov or get a paper application at the school behind the old hospital building. Call 907-874-2455 with questions.

KINDERGARTEN enrollment is now open for the 2023-2024 school year to any child that will be 5 years old by Sept. 1. Call Kendra at 907-874-2321 or stop by the Evergreen Elementary School office.

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

- **ARTHRITIS CLASS** with Kim Covlat 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the community center multi-purpose room until April 28. Free. Open to adults, 18 years and older. Bring gym shoes and flexible clothing that allows for movement.
- **FAMILY PICKLEBALL**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays at the community center until April 29. Open to 14 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring gym shoes and wear athletic clothing.
- **YOGA CLASS**, 8 to 9 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room until May 27. Open to adults, 18 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring a yoga mat and wear athletic clothing that bends and flexes. For more information and to register online visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.
- **JIU JITSU**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at the community center multi-purpose room. Open to 16 years and older. \$5 drop-in fee. Bring gym shoes, wear athletic clothing and keep nails trimmed.

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

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

April 19, 1923
The home of John Bradley, which was badly damaged by fire recently, is being repaired this week through funds raised by a subscription list circulated last week by Mayor Grant. The Sisters and Brothers Society also made a donation of \$50. Mr. Bradley is one of the older and well-known Natives of Wrangell and has always been highly respected. Last summer he lost his savings in a small hand cannery in which he was a partner, and this, added to the long illness of his wife, made it impossible for him to repair the damage done to his home from his own funds. Mr. Bradley had not expected help from the townspeople, and the donation came as a happy surprise to him.

April 16, 1948
The Carrie Circle of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid met Wednesday evening for their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. H. B. Thornquist. Highlight of the evening was the announcement that Mrs. Dorothy Webb had agreed to

organize a Girl Scouts troop, which the Circle voted to sponsor at its last meeting. Mrs. Webb has spent a great deal of time in Girl Scouts work and will be a capable leader. Mrs. George Bidwell called attention to the plight of many neglected young children in Wrangell and suggested that the women of Wrangell make some provision for the welfare of these youngsters.

April 20, 1973
Research to determine the effects of fresh water from the Stikine River on saltwater sealife was carried out this week during a three-day cruise by Wrangell High School marine biology students. The class, instructed by Dale Pihlman, embarked from Wrangell on Tuesday aboard the Blue Star and sailed west. Pihlman said stops were made at St. John Harbor, about 25 miles from the Stikine River mouth, and at Labouchere Bay near Port Protection, 45 miles west of Wrangell. The students earlier had done research on Wrangell area beaches on

fresh water's impact on sealife. Accompanying nine science students were five members of the high school marine navigation class and four members of a galley cooking course. The navigation students practiced their specialty and the cooking students provided the meals, Pihlman said.

April 16, 1998
The city council met Tuesday evening and City Manager Scott Seabury reported that two military surplus generators have been located and are possibly for sale. They would cost \$50,000 each, instead of the \$1 million estimated earlier. He said that if they are actually available, he would send someone down to look at them. The city could conceivably generate 7 megawatts of power out of one of the plants. The cost would affect how much money the city has to borrow for its power needs. "What we are trying to get out to the people is the money, or some part of it, is going to be spent; we have to."

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Planning and zoning approves permit for animal shelter

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the next step in making a physical location for the St. Frances Animal Rescue facility a reality.

Last Thursday, the commission voted to grant a conditional-use permit for the nonprofit organization to put a building on Lot 4, Block 66 in the north portion of an industrial lot on Fifth Avenue, just off Bennett Street.

The approval is the latest development in the shelter's ongoing process to have a fixed location since it was created in 2006 and operated out of a home at 3.5 Mile Zimovia Highway. Later, it became a foster operation, where volunteers take in animals to care for them until a permanent home is found for the pet.

"We have many people who want to help, but we have no physical place to house the animals so that they can come and see them and help care for them, feed them and get to know them," shelter volunteer Diane

O'Brien told the commission before the vote.

O'Brien's family has adopted three cats from the shelter over the past few years, turning them "into a bunch of cat lovers."

St. Frances board president Joan Sargent called into the meeting since she was in the Portland area to price out modular units for an animal shelter. The proposed shelter would more than likely be a one of these units, from 400 to 600 square feet in size, approximately 12- to 15-feet wide and 35- to 40-feet long, according to specifications the nonprofit submitted to the borough.

The shelter would share the 16,500-square-foot lot with the borough's vehicle impound yard, which would have a separate access gate. Economic Development Director Kate Thomas said those plans are still under discussion.

"The impound lot will either be shared on the backside of the proposed lot for St. Frances or extended into lot 12, which is the adjacent lot to the east-northeast," she said. "That is why we had conditions that



MAP BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

the impound lot remain accessible because the Sixth Avenue road has not been developed."

As progress is made on the location, the borough assembly will still need to approve the monthly lease amount and final size of the building. The shelter will only be able to house up to 20 cats.

If it becomes necessary, the shelter will look at expanding with another unit to house dogs, through the permit agreement would need to be revisited because of a noise ordinance. The dog shelter, which would be the same size, would be adjacent to the cat shelter but with a dog run located between the two

buildings.

Sargent addressed concerns about past animal boarding issues in town and said St. Frances was aware of those situations. The organization is working with the police department to address the problem and find foster homes for any dogs involved in those cases.

Sargent said they hope to have the building in place, connected and operating by the fall.

Wrangell is the only borough in Southeast with a population of over 2,000 people where the borough doesn't provide some kind of support, whether land, space or financing, for an animal shelter, O'Brien said.

"We have been filling a need that the city has not provided, with thousands of dollars and hours of person power to prevent another outbreak of feral cats (by) finding homes for animals and providing care for those in need," she said.

"This is a nonprofit. Nobody makes any money," Sargent said. "There are no salaries for people." As a nonprofit, St. Frances can apply for grants.

Borough starts rezoning for Alder Top residential subdivision

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

As the Alder Top Village development moves through its design process, borough officials, the planning and zoning commission and members of the public will have the opportunity to shape what these new neighborhoods will look like.

At its April 11 meeting, the borough assembly unanimously approved the first reading of a rezoning for the subdivision, which will be built on the site of the former Wrangell Institute, a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school.

The assembly will hold a public hearing April 25 and could vote to amend or approve the rezoning at that meeting.

The proposed code would allow more spread-out, single-family homes in the northern portion of the property. The southern portion would be somewhat denser, allowing multi-family apartment buildings and small neigh-

borhood businesses.

The area between Case Avenue and Zimovia Highway is also zoned for multi-family dwellings.

"It's really reassuring to see that it's moving ahead, albeit slowly," Assemblymember Anne Morrison said of the new subdivision. Cleaning and grubbing of the site will take place this year; road and utility construction will follow in 2024.

The design is based off of a 2017 master plan that the borough developed through a series of public meetings in 2016, with the help of Juneau-based architecture firm Corvus Design. "The master plan evaluated constraints and with risks and costs, developed a subdivision based on community input and identified needs for a phased development approach," the borough's website reads.

The original plan included an Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program campus, which would have been a board-

ing school for rural Native children. However, the proposal did not receive unequivocal support from the statewide Native community. "There were objections and there were concerns," said retiring Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore. "It didn't seem viable."

The recent master plan includes residential and small commercial areas, but no boarding school.

The planning and zoning commission is still discussing the possibility of allowing assisted-living options, tiny homes or accessory-dwelling units on the property.

The borough's plan is to sell 22 lots in the first phase of the development.

The assembly and borough officials have not yet determined when lots will be available for purchase, but Borough Manager Jeff Good recommends waiting until the beginning of road and utility construction, at the earliest.

"I would like to see them on the market sooner rather than later," said Mayor Patty

Gilbert.

The borough is already planning to pay into a wetlands mitigation bank to compensate for filled areas of the Alder Top land. This means compensating for the loss of wetlands by restoring wetlands elsewhere. However, a small portion of the lots may come with additional wetlands mitigation requirements for whoever purchases them.

"Some of the area will be on that fill where the institute was actually located," explained Rushmore. "As you get off that fill and move up the slope ... there could be some lots that have wetlands on them."

Assemblymember Bob Dalrymple recommended that the borough fully explain mitigation responsibilities to potential purchasers. "I think it would be really good to ask the Army Corps, when we're ready, to fully explain to the future lot owners what their requirements are going to be," he said, with "some sort of policy paper, or statement, or maybe a presentation."

Assembly approves funding for \$400,000 pool residing project

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

The siding on the exterior of the swimming pool building is deteriorating and borough officials are working to ensure that the facility stays safe and looks its best for years to come.

At its April 11 meeting, the borough assembly unanimously approved spending an additional \$261,000 to purchase and install new siding on the building, bringing the total appropriation to \$436,000.

"The ... project involves removing the existing cedar siding and replacing it with a tongue and groove PVC-like siding," wrote Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad. The brickwork around the columns along the walking ramp will also be replaced with rain-resistant graphic wall panels.

"A focus of the borough is to preserve the integrity of our buildings, from the outside to inside," she continued. "An exterior building assessment indicated the structure is in good condition; however, the siding is starting to deteriorate. Replacing the siding will allow us to confirm and repair any hidden structural damage as well as ensure long-term protection of the building's structural system from weather elements."

The borough last year designated \$175,000 for the project

from state grant money paid out to compensate municipalities for revenues lost during the pandemic. However, engineers have estimated the total cost at \$400,000. By transferring \$261,000 to the Parks and Recreation budget last week, the assembly made up the shortfall, plus a little extra for inspection costs and construction contingencies.

"We're still in design," said Al-Haddad. "We're shooting to have the 95% (design) done by the end of this month, ready to go out to bid in the beginning of May." She anticipates that construction will wrap up this summer.

Unlike the ongoing pool repair project, which has shut down the pool since last November, the siding replacement will not affect operations at the facility.

Initially, borough officials had proposed using federal funding

from a rural school program to cover the additional \$261,000 for the residing project. Though 85% of that federal money must be used directly for school operating budgets, 15% can be used for public buildings and roads that support the school system.

Some assembly members expressed their desire to retain 100% of that money for schools.

"I have a problem with taking money from schools for our road systems or our old buildings," said Assemblymember David Powell. "I would prefer this come out of our general fund. ... I mean, we've done our due diligence to make sure that our schools are funded in the future. ... I do not want to delay this building, but I really feel that we should look for another place rather than coming out of Secure Rural Schools."

Assemblymember Ryan Howe

amended the proposal to transfer the \$261,000 out of the general fund instead of the federal

schools fund and the assembly approved this amended version of the motion.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Social media amplifies the bad examples

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

When I was a kid, I suppose my role models were mostly professional athletes. Sports was everything (no offense to school or my parents or Boy Scouts leader). Though I never was very good at any of them, particularly sports or school or being an obedient kid. I managed just one scouting merit badge — in stamp collecting.

I did much better imagining myself as the star pitcher, throwing the ball against the side of the house every evening as if it were the perfect strikeout pitch in the big game — until my dad yelled at me to stop thumping the wall or he'd show me a thump or two.

Athletes were respected and admired. They were the stars of the sports pages, the evening news, radio and TV broadcasts. They were famous for good things.

I wanted to be just like them.

But this isn't a column about sports. It's about role models and how a good thing has turned bad. As we used to say in the days of videotape, let's fast forward this story.

Some of today's role models are athletes but many are just outlandish people with questionable if any abilities. They may have lots of TikTok, Instagram and Twitter followers, but they often don't add much to society other than maybe entertainment, amusement, clothing, dog grooming recommendations and, in too many cases, anger.

Many use rude and insulting messages to build up their fan base. Their motivation frequently is money. They drive fans to their website to donate money, to buy branded hats and T-shirts, to retweet and regurgitate the messages to spread the word and build up their own cash flow.

Social media amplifies bad behavior, rewards outbursts and encourages people to get in each other's face. Treating people

fairly, lowering your voice and raising your self-control is not the way to build up likes and hashtag hits.

Sadly, too many politicians and other social media influencers have become some of the loudest and most dishonest role models of the 21st century. They profit from spreading amplified misinformation. They win elections and put money in the bank, even though it hurts people who have real problems that need honest solutions.

Whether claims of stolen elections (no proof), witch hunts (no witches) or an army of 87,000 IRS agents coming to audit your tax returns (mathematically not true). Whether outrageous politically inspired tirades by a Georgia congresswoman that "Democrats are the party of pedophiles," or the singer-turned-shoe-designer who posted antisemitic rants, or conspiracy theorists who believe COVID-19 is a hoax.

All the garbage is out there on social media, influencing more people to see conspiracies.

I was in line to get a prescription filled in Anchorage over the weekend. The line was long, there was only one pharmacist on duty, and a woman ahead of me was having a loud problem getting a prescription filled for a family member. She started yelling at the pharmacist, who was trying to help — but she wasn't listening.

She eventually stormed off, prompting two other people in line to discuss the problem as they saw it: The shortages of pharmacists, service workers and supplies are all false; someone in government is manipulating the unemployment numbers; businesses are lying; it's all fake news intended to mislead the public. Of course, they both said, neither of them wanted to go back to work.

When our role models are dishonest, how can we expect the public to accept the simple truth: There was only one pharmacist on duty and he could only do so much.

Social media amplifies bad behavior, rewards outbursts and encourages people to get in each other's face.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Wrangell's self-reliance shines in graduating class

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Another school year is almost done and, once again, I'm truly impressed by the caliber of young people Wrangell produces.

For the past two years, I've interviewed the students of the senior class for their graduation projects. Each story revealed unique characters who were all equally prepared to walk into adulthood, albeit by different paths.

I have a list of five standard questions I ask in the senior project stories: What's your name? What's your project? What are your plans post-high school? What will you miss about high school? What won't you miss about high school?

Anyone who has read these stories will see that structure, but what I try to capture is the personality and the spirit of every subject. Though they are as diverse as the contents of a Whitman's Sampler, they all have one thing in common: They know how to get things done.

Growing up as the third of three sons, each of us glommed on to

certain aspects of our parents' abilities. My oldest brother got the construction and mechanic genes from my dad. My older brother got the anal-retentive housekeeping qualities of my mom with some mechanical abilities (sharing a bedroom with him was like a daily reenactment of The Odd Couple). And I got my mom's artistic, writing and baking skills.

Even though being able to creatively express myself through art and writing has served me well, I always lamented not getting the same skills as my oldest brother. Yes, I can still fix things around the house or change a car tire, but I can't re-roof my house or replace a transmission.

That's what impresses me about the kids in Wrangell. The number of them that dive into learning how to weld and build things, hunt and fish or accomplish just about anything else they put their minds to is admirable.

It shouldn't be that surprising, since living in rural Alaska demands we make adjustments if we need something done or if it will take longer than we want. Ei-

ther that or it just doesn't get done.

That do-it-yourself mentality seems second nature in this state, especially in Wrangell.

Students are given the tools beyond what they already learn at home to achieve their goals in life, even if they don't know what those might be upon graduation.

I've already cited the examples building and fixing things, but students are also taught technology skills, communication and leadership skills, what it takes to run a household, cooking and so many other things. Every time I learn about another class offered by Wrangell's schools, I'm amazed at how much our educators are able to impart given funding and staff shortages they face.

This community really does give its kids a fighting chance as they head into the future, which is also proven in the adults who grew up here and chose to stay. The self-reliance found here continues to inspire me.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go figure out how to build a camper for my Chevy.

EDITORIAL

People need a reason to move to Alaska

A wise economist made the point last week that while it's true more people have left Alaska each of the past 10 years than have moved here, the problem isn't so much the departures as it is the drop in arrivals.

Alaska has long had a high turnover rate — not everyone likes the weather, the isolation or the lifestyle. They come, they see, they decide to move on. Which means Alaska needs to draw in a constant flow of new residents so that the keepers outnumber the shakers who get away.

It's that shortage of enough people moving to the 49th state that is the real problem.

It's scary. We're not replenishing our communities. We're not bringing in fresh ideas, new energy and young families. We're not building, only consuming.

It's not sustainable, and it's certainly not healthy. It's bad for businesses, our schools, our nonprofits that need new volunteers. It's bad for homeowners waiting in line for contractors to have an opening in their work schedules and for Little League teams that need coaches.

Alaska needs to make itself more attractive for new residents. Clearly, the state needs more than sportfishing, hunting, hiking and mountain biking. Certainly, the outdoors are a big selling point, but it's a competitive market to attract new residents and Alaska needs to offer more.

It needs improved access to outdoor activities. It needs more housing and child care services. A university system that excels at its specialties and loudly promotes itself across the world. A well-funded public K-12 school system focused on learning rather than getting pulled into election-year, pre-election year and post-election year political social battles. Job training programs that look to place the workers of today and tomorrow.

There will always be more job opportunities in the Lower 48. There will always be lots of reasons for people to play it safe, stay close to friends and family and not make the move north. But enticing more of those people could make a big difference in Alaska, filling a lot of the vacant jobs around the state and the empty chairs in schools.

Otherwise, the downward trend in new residents, combined with an aging population, does not bode well, particularly for small communities such as Wrangell. The Alaska Department of Labor estimates the community's population of just under 2,100 could fall to 1,724 by 2050. Only an estimate, of course, but not an encouraging one.

It will not be easy to reverse the numbers of the past decade and attract new residents to Alaska, but elected officials would be smart to focus on the problem. Just as soon as they stop arguing over the Permanent Fund dividend and who uses what bathroom at school.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Southeast at risk of losing marine highway service to Prince Rupert permanently

Ketchikan, her close community neighbors and all of Southeast Alaska are in danger. We are at risk of losing our Alaska Marine Highway System ferry run to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, permanently.

Ferry service to Prince Rupert is vital. It is the only way we can reach the mainland quickly at a reasonable cost. Prince Rupert is less than a seven-hour trip from Ketchikan versus a 44-hour trip to Bellingham, Washington.

The one-way fare to Prince Rupert is approximately \$400 for a Subaru, driver, one passenger and a dog, while the fare for the same folks to Bellingham is just under \$2,000 one way. How many Southeast residents can afford to spend \$2,000 just to get to the mainland and then spend it again just to get home? Not everyone wants to get to the mainland in order to go south anyway. Many want to head east, away from Seattle.

The Alaska Department of Transportation claims that it

cannot afford to sacrifice any of the Bellingham runs to Prince Rupert because: The Columbia cannot dock in Prince Rupert; the Kennicott requires more crew than they have available; the Matanuska is in need of steel replacement and DOT does not want to spend the money to do the job; and the Bellingham run produces the most revenue. Is that gross or net revenue?

Fuel is 52% of the cost of ferry service, so the 595 miles to Bellingham burns a lot more fuel than the 90 miles to Prince Rupert, 650% more in fact. Would more 90-mile trips to Prince Rupert that burn less fuel produce more revenue than trips to Bellingham? I would like to see the math. Further, ridership from Bellingham is declining and has been since 2013; at last count it was down almost 20%.

My request to DOT/AMHS is to reinstate the twice-weekly Prince Rupert run as soon as possible. If that means substituting some runs to Prince Rupert instead of Bellingham, that should be done. Southeast Alaska should not be ignored

Continued on page 5

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



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Community cleanup

Continued from page 1

cleanup filled 11 dumpsters, Wickman said Friday. The annual event has been around since the 1980s, said Paula Rak, a longtime organizer. The free lunches will come out at noon, as will the prize drawing. Every trash bag turned in will earn a ticket, which will be mixed all together and every ticket drawn will earn \$5 for the winner. Volunteers who have their own trash bags can skip the 8:30 a.m. start, Wickman said. "If they would like to head out on their own," she said, organizers only ask

that everyone bring their trash to the central collection point at the school before 1 p.m. The community cleanup will particularly focus on streets and roads, including logging roads and anywhere else that messy people dump garbage or toss it out their vehicle window rather than hauling it to the borough trash station. Old tires are a frequent roadside attraction for cleanup crews. Some of the roadside garbage is unintentional, Rak said. "People don't secure their trash" and animals can get into the cans. Driving uncovered loads to the borough transfer station can result in wind-blown garbage

littering the streets and ditches. Participants in the cleanup are asked not to fill up bags with garbage from their own yard or garage, Wickman said. Last year's cleanup was held under "horrible" weather conditions, with constant wind and rain. Despite the Southeast weather, organizers reported 170 volunteers helped out. Wickman said she hopes for clearer skies for cleaning crews later this month. For more information, call Wickman at 907-874-4304 or Rak at 907-874-3824.

Sourdough Lodge

Continued from page 1

will be operated as a bed and breakfast rather than a hotel. Simple continental breakfasts will be served in the mornings, but the kitchen will remain certified in case they are able to expand to offer full breakfasts, Taylor said. Food warmers will be available for any catered events in the lodge's great room, the street-facing multi-use area that can be used for wedding receptions, conferences or banquets. The rental fee for the great room will be \$200 for a half day or \$300 for a full day. Taylor said his father will take on the silent partner role, while he will work on bookings and getting the website up

and operating. They have hired Jillian Privett to work as the manager, caretaker and do-it-all person to oversee to daily operations, especially during the summer when the Taylors are busy running tours. Privett is looking forward to taking on the job. "I remember the Sourdough as a young kid. ... I lived just down the street and it was always fun to cruise by on my bike and see what was happening at the lodge on weekends or even attending events myself," she said. "Bruce and Dar have put so much work into the Sourdough for so many years and created a great port of revenue for so many people to benefit from. It's just

going to be fun to hopefully offer a reflection of how I remember the Sourdough as a kid." Despite the challenges of running a business in rural Alaska, Privett said she has confidence in herself and the Taylors to keep the business running. Taylor is anticipating opening the doors to guests on May 1. He said there isn't much prep work to do since the Hardings and the Youngs kept the building in tip-top shape, pointing to things like the showers as an example, which were installed in the 1990s but still look brand new. "There's not a lot to do," he said. "Bruce walked us through every system on the place as far as 'This pipe

goes here, and this is heating, these are these wirings, and we added these at this time.' Particularly with me and my dad having a construction background, that's useful stuff for us." The acquisition also works well with Taylor's tour boat operations since visitors always need a place to stay. "It's a great fit. I'm going to offer my guests some kind of discount for booking (a room)," he said. "If you book a tour, 'Hey, by the way, if you need a place to stay, here's a discounted rate.' I'd assume vice versa as well." But, he made it clear, the lodge isn't just a "bunkhouse for our tours."

Letters

Continued from page 4

and left with no access to the road system except the long, expensive trip to Bellingham. Nothing will happen, however, if residents are complacent. Send letters to rep.dan.ortiz@akleg.gov, sen.bert.stedman@akleg.gov, AMHS at amhob@alaska.gov and to the Wrangell Sentinel at wrgsentinel@gmail.com. Mary Lynne Dahl Ketchikan

ate the budget is one of my main duties. There were some amendments in the House Finance Committee that are encouraging: We increased funding to Head Start, public radio, the multi-state WWAMI medical program to accommodate 10 more Alaska students, dive fisheries assessments, and community-based grants through the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services. My biggest issue with the current budget is that there is a significant deficit of at least \$600 million. I will be the first to admit we were dealt a tough hand; our main sources of revenue — oil revenue and investment returns on the Permanent Fund — are both down this year.

That being said, our minority coalition and I offered multiple amendments to help fill that deficit, most of which were voted down. We proposed an amendment to split the percent-of-market-value draw on the Permanent Fund, with 75% going to state services and 25% going to the dividend. That solution would balance the budget, provide a \$1,300 PFD this year and generate millions of dollars in savings, but it did not pass. I also proposed an amendment that would decrease the amount of tax credit payments the state pays to oil companies, which did pass. Education funding became the talking point of the bud-

get debate. We passed a one-year increase to the base student allocation (state funding for local school districts), with strings attached. It will require a three-quarters vote of the body to pass. Although I am grateful for that potential increase, I am also weary of the instability. Schools are not guaranteed that money until we finalize the budget, which is not enough time for them to make changes to their budget to reflect that increase. It is also only a one-year increase. We need a long-term plan for schools, which is why I'm still hopeful that my bill — House Bill 65 — will pass and

guarantee a higher funding formula for all years going into the future. The primary debate is how to pay for public services and a dividend. I have a short survey to get your input on the biggest budget issue. You can find it in this week's Wrangell Sentinel or online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OrtizBudget2023>. Overall, the state budget is similar to last year's budget, but fell short on multiple issues facing Alaskans, such as child care shortages, the opioid crisis and lack of affordable housing.

House version of budget falls short in school funding

The Alaska House has debated the state budget and, as the representative for southern Southeast, helping to cre-

Rep. Dan Ortiz



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Triumphant youth Bible Bowl team prepares for upcoming tournament

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Do you know who the first Christian martyr was? Or who replaces Judas Iscariot as the 12th apostle? Or how to escape imprisonment by Herod Agrippa? Wrangell's youth Bible Bowl team knows. For the first time in 15 years, the town has a competitive Bible quiz crew in The Salvation Army competition.

Since December, the five team members have met regularly, sometimes as often as twice a week, to study and memorize the biblical Book of Acts. The competition involves two rounds of 50 questions. Each team member answers questions on a tablet that calculates their individual speed and accuracy, but teams progress based on the performance of the group as a whole.

The Wrangell team took first place in the divisional competition in Ketchikan at the end of March, which

means they will represent Alaska at the territorial competition in Los Angeles in June.

"I think we can take first place this year," said their coach, Damon Roher. "I kind of expect with the way the kids are going that they have a pretty good chance of if not taking first place, at least being solid runners-up."

Team member Everett Edens, a sixth grader, felt "nervous and excited" at the divisional tournament. He looks forward to competing in Los Angeles and going to Disneyland with the team.

His dad, James Edens, is impressed by his son's and the team's accomplishments. "I knew they would do great," he said, "I'm just really proud of them because sometimes the studying is pretty monotonous. But I think it's pretty special skill."

Also called the Acts of the Apostles, Acts is the fifth book in the Christian New Testament. It tells the story of the founding of the Christian church

and how the faith spread throughout the Roman empire.

Among its most famous stories are Jesus' ascension into heaven, the day of Pentecost and the Christian conversion of the apostle Paul.

"It is a really fun book of the Bible," said Everett Edens. "Saul, one of the major people that wrote most of the New Testament, became Paul, the guy we usually know."

According to the text, Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest followers of Jesus when he was enveloped in heavenly light. After this spiritual encounter, he converted to Christianity and changed his name to Paul.

Everett's other favorite stories include Peter's vision of animals descending from heaven and Paul's rescue of a young boy named Eutychus, who had fallen from a third-story window.

The Wrangell team members come from a variety of Christian faiths — or have no religious affiliation. Roher

believes that Bible Bowl is a valuable experience regardless of the relationship participants have with the text. For some, it might be an exercise in memorization, similar to a quiz game show. For others, it's an opportunity to engage deeply with gospel stories.

"I think from a non-religious standpoint, it just helps teach good principles and good morals," he said. "From a religious standpoint, it just helps the children learn the Bible more in-depth and truly understand what they're reading. I think it's awesome that we have such a diverse group."

When Roher was growing up, he also participated in the tournament. "I had a really good experience when I did it as a teenager," he said, "and I wanted my kids to have that experience too."

Roher plans to continue coaching next year.

Contact The Salvation Army at 907-874-3753 for information.

State budget

Continued from page 1

a cost of \$1.7 billion — the single-largest expenditure in state spending — and a \$175 million one-time-only boost to public schools, bringing total state funding for school district operating costs to about \$1.35 billion.

Districts have been asking for a larger increase than the House approved, and they would prefer a permanent increase in the funding formula.

Because of the larger PFD, the House's spending plan would require drawing roughly \$600 million from the \$2 billion Constitutional Budget Reserve. Legislators and governors have used the savings account to plug budget gaps over the past 30 years.

The Senate, however, has indicated support for a \$1,300 dividend, cutting almost \$900 million in spending from the House plan. The Senate also is considering legislation to provide a permanent increase to the school-funding formula at a cost of \$257 million for the 2023-2024 school year.

Unlike the Republican-led House majority, the bipartisan Senate majority caucus wants

to craft a budget without drawing from dwindling savings. A smaller PFD accomplishes that fiscal goal.

The Republican-led House passed the budget 23-17, with the Democratic-led minority voting in opposition. The minority has been pushing for a permanent increase in school funding.

The House typically first writes the operating budget, which authorizes appropriations for state agencies and programs. The Senate initially writes the capital budget, which is used to pay for public works and construction projects. The two chambers negotiate differences in the spending bills in the final days of the session.

The House and Senate finance committees are scheduled to continue their budget work this week.

The House had planned to pass the operating budget last week, but held off on taking action until its leaders could talk with Senate members about a plan to move forward. House and Senate leadership met April 12 behind closed doors, and discussions are ongoing

on budget priorities and how to adjourn on time.

After a sharp drop in oil revenue projections last month, Sitka Sen. Bert Stedman said there was simply not enough money available to pay for the House's larger dividend, a school funding increase and a larger capital budget to provide the required match for federal infrastructure dollars.

"I think there's some new members that are surprised, and maybe even a little shocked that there isn't the revenue stream to back up their election rhetoric," he said April 12. Several legislators who won last year's elections campaigned on pledges of large PFDs.

House budget amendments were finalized almost two weeks ago following a dramatic though temporary walkout by the Democrat-dominated House minority caucus over a plan to use savings to pay for the one-year boost to school funding.

The minority said school funding should be a priority for general fund dollars, not an addendum paid from savings.

Spending from the Constitutional Budget Reserve requires

approval of three-quarters of lawmakers from both legislative chambers. The vote to draw on savings failed in the House on Monday, lacking Democratic support.

If, after House-Senate negotiations to reach a final budget bill, a draw from savings still is included in the spending plan, the House would get another chance to approve the three-quarters vote.

Legislative leaders met with Gov. Mike Dunleavy on Friday to discuss this year's budget and a long-term fiscal plan, which could include new revenue measures, a spending cap and a new formula for calculating the annual PFD.

The Senate is considering a bill that would increase taxes on oil producers, and amend the state's corporate income tax law so that privately held producers like Hilcorp would pay taxes the same as larger, publicly held corporations such as ConocoPhillips. Under the current law, such privately owned companies do not pay corporate income tax in Alaska.

The Senate also has legislation that would establish a new dividend formula, where 75% of the annual draw from the Permanent Fund would go to state services, and 25% would go to the dividend. The Senate's \$1,300 dividend figure matches that

75-25 formula. Senate leaders have consistently said that new revenues would be required to pay a larger PFD.

The House has a broader slew of proposals to enact a fiscal plan, introduced by majority and minority members — and none moving toward passage as of this week. One would implement a state sales tax while simultaneously reducing corporate income taxes. There is a proposal for a state income tax, and another plan to increase property taxes on oil companies.

Other legislation proposes to amend the Alaska Constitution to guarantee a larger dividend.

The governor has been silent on backing revenue-raising measures, other than proposing that the state get into the business of selling carbon credits for unlogged trees and earning money by leasing state subsurface rights to companies for storing climate-changing carbon dioxide underground.

The governor has said he would not support an income tax.

Dunleavy wants lawmakers to take the lead on crafting a comprehensive fiscal plan. He has not proposed an increase in school funding.

Dunleavy's budget is based on drawing from savings to cover a larger PFD than even the House or Senate have proposed.

Birding festival

Continued from page 1

opportunity to visit the Stikine River flats, a popular site for viewing migratory shorebirds.

His talk will last roughly 45 minutes, with a question and answer period at the end.

The weekend after Marzluff's talk will be packed with more opportunities to learn about — and explore — the natural environment of Wrangell. On Saturday morning, April 29, community members can watch Juneau-based naturalist Gwen Baluss catch birds and attach bands to their legs. These bands act as a sort of license plate, allowing scientists to track the birds' movements.

Later that afternoon, Alaska Native traditional healer Meda DeWitt will lead an indigenous

plant walk, where attendees can collect plants to use in a salve-making workshop the next day. Since the shorebirds that visit Wrangell are world travelers, biologists from Chile and Mexico will teach the community about the winter leg of these birds' migratory journeys and the conservation efforts going on in their respective countries.

The final weekend, May 5 to 6, will include a scavenger hunt, bird identification walk, and birdhouse-making craft.

The festival is organized by the U.S. Forest Service and borough government. To view the full schedule of events, visit stikinebirding.org and click on the "schedule" tab.

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Sweet Tides reopening delayed by health department backlog

BY MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Like waiting for yeast to rise, customers of Sweet Tides Bakery will have to wait a little longer for the business to reopen.

The bakery had planned to open this Wednesday, however a backlog of permit processing at the state health department has delayed the reopening by a week or possibly more.

It's proving to be a blessing and a curse, said owner Shawna Bunes. The delay has given Bunes and her husband Jordan more time to finish the cabinetry and décor, but it's hard to run a business without customers.

Sweet Tides closed on March 9 to expand into the storefront at 310 Front St. The plan is to transition from just a bakery to a bakery and coffee shop with seating for about 25 patrons.

In anticipation of the expansion, the front of the building, which used to house Twisted Root, a health food store, was remodeled with new siding and an awning. A new entrance was added that opens directly into Sweet Tides, as the other street-facing door leads to an upstairs apartment and had allowed access to the previous business.

"The folks that live upstairs had tourists walk all the way up the stairs into their apartment looking for Twisted Root on more than one occasion," Bunes said. "We really needed to give them their own personal entrance to help deter that from happening again."

The inside has fresh paint and new countertops, and the cedar countertop that was used in the bakery now runs



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jordan and Shawna Bunes take a break from working on the expansion of Sweet Tides Bakery. When the Front Street shop reopens, it will feature the baked goods it is known for, along with specialty coffees made using a new Simonelli espresso machine.

along the front window with seating for about five or six so that people can sit, enjoy coffee and a pastry and "watch Front Street roll by," Bunes said. There will be a couch, some other chairs and a few tables.

Outside, the window in the door will display a new logo designed by her mom, who also designed the original logo. Lettering along the base of the windows will announce the shop's offerings.

The decorations will follow the nautical theme of the name but not too extreme,

she said. Photos from local photographers depicting various seafaring images will adorn the walls along with glass floats, wooden pulleys and an old tugboat steering wheel Jordan recovered while diving to a scuttled vessel years ago.

"It's definitely a vintage steering wheel," Jordan said, recalling the dive in which he retrieved it. "One of the handles is broke off and two had clearly been replaced."

Bunes is also appreciative of the work her husband has done, as he has been

working until 10 or 11 p.m. the past five weeks to prepare for the opening. "And he does it with little to no complaint. He's the best."

A new Simonelli espresso machine, which Jake Harris of the Stikine Inn helped them select, is also ready to prepare specialty coffee drinks. For now, Bunes said they will only be serving beverages and baked goods. Breakfast items will return as summer approaches and demand increases.

The permit delay has also allowed her to get new staff hired and ready to work, with one person coming on to work as a barista and counter help, and Brittani Robbins will take on multiple positions as office administration, bookkeeping, kitchen and counter help. Devyn Johnson, originally part of the Sweet Tides partnership, has moved on to a job with the borough Parks and Recreation Department.

Still, the delay has been frustrating, but Bunes is determined to make it work.

"When we first opened up there (in the original location in the back of the building), (the health department) told us 30 days, and not even four days later the permit was in our inbox," she said. "I'm just hoping she (state permitting official) is being extra conservative with her estimation, but worst-case scenario we'll open in the back again if it's going to be 30 to 60 days. I'd prefer not to do it that way."

It's been a lot of work to get things right and Bunes is ready to greet customers again.

"We're ready to get back at it, that's for sure," she said.

Grief educator to lead conversation on how to help navigate process

BY CAROLINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Twentieth-century U.K. novelist and philosopher Iris Murdoch once wrote that "the bereaved cannot communicate with the unbereaved." Grief can have intense physical and emotional effects on people, from nausea and increased blood pressure to changes in memory and behavior. Knowing how to help a grieving person can be difficult, but Rev. Julie Platson of Sitka believes that communicating with the bereaved is not only possible, but essential for healing.

Platson will visit Wrangell's St. Philip's Episcopal Church on April 29 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to offer a workshop on the needs of grieving people and how to best support them.

"A lot of time, we just hold (grief) in," she said, "and it manifests itself in our bodies, spirits and minds. We don't realize how it takes its toll. We think we're getting through it ... we live in a time in society that's been trying to speed up grief. Everything in our world is so fast. Grief is one of those things that's going to take as long as it's going to take."

Often providing support is less about knowing the exact right thing to say and more about listening, she explained.

Platson works with Brave Heart Volunteers, a Sitka-based volunteer organization that provides companionship and compassionate care to those experiencing grief, illness and isolation. She was a hospice chaplain in Nevada for 11 years before moving to Alaska in 2015. When she first started working in hospice, the role "was kind of something new for me," she recalled, "but I just jumped into it and it became a passion." Since then, she's spent almost two decades conducting home visits, facilitating grief groups and providing one-on-one support.

She is currently a priest in Sitka and has been certified as a grief educator through grieving expert and author David Kessler's online program. Kessler was an associate of the late Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, a psychiatrist and the author of "On Death and Dying."

People need to "find somebody who you can tell your story to as many times as you want to tell it," Platson said.

Having these discussions is especially important in the wake of the international tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic. "A lot of people are walking around as if we're through COVID and it's all done," Platson said. "But there's been a lot of things that we've lost and a lot of people are

grieving. It feels like a good time to get some simple information out there and let people know that they're not alone."

Alice Rooney from Hospice of Wrangell invited Platson to speak after attending one of her presentations in Sitka last fall. "I was very impressed with what they're doing in Sitka," she said. "They're doing something right."

Decades of experience in end-of-life care have taught Rooney the importance of supporting grieving loved ones. "People often feel really uncomfortable," she said. "They want to be supportive to somebody who

is grieving, but they don't want to say the wrong things, so they don't say anything."

"Just to be physically present can be helpful," she continued. "The worst thing you want to do is look away and say, 'I'm going to avoid the person.' That can be hurtful."

Learning specific methods to provide support from a trained grief educator can help people overcome that discomfort and engage more deeply with the bereaved. "It's basically a chance to get some ideas and think about ways to support your friends and loved ones ... or a loss that

you've had," said Rooney. "We hope that it will be a time of education and awareness."

Platson plans to keep the workshop relaxed and informal. Educational pamphlets will be available, and after a brief presentation, the group will have the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

The event is open to anybody in the community, whether they are struggling themselves, want to support a loved one or want to be better prepared to provide support in the future.

Hospice of Wrangell and St. Philip's Episcopal are co-sponsoring.

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Forest Service seeks public comments on sustainable strategy for Tongass Forest

Juneau Empire and Wrangell Sentinel

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking suggestions for sustainably managing the Tongass National Forest, with a series of public meetings across Southeast Alaska through May 19.

The Wrangell public meeting is planned for 5 to 7 p.m. May 5 at the Nolan Center.

"Instead of commenting on a plan we present, we're asking folks to help develop it," according to a Forest Service announcement of the meetings. That means looking for input from individuals, groups, government agencies and Alaska Native tribes about ideas such as "wood products, clean water, river restoration, fishing, jobs, improved wildlife habitat, healthy watersheds and/or new industries."

Sessions are planned for eight other communities in the region, from Yakutat to Ketchikan.

Suggestions also can be submitted online through the Southeast Sustainable Strategy website.

It's another step in the

agency's Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy that was launched in 2021. It's linked with actions such as \$25 million in federal grants awarded last fall for 70 area projects and the Biden administration's reinstating of the Tongass Roadless Rule at the beginning of this year.

Paul Robbins, a regional Forest Service spokesperson, said on April 10 that much of the work so far has involved assessments and developing a management structure. He said the focus of this spring's public input process is developing a long-term strategy.

"This is about how the Forest Service will actually manage the Tongass National Forest as a public-use forest over the next 10 years," he said.

While meetings have been scheduled through late May, Robbins said the public will be able to contribute ideas at least through the end of June. He said the timeline could be extended to ensure they have contacted all tribes in the region, which is required by law, along with active efforts to reach out to other groups.

Drifting volcanic ash shut down air travel

Sentinel staff

Drifting ash from a volcanic eruption in the Russian Far East forced Alaska Airlines to cancel more than 100 flights last week, including its northbound and southbound jets through Wrangell and Petersburg last Thursday and Friday.

Flights throughout Alaska had largely returned to normal by Saturday, other than a couple of missed flights to Sitka that day as a portion of the ash cloud hung around the community.

Although a "very large area" of gas left over from the ash cloud still hovered over the eastern Gulf of Alaska near Sitka by Saturday morning, most of the actual ash appeared to be thinning

and was becoming difficult to see via satellite, John Cowen, a forecaster at the National Weather Service's Alaska Aviation Weather Unit, told the Anchorage Daily News.

The Shiveluch Volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula began erupting April 11, creating ash clouds that climbed more than six miles into the air. A long ash cloud drifted toward the Aleutian Islands on April 12, then continued into the Gulf of Alaska and started disrupting air traffic on Thursday.

In order to avoid the abrasive ash, which can cause major damage if ingested by a jet engine, some Alaska Airlines flights that managed to get into Southeast on Friday flew below the drifting hazard at 16,000 feet, about half the usual altitude.

Native venture delays Klawock cruise ship dock

CATHY BOLLING
The Island Post,
Prince of Wales Island

Klawock's debut as a cruise destination has been pushed back to 2024, according to an announcement from Klawock Heenya Corp. and its partner Na-Dena, the joint-venture tourism development company formed between Native corporations Hoonah-based Huna Totem Corp. and Fairbanks-based Doyon Ltd.

Klawock Heenya was previously scheduled to welcome Oceania Cruises' 650-plus-passenger vessel Regatta for four port calls this summer. The first phase plans for the Port of Klawock consist of a temporary welcome center featuring local artists, retail with a cafe, walking trails, history displays, a bus tour departure area, tempo-

rary bathrooms and a tendering floating dock connected to the existing Klawock dock, the press release states.

Getting the former log ship dock ready for visitors is a big undertaking. Nick Nickerson, Klawock's mayor and a member of Klawock Heenya board of directors, told Ketchikan radio station KRBD that the port just isn't ready.

"We felt it would be better to wait a year. ... That way, we have everything lined up, all our ducks are in line, and we would have a better port to present to the tourism industry," Nickerson said.

"Every decision is being weighed with our shareholders and community in mind," Klawock Heenya President Sarah Dybdahl said in a prepared announcement. "Postponement of ship calls in 2023 will ensure all aspects of such an endeavor are in order and set the stage for successful launch and operation in 2024."

The partners are following the same successful formula that Huna Totem used to create the Icy Strait Point development in Hoonah. More than 2 million cruise travelers have visited Icy Strait Point since its 2004 opening, the release states. It is the single largest

employer in Hoonah.

"Icy Strait Point became a world-class destination in 18 years," Huna Totem CEO Russell Dick said last year. The corporation expects to welcome about 450,000 cruise ship passengers this summer.

The development is a big employer in Hoonah, a community of about 850 people at the northern end of Chichagof Island, about 160 miles northwest of Wrangell.

Klawock Heenya's mission is to preserve its heritage and culture for future generations by promoting health, education and improving the quality of life and the economy for its shareholders.

The corporation said it is "changing direction" from its early investments in the timber and fishing industries, adapting to a "regenerative tourism business model" for the advancement of its community and shareholders, the announcement added.

Klawock is on the outside of Prince of Wales Island, about 70 miles southwest of Wrangell. The development team is promoting the new port as a convenient stopover for Alaska cruises from Seattle.

Stikine closed 7th year in a row to subsistence chinook fishing

Sentinel staff

For the seventh year in a row, federal managers have closed the Stikine River chinook subsistence fishery to help preserve weak runs of the returning salmon.

The U.S. Forest Service, un-

der authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, last week announced the closure to run May 15 through June 20.

"The preseason forecast for the Stikine River is 11,700 large chinook salmon (greater than 28 inches in length), which is below the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 28,000 large chinook," the Forest Service statement said.

Though this year's chinook run is ahead of the preseason forecast for last year, it is still short of what managers believe is necessary for a healthy spawning return in the Stikine.

"Chinook salmon runs are expected to increase in 2023 with only one (Stikine River) of the five chinook salmon stocks for which the department develops formal forecasts having a projected run less than what is needed to achieve the minimum escapement goal," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported last month.

The Stikine chinook run is among several in Southeast that have missed their escapement goals in most of the previous 10 years, according to Fish and Game.

The federal closure only affects subsistence fishing for chinook in the river, not the sockeye subsistence fishery set to open June 21, according to the Forest Service announcement.

The Department of Fish and Game has also taken actions in the state-managed fisheries in front of the river to protect Stikine chinook.



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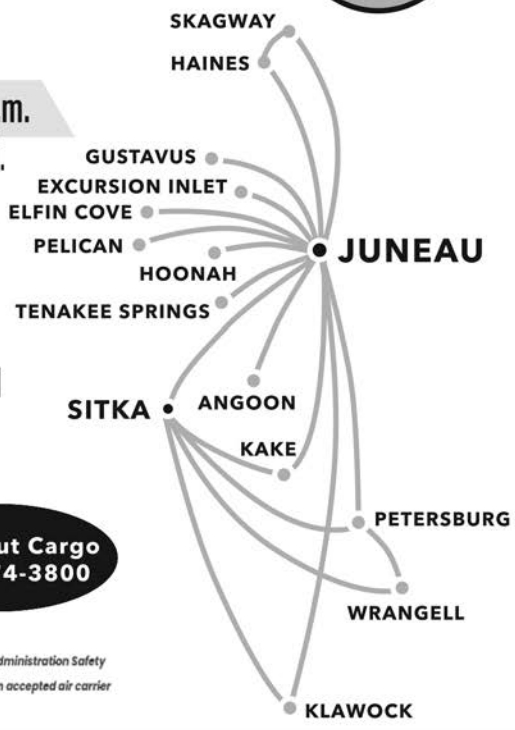
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Decker drums up idea for pep band platform in senior project

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Elias Decker wants to elevate the stature of the pep band drummer — literally. For his high school graduation project, the 18-year-old senior is building a platform to allow the band's drummer to play alongside the saxes, clarinet and cowbell.

The idea for the platform came to Decker when he attended basketball regionals in Juneau in March. Two drum platforms were set up at opposite ends of the bleachers in the Thunder Mountain High School gym so that bands from competing schools could take turns playing.

"The band director there ... he gave me dimensions for the whole thing, and they have very similar bleachers to us," Decker said. "I noticed most gyms around Southeast have these platforms and we don't. We always hide our drums behind the bleachers in the corner."

Music teacher Tasha Morse said she believes it is the first time that she knows of that the Wrangell pep band will have a drum platform. "When I was in high school, we had a drum stand, and it was nice to have our drummer in the stands with us, more a part of the group," she said. "We got to use one when we were at (regionals) this year."

Dimensions for the platform are about six-feet by 10-feet. It will be two pieces that are bolted together when in use, and easily taken apart for storage, Deck-



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Elias Decker has been the Wrangell High School pep band drummer for four years. The drums were set up behind the bleachers when the band would play at rallies or games. Decker is building a platform so that future drummers will be in front and up with the rest of the band for all to see.

er said. He will take the experience and knowledge he's learned from being in shop class since seventh grade to build the project.

Though most of his shop experience has been in welding and marine fabrication, Decker is confident in his ability to get the job done.

"I haven't done a ton of woodworking,

I've been doing mostly welding and stuff like that," he said. "I'm sure it's not that hard. It's a pretty simple project."

He estimates it will take him longer than the four hours it took the band director at Thunder Mountain, but if he has questions, he said he will seek guidance from shop teacher Winston Davies.

Originally, Decker was going to work

with classmate Brodie Gardner on the cleaning and restoration of the Chief Shakes gravesite, but the drum platform "fits me way better," he said. "I've been the drummer for four years and it's kind of something I can leave behind. Cooper Powers is in eighth grade, and we've been kind of training him this year to be the next pep band drummer, so he'll be up there on the platform, hopefully."

After graduating, Decker said he's not really sure what direction he'll take but he's considering following in the footsteps of his father Glen Decker to become a certified arborist.

"I just like the field. It can be a fun job. It's decent pay," he said. "If you go anywhere, somebody needs to cut down a tree. It's more specific than logging and stuff. You need to be able to do precise removals and stuff. There's some science to it. If you have the knowledge, you can do a lot with it."

He's been a groundman for his father since he was 14, but Decker might also move to the beat of his own drum. "I'm always interested in other stuff, but that's one of the main things."

There isn't anything he won't miss about high school, but he will miss one thing in particular: Sports.

"I'll definitely miss sports, that's a big one," Decker said. "I sometimes wish I could stay back a year and do another year because I think I'd be even better."

Bank sues Yakutat Native corporation over unpaid loans for logging business

By NATHANIEL HERZ
Northern Journal

A Washington state-based bank has sued the Alaska Native corporation based in Yakutat over what the bank says is \$13.3 million in unpaid loans — sparking community fears about the loss of Indigenous lands.

Yak-Tat Kwaan received some 36 square miles of land near Yakutat through the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. In the past three years, Yak-Tat Kwaan has borrowed millions of dollars from Spokane-based AgWest Farm Credit Services to launch a logging business on its property.

The timber harvest caused a backlash from shareholders and regional Indigenous leaders as Yak-Tat Kwaan began logging near a salmon stream that's the namesake of a local Tlingit clan, the Kwaashk'ikkwáan — an area that many Yakutat residents see as a sacred site.

Amid local opposition to additional proposed harvests, Yak-Tat Kwaan's timber subsidiary has not made any payments under its loans since mid-2022, AgWest said in its six-page legal complaint, filed March 31 in U.S. District Court in Seattle. The subsidiary also has failed to meet its "financial reporting covenants," said AgWest, which is suing for repayment, interest and attorneys' fees.

Shari Jensen, Yak-Tat Kwaan's chief executive, declined to comment on April 7, saying the corporation has not yet been served with the complaint. In a prepared statement subsequently posted to social media, the corporation said its board is "united in every possible effort to address the allegations."

Yak-Tat Kwaan's subsidiary pledged logging equipment and timber rights as collateral for its loans, but corporate leaders have said they did not pledge the land itself.

However, the lawsuit still creates "huge concern" about

the potential loss of tribal land, said Andrew Gildersleeve, the chief executive for the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, which has publicly objected to Yak-Tat Kwaan's timber harvest.

In the past, Gildersleeve said, Yak-Tat Kwaan has expressed interest in selling some of its land to generate income.

"Is the collateral under the agreement enough to satisfy the debt? And if it isn't, what else will the bank take from an underserved, Indigenous population that already has all kinds of environmental and economic threats?" Gildersleeve said in a phone interview April 7.

A Seattle-based attorney for AgWest, John Rizzardi, declined to answer a question about why AgWest agreed to finance Yak-Tat Kwaan's timber efforts even as the logging industry has been on a long decline in Southeast Alaska. Sealaska, the big Alaska Native regional corporation based in Juneau, announced it was exiting the timber business in 2021.

Yak-Tat Kwaan's local critics have questioned why the corporation didn't pursue the sale of carbon credits — an arrangement where polluters pay timber owners to leave trees standing. Corporation leaders have said that revenue from carbon credits revenues would have arrived too slowly, and that such deals wouldn't have created local jobs like those that come with timber harvests.

AgWest has filed a second lawsuit, in federal court in Anchorage, asking a judge for help in "ascertaining the status of and arresting" a tug and barge that Yak-Tat Kwaan's subsidiary bought as part of its logging operation and, the bank alleges, pledged as collateral "for loans that are in default." The tug and barge, the bank said in its legal filing, are believed to be "uninsured and therefore at risk of loss."

The Northern Journal is a newsletter from Alaska journalist Nathaniel Herz.

Longtime resident Betty Keegan dies at 90

Former Wrangell resident Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Twitchell Keegan, 90, passed away on March 31 in Moses Lake, Washington, following complications of a stroke.

She was born April 19, 1932. As a child, Betty and her mother traveled the Lower 48 following Betty's father from Seattle to San Diego and Miami with stops in between while he served as a career sailor in the U.S. Navy. During World War II, Betty and her mother lived with her grandmother in Wilkeson, Washington, when her father fought in the Pacific Theater of the war.

It was in nearby Auburn, Washington, where Betty met Dwight at a local skating rink, fell in love, and married in 1950.

As a young family, the Keegans lived in several locations in Washington before buying a farm in Soap Lake, where they intended to settle down — "until the call of the north brought them to Alaska and their beloved Wrangell," her family wrote.

Betty and her family moved to Wrangell in 1973, living here for 44 years. In Wrangell, she raised two daughters, worked at the Medical Center, and then



ELIZABETH "BETTY" ANN TWITCHELL KEEGAN

later managed the Wrangell Senior Apartments.

She was active in the Wrangell Community Church of God, was an avid reader, loved sewing, quilting and gardening. "Betty and her husband enjoyed lunches at the senior center where they could partake in a warm meal and visit with friends. She adored her grandchildren and kept her door open for breakfast or afterschool TV and snacks."

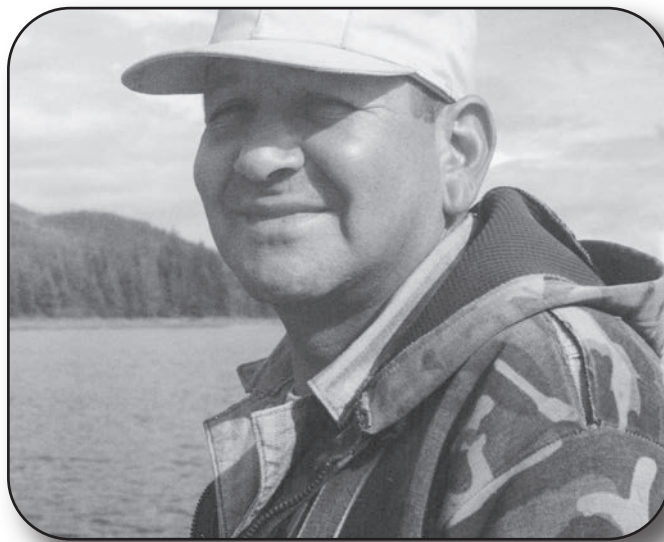
In 2017, Betty and Dwight moved to Palmer to live closer to their youngest daughter and great grandchildren.

Betty is preceded in death by her 3-year-old daughter Kathleen (1956), and husband Dwight (2018.)

She is survived by five children, Dwight J. Keegan, of Chelan, Washington; Pat M. Keegan, of Soap Lake, Washington; Peggy J. Campbell, of Gladstone, Oregon; and Alaskans Beth A. Comstock, of Douglas; and Kathryn S. Hays, of Butte. She also leaves behind 20 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

"A small graveside service is planned on July 15 in Wilkeson, Washington, where she and her husband Dwight will end their travels."

Come join a Celebration of Life for
Harvey Gross
(April 7, 1929-November 30, 2022)
at the American Legion Hall Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 2 p.m.
You are welcome to bring a dish to share.



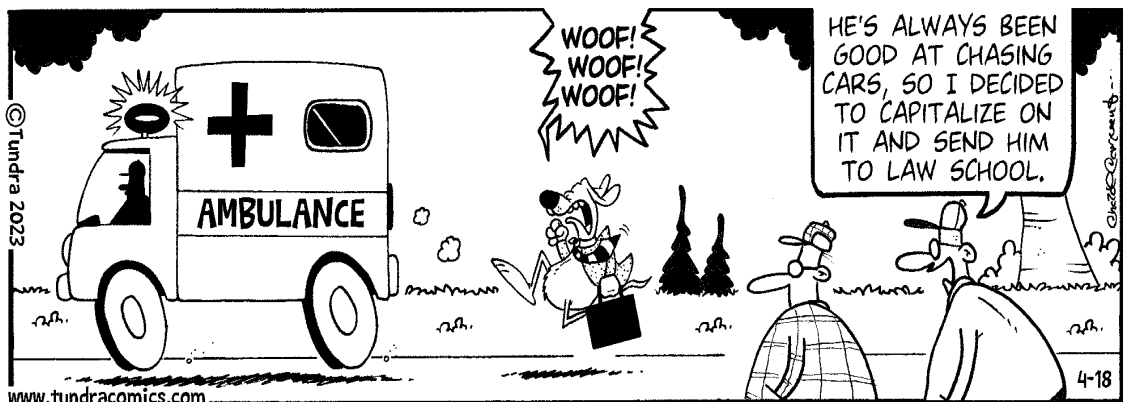
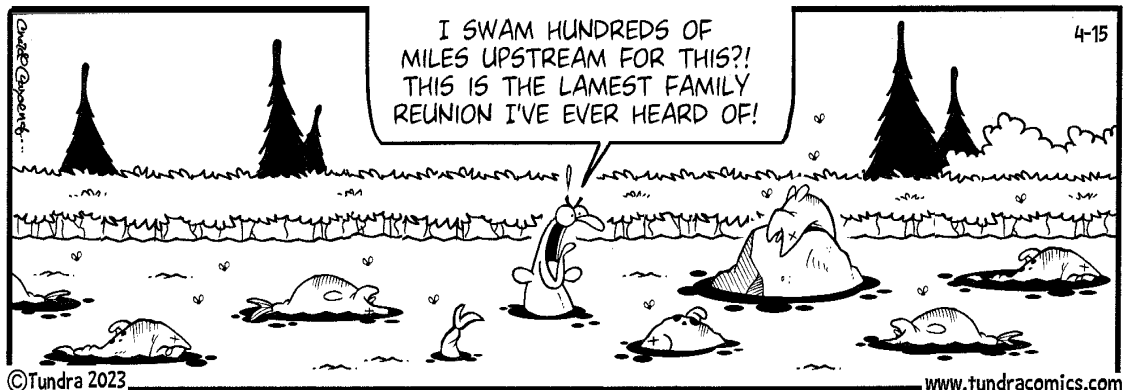
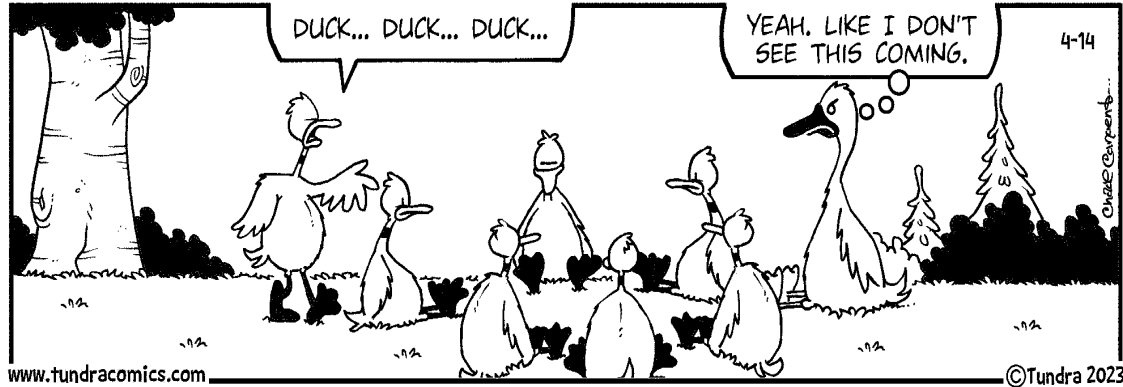
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, April 10
 Fraudulent check.
 Parking complaint.
 Assault.
 Welfare check.

Tuesday, April 11
 Nothing to report.

Wednesday, April 12
 Agency assist: Search and Rescue.
 Agency assist: Petersburg Police Department.

Thursday, April 13
 Welfare check.

Friday, April 14
 Parking complaint.

Parking complaint.
 Citizen assist: Vehicle unlock.

Saturday, April 15
 Parking complaint.
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
 Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Sunday, April 16
 Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Crossword

Answers on Page 12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
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64					65					66		
67					68					69		

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dylan and Marley are two
- 5. Makes healthy
- 10. The Who's "O'Riley"
- 14. Side sheltered from wind
- 15. Flat-bottomed sailboats
- 16. Egyptian supreme god
- 17. Advice
- 18. Mass of small, loose stones
- 19. Online learning services provider
- 20. "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
- 22. Of she
- 23. A place to relax
- 24. Critical and mocking
- 27. Consumed
- 30. You get one in summer
- 31. Bath
- 32. Luxury automaker
- 35. Spiders spin one
- 37. Guy (slang)
- 38. Greek personification of Earth
- 39. Large instruments
- 40. Domestic cattle genus
- 41. Appetizer
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Where to put groceries
- 44. Speak incessantly
- 45. Popular color
- 46. A place to sleep
- 47. Make fun of
- 48. Former CIA
- 49. Salts
- 52. Bleated
- 55. Never sleeps
- 56. Sword
- 60. Water (Spanish)
- 61. Cyprinids
- 63. "Dark Knight" actor Christian
- 64. Fictional demon
- 65. Old World lizard
- 66. The content of cognition
- 67. Makes a mistake
- 68. A way to make wet
- 69. Tide

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-liner
- 2. Evergreen genus
- 3. College in Rome
- 4. Prevents from seeing
- 5. Cycles/second
- 6. Mischievous child
- 7. Less common
- 8. Honorably retired
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. A confusion of voices and other sounds
- 11. Bony fish genus
- 12. Type of pear
- 13. Egyptian cross
- 21. Satisfies
- 23. Founder of Babism
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Chicago ballplayer
- 27. Performer
- 28. Hairpiece
- 29. Partner to flowed
- 32. Aircraft formation
- 33. You have 3 per day
- 34. Goes into
- 36. College athletic organization
- 37. Wet, muddy ground
- 38. Talk
- 40. Witty conversation
- 41. Gurus
- 43. "French Price of ___ Air"
- 44. Sports equipment
- 46. Try to get
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Sea dwellers
- 50. Palmlike subtropical plant
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. Baseball's Ruth
- 53. Gelatinous substance
- 54. Hungarian violinist Leopold
- 57. Offered
- 58. Ancient Greek City
- 59. A way to derive
- 61. Touch lightly
- 62. Witnessed

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State approves timber sale at Whale Pass, over objections

Prince of Wales Island Post

The Alaska Department of Natural Resource has approved the 292-acre Whale Pass Timber Sale.

The sale, in the community of Whale Pass, population about 60, requires a 100-foot buffer between the harvest area and residential property.

A request for reconsideration of the commissioner's decision is due no later than April 26.

Whale Pass considers tourism and recreation as its major economic industries, according to James Greeley and Katie Bode, who are Whale Pass residents and representatives of Friends of

Whale Pass. "We know that the planned clearcut will kill that industry," Greeley and Bode wrote in a letter to the editor of the Prince of Wales Island Post in 2022.

Greeley and Bode pointed out that any clearcutting near Whale Pass would interfere with the tourist experience, whether arrival by aircraft or on the island's road system. The community is about 40 miles southwest of Wrangell.

"We see most summer visitors traveling through Whale Pass with kayaks and canoes," they wrote. "There will be nothing left to view from the water near town but clearcuts."

Additionally, they cited the

proximity of the clearcut to the Whale Pass residential area as a concern.

"Any removal of tree root systems on shallow and wet soil above these homes increases the danger of erosion and mudslides," they wrote.

Greg Staunton with the Division of Forestry explained last week that officials have tried to accommodate the community as much as possible. "We met with the community several times to understand their concerns — some of which have been relayed to us from different perspectives," Staunton said.

"We came to the conclusion we

couldn't mitigate all of their concerns having to do with the visual aspect of the cut and its proximity to the community. ... We believe we've mitigated other elements that are pertinent to the situation," he said. "In other words, such as water quality, soil integrity, reforestation ... wildlife habitat (and) fisheries habitat."

Staunton pointed out that it is the division's duty to manage the land for the benefit of all Alaskans.

If opponents file for reconsideration, and if they are denied by the natural resources commissioner, their next option would be to go to court.

Subscribe to the Sentinel
907-874-2301



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting electronically on April 25, 2023 at 2PM AKDT. The purpose of the meeting is for discussions on CEO Contract negotiations, brushing contracts, surplus furniture and equipment, and presentation of an organizational chart. During the meeting, an Executive Session may be held for discussions regarding the Agency's CEO. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Publish on April 19, 2023

CLASSIFIED

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following position for the 2022-2023 school year:

- **Paraprofessional:** This is a full-time position working with students in Grades Pre-K-5, 7.5 hours per day in the Special Education Program at Evergreen Elementary School. Salary placement is Column C on the Classified Salary Schedule. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. An associate degree, equivalent credits or the ability to pass the para pro assessment is also required. This position will start as soon as possible with an expected duration through May 25, 2023.

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

- **Activities Director:** The Activities Director organizes and administers the district's program of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities including the development and support of school "spirit." This is a contracted position with the district. The successful applicant should expect to work some evenings and weekends to support the activities program as needed

and is expected to travel to regional events and meetings. The position requires strong leadership skills and the ability to carry out the rules and regulations set by the Alaska School Activities Association and the district. The contract duration is from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

We are also accepting applications for the following extracurricular positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

- **Baseball Head Coach and Assistant Coach**
- **Basketball, Boys Assistant Coach**
- **Class Advisers:**
- **Freshmen Class**
- **Sophomore Class**
- **Senior Class Co-adviser**
- **Cross Country Running Head Coach**
- **Softball Head and Assistant Coach**
- **Volleyball Head and Assistant Coach**
- **Elementary Student Council Adviser**

For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. These positions are open until filled. It is Wrangell Public School District policy to not discriminate based on age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

HELP WANTED

Johnson's Building Supply is hiring for a yardman/customer service position. Responsibilities include retail sales, computer knowledge, receiving freight, stocking inventory, truck loading/unloading, deliveries and friendly customer service. Work schedule is Tuesday-Saturday. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, forklift experience is beneficial (will train), some heavy lifting, prior construction knowledge is favorable, pay doe. Pick up an application at Johnson's Building Supply.

NOTICE

Members of the Wrangell School Board may be in attendance at the Borough Assembly meeting on April 25, 2023, to offer testimony on the Fiscal Year 2024 school budget. Although a quorum of the board may be present, the school board will not be taking any action.

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.

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, April 25, 2023, starting at 6 p.m., there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

- Ordinance No. 1039, an Ordinance of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, adding Chapter 20.24, Single Family Residential – Medium Density District (SFMD), and Chapter 20.42, Rural Commercial District (RC), to Title 20 Zoning, and amending several sections in Title 20 Zoning in the Wrangell Municipal Code.
- Ordinance No. 1040, an Ordinance of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the Zoning Map to effect a change to Lots 1-5, Block 1; Lots 1-5, Block 2; Lots 1-3, Block 3; and Tract A, Shoemaker Bay Subdivision Amended Plat 87-9; and a Portion of Lot 26, USS 3403 from Holding to Single Family Medium Density, Rural Commercial, and Multifamily as part of the proposed Alder Top Village Subdivision.

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

Publish April 19, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brenda L. Schwartz-Yeager, DBA Alaska Charters and Adventures, LLC is making application for a new seasonal liquor license, per AS 04.11.180 located in Alaska waters.

Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, (City and Borough of Wrangell Assembly), to the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage AK 99501, or email to alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.

Publish April 19, 26 and May 3, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mark Galla is making application for a new Common Carrier License-Seasonal Alaska Statute 04.11.180 liquor license doing business as Alaska Peak and Sea's located at Alaska Peak and Sea's (dispensing on jet boat tours in the proximity of Wrangell).

Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage AK 99501, or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov

Publish April 5, 12 and 19, 2023

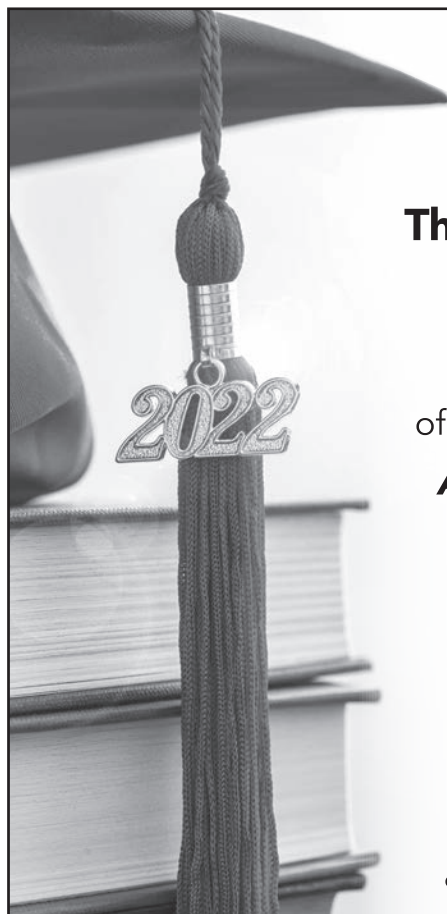
PUBLIC NOTICE

James Leslie II is making application for a new Common Carrier License-Seasonal Alaska Statute 04.11.180 liquor license doing business as Alaska Waters, Inc. located at Alaskan Waters (dispensing on jet boat tours in the proximity of Wrangell).

Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1600, Anchorage AK 99501, or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov

Publish April 5, 12 and 19, 2023

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Murkowski visits Ukraine, meets with President Zelenskyy

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Sen. Lisa Murkowski on April 12 became the first member of Alaska's congressional delegation to visit Ukraine since the Russian invasion of that country 14 months ago.

The Alaska Republican joined two Democrats — Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona — on an oversight trip.

"We are here, somewhat in an oversight role. The United States has contributed significantly to the effort on behalf of the people of Ukraine," she said.

"The United States' commitment is an

investment. It's an investment in democracy and the free world," Murkowski said.

During a brief news conference in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital city, Kelly said the senators spent "a couple hours" meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his leadership team to hear what their needs and wants are as they continue to defend their country against the ongoing Russian invasion.

"We want to be as supportive as possible," Kelly said.

Also present on the trip was country musician Brad Paisley, who is one of several ambassadors for Ukraine's UNITED24 wartime fundraising effort.

Murkowski, asked about possible declining Republican support for Ukraine's defense — leading Republican candidates for the party's 2024 presidential nomination have questioned American involvement — said she doesn't think the defense of Ukraine should come down to a difference between Republicans and Democrats.

"This cannot be a partisan split. This cannot be a partisan effort. This needs to be the United States standing with Ukraine every step of the way," she said.

Murkowski is a member of the defense appropriations subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Many other senators have traveled to

Ukraine since the invasion, either to show support for the defenders or to investigate issues on the ground.

"We're in it to win it with them, and we'll give them all the support they need," Manchin said.

The rest of Alaska's congressional delegation has supported Ukraine's war efforts, with Republican U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan recently advocating for the White House to send F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine.

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- 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

Letters are run on a space-available basis. P.O. Box 798, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929 Ph: 907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com

Long-term care facility expands



PHOTO BY CAROLEINE JAMES/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Margaret "Missy" Wright, president of the long-term care resident council at Wrangell Medical Center, cuts the ceremonial ribbon last Thursday for the four-room expansion at the facility, bringing it to 18 beds. "We are just so excited to be able to expand and provide additional services for our elders," said Kay Turner, the unit's administrator. "Long-term care is such a need in Southeast." The facility serves local residents and people from throughout the region. The unit includes restaurant-style dining, a robust activities schedule and 24-hour access to medical services. It is located in the back of the medical center. SEARHC broke ground last June on the 1,800-square-foot addition. "This is their home," Turner said of the long-term care residents. "That's what it should be. We work in their home."

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