



Ethel Lund, advocate for Native health care, dies at 91

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Ethel Aanwoogex' Lund, a pioneer of tribal health care, died in the early morning last Friday at the age of 91. She was instrumental in improving the quality of care for Alaska Native people and received national recognition for her contributions.

Lund was born in Wrangell in 1931, where she witnessed firsthand the challenges that rural and Native Alaskans faced when trying to access health care. After tuberculosis devastated her community — and put her in the hospital for two and a half years — she “spent her life dedicated to advancing the quality and standard of care available across Southeast Alaska,” according to a statement of remembrance from Sealaska Corp.

“Lund held a quiet confidence that could command a room and made a point to ensure that every voice was heard, emphasizing the importance of traditional knowledge alongside modern medicine,” the statement reads.

She was a Tlingit of the Raven moiety and Teeyhíttaan clan from the Sun House. Her Tlingit name was Aanwoogex' Shtoo.aak.

Lund received numerous accolades for her work. She was one of the founding members of the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) and served as its president from 1977 to her retirement in 2000. SEARHC now provides services



PHOTO COURTESY SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE

Ethel Lund, one of the founders of SEARHC, died last Friday at age 91.

in 19 Southeast communities.

She sat on the Sealaska Corp. board for 21 years and was one of the few directors to receive the honor of director emeritus. She was Grand Camp President and Grand Camp Secretary of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, executive vice president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska, chair of the Alaska Native Health Board and vice chair of the National Indian Health Board.

Lund was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in 2010 and received a long list of other awards throughout her lifetime.

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Borough looking hard for funding to cover Public Safety Building repairs

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

After Wrangell voters chose not to take on debt to finance repairs to the Public Safety Building last month, the facility's future is uncertain. Borough officials are racing against time to identify alternative sources of funding before the building, which houses essential government services, becomes unsafe for workers.

At the Oct. 4 municipal election, the community approved \$3.5 million in bonds for school repairs but voted down the ballot issue that would have approved \$8.5 million to repair the Public Safety Building, which would have been repaid through property taxes.

Possibly because of rising costs at the grocery store and gas station or uncertainty about how the ongoing property reassessment might affect their tax bills, Wrangell voters balked at the prospect of paying an additional \$112 on \$100,000 of assessed property value each year.

The bonds failed by 65 votes out of 583 ballots cast.

“I don't think a lot of people realized what was in that building and what we were going to lose,” Assemblymember David Powell said at the Nov. 9 assembly meeting.

The building houses “the dispatchers, the police, the jail, the court system, DMV (state Division of Motor Vehicles), fire department, U.S. Customs and Border (Protection),” said

Mayor Patty Gilbert. “I would say that there is a good 20 to 25 people in that building regularly employed.”

“We just cannot afford to lose any of these services,” she added. “Frankly, the time to kick this down the road for another year — we're well beyond that.”

Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad said funding repairs will be an uphill battle now that the bond issue has been defeated. Grant funding that is available for building repairs is limited. Paradoxically, the building's broad usefulness makes it ineligible for most grants, which tend to focus on specific projects and departments. Many grants are “specifically for the fire department or specifically for the police,” explained Borough Manager Jeff Good. “It's a mixed-use facility, which makes it harder.”

Assembly members and borough officials have tried to get creative with their grant applications, but to no avail — so far. Good has explored the possibility of retrofitting the building with energy-saving technology to apply for energy-savings grants, but most grants in this sector are geared toward industrial technologies or are only available to communities of 35,000 or more.

“We are continuing to look for funding opportunities with energy efficiency objectives for alternative and/or supplemental funding for the (Public Safety Building) rehab project,” Al-Haddad

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Murkowski and Peltola wait for final count, but appear headed to re-election wins

By YERETH ROSEN
Alaska Beacon

Alaskans may have decided to re-elect Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Mary Peltola to Congress, but the final outcome will not be known until the last ballots are tallied next week and, in one or both races, ranked-choice voting is factored into the decision.

Murkowski, a Republican who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump, has been the target of ire from Trump and from hard-liner conservatives. She trailed conservative Republican challenger Kelly Tshibaka by a small margin, 91,205 to 94,138, as of Monday (42.84% to 44.22%).

But the 20-year incumbent was narrowing the gap as more absentee and early votes are counted and is in position to surpass Tshibaka when the ranked-choice tabulation is expected to move many or most of Democrat Pat Chesbro's votes to Murkowski. Chesbro had 20,265 (9.5%) of the votes in the pre-

liminary count after the Nov. 8 election, with observers expecting that many of those voters had selected Murkowski as their second choice after Chesbro is eliminated from the count.

In the House, Democrat Peltola, who won an August special election to fill out the remainder of the late Don Young's term to become the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress, led Republican opponents Sarah Palin and Nick Begich in the vote count as of Monday, with 47.26% for Peltola to 26.6% for Palin, 24.2% for Begich and 1.7% for Libertarian Chris Bye.

Wrangell voters went for Palin and Tshibaka.

As of Monday, the Alaska Division of Elections still had at least 35,000 absentee, mail-in, early and questioned ballots to count, adding to the almost 218,000 ballots already tallied. The division plans to release an updated count this week, with final results Nov. 23.

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A helping hand



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Tammi Meissner has been working as the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska community navigator in Wrangell since mid-June. She helps tribal citizens find and apply for programs and resources they might not have otherwise known about.

Liaison aids tribal citizens find their way to resources

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

X'atshaawditee Tammi Meissner has found a career that allows her to go home at the end of the day with a full heart.

Since June, Meissner has worked for Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska as a community navigator in Wrangell. The position is essentially a reboot of the community liaison program that existed years ago.

There are 20 community navigators in communities across Alaska and outside the state in cities such as Seattle and San Francisco. The navigators are there to help tribal citizens find programs and resources that will aid them financially or in other ways such as tribal enrollment or applying for Social Security benefits.

“We've expanded the position so that each of our community navigators knows not only the Tlingit & Haida programs and resources but other resources,” said Gail Dabaluz, self-governance manager with Tlingit & Haida. Dabaluz

oversees the community navigators. “They not only guide tribal citizens to the resources but provide application assistance as well.”

Being a tribal citizen herself and a lifelong Wrangell resident has been a benefit to Meissner and the community she serves. “I have heard feedback not only on Tammi but on all the community navigators that they (tribal citizens) are so pleased that there's a staff member that can help to provide that access to citizens where they're at,” Dabaluz said.

“I've lived here) my whole life,” Meissner said. “I was born and raised here and so were both of my parents. I am Tlingit. ... My dad is Native. He is Deisheetan, basically from Angoon, where our family originally was, then they migrated. My great-great grandmother ended up here, married.”

She was also adopted into the Naanyaa.aayí family in Wrangell. “Myself and my two children were adopted,” she said. “That's the Native

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To see how
Wrangell voted,
turn to Page 8

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Wednesday, Nov. 16: Fred Angerman Jr., Lorri Angerman, Connor Guggenbickler; Anniversary: Jack and Terree Pino.

Thursday, Nov. 17: Cody Angerman, Talon Churchill, Leo Sumner.

Friday, Nov. 18: David Roane.

Saturday, Nov. 19: Kimberly Cooper, David Joseph; Anniversary: David and Brittani Roane.

Sunday, Nov. 20: Kayla Gillen, Sue Ann Guggenbickler; Anniversary: Dick and Barbara Angerman.

Monday, Nov. 21: Kyler Angerman, Trevor Miller, Michelle Villarma, Mike Whelan.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Wyatt Tucker Thomassen.

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Laura Davies, Sherina Meltzer, Doug Thomas.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, Nov. 17

Liver and onions, tomato rockefeller, creamy coleslaw, buttermilk rolls

Friday, Nov. 18

Half egg salad sandwich, split pea soup, apple and cottage cheese

Monday, Nov. 21

German meatballs on pasta, beets with orange sauce, tossed salad

Tuesday, Nov. 22

A-1 meatloaf, steamed green perfection's salad, mashed potatoes and gravy

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Chicken a la king, broccoli, fresh fruit with creamy sauce, rice

Thursday, Nov. 24

Closed for Thanksgiving

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Friday, Nov. 18
Kennicott, 4:45 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 25
Kennicott, 9:45 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 2
Kennicott, 5:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 6
Kennicott, 9 a.m.

Southbound

Monday, Nov. 21
Kennicott, 4 a.m.
Monday, Nov. 28
Kennicott, 9 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 5
Kennicott, 11 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 9
Kennicott, 4:45 p.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
Nov.17	07:57	12.4	07:45	11.7
Nov.18	08:47	13.5	08:52	12.4
Nov.19	09:27	14.7	09:46	13.3
Nov.20	10:04	15.9	10:34	14.2
Nov.21	10:39	17.0	11:19	15.0
Nov.22	11:14	17.9
Nov.23	00:02	15.5	11:50	18.5

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Nov.16	7:30a	3:37p	08:06h
Nov.17	7:32a	3:35p	08:02h
Nov.18	7:35a	3:33p	07:58h
Nov.19	7:37a	3:32p	07:55h
Nov.20	7:39a	3:30p	07:51h
Nov.21	7:41a	3:29p	07:48h
Nov.22	7:43a	3:27p	07:44h

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

BRAVE is hosting its fifth-annual Family Resilience Fair from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Nolan Center. Learn how your community can help your family. For more information, email BRAVE. Wrangell@gmail.com, or call 907-204-0530.

WRANGELL SCHOOL BOARD will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday via Zoom. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3teuGBG>. The meeting ID is 813 1673 0857 and the passcode is 375521. Community members can email comments to kpowell@wpsd.us, or can sign up under guests to be heard at the meeting by emailing the same address before 3:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. The agenda will be available online four days before the meeting at <https://www.boarddocs.com/ak/wrangell/Board.nsf>.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER is showing "Black Adam" rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; the action adventure fantasy film runs two hours and five minutes. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12.

12th ANNUAL TURKEY TROT on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24, at the covered basketball court, hosted by Parks and Recreation. Sign up at 8:45 a.m. and the fun run starts at 9 a.m. The 5K route is on the nature trail. Costumes encouraged. Door prizes and post-run snacks will be provided. \$10 suggested donation. For more information visit www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

DOVE TREE CEREMONY at 2 p.m. on Nov. 27 in the Nolan Center lobby. Hospice of Wrangell invites the public to a short service of reflection, reading of names of deceased loved ones, and putting doves on the dove tree to remain throughout the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE is coming to town, and trees will be accepted Nov. 26 and 28 at the Nolan Center. Each entry goes up for a silent auction to support Hospice of Wrangell. Be creative and beautify the Nolan Center lobby. For more information, call Alice Rooney 907-305-0007.

LIBRARY will be closed Monday through tentatively Nov. 28 for carpet replacement. Curbside service will be available. Call ahead and let them know what you need. 907-874-3535.

SALVATION ARMY Christmas food baskets and Angel tree sign-up is open and runs through Dec. 9. Sign up at the Salvation Army. Distribution day is Dec. 16. Call 907-874-3753 for more information.

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

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nov. 16, 1922

The PTA committee on playgrounds, appointed at the last meeting, reported visiting two tracts of land. One was the tract back of the residence of the Salvation Army captain near Church Street. It was stated that this land was flat enough and of sufficient size to afford an extensive playground. The second tract visited was adjoining the Presbyterian Church. While this section is ideal for residential property, the committee was of the opinion that it was not so suitable for a playground as the one near Church Street, since it would require a greater amount of clearing and grading and would not be so large. The report was accepted by the association and committee.

Nov. 14, 1947

Mayor Doris Barnes threw the switch at 2:10 p.m. yesterday to start the 450-horsepower motor at the light plant, the second and last to be installed and put into service at the city light plant this fall. Last week a 350-horsepower engine was put into service and is now supplying the town with power. Ralph Deveny, light plant superintendent, explained that he expected to save over half the payment of the 450-hp motor in diesel fuel consumed. He pointed out that it had been necessary to run two large motors at partial capacity to supply the town, but with the new 450-hp motor in operation, it could carry the load at present most of the time.

Nov. 13, 1997

Ten thousand pounds of live crab arrived in Westport, Washington, this June after a two-and-a-half-day ferry and highway trip from Wrangell. It was the inaugural trip for the dungeness crabs that traveled in Lynden Transport's special refrigerated trailer and tote system. It was the first time live crab has shipped from Alaska to the Lower 48 via highway. With several crab seasons in Southeast Alaska, including the fall season that began in October, Lynden plans to make four to six runs a week, depending on weather conditions. The new service, according to Keith Horton, Lynden's account manager, will give Southeast crabbers greater options for marketing their seasonal harvests. It also extends the use of Lynden's refrigerated trailer fleet, making the live crab runs a "win-win situation all around," Horton said. The key to Lynden's successful transport of the live cargo are the special, reusable fish totes it designed with an added air system. The totes are filled with crab and cold salt water, and a complex manifold piping system at the top of the trailer connects to a pump to carry air through flexible tubing to each tote. Fourteen totes neatly fit into one 28-foot-long refrigerated trailer.

Nov. 17, 1972

The Wrangell city council on Tuesday evening unanimously voted to designate Mayor Don House as the city's authorized representative to apply for and receive state and federal funds for its sewer construction program. City voters approved a \$750,000 bond issue in October to pay for the city's portion of a sewage collection and treatment system that was estimated to cost some \$4 million or more. Federal funding will amount to 75 percent of the total cost and the state's share of the project will add another 12.5 percent, the council was told.

WCA offers free Tlingit language classes for adults

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

On the second day of the Wrangell Cooperative Association's new Tlingit language program, instructor Virginia Oliver stood next to a whiteboard nearly twice her height, covered in Tlingit words and phrases, and introduced herself to her students. "Virginia you xat duwasáakw." My name is Virginia. "Wáasáiduwa sáakw?" What is your name?

She worked her way around the packed classroom, helping each student introduce themselves and rewarding correct pronunciation with an enthusiastic "yak ei!"

Oliver, who is Wrangell's only fluent speaker, has offered Tlingit classes to high school and middle school students since she and WCA councilmember Luella Knapp developed the program in 2016. The WCA's new classes, which are geared toward adult beginners and open to all community members, are the first of their kind in Wrangell.

The new program uses funds from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, a federal initiative that invested \$1.75 billion into Alaska Native and American Indian communities nationwide. The Administration for Native Americans distributed portions of this funding to tribal governments, including the WCA, through Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Emergency grants. These grants were designed to "ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American (and Alaska Native) languages," according to the organization's website.

Students can look forward to free lunches, storytelling from visiting elders and a culminating Tlingit bingo game, featuring "pretty significant prizes purchased from local stores to support our local businesses," said tribal administrator Esther Aaltséen Reese.

The grant funds one year of classes for 20 students. "We'll keep an eye out for additional funding to be able to continue the classes beyond a year," Reese said.

This program is one piece of the WCA's ongoing cultural revitalization effort. "The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the state of the Tlingit lan-

guage," Reese said. Elders were lost due to the pandemic, and "due to their passing, knowledge was lost." Most fluent speakers are elders in their 70s and 80s, making them particularly vulnerable to the virus, explained Oliver.

During class last Thursday, Oliver recalled a Tlingit speaker in Wrangell who had died during the pandemic. Elders like her should be treated "like gold," she said. "She is a library. When that library burns down, she is gone."

Oliver takes care to incorporate song, storytelling and other cultural knowledge into her classes. "If you're teaching the language, you have to teach about the culture," she said.

Reese also believes in the interconnectedness of language and culture. For her, learning Tlingit provides a connection to home. By studying the language, she is following the example of her grandfather, who was forced to speak English at boarding school but went on to become a professor of Tlingit. "Language is an integral part of our culture," she said. "For me, it feels really rewarding to be a part of bringing that back."

Sitting in class, listening to the language spoken aloud, she was reminded of her childhood home, where her mother would speak to her in a combination of English and Tlingit.

The language is classified as "critically endangered" by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. There are about 500 speakers in the United States and Canada, but less than 60 of them are fluent, according to reports from the Fairbanks-based Alaska Native Language Center.

But focusing only on the gravity and magnitude of the language revitalization project can distract from the parts of language learning that are beautiful, rewarding and fun. X'unei Lance Twitchell, a professor of Alaska Native languages at University of Alaska Southeast, encourages students not to get caught up in "dying language syndrome."

The prognosis for critically endangered languages is not fatal. Across the globe, communities have embarked on successful revitalization efforts using



Virginia Oliver instructs a Tlingit language class at the Wrangell Cooperative Association cultural center on Front Street last Thursday.

PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

techniques similar to those the WCA is employing. Native Hawaiians are establishing language-immersion preschools. The Cornish language, which was once fully extinct, now boasts around 500 speakers thanks to the Celtic Revival. The most famous example is Hebrew, which was spoken rarely and used primarily for religious purposes around 200 CE, according to a 1963 article by linguist Chaim Rabin. Today, it is spoken by 9 million people worldwide.

"Speak it everywhere you go," Twitchell wrote on his Tlingit language blog. "It does not matter if anyone else can understand you. It does not matter if you are making mistakes. What matters is you are trying and you are creating the language in your life."

Both Twitchell and Oliver acknowledge that learning Tlingit can be challenging.

There is no evidence to suggest that any language is objectively more difficult than any other — children always start speaking at around 12 to 18 months of age regardless of the language they're speaking in. But for people familiar with English, learning Tlingit means discovering roughly 30 new sounds, according to a 1993 article by Sealaska Heritage Foundation's Richard Dauenhauer. There are four different versions of the "k" sound,

for example, which can be glottalized, rounded or pinched in the mouth and throat to create a variety aural effects.

Another challenge students often face, Oliver explained, is the lack of immersion opportunities. "If you wanted to learn Mandarin Chinese, you could go to China," but because so few people are fluent in Tlingit, it can be difficult to practice conversation. "You need to find someone to talk to," she said. "A lot of the old elders, they talk to their pets."

Learning the language is "a full-time job if you're not born with it," said Oliver, but she knows that learning and teaching Tlingit is her calling.

"There are over 200 second language learners such as myself who are teaching wherever we can," she said. "If you give us a room to teach in, we will teach. We are charged to do it."

Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon in the Wrangell Cooperative Association's cultural center on Front Street. Lunch is provided. For enrollment information, contact WCA at 907-874-4303 or email receptionist.wca@gmail.com.

People who would like to learn but are not available during class times can visit tingitlanguage.com for resources like lesson plans, quizzes, recordings, vocabulary lists and more.

I Toowú Klatseen participants complete the program's final run

By CAROLEINE JAMES
Sentinel reporter

Last Thursday afternoon was dark and drizzly, but the children and parents of the I Toowú Klatseen running program braved the inauspicious weather to complete a 5K, demonstrating the program's values of physical and spiritual strength.

I Toowú Klatseen, which translates to "strengthen your spirit," is a 10-week afterschool running program that teaches children in the third to fifth grades about Tlingit values. The curriculum uses traditional stories, Tlingit language lessons and culturally relevant games to instill respect for land and community, while giving kids a healthy outlet for their pent-up school day energy.

Participants completed three laps around the nature trail for a total of 3.1 miles (5 kilometers). Program volunteers Kim Wickman, Marc Lutz and Tlingit language teacher Virginia Oliver also ran or walked the route to ensure that none of the young runners were hurt or lost.

After completing the run, Dima Aleksieva and Hailey Gablehouse cooled down in the evergreen elementary school gym. The girls displayed their I Toowú Klatseen medals, which were made out of carved wood. Each child who completed the route received a medal and T-shirt featuring the program logo.

The curriculum fostered "vitality needed" emotional and social learning, said Oliver. When they weren't running, singing or playing games, the students sat in a talking

circle, discussing respect, inner strength and community bonds. Koó.at latóow Kim — or Teacher Kim — would ask the group questions about their role models, or about times they helped a friend.

The original curriculum was the result of a collaboration between the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Juneau-based domestic violence and sexual assault shelter AWARE, and Southeast Roadrunners.

Kay Larson of BRAVE, a domestic violence prevention group whose name stands for Building Respect and Valuing Everyone, has watched the children's progress with pride. She was particularly impressed to see the young runners learn to pace themselves. During the first few sessions, many participants alternated between bursts of impressive speed and periods of walking or sitting. By the end, they understood the importance of a steady and sustainable pace. "They've learned some restraint," Larson said, smiling.

She has also appreciated the children's thoughtful contributions to the talking circle and their innovative spirits. "They add their own spins to every activity," she said. One of her fondest memories of I Toowú Klatseen is a moment early in the program, when she observed two runners who hadn't been getting along at school agree to be friends. She has also loved watching the volunteers interact with the kids. "One of the best parts for me has been watching Marc and Virginia and Kim work together as a

team of coaches," Larson said.

As a reward for their hard work, the young runners' last session was a party, complete with games, decorations, tasty food and the pièce de résistance — an evaluative survey. The results will be used to determine whether the program achieved its educational goals, BRAVE representative Maleah Nore explained in an earlier interview.

If program operators can demonstrate the effectiveness of their curriculum, it will be easier to obtain funding for future versions of I Toowú Klatseen. "Our hope is, if the program is successful, that groundwork will be laid," Nore said.

Whatever the outcome of the survey, Oliver plans to incorporate elements of the curriculum into her teaching and

possibly establish a regular anti-bullying circle using the I Toowú Klatseen model. She described the program as "a beacon for kids."

Of the nine total runners, six completed the final run on Thursday. The three who weren't able to attend will be given the opportunity to complete a make-up run at a later date.



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY NOW HIRING!

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

Some of the positions we are currently recruiting for are:

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

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

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

FerryAlaska.com/employment

FROM THE PUBLISHER

More to election numbers than just winners

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The numbers are not final — that will not happen until the last votes are tallied and ranked-choice tabulations kick in Nov. 23 — but it appears that incumbent elected officials representing Alaska, and Wrangell, will stay on the job for another term.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Rep. Mary Peltola, state Sen. Bert Stedman and state Rep. Dan Ortiz all appear headed toward re-election.

And while the outcomes are not surprising, what's interesting is to look at how Wrangell voted the same, or differently, than other precincts in Southeast and across the state. We may be one big state but we do not vote like one big happy family.

For example, Wrangell is solidifying its credentials as one of the more politically conservative precincts in the state. Not the most conservative — that distinction belongs to areas in the Matanuska Valley and Kenai Peninsula. But certainly more conservative than Petersburg, our closest neighbor by miles, and even Ketchikan, which is generally politically aligned with Wrangell.

Whereas as Wrangell voted 50% for Trump-endorsed Kelly Tshibaka in her race for U.S. Senate against Murkowski, the senator polled better than 50% in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Several Kenai Peninsula precincts went 70% to 80% for Tshibaka. She also ran up 70% vote totals in some Matanuska Valley precincts.

For governor, Wrangell went 56% for Dunleavy, nothing near the 70% range for some precincts in the Matanuska Valley and Kenai Peninsula. In Southeast, Dunleavy did better in Wrangell than most other precincts, though the governor did break 70% in Coffman Cove. Dunleavy was weakest in southern Southeast in Saxman and Metlakatla. His tally in Petersburg was 43%.

Sarah Palin, in her bid to serve in the U.S.

House, collected 40% of the vote in Wrangell, not far behind what the former governor collected in her hometown area of Wasilla. In all of Southeast, Palin only did better in Coffman Cove and Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales Island than in Wrangell.

Turnout in Wrangell, at 35% before all the absentee, early and mail-in ballots are counted, is close to the statewide average of 36%. The community did a lot better than a couple of Alaska precincts with chronic low voter turnouts.

The precincts encompassing military bases in Anchorage and Fairbanks came in among the very lowest voter turnouts in the state. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage recorded a 6.32% turnout among 7,612 registered voters. Eielson in Fairbanks recorded an 8.15% turnout among 2,234 registered voters.

“For governor, Wrangell went 56% for Dunleavy, nothing near the 70% range for some precincts in the Matanuska Valley and Kenai Peninsula. In Southeast, Dunleavy did better in Wrangell than most other precincts.”

The bases chronically have extremely low voter turnout. Partially, no doubt, because some service men and women are stationed overseas and find it hard to manage mail-in absentee voting. But probably the far larger reason for the embarrassingly anemic turnout is that many of those registered “voters” are signed up only as a proof of residency to continue receiving the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend even after they moved on to their next assignment.

State law allows military members who do not establish legal residency in another state to continue receiving the PFD after they transfer out of Alaska, as long as they maintain ties to the state. Thus, the voter registration. In 2020, the last year the numbers are available, the Permanent Fund Dividend Division reports several thousand military personnel and their families no longer living in Alaska received a PFD that year. Just one of the interesting statistics that shows up when you look over voter turnout. Some people read novels, I read voter statistics. Probably a sign that I need to develop another hobby.

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EDITORIAL

Building repairs did not go away after voters said no

The almost-four-decade-old Wrangell Public Safety Building still needs millions of dollars of repairs due to water damage, rot and aging equipment.

The fact that voters defeated a municipal bond issue last month to pay for those repairs doesn't in any way change the reality: The work is needed, and money is needed to pay for the work.

“This community has to have this, whether they believe it or not,” Assemblymember David Powell said during assembly discussion of possible next steps last week. “We can't be looking five years down the road at this project again.”

“I don't think a lot of people realized what was in that building and what we were going to lose,” he added.

In addition to the fire department, which is the most visible tenant from the street, the building houses the police, state court system, jail, state Division of Motor Vehicles and U.S. Customs and Border Protection offices.

“We just cannot afford to lose any of these services,” Mayor Patty Gilbert said during a call with Sentinel staff.

Nor can the borough afford to lose the state payments on space in the building, which reduce the overall operating cost to Wrangell taxpayers. The borough is budgeted to receive about \$527,000 this fiscal year in state payments for the jail and court space. Doing nothing and hoping the rot goes away on its own, that the roof and siding will regenerate itself, that the heating and ventilation system will hum back to a healthy life is not an option for the borough as the landlord and as a tenant.

The borough will look far and wide, up and down for any possible state or federal money to help with the estimated \$8.5 million repair bill. But the state is not as rich as it was earlier this year when oil prices were above \$120 a barrel, and there are no specific grants available for such mixed-use public safety buildings.

Depending on what money borough officials can find, all or part of the repair bill could very well come back to voters next year. Maybe less than \$8.5 million, if state or federal dollars come through to help out, but there's probably no way for the community to avoid paying part — if not all — of the cost.

The bond issue failed in the October municipal election by just 65 votes out of 583 ballots cast. The assembly did not campaign all that much in support of the ballot measure, though the members voted unanimously to put the question before voters. The law allows members to speak up and speak out on such issues, and the assembly's shyness about getting out in support of the bond issue may have cost some votes.

It's good to see the assembly speaking strongly now in support of efforts to find funding and not kick the rotten wood framing down the road any longer. We encourage the assembly to continue its aggressive support, even if it leads to asking voters a second time.

— Wrangell Sentinel

Community navigator

Continued from page 1

way to do it correctly.”

Meissner ran the federal Johnson O'Malley (JOM) education program in the early 2000s and she has a degree in education. After raising her children and holding a myriad of jobs, she realized she likes to be of service to others. Her naturally outgoing personality helps her to connect to tribal citizens, and it's not uncommon to see her approach people on the street at random and start a conversation.

“This is my dream job because I get to be out in the community,” she said. “I go to the post office and I might be there for an hour because I'm handing out cards and asking people, ‘Have you applied? Will you stop by my office and apply?’ It's just talking to them and seeing if they do need (help).”

Tribal citizens don't always know there are different programs and resources available to them, Meissner said. “Then you can say, ‘Hey, there's this

resource that might be of help to you.’ They can say no, they can say yes, but at least they're aware of it now.”

Thanks to Meissner's help, Aria LaChapelle, an in-home health care aide, was able to get her 3-year-old daughter Laylynn Crayne enrolled as a tribal citizen. LaChapelle was worried about losing her daughter's birth certificate if she had to send it into the Central Council office.

“My concern was sending out the original birth certificate,” LaChapelle said. “It was a lot easier to go through (Tammi) to verify them and she could just send a copy in.”

Meissner is able to certify birth certificates, “so I'm able to hand the original right back to them, which saves a lot of trouble.” She's also able to help members get their tribal identification cards by having citizens fill out a form. She then takes a photo of them, notarizes the form and sends in the paperwork.

Since June, Meissner said she has had 725 interactions

with tribal citizens, whether by in-person encounters, over the phone, or by having them stop by the office. Her efforts have also reduced the amount of foot traffic the Wrangell Cooperative Association has had.

“We are very happy that Tlingit & Haida hired a community liaison,” said Esther Reese, tribal administrator for WCA. “Prior to Tammi being hired, we had a lot of tribal citizens coming to our office for programs Tlingit & Haida would do. It's a great resource for our community.”

Reese said since Meissner is still relatively new to the program, many people don't know she is there to help, so Reese's office directs citizens to her when needed.

Dave Joseph used the community navigator services to apply for COVID-19 relief grants available to tribal citizens, but while he was in Meissner's office, she helped him update his ID card.

“She's a lot quicker than me on that kind of stuff,” Joseph said. “She also had some

programs there I didn't know about. I was in and out in about 45 minutes. Plus, her writing is a lot neater than mine. ... She's very helpful.”

Meissner admits that she only knows so much, but having a network of other community navigators to turn to makes a difference.

“The more individuals you have, the more knowledge you have,” she said. “I only know a little about a lot. Maybe somebody else knows more and I only know the name of a program. Maybe they've al-

ready done the program and they've already sent somebody through it. I can call them and have the information sent to me. I can have them connected with the tribal citizen. We work as a cohesive group.”

She's grateful to Central Council for making the community navigator program available again, and she looks forward to finding more answers to help others.

“It's just a joy to help our citizens in Wrangell,” Meissner said.

Policy for Letters to the Editor

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

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

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

Letters are run on a space-available basis.

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Public Safety Building

Continued from page 1

ad added in a written statement.

Mayor Gilbert suggested using a portion of the building for emergency preparedness and pursuing an emergency preparedness-related grant, but the building's functions are already too specialized to pursue that avenue, said Al-Haddad.

The borough has one shot at getting funding for the project — a grant and loan combination through the U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development program. The program provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, according to its website. Program recipients can receive a maximum of 75% grant and 25% loan funding, or a minimum of 15% grant and 85% loan funding, depending on the community size and median household income.

Borough officials are not yet certain what ratio of grants to loans Wrangell might be eligible to receive.

Based on Wrangell's size and income level, the loan portion of any funding it may receive would have 4% interest, with some possibility of forgiveness, Al-Haddad said.

The competitiveness of the program depends on how many communities apply in a given

year and how much federal money is available. If the borough receives funding, there is no guarantee that it will cover the entirety of the project cost.

Despite these challenges, the program represents the borough's best chance at getting the building repaired. "This is the most viable option," said Finance Director Mason Villarma.

To prepare a competitive application for the grant, the borough will need to invest approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 into an architectural feasibility report to submit to the USDA. The building has already undergone a condition assessment, but the information in the assessment will not be detailed enough to meet the stringent rural development program requirements.

Applying for the program will take "a lot of work," Al-Haddad said. "We really need to decide if this is the route we want to take before we spend the \$50,000 to \$60,000 to apply."

Emily Wright, the Juneau-based area administrator of the Alaska court system's Southeast district, assured Wrangell residents that the court system will not leave the community, though it may move to a new location. "We're working with the city and we're trying to make sure that the building

is safe for her (Sheri Ridgeway, deputy magistrate)."

Though Wright plans to give the borough time to seek funding and repair the building, the court system is considering alternative locations. "We want our jurors to be safe. We want our employees to be safe."

However, she acknowledged there is not much space available. Finding an appropriate space for the court "may be more challenging in Wrangell."

The court section of the building includes a clerk's office, storage room, judge's chambers and courtroom. "If we're going to have court here and we're going to do the things that are necessary for a courthouse, then we probably need the same amount of space we have now," said Ridgeway, who works in the Public Safety Building.

The court performs a wide range of functions that people "might not be aware of," she said, from issuing protective orders for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking to settling civil disputes and establishing guardianships for children or elders.

The rot inside the building's walls doesn't affect Ridgeway's day-to-day operations, but the facility's temperature regulation issues do. "There

are thermostats in here, but I'm not sure they actually do anything," she said.

The building's exterior windows "do not meet thermal performance criteria," according to a 2021 building assessment report, and the boiler and heating system are about 15 to 20 years past their median life expectancy in the 37-year-old building. The pneumatic controls for the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are "inoperable."

However, intense temperature fluctuations are not the facility's most pressing issues. The structure suffers from "significant water infiltration ... extensive rot and insect infestation of building structure, and severe deterioration of parapets and siding," according to the condition assessment. To repair the building, "we are taking the walls down," Al-Haddad said at the assembly meeting. "From the inside drywall to the outside siding ... It's basically rebuilding the structural integrity."

A project of repairs will be expensive, but still cheaper than a total rebuild. The borough is seeking around \$8.5 million to complete only the most pressing repairs — a new structure would cost over \$30 million.

At the Nov. 1 capital projects

forum, Borough Manager Jeff Good estimated that without intervention, the building has only "a couple of years" left before it becomes unsafe for employees. "The condition is pretty bad. We just can't find parts for the mechanical systems anymore."

Assemblymember Powell expressed concern that once the project is underway, new issues would be identified, increasing the project cost and putting an additional, unexpected burden on taxpayers.

Al-Haddad assured him that this would not occur, since the planned repairs will address the building's entire exterior structure and the project cost includes a built-in contingency. "What is found will be addressed," she said.

Community members have expressed dismay that the building was allowed to reach this state of disrepair. However, many of the building's issues are due not to borough negligence but to poor design. The flat portions of the roof do not hold up well in rain-forest conditions and the roof's internal drains have failed, causing water to leak into the walls.

"We can't be looking five years down the road at this project again," said Powell. "This community has to have this, whether they believe it or not."

Ethel Lund

Continued from page 1

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed Lund to the President's Commission on Mental Health. She traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, to speak about Alaska health needs at the World Health Organization's International Symposium on Circumpolar Health.

But to her friends and family, Lund was far more than the sum of her sub-

stantial accomplishments. Janet Bunes, who worked with Lund at the former Wrangell Medical Center, recalls her "kind and caring attitude."

"She was a wonderful worker and a wonderful person to be around," Bunes added.

Ethel Dando, manager at Wrangell Senior Apartments and Lund's goddaughter, knew Lund as the "Big Ethel" to her "Little Ethel." When Dando was growing

up, "Big Ethel" was a warm, funny presence who would visit Dando's mother's home for potlucks and singing.

"She was the nicest," said Dando. "Always had great hugs. Always just had a special place for me and my kids." She didn't realize until later in her life how significant Lund's impact had been, not just on her life but on the entire state.

"I was just a little kid," she said. Though she wasn't aware of it at the time, she is

"sure my mom and (Lund) were doing important stuff" at those dinners.

Looking back, Dando is impressed by Lund's strength. "Back in the '70s, for a woman to have done all of that, especially a Native woman, she had to have been a really strong, outgoing, determined person with great vision."

"She will be really missed," Dando added. "We all knew this time was coming, but it still ends up being a shock."

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Business owner brings creative approach to making products in Wrangell

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

One of the projects that Marina Backman is most proud of is a tumbler that looks like it's wrapped in the universe. It's indicative of her creative process and her business.

Since opening Made in Wrangell, a design studio specializing in signs and other artistic projects, Backman has created mixed-media and vinyl signs for other businesses in town. Her ultimate goal is to be a full-service printshop.

Backman currently works out of a small studio attached to a hangar at the airport, and she has the ability to make items like mugs and T-shirts with photographic-quality prints applied to them. She recently added a laser engraver that gives her the ability to etch on wood, metal and plexiglass.

When it comes to the creative process, Backman gathers as much information as she can and tries to keep her approach simple.

"I try to find out as much about what they're (the client) is doing as I can," she said. "I try to remind myself all the time to keep it simple. Sometimes, I'm just told, 'Do whatever.'"

Like most artists, the ideas can come quickly or sometimes it takes a while. In the case of creating the door sign for Sweet Tides bakery, Backman had some trial and error to the process. The sign, which displays the bakery's logo and shop hours, is polished wood coated in resin with vinyl art and lettering adhered to the face.

"Part of it was being too cold out in the hangar, but I needed the room (to work on the project)," she said. "I redid the



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Marina Backman holds up a shirt she created in her Made in Wrangell studio. Backman creates custom shirts, mugs and signs, and works with a multitude of media such as wood, metal, resin, plastic and fabrics.

board a couple of times. I thought that I would put the vinyl on and then the resin over the vinyl so that everything would be sealed in. The resin lifted the adhesive on the vinyl, so that was another restart."

Backman ended up applying the vinyl on top of the resin. It's weather resistant and lasts for about five or six years.

Sweet Tides' owners Shawna Bunes and Devyn Johnson originally had Backman make a vinyl version of their logo that was applied to the door, but they needed something with the shop hours, so they employed her for reimagined sign. "She's so detailed. She wants her cus-

tomers to be happy, obviously, she puts so much thought into that," Johnson said. "She's just great."

Bunes said the fact that Backman is her mother played a role in why they chose her to do the work, but it's Backman's attention to detail and the services she offers that clinched the decision to hire her. "She has a very high standard when it comes to product quality," Bunes said.

Since starting Made in Wrangell, Backman has also created signs for Taylor Transportation and a newly opened business, River's Mouth Trading Company, which is located in the space previously

occupied by GCI.

Backman has been working with wood and resin since her 10th-grade shop class in 1976 when she created her first piece.

"My maiden name is Chavaud, it's French," she said. "I took a piece of wood and I routed out 'The Chavaud Chateau' in probably quarter-inch-thick letters. Then I filled it with green resin, then sanded it down and stained it. It hung on our family home for a long time. I think my sister still has it."

The tumbler Backman created started with a form of drip painting. Using water-based acrylic paints, she poured various colors onto Saran Wrap that was applied to a board. She tilted the board in various directions, causing it to swirl and drip. The painting was allowed to dry and then peeled off the plastic wrap. She then adhered it to a beverage tumbler and coated it in resin.

Another project Backman enjoyed creating is a backlit bear box. She etched out a graphic design of a bear in plexiglass. It serves as the face of a box with a light inside. When turned on, the bear design is illuminated in a purple hue.

"I really enjoyed making that lamp and I'm going to modify that design to make more, more easily," Backman said. "You can just make such cool stuff (with the engraver)."

The creative process is not always the easiest thing to live with, Backman admits.

"The problem is, I'm only allotted 24 hours a day and I'm supposed to sleep for some of that," she said with a laugh.

Even though Backman doesn't have her own sign up yet, she can be reached at 360-303-6694.

Southeast pink salmon 2023 forecast at 'significant drop' from the parent year

Ketchikan Daily News
and Wrangell Sentinel

State and federal fishery managers are forecasting a commercial harvest of about 19 million pink salmon in 2023 in Southeast Alaska, which would be a "significant drop" from the parent-year

harvest of 48.5 million pinks in 2021, according to last week's announcement from the federal NOAA Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

A 19-million fish harvest would be at the high end of the "weak" range (11 million to 19 million fish), according to the announce-

ment, which added that a harvest of that size would be only about 39% of the average harvest (49 million pinks) during the past 10 odd-numbered years.

The announcement notes that a streak of cold weather during the winter of 2021-22 in Southeast might be a factor in one aspect of the information used to develop the lower forecast.

A significant factor in the forecast is data obtained by trawl surveys of juvenile pink salmon conducted jointly by Fish and Game and NOAA Fisheries in June and July in the Icy Straits and upper Chatham Strait area of northern Southeast. The trawl survey results correlate strongly to the harvest of adult pink salmon in the region during the following years, according to the announcement.

"Determining the exact reasons for these patterns and the exact process by which environmental conditions are impacting salmon runs is extremely complicated

and likely varies tremendously for individual salmon stocks even within the same year," said Andy Piston, Southeast pink and chum salmon leader for Fish and Game.

Piston said it's normal for population numbers to fluctuate depending on the variety of conditions the fish encounter from egg to open ocean. "The more extreme conditions are, the more likely they will influence a good portion of salmon stocks in the region and that can either be environmental conditions that either promote high survival rates or low survival rates."

The abundance index developed from the trawl surveys in 2022 was the second lowest for an even-year in 26 years of such surveys, according to the announcement.

That was a surprise. "The low juvenile abundance index in 2022 was unexpected, given generally robust escapements in most of the region in

2021," stated the announcement.

The announcement said temperature has been a "significant negative covariate" in the forecast model — and that the "most notable environmental event potentially related to brood year 2021 juvenile salmon survival was a record-setting and extended cold snap that encompassed Southeast Alaska from early December 2021 through early January 2022."

Temperatures in the Ketchikan area, for example, had lows recorded below freezing from Dec. 2 through Jan. 10, with new record low temperatures recorded in December, according to the announcement. Juneau, too, had lows in the single digits or teens for all but one day from Dec. 12 to Jan. 9.

"It is possible that this extended period of freezing temperatures in early winter negatively impacted developing embryos, but we do not know for certain what caused the low juvenile abundance in the 2022 survey," the announcement stated. "Juvenile pink salmon caught in 2022 survey trawls were near average in size (in length) for the 26-year time series and further growth and survival will depend on favorable resources in the Gulf of Alaska."

In 2022, commercial fishermen landed about 17.55 million pink salmon in Southeast, according to Fish and Game statistics. The pre-season point estimate forecast for 2022 was 16 million fish, within a range of 10 million to 24 million fish.

The 2021 harvest of 48.5 million pink salmon was markedly higher than the point estimate forecast of 28 million fish (within a range of 19 million to 42 million fish, while the 2020 catch of about 7.97 million pinks was below the point estimate forecast of 12 million fish (within a range of 7 million to 19 million fish).

"In a typical year for each species in Southeast Alaska, some stocks will do well, others will be average, while others do poorly," Piston said. "Even in outstanding years, like 2013 for pink salmon (90 million), a few stocks will do poorly and even in poor years, like 2020 for pink salmon (8.1 million harvest) some stocks will do well."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Volleyball team nets No. 1 seed for regionals Wrestlers take down the competition in Ketchikan

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Volleyball

The Wrangell High School girls volleyball team left on Wednesday for the Southeast regionals in Klawock, having earned the No. 1 seed.

The squad beat every team in four days of competition Nov. 5-8 in Skagway, winning 18 out of 20 sets, to win the No. 1 seed going into regionals. The Lady Wolves were supposed to travel to Petersburg last weekend to compete but the trip was canceled due to students being ill, said head coach Alyssa Allen.

Wrangell played Metlakatla and Petersburg in its final two matches in Skagway, besting both teams. The total scores from the tournament are:

Versus Haines: 25-17 (Wrangell), 25-16 (Wrangell)

and 25-12 (Wrangell).
Versus Skagway: 25-19 (Wrangell), 25-8 (Wrangell) and 25-9 (Wrangell).

Versus Klawock: 25-18 (Wrangell), 25-19 (Wrangell), 22-25 (Klawock) and 25-16 (Wrangell).

Versus Craig: 25-19 (Wrangell), 25-22 (Wrangell) and 25-20 (Wrangell).

Versus Metlakatla: 25-8 (Wrangell), 28-26 (Wrangell) and 25-20 (Wrangell).

Versus Petersburg: 26-24 (Wrangell), 25-17 (Petersburg), 25-13 (Wrangell) and 25-22 (Wrangell).

Wrestling

The Wrangell wrestling team competed last weekend in the Bill Weiss Tournament in Ketchikan, bringing home three first-place wins.

Ethan Blatchley pinned Jackson Long of Haines High School in 1:18 to win first place in the 189-pound weight class, continuing his winning streak. Vanessa Johnson turned in a second consecutive first-place win after her win in Anchorage. In Ketchikan, Lexi Cook of Metlakatla High forfeited in the 165-pound weight class for the girls division, giving Johnson the win.

Freshman Ben Houser competed for the first time in Ketchikan, taking home first place in the 119-pound weight class B Division. In the first round, Houser pinned Jack Styles of Ketchikan High School in 36 seconds. He then went on to pin Loyal Tormey of Haines High School in 3:27. Finally, Houser pinned Danny Koney of Hydaburg in 3:09.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK CARNEY

Ethan Blatchley, in red, counters a move made his opponent at the Bill Weiss Tournament in Ketchikan last weekend.

Della Churchill won second place in the girls 114-pound weight class, while Elias Decker and Devlyn Campbell both placed third in the 140-pound and 125-pound weight classes, respectively. Jackson Powers won fourth in the 130-pound weight class and Boomchain

Loucks won fifth place in the 112-pound weight class.

The tournament drew more than 110 wrestlers from 11 schools around Southeast.

The Wolves are scheduled to compete against the Petersburg Vikings in Wrangell this weekend.

Turkey trotters have annual chance to gobble up the fun, dress in themed costumes

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

It's becoming a tradition in communities across the United States, and Wrangell is no exception.

Every Thanksgiving Day morning, several hundred thousand walkers and runners across the country brave cold temperatures to race in turkey trots, foot-races to help burn lots of calories before lots of calories are consumed.

The amount of people can vary. The Buffalo, New York, turkey trot averages about 14,000 participants a year. Run to Feed the Hungry in Sacramento, California, attracts 27,000 per year on average. Not quite as many as that turnout for the Wrangell trot.

"Typically, we see anywhere from 50 to 70 walkers and runners," said Lucy Robinson of the Parks and Recreation Department. "Most people who show up run or walk the activity. With the colder temps, folks aren't keen on standing around, waiting to cheer participants



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Runners dressed in costumes of all kinds take off from the starting line at a past Turkey Trot. This year's trot will begin in the same location between the covered basketball court and the elementary school and circle the Nature Trail three times on Thanksgiving Day.

The 12th annual Turkey Trot in Wrangell will start at 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, at the Volunteer Park Nature Trail. Signups begin at 8:45 a.m. at the covered basketball court be-

hind Evergreen Elementary School. The 5-kilometer (3.1 miles) race course is a three-times loop of the Nature Trail. Though there isn't an entry fee, a donation of \$10 is suggested.

Costumes are encouraged by race or-

ganizers to increase the fun. But don't worry if you don't have a turkey suit hanging in your closet for such an occasion.

"We have two totes full of onesie animal/creature-themed costumes," Robinson said. "We also have several turkey costumes and Thanksgiving-themed accessories to lend out."

Along with the satisfaction of knowing they can now safely eat stuffing until they're stuffed, runners will also be able to win door prizes.

"Angerman's supports this annual run by donating a pair of XtraTufs (as a prize)," Robinson said. "Wrangell Parks and Recreation will give away a one-month pass for an adult and child. We also request homemade pies for door prize options."

Robinson added, "The pies and the Tufs are always a favorite." Post-run snacks are also provided by the Parks and Recreation advisory board members.

Tickets to community production of 'Sound of Music' at Nolan Center available online

Sentinel Staff

World-renowned show-tunes and brightly colored costumes, cute children dancing and Austrians romancing — if these are a few of your favorite things, then the Nolan Center's upcoming production of "The Sound of Music" might be the perfect way to spend your weekend.

Director Tom Jenkins praised the cast and crew for the "tremendous effort" they have put into the show over the past few months. The child actors, in particular, have impressed him with their "great memories" and their ability to nail

complex singing and dancing numbers like "Do-Re-Mi."

"I think we have a great show," he said. "And I hope the community supports it so in the future there can be more shows."

There will be an evening performance on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m., and a matinee on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.

Though the film version of the musical clocks in at a whopping three hours, the shortened theatrical version that the Nolan Center is using runs for about 90 minutes.

Each performance has a seating capacity of 230 and tickets are already selling quick. An

hour after Nolan Center Director Cyni Crary posted the event on Facebook, 13 tickets had already sold.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sound-of-music-tickets-465425529287>.

Because of strict licensing contracts for community theater, the show will likely not be available for streaming. How-

ever, Crary plans to reach out to the licensor to determine whether they are willing to be flexible. She will keep the community updated on the streaming status of the show via Facebook.

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Dunleavy, Tshibaka, Palin receive most votes in Wrangell

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell voters cast their ballots to reelect Gov. Mike Dunleavy and to toss out congressional incumbents Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Mary Peltola.

While a majority of Alaskans also voted for Dunleavy, though by a slightly smaller margin than in Wrangell, the statewide count gives Murkowski and Peltola solid odds to re-election.

The Alaska Division of Elections will announce final vote counts and ranked-choice voting results on Nov. 23.

Statewide, as of Monday, Dunleavy was ahead of challengers former Anchorage Democratic state Rep. Les Gara and former Gov. Bill Walker, with 52.06% of the vote against 23.07% for Gara and 20.10% for Walker. Dunleavy will win outright if he holds more than 50% in the final count next week.

Wrangell went 56.26% for Dunleavy, 21.5% for Walker and 14.43% for Gara.

Former Kenai Peninsula Borough Charlie Pierce garnered 7.81% of the vote in Wrangell, significantly higher than the 4.55% he tallied statewide. Pierce, who

resigned as mayor under pressure earlier this fall, faces a sexual harassment lawsuit from a former borough employee — the third harassment complaint against him during his time in office.

Pierce and Dunleavy both campaigned for larger Alaska Permanent Fund dividends.

In the race for U.S. Senate, Wrangell voted 50.3% for Republican challenger Kelly Tshibaka against 39.63% for Murkowski, who attended school here in the mid-1960s when her father, Frank Murkowski, managed a bank branch in town.

The Democrat in the U.S. Senate race, Pat Chesbro, placed a distant third in Wrangell, at 4.42%.

Statewide, Tshibaka held a small lead over Murkowski as of Monday, according to the Division of Elections, 44.22% to 42.84%, with more than 35,000 absentee, mail-in, early and questioned ballots still to count. The winner will be determined on Nov. 23, when the elections division removes the third-place finisher, the Democrat, from the total, assigning those ballots to voters' second choice. Murkowski is expected to receive far more of those second-choice ballots than Tshibaka, like-

ly giving her the victory at more than 50%.

In the race for U.S. House, Democratic incumbent Mary Peltola did much better statewide than in Wrangell. She received 47.26% of the vote statewide to 33.28% in Wrangell.

Voters here picked former Republican Gov. Sarah Palin as their top choice, with 40.03% of ballots. Palin did much worse in the statewide count at 26.57%. Third place statewide went to Republican Nick Begich, at 24.19%, similar to the 25.49% he received in Wrangell.

Under the state's ranked-choice system, if Peltola does not pass 50% when the last votes are counted, the fourth-place finisher, Libertarian Chris Bye, will be dropped from the count, as will Begich, with ballots for those two candidates assigned to voters' second choice, setting up a one-on-one count between Palin and Peltola. It will only take a small number of Begich voters who selected Peltola as their second choice, or who selected no one as a second pick, to give the victory to Peltola.

Wrangell, along with the North Tongass precinct in Ketchikan and the Coffman Cove precinct on Prince of Wales Is-

land were the three biggest supporters of Tshibaka and Palin of the 10 precincts in House District 1. Dunleavy also received his biggest support in the district from those same three precincts.

In the races for state Legislature, the two incumbents representing Wrangell were ahead as of Monday and appeared headed to re-election.

State Rep. Dan Ortiz, a four-term incumbent from Ketchikan, was ahead of challenger Republican Jeremy Bynum, also of Ketchikan, 2,866 to 2,679, a lead of 187 votes with an unknown number of absentee, mail-in and questioned ballots still to count. Though the still-to-count ballots likely total several hundred, it would take a strong reversal of the in-person balloting results for Bynum to overtake Ortiz.

In Wrangell, Bynum outpolled Ortiz, an independent, 364 to 309.

Sen. Bert Stedman is the winner in the state Senate district that includes Wrangell. The Sitka Republican had 3,585 votes, 70%, as of Monday versus challenger Mike Sheldon, of Petersburg, also a Republican, with 1,482, or 29%.

Alaska attorney general listed as director of political advocacy group

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Fairbanks Democratic Sen. Scott Kawasaki does not live in his mother's basement.

She doesn't even have one.

And yet, in the final days of his closely fought re-election

race against Republican Jim Matherly, Kawasaki had to defend himself and answer questions from constituents who read satirical ads sent through the mail by a group called Alaska Policy Partners Inc., which lists Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor

among its founding directors.

Alaskans' mailboxes were flooded with mailers as campaigns typically send their sharpest attack ads immediately before Election Day, but the ones by Alaska Policy Partners stood out and caused candidates to defend themselves.

The one targeting Kawasaki featured a digitally altered image of him, showing him sitting on a stuffed chair, accompanied by a bowl of potato chips and a TV remote. Alongside the image is a caption that includes the phrase "choosing to live in his mother's basement."

"This is like a full-out, I think, malicious lie," Kawasaki said. "And it's at the last minute, so I have no way to respond to it."

Kawasaki expected a close race against Matherly, and said, "if I have even one question from a person who, I believe, is fairly knowledgeable about politics, who asks me, 'Do you really live in your mom's basement?' ... I think it does have

an impact. It's not a positive impact, that's for sure."

As of Monday, Kawasaki was ahead of Matherly 3,507 to 3,124, with another week to go before the last of the early and absentee votes are counted.

In addition to the ones targeting Kawasaki, the political group sent mailers describing incumbent Fairbanks Democratic Rep. Grier Hopkins as a "puppet."

Campaign finance records show Alaska Policy Partners, funded by a variety of donors, spent more than \$110,000 on advertising in a handful of close-fought state House and Senate races.

The group's leadership is unclear. Jesse Sumner, a Republican candidate for state House in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, is listed as its president of the board but said he is no longer with the group.

Trevor Jepsen, listed as a contact for Alaska Policy Partners, said he left the organization nine months ago and at

that time, Jodi Taylor, the wife of Attorney General Taylor, was in charge. A document filed Oct. 20 with the state's licensing division does not list Jodi Taylor as a director of the organization. It does list Treg Taylor as a director. A record filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission on Nov. 1 lists Jodi Taylor as a director but not Treg Taylor.

Taylor and his wife are each listed as "director" in the group's founding documents. Neither responded to requests for comment about their roles.

The group paid Massey Political Consulting, a Utah firm, for its advertising.

Alaska Policy Partners Inc. was incorporated in 2021 as a nonprofit that could engage in political campaigns as long as it isn't the organization's primary activity.

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Dunleavy headed to re-election win as governor

By ANDREW KITCHENMAN
Alaska Beacon

Gov. Mike Dunleavy appears on pace for re-election to a second four-year term, based on preliminary numbers from last week's election.

Dunleavy, a Republican, held a substantial lead over challengers Democrat Les Gara, independent Bill Walker and Republican Charlie Pierce, taking 52% of the 217,769 first-choice votes counted after the Nov. 8 statewide election.

That tally was as of Monday this week, with updated numbers expected this week as more absentee, mail-in and questioned ballots are counted.

If Dunleavy's vote share stays above 50% by the final count on Nov. 23, he will win the election outright without going through Alaska's new ranked-choice counting process.

Gara and Walker had less than half as many votes as Dunleavy as last week, with Gara at 23.1%, Walker at 20.1% and Pierce at 4.6%.

Wrangell voted 56% for Dunleavy.

The election capped a tumultuous term for Dunleavy,

who is seeking to become the first Alaska governor to be re-elected since Democrat Tony Knowles in 1998.

Dunleavy's campaign has been boosted by the tailwind of high oil prices, which allowed the first state budget surplus in 10 years and a \$3,284 payout to eligible Alaskans this fall. The combined Permanent Fund dividend and energy relief payment was the largest in state history, without adjusting for inflation.

Gara and Walker have argued that similar surpluses in the past have not lasted. In their campaigns, they said that when oil prices fall, Dunleavy will revert to either the deep cuts to state services that he proposed in his first budget in 2019 or call for unsustainable draws from the Alaska Permanent Fund, the oil-wealth savings account that lawmakers have hoped would help sustain the state in perpetuity.

Dunleavy's proposed 2019 budget cuts prompted a campaign to recall him from office — abandoned during the pandemic that shut down the 2020 petition signature drive — and he has not returned to those same stark proposals.

During his campaign, Gara pledged to balance the state budget and strengthen state services by increasing the amounts oil companies pay in taxes. Walker talked about

striking a balance that would avert deep cuts or taxes. He said he wants to finish the deficit-cutting work he started when he served as governor from 2014 to 2018.

Along with Knowles, the only other Alaska governors to serve two consecutive full terms were Democrat Bill Egan and Republican Jay Hammond.

Thousands of absentee and early votes remain to be counted, but even if Dunleavy finishes below 50% among first-choice ballots, he remains likely to win outright.

Republican Charlie Pierce is running fourth in the race and would be eliminated first if ranked-choice sorting takes place. Many of Pierce's voters likely picked Dunleavy as a second option.

Pierce ran to Dunleavy's right, but struggled to gain traction. He is accused of sexually harassing a former executive assistant when he served as Kenai Borough Peninsula mayor — the third harassment complaint lodged against Pierce during his time as mayor.

The Alaska Beacon is an independent, donor-funded news organization. alaskabeacon.com.

Republicans win more seats, but may not control Alaska Legislature

By JAMES BROOKS
Alaska Beacon

Republicans almost certainly will win a majority of the 60 seats in the Alaska Legislature after the Nov. 8 election results are certified later this month.

But whether they will control the state House and Senate will come down to which Republicans win.

This year, as has been the case for much of the past decade, the party's candidates are split. There are many differences, but they tend to fall into two groups:

One group eschew compromise as they pursue conservative positions on social issues and seek a Permanent Fund dividend larger than any in recent years. Many in the group generally oppose sharing a coalition with Democrats.

Members of the second group say working with Democrats and independents is essential to improve the state. They support limits on spending from the Permanent Fund, low (or no) taxes, and maintaining or growing spending on services and construction, even if it causes a smaller dividend.

"There's always been moderates within the Republican ranks who want to just work and move forward," said Sen. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks. "And then there's been sort of the ultra-conservative wing that has sort of a blood oath before they come down (to Juneau)."

Speaker of the House Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak, sees it more simply: "Well, you've either got your moderate Republicans, or you've got your far-right Republicans. It's just pretty simple."

For the past several years, the divide has been particularly significant, affecting who controls the House and Senate.

Since 2017, the state House has been controlled by a coalition that includes Democrats, independents and some moderate Republicans.

Republicans won a majority of the House in 2018 and 2020 but failed both times to coalesce into a majority. After a month of impasse, in both 2019 and 2021, a handful of Republicans joined independents and Democrats to continue the coalition.

This time around, the path will be harder. One of the two House coalition Republicans, Eagle River Rep. Kelly Merrick, is moving to the Senate and will almost certainly be replaced by Jamie Allard, an adamant supporter of a Re-

publican-led majority.

After Election Day, Republican candidates led in 21 of the House's 40 races, and they have the potential to gain more leads as additional votes are counted and ranked-choice races are sorted. Final election results are expected Nov. 23.

Will Stapp is a Republican from Fairbanks and the winner — based on Election Day results — of the race to replace retiring Republican Rep. Steve Thompson. "I would probably say that it appears to most people that I have talked to that you might be looking at a coalition in the Senate, and probably a Republican majority of 23-ish in the House,"

Stapp said. "That would be my guess."

The results of the 2018 and 2020 elections created a leadership deadlock in the House as Republicans repeatedly attempted and failed to create a majority caucus. They were divided over mostly fiscal and political issues.

Those deadlocks lasted a month into the opening legislative session and ended only when some Republicans joined the predominantly Democratic coalition.

This time around, candidates say that if Republicans hold only a narrow majority in the House, internal divides could create another deadlock in early 2023.

It isn't yet clear whether that will happen, and could depend on final vote totals in a week.

The situation in the Senate is more clear-cut, in part because most races have definitive winners. As of Monday, Democrats lead in nine of the Senate's 20 seats. If those leads hold up, the party would gain two seats from the pre-election standings.

That leaves Republicans with 11 seats, the narrowest

possible majority, but for the past several years, Senate Republicans have been divided by budgetary issues, and the Senate has passed a budget only because Democrats voted in favor of a document crafted by moderate Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee.

"We've kind of seen the party structure, to some extent, break down around here," said Sen. Robert Myers,

Continued on page 11

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Tshibaka says election might come down to 'recounts and lawsuits'

By IRIS SAMUELS
Anchorage Daily News

In the days following last Tuesday's election, U.S. Senate candidate Kelly Tshibaka joined other Trump-endorsed Republican candidates around the country casting unfounded doubt on election results, despite the fact that Alaska election officials are still counting thousands of absentee ballots and have not reported widespread problems in voting.

"Our war is not over yet," Tshibaka said last Wednesday in a podcast interview with Steve Bannon, who previously advised then-President Donald Trump.

"This might come down to things like recounts and lawsuits," Tshibaka told Bannon, who was indicted for contempt of Congress for refusing to testify about the Jan. 6, 2021, riots, and was indicted in New York state for dishonesty in fundraising efforts to build a border wall. "We're anticipating a whole bunch of shenanigans here in these next couple months between now and January," said Tshibaka, who asked for additional campaign contributions, which could go toward funding an election recount.

Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer, a 30-year Republican elected public

Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer, charged with overseeing the Alaska Division of Elections, said in a statement Thursday that the election had been secure, and no problems had been identified by voting officials.

official charged with overseeing the Alaska Division of Elections, said in a statement Thursday that the election had been secure, and no problems had been identified by voting officials.

The latest results in the U.S. Senate race show Tshibaka narrowly ahead of Republican incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski in first-choice votes, but thousands of absentee ballots remain to be counted and ranked-choice voting tabulation will likely put Murkowski ahead.

As of Monday afternoon, Tshibaka had 44.22% of votes while Murkowski had nearly 42.84%, trailing Tshibaka by less than 3,000 first-choice votes. Democrat Pat Chesbro had more than 9% of the vote, and many of her supporters were expected to rank Murkowski second. Buzz Kelley, a Republican who dropped out of the race and endorsed Tshibaka but whose name remained on the

ballot, had less than 3% of first-choice votes counted so far.

Under Alaska's ranked choice voting system, if no candidate reaches the 50% threshold needed to win, the last-place candidate is eliminated and their votes redistributed to the remaining candidates according to their next-choice preferences. That process repeats itself until a candidate crosses the 50% threshold.

Election officials are expected to continue counting absentee and overseas ballots in the coming days, and Murkowski allies say that could put her ahead of Tshibaka in first-choice votes. Murkowski — who has relied on a coalition of support from both the left, center and right — is far more likely to benefit from the ranked choice voting tabulation than her more conservative Republican opponent. Alaska's new voting system was designed and advocated for by

Murkowski's allies; it was implemented after voters narrowly approved it by ballot measure in 2020.

Ranked-choice voting tabulation is scheduled to take place on Nov. 23 at 4 p.m. after all ballots are received and counted by election officials. Results won't be final until then.

Election officials said last Thursday that they had not found reason to question the results of the election. The Division of Elections reported that they had not heard of any official requests for a recount.

If such a request is submitted, a recount would include a hand-count verification of first-choice results from one voting precinct per house district. Election contests must be submitted 10 days after result certification. The target date for the state board of elections to certify results is Nov. 29.

"If there are challenges to the election and we have to go into disputes or recounts or litigation, it will take longer," Tshibaka told Bannon. "We're anticipating and bracing for that. We know that we've got all the way until January before they need to swear someone in, so the timeframe could drag out until then."

In a written statement on Thursday, Meyer thanked election workers "who gave their time, effort and energy to conduct a smooth, proper, and by all accounts secure election this past Tuesday."

Tshibaka campaign advisers Mary Ann Pruitt and Tim Murtaugh did not respond to phone calls and texts seeking clarification on Tshibaka's intention to challenge election results.

Asked at a rally five days before Election Day if she had any reason to question the integrity of Alaska's election system, Tshibaka did not indicate she had reason to distrust it.

Vote tallies

Continued from page 1

Though Peltola could reach the 50% threshold to win the election outright if she takes a large majority of those remaining ballots, it's more likely the election will be decided by the ranked-choice calculation based on voters' second choices. Peltola would win if only a small percentage of third-place finisher Palin's voters picked her as their second choice, pushing her above 50%.

The ranked-choice voting system has made it an unusual race, Begich said on election day. "This is the wildest election in Alaska state history. If anyone says they expected this election to go as it went, they'd be lying to you," he said.

Former governor and Republican vice presidential candidate Palin, who lost to Peltola in the August special election, continued her criticism of the ranked-choice system on election day. It is "convoluted and complicated," she said.

"Get rid of ranked-choice voting. It should be one man, one vote," Palin said.

Despite the wait for final results, Murkowski said she felt good about her re-election prospects.

She was also optimistic about what she said is a positive example that Alaska, with its new ranked-choice voting system and its history of cross-party coalitions, is setting for the nation.

"I hope that others are looking at what Alaska has just gone through, what we're finishing up now, with a recognition that things do not have to be so polarized," said the senator, who supported Peltola, a longtime friend and ally. "I'm hoping that Alaska once again opens the eyes of people around the country about, perhaps, a better process."

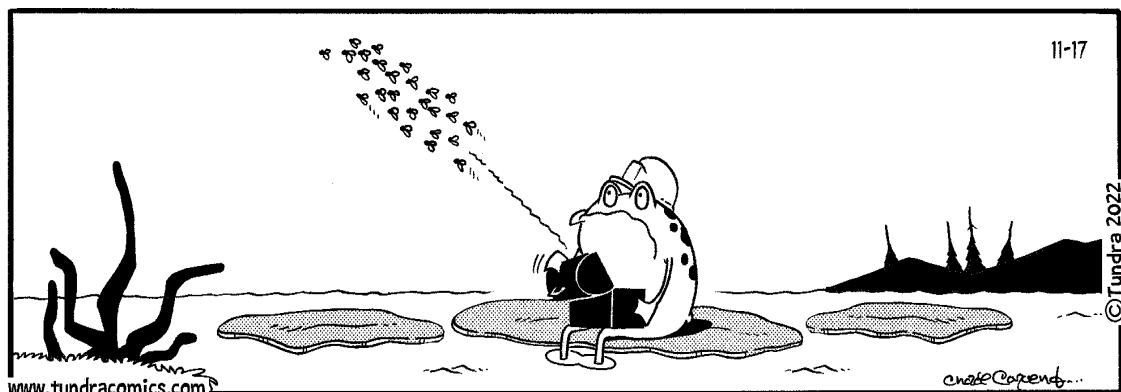
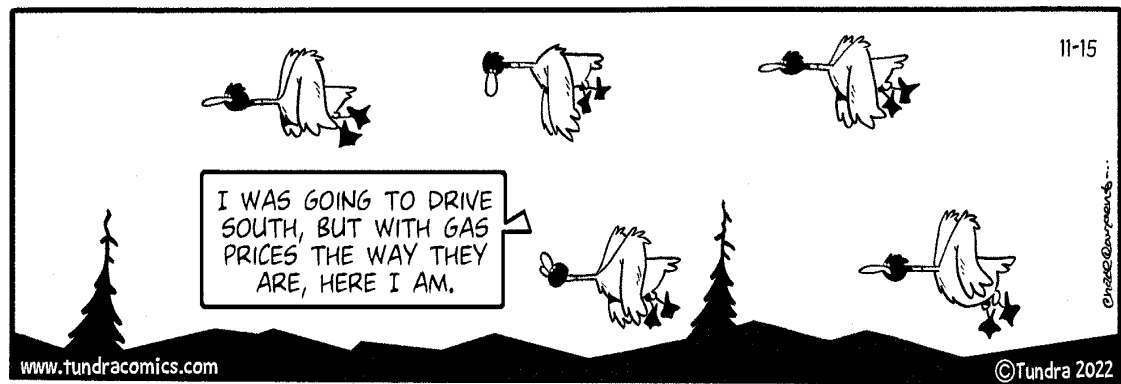
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Police report

Monday, Nov. 7
Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
Vehicle unlock.
Summons service.
Paper service.

Tuesday, Nov. 8
Theft.

Wednesday, Nov. 9
Traffic stop: Citation issued for failure to stop at stop sign.
Parking complaint: Vehicle parked in school bus loading zone.

Thursday, Nov. 10
Parking complaint: Citation issued for parking facing the wrong direction.
Agency assist with U.S. Forest Service: Citation issued for driving with expired registration.
Dog complaint: Report of two

dogs chasing deer through residential area.
Parking complaint.
Agency assist: Fire alarm.
Agency assist: Petersburg Police Department.

Friday, Nov. 11
Suspicious activity.

Saturday, Nov. 12
Reckless driving.

Sunday, Nov. 13
Traffic stop: Arrest for driving under the influence.
Violating conditions of release.
Citizen assist.
Citizen assist.
Dog complaint.

There were six traffic stops, four subpoenas served and four agency assists with the ambulance.

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Justice Department election monitors visit Sitka as part of nationwide check

By MICHAEL BALSAM
Associated Press
AND SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sitka Sentinel

The U.S. Department of Justice dispatched officials to 64 election jurisdictions in 24 states to ensure compliance with federal voting rights laws in last week's midterm elections — including Sitka, Bethel, Dillingham and the Kusilvak Census Area in Western Alaska.

The election monitors included lawyers from the Justice Department civil rights division and U.S. attorney's offices across the nation.

Federal authorities said such monitoring is a regular occurrence around election day, but this year

especially civil rights groups and others have raised alarm over potential voter intimidation at some polling places and ballot boxes. The Justice Department said the monitors were sent to "protect the rights of voters," as they have for decades.

Sitka Precinct 2 Chairman Dorothy Orbison said she was interviewed the Friday before the Nov. 8 election by Dov Lutzker, a Justice Department civil rights division special counsel in the disability rights section.

Orbison, who was the election official in charge of the voting site at Sitka's Centennial Hall, said Lutzker asked her about her training as it relates to voters with

disabilities and barriers to voting. Orbison, an election official for more than 20 years, said she told the monitor about the training she and other election officials receive from the state Division of Elections before every election.

"He did not express his concerns, he was just asking about my training," she said. When he asked whether Sitka had any problems with access, she said her reply was, "I have not seen a voter denied access to voting" due to any lack of accommodations for people with disabilities.

The 2022 election played out against the backdrop of persistent falsehoods alleged by former President Donald Trump and his

Republican allies about losing the 2020 vote, a relentless campaign that will have implications as people cast their ballots.

Democrats have expressed concerns over the potential for voter suppression.

The 64 jurisdictions where federal monitors went included Maricopa County, Arizona, where there have been reports of people watching ballot boxes, sometimes armed or wearing ballistic vests. The Justice Department also announced it would send monitors to Cole County, Missouri, where local elections officials have said they would block the monitors.

The attorneys were in regular touch with election officials in the

locations and watched for signs of disruption to voters' ability to cast ballots. There is also a call-in line should voters feel they are suffering discrimination at a polling place.

The monitors are being sent to "protect the rights of voters," as they have for decades, the Justice Department said the day before the election.

The monitors are lawyers who work for the U.S. government. They are not law enforcement officers or federal agents. They generally include lawyers from the Justice Department's civil rights division and U.S. attorney's offices across the nation. The government also sometimes brings in employ

Legislature

Continued from page 9

R-North Pole.

Democratic senators and senators-elect gathered on Nov. 9 in Anchorage for a strategy session intended, in part, to determine whether it will be possible to work with those moderate Republicans and others.

Unusually, Sen. Gary Ste-

vens, R-Kodiak, and Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, were in Anchorage for Election Day and remained in the city afterward. Both men are believed to be likely members of a coalition majority. Stevens served as Senate president from 2009 to 2013, the last time a coalition majority existed in the chamber.

Stevens said it's "premature at this point" to say whether a coalition will form but said that "it's possible that within a week," Alaskans may have an answer to the Senate leadership question.

Sen. Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau, was among the legislators who flew to Anchorage and

said it takes three things for agreement in the Legislature — alignment on politics, policies and personalities.

"The definition of coalition is different in different people's minds," he said.

Kawasaki said he expects negotiations to take place quietly.

"The confirmation will be

when the press release comes out," he said.

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Wrangell Elks is looking for a full-time bartender to work 30 to 40 hours per week. Applicants need to be flexible with shifts and willing to work with employees and volunteers as a team. Pay scale is between \$14 to \$16 hour plus tips. Inquire at the Elks Club or call Dawn at 907-305-0552.

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Wrangell Senior Center is seeking an assistant cook. \$16/hour DOE. Position is 25 hours a week. Benefits include a 403b retirement account, employee assistance program, 12 paid holidays, paid time off and optional supplemental insurance. Background check required. Apply online at www.ccsak.org/jobs. For more information contact Solvay Gillen at 907-874-2066.

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Contact the district office at 907-874-2347 for more information and a detailed job description. Positions are open until filled. It is the Wrangell Public School

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Child and Guardian Country Western Hoedown from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at the community center gym. \$40 per couple or \$50 at the door. Dinner included. All ages welcome. Tickets available from any Troop 26 Girl Scout.

FREE PAPERS

Stop by the Sentinel to pick some up.

FREE ADS

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of Robert Eugene Goodman, Notice to Creditors is hereby given that Norman Ray Smith has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. All persons having any claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. Claims must be filed with the court or be presented to:

Case No. 1WR-22-00008PR
Norman Ray Smith
8107 30th Street S.E.
Lake Stevens, Washington 98258

Publish Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Economic Development Director

The City and Borough of Wrangell is seeking candidates for the position of Economic Development Director. The Economic Development Director position will remain open until filled. The position will be posted for no less than 14 days. Applications will be reviewed as soon as Nov. 28. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits.

The Economic Development Director is a department head position responsible for an array of Borough functions. The Community and Economic Development Planner is responsible for managing, performing and integrating current and advanced planning programs and services that enhance community image and environment. This position requires the ability to accomplish all short- and long-range community development objectives in the scope of planning and zoning, tourism, economic development and grant writing.

Complete job description, qualifications/requirements, and job application can be obtained on the borough website at <https://www.wrangell.com/jobs>. Applicants are required to submit their cover letter, resume and application to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email at rmarshall@wrangell.com. The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

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

Publish Nov. 16 and 23, 2022

CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Power Generation Mechanic - Operator Wrangell Municipal Light and Power

The Wrangell Municipal Light and Power Department will accept all applications for the position of Power Generation Mechanic - Operator and the position will be open until filled. This is a permanent position with all City and Borough benefits and is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

The Power Generation Mechanic - Operator is a versatile position within the Wrangell Municipal Light and Power Department. This position is responsible for maintaining and operating the standby electrical generation facility, performing scheduled or routine maintenance on diesel engines, generators, electrical switchboards, compressors, control systems, pumps and other related equipment. This person will operate the generators during scheduled and emergency outages. This position will also inspect diesel preheat systems, cooling systems, air systems and lubricating systems and install new power plant electrical and mechanical systems and equipment as needed.

The position requires extensive knowledge of diesel mechanics and operations, generator operation, voltage regulators and AC generation control and protection systems, safety standards and the expertise needed to conform to them.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 20 with a starting wage at \$26.47 per hour.

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

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

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

Publish Nov. 16 and 23, 2022

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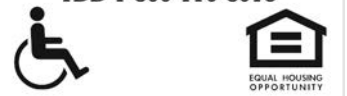
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SEAPA

Southeast Alaska Power Agency

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting electronically on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. AKST. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct an Executive Session to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Agency. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Publish Nov. 16, 2022

Alaska voters overwhelmingly defeat constitutional convention

By ALEX DEMARBAN
Anchorage Daily News

As they've done every 10 years since 1972, Alaska voters on Nov. 8 again overwhelmingly rejected the ballot measure to convene a convention to rewrite the state's founding document.

Advocates on both sides had expected the outcome to be closer this time because of the annual deadlock in the Legislature over the size of the Permanent Fund dividend, an issue that convention supporters said they wanted to resolve with changes to the Alaska Constitution.

But as of the Nov. 9 count, 70% of voters had voted against the measure (146,092 to 63,078), with nearly all precincts counted, a greater margin of defeat

than most past votes on the issue. The constitution requires voters decide the issue every 10 years.

Wrangell voters were even stronger against a constitutional convention, at almost 78% in the preliminary count.

Opponents of the ballot measure, led by campaign group Defend Our Constitution, said a diverse coalition of prominent Alaska groups helped swing momentum against a convention. In their campaign, they said a convention could open up the state to major policy shifts on a variety of issues, including privacy rights, hunting and fishing privileges and abortion access.

Supporters, led by the group

Convention YES, said a flood of campaign donations from Outside allowed the opposition to overshadow their message. Craig Campbell, chair of Convention YES and former Republican lieutenant governor, called opponents' argument that the state would open "Pandora's box" by holding a constitutional convention "paranoia."

Defend Our Constitution dominated spending 80 to 1. The group recently reported spending \$4 million. The donations came mostly from Outside organizations like the Sixteen Thirty Fund, which is based in Washington, D.C.

Convention YES spent about \$50,000, usually from small contributions from individual Alas-

kans, allowing them to make only small ad purchases.

Polls showed a relatively close race earlier this summer. But as the campaign wore on, an array of Alaska groups came out against a constitutional convention, helping tell their members about the potential risks of opening up the document to a rewrite.

The groups crossed the political spectrum, and included business, industry, environmental, fishing and hunting organizations. They included the Alaska Federation of Natives, the state's largest Native organization; the United Fishermen of Alaska, the state's largest commercial fishing trade association; the Alaska Center, a prominent environmental group.

Business groups, including the Anchorage and Fairbanks chambers of commerce, were concerned about the chilling effect that the uncertainty of a convention process would have on the business climate and investments in Alaska development projects, said Matt Shuckerow, spokesman for the Defend Our Constitution.

Jim Minnery, a Convention YES steering committee member and president of the conserva-

tive Christian advocacy group Alaska Family Council, attributed the large loss to Outside money spent on the campaign.

Campbell said Convention YES focused on the Permanent Fund and judicial reform as changes a constitutional convention could bring, though Minnery and others talked about the convention as an opportunity to limit access to abortions.

After the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade this summer, abortion supporters and opponents believed a constitutional convention was the likeliest path to change access to the procedure in the state. Alaska courts have upheld a woman's right to choose, based on the state constitution's privacy provision.

How much that issue affected the outcome of the ballot measure was difficult to know, observers said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates and the Alaska Center's Education Fund created their own campaign group, "Protect Our Rights: No on 1," to oppose a convention, focusing on women's rights.

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Alaska Native vets attend dedication for national memorial in Washington

By RILEY ROGERSON
Anchorage Daily News

WASHINGTON — William Smith, of Valdez, an Alaska Native veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, joined hundreds of veterans from around the country in Washington, D.C., last Friday to attend the dedication ceremony for the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

Speaking on Thursday night at a gathering at the U.S. Capitol, Smith said, "To me, I'm here with veterans. I got my Alaska veterans here. But when you see us tomorrow, you'll see how strong the veterans are and how much they appreciate this."

"It's all part of the healing process," he said.

The memorial is located at the National Museum of the American Indian and has a long history. Congress commissioned the memorial in the mid-1990s. But after the structure was finally completed in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed dedication ceremonies.

At long last, Smith and more than 1,500 Native Americans, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives gathered to dedicate the memorial on Veterans Day in

Washington, D.C.

Benno Cleveland, of Fairbanks, who is Inupiaq and served in the Army during the Vietnam War, also attended the dedication, and became emotional talking about the gathering.

"We continue to serve even though sometimes our people have been wronged. But we continue to serve with honor and respect because this is our land and it continues to be our land," Cleveland said. "We continue to serve to protect our nation, our lands, and our people."

The memorial was designed by Indigenous artist Harvey Pratt, a Vietnam veteran from Oklahoma. It is an elevated stainless steel circle statue surrounded by prayer clothes.

Cleveland said he hopes the day's dedication brings light to the high rate of Indigenous people who have served in the military and inspires policy to better support veterans.

"The nation will understand that there's a tremendous amount of American Indian, Alaska Native veterans out there," he said. "Maybe with that understanding they realize that they could do a better job of trying to help some of our veterans."

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THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone who voted and demonstrated faith in our system of government. I want to thank those who supported me throughout this election process, I am humbled by your support. Finally, a **BIG THANK YOU** to my wife, Carolyn Henry, I could not have done this without you. - Jeremy Bynum

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