

City counting droplets ahead of summer season

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The Borough Assembly convened in a special meeting mid-day Monday to change course on actions it took last week to curb water production issues this summer.

Last Tuesday the Assembly approved moving forward with funding the redesign and installation of a new roughing filter system and purchasing fresh silicate for one of its four slow-sand filtration units at the water treatment plant. The intent was to address persistent clogging in the units from built up sediment, which was limiting the 17-year-old plant's output such that it could not keep up with demand last summer. Though cost estimates had not yet been hammered out, together the items may have cost several hundred thousand dollars.

After seeking further information following Tuesday's vote, Assembly member David Powell requested that his colleagues vote to reconsider the action. Powell had been one of two members voting against the action.

"I talked to past staff and current staff and got some more information," he explained.

Their professional opinions had been that the sand should be changed all at once, otherwise they become inconsistent.

"If you do it, you've got to do all of them," Powell said. "If you do put in one filter in there, it's going to get dirty a lot faster than the other ones."

Assembly members also took up review of their decision because action would take longer than they had first hoped. To be produced and shipped from the Midwest, Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad explained the sand would not be here in time

"That's a concern to me that we're talking about October.

I wasn't aware when I made my original motion that the roughing filters were going to take so long to procure."

-Stephen Prysunka
Assembly Member

for the summer season, when seafood production begins in earnest.

The roughing filters – which would in any case be an important first step to install before replacing the sand – would also take some time.

City interim manager Carol Rushmore explained the Department of Environmental Conservation has to review and approve of any changes to the plant before they can be implemented. Engineers on contract are now preparing designs on a new system, which will not be ready to submit until the third week of May. After that, the review process could take several months before receiving project approval, which then would have to go to bid and so forth.

"That's a concern to me that we're talking about October," commented Assembly member Stephen Prysunka, one of last week's yeas voters. "I wasn't aware when I made my original motion that the roughing filters were going to take so long to procure."

In both cases, the window to make the upgrades before the summer rush will have been missed. Assembly members started Monday's meeting then by rescinding their vote, and the

motion postponed indefinitely.

"Now the Assembly is at the point right before the vote was taken," explained Kim Lane, city clerk.

What Assembly members wanted to know was what could be done in the meantime before the summer got too far underway.

Water plant manager Wayne McHolland explained the facility could at best produce 1,200 gallons per minute between the four filtration units. But between their dirty sand and recurring sediment clogging in the roughing filters, output was down considerably from that, to about 900 gal./min.

While he contested that new sand in one bay would sully more quickly than usual, McHolland explained flow splitters divide water equally between all four filters after passing through the roughing stage. However he agreed that replacing bays one at a time would cause the system to process water unevenly, with the first replaced filter damaged to a substantial degree by the time all four were eventually replaced.

"When one's bad, they're all bad," he said.

The department has tried over the years to clean and stir loose sediment from the sand filters, but Al-Haddad explained this was not how the units were designed. "The sand is never meant to be cleaned like that. It was meant to be discarded."

Costs to periodically replace the material – about \$500,000 when it was first built and just over \$1,000,000 at present – likely factored into the decision not to do so over the years.

The roughing filter, which is designed to skim most sediment from the reservoirs' water before heading to the slow sand filters, has its own problems.

"There's no way to flush them," McHolland explained.

As such, a "substantial amount of mud" builds up over these in time, and is labor- and water-intensive to clear. The new design for that segment being proposed would have an

Continued on page 3



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE McLAUGHLIN

Hang on to that egg!

Kyler Angerman happens upon an egg during the Elks annual Easter Sunday hunt at City Park, where dozens of local youth snap up around 1,200 of them in a matter of minutes. These carried coins and other goodies for area children to find, for toddlers on up to preteens. Volunteer Terree Pino explained \$175 were given out in all. "It got to be a good day," she said, noting the sunny weather. "We had a lot of kids." A longstanding tradition of the Lodge, the hunt is a favorite way for the community to spend the holiday afternoon.

Marijuana shop receives state approval, may not open

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Licenses for the cultivation and retail of marijuana were approved for a Wrangell applicant earlier this month.

The Marijuana Control Board gave the go-ahead to the two applications during its April 4 and 5 meeting, put forward by Kelsey Martinsen of Happy Cannabis. The licenses are conditional, pending building plan approval from the Fire Marshal and local municipality.

As proposed, the shop would be a grow and retail business just between First Bank and the Diamond C Restaurant. The shop would feature a store front, with 15 grow bays and preparation rooms in the back. A third license for manufacturing concentrates was also under consideration. Once licensed and operational, it would be Wrangell's only cannabis-related business.

The application process has been a long one, starting with a popular referendum in 2014 that legalized the drug for recreational use. Martinsen's application process was initiated March

14 of last year, and was first taken under review by the board in November. It had to await adoption of zoning updates undertaken by the Planning and Zoning Commission last year. Wrapping up that October, Wrangell's code was updated to match the state's regulations.

Happy Cannabis received its conditional use permit from the city in December, allowing it to begin limited cultivation and retail once its state licensing was in order.

Between then and the present, the Borough Assembly adopted additional restrictions limiting the sale of marijuana-related products to the 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours, Monday through Saturday. An excise of \$10 per ounce of cultivated marijuana was also adopted, to be paid by the cultivator. This would come on top of the \$50 sales tax being levied by the state on retail products.

Asked for comment following the MCB's decision, considering the costs Martinsen expressed uncertainty about his proposed shop's future. "With the taxes and new regulations being passed, we're not looking at doing the business here," he said.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday April 20: Kastle Powers, Odile Meister, Kalin Kohrt; **Friday April 21:** Afton Grossardt; **Saturday April 22:** Rusty Hayes, Rosslyn Nore; **Sunday April 23:** Crystal Johnson, Nathan Robinson, Logan Hammock, Andrew Guggenbickler; **Monday April 24:** Kim Covalt, Jamie Reading, Robyn Booker, April Emmorey, Kristi Neimeyer, Tommy Brown Jr. *Anniversary:* Robert and Delores Klinke; **Tuesday April 25:** Nicolas Allen. *Anniversary:* Marion and Barbara Neyman; **Wednesday April 26:** Vern Meissner, Joel Churchill, Trina McCandless, Alex Rooney; **Thursday April 27:** Traci Davidson, Tyson Messmer, Erica Ottesen, Linda Peabody, Greg Meissner, Emily Cummings.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, April 20:

Half a cheese sandwich, Kielbasa Soup, Tossed salad.

Friday, April 21:

Hamburgers with lettuce and tomato, macaroni salad.

Monday, April 24:

Crispy chicken, curry rice pilaf, steamed carrots, cauliflower and broccoli toss.

Tuesday, April 25:

Creole pork steaks, pasta, cauliflower sunshine salad.

Wednesday, April 26:

Chicken adobo, oriental vegetables, honey orange rice and salad.

Thursday, April 27:

Salisbury steak, corn, mashed potato, peach salad

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Friday, April 21
Matanuska 11:30 pm
Sunday, April 23
Malaspina 7:15 pm
Tuesday, April 25
Matanuska 9:00 pm
Saturday, April 29
Matanuska 2:45 am
Sunday, April 30
Columbia 4:30 pm

Southbound

Friday, April 21
Matanuska 9:00 am
Monday, April 24
Matanuska 5:15 am
Wednesday, April 26
Malaspina 7:00 am
Friday, April 28
Matanuska 8:30 am
Monday, May 1
Matanuska 6:30 am

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



TIDES TABLE April 20 - April 27

High Tides				Low Tides				
AM		PM		AM		PM		
Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
April 20:	8:20	12.2	9:39	12.7	1:50	6.1	2:36	2.8
April 21:	9:36	12.9	10:31	13.9	3:12	5.3	3:44	2.3
April 22:	10:38	14.0	11:15	15.3	4:21	3.8	4:42	1.4
April 23:	11:30	15.2	11:56	16.7	5:15	2.0	5:30	0.6
April 24:	12:18	16.3	6:01	0.1	6:13	-0.1
April 25:	0:34	17.8	1:03	17.1	6:43	-1.5	6:54	-0.4
April 26:	1:12	18.7	1:48	17.5	7:24	-2.8	7:34	-0.4
April 27:	1:51	19.3	2:33	17.4	8:06	-3.6	8:15	0.0

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, April 20

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.

SAIL Class: 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

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

Wrangell Chautauqua: Shakes Glacier Monitoring with Reyn Hutten and the WHS Shakes Glacier Team.

Sunday, April 23

Piano and Violin student recital 3:00 p.m. in the Wrangell high school commons.

Gospel Meeting: Gospel Meeting with Lucas and Don in the Nolan Center classroom. 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 24

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

Tuesday, April 25

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

Wednesday, April 26

Gospel Meeting: Gospel meeting with Lucas and Don at the Nolan Center Classroom. 7:00 p.m. *Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.*

Continuing Events

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

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

April 26, 1917:

There was no little excitement on Front Street Monday afternoon when it was reported that little Clarence, the two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had been drowned. The child fell into the bay at about three o'clock, and it probably remained in the water for fifteen minutes. When discovered afloat it was quickly brought out by Fred Lewis. The child was apparently dead and no one supposed it would ever breath again. Dr. and Mrs. Pigg were near and lost no time in putting forth efforts to resuscitate the little one. More than fifteen minutes were spent before there was the least sign of life. The child had been in the water long enough to be thoroughly chilled, and its recovery from a state of apparent death was almost like a miracle.

April 24, 1942:

Miss Hazel Zimmerman, who is a 4-H club leader of all Alaska has come to Wrangell to start a 4-H garden club. She held a meeting Wednesday for a 4-H garden club. The girls who have joined are Helen Angerman, Pauline Remmerden, Shirley Eyon, Susan Williams, Patty Forrester, Joan Halverson, Frances Hanford, Yolanda

Ferguson, and Olga Oglend. Each girl is to plant a garden 10 by 10 and at least six vegetables.

April 21, 1967:

Two Wrangell boys, sons of Herbert and Martha Bradley of the pioneer Bradley family, are members of the Greenwood Boys Club basketball team of Seattle which in the season just ended won first place in the Northwest Boys Club of America competition.

April 23, 1992:

While many other states are worrying about the recession and are seeing their tourist numbers decline, Alaska's visitor industry continues to thrive and grow. Part of that success can be credited to all that Alaska has to offer. This year, the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council is promoting the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway, ecotourism, family travel and off season travel.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
April 9:	55	37
April 10:	55	37
April 11:	51	40
April 12:	56	42
April 13:	55	41
April 14:	55	39
April 15:	51	40
April 16:	52	38



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
April 20:	5:33a	8:05p	14:30h
April 21:	5:30a	8:07p	14:39h
April 22:	5:28a	8:07p	14:39h
April 23:	5:25a	8:09p	14:44h
April 24:	5:23a	8:11p	14:48h
April 25:	5:20a	8:13p	14:53h
April 26:	5:18a	8:15p	14:57h
April 27:	5:16a	8:17p	15:01h

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City counting

Continued from page 1

automatic flushing system built in, which should greatly improve its efficiency, and is a recommended first step to alleviating the plant's output.

"As much as I'd like new sand," said McHolland, "it's best to have a new roughing filter in place."

An initial estimate for the cost of replacing the filter unit is placed at around \$180,000. If chosen carefully, McHolland explained the new roughing filters could be used by a prospective replacement plant down the line.

McHolland framed the cost of these fixes as necessary, citing the plant's failure on haloacetic acids (HAA5) during last year's water quality inspections. Also of concern is the level of trihalomethanes in the water, which could pose a health risk if not mitigated.

"Every water plant built has to meet these standards," he explained. "Right now we're right on the cusp."

Another problem down the line will be bypassing access to the upper and lower reservoirs that feed production, neither of which have been dredged since the plant began operation nearly two decades ago. Capacity has diminished over the years with buildup. Because water from the upper reservoir has to flow into the lower before it can be drawn, staff have been unable to do much with either.

A bypass line to the upper reservoir has been proposed,

but an effort in past years was kiboshed by the Army Corps of Engineers, Al-Haddad explained. Little documentation or designs from that effort are available, and Public Works has not been able to spare hours in tackling the project anew.

Backing things up to the present, Rushmore explained treated water levels and that in the reservoirs are a concern heading into the summer. Consumption is already "very high," she explained, with the prevailing theory behind the increased usage being a number of residents have left taps running to prevent lines from freezing during the winter, which was colder than in recent years.

She advised reaching out to the public to reduce usage to what is only necessary. Al-Haddad was given the go-ahead to work on replacing the roughing filters, and Assembly members approved an allocation of up to \$30,000 in addition to previously-assigned funds to cover design costs for the new filtration system.

"We'll spend whatever we need to spend," Assembly member Julie Decker told her.

"We're hoping that's going to be adequate to get us through the season," Prysunka commented. The problem of water quality troubled him, and helped put into perspective the need for a new plant as soon as possible. "That changes that whole discussion down the road."



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

GCI sold in billion-dollar acquisition

Alaska telecom provider GCI has announced it has reached an agreement with Liberty Interactive Corporation. General Communication, Inc. will be bought out by Liberty Interactive Corporation, an American media conglomerate and venture capital group. GCI's business, assets and liabilities will be combined with that of subsidiary Liberty Ventures Group, forming a company renamed GCI Liberty. "This transaction is a win for our shareholders, customers, and employees," stated Ron Duncan, GCI co-founder, president, and chief executive officer. "As part of a larger company, GCI will be even better positioned to compete, innovate, and serve Alaskans and our customers in the lower 48 states." In a press release, it was explained GCI will remain a freestanding operation within GCI Liberty. "GCI's leadership team, brand, operations, products and services will not change as a result of the transaction," it read, and the company's headquarters will remain in Anchorage. Already the largest communications provider in the state, GCI will also become the largest operating asset in GCI Liberty's portfolio. GCI Liberty's other assets will include a minority equity interest in Charter Communications, which it claims to be the second-largest cable company in the United States. Jeannette Lee Falsey and Erica Martinson of Alaska Daily News reported the deal will be worth \$1.12 billion. In its media release, GCI explained its shareholders will receive \$32.50 in GCI Liberty stock for each share in GCI, or about \$27.50 in common stock and \$5.00 in a new preferred stock. The common and preferred stock of GCI Liberty will be publicly traded. The transaction will be subject to regulatory review and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2018. A request for further comment on the future of GCI's local stores and service was not replied to by Tuesday's press time.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Join us in refreshing and revitalizing a local favorite, Volunteer Park ball fields, multiuse areas and trail system on **EARTH DAY, April 22nd @ 9:30 am.**

Wrangell Parks and Recreation is also fundraising through grants and local contributions to raise money to resurface the trail system. For more information about the project, please contact Kate Thomas @ 907-874-2444

Police report

Monday, April 10
Report of Disturbance.
Parking Complaint.

Tuesday, April 11
Power Outage.
Found Property.
Post accident breath test.
Breath test given.
Found Property.

Wednesday, April 12
Agency Assist: Brush Fire.
Abandoned vehicle.

Thursday, April 13
Criminal Mischief:
Unfounded.

Friday, April 12
Driving Complaint.
Citation issued to Donald Sorric, 54, for Prohibited

Parking.
Noise Complaint.
Saturday, April 15
Noise complaint: Unfounded.
Traffic Complaint.
Citizen Assist: Officer was requested for a standby.
Sunday, April 16
Person reported they will have controlled burn.
Citizen Assist: Caller spoke with officer.

There was one ambulance call and five dog complaints during this week.

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Court report

April 17, Monday

Lucas Canton Schneider, 40, appeared before First District Judge Kevin Miller on the charge of Assault 3 – Causing an Injury with a Weapon, a Class C felony. The defendant pleaded guilty to the offense, and was ordered to serve 18 months with 14 suspended with the time to be served immediately. As part of the plea agreement, a charge of Assault in the 4th Degree was dismissed. Schneider was also ordered to pay \$300 with \$100 suspended in fines and surcharges, pay restitution as required, and will be placed on three years of conditional probation. Schneider was also ordered to pay \$500 to the plaintiff for cost of appointed counsel.

Dan's Dispatch

By Representative Dan Ortiz

For those following the issues facing our state, it's no surprise that Alaska's \$2.7 billion budget deficit is the biggest issue. For the last five years, Alaska has had a budget deficit. Those deficits have caused the state to burn through at least \$12 billion in savings, and we are quickly running out of savings.

In the previous legislative sessions (2013-2016), the Legislature – led by Republican majorities – was unable to address the issue in any meaningful way other than to contin-

ue reducing the budget and kicking the can down the road. Since FY2013, we have reduced the combined capital and operating budget by 44%. Most of the reductions are from the capital budget, but the operating budget has been cut by \$1.1 billion. There are currently 2,500 less people working for the state than three years ago, which equates to a 10% decrease in the state workforce.

Other than burning through our savings, which is a concern in itself, and sacrificing Alaskan jobs, what are other "costs" of Alaska's unresolved fiscal situa-

tion? Here are some of the most significant impacts:

A very small capital budget means we have mounting deferred maintenance issues with transportation infrastructure (ferries, roads, airports). There are also less jobs available for our private construction companies and those who work for them.

The State's bond rating has been downgraded, making potential state financed projects, like the LNG pipeline project, more expensive and cost prohibitive. Uncertainty in how Alaska will deal with this fiscal crisis

also impacts opportunity costs to the business community.

Because of the reductions in our operating budget, the legislature is considering continual reductions in funding for what the majority of people in District 36 believe to be essential government services. Steep reductions would close two Pioneer Homes in Alaska. Further reductions in funding for the Alaska Marine Highway would force continued reduced services to Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Metlakatla. State funding for Public Education would be reduced by 5%. This will mean a reduction in funding for Ketchikan Schools of \$1.4 million, Wrangell of \$200,000 and Metlakatla of \$260,000.

This session, I joined the House Majority Coalition – a multi-party majority within the Alaska House of Representatives that formed around the common commitment to establish a sustainable fiscal plan. In other words, we are committed to fixing the problem. The plan is based on four pillars:

Continue to find smart reductions and efficiencies in the budget. We reduced this year's operating budget by another \$82 million dollars.

Reform the current oil tax credit system. We did so by passing HB 111.

Restructure how we manage the Permanent Fund by begin-

ning to make annual draws of 5.25%. Drawing a POMV from the Earnings Reserve allows us to payout a PFD, inflation proof the Permanent Fund, and use 2/3 of that 5.25% draw to help fund essential state services.

Establish a broad based tax that would generate up to \$700 million per year once fully implemented, including \$80 million from non-resident seasonal workers.

With these additional revenues, the deficit would be closed completely in three years. On Saturday, the House voted on the final piece of the plan; we succeeded in what we set out to do. It was not an easy task and it certainly required several tough votes. The most difficult vote was the final step that established the Education Funding Act, which put into place an education income tax. The tax has an effective tax rate of 1.66%, will go into effect in 2019, and the revenue may be used to support our education system.

Our four pillared plan is now in the hands of the Senate. I appreciate everyone's input in the budget process, and I encourage you to continue to do so, by taking our online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KP3WL9W>), emailing me (Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov), or calling my office (907-247-4672). Thank you.

Obituaries:

Charlotte Lynne Robinson-Neff, 48



Charlotte Lynne Robinson-Neff

Charlotte Lynne Robinson-Neff, 48, died on March 25, 2017 in Anchorage, Alaska.

She was born to Noah (Dale) and Linda on February 4, 1969, in Monroe, Louisiana.

Charlotte was a licensed hairdresser from the time she was 16. One of the shops she owned and operated was Charlottes Cutting Corner in Wrangell. Charlotte worked as a Personal Care Attendant and worked at the school while still doing hairdressing on the side. She managed and ran Bjorge House, an assisted living home for more than 10 years. She loved to go camping and

would take her camper out to Nemo and hoist her pirate flag and enjoy the beauty of the place she called home and all those who came to camp with her.

Charlotte was a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Pioneer Auxiliary, Elks, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Presbyterian Church. She loved collecting, bringing her much joy. Charlotte's greatest joy was the birth of her daughter Susan in 2010. Charlotte helped to raise and was a momma to many but she always dreamed of a baby of her own.

Family surviving Charlotte's death are: daughter Susan (Suzie)Neff; husband Dennis (Dino) Neff; mother Linda Bjorge and stepfather Bucky Bjorge; father Noah Robinson; sister Rhonda Robinson; brother Randy Robinson; nieces, nephews and a niece of her heart Nicole Webster.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Susan Neff at First Bank.

There will be a memorial on April 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

Virginia "Ginny" Ellen Gillen/Allen, 73

Virginia "Ginny" Ellen Gillen/Allen, 73, of Wrangell, Alaska, died April 3, 2017 in her Wrangell home surrounded by her family.

She was born August 29, 1943 to the late James and Madge Gillen, and was the third of eight children and was raised in Wrangell.

Ginny was married to Gary Allen Sr. and had four children, Lynn, Gary Jr., Theresa, and Penny. Ginny also had 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ginny was most notably known to Wrangell residents for her voice on KSTK, her oil paintings (one of which hangs at the Wrangell Museum titled "Grandma Aileen"), and her float-house "the Bluebird" which was a permanent wall fixture on the Stikine River during moose season.

Ginny is survived by her husband, children, grand babies, six siblings, and many nieces and nephews.


Services were held April 7 at the Elks. Memorials can be made to Wrangell Search and Rescue.




"Ginny" Ellen Gillen/Allen

ADULT SWIM LESSONS OFFERED!

April is Adult Learn to Swim Month.
Classes are FREE.
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SWIMMING SAVES LIVES FOUNDATION.



Wrangell Parks and Recreation is hosting six sessions from April 26th through May 13th.
Contact, Kate Thomas @ 874-2444 to register now!




Caring for Southeast Alaska

Visiting Physician Schedule

Dr. Moxley, Podiatrist,
April 28 & 29 (will bill insurance)

Call 874-7194 for information & appointments
www.wrangellmedicalcenter.org

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SEC seeking private sector data in new survey


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By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Regional economic forum Southeast Conference is seeking out data on private sector investment for its annual report on the economy.

The survey is supposed to only take three minutes, asking for general information on significant private project investments one's business or company had made between July 1, 2016 and June 30 in Southeast Alaska. All individual survey answers are completely confidential, and will be reported in aggregate only.



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE MCLAUGHLIN

E-waste not, want not

Pallets of e-waste collected by Wrangell Cooperative Association's IGAP office on Saturday await transport for reprocessing. Collecting everything from (relatively) ancient Macintosh desktops and boxy televisions to mercurial marine electronic equipment, a rough estimate of 5,000 pounds of technological scrap were brought in by residents.

"We do this annually so we can get a better feel for what the private investment is in the region," explained Shelly Wright, SEC executive director.

"Last year I think we had something like 320 responses throughout the region," she commented. "But it keeps getting better and better every year."

The goal is for the survey to reach more private industry players, particularly smaller businesses and individual contractors.

As part of its five-year economic plan released last June, the organization tries to update the federal Economic Development Administration on such private investment indicators. The 2020 Economic Plan sets development goals in eight different sectors of the region's economy. These include developing a maritime workforce, reforming the marine highway system, securing adequate timber supplies, replacing diesel power generation for public utilities, drawing in visitors and other ventures.

In looking ahead, the plan takes into consideration economic and demographic projections, as well as factoring in data and setting new targets as each year passes. At its annual Mid-session Summit last month, a progress report noted the various advances toward those ends made since late last spring.

"Every year we need to report to the EDA the progress that we've made on that plan," said Meilani Schijvens, director of Rain Coast Data, which helps organize the data for SEC's comprehensive economic development strategy.

The survey being collected is aimed at tracking private investments in the region's economy.

The survey has also added some business climate questions this year. In the past, SEC has periodically conducted a wider business climate survey every five years, but since it is already reaching out to businesses Schijvens said it would be helpful to check on that a little sooner.

"It's great just to get a spot-check from industry," she said.

Response has so far been going well, on Tuesday gaining about 35 responses in the first

hour. As part of SEC's commitment to the 2020 plan, Schijvens explained the polling indicates the organization is staying on top of its targets.

"The goal of this is to continue to attract federal funds to the region," she said.

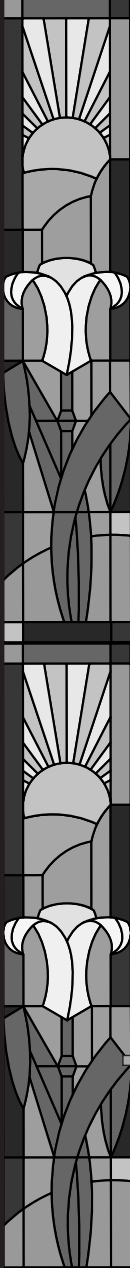
With that, SEC hopes to continue encouraging federal funding to the region, in different levels of grants and program assistance.

The survey can be accessed online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SEprivateinvest2017.

The big topic of the Mid-session Summit was a reform project of the Alaska Marine Highway System, looking to reconfigure the state service in order to make it more financially stable in coming decades. Partnering with the governor's office and ferry system, a steering committee has been comparing management models for other transport systems that could work for Alaska, and hopes to have legislation prepared by next session for the Legislature to mull over.

The organization's next meeting is scheduled for Haines from September 19 to 22.

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Trap legislation advances from committee

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Legislation advanced out of the House Resources Committee last week, which would allow municipalities to set their own rules to control trapping.

House Bill 201 was proposed last month by Anchorage Democrat Rep. Andy Josephson. Under the bill's language, municipal actions would be limited to preventing injuries to people and domestic animals. Municipalities could not limit reasonable opportunities for subsistence trapping activities, and could choose to exempt trappers from any trapping ordinances.

In the sponsor statement, Josephson explains the piece of legislation is the result of public input during deliberations over H.B. 40, a bill he cosponsored which proposed barring trapping within 200 feet of certain public areas.

"Public testimony indicated that municipalities may be better able to tailor specific regulations to promote safe trapping, given the vast lands and diversity of uses in Alaska," he explained. "However, it was also argued that municipalities do not have authorization under state law or the state Constitution to regulate trapping."

Citing a decision by the Attorney General in 1982, he argued municipalities can still indirectly regulate game when dealing with incidental effects such as public safety concerns. Fifteen municipalities already regulate trapping in some way, Josephson explained, spanning from prohibitions on trapping domestic animals to that on trapping within the entire jurisdiction.

If passed, the bill could potentially see some application in Wrangell. Resident Steve Prysunka had a run-in with a leg-hold trap two years ago while running a search and rescue training exercise for his dog by the airport. He estimated the trap was about 250 yards from the roadway, well within state limits, but had not been marked or identifiable.

"They had stuck a duck in the crook of a tree," he recalled, which drew the attention – and caught the leg – of his dog. "It was horrible. You can quote me. The dog was biting me as I was trying to release him from the trap."

He had some help, and was able to free the dog without serious injury to either party. Prysunka noted that most trappers in the area are helpful, posting signage and such to warn off passersby. A member of the Assembly, he said he could see the value in setting up some additional regulations to prevent future such mishaps from occurring.

A committee substitute for H.B. 201 advanced out of the House Resources Committee on Monday, and awaits referral.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NATE JOHNSON

An eagle-eyed glare

A juvenile bald eagle awaits help outside a Wrangell residence early Saturday morning. USFS wildlife biologist Joe Delabruue was given a call on his day off, and came with a friend to capture the grounded bird. It was sent to the Juneau Raptor Center for the weekend before being transferred to the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka for medical care.

Alaska lawmakers approve designating Indigenous Peoples Day

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Columbus Day would be known as Indigenous Peoples Day in Alaska under a measure passed by the state Legislature.

The bill, which passed with broad bipartisan support, next goes to Gov. Bill Walker.

For the past two years, Walker has issued proclama-

tions declaring the second Monday in October _ recognized federally as Columbus Day – to be Indigenous Peoples

Day. Columbus Day is a federal holiday but not a state holiday in Alaska.

In a statement, Rep. Dean Westlake of Kotzebue says his bill does not replace Columbus Day but establishes a day of

recognition that honors the "intermingling of cultures that makes Alaska such a great place to live."

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90 days ends with no budget resolution

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The allotted 90 days of the Alaska Legislature's 30th session has passed by with two leading bills on the coming year's budget still awaiting reconciliation.

The House last week passed a version of Senate Bill 26, which among other things allots 75 percent of Permanent Fund earnings to the state's operating funds and ties earning computations to a market value model. The House version differed from that initially put forward by the Senate, notably eliminating an appropriation limit of \$4.1 billion and reducing the draw from the earnings reserve when oil revenues are about \$1.4 billion, rather than \$1.2 billion. And while in the Senate version dividends for the next three years would be set

at \$1,000, the House version would set it at a minimum of \$1,250 for the next two.

Perhaps the largest change was a section tying effect of the act to the passage and signature into law of House Bill 111, overhauling oil tax credits and the base tax rate. That passed over to the Senate on April 10 and sits in the Senate Resources Committee. After taking hours of public testimony early in the week, the body is expected to continue working on the bill this week.

The two chambers failed to find agreement over the weekend. The Senate rejected House amendments to S.B. 26 in a 4-16 vote on Friday, and the House likewise rejected withdrawing its amendments on Sunday in a 17-22 vote. As of Tuesday the bill was expected to head to conference committee to be reconciled by appointees representing both chambers of the Legislature.

A similar fate befell House Bill 57, the lower chamber's budget package. The House failed to concur with an amended version put forward by the Senate on April 6, voting against it in a 22-18 result on April 11. It currently awaits consideration in the Senate.

House Bill 115, which proposes institution of a statewide income tax of 15 percent of a person's federal liability, also passed 22-17 on Saturday, and after being read for the first time by the Senate was referred to its Labor, Commerce and Finance committees on Monday.

Passing the voter-mandated 90-day threshold for the session, legislators have another 30 days to come to a resolution. During

this period the session ends if either body gavels out, meaning smaller technical sessions will keep things going until a budget can be resolved. If the session

ends without a fiscal plan in place for the coming year, Gov. Bill Walker or the Legislature itself can call special sessions until one finally is.

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Moose taco meal to raise funds for senior center

Local seniors will be holding a moose-meat, Mexican-style fundraiser dinner this weekend to fill out the Wrangell Senior Center larder.

The dinner is scheduled for Saturday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Made from scratch by volunteers in the center kitchen, Wilma Leslie explained the main courses will be moose-meat tacos, chicken enchiladas and chili rellenos (stuffed peppers).

Dinners will be available for pick-up from the center, or else can be delivered as far as Shoemaker Bay for an additional fee.

The center provides a place for community elders to meet, eat and socialize. Operated through Southeast Senior Services, it primarily gets its funding through Catholic Community Services in Juneau. Each year volunteers add to that allocation with different events, which enhances its available menu options and activities.

"It allows us to serve a dessert sometimes, and in general helps the center," said Leslie, who does the center's outreach. "The senior center tries to do three fundraisers a year. This one is our first."

The other two events are the silent auction at Christmastime, and the tie-die booth during July 4 festivities. Though the multi-colored clothing will still be for sale this July, Leslie said the center may try to branch out with cinnamon rolls.

The new fundraiser helps fill the center's need during the spring, and the timing avoids conflicting with other upcoming events.

"We were just looking for a fundraiser that wouldn't conflict with any other organization," Leslie said.

Seized moose taken by wildlife management often gets donated to the center, in addition to other contributions. A bumper crop of moose taken in the area last year ended up filling their freezer. "We got a lot of moose donated last year," Leslie explained.

While things are being prepped for the weekend, the center is still looking for some key ingredients. "Right now we need chicken and cheese." Additional ingredients are listed at the town's two supermarkets, near the check stands. Donations can be dropped off at the Senior Center during business hours, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Planning and Zoning approves three tidelands replats

In a brief meeting Thursday evening, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved final plat review for three items.

The final review of a plat for Sea Level Seafoods was approved, creating a new subdivision lot zoned waterfront development. The 6,983 square foot parcel is a section of parking lot owned by the city, which will be leased out to the adjacent business for its ongoing use.

The request was reviewed by Ports and P&Z back in February 2016, with both commissions recommending to the Borough Assembly the tidelands disposal. Planning and Zoning had further recommended that the area be used for parking and surface storage only rather than a building, which the Assembly also approved as part of the tideland lease modifications it adopted.

Final plat review was approved for a tidelands subdivision requested by Brett Woodbury, owned by the City and Borough of Wrangell. The tidelands are at Inner Harbor, adjacent to Woodbury's tideline property. He requested to purchase the additional tidelands in front of his property in

order to reconstruct the existing float. This would allow him deeper water access, as well as square up the tidal limits of the property he owns in the area.

Finally, the commission approved review for replatting four lots into two at the lot next to the former SNO Building, requested by Charles Jenkins. In August 2015 he had submitted a plat request for the site on behalf of his mother, Christine Jenkins. Easements where public utilities had been created were widened to accommodate actual infrastructure, and a requested vacation of a storage easement was also granted.

The easement had previously been granted to Jenkins when the property was still unfilled tidelands owned by the city. After it was filled, the land had been subdivided and sold off in several parcels on the east side of Silvernail Work Road.

A variance application for a front yard setback was approved for a medium-sized shop on Lot 4B of the Kowalski-Colier Subdivision, part of the Wrangell Island West Subdivision. The request was put in by Holly and Jeremy Padilla.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

A brighter outlook for Alaska's 2017 salmon season

A brighter outlook for Alaska's upcoming salmon season just got even better.

Markets are looking good, the statewide salmon catch forecast of 204 million is up by a million fish, and the world's biggest sockeye salmon fishery at Bristol Bay is breaking records for chilling its fish.

Last year nearly 40 percent of Alaska's total salmon value came out of Bristol Bay. When its fish fetch a better pay check for boosted quality due to chilling, it is felt throughout the entire salmon industry.

"The size of the Bay harvest has a big impact on salmon prices elsewhere. Typically, it's 35-40 percent of the global sockeye supply," said Andy Wink, Senior Seafood Analyst with the McDowell Group.

"When the base price in 2015 was 50 cents at Bristol Bay and they had a large harvest, sockeye prices in other areas fell and we also saw coho prices come way down. It's a market moving fishery and that is why it affects so many other Alaska fishermen."

The 2016 Bristol Bay harvest of 37 million sockeye salmon from the region's five river systems was the second largest in 20 years, and both drift and set-net harvesters chilled the largest amount of raw product in the history of the fishery.

That's according to a processor survey done each year by Northern Economics, Inc. of Anchorage by contract with the driftnet fishermen-funded and operated Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

"This is huge for the retail potential of Bristol Bay," said Rebecca Martello, BBRSDA executive director. "The fleet is making great strides to ensure Bristol Bay is a quality product and this definitely ties into all aspects of marketing and making Bristol Bay the premium brand we know it to be."

The 2016 survey captured raw product data, fleet information, ice production volumes, chilling methods, and opinions of trends and priorities within the fishery.

Some highlights: Responses by the region's 12 major processors showed that 71 percent of the Bristol Bay driftnet fleet's 1,390 participants chilled their catches, compared to the previous high of 59 percent in 2012.

Of the total 212 million pound Bristol Bay salmon harvest that crossed the docks, chilled fish topped an "astounding" 137 million pounds. Drifters delivered a record 123 million pounds of chilled sock-

eye, a 40 percent increase from the previous year.

The amount of salmon chilled by 858 setnetters decreased by three percent. The number of "dry deliveries" (unchilled) dropped below 22 percent, down nearly half from 2009.

Last year saw a big shift away from putting the reds into cans and focusing instead on more valuable products: fresh and frozen fillets and headed/gutted (H&G) fish.

Canned production dropped by nearly 17 million pounds (just 27 percent compared to over 70 percent two decades ago), while H&G fresh production increased eight-fold to nearly 14 million pounds. Salmon fillet production approached 50 million pounds, a 50 percent increase. Bristol Bay fishermen averaged \$.76 a pound for their sockeye salmon last year. The average chilling bonus has steadily increased since the processor survey began in 2008, from \$0.11 per pound to \$0.16 per pound in 2016.

At an average weight of 5.4 pounds, that makes each sockeye salmon caught last year worth more than \$4.75 to fishermen. The sockeye salmon harvest at Bristol Bay for 2017 is projected at 27.5 million fish. <http://www.bbrsda.com/>

Swap Meat for Seafood - A new marketing angle is designed to lure more Americans to eat wild Alaska seafood. It's called Swap Meat and the name says it all.

"Alaska seafood is incredibly versatile, and Swap Meat is a way to use it in recipes where you traditionally use a different protein like pork or chicken or beef," said Jeremy Woodrow, Communications Director for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) in Juneau.

Swap Meat, he said, aims to make seafood more approachable to American consumers. Studies show that many are hesitant to try fish or shellfish because they don't know what to buy or how to prepare it.

The Swap Meat promotion provides a cart load of familiar recipes aimed at busy families that can go from stove to table in less than 30 minutes.

"Halibut corn dogs, quesadillas, sliders, soups, fajitas, cod parmesan, crab mac and cheese - there are so many ways to substitute Alaska seafood," Woodrow said.

Swap Meat is being widely promoted with social media and direct contact with retailers and chefs. The ultimate goal is to get Americans to eat more seafood -

federal dietary guidelines advise eating fish at least twice a week.

"The USDA recommends that Americans eat a minimum of 26 pounds of seafood a year. That's only 8 ounces a week. Most Americans are averaging around 15 pounds a year," Woodrow said.

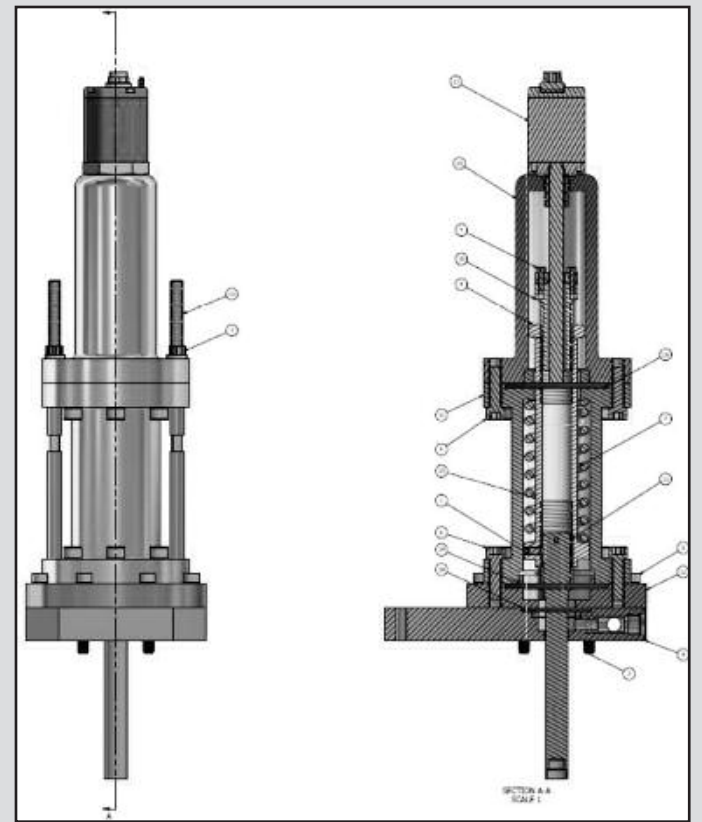
There are some positive trends. Salmon, for example, is America's top fish favorite.

"In the last year or so for the first time, salmon surpassed tuna as the number one fish consumed by Americans," Woodrow said. "It's number two behind shrimp still, but salmon is king of fish in the US." www.wildalaskaseafood.com.

Young for Young Fishermen - Alaska Congressman Don Young, along with Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), introduced a bill last week to help assure a future for up and coming U.S. fishermen. Called the Young Fishermen's Development Act, the legislation would create the first ever national grant program through the Department of Commerce to support training, education, and workplace development for the nation's next generation of commercial fishermen. In a press release, Rep. Young called the program "only one effort to preserve fishing heritage and encourage new participation in the industry."

"Young fishermen are facing bigger challenges than ever before - new barriers to entry, limited training opportunities and a lack of support. This legislation is about supporting the livelihoods of fishing communities in Alaska and across the nation," he said. The program is modeled closely after the successful Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program. The legislation would authorize up to \$200,000 in competitive grants through NOAA's Sea Grant Program to support training in seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety; vessel and engine repair and maintenance, fishing gear engineering and technology; marketing, finances, business practices and more. "Congressman Young understands the challenges young fishermen face, and we thank him for his strong leadership on this vital issue," said Linda Behnken, Executive Director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association.

"Empowering the next generation of young fishermen is essential to economic opportunity, food security and our way of life."



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION BY SEAPA

A needle position feedback assembly prototype has been ordered for a test run in one of the Tye Lake hydropower facility's two turbines. Sitting on top of the turbine nozzle restoring mechanism's control head, it reports the position of each nozzle via a sensor.

SEAPA to adopt prototype components at Tye

A prototype component to the turbines at Tye Lake's hydroelectric facility will be put into use this summer.

A new needle position feedback assembly will be going into service, replacing the current models. Southeast Alaska Power Agency executive Trey Acteson explained the current assembly units have a tendency to leak, and are experiencing sensor failures.

The needle position feedback assembly sits atop the control head of the turbine nozzle restoring mechanism, and is a critical part in controlling the amount of water directed into the turbine runner. This in turn controls the speed of the generator.

Each of the powerhouse's two turbines has six such assemblies. The new design will be an enclosed piston with fewer ports and using different seal technology.

"We'll run them for a few weeks," Acteson explained.

The prototypical design was put together by a consultant and SEAPA staff. If it works without any problems, 11 more will be manufactured and installed.

The change-out will coincide with planned maintenance to minimize disruption to service.

The project was penciled in to the 2017 fiscal year's renewal and replacement line item, and with a 16-percent contingency may cost \$123,000.

In service since 1984, the Tye Lake facility has been managed by SEAPA since operations were transferred from the defunct Thomas Bay Power Authority in 2014. The lake-tap facility is located at the head of Bradfield Canal, approximately 40 miles southeast of Wrangell and 70 miles southeast of Petersburg. It can produce 25 Megawatts of power, and has room for a third generator.



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Workers plug leaking North Slope pipeline

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — An oil well leaking natural gas on Alaska's North Slope has been successfully plugged, according to private and government responders.

BP Exploration Alaska Inc. confirmed Monday that its well five miles from the airport at Deadhorse was successfully "killed" overnight. The method of

plugging the well was not immediately announced.

BP Exploration Alaska is a subsidiary of BP. Employees on Friday morning discovered uncontrolled natural gas flowing from the top of a well house, a metal structure that looks like a large box over a well.

About 45 minutes later, they determined that the well was

spraying a mist of crude oil into the air.

BP reported the leak and set up a joint response team with state, federal and municipal responders.

A weekend statement from the "unified command" said two leaks were detected. Oil was spraying from a leak near the top of the well. Workers contained that leak by activating a safety valve.

Oil droplets were confirmed on about 1.5 acres of the drill pad, responders said. They were waiting for the well to be plugged to determine if oil reached nearby snow-covered tundra.

Responders determined the well had risen 3-4 feet, causing a pressure gauge to break off and preventing responders from pumping material into the well to

kill it.

Responders on Saturday night were able to enter the well house and connect hoses to valves. That allowed the bleeding off of gas from space around the well's below-ground piping and a reduction in gas pressure.

The nearest village, Nuiqsut (noo-IK-sit), is 50 miles away.

Alaska capital city looks to expand borders

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — The capital city of Alaska is looking to expand its borders.

The Juneau Empire reported Sunday that the city and borough of Juneau have hopes of owning more of Admiralty Island, located south of the capital city, and a portion of land next to the Petersburg Borough.

"In the near future, annexation of this region is mostly symbolic since there are no local residents or private properties,"

Lands and Resources Manager Greg Chaney wrote in a memo to city officials. "In the long run, mineral development or tourism could generate economic activity in this region."

Juneau already owns a northern portion of the island, but hopes to expand south. City officials are planning a meeting with the Angoon City Council to discuss the possible expansion since the move would bring the two municipalities into closer proximity. Angoon is an Alaska native vil-

lage in the island's western region.

Juneau officials' said their proposed expansion will not intrude on Angoon property, according to the report.

"We felt that we should reach out to Angoon because there are definitely some strong opinions from Angoon about what land is more in their area, historical use and cultural influence, and economic importance and all that stuff," City Manager Rorie Watt said.

Admiralty Island is famous for having

the highest density of brown bears in North America, according to the report.

Juneau has not yet filed its application for expansion, but when it does, the State of Alaska's Local Boundary Commission will make a final decision.

All of the proposed areas of expansion are in Juneau's model borough boundary, meaning they are within areas the state initially identified as suitable land for the city to expand into, according to the report.

Juneau may close facilities to balance budget

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska's capital city and borough are considering closing a museum, gym and educational facility to balance its 2018 budget.

Juneau needs to find nearly \$2 million to balance its budget, the Juneau Empire reported Friday.

Finance Director Bob Bartholomew has proposed taking \$1.4 million from the city's fund balance and reducing spending by \$500,000.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Mount Jumbo Gym, the Eagle Valley Center and more are in jeopardy of being closed to properly balance the budget.

The city's priority-driven budget process, which allows residents to rank various services in the area, might be used

to decide what will close.

These rankings showed the museum, gym and Eagle Valley Center to be the least desirable facilities.

"The reason (the museum) scored the lowest is, compared to other facilities, it serves fewer Juneau citizens and there is an available alternative in the brand-new State Museum," City Manager Rorie Watt said. "Granted, the State Museum doesn't focus on local Juneau history and culture."

Officials say cutting the museum from the budget could save about \$228,500.

City Museum Director Jane Lindsay, who has been at

the museum for 15 years, found out about the proposed closing on Tuesday. She said this is the first time a closing has been talked about.

"Certainly it's not a good feeling to hear something like that," Lindsay said. "We work very hard to do the best job we can, to present local history."

No official decisions have been made yet on what to close, Watt said.

"I'm not saying it's my priority to close the museum," Watt said. "It's my priority to do two things. It's my priority that everything that the city does, we run well and we give adequate resources and we staff adequately, and we provide good programs."

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by Linda Thistle

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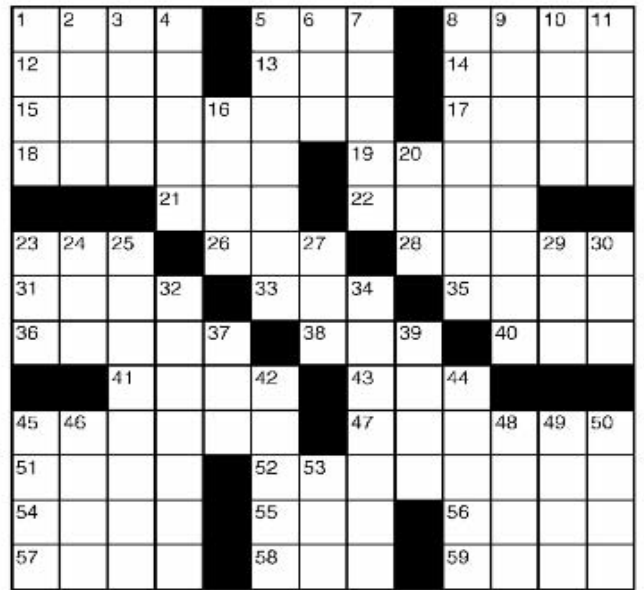
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- 8 Edinburgh dweller
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- 13 — budget
- 14 Color quality
- 15 Think about
- 17 Erstwhile Peruvian
- 18 Mean
- 19 Animal shelter
- 21 Corroded
- 22 H.H. Munro's pseudonym
- 23 Handy Latin abbr.
- 26 Bobby of hockey lore
- 28 Celebrate
- 31 Cheer (for)
- 33 Still
- 35 Guns the engine
- 36 Literary category
- 38 With 46-Down, shared fairly
- 40 Scarlet
- 41 Bound
- 43 Billboards
- 45 Black eye, e.g.
- 47 Proof that you're who you say you are



- 4 Bewildered
- 5 Unsteady, as from old age
- 6 Inseparable
- 7 Report card data
- 8 Scoundrel
- 9 Underhanded one
- 10 Fairy tale starter
- 11 Blue hue
- 16 Grooving on
- 20 Listener
- 23 Work unit
- 24 Pirouette pivot
- 25 Magician
- 27 Sgt.
- 29 First lady
- 30 Leary's drug
- 32 Platitudes
- 34 Coached
- 37 Type measures
- 39 Probability
- 42 Pie nut
- 44 Diving gear
- 45 Seethe
- 46 See 38-Across
- 48 Prayer ending
- 49 Actress Russo
- 50 Sketched
- 53 Tramcar contents

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

BOATS AND MARINE
IFQ'S AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

JOBS
FIRST BANK WRANGELL BRANCH is seeking a full-time Customer Service Representative. Requirements include cash handling experience, strong customer service skills, reliability, and the ability to work well with people. To apply, call Amber Hommel at (907) 874-3363

EO/M/F/Disability/Vet.....tfn 4-13b38

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2017-2018 school year: Paraprofessionals: These are part-time instructional aide position working one-on-one with special needs students, 5.75 hours per day in the Special Education department. An associate's degree or equivalent is preferred but not required. For a complete job description and salary schedule,

please contact the district office at 874-2347. Applications must be received by 4:00 PM, Thursday, April 20, 2017. It is Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.....2x4-20b95

WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TRANSPORTATION is seeking two trail and road maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications available at WCAT office at 104 C-1 Lynch St. Contact Bill Willard at 874-3077 with questions. Closing date: May 5 at 1 p.m.....4x5-4b40

SERVICES
D&D TREE SERVICE licensed and insured tree topping, limbing for view, danger trees felled or taken down in pieces, brush cutting, etc. in town or remote. Don Stevens 907-617-5585.....1x4-13p20

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfn dh

FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Fax number 874-2303.....tfn dh



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	A	R	A	D	O	M	S	C	O	T	
S	P	A	T	O	N	A	T	O	N	E	
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	I	N	C	A
I	N	T	E	N	D	K	E	N	N	E	L
A	T	E	S	A	K	I					
E	T	C	O	R	R	R	E	V	E	L	
R	O	O	T	Y	E	T	R	E	V	S	
G	E	N	R	E	P	R	O	R	E	D	
J	U	M	P	A	D	S					
B	R	U	I	S	E	I	D	C	A	R	D
O	A	R	S	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R
I	T	E	M	A	R	E	B	E	N	E	
L	A	R	S	N	E	D	A	N	E	W	

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE APPLICATION TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The City and Borough of Wrangell is applying for a financial assistance under the Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities program for the purpose of financing system improvements to Wrangell's water treatment system.

USDA, Rural Development, requires that all applicants applying for loan or grant assistance from the agency must publish or post a Notice of Intent to File an Application after filing their application.

This matter is scheduled for review and public discussion and comments at a public hearing on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Wrangell City Hall, Assembly Chambers. The public may comment on such items as economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project, or other identified issues.

Questions concerning the project can be directed to Amber Al-Haddad, Public Works Director, at 907-874-3904.

Any written comments regarding this application should be provided within fifteen (15) days of this publication to USDA, Rural Development, or for additional information please contact Tasha Deardorff at Rural Development, 800 W. Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, Alaska 99645. Telephone (907) 761-7705.

Publish: April 20, 2017

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly and the Wrangell School Board will hold a Work Session in the Borough Assembly Chambers on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. with School and Borough Staff to discuss the Wrangell School Budget & Facilities.

Although there may be a quorum of the School Board and Borough Assembly present, there will be no action taken.

The public is welcome to attend.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk
City & Borough of Wrangell

Publish: April 20, 2017

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Tongass National Forest is seeking comments on a proposed \$75 fee for the overnight rental of the new Deep Bay Cabin on Zarembo Island. The cabin is a fully accessible large group use facility comprised of two buildings connected by a large deck. It can accommodate up to 12 people. The proposed rental fee is consistent with the fee charged at other large group cabins on the Tongass. Cabin rental fees go directly back into maintaining the cabins.

Comments can be sent to Robert Dalrymple, District Ranger, at PO Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929. Comments are requested by May 15, 2017. For more information, call Tory Houser at 907-874-2323.
Publish: April 20, 2017

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SEASONAL JOB POSTING

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will begin to accept applications for the position of **Recreation Assistant** to establish an open pool of applicants for temporary help. Applications will be accepted beginning April 12, 2017 through December 30, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants selected for this position will serve as a *Recreation Assistant* at Parks & Recreation and will be involved in recreational activities including department recreation programs, community events, facility rentals and other similar recreational services.

Duties include providing oversight of facilities and activities, ensuring adherence to regulations and procedures, monitoring the security of premises, maintaining routine reports and general custodial duties.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hiring from these applications, as needed, throughout the year. At the end of this open enrollment period applicants would need to file a new application.

This position requires candidates to be available to work a minimum of 6 hours per week with shifts scheduled throughout the week, including weekends. Applicants must be at least 16 years old.

Applications may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Carol Rushmore
Interim Borough Manager

Published: April 20 and April 27, 2017

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF
Cruise Ship Facility Security Officer
Harbor Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell will begin to accept applications for the position of Cruise Ship Facility Security Officer to establish a pool of applicants to hire a Temporary Worker until May 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. You must have a valid TWIC card and an Alaska Driver's license, and a High School Diploma or GED.

This position performs duties as a part of the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Plan. The nature of the work requires that the employee maintain effective working relationships with other City Departments and employees, State and Federal officials, business and community organizations and the public.

Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Successful applicant must be able to work in all weather conditions and throughout all hours of the day or night.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Carol Rushmore
Interim Borough Manager

Publish: April 20 and April 27, 2017

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In Alaska, anxiety grows as debate over health care rages

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Going without health insurance is a risk. Going without it in Alaska can be a gamble of a much higher order, for this is a place unlike anywhere else in the U.S., a land of pitiless cold, vast expanses and dangerous, back-breaking work such as pulling fishing nets from the water or hauling animal carcasses out of the woods.

And yet many people on the Last Frontier do not carry insurance. For them, the Affordable Care Act just isn't

working. For reasons that have a lot to do with its sheer size, sparse population and harsh environment, Alaska has some of the highest health care costs in the nation; the most expensive insurance premiums, according to one key measure; and just one insurer in the whole state writing individual policies.

Michael Hutton, who makes a living selling high-performance dog food used by dog sledders, some of whom compete in the grueling Iditarod race, looked at the potential \$700-a-month cost of coverage under Obamacare and decided he would rather take his chances and hope he doesn't get seriously hurt or ill.

"In my age group, it hasn't been much of an issue," the 45-year-old Hutton said. But he confessed, "The older you get, the more important it's going to be."

Many people in Alaska are frustrated with the cost of required health coverage under President Barack Obama's signature law and anxious about what the future holds, with President Donald Trump so far unable to deliver on his promise to repeal and replace

it with something better. Income-based subsidies are available under the Affordable Care Act to help many Alaskans buy insurance. But not everyone qualifies, and so some choose to go without.

As of 2015, 13 percent of Alaska residents were uninsured and potentially subject to fines under Obamacare, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, citing the most recent figures available. Five states in all were at 13 percent. Only Georgia (14 percent) and Texas (16 percent) were higher.

Hutton, who lives in the fishing village of Kasilof, has so far managed to avoid any serious health problems and said the amount he has paid out of his own pocket for medical care, plus an Obamacare tax penalty of \$700 for not having insurance, are far less than the premiums he would have faced.

Many people in Alaska hold down rugged jobs or enjoy outdoor pastimes that can lead to serious injuries and chronic ailments, such as bad backs and knees. At the same time, Alaska has some of the nation's highest

rates of tuberculosis, chlamydia and suicide. Alcohol and drug abuse is a major problem, too.

With many places in the state accessible only by air or water, some people who suddenly get very sick have to be flown to Anchorage or Seattle. A medical evacuation can cost \$50,000 to \$150,000. Even ordinary visits to the doctor can be problematic, in part because of shortages of primary-care physicians.

Alaska's biggest cities Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau rank at or near the top among the nation's metro areas in the cost of a doctor's visit, with Juneau the most expensive in the country at nearly \$189, just above Boston, according to the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness.

The attitude toward Obamacare appears to reflect something essential about Alaskans: They can be a stubborn, skeptical bunch with a libertarian streak. While Trump won the state with 51 percent to Hillary Clinton's 37 percent, the biggest voting bloc is independents, who outnumber registered Republicans nearly 2-to-1.

Alaskans often take great pride in their toughness and resourcefulness and have been known to bandage their own wounds or use a staple gun to close a leg gash.

"There's no use in going to pay a thousand dollars for someone to wrap up your ribs in a bandage," said Bryce Reimer, a 25-year-old audio and lighting technician from Wasilla who wrapped his own ribs after a car accident because he doesn't have health insurance.

The health plan that is often used as a benchmark for comparing coverage from state to state, for a 40-year-old nonsmoker, costs \$927 a month before any subsidies in Alaska, or 2 1/2 times the national average, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

While nearly every Alaskan receives an annual check of typically more than \$1,000 as their share of the state's oil wealth, that doesn't necessarily go very far in a place where the late-winter unemployment rate in some communities is around 20 percent and where the difficulties of delivering goods and services contribute to a cost of living so staggering

Continued on page 12

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Roller derby season ends in P-burg bout

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's roller derby team held its last bout before the summer on April 8, heading over to Petersburg.

The Garnet Grit Betties faced the Ragnarök Rollers at the local high school gym. The bleachers were pretty well packed with spectators, with about 170 people turning out for the bout.

"We were super surprised and excited that such a large crowd turned out," said Ola "PolkaOlka" Richards, a first-year skater for Petersburg.

Running a lean roster this year, Wrangell filled out its bench with a pair of players from Juneau and another from Sitka.

"We invited them to come with us and give us a fighting chance," explained Andy "Stitches" Slusser, on the Betties. The three had played in Wrangell's region-wide mash-up bout the previous weekend, and added a blocker, a jammer, and one who can play either to the team's set. "They helped us quite a lot," said Slusser.

While the Rollers fielded a larger team, illness cost it one of its key skaters, Angela "Slammin'" Christensen.

"That was really hard on us,"

said Richards.

It was a really challenging game," agreed teammate Alice "LewdaFrisk" Williams. "The lead was back and forth through the game."

Playing short, the Betties hardly had time to rest on the bench between jams. Slusser said that hadn't kept them down, however.

"We're pretty used to going and going, until you're really just ready to sit down," said Slusser.

Keeping things close, Wrangell had started pulling ahead by the end of the bout's first half.

"We were pretty nervous, I would say, that Wrangell was going to win," said Richards.

However, Petersburg coach Rebecca "Midlife Tigress" Anderson made some changes in the team's approach going into the second half. Ragnarök regained the lead about halfway through the second half, and were able to start building a rift in the scores that widened into the closing minutes.

The game ended in a 124-108 win for Petersburg.

"It was quite close," said Slusser. "It was fantastic."

"The game was really intense," Richards commented. "They made us work really hard."



PHOTO BY JESSICA OWENS

Making up team Wrangell for the Garnet Grit Betties' final bout in Petersburg, (from left) "IllumiNAUGHTY," "AntiJen," "Kooks Deluxe," "Stitches," and "Helena Handbasket" were joined by (clockwise from right front) Sitka's "Dollface Killah," "Just Julie" and "Catapult Kim" from Juneau and Mia Wiederspohn.

While the season ends for Wrangell, Petersburg will be rolling on up to Wasilla the weekend of May 5. The two-day state derby championships will see teams from all over Alaska.

"It looks like almost the whole team is going. That's pretty exciting," Richards said.

After that, Ragnarök will be having its final home bout over

their big Mayfest weekend, hosting Far North Derby from Kenai on May 19.

"This will be our first time playing with the team," said

Williams.

Considering the size of the crowd this weekend, Richards is hoping for an even bigger crowd at Mayfest.

Health Care

Continued from page 11

that a gallon of milk can cost \$10 in some rural outposts.

Also, many Alaskans work jobs where the amount they earn can fluctuate wildly, depending on such factors as the weather or the size of a salmon run. Because of that, some people cannot be sure whether they qualify for subsidies from one year to the next, or whether they will be able to afford coverage once they have signed up.

Juneau resident Bonnin Jarvill, who fishes for a living, said her family's Obamacare-subsidized policy of \$360 a month is affordable, but the family deductible is a daunting \$14,000.

That's worrisome because their income can vary depending on how many salmon and halibut they catch, they are still paying off bills from last year's fishing season, and they are trying to set up a plan to pay off her husband's recent hernia surgery. They live on their boat with their 4-year-old daughter.

Jarvill, 30, said she and her husband plan to see if they qualify for Medicaid. If not, they may have to ask their parents for help.

"We feel like at this point in our lives we should be able to take care of our family," she said. "It's frustrating to receive help."

Nearly a quarter of Alaska's 740,000 residents are

covered by Medicaid, which Gov. Bill Walker, an independent, expanded as part of the Affordable Care Act to include more lower-income people. Only about 19,000 Alaskans get insurance on the individual market, resulting in a tiny pool across which insurers can spread costs. The number of insurance companies writing individual policies in Alaska dropped from five in 2015.

Last month's dead-on-arrival GOP health care proposal would have jacked up premiums on Alaskans even higher. Rep. Don Young and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, both Republicans, had raised serious objections, saying they wanted to see something that would reduce costs, increase access to care and protect Medicaid recipients from cutbacks.

In the meantime, many of those who gained coverage under the law or have affordable plans are fearful about losing their lifeline.

Public relations photographer Lisa Seifert, 55, of Anchorage, qualified for expanded Medicaid last fall after going without insurance for years because it became too expensive. Car accidents and years of lugging around camera equipment have taken a toll on her body.

"I just hope it doesn't go away," she said of her Medicaid coverage, her voice faltering. "Where would I be?"

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT IN WRANGELL MAY 12 - 13, 2017

The improper disposal of household waste can cause problems for the entire community. Most household hazardous wastes cannot be dumped in the sewer system or at landfills.



The City and Borough of Wrangell sponsors a Household Hazardous Waste collection event on an annual basis. Successful collection events have helped the Borough protect our community's wastewater treatment plant and sanitation utility from hazardous waste contamination.

This year's Household Hazardous Waste event, takes place Friday, May 12th and Saturday, May 13th. The Solid Waste Transfer Facility will accept up to 200 pounds of various types of household hazardous wastes for free. This event is intended for household waste only, not for commercial waste. All other materials will be accepted for the normal disposal fees.

Our full Household Hazard Waste Brochure and the Water Environment Federation's Household Waste Chart can be found on line at: <http://www.wrangell.com/publicworks/annual-hazardous-household-waste-event>. Hard copies are also located at City Hall, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility and at the Public Works office. This brochure describes preventative measures you can take in your home to reduce the quantity of waste you must dispose. For details on what you can do to eliminate hazardous waste from the solid waste stream, contact the Public Works office at 907-874-3904.

Publish: April 20, 27, May 4 and 11, 2017

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