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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Assembly sets property tax at the same rate as last year

Cost to borough of tax exemption for senior-owned property grows

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

As Wrangell's population continues to age, the total value of senior citizen-owned homes exempt from property taxes continues to grow.

About 27% of Wrangell's population was 65 years or older last year (551 of 2,039 residents), according to Alaska Department of Labor statistics. That's up from just under 23% in 2020 (482 of 2,127) and 19% in 2015 when the town's population was much larger at 2,442.

State law requires municipalities to exempt from property taxes the first \$150,000 in assessed value on homes owned by senior citizens and disabled veterans. The law also requires the state to reimburse cities and boroughs for the lost revenue, but the Legislature has not appropriated money for the payments in a quarter-century.

More than \$41.3 million in senior-owned residential property is exempt from taxes in

Continued on page 4

Developer plans to start construction work at former hospital property by year-end

By BECCA CLARK AND LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporters

Wayne Johnson, a Georgia-based real estate developer, came to town to finalize his \$516,000 purchase of the former hospital property and six adjacent borough-owned lots.

Johnson said in an interview Sunday, June 2, that he still needed to work out some details on the purchase of the six lots but anticipated no problems and expected to sign the papers this week, before he needs to return to Georgia.

He plans to start demolition in October, with site preparation and start of construction by year-end, he said.

Johnson has changed his plans somewhat from when he made his offer on the former hospital building in February. He has scaled back from looking at putting up as many as 48 units, now planning for 36 to 40 condos. They would be a mix of two-bedroom and three-bedroom units; he decided not to include any one-bedroom residences.

The development will include covered parking and will be called Wrangell Heritage House.

He is still targeting a sales price of \$450,000 to \$500,000 per unit, he said.

The residences could be ready for occupancy by the end of 2025, depending on the construction schedule, Johnson said.

He has not yet settled on a demolition or construction contractor but has been talking with experienced Southeast companies for the work.

Johnson plans to be in Wrangell for a few weeks this summer following the June 18 run-off election for his U.S. Congress candidacy in Georgia. He placed first among four candidates in the May 21 Republican primary, advancing to a two-person Republican run-off to face the incumbent Democratic congressman who has held the seat for 32 years. Johnson placed third in the 2022 Republican primary for the same seat.

In addition to his real estate development plans, Johnson also plans to open a food truck called The Spirit of Wrangell that will sell local seafood in town.

He had a trailer custom built in Georgia for the business, which he is shipping to town along with his personal belongings. The operation will include metal picnic tables and a covered seating area, he said, adding that he is looking for a location.

Johnson said he was inspired to bring in the food truck after he was unable to find fresh crab when he visited Wrangell earlier this year. He plans to sell things like Dungeness crab, shrimp and chowder — all of which he will source locally.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Making the old good again

Mikki Angerman is building up her side business refinishing and restoring old furniture, such as this dresser. It's an easy name to remember: Forget-Me-Not Furniture. Turn to Page 5 for the story.

Chamber moves salmon derby fishing days to June 15-30

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The chamber of commerce has moved the dates for this month's salmon derby to June 15-30 to allow anglers more time to try their luck after popular areas near Wrangell open to sportfishing on June 15.

The chamber had initially scheduled the derby for two weekends — June 7-9 and June 14-16 — but decided at a May 28 derby committee meeting to move the days to later in the month.

State Department of Fish and Game District 6, west of Etoilin and Zarembo islands, and most of District 7, east and south of Wrangell, are closed to kings through June 14. "Those are right here, outside our window," Tommy Wells, the chamber's executive director, said of the reason to delay the start of the derby to June 15.

Derby entrants must purchase a ticket before they go fishing. The tickets, at \$20 each, will be available at the chamber office in the Stikine Inn and from businesses in town, though the list of ticket sellers was still being put together last week, Wells said.

The weekday weigh-in station for derby entries will be next to the harbormaster

office in the downtown harbor, Wells said, with an evening and weekend weigh-in location still to be determined. People can call the chamber for current information, 907-874-3901.

This will be the 69th year for the salmon derby, which awards prizes for the largest fish caught. The chamber was still working on a complete prize list last week, Wells said, though the Totem Bar and Liquor

Store has donated prize money for the youths who catch the largest fish: \$100, \$75 and \$50 cash for the top three entries.

The chamber is actively soliciting business sponsors for the derby this year — a new attempt to help defray the cost to the nonprofit organization that is struggling financially.

Local businesses received a letter last week, promoting sponsorship packages

ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. "Sponsors will be advertised," the letter said, so that the community knows who is donating to the derby.

In addition, volunteers are needed to staff the weigh-in station. Anyone interested in volunteering or buying a sponsorship can call the chamber office or Wells at 254-210-1558, or email info@wrangellchamber.com.

Open house Friday to meet police chief finalist

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The borough has scheduled an open house for 5 p.m. Friday, June 7, at City Hall for the community to meet Gene Meek, finalist for the job of Wrangell police chief.

Meek resigned as Soldotna police chief on May 17, effective immediately. He had been on the job since July 2022.

"It was an amicable departure," Soldotna City Manager Janette Bower told Kenai-Soldotna KSRM radio on May 20. "He's a great person, and we wish him the best as he moves forward with wherever he may go." She called the resignation a mutual agreement.

Meek moved to the Kenai Peninsula community of about 4,500 residents from Center, Colorado, population about 2,000, where he had served as police chief since 2019.

In an interview with the Peninsula Clarion newspaper in Kenai in 2022, Meek said he had more than 27 years of law enforcement experience and that he is always looking for a new adventure. He worked in law enforcement in Kentucky, Florida, Afghanistan and New Mexico before taking the Colorado job and then the position in Soldotna.

Wrangell Police Chief Tom Radke retired April 5 after four years on the job. He had moved to Alaska in early 2020 from Minnesota, where he worked in law enforcement for almost 30 years.

The borough advertised in April for a new chief, offering a salary of \$8,362 to \$10,564 per month. The deadline for applications was May 1.

The borough has invited the public to Friday's open house with Meek; light snacks will be served.

Senior Center Menu

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

Thursday, June 6

Mac and cheese with ham, steamed spinach, honey orange salad

Friday, June 7

Half a chicken sandwich, tossed salad, cottage cheese, fruit

Monday, June 10

Shelf-stable meal delivered on Friday, June 7

Tuesday, June 11

Beef sandwich, salad, yogurt, fruit
Closed for in-house dining. Bus not available.

Wednesday, June 12

Shelf-stable meal available
Closed for in-house dining. Bus available.

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

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Sunday, June 9

Kennicott, 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 16

Kennicott, 7:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

Kennicott, 2:15 p.m.

Sunday, June 30

Kennicott, 6:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, June 12

Kennicott, 5 a.m.

Wednesday, June 19

Kennicott, 4:45 a.m.

Wednesday, June 26

Kennicott, 5 a.m.

Wednesday, July 3

Kennicott, 4 a.m.

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

Tides

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
June 5	00:06	18.8	01:08	15.2	06:42	-2.9	06:37	2.7
June 6	00:51	18.8	01:57	15.2	07:27	-3.4	07:21	3.1
June 7	01:35	18.5	02:44	15.0	08:10	-3.1	08:04	3.5
June 8	02:18	17.8	03:29	14.6	08:52	-2.5	08:47	4.1
June 9	03:01	16.9	04:14	14.0	09:33	-1.6	09:31	4.7
June 10	03:43	15.9	04:58	13.6	10:15	-0.6	10:18	5.2
June 11	04:27	14.7	05:45	13.2	10:58	0.5	11:10	5.6



ALASKA AIRLINES CLUB 49 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR KIDS at the Irene Ingle Public Library open to children entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library by June 29. The reading program runs through Aug. 3. More than 100 prize drawings and a pool/pizza party for everyone who completes the program. Call 907-874-3535 for more information.

ROLL ON THE ROCK roller skating 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturdays at the TouchPoint Ministries rink on Bennett Street. Children 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Skaters must complete a registration form. \$5 per person.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER "IF," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 7-8, and 4 p.m. Sunday, June 9. The animation comedy drama runs 1 hour and 44 minutes; tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 14. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

MUSKEG MEADOWS Ray Pederson Memorial Ryder 18-hole best-ball tournament Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9. Play starts at 10 a.m., register by 9:30 a.m.

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE will be in Wrangell on Thursday, June 12. Immunizations, birth control and STD screening, well-child exams for kids up to age 6, TB screening and medication, Narcan kits and medication disposal bags will be offered. The Public Health Center is in the Kadin Building, 215 Front St. Call 907-723-4611 to make an appointment in advance so the nurse knows what immunizations to bring.

COMMUNITY MARKET 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at the Nolan Center. \$10 a table for vendors. Register with jarnold@wrangell.com or awade@wrangell.com, or call 907-874-3770.

CAMP LORRAINE, a Christian summer camp for kids between the ages of 8 to 16, is planned for June 16-23. The camp is located on Vank Island. The cost is \$199. Applications available at www.alaskacamps.org.

TOUCH A TRUCK 1 to 2 p.m. with horns welcome, and 2 to 3 p.m. with no horns, Sunday, June 23, at the parking lot by Volunteer Park. Join the fun and come check out all the big rigs! All ages welcome. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation.

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

- **SWIM LESSONS** Monday-Friday starting June 17. Multiple two-week sessions with variable times available. Contact Parks and Rec for more details. Ages 5-12. \$40 fee. Registration required.
- **FOREST EXPLORERS** 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays June 11 through Aug. 6 with Clarie Froehlich of the U.S. Forest Service. For ages 7-13; ages 6 and under must be accompanied by a guardian 14 or older. Meet at Volunteer Park. \$50 fee. Registration required.
- **ART CAMP** 10:30 a.m. to noon Fridays June 7 through June 28 at the community center multipurpose classroom. \$50 fee. Registration required.
- **'NESSE' for ADULTS** 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 14. No registration required. \$5 per person. For ages 18 and up.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment. Locker rooms are available.

- Arthritis class, 11 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
- Family open swim, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.
- Lap swim, 6 to 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Tot swim, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
- Open swim, 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday.
- Water aerobics class, noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

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

June 5, 1924

Miss Yeteve Taake, field representative for the Pacific Division of the American Red Cross, arrived in Wrangell last Friday for a week's work with the local chapter of the Red Cross. Miss Taake is very pleased with the work of the Wrangell chapter. She has spent the week looking over various reports, visiting with the recipients of the nurse's services, talking with board members and many others interested and reached by this splendid service. "Loan closets are much appreciated in the communities having Red Cross chapters, and Wrangell has the beginning of a very good loan closet."

June 3, 1949

William A. Johnson, a specialist in designing school buildings who is designing buildings for the Wrangell and Anchorage school systems, was in town on Wednesday to meet with city council members. One plan he presented was agreed upon by the council, but as a quorum was not present, no definite action will be taken until next council meeting. Acting Mayor Peter McCormack said the delay would enable the council to get more definite information on the financing of the building. According to McCormack, the architect estimates that it will take every cent of the \$113,000 the town is expected to have to work with.

June 7, 1974

In order to minimize the impact of closure, the Wrangell Institute will remain in operation for one additional year. The facilities will then close in the summer of 1975, Clarence Antioquia, acting director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska, has told the Sentinel. Antioquia attributed the closure to two main factors: decreasing enrollment and increasing costs of running the facility. Bureau of Indian Affairs statistics also show the need for \$1.5 million in repairs to bring the Wrangell Institute campus up to standards. Antioquia said another federal or state agency may choose to use the 171-acre campus with its 19 buildings.

June 3, 1999

A nice, relaxing drive out to Fools Inlet Sunday evening unexpectedly turned into the makings of a Stephen King movie for Shannan and John Moody. Once reaching the end of the road at Fools Inlet, they had driven about one half mile back when Shannon says she saw something brown in a field. Soon they both saw what they thought was a large bear. As Shannan continued to watch, she could see that the animal slowly approaching John's side of the car was a VERY large brown bear, looking as big as their small Geo Metro. "The more nervous I got, the more John laughed," recalls Shannan. "I could see that he was coming closer and closer,

but John was laughing at me so hard that he didn't notice." In a very short time the bear was so close that "I could look right into his eyes," says Shannan. At that point, John floored the car and took off, just as the bear was in the ditch right beside their vehicle. Looking back they saw the bear chasing them. John, looking in the rearview mirror, could see nothing but the brown animal right behind them. Finally, after driving at breakneck speed for a while, they slowed down for a more cautious look. Standing in the road now, the bear was still swinging his head and front feet back and forth, obviously very angry.

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WEEKLY FARE SALES



FREIGHT FOR LESS

Assembly will take up ordinance that boat owners carry insurance

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Assembly members have directed borough staff to come back with a revised ordinance setting requirements for boat owners to carry insurance on their vessels moored in Wrangell harbors.

The assembly in March questioned several aspects of a proposed ordinance forwarded by the port commission which required coverage. The assembly wanted to see a minimum vessel size to require insurance, increased management rights to keep out unseaworthy boats and exemptions for transient vessels.

The intent is to protect other boat owners and the borough from damages caused by boat fires, the cost of cleanup and disposal of abandoned boats, and the cost of raising boats that sink in the harbor.

The Port and Harbors Department spends on average \$30,000 a year removing derelict vessels, according to borough officials.

After a couple of months with no further work by the port commission toward making changes to the draft insurance ordinance, the assembly at its May 28 meeting made it clear to the borough manager that they wanted to see a revised ordinance for their consideration.

"I would like to move that forward," Assembly Member David Powell said. "I have a bad feeling if we have a fire now ... it's not going to look good for us."

Powell was referring to a May 13 fire at Juneau's Douglas Harbor that started on one boat and spread to two others. The blaze also damaged floats and the harbor's electrical system. The Capital City Fire/Rescue assistant chief estimated total damages at more than \$500,000.

Powell also reminded assembly members and borough staff of a 2022 Ketchikan boat fire as another example of the liability of allowing uninsured boats to tie up. The Ketchikan fire put that city at risk of a lawsuit over damages to a vessel near the uninsured burning boat.

The Wrangell port commission has been discussing how to craft a mandatory boat insurance ordinance since 2022 but has found the details difficult to resolve.

Borough Manager Mason Villarma told the assembly he would present them with a revised draft ordinance at the June 11 meeting, and will address the concerns members raised a couple of months ago.

The June 11 meeting would be the first reading of the proposal. If assembly members want to proceed, they would schedule a public hearing on the issue for the June 25 meeting.

If the assembly approves mandatory insurance, Villarma expects a "slow rollout" that likely would not start until fall or

winter.

An ordinance requiring boat owners to provide proof of insurance would need to specify what kinds of coverage is required and the amount, such as fire, liability and salvage insurance, Villarma explained in an interview the day after the assembly meeting.

The assembly has indicated it wants to exempt smaller boats from the insurance requirement and will need to decide on the size limit for an exemption. Past discussions also have addressed the issue of giving the harbor-master the authority to deny moorage to vessels that are not fully seaworthy or maneuverable, or whether to require insurance of transient vessels that pull into the harbor for a limited stay.

The port commission had recommended an additional charge to moorage fees for boats that lack insurance, so that the borough could build up a fund to cover damages from uninsured boats.

Public testimony at previous assembly meetings on mandatory insurance has been divided, with some people saying it would be too expensive and others saying it's needed to protect all harbor users.



PHOTO BY MARK C. ROBINSON / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Food and fun fundraising begins

Royalty candidates Kayla Young (left) and Alisha Armstrong turned out on a blustery afternoon Friday, May 31, at the downtown pavilion to kick off the annual fundraising month that helps pay for the community's Fourth of July events. Organized by the chamber of commerce, several dozen residents attended the free salmon bake and start of the raffle ticket sales that will run through July 3. The candidates are scheduling downtown food booths and other events throughout June to help boost ticket sales.

Borough looking for development of 6-Mile site; pitches cruise port

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

As part of the borough's quest for a long-term, economic development opportunity at the 6-Mile mill property, officials met last month with officers of Huna Totem Corp., which operates a cruise port at Icy Strait Point near Hoonah and is developing three others around the state.

Borough officials are also thinking that the waterfront property could be a good location for a timber value-added facility or maybe even a solar energy farm.

"We are looking for solutions for the mill property," Borough Manager Mason Villarma told the assembly May 28. "This (Huna Totem) isn't our only one."

One possibility might be a solar power farm, he said in an interview the next day. The Southeast Alaska Power Agency, which operates the Tye Lake hydroelectric power station and the Swan Lake hydro project near Ketchikan, has expressed interest in looking at solar power, Villarma said May 29. The agency serves Wrangell, Petersburg and Ketchikan.

The borough paid \$2.5 million cash in 2022 to purchase the property of almost 40 acres from the former sawmill operator. It is leasing a small portion of the site to Channel Construction, which operates a scrap metal recycling business, but the borough is looking for a larger, more job-creating tenant or buyer for the long run.

The lease with Channel runs to 2029, with possible extensions.

"We have a gem in that mill property," Villarma said in an interview May 29. "We are going to explore every opportunity."

Villarma and Kate Thomas, the borough's economic development director, flew to Juneau to meet with officials of Huna Totem Corp. last month and gave a presentation on the property and its potential.

Fred Parady, chief operating officer and executive vice president for the village corporation of Hoonah, called it an "initial" meeting. "There are a million details that go into" developing a new cruise ship destination, he said.

"We were excited to hear from them," and will have follow-up discussions with borough

officials, he said.

Though the community in past public meetings and surveys has expressed opposition to a large-scale cruise ship destination at the former mill site, residents have strongly supported development of the site, particularly some kind of industrial use that would create jobs.

Huna Totem's Icy Strait Point welcomed its first cruise ship in 2004 and now hosts several hundred thousand cruise passengers a year. Built near a restored century-old salmon cannery about a mile north of the Hoonah state ferry terminal, the destination offers visitors a zipline, hiking trails, retail shops and other attractions.

The Hoonah corporation also is an investor in the cruise ship development at Klawock, on Prince of Wales Island. The operation opened to cruise traffic last month, with about 3,700 visitors expected this summer as the new venture ramps up operations.

Two of the cruise ships scheduled to call on Klawock this summer canceled their voyages to Wrangell to make room in their itineraries for the new stop.

In addition to Huna Totem, partners in the venture include Klawock Heenya Corp., the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village corporation for Klawock, and Doyon, the regional corporation for Interior Alaska.

The next cruise ship dock in Huna Totem's plans — in Whittier, on Prince William Sound — is expected to start operations this summer, Parady said. The \$80 million development includes a two-sided pier to accommodate large ships and a 30,000-square-foot welcoming center, he said.

The building is completed but some work remains before the pier opens to traffic this summer, Parady said.

The corporation also has plans to build and operate a cruise ship dock in downtown Juneau, but that project is held up by an appeal against the development's municipal permit. Plans include retail, restaurants, a park and parking, along with a culture and science center built in partnership with Sealaska Heritage Institute and Juneau's Native corporation, Goldbelt Inc.

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Dan Gross Jr.
passed away on
May 21, 2024 in Wrangell.

*Celebration of Life will be held
July 13, 2024 at the Elks Lodge.*

Obituary to follow at a later time.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Sentinel will be free online for a month

BY LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The expression, the best things in life are free, applies to fresh air, the view out the window and a positive attitude. For the next five weeks, it will also apply to the Wrangell Sentinel.

Starting this week, the Sentinel has turned off the paywall to its website. Anyone with a keyboard, a mouse, a smartphone, a swiping finger or a voice-activated personal assistant will be able to go to wrangellsentinel.com and read all the news they want.

Normally, the online edition of the Sentinel is available only to people who buy a subscription. As old-fashioned as that might seem, it's a major source of the revenue we need to stay in business.

But even I, a curmudgeon who likes living in the past, can see that printed newspapers eventually will go the way of typewriters, stick-shift cars, wired phones and Polaroid cameras. Print is the past, not the future.

Newspapers are costly to print, expensive to air freight back to town and to mail — and that's when the flying weather cooperates. Besides, an increasing number of people get their news online. It's convenient, it's available 24

hours a day, and they don't get smudgy ink all over their hands.

People also get a lot of garbage and dishonest headlines pretending to be news, but that's not the point of the Sentinel's experiment through July 7.

The Sentinel has no plans to abandon print, but we do want to learn two things from this free offer: How many potential new readers are out there who prefer to read the newspaper online; and how many would be willing to pay for it after the free offer ends.

Online-only subscriptions are just \$40 a year, less than the price of half-a-dozen large lattes. Of course, we hope to gain new subscribers. The Sentinel loses money, and more revenue would help. But more importantly, we hope to entice more people to read our reporting. Just like the tree that falls in the forest but no one is there to hear the sound, our reporting can't make a difference if no one sees the stories. The more people who read the news, the more our work has value for the community.

If you are reading this announcement, you either subscribe or buy the paper at a store in town. Thank you. What I ask is that you suggest to non-readers that now is a good opportunity to take a look at the Sentinel, for free.

EDITORIAL

Community needs long-term plan for school funding

The assembly's decision to take away any benefit to the school district of the Legislature's one-year increase in state education funding for next year makes sense from the perspective of the borough's own finances. However, there are more perspectives to consider. Long term, the community needs a plan to adequately fund its schools.

The school board had asked the borough to contribute \$1.75 million — the maximum amount allowed under state law — to the school district's \$6 million spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year. That would have been an increase over this past year's \$1.6 million local contribution.

But even with the increase in borough money, the district still figured it would have to draw down more than half of its operating reserves account to balance the budget. At that rate, the reserves would be gone in another year. That's painful to calculate.

The Legislature, however, appropriated \$175 million in one-time money to increase state funding of local school district operating budgets. The governor has indicated he will agree to the spending when he signs the budget later this month. That would mean an additional \$440,000 in state aid to Wrangell schools.

The district figured that additional state money would reduce its need to draw down on reserves, extending the life of the account a little longer.

But in approving the local contribution to the school district budget last month, the assembly essentially decided that if the additional state aid comes through, the borough would deduct it from the \$1.75 million request and give the district \$1.3 million. If there is no help from the state, the borough would send the full \$1.75 million to the district.

Just like the school district, which must deal with its dwindling reserves, the borough has a similar problem.

A portion of sales tax revenues covers a large part of the borough's payment to the school district. The rest comes from federal dollars sent to Wrangell under the Secure Rural Schools program, which goes toward schools and road work. Funding under that program fluctuates, as does everything with Congress, so the borough has held a reserve to cover its spending needs in lean federal years.

Borough officials worry that drawing more money from the fund to cover a higher contribution to the schools would create its own problem, jeopardizing road projects. So the assembly decided that any additional state money should reduce the local contribution to schools, thereby preserving the borough's own reserves. That means the school district, its teachers and students will see no benefit from the extra state funding.

The borough and school district need to look at their respective reserve funds, figure out what truly is needed in reserve and, if it means using or raising more sales tax dollars to take some of the burden off the federal aid account, do the math and find a long-term answer.

- Wrangell Sentinel

Senior property tax

Continued from page 1

Wrangell this year, up almost 3% from last year. If the property were fully taxable, owners would pay an additional \$400,000 to the borough.

Total taxable residential property in the borough is valued at \$160.3 million this year; the vast majority in single-family homes. Apartments are valued at about \$1.9 million, almost \$1 million for condos and mobile homes at \$2.1 million.

There is \$32.4 million in taxable commercial property, \$3.86 million in industrial property and \$24.2 million worth of undeveloped land.

The borough assembly May 28 adopted the property tax assessment rolls for the fiscal year that starts July 1, and set the tax rate at the same levy as last year — 9.75 mills, or \$975 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value for land and buildings on the road system. The votes were unanimous.

The tax rate for properties off the road system, including Meyers Chuck, was set at 4 mills, the same as past years.

Holding the tax rate steady "was a goal of the assembly," Borough Manager Mason Villarma reported at the May 28 meeting.

The assembly cut the tax rate by about 25% last year after a comprehensive review of the assessed value of every parcel of land and every build-

ing in town boosted valuations by a total of 50%.

This year's total assessed value of all taxable property in town totals \$228 million, up 1.7% from last year.

The tax levy will raise an estimated \$2.1 million for the budget year that starts July 1.

In addition to senior-owned homes, more than \$110 million in property owned by the federal, state and borough governments, nonprofits, the Wrangell Cooperative Association and SEARHC is exempt from taxes.

Setting the tax rate is the first step in the budget process. The assembly will hold a work session at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at City Hall, to review the proposed spending plan, with a public hearing and final vote at the June 25 meeting.

Wrangell property tax bills will go out by July 1. Taxes are due by Oct. 15.

Wrangell is not alone with an aging population cutting into its property tax revenues, though it leads the state. Nenana, a town of about 360 residents, 55 road miles southwest of Fairbanks, is second to Wrangell in the percentage of property covered by the senior exemption. Petersburg, Haines and Ketchikan also exceed the statewide average.

The unfunded tax exemption will cost cities and boroughs across the state more

than \$100 million this year.

In Wrangell, 316 senior-owned homes are covered by the tax exemption this year, up from 215 in 2016. State law requires the exemption for people age 65 and older or a surviving widow or widower age 60 and older.

Seniors in Wrangell pay the full tax rate on any value in excess of \$150,000.

Wrangell's population is older than most communities in Alaska. The town's average age, as of state estimates for 2023, was 48.4 years old — one of the highest in Alaska. The statewide average was 36.5 years old.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bible Baptist Church pastor family grateful for time in Wrangell

More than 27 years ago, we arrived in Wrangell with our family as the new pastor at Bible Baptist Church and, soon thereafter, taking on the role as produce manager at City Market for the next 22 years of our time here. Thank you, Benn Curtis and Chet Powell for that opportunity.

Wrangell welcomed our family with open arms, as did our new church family. Our children, Nathan, Westley and Mindy, experienced and enjoyed making a lifetime of memories living in such a different place than their familiar Midwest beginnings. Yes, the geographic beauty is beyond de-

scription, but it is the people who have impacted our lives.

Our health now dictates we relocate to the Lower 48, though it is with many mixed emotions. Many of you and our church family will forever be burned into our memories of our time with you.

It is with deep emotions and love and we approach the time of our final church service at Bible Baptist at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 9. The church will soon have a new pastor to lead, and we hope that again in the future there will be days of Camp Carmel, senior luncheons, Eagle's Nest, Word of Life and the many other interactions in this community.

Here, there or in the air.

Doug and Nedra Shoultz

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Teacher works on side gig of restoring vintage furniture

BY MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

With school out for the summer, special education teacher Mikki Angerman will now focus more on repairing and restoring vintage furniture for her growing side business on Case Avenue called Forget-Me-Not Furniture. "Furniture flipping, I guess you can call it," she said.

She hopes her business will grow even more this summer, as residents continue to show interest. "It's nice to have that kind of support from the community."

Angerman first started working on furniture out of boredom during the COVID pandemic, looking for a creative outlet. While shopping for a piece of furniture for her house, she was not satisfied with what she found in stores. She thought they were too expensive and lacked the style and character of vintage products, so she decided to restore an old hutch instead.

At first, husband Aaron Angerman, who hauled the hutch to their home with his brother's help, had some doubts about his wife's ability to restore it, given that she admittedly had no experience in woodworking.

"It turned out pretty good," he said. "We still use it to this day."

After years of working out of her home and using several storage units, Mikki Angerman lined up space in December at the old Crossings Building on Case Avenue, which has room for the many pieces of furniture now stored there that she has come across over the years for free or cheap.

They are all shapes and sizes, including cabinets, bookshelves and tables, in various states of repair. A few chairs hang from one wall while an assortment of tools, brushes, paints and finishes are kept on the opposite side. She said she dreams about remaking the front of the space into a storefront, "but we'll see."

One of her main tools was a gift from her husband: a power sander connected to a shop vacuum. "So I can sand and there's not sawdust everywhere," she said, adding that it enabled her to sand items in her living room for a while, which wasn't ideal from her husband's perspective.

"My husband was like, 'Get it out of our living room!'" she said.

Despite that, she said her husband has been very encouraging with her newfound passion. "I want to do things myself, but there are times when I've asked him, like with the bigger power tools, to come help and he's been very supportive in that way."

Even though Mikki Angerman came to the craft only recently, lumber and woodworking were always in the background of her life. "My stepfather, when I was growing

up, he worked at a lumberyard. He was a manager there, so I spent a lot of my childhood running through his lumberyard. I would pick up old nails for like, I don't know, five bucks or whatever it was."

She said she always liked working with her hands, but initially wasn't quite brave enough to try woodworking or furniture restoration. All changed when the pandemic hit. "During COVID, we had all the time, so I thought ... 'Whatever, I'm just going to try it.'"

She quickly became skilled, self-taught through trial and error, as well as other resources. "I bought a few books. I watched a lot of videos."

Angerman said one of the many things she loves about restoring furniture is "you never really know what you're going to get. I don't know if people realize all the steps it takes."

She also gets very connected to the different pieces she works on, like when she uses a specific type of cleaner. "When you're washing it, you find every little nick or ding, anything that you have to fix."

While some people have told her how they dislike sanding down pieces, she doesn't mind that kind of work. "I'm diagnosed ADHD, and I feel like that is almost a superpower in this realm, because I can hyperfocus," she said. "I put on headphones, I can turn on music and I can just zone out, and it ends up being relaxing."

Angerman enjoys working on all kinds of furniture, but she does have a fondness for a particular type. "I love dressers," she said. "I feel like you can get really creative with a dresser. Dressers are a hot commodity here."

She displayed one such dresser on wooden wheels she found last summer. She relined the drawers with decorative wallpaper, polished the handles and used black chalk paint to give it a glossy, textured finish.

Although none of Angerman's kids have shown any interest in learning her mother's craft, they are eagerly looking forward to one of her current projects: an old poker table that she's refurbishing into a table for board games. "I've tried to get them to see if they want to learn how to do any of it, but I don't think they're quite there yet."

The inspiration for her business's name came from her desire to fight against the current trend of a disposable society. "I feel like every piece has a story," she said. "It's had a life. It's had kids on it, maybe, or grandparents, and I feel if there's a way to restore that and keep it, it won't be forgotten. ... It can live on for another generation. 'Forget-Me-Not' fit."

She encourages people to check out her work or contact her via Forget-Me-Not Furniture's social media pages on Facebook, Instagram or TikTok.



PHOTO BY BECCA CLARK / WRANGELL SENTINEL

The journey begins

It took a lot of people to haul canoes out of the water and set them on Shakes Island on May 28 in advance of a potluck dinner that evening and then an early morning start on May 29 for the 150-mile journey to Juneau for Celebration. Community members and paddlers already had moved canoes for the One People Canoe Society (left) and Kasaan (right) when they pitched in and lifted the canoe that will carry veterans or paddlers making the journey on behalf of veterans.

New owner will allow people to salvage usable items before hospital demolition

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The borough plans to pull the standby electrical generator, fire extinguishers and other usable items from the former hospital building before the new owner of the property tears down the structure to make way for a residential development.

Wayne Johnson, the Georgia-based real estate developer who planned to close on the purchase of the hospital property

this week, is allowing the borough time to salvage what it wants from the building, Borough Manager Mason Villarma said May 29.

"The borough can take whatever they want from there," Johnson said in an interview Sunday, June 2.

The borough has sold the standby generator for \$5,000, Villarma said, though the buyer will need to take down a wall to gain access to remove the unit.

The borough might also re-

trieve air compressors, along with the stove, range and vent hood from the kitchen, he said. "We don't want to waste anything."

The building — the original portion opened in 1968 — also includes a lot of solid wood doors, Villarma said, adding that the borough could give those to the high school shop class for projects.

Before he tears down the building, currently planned for October, Johnson said he plans to open it up a month or two in advance for individuals to salvage what they can. That could include metal roofing, wiring, windows and doors. Even toilets.

"Believe it or not, there are a lot of valuable plumbing fixtures in that place," he said.

People who retrieve items from the building for personal use can have them for free, Johnson said, but anyone who plans to resell the goods will need to make a donation for a community project.

He is thinking of playground improvements as a worthy recipient for the donations, but has not made a final decision.

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Happy Birthday AMERICA!

The Sentinel is offering a firecracker of a deal with 20% off all ads that mention the 4th of July in the June 26 edition. Ad deadline is 10 a.m. Friday, June 21.

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

907-874-2301

wrgsent@gmail.com

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Police report

Monday, May 27
Suspicious activity.

Tuesday, May 28
Wells Fargo alarm.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Traffic stop: Warning given for speed; citation issued for no proof of insurance.
Parking complaint: Vehicle had not been moved.

Wednesday, May 29
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for registration.
Found property.
Agency assist: Municipal line crew.

Thursday, May 30
Traffic stop: Citation issued for speed.
Agency assist: Pretrial.

Traffic stop.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for provisional license violation.

Friday, May 31
Dog complaint.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for speed and provisional violation.
Hit and run.

Saturday, June 1
Parking complaint.
Assault.

Sunday, June 2
Agency assist: Probation.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Found property.
Citizen assist.

There were six ambulance requests.

Ortiz will not seek reelection; three candidates file for seat

By KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS AND WRANGELL SENTINEL

Rep. Dan Ortiz, the Ketchikan independent who has represented southern Southeast communities since January 2015, including Wrangell, has decided to withdraw as a candidate for reelection, citing health and family considerations.

Ortiz had filed in July as a candidate for reelection to House District 1, representing Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla, Wrangell, Hyder, Coffman Cove and Whale Pass.

However, a "more definitive" health concern caused him to reconsider, he told the Ketchikan Daily News on May 28.

"It's been within the last week that I've had the recommendation that I can give myself the best opportunity to prevent a chronic condition from developing by looking at the stress in my life and trying to reduce that," Ortiz said.

He said he's not facing anything that's imminent or dangerous at this point. "It's primarily driven by personal health decisions, as well as family decisions."

Ortiz has been a member of the House Finance Committee, giving him a larger role in budget decisions.

As of the filing deadline on Saturday, June 1, three candidates, all from Ketchikan, had filed to run for the vacated House seat: Republican Jeremy Bynum, who lost to Ortiz in the 2022 election; independent Grant EchoHawk; and independent Agnes Moran.

The primary election is Aug. 20; the general election is Nov. 5. There are no political party primaries in Alaska. Under the state's ranked-choice voting system, the top four finishers in the primary advance to the general election. Unless one of them drops out, Bynum, EchoHawk and Moran will face off in November, with the seat going to whoever tallies the most votes.

EchoHawk, who was raised in Metlakatla, works for the Tongass Federal Credit Union and

is a member of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough assembly.

Bynum, who manages the Ketchikan Public Utilities Electric Division, also serves on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough assembly.

"It's kind of my field. I'm an energy expert," Bynum said. "I have a lot of passion about renewable energy, hydropower, tidal wave energy."

Bynum, who moved to Ketchikan in 2016, is a licensed professional engineer.

"I have true belief in our Republican principles," he told the Anchorage Daily News on May 31. "I'm going to do what's in the best interests of District 1, and I'm hoping that involves Republicans getting around a bigger group of people to get things done."

During an interview with the Ketchikan Daily News on May 30, EchoHawk said school funding is at the top of his list — and economic development.

"I'm a fan of the tourism industry, I think that it's important, but I also know that all of the infrastructure costs," he said. "We need to make sure that everybody's paying their fair share so that our local businesses and our local residents aren't bearing the full brunt of any infrastructure costs that happen."

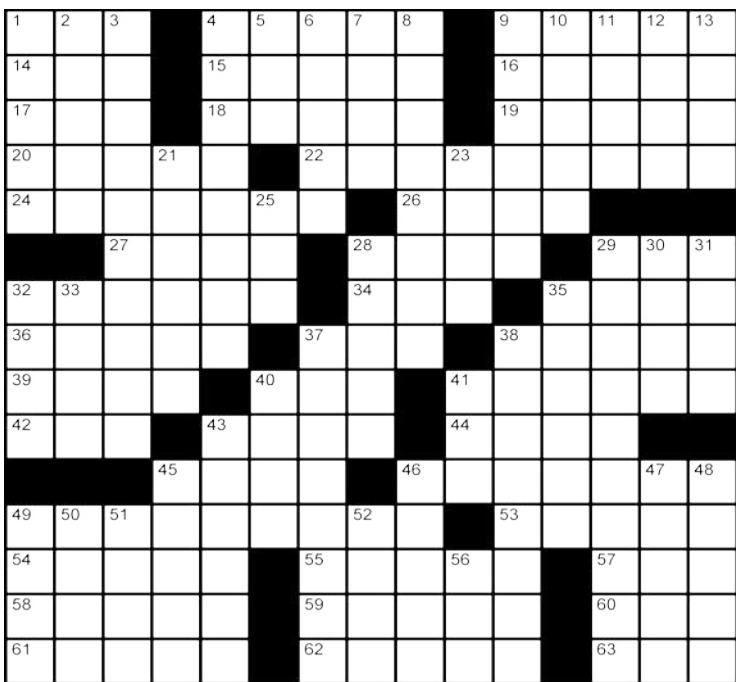
EchoHawk said he is more aligned with Ortiz's bipartisan approach, pointing specifically to supporting more state funding for education, he told the Anchorage Daily News.

Moran, who was born in Ketchikan, was named Citizen of the year by the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce in 2021. She was hired in 2017 as executive director of the Women in Safe Homes (WISH) shelter.

She ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for the state House in 2012 and 2014 and was a member of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough assembly in 2010. She was named to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees in 2022.

Crossword

Answers on page 8



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Limerick's second word, usually
- 4 Delicate
- 9 Eat greedily
- 14 Medical insurer
- 15 Delayed
- 16 Radio receiver
- 17 Australian running bird
- 18 Univision news anchor Jorge ---
- 19 Make amends
- 20 Open grassland
- 22 Preserved
- 24 Funded
- 26 Biblical weed
- 27 Hilltop
- 28 Not that
- 29 --- for Charlie
- 32 Expatriate
- 34 Rowboat lever
- 35 The Pope
- 36 Confined
- 37 Demand
- 38 Face protection
- 39 Affirmative votes
- 40 Obtain
- 41 Battle Born State
- 42 Short numbers
- 43 Elapse
- 44 High-hat
- 45 Cheap sensational magazine
- 46 Perturbed
- 49 NY C's --- Park
- 53 Lexicographer's interest
- 54 Whiffs
- 55 Enjoy to the full
- 57 U S capital once and briefly
- 58 Pal of Kukla and Fran
- 59 Dodge
- 60 Accountant's letters
- 61 Senses
- 62 Works
- 63 Agency which initiated the Waco siege

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Location question
- 2 Capital of Jordan
- 3 Speech snippets
- 4 Book opener
- 5 Genetic component of some viruses
- 6 Pointed
- 7 Religious painting
- 8 <
- 9 Brenda and Ringo
- 10 Adorable child
- 11 Author unknown
- 12 Mathematician --- Descartes
- 13 Adele's dancing brother
- 21 Pigs out
- 23 Locks or strands
- 25 Ram's dam
- 28 Tip sellers
- 29 Largest Moroccan city
- 30 Portable player
- 31 "Two Mules for Sister ---": Eastwood/MacLaine film
- 32 Pulitzer winner Jennifer ---
- 33 Salad sauce
- 35 Fulcrums
- 37 Loathed
- 38 Enterprises
- 40 Young ladies
- 41 Intelligence agency
- 43 Prize monies
- 45 Hazard
- 46 Nightclub show
- 47 Pyramid place
- 48 Kickless coffee
- 49 Upper limit
- 50 Indolent
- 51 Short-tailed rodent
- 52 Valley
- 56 Weird

Annual week-long Camp Lorraine starts June 16

By GEORGE KOSINSKI

For the Wrangell Sentinel

Children from across Alaska will make the roughly eight-mile boat trip June 16 from Wrangell to Vank Island, where they will spend the week at Camp Lorraine.

Camp Lorraine is one of three residential summer camps operated every year by the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as part of its Alaska Camps series. The church plans to host other week-long camps in Dillingham and Big Lake later this summer, along with several day camps in more remote Alaska communities.

The week-long camp programs are open to kids ages 8 through 16 years old.

Camp Lorraine dates back to the late 1960s. Facilities include seven large A-frame style cabins where campers will stay, as well as a gymnasium, bathhouse and lodge with a full kitchen.

According to the Alaska Camps website, staff from across the country are "Christian role models" whose mission is to help campers "reach new levels; physically, spiritually, mentally and socially."

Campers will participate in a range of activities, able to choose each day between options which

include outdoor recreation, sports, arts and crafts, and nature study, also coming together for shared meals and chores.

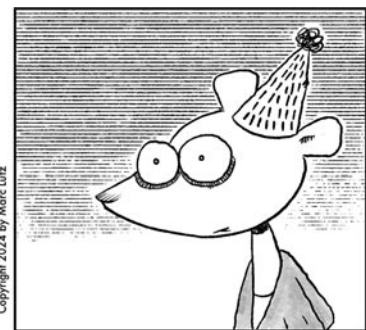
In addition, campers are expected to join in a daily morning worship, followed every evening by "top-quality programming that teaches about Jesus," according to the website.

Attending Camp Lorraine costs \$199 per camper, though partial scholarships of up to 50% are available for families that need financial help.

Register at alaskaconference.org/ministries/alaska-camps, or call April Eilertsen at 907-470-3148.

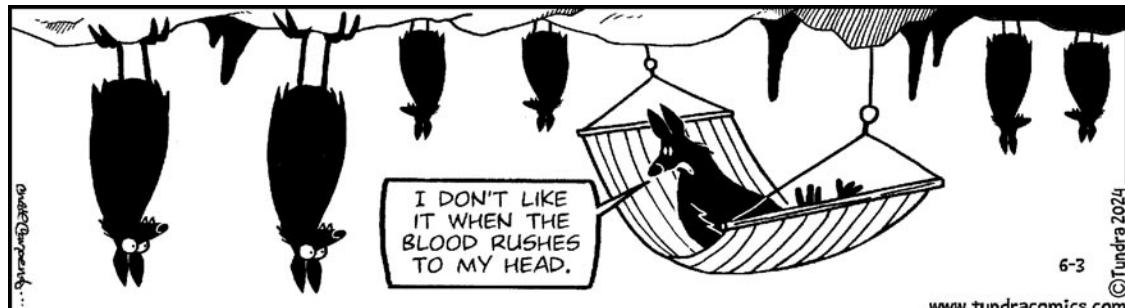
Ritter's River

by Marc Lutz



Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE**

During the Regular Assembly Meeting of Tuesday, June 11, 2024, starting at 7 p.m. in the Wrangell Borough Assembly Chambers at 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska, there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s)

- a. **Resolution** No. 06-24-1868 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, approving the amended Fee and Rate Schedule for Water and Wastewater fee increases and for a Credit Card Surcharge.

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

Publish June 5, 2024

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HELP WANTED

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is seeking two road/trail maintenance laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications are available outside the Wrangell Cooperative Association office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. Positions are open until filled. Contact Lizzy Romane at 907-874-3077 with any questions.

HELP WANTED

Johnson's Building Supply is accepting applications for the following position: Customer Service: Duties include counter sales, freight handling, customer deliveries, stocking and inventory. Full-time position; will require working Saturdays. Valid Alaska driver's license, must be able to lift 50 lbs., forklift experience a plus, starting pay is DOE. Stop by Johnson's for an application.

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.

FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick up.

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

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
5th and 6th AVENUES ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **5th AND 6th AVENUES ROAD CONSTRUCTION** project. Work consists of all activities necessary to construct the new roadways shown in the contract documents. The work includes mobilization, construction surveying, clearing and grubbing, placement of base course and surface course, storm, ditch and other improvements. The Owner's Estimate for all work is approximately \$200,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on June 18, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk in order to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 5 and 12, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.080, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and shall begin at 6 p.m.

If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular assembly meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at City Hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7 p.m.

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

Publish June 5, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Borough Controller**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting a Borough Controller to join the Borough's Finance Department. Applications will be accepted beginning Thursday, May 16, 2024, through Friday, June 19, 2024. If there are no applicants hired for the Borough Controller position during this time frame, the Borough will consider the position open until filled.

The Controller is a senior management position that is responsible for exercising direction and control over Borough accounting and financial reporting functions. This includes implementing and monitoring internal controls over financial reporting and compliance and working with the Finance Director to disseminate accurate and timely financial information to users. The Borough Controller will also perform a full range of complex management, accounting, technical, administrative, supervisory and financial duties and provide overall planning, coordination and accountability for large complex projects. Additionally, the Borough Controller will work with the Finance Director to integrate accounting operations, systems and controls that prevent, detect and/or correct the underlying accounting for business transactions.

The position typically requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration or a closely related field and eight years of experience in accounting systems and operations, treasury, financial reporting or audits, including three years in a leadership capacity. Experience in governmental accounting is preferred. An active CPA or CMA certificate and/or a master's degree in business administration may substitute for some experience.

This is a full-time, salary grade position with full benefits, paid at Grade 30 ranging from \$6,873.92 to \$8,683.18 per month. The full job description and employment application can be found online at www.wrangell.com/jobs. This position will require a successful pre-employment background check and drug screening.

To be considered, submit a cover letter, résumé, and completed employment application via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com, or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

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

Publish May 22, 29, June 5 and 12, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION LOADING DOCK**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION LOADING DOCK** project. The work consists of all activities as shown in the contract documents. The work includes mobilization, construction surveying, clearing and site demolition, earthwork, concrete, utilities, overhead door installation, and other improvements. The Owner's Estimate for all work is approximately \$285,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time on June 27, 2024, and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk in order to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in a bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the owner.

Mason Villarma, Borough Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish June 5, 12 and 19, 2024

**CITY and BOROUGH
OF WRANGELL
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

- a. Ordinance No. 1056 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Amending Section 11.04.020 titled "Traffic Fine Schedule – Adoption of State Bail Forfeiture Schedules by Reference," in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish June 5, 2024

Schools maintenance director has full list of summer projects

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

This summer, new schools maintenance director Kevin McCallister, with the help of assistant maintenance director Jason Beaty, is preparing to give the schools a major cleaning and make essential repairs that can't be done when classes are in session.

"Essentially, we're just going to go through and deep clean everything, and then we're going to get into some maintenance stuff," McCallister said. "Being my first year here, I have a list of things to do."

The biggest project he'll take on this summer will involve cleaning the floors and carpets in all the schools. "We're going to ... clean every inch of carpet. We are going to strip and re wax all of the hard floors."

The gym floors will also be cleaned starting July 1, but they will not be sanded down and refinished this year. Instead, that is done every other year. "Because it's costly and it takes a lot of time," McCallister said.

One of the other big projects this year will be the repair of an air handler, a bulky 400-pound fan motor in the high school gym with worn-out bearings. A local contractor will do the labor for the repair.

For the past year or two, as the bearings have ground down, they've only been able to run the fan during events, so it's one of his priorities this summer, McCallister said. "Because it gets really hot in that gym."

He estimated the work at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. "It's going to take a whole team of guys."

Another project for the summer will involve lubricating all the building machinery, including the ventilation fans and pumps. "We're going to grease everything that needs to be greased," he said, adding that some valves on the heating system will be replaced.

The summer repair projects will include some stairs and decks at the elementary school, plus "kind of sprucing up the classrooms to make the classrooms more efficient," he said. "We have eight or 10 requests already for new dry-erase boards."

In addition to the deep clean on the inside, McCallister will also see to cleaning the outside. "We're going to pressure wash the exterior of the schools, clean all the windows," he said. "We're going to get up there and wash the roofs, and make sure there are no leaks that need to be repaired over the summer."

He also wants to make repairs to the brick and concrete walkway and the intake vents on the Reid Street side of the high school. "Those are letting water through the bricks or down the vents," he said. "It's causing water intrusion into the ceiling of the generator room."

He plans to regout the mortar between the bricks and reseal it with a waterproofing chemical to fix the leak.

While it's not normally done over the summer break, McCallister will provide access for the high school basketball teams to practice in the gym during the month of June. "The kids want to get better in their craft," he said. "I'm going to advocate for the kids, so I've decided to let them use the gym until July 1."

Marine Service Center faces usual pre-season bottleneck

By BECCA CLARK
Sentinel reporter

The Marine Service Center is extremely busy right now, but Harbormaster Steve Miller said the amount of business is normal for this time of year.

"The end of March through June is our busiest time of the year," he said. Commercial and sport fishermen are getting ready for their active season, and the summer tour business is getting started.

Most of the business comes from commercial vessels, but Miller added that sailboats and yachts come out of the water for work too.

Most of the labor this time of year is "what we call a shave and haircut," he said. "Which includes pressure washing, bottom paint and zincs." The wait time for that work this time of year is two days to 10 days.

Whether a do-it-yourselfer or a boat owner paying a contractor for work, appointments are required for a boat lift. "We have people who are scheduling out three to nine months in advance," Miller said. "People get mad at us because we can't accommodate them" when the lifts are fully booked.

The borough owns and operates two lifts and a hydraulic trailer to pull boats from the water at the service center.

To accommodate the bottleneck of vessels, vendors usually work long shifts and weekends.

In addition to the service providers who lease space at the center, the downtown waterfront property has storage space for about 85 boats.

"More property would alleviate some of the congestion but not all," Miller said. "The other thing that would help is if the long winter projects were completed prior to the spring rush so those spaces could be used for the quick turnaround of the spring boat rush."

"This busy period is a testament to the importance of the Marine Service Center and the crucial role it plays in maintaining the health and performance of the vessels," Miller wrote in his report for the May 28 borough assembly meeting.

The Port and Harbors Department is looking at its rate structure for boat haul-outs and could consider higher charges for peak time, with lower rates during non-peak use, to help spread out the demand, Miller said in an interview May 29.

While pre-summer work tends to be lighter-duty maintenance, winter projects include new shafts and repowering boats, he said.

Larry Persily contributed reporting for this story.

Public Safety Building could get new roof if federal money comes through

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

If Sen. Lisa Murkowski is successful in her request for a congressional appropriation for \$2 million in federal grant money to help repair Wrangell's Public Safety Building, the borough might be able to replace the roof and damaged siding next year.

Though the rot-damaged building needs a lot more work than just the roof and siding, Borough Manager Mason Villarma said the new plan is to start with a scaled-down project and add more repairs, rebuilds and equipment replacements later.

"We plan to trim down the scale of the project," he said in an interview May 29. "For now, it's about protecting the shell."

A new engineer's estimate for the roof and siding came in at \$4 million, he said. If the

federal money comes through, the borough would need to cover the other half of the cost before going to bid on the project.

Voters in 2022 rejected an \$8.5 million bond issue for more extensive work to the building, which have been estimated at as much as \$15 million to repair and rebuild everything that is wrong with the 40-year-old water-damaged wood structure.

The assembly last year approved a \$53,605 contract with Juneau-based NorthWind Architects for a new report on the facility, including looking at priority repair needs.

The Wrangell building is one of more than 500 requests for federal money that Murkowski submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee last month for consideration in the federal budget year that starts Oct. 1. Those

requests total about \$2.5 billion.

"Believe me, we won't get \$2.5 billion," Murkowski cautioned in an interview last month.

Besides for the unknown of which Alaska projects may win funding in federal budget bills, there is no guarantee that Congress will pass a budget before the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, particularly in the months leading up to the election. Often, Congress extends agency funding past Oct. 1 to avoid a government shutdown but does not approve new spending until the next year.

Villarma reported on the \$2 million funding request at the May 28 borough assembly meeting.

"Hopefully, we can make a promise to the public for that ugly, ugly building," he said.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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No softball for Lady Wolves this year

By MARK C. ROBINSON
Sentinel reporter

Varsity softball coach Marsha Ballou said the Wrangell Lady Wolves team was unable to compete in their scheduled games in Juneau this season "due to unforeseen circumstances" beyond their control.

She did not elaborate on what forced the team to cancel its Juneau games.

The squad's only game this year was the informal alumni fundraiser April 27 at Volunteer Park.

"We deeply regret any disappointment this may cause to our team, supporters and the community," Ballou said in an email May 28.

She said they are committed to overcoming the challenges that kept the team from competing this year and look forward to playing next season.

The squad, which consisted of 14 students, had originally planned to play games in Juneau in May.

No games were scheduled in Wrangell.

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