

Special meeting focuses on port projects

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A pair of projects have moved toward their next phases after a special midday meeting of the Wrangell Port Commission Tuesday. Commissioners approved plans to finance float reconstruction at Shoemaker Bay Harbor, as well concepts for a mariners memorial at Heritage Harbor.

The current concept for updating Shoemaker features four fingers built using polyethylene tubs as floats rather than wood and metal. Three of these envisioned fingers will be enough to accommodate the currently berthed boats, with the fourth offering space for longer, wider craft.

PND Engineering's preliminary cost estimate for the Shoemaker project is \$10.7 million. The Harbor Department would put forward \$3.2 million in harbor replacement and commercial fishing reserve funds and issue \$2.5 million in revenue bonds.

Under the plan, the remainder would have to come from an Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) matching grant focused on harbor facility projects. In order to apply for that funding, the City and Borough of Wrangell would need to submit an application with the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank and establish its ability to service the debt.

Consulting with the bank, Wrangell finance director Lee Burgess explained the city would have to issue 20-year bonds with an interest rate conservatively estimated at about four percent.

"It would probably be a little less than that, but for planning purposes it would probably be better to aim for that four," Burgess said.

Annual payments would run at \$182,778 under this estimation, which would be repaid in part through stall rent monies currently deferred to the harbor reserve fund. Stall revenues are approximately \$450,000 a year, with additional stalls at a new Shoemaker bringing in an additional \$25,000. Forty-eight percent of this revenue goes toward the reserve fund, from which the money to repay the debt would come. Under this scheme, the Harbor Department would still reserve \$45,222 per year for the fund.

After its approval by the Port Commission, the financing plan will move to the Assembly at its June 9 meeting for a decision, ahead of an Aug. 1 deadline to file the ADOT grant application. If approved, the renovation project could be completed by 2017.

Securing the capital project funding remains a concern as state legislators look to tackle a \$3.9 billion deficit. In previous commission meetings, Harbormaster Greg Meissner has indicated that the Shoemaker refurbishment could not proceed without assistance from the state. However, he has expressed confidence that the application will have a fair chance due to the pro-

ject's single-phasing and local impact.

"I know this has been a long time coming, and in its current state Shoemaker has become more of a liability than an asset," commented Clay Hammer, presiding over the commission.

Corvus Design architect Chris Mertl also presented plans for the new mariners memorial at the southwest corner of Heritage Harbor. The first phase, so far envisioned, would include the permitted fill and landscaping, followed by construction of the concrete courtyard, memorial wall and pavilion.

Future phases could include installation of a wooden board-

walk, garden and sponsors area, but Phase 1 would form the memorial's core. Its cost is currently estimated at \$255,000, plus a ten-percent contingency.

"We're at or below the budget that we've started out with," Mertl explained.

The memorial would be a curved wall of steel evoking a ship's hull, with bronze placards inscribed with the names of those to be remembered. In the event more names need to be added, the design takes the addition of two or three further walls into consideration. The upper portion of the eight-sided, concrete pavilion is based on the iconic St. Mary's Lighthouse in northeast-

ern Great Britain and would feature a lighthouse component.

"We're pretty much done," Mertl said. "I think we're 99 percent there; there are just some small details."

Among the details still to be determined are how to arrange names on the wall and whether to install plates within the pavilion. At the moment, Mertl said it was possible around 400 names might be submitted for initial inclusion on the memorial. Port commissioners also need to decide how best to arrange for the memorial's continued upkeep, a conversation which may be continued at its next meeting.

Local scouts reprise role as citizen scientists

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Girl Scouts from Wrangell's Troop 4156 recently returned from a four-day field exercise upriver, observing amphibians for this year's "Camp'Phibian."

What has become an annual field trip is in its second year and partners the troop with researchers from the Alaska Herpetological Society (AHS) and United States Forest Service. It is part of a broader research project the society has developed called the Stikine Long-Term Amphibian Monitoring Program.

AHS president Josh Ream said the project stemmed from his graduate thesis at University of Alaska Fairbanks. After determining the state lacked long-term monitoring for amphibians, a data collection study was organized that focused on the Stikine River area. Site studies began last year.

The local Girl Scouts were soon on board with the first Camp'Phibian, studying sites upriver at Twin Lakes.

"We have a lot of different goals when we go up there," Ream explained. In addition to collecting data on amphibian populations that can form a baseline for broader, long-term research, information collected by participants can be used to improve species management and conservation efforts.

A water system's frogs, toads, newts and salamanders can be an indicator of the health of the local ecosystem. In addition to being a link in the food chain for predatory birds, fish and other smaller mammals, amphibians are a sort of "canary in the mine" for water purity and pollution levels due to their porous skins and nonmigratory habits.

The Camp'Phibian program is just one component of Ream's research, which combines local knowledge observations and expertise with service-learning and "citizen science" projects. In its second year,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Laura Helgeson, Kara Helgeson, Alaska Herpetological Society president Josh Ream, and Reyn Hutten search for amphibian specimens at Twin Lakes last weekend during this year's "Camp'Phibian" joint exercise. The citizen science project teamed up AHS, the Girl Scouts and United States Forest Service for a four-day site research project around the Stikine River water system.

the program is still developing and proved more expansive and successful this year than the last.

"Our numbers were great," Ream said. Returning this year on May 22, the girls identified 440 individual specimens, mainly juvenile boreal toads, at three sites. Based on observations of tadpoles during last spring's studies, Ream said the find indicates last year's cohort had a great survival rate, due perhaps to a

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Library cracks open summer reading program

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The school year came to an end for Wrangell students on May 21, and while they've said "so long" for the summer to teachers and homework, they are still invited to pick up a book or two in the interim through the annual summer reading program.

The program—hosted by the Irene Ingle Public Library—is already under way, encouraging

kids to continue reading while on break with a variety of prizes and cash drawings for participants.

Its purpose is to help curb summer reading loss, where students lose some of their newly learned or developing academic skills over their three-month break.

"You lose some of that over the summer if you don't read," explained head librarian Margaret Villarma.

The program begins with kids reading a book from the local library, which are assigned point values based on their size and difficulty. The goal is for every student enrolled in the program to earn at least 10 points over the summer.

Students then take a Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reader (AR) test afterward with computers on loan from Wrangell Public Schools. The tests can only be taken once for books read between May 18 and July 31. Information is then relayed back to the school, and staff assign coupons and update tallies every week. The coupons are then entered into the program's cash and prize drawings,

up to a cap of 100 for any one student.

"It's all by chance," Villarma said of the drawings. Like purchasing raffle tickets, the more points and coupons a reader earns, the better their chance of winning something in the drawing. The library already has 162 prizes lined up, with many on display atop its bookcases.

"We've got some really nice donations," she commented.

The Stikine Sportsmen's Association and Friends of the Library have made contributions of cash and gifts, as have a number of other businesses and individuals around town. There will be a pair of round-trip, system-wide Alaska Airlines tickets as well, and a grant from First Bank has gone toward purchasing a special gift for participating students. In previous years, the bank's gifts have included duffel bags and outdoor equipment, but this year's will remain a surprise.

"The community's very supportive of the program," Villarma explained. There will also be cash prizes of varying amounts and an August pool party for all students

who accumulate at least 10 points during the program.

Last year's program exceeded expectations, with 147 students reading around 3,500 books. In part because of the number of participants, high schoolers will not be included this year. Incoming kindergarteners through middle school students have until June 30 to register for the summer reading program.

New to this year's program, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska has sponsored a local high school student to come during weekday afternoons this summer to help library staff. The new assistant will be on hand to help younger readers find and read books and to aid in AR testing.

This year, students in Bob Davis' high school creative writing class wrote and illustrated hardcover children's stories for the library's collection. The books are currently on display in Irene Ingle's children section. The class also created accompanying AR tests so students can earn points for reading the stories through the summer program.



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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

NORTH END FERRY AUTHORITY, AN ALASKA MUNICIPAL PORT AUTHORITY, DBA. RAINFOREST ISLANDS FERRY, IS HIRING PERSONNEL FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Captain, 38 GRT passenger/vehicle ferry, full-time, year around, based in Coffman Cove, Alaska.
- Relief Captain, 38 GRT passenger/vehicle ferry, seasonal or intermittent year around, based in Coffman Cove, Alaska.
- Deckhand/Purser/Barista, 38 GRT passenger/vehicle ferry, full-time, year around, based in Coffman Cove, Alaska.
- Relief Deckhand/Purser/Barista, 38 GRT passenger/vehicle ferry, seasonal or intermittent year around, based in Coffman Cove, Alaska.
- Office Manager/Bookkeeper, full-time, year around, based in Coffman Cove, Alaska.
- Mini-coach Driver, 8 hour split shift, 32 to 40 hours per week, year around, based in Craig, Alaska.
- Relief mini-coach Driver, 8 hour split shift, 8 to 16 hours per week, intermittent seasonal to year- around, based in Craig, Alaska.
- Two part-time Mini-coach Drivers, 16 hours per week, year around, based in Wrangell and Petersburg, Alaska.

Positions are offered at competitive wages and salary. Part-time employees receive an allowance for vacation/sick leave. Full-time employees receive 10 paid holidays (80hr./yr.), 200 hours annual vacation/sick leave, health and life insurance, and 401K.

Minimum age for all positions is 18 years old. Job offers will be contingent on passing a pre-employment drug test.



Job descriptions and additional information are available at www.rainforestislandsferry.com, e-mail kent@rainforestislandsferry.com, or telephone toll free (844) 329-2031.

Published: May 21 and 28, 2015

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City and Borough of Wrangell has submitted two applications for funding to the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The Borough Assembly will hold a public information meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska, to discuss the following two applications that have been made:

1. An application to the Community Facilities Program to purchase a police car.
2. An application to the Waste Water Program for construction funds for the rehabilitation of two sewer lift stations.

The purpose for this public information meeting is to provide detailed information about these proposals and provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit comments. Any written comments regarding the applications should be provided within (15) days of this publication to USDA Rural Development, for additional information please contact 907-271-2424.

The public is encouraged to attend.

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

Publish: May 28, 2015

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Board

The Parks & Recreation Board wants your ideas and your valuable input!

Any interest person is eligible to apply. Please submit your letter of interest by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2015** to:

Mayor David L. Jack
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

or email your letter of interest the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com.

The unexpired term for this vacancy is until: October 2015.

Your participation in this committee would be very much appreciated.

Information on the powers and duties of the Parks & Recreation Board are contained in Wrangell Municipal Code, Chapter 3.52. A copy of the code chapter can be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com

Kim Lane, CMC, Borough Clerk

Publish: May 28 and June 4, 2015

**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID
CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
City Owned Lots and Foreclosed Properties
FOR SALE**

Per WMC 16.12.040, Notice is hereby given that the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the sale of eight (8) City Owned Lots and two (2) Foreclosed Properties within the Borough boundaries of Wrangell. The properties are as follows:

Property Description	Square Footage	Minimum Bid Value
Lot 1, Block 38 (SF)	7,501 sq. ft.	\$29,000
Lot 5, Block 38 (SF)	15,134 sq. ft.	\$34,000
Lot 6, Block 38 (SF)	15,502 sq. ft.	\$30,000
Lot 16, Block 30B (SF)	7,799 sq. ft.	\$28,000
Lot 17, Block 30B (SF)	7,769 sq. ft.	\$28,000
Lot 18, Block 30B (SF)	7,788 sq. ft.	\$28,000
Lot 19, Block 30B (SF)	7,813 sq. ft.	\$28,000
Lot 20, Block 30B (SF)	6,887 sq. ft.	\$25,000
Lot 4, R.A.L. Subdivision 600 Etolin Street (MF)	73,782 sq. ft.	\$44,300
Lot 2, R.A.L. Subdivision 731 Hemlock Street (MF)	47,294 sq. ft.	\$35,500

Sealed bids will be received by the City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 **until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time May 29, 2015** at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Proposals may not be withdrawn for thirty days following the date of opening.

Clearly mark on the outside of the envelope **"Sealed Bid - City Lots, Opening Date - May 29, 2015, 2:00 p.m."**

The bid forms and maps reflecting property location may be obtained at the office of the Borough Clerk for no charge at 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, by email: clerk@wrangell.com, or online at www.wrangell.com. Questions regarding this project shall be directed to Jeff Jabusch, Borough Manager or Carol Rushmore, Economic Director at 907-874-2381.

The City & Borough of Wrangell reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in a bid, and to make award to the highest responsive, responsible bidder as it may best serve the interest of the Borough.

Publish: May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2015

Camp

Continued from page 5
mild winter and spring this year.

"We did some experiments in the field with the girls," he explained. "This is real science that's ongoing, and they're participating as scientists."

"It's pretty intense, but it's fun, too," said Diane O'Brien, the scout troop's leader. In her view, the program promotes an interest in science for young students, getting them out of classroom for a hands-on learning experience.

"This really fits the bill for that," she said.

Ream said he hopes the program will continue in future, with the long-term retention of information gathered serving as the basis for later research.

"In future years, we're hoping to obtain grants for this program," he said.

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**Pat's Lake
Construction Notice**

Culvert replacement work on Pat's Lake Road (FS 6259) from 3.208 to 0.238 mile. Beginning May 11, 2015, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri. Updated weekly until Sept. 1. Dump truck hauling. Please use caution and expect delays. Signs will be posted. Call Bill Willard at 874-3077 for more information.

Publish: May 28, 2015



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to remove the existing powerhouse roofing system and install a new PVC membrane roofing system on the Powerhouse at its Swan Lake Hydroelectric Facility. Bids must be received by Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 pm AKDT. A copy of the complete Request for Proposal document may be downloaded from SEAPA's website at: <http://www.seapahydro.org/rfp-postings.php> or you may contact Sharon Thompson by email at sthompson@seapahydro.org to request a copy.

Publish: May 28, 2015