

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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MEMORANDUM

DATE:	May 4, 2022
TO:	Mayor and Assembly
FROM:	Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE:	Manager's Weekly Post

Gateway Visitor Center Project: The Gateway Visitor Center continues to be a priority for the Borough and our Finance Department Grants Coordinator has been in weekly communication with Chickaloon and Knik. We have reached an agreement on what can be done with the \$25,000 allocated for a cultural resources survey, as requested by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), as well as what additional work Chickaloon and Knik will do at their own expense. We have issued a right-of-entry permit and are in the process of sending it to Chickaloon for signature. The purchase order for the survey should be issued this week.

The survey is scheduled to occur in May and June. This allows for the ground, including the area with the wetlands, to thaw enough to dig test pits. The final report is due no later than September, followed by the formal letter with copy of the report being sent to all Native entities within the Borough. The report must be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer before it is considered final. We are expecting a grant award to come in by late October with accepting and appropriating funding in early December.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Agriculture <u>Bird flu confirmed in Mat-Su - Alaska's News Source</u> <u>Mat-Su farmers take over morning commute in 6th annual event</u>

Natural Disaster

River Watch will monitor Alaska river breakup - The Cordova Times

Wildfire Mitigation

<u>Firewise & Fuel Breaks Helped Save Alaskans During Fast Moving McKinley Fire 2019 - AK Fire Info</u> Wildfire season ramps up as temperatures rise across Alaska – Alaska News Source

War on fentanyl laced opioids

2 drug busts 'among the largest fentanyl seizures in Alaska history' with ... - Alaska's News Source Governor Dunleavy Press Conference – Fentanyl Press Conference

Special Election

Alaska Division of Elections mails out ballots for U.S. House special primary election

Education

<u>Wasilla High School will offer a Level One Kubota Diesel Technician certification program -</u> <u>Frontiersman</u>

Mat-Su College holding first in-person graduation since the start of the pandemic - Frontiersman