Wrangell grocery owner is selling his business, after 30 years on the job

22bobs June Leffler/ KSTK 8-22-2018

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HOST

One of Wrangell’s locally-owned grocery stores will soon be switching hands. Bob Robbins of Bob’s IGA is selling his business after 30 years of working at the store. KSTK’s June Leffler has more.

REPORTER

Robbins recently told his employees about the impending sale.

“First of all, to dispel the rumors that are going around, Bob’s IGA is not going out of business, I am not closing the store.”

Robbins says nothing is set yet, and negotiations are still in the works.

“I can’t get a whole lot of details. What I can tell you is the purchaser is mike ward from Haines.”

Mike Ward is a long-time Haines resident. He owns the IGA there, as well as the Harbor Bar and Quick Shop.

“Mike currently operates a five star IGA operation up in Haines and intends to continue to operate this as an IGA store here in Wrangell.”

Ward will own the store from afar, but his daughter and son-in-law will help operate the store in Wrangell. Caroline and Travis Bangs live in Wrangell, where Travis grew up and Caroline graduated high school.

Robbins has managed the store for 30 years and has owned it for 18 years.

“I actually got into retail grocery 42 years ago working for Safeway in the Seattle area. It’s been quite a career and I guess officially it’s not over yet, but it’s just time to move on with our lives.”

Robbins doesn’t have any big plans after the sale yet. Him and his wife Bobby will stick around in Wrangell and continue to work on their bowling game.

In Wrangell, I’m June Leffler.