

In memory of Helen & Sig



Wrangell, Alaska
August 6, 2020

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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8 Pages

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN OTTESEN

Drone footage of the Gathering of the Fleet, July 29, in memory of Sig and Helen Decker.

Community comes together in memory of Deckers

Friends of Sig and Helen Decker holding candles in their memory. Pictured here (right to left) are Anna Allen, Ashley Olson, Kaylyn Easterly, Ashley Allen, Makena Hammer, and Jamie Early.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Last week, four people died in a car wreck in Petersburg. Among them were two Wrangellites, Siguard and Helen Decker, 21-years-old and 19-years-old. Their deaths shook the community, which has come together in a variety of ways to express their grief and support for the Decker family.

A GoFundMe page was put together by the United Fishermen of Alaska, to raise money in their memory. As of Tuesday morning, Aug. 4, \$161,273 has been raised.

"The initial \$10,000 in funds raised will go towards funeral costs and related expenses," the GoFundMe page reads. "We are looking to raise \$50,000 to fund the rest of the brand new Wrangell Mariner's Memorial where Helen and Sig will be the first names on the wall. Additional funds raised after that will be used to start a Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of Helen and Sig Decker."

Wrangell resident Lucy Robinson also organized a Meal Train for Gig and Julie Decker, Sig and Helen's parents. Support was also offered for the wider public, as well. Wrangell residents Addy Esco and Laurie Hagelmen stationed themselves at the middle school for several afternoons in a row to make themselves available for anyone who needed someone to

talk to or a shoulder to cry on.

A Gathering of the Fleet was held on the evening of July 29. Approximately 50 vessels congregated off of City Dock in memory of Sig and Helen, who were active members of the fishing community. They were joined by many members of the public who stood on the dock itself. As the sun set, candles were lit, flares were shot off, and flowers were thrown into the water. On some boats, people sang.

The Mariners' Memorial lighthouse was lit for the very first time in honor of Sig and Helen, too, on the evening of July 29.

"Although there is still plenty of work to accomplish at the site, we light it today in honor of Sig and Helen, all the Decker's work and other hands that have helped go into this project, our progress thus far, and as a next step forward to serve as a place of remembrance," Jenn Miller-Yancey, with the Mariners' Memorial Board, wrote on Facebook. "We would like it to stay lit from this day on."

The community gathered again on Aug. 1, for a celebration of life. The friends and family of Sig and Helen, along with many other Wrangell residents, gathered in front of the Mariners' Memorial at Heritage Harbor. For those who could not attend in person, the Wrangell School District

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH EINERT

Sig and Helen Decker, 21-years-old and 19-years-old, passed away in a car accident last week. A celebration of life was held at the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial for them on Aug. 1.

Mask mandate discussed in assembly meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held a special meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 4. The only item on the agenda that evening was a discussion of a potential mandate requiring the public wear face masks. No formal action was taken in the meeting, as this was only a discussion item. The general consensus among the assembly was, while they strongly recommend and encourage the public to wear masks, they do

not want to go all the way to mandating it.

This discussion was brought up at the request of the Emergency Operations Center, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen. As the state is seeing increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases, as is Wrangell locally, they felt that it was important to bring up the subject of a mask man-

date. Alaska has faced COVID-19 for 147 days as of Aug. 4, according to Dorianne Sprehe with the EOC, and there was no end in sight. She also said that state case numbers are at 4,125 cases as of the meeting's date. Locally, Wrangell currently has six active cases, and has seen a total of 15 cases. Nine of these were Wrangell

Continued on page 3

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, August 6: Kendyl Appleman, Tony Massin, Taffy. **Friday, August 7:** Mason Baremore, Rosemary Rooney, Courtney Haggard, Charlee Seimears, Daren Wickman, Dana Van Slyke, Rosemary Jane Rooney. **Saturday, August 8:** Brian McCloskey, Dixie Booker, Lurine McGee, Rick Wiederspohn, Karl Kohrt. **Anniversary:** Jeff Brown & Jen Banks, Harley & Lana Johnson. **Sunday, August 9:** Chase Good. **Anniversary:** August & Loretta Schultz, Adam & Melinda Messmer. **Monday, August 10:** "Charlie", Jason Gadd, Katie Brock, "Sniffer" Torvend, Debbie Mathews. **Anniversary:** Dick & Mary Edgley. **Tuesday, August 11:** Teslin Smith, James Stough, Sr., Christopher Mork, Ed Kalkins, Jr. **Wednesday, August 12:** Lauran Woolery, Rebekah Anderson, Silje Morse, Wayne Harding. **Anniversary:** Steve & Shannon Chrisman, Eric & Darian Gerald. **Thursday, August 13:** Erik Keene Kohrt, Chris Byford, Kyle Hommel, Rachel Harris, Sean Kaer, Shawna Strain, Heidi Villarma.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, August 7

Taco Salad, Orange Slices and Chips

Monday, August 10

Chicken & Peach Saute, Peas & Carrot, Apple Cabbage Salad & Pasta

Tuesday, August 11

Beef Vegetable Soup, Peach Cottage Cheese & Crackers

Wednesday, August 12

Rock Fish, Spinach, Fruit Slaw & Rice

Thursday, August 13

Dutch Beef & Cabbage, Carrot & Raisin Salad, Bread

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

Senior van also available to transport seniors to medical appointments reasonable errands like collecting mail, getting prescriptions at pharmacies or other essential need items.

FERRY

Northbound

Sunday, August 9

Matanuska 05:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 16

Matanuska 06:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 23

Matanuska 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

Matanuska 6:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, August 12

Matanuska 08:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19

Matanuska 07:15 a.m.

Wednesday, August 26

Matanuska 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 2

Matanuska 7:00 a.m.

Call 874-2021 for information or call 874-3711 or Toll Free 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



TIDES

August 6 - August 13

High Tides

Low Tides

| | AM | | PM | | AM | | PM | |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft | Time | Ft |
| August 06 | 03:05 | 16.5 | 03:51 | 15.3 | 09:19 | -0.9 | 09:28 | 2.8 |
| August 07 | 03:41 | 15.6 | 04:22 | 15.0 | 09:50 | 0.0 | 10:05 | 3.0 |
| August 08 | 04:16 | 14.6 | 04:54 | 14.6 | 10:21 | 1.0 | 10:45 | 3.2 |
| August 09 | 04:55 | 13.5 | 05:28 | 14.2 | 10:50 | 2.0 | 11:29 | 3.4 |
| August 10 | 05:39 | 12.4 | 06:09 | 13.8 | 11:33 | 3.1 | | |
| August 11 | 06:37 | 11.4 | 07:00 | 13.5 | 00:20 | 3.6 | 12:18 | 4.2 |
| August 12 | 07:56 | 10.7 | 08:04 | 13.4 | 01:22 | 3.6 | 01:13 | 5.1 |
| August 13 | 09:21 | 10.8 | 09:11 | 13.7 | 02:33 | 3.3 | 02:22 | 5.7 |

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Jury duty for August. You will be receiving notices in the mail in the next few weeks. Court number: (907) 874-2311.

Anyone doing business at the Wrangell Court are required to wear a mask unless under 2 years of age or exempted for medical reasons. This is effective until further notice. All hearings are being conducted telephonically until further notice. Contact the court for the call-in number at (907) 874-2311.

Continuing Events

AA Meetings: North Star Group Meeting Tuesdays and Fridays 7 - 8 p.m at St. Philips Episcopal Church.

The Way We Were

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

August 5, 1920

The Wilson & Sylvester mill, located in the heart of the Tongass forest reserve at Wrangell, has secured from the department the largest cutting right ever given an Alaskan sawmill concern. The cutting right will allow the big Wrangell Narrows concern to expand for the export trade, which has been the ambition of Alaska sawmill men for years. The Wilson & Sylvester Mill company is the pioneer lumber concern of Alaska. Starting over 20 years ago the mill continued until the death of the originators, when it was for several years the cause of expensive litigation in connection with the closing up of estates. Eventually the mill burned and new people secured a controlling interest. During the past two years the mill has been run to its full capacity, and enjoys an excellent reputation along the coast of Alaska.

August 10, 1945

Earl West, pioneer back-channel farmer and well known humorist, was in town this week on his annual visit. He came in one day and left the following afternoon, declaring "this city life was too much of a strain." West has written many humorous poems and songs during his 40 or so years as a resident of this area, many of which have been published in the Sentinel.

August 6, 1970

Seven British Columbian mountaineers were back in Wrangell this week after scaling eight peaks on the mainland, including Devil's Thumb and Kate's Needle. "The expedition," said Martin Kafer, 43, who was

accompanied on the climbs by his wife, "was a success. Except for two days of bad weather at first, the weather was ideal. We accomplished pretty much what we set out to do." Kafer said the expedition split up to conquer as many peaks as possible during their two-week schedule. They were flown to Shake's Lake by floatplane pilot Chuck Traylor and Traylor later supplied their base camp at the confluence of Shakes, Le Conte and Patterson glaciers with an air drop. Kafer said the assaults on the summits of Kate's Needle and Devil's Thumb went well. Both mountains had been climbed before but the Canadian expedition this time found a new route (the south ridge) up Kate's Needle, Kafer said. Mrs. Kafer, an experienced climber, said the sun shone hot during much of the climbing.

August 10, 1995

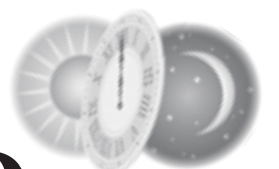
Artistic Basketry of Faye Kohrt is on display at the Shoppe, one of the "Windows of Wrangell" displays. Kohrt, a

Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma has lived in Wrangell for 15 years, beginning to weave baskets in 1988. She considers basketry her sole occupation, but fortunately for aspiring artisans, she does find time to teach others to weave. Other artists and crafts practitioners on display in the program are at the following locations: textiles by Kathy St. Clair at Tearesa's, watercolors by Brenda Schwartz at Wrangell Drug, textiles by Paula Rak at Wrangell Drug, pen and ink illustrations by Linda Churchill at Benjamin's, photography by LaDonna Ollivant at City Market, oil painting by Joyce Phillips at Diamond C, woodworking by Bill King at Angerman's Special Tees, pottery by Ira Merrill at Angerman's, stained glass by Chuck Larson at Harding's Sourdough Lodge, jewelry by Cindy Sweat at GTE, paintings by Charlotte Highbargain at the Dockside and bronze sculpture by Cindy Martin at Ullmaaq.



Wrangell Weather

| Date | High | Low |
|---------|------|-----|
| July 27 | 62 | 53 |
| July 28 | 65 | 51 |
| July 29 | 70 | 48 |
| July 30 | 75 | 53 |
| July 31 | 82 | 55 |
| Aug. 1 | 66 | 60 |
| Aug. 2 | 61 | 55 |
| Aug. 3 | 61 | 55 |



Daylight Hours

| Date | 5:01a | 8:45p | 15:44h |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| Aug. 6 | 5:01a | 8:45p | 15:44h |
| Aug. 7 | 5:03a | 8:43p | 15:40h |
| Aug. 8 | 5:05a | 8:41p | 15:36h |
| Aug. 9 | 5:07a | 8:38p | 15:31h |
| Aug. 10 | 5:09a | 8:36p | 15:27h |
| Aug. 11 | 5:11a | 8:34p | 15:23h |
| Aug. 12 | 5:13a | 8:32p | 15:19h |
| Aug. 13 | 5:15a | 8:29p | 15:14h |

Police report

July 27
Agency Assist: Wildlife Trooper
Fireworks Complaint

July 28
Agency Assist: Petersburg PD
Vandalism
Dangerous Play
Agency Assist: Telephone Subpoena Service

July 29
Abandoned Vehicle
Citizen Assist
Theft
Subpoena Service

July 30
Summons Served
Traffic Stop
Criminal Mischief
Two Subpoenas Served
DVO Violation
Stranded Motorist
Citizen Report DUI
Hazardous Play
Suicidal Person

July 31
Agency Assist: USFS
Paper Service: DVO
Traffic Stop
Traffic Stop Citation for speeding issued to Steven Marshall, 61
Motor vehicle accident: Zarembo
Assault
Agency Assist: Line Crew

August 1
Two Disturbance Calls
Reckless Driving
Parking Complaint
Threats
Trespass
Noise Complaint

August 2
Citizen Report: DUI
Traffic Stop
Suspicious Circumstance

During this reporting period there were six Agency Assist calls from the Hoonah Police Department and two EMS Calls.

Assembly

Continued from page 2

locals, while the other six are non-locals.

"The science says if we wear a mask, or a cloth face covering, we will reduce the transmission of droplets shared from one person to another, and therefore reduce the spread that may come from a person's nose and mouth," Sprehe said.

Several of the questions asked by assembly members in this meeting revolved around what other communities have done regarding face masks. Assembly Member David Powell asked if the nearby city of Petersburg had attempted a mask mandate in the past, or something similar to it. They did pass a mask mandate in April, according to Jamie Roberts with the EOC. However, they let the mandate expire in May. It was too divisive amongst the community, she said.

Assembly Member Anne Morrison wanted to know what other communities had mask mandates in place, and how effective they were. Roberts said that data on the effectiveness of mask mandates was limited, but she said several cities in Alaska had mandates in place. She listed Cordova, Dillingham, and Seward as cities with mandates that were a similar size to Wrangell. Von Barga added that, according to her sister in the city of Valdez, there was a mandate in place too, but its impact was lim-

ited. Some people do wear masks, and others don't.

There was also a question of enforcement. Assembly members were not sure how they could enforce a requirement for the public to wear masks. Sprehe said that in Juneau, there is a \$25 fine for not wearing a mask, and in Dillingham the fine can range from \$100 to \$1,000. She also said that Alaska Airlines has a policy of denying service to passengers who refuse to wear masks. However, the idea of enforcing a mask mandate in Wrangell was not an immediate priority, according to Von Barga.

"I know we, at the EOC, have discussed, right now that if something moves forward we'd like to ask that a mandate be put in place but that there be no fine or enforcement in place right now, that it just be a definitive statement about wearing masks in the community," she said.

The discussion continued for some time, but several assembly members stated that they did not feel a full mandate requiring the public wear masks was appropriate at this time.

"I wear a mask whenever I go into the post office, into grocery stores, into any of the businesses, and that's my choice and I think it's a smart choice," Morrison said. "Forcing that on other people, I sincerely believe, is up to the individual businesses. That's their choice. If they don't want to have folks

in their businesses that are not wearing masks, then they need to be responsible for that. On the other hand, people that want to go into those stores to purchase groceries, or whatever, they also need to be responsible citizens."

Several assembly members echoed similar opinions to Morrison's. The idea of a mask mandate was unpopular with some listening members of the public, as well. During the persons to be heard portion of the meeting, Wrangell resident Mike Lockabey stated his opposition to any mask mandate. He supported common sense provisions to combat COVID-19, he said, but he felt that this would be a step too far. Wearing a mask should be a personal choice, he said, not something the city should require.

Other discussion points in the meeting included whether Wrangell could receive more face masks for distribution from the state, the differences between a person self-isolating and quarantining, and other ways the city can encourage people to wear masks.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the assembly decided to ask city administration to draft a resolution encouraging the public to wear a mask, to be considered in their next meeting. They did not want to require wearing masks at this time, but they wanted to make sure the community knew the city's stance in favor of them.

Three new COVID-19 cases, 15 total

By **CALEB VIERKANT**
Sentinel writer

Three new cases of COVID-19 were recently announced by city officials, bringing the total number of cases Wrangell has seen up to 15. Of these, six cases are considered active as of Aug. 3. The other nine are considered recovered. According to the city press release, nine cases are Wrangell locals, while the other six are non-locals.

The first of these most recent cases was announced on Friday, July 31. This was followed by two other cases that were announced on Aug. 1. All three cases were found in local residents. According to press releases from the city, all three


cases have also been determined as close contacts of a previous case.

"Due to the identification of community transmission, and to reduce the spread of COVID-19, health officials and the local EOC are reinforcing the importance of practicing

social distancing, wearing a mask or face covering when in public spaces, frequent hand washing and staying home when sick," an Aug. 1 press release reads.

The public is encouraged to take precautionary measures to stay healthy. These include

washing one's hands, covering one's nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, regularly cleaning frequently touched surfaces, wearing a mask when out in public, social distancing, and monitoring one's own health and the health of household members.



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Obituary: Hollis Ellis Hayes, 47

Hollis Ellis Hayes, 47, died on July 18, 2020, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

He was born on Sept. 26, 1972, in Wrangell, Alaska.

He attended Wrangell Elementary School, Wrangell High School, Ketchikan High School and Juneau-Douglas High School.

Hayes resided in Wrangell until 1989, when he relocated to Ketchikan. In 1990, he moved to Juneau for a few years before moving back to Wrangell. He then moved back to Ketchikan.

He worked as a cook at Godfather's Pizza in the late 1990s before working for 15 years as a cook at Annabelle's Famous Keg and Chowder House.



Hollis Ellis Hayes

"Hollis was born with a fishing pole in his hand and a pencil in his pocket," his family writes. "He loved camping and spending time with his family. Hollis loved being outdoors or tucked away drawing."

He is preceded in death by

his grandparents, Mike and Alice Hayes; grandmother, Jane Max; grandfather, Kenneth Morfeld; and uncle, Allen Hayes.

He is survived by his father; Lansing E. Hayes; mother and stepfather, Mallory and James Hughes; sisters, Neicy Hayes and Zell Gadd; brother, Saffron (Tracey) Hayes; stepson, Thomas Smith; nephews, Travis Hayes and Skylar Hayes; nieces, Teiara Hayes, CharlaMay Hendren and Isla Hayes; uncles, Robert (Rynda) Hayes, Roy (Carol) Hayes, Bud Baker; James (Vickie) Baker; and many cousins and his 2-11 family.

A celebration of life was held on Aug. 1 at Ward Lake in Ketchikan.

Editorial

Accident was newsworthy

by Ron Loesch, Publisher

We've had phone calls from a handful of people about our use of the photo and page one coverage of last week's fatal Mitkof Highway crash. It saddens us to have to report on such a tragedy that impacts the lives of so many in both Wrangell and Petersburg.

We don't take pleasure in covering such stories. It wasn't covered to sell newspapers. We covered the story because it is our job to provide information about a tragic event that struck close to home. We placed it on page one because it was the most important story of the week.

The accident was covered for one reason — it was newsworthy.

What makes it newsworthy?

The severity of the accident alone gave it news value. The fact that it resulted in the death of four individuals who were crewmembers aboard a local boat added to the public interest.

The story involved local people driving on a local road. The more local the incident, the more impact it has on readers.

Publication of the story also serves to reduce rumors. Already this week the sister of Ian Martin reports, "There have been many extremely vicious allegations against my brother in the past week that he was the driver of the vehicle." She requested that new information on the driver be followed up and reported.

Part of the story showed the difficult work of our first responders. Their work to remove the victims from the crash site was truly heroic, given the severity of the crash and its location at the bottom of a steep slope. The list of persons that assisted State Troopers continues to expand.

Finally, the photo alone demonstrated the severity of the crash, in a way that words could not. It was not what we considered a sensational image. We hope the story and image will serve as a teachable moment for many. The involvement of alcohol as contributing to the cause of the crash will be a factor as the investigation continues.

Very likely, coverage will be ongoing as new information comes to light. We will cover the stories with compassion while providing comprehensive and complete reporting. Despite criticism, we cannot side step our responsibly as a professional news gathering organization of both communities.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am appalled by what was displayed on the front page of Thursday Aug. 3rd newspaper. I understand that some see this as a news article, but for those who have loved the people in that horrific crash have some compassion, decency, and respect for those grieving such a terrible loss. A smaller blurb toward the back of the paper would have sufficed.

Ava Hay

To the Editor:

This letter is voicing my concern about having the fireworks up in the ballpark area. This is right across from the Senior Apartment and next to Wrangell Long Term Care facility in Wrangell. This is not a good idea.

I was in Vietnam. The noise was horribly loud. A lot of us suffered concussions from it. This is also a reason for osteoarthritis which I have. I sincerely hope this doesn't affect the people in Long Term Care or the Senior

Apartments.

During this time of the year, the birds, deer, and other wildlife are having their young. Little birds sitting on the side of their nests trying to learn to fly are either blown off the nest or get a concussion strong enough to end their life. Their parents are more than likely scared off and don't come back to care for their young. There are also ptarmigan and owl nests around this whole area.

I had seen two deer have their fawns. This morning after fireworks, one doe was running around bumping into trees. She was obviously shell shocked. No little ones in sight. I can only imagine what these little animals went through the night of July 3rd.

I was told there was a barge offered from Ketchikan. It is my suggestion we utilize the barge next year and be proactive in our senior's well-being. Also that we show some compassion for our wildlife. Our pets included.

Tom Carlstrom

New Facebook page for the Wrangell Sentinel

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

A new Facebook page has been created for the Wrangell Sentinel, the oldest continuously published newspaper in Alaska. Around mid-June, the Sentinel's Facebook page became "unpublished" for reasons that are unclear to staff members. A notice from Facebook stated that recent activity on the page did not follow Facebook Page Policies. However, multiple attempts to contact Facebook for further information and to republish the page were unsuccessful. As such, a new Facebook page has been created.

The public is encouraged to

like and follow the new page, latest news and updates "Wrangell Sentinel," for the around Wrangell.

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A look at the school district's SMART Start plan

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Public School District recently published their SMART Start plan for next year. These are the guidelines the schools will be following to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading amongst the student body and school staff. The plans differ school-to-school, and can also change depending on the level of risk of COVID-19.

Stikine Middle School and Wrangell High School will begin the year at "medium risk," according to the plan. This will have a regular seven-period day Monday through Thursday, with in-class instruction. Buses will drop off students at 7:55 a.m. and take them back home at 3:55 p.m., but students will be encouraged to walk or get rides from their parents.

Fridays will be half-days, according to the plan. The first half of that day teachers will "develop and educate students about online procedures, protocols, etc." The second half of the day teachers will develop online instruction further, work one-on-one with students, and communicate with parents. Other online options will be available on a case-by-case basis. The second half of Fridays will also be used for deep cleaning of the schools. Masks will be mandated when students are less than six feet from each other, and students will also be encouraged to socially distance and wash their hands at the beginning of each class.

Depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic goes, the schools will change to their "low risk" or "high risk" plans. Low risk cannot be enacted any sooner than the beginning of the second semester, according to the plan. This will have the same basic schedule as the medium risk plan, but will have less sanitation, mask wearing, and social distancing mandates. If there is a high risk scenario, all in-class instruction will cease and students will continue learning through online education.

The SMART Start plan for Evergreen Elementary is different from the second-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEISHA MOLLEN

Thunder and lightning bolts

A thunderstorm passed over Wrangell last Saturday evening, Aug. 1. While Southeast Alaska sees rain rather frequently, thunder and lightning are less common. Many people sat outside or near their windows to watch the storm. Pictured here is a lightning strike, captured by Aleisha Mollen.

ary schools' plan. The low risk plan will have instruction in the building, with an 8 a.m. bus arrival and 3 p.m. departure. Physical distancing guidelines are set at 6-feet, and masks are recommended. Hand washing will also be encouraged upon entering or exiting learning spaces. Learning spaces will be cleaned between learning groups, and the whole school

will be cleaned on Friday afternoons.

Medium risk follows similar protocols, but half of the student body will be learning in the building while the other half will receive distance learning. Masks will also be required unless in a "mask free area." Cleaning will also become more frequent. In a high risk scenario, education will all be through distance learning.

Superintendent Debbe Lancaster explained that the starting risk level for the elementary school will be determined closer to the year's start date. All schools have the option to start at medium risk or at high risk, she said, but not at low risk.

The complete SMART Start plans can be found on the district website, www.wpsd.us.

Start Stepping Southeast

A 29-Day Walking Challenge from SEARHC (August 3–31)

SEARHC invites Southeast Alaska residents to participate in Start Stepping Southeast, a walking challenge that is good for the body and the mind, and open to people of all ages and abilities. Participants who turn in a weekly steps log will be entered into a raffle to win weekly \$50 gift cards to local businesses or a Fitbit.

Please maintain 6 feet distance from non-household members and follow CDC social distancing and public health guidelines.



To sign up and access step trackers, visit searhc.org/startstepping or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera app.

Have questions?
Contact Heleena at heleenav@searhc.org
or Hannah at hsclosstein@searhc.org.

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School board approves calendar for new year

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School board unanimously approved of a new calendar for the next school year, during a special meeting on Aug. 3. The primary difference between this new calendar and last year is a later start date.

The 2020-2021 school calendar will have students' first day of school on Sept. 8. Last year's calendar had students returning to class on Aug. 27, 2019.

The extra days before students begin the year will be inservice days and teacher work days, according to the calendar, followed by Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7.

"The extra time between August 27 and the start date will be devoted to professional development training for staff in response to our COVID-19 mitigation planning," reads a post on the Wrangell Public Schools Facebook page.

Once the year starts, there are no scheduled breaks until Thanksgiving on Nov. 26 and 27. Winter vacation will be from Dec. 21 to 31. Graduation is scheduled for May 21, 2021, and the last day of school for students will be May 27, 2021.

A copy of the new calendar can be found on the district's website, www.wpsd.us.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Classified/Legals

City & Borough of Wrangell
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
TOUCHLESS PLUMBING FIXTURES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the Touchless Plumbing Fixtures project in the office of the Borough Clerk until 2:30 PM prevailing time on August 19, 2020. The full solicitation package may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and it may also be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP section.

City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

Publish: July 30, August 6, and 13, 2020

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Work Session & Regular Borough Assembly meeting that was scheduled for July 28, 2020 was noticed as being "canceled". However, instead of canceling the meeting, it has been *rescheduled* for **Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Publish: August 6, 2020

City & Borough of Wrangell
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will accept proposals for engineering design services for the **Water Mains Replacement** project in the office of the Borough Clerk until **2:00 PM prevailing time on August 27, 2020**. The full RFQ solicitation documents may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 and may also be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section.

City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

Publish: July 30, August 6, 13 and 20, 2020

**CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Port Commission Meeting – Canceled
Work Session Scheduled**

The regularly scheduled Port Commission meeting of Thursday, August 6, 2020 has been **canceled** and a Work Session, scheduled at 6:00 p.m., to discuss the following topic:

1. Forest Service Vessel Chugach Ranger moved to The Nolan Center

Keeleigh Solverson,
Port Commission Secretary

Published: August 6, 2020

City & Borough of Wrangell
PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Janitorial Services

The City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals, firms or companies for janitorial services based on a yearly contract basis. Those seeking to fill this position will act as his or her own contractor. Proposals must be submitted to Aleisha Mollen by email at amollen@wrangell.com, or hand-delivered to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and are **due by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020**. Any questions as to the meaning of the scope of work should be directed Cyni Cray to 907-874-3699.

There will be a Pre-Bid Conference, on August 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., which will be held in the Borough Assembly Chambers, 205 Brueger St, Wrangell, Alaska for discussion of the specifications. A site visit may follow if applicable.

Please visit the Borough Website at <https://www.wrangell.com/community/rfp-janitorial-services> for more information.

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager
City & Borough of Wrangell, AK

Publish: July 30 and August 6, 2020

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IFQS AND FISHING PERMITS,
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**Classifieds
deadline is
Tuesday at
noon**

P: 907-874-2301

F: 907-874-2303

Email:

wrgsent@gmail.com

City & Borough of Wrangell
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
TOUCHLESS BATHROOM ACCESSORIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the Touchless Bathroom Accessories project in the office of the Borough Clerk until 3:00 PM prevailing time on August 19, 2020. The full solicitation package may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and it may also be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP section.

City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

Publish: July 30, August 6, and 13, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, 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 6:00 p.m. As per Emergency Resolution No. 03-20-1520, Borough Assembly Meetings shall be held by teleconference/videoconference until October 17, 2020 unless terminated before that date. 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 7:00 p.m.

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk
City of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: August 6, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA LEGAL

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR BOROUGH MAYOR, BOROUGH ASSEMBLY, PORT COMMISSION, and SCHOOL BOARD and signature petitions as required, will be available in the Borough Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, **August 3, 2020 through August 31, 2020**.

Qualified persons may have their name placed on the ballot for the October 6, 2020, City & Borough of Wrangell Regular Municipal Election by filing declarations of candidacy for Borough Mayor, Borough Assembly, Port Commission, and School Board.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Mayor: | One – (2 Year Term) |
| Assembly: | Two – (3 Year Terms) |
| Assembly: | One – (1 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 10-2021) |
| School Board: | One – (3 Year Term) |
| Port Commission: | One – (3 Year Term) |
| Port Commission: | One – (2 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 10-2022) |

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

Publish: August 6, 20 and 27, 2020

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Polling Places Will Be Open From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Candidate Races on Ballot

- United States Senator
- United States Representative
- State Senator (Districts B, D, F, H, J, L, M, N, P, R, T)
- State House Representative (All 40 Districts)

To find Your Polling Place Call: **1-888-383-8683** (In Anchorage call: 269-8683)

Absentee In-Person and Special Needs Voting

Absentee In-Person Voting will be available at many locations throughout the state beginning August 3, 2020. For a list of locations and information on absentee voting, visit the division's website at <https://AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov> or call your regional elections office below. If you are unable to go to the polls due to age, disability or serious illness, you may use the special needs voting process by appointing a personal representative to bring you a ballot.

www.elections.alaska.gov

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Region I Office</u> | <u>Region II Office</u> | <u>Region II Office</u> | <u>Region III Office</u> | <u>Region IV Office</u> |
| Juneau | Anchorage | Mat-Su | Fairbanks | Nome |
| (907) 465-3021 | (907) 522-8683 | (907) 373-8952 | (907) 451-2835 | (907) 443-8683 |
| 1-866-948-8683 | 1-866-958-8683 | 1-866-958-8683 | 1-866-959-8683 | 1-866-953-8683 |

Language Assistance 1-866-954-8683 Toll Free TTY 1-888-622-3020

The State of Alaska, Division of Elections, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special assistance and/or accommodation to vote, please contact your regional Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements.

Published: July 30 and August 6, 2020

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Seafood netted historic firsts in nation's new dietary guidelines

It got little attention from the mainstream media but seafood netted some historic firsts in the nation's new dietary guidelines.

The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee submitted a report in July to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services that recommends what Americans should include in their diets from 2020 through 2025, a task it has undertaken every five years since 1980.

"This is by far the strongest they've come out for seafood in all of the U.S. dietary guidelines history, and at virtually every point in the lifecycle from babies to pregnant and lactating moms to adults. I was really amazed," said Dr. Tom Brenna, a professor of pediatrics, chemistry and nutrition at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas/Austin and at Cornell University.

Along with taking a whole

life approach for the first time, Brenna said the advisors also considered nutritional requirements for children under two years of age.

"The general idea is that kids should be breastfed, that's the recommendation to six months of age. And starting at six months when you're introducing finger foods, solid foods, the recommendation is to include seafood right from the beginning," he said.

Another first - the dietary panel did a deep dive into the reams of evidence proving seafood's nutritional benefits.

"The omega 3s found in seafood are to a developing retina and brain what calcium is to bones. But it is not just the omega 3s, it is these great minerals that are in some cases rare in other foods," Brenna explained. "The zinc and iron and selenium and iodine...and these are just not as high as they need to be in diets that are missing seafood."

The new diet guidelines now need a stamp of approval by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture before they become policy. If passed as written, seafood would be required eating at, for example, women/infant/children's (WIC) feeding programs and school lunches. "If you read just the executive summary, the thing you would stick into the WIC program is seafood. It looks like the most important damn thing that

women could be eating," Brenna said. "Twenty-five years ago, out of an abundance of caution, people were concerned about mercury. They said we don't know what the thresholds are for mercury or whether it's bad for neuro-development. It turns out after decades of research that the danger was not eating too much fish, it was eating too little fish. I could probably calculate the number of IQ points we've lost because of this policy. We've got to get people eating seafood as they used to, and we've got to make it a priority and a federal policy."

The Committee recommends eating 8-12 ounces of seafood weekly, particularly before, during and after pregnancy, and stresses that only 20 percent of adults and 6 percent of children meet the goal of eating seafood twice per week.

"Their report is one more piece of evidence that Americans of all ages should eat seafood more frequently," said John Connelly, president of the National Fisheries Institute. "As part of a healthy dietary pattern, seafood offers a lifetime of benefits from brain development among babies to heart health and a healthy weight for adults. The report even notes the link between diet-related diseases -which regular seafood consumption can help prevent - and increased susceptibility to the

current global pandemic."

The public has two weeks to comment to the USDA on the new guidelines and competing protein producers will be lobbying for their products. Brenna urges seafood advocates to speak up.

"Frankly, I think that some of those voices seem to be missing. You have this great passion that is coming from the scientists, because we see how important it is," Brenna said. "If the seafood industry sits by quietly, they are going to let this opportunity pass, both for the industry itself, and also for the health of all Americans. Because this is the time - the data are there, the committee has said this is important and now it has to get translated into federal policy. But it's a political process now and so the industry has to weigh in in a big way, and we have to get our senators and representatives on board."

Deadline to comment to USDA is August 13. (www.dietaryguidelines.gov)

Bibs to bags - Hose off those worn and torn fishing bibs and recycle them into rugged bags and other seaworthy items. A Maine fishing family needs more bib material for its Rugged Seas line that was launched at the popular east coast Fishermen's Forum in March. Since then the bib gear has taken off.

"We've had people send us their bibs from Canada and Rhode Island, up and down the East Coast, from Washington State. It's been really exciting. Even at a time where things are really challenging I think people have liked the story and it's been a good connection. It's really taken off," said Nikki Strout, co-owner of Rugged Seas with her husband Taylor, a lifelong lobsterman who also has fished out of Dutch Harbor since 2012. Nikki said he was inspired by all the fishery-related hoodies and t-shirts he saw there and started designing similar wear for Maine. That evolved to include upscale uses for bibs.

"In the last three or four years here in Portland, there have been a lot of struggles that the fishermen have been facing

and working waterfront and development issues. So we really wanted to try to bring some more attention to the fishing industry and the lifestyle. We were trying to think of something that each fishery has that is very identifiable. And we thought of bibs and said is there a way we can repurpose them instead of throwing them away?"

The Strouts also connected with well-known oilskin maker Guy Cotten who gives them remnants for Rugged Seas gear. A portion of all sales goes to local fishing groups.

"It's a hard lifestyle, the work they do and then being a family that, you know, we haven't seen Taylor in eight weeks now," Nikki said. "So to kind of tell a story with every bag we make is the whole goal."

The Strouts hope to get bib drop barrels in Alaska fishing towns but for now, donors can get free Rugged Seas gear to cover their shipping costs.

"They can ship directly to us," Nikki said, "and I would be very happy to send some free gear out to anybody who wants to donate their old bibs or jackets or whatever they have." www.ruggedseas.com

Weigh in on water - The public can comment through August 24 on whether the Pebble Mine project will/will not violate existing state water quality laws. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act gives states and Native tribes the right to protect waters within their borders. Before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can authorize a permit allowing Pebble to discharge dredged or fill material into streams or wetlands, the state Department of Environmental Conservation must certify that it will not violate existing laws. If DEC does not issue a certification or a waiver, the Corps cannot issue a permit under the Clean Water Act.

The deadline to comment on the state certification is August 24. (dec-401cert@alaska.gov)

Letters can be mailed to: Jason Brune, Commissioner, DEC, WDAP/401 Certification, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501

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The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is pleased to provide free asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.

When: Every Saturday and Sunday

Hours: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: AICS Clinic Alternative Test Site
232 Wood Street | Wrangell, AK 99929

Self-swab test results will be available approximately 7 days after testing. Negative test results will be sent by email. If your test result is positive, you will be notified by telephone.

If you are experiencing symptoms such as a headache, cold, cough, sneezing, diarrhea, muscle pain, or loss of taste or smell, please contact your healthcare provider immediately and isolate to protect others. If your symptoms begin to worsen, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 907-966-8799 to speak with a nurse 24/7.

Learn more by visiting covid19.searhc.org.

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City & Borough of Wrangell NOTICE INVITING BIDS RECREATION CENTER HOT WATER TANK REPLACEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the Recreation Center Hot Water Tank Replacement project in the office of the Borough Clerk until 2:00 PM prevailing time on August 19, 2020. The full solicitation package may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and it may also be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP section.

City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

Publish: July 30, August 6, and 13, 2020

In memory of Helen & Sig

Continued from page 1

streamed the service on their Facebook page. The celebration of life was filled with

music, stories, and memories of Sig and Helen.

"Helen was the love of my life while she was here," said

Max Reifentstahl, speaking at the service. "She told me the same, but hearing she thought you were the one echoed from

her friends in these last days gives me more confidence in something I never doubted ... I fell in love with Helen many times, not just once. Every time we looked deeply into each others' eyes, each time I witnessed her phenomenal strength or heard her bubbling laughter, and every time she showed me her boundless compassion."

"Sig was a very, extremely, intelligent young man," said Jeff Rooney, wrestling coach for the Wrangell school district. "Know he was not just a wrestler. Growing up in a fishing family, playing music for the band in Wrangell, playing basketball, team member, graduating valedictorian, attending college, living and so full of life. Sadly, leaving us all way too soon."

"They would just attack every day with a purpose and a plan, and they would just

take a hold of things," said Bobby Thorsenson, Jr. Sig and Helen's skipper. "They just had this charisma and this, they were just extraordinary people ... They didn't just come out of a bubble, you know? It takes a family, it takes parents, it takes a village. The coaches, the teachers, everybody is a part of Sig and Helen's story. This whole community."

Other speakers at the celebration included Mayor Steve Prysunka, Frank Roppel, Pastor Matt Gerald, and Jenn Miller-Yancey. Many of their friends performed music at the service, as well, and threw flowers into the ocean in their memory.

Following the service, everyone was invited to City Park nearby. A potluck lunch was held where people could share food and more stories of the siblings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT THORSTENSON JR.

Robert Thorstenson Jr. (left) poses with Siguard Decker and Helen Decker.

State Troopers say driver may have lost control of vehicle

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

Alaska State Troopers continue to investigate a fatal accident that claimed the lives of four seine boat crewmembers sometime after 10 P.M. on Monday, July 27.

A Ford Excursion driven by Siguard Decker drove off the roadway near the 27-mile marker of Mitkof Highway at a high rate of speed, according to Alaska State Troopers. Megan Peters, communications director with the Alaska Dept. of Public Safety said Siguard Decker, who was driving, seems to have had lost control of the vehicle and then over corrected before running off the road. The resulting crash took the lives of two Wrangell citizens, Siguard Decker, 21, and Helen Decker, 19, as well as Ian Martin, 29, of Petersburg and Dennis Lord, 37, of New York, according to an updated ADPS press release.

At about 10:18 A.M. on Tuesday, July 28, Alaska State Troopers received a request for a welfare check on four people who were last known to be headed south on Mitkof Island towards the Blind Slough area the day before, according to the ADPS release. Friends of the four passengers were out looking for the individuals after they didn't return that morning. They discovered tire marks on the roadway, which led them to the wreckage, said Peters.

While responding, troopers were informed of a vehicle wreck near the 27 mile mark of Mitkof Highway.

The highway was closed at intermittent times until about 11:30 P.M. on July 28 while authorities investigated the crash.

Troopers were assisted by the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department, Petersburg EMS, U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Tonka Toy Rentals during the initial response and investigation of the accident.

Robert Thorstenson, Jr., owner of the F/V Magnus Martens and F/V Vigilant, said all four individuals had been fishing with him in the days leading up to the car crash. Both

vessels were out on Sunday, July 26, right off of Sea Gull Bluff, when a storm prevented the team from seining. At one point, the Magnus Martens was taking water over the bow and had to return back to Petersburg.

Thorstenson, who was on the Vigilant, had also wanted to return to the harbor, but Siguard and Helen were determined to keep fishing. He said the team ended up catching 25,000 pounds of fish, 4,000 of which were sockeye salmon. It was his biggest day of the year to date.

Skipper Thorstenson remembers the Decker sibling crewmembers as "rock stars."

"If you weren't a complete rock star, you had no business being on deck that day," said Thorstenson.

That's how Thorstenson remembers Siguard and Helen, as rock stars. He said they were two of the most confident, hardest working and talented

fishermen he has ever worked with. Siguard had been working with Thorstenson since May 2015 and Helen had just started in May of last year, but they were both already doing things that fishermen in their 30s and 40s could only hope to accomplish, said Thorstenson.

They were both also studying marketing and business at universities in Southern California, said Thorstenson.

Martin and Lord had been fishing onboard the Magnus Martens that Sunday, but Thorstenson said they were close with the Decker siblings. Lord had just started out fishing and Siguard and Helen were teaching him how to fish and guiding him along. Thorstenson said Helen and Siguard never looked down on Lord or anyone else for that matter who was not up to the same skill level as them. He said the brother and sister fishing duo treated everyone with respect and never said anything bad about anyone.

"If God was going to take them up to heaven at a young age and take them away from us, which is the only place kids like that deserve to go, if He was going to do that, I count it as a pure blessing to have them share a part of their lives and have their parents share a part of their lives with me and with Petersburg," said Thorstenson.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Approximately 50 boats came out in front of City Dock the evening of July 29, in memory of Sig and Helen Decker.



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