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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Arthur Larsen checks on salmon in his smokehouse, which was built by the Wrangell Cooperative Association as part of its effort to assist tribal citizens during the pandemic, while encouraging food sustainability.

WCA takes on multiple programs to help tribal citizens during pandemic

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

From building smokehouses and gardens to assisting with utility and food bills, the Wrangell Cooperative Association has been working to help its tribal citizens make it through the financial and emotional stress of the pandemic.

"We took a hard look at what the WCA citizens were facing with the pandemic," said Esther Ashton, tribal administrator. That included financial needs and helping to build food self-sufficiency, she said.

The eight-member elected tribal council last year considered how best to use the federal aid allocated under the CARES Act, and then this year looked at providing additional help with funds

from the American Rescue Plan Act.

WCA has 855 tribal citizens, Ashton said, though many do not live in Wrangell.

Federal pandemic aid directed to the tribe has so far totaled about \$7.5 million.

CARES Act funding was used to provide each household with a \$1,000 food card to either of Wrangell's two grocery stores, in addition to \$1,000 per household in financial assistance toward electricity bills, Ashton said. The WCA is repeating both programs this year with American Rescue Plan money. The aid is available only to tribal citizens living in Wrangell, and people must apply and show financial need, she said.

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Wrangell will receive additional \$604,000 in pandemic aid

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The borough expects to receive an additional \$604,000 in federal pandemic relief aid through the state, and will move cautiously as it considers how

best to use the money for the community's benefit.

The assembly will need to decide "what is the best long-term investment for us," Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen said last Friday.

The administration will present recommendations to the assembly for its consideration after staff have reviewed federal guidance on spending the funds.

The \$604,000 is part of American Rescue Plan money directed

to the state, from which the governor and Legislature this year appropriated \$50 million to share with cities and boroughs statewide.

It's in addition to \$485,000 coming to Wrangell directly

under a federal formula, bringing the community's total under the American Rescue Plan close to \$1.1 million.

The borough assembly at its Sept. 14 meeting approved a res-

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Issues with water delivery system need costly solutions

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Wrangell's water supply has its troubles.

From the source reservoirs to the end users, the system for filtering and delivering water to businesses and residences needs some major overhauls — and they won't be cheap.

The problems, officials say, start at the top at the lower reservoir and dam, which send water into the treatment plant where it goes through multiple phases of filtration and then is piped to customers.

At an assembly meeting on Sept. 14, Public Works Director Tom Wetor presented a report detailing the problems with the filtration system. He also presented potential solutions along with treatment plant manager Wayne McHolland, who has worked at the plant since 2002.

To Assemblymember Patty Gilbert, the problem is five-fold.

"The challenges are, No. 1, picking the correct water treatment system; the second is coordinating with federal agencies and grants to build this; the third problem is the reservoir, the incoming water; the fourth is the distribution, we have metal pipes that are degrading; the fifth is the end user wasting water," Gilbert said.

"Meanwhile, we have to maintain the plant and upgrade the plant. It's a huge

multidimensional problem."

According to Wetor, if the delivery system from the lower reservoir and dam to the treatment plant fails, there is no way to bypass that and pull water from the upper reservoir.

"The state has identified them as some of the worst dams in the state and needing some repairs," Wetor said. "A full, comprehensive repair of that system, we're talking about probably \$50 million. We are in the process of trying to do some smaller projects because we don't have \$50 million, but we are in the process of doing an upper dam bypass project where we can draw water off the upper reservoir."

At the treatment plant, one of the steps in the filtration process involves producing ozone, which bubbles up in the water and oxidizes iron, manganese and sulfur to form metal oxides that can then be filtered out. One of those two ozone-generating machines, along with the compressors that help them function, are beginning to fail.

"The compressors are just getting old, they're getting near their useful lifespan," Wetor said. The lifespan is about 20 years and 150,000 hours. Currently, the compressors are at 22 years and 150,697 hours and counting. "That, along with possibly several other reasons, are contributing to our ozone generators not producing the ozone that

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Dwane and Laura Ballou own and operate Oceanview Gardens at 6 Mile.

Growing number of produce farmers cropping up throughout the community

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Wrangell is seeing some positive growth.

The number of farming operations is on the rise throughout the community, and it's contributing to a healthier economy.

There are two farms in Wrangell that grow a variety of fruits and vegetables and sell to residents and businesses, no less than nine residents that grow for their own consumption, and even Evergreen Elementary has a small farm.

According to the Alaska Farmland Trust, the number of farms in the state

increased by 30% from 2012 to 2017, going against the national trend of a 3% decrease. Only 5% of the food consumed in the state is grown here, the rest is shipped in.

Forty-seven percent of Alaska's farmers are women, whereas the national average is 27%. Alaska is also No. 1 in the nation for new farmers. In the same five-year study, the Farmland Trust reported produce sold directly to Alaska consumers from growers in the state doubled.

Dwane and Laura Ballou, owners and growers at Oceanview Gardens, started the business with the intent of

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Friday, Sept. 24: Jeff Abrahamson, Barbara Angerman, Ken Hazelton, Mateas Rilatos.

Saturday, Sept. 25: Roberta Floyd, Lanny Hamley, Daniel Kirschner, Lisa Nikodym, Mariah Speers, Riley Walls, Hadley Mae Wiederspohn.

Sunday, Sept. 26: Dick Edgley, Thomas Mathis Jr., Calen Young.

Monday, Sept. 27: Chris Kuykendall, Gail Ottesen, Morgan Petticrew, Kristin Schwerin, David E. Wilson II; Anniversaries: Willie and Deveril Bloom, Josh and Tasha Toombs, Darren and Emily Wickman.

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Michael Brock, Tyler Danison, Darrel Gross, Patrick Mayer, Elmer C. Mork, Allen Rooney; Anniversaries: Wayne and Kathleen Harding, Jake and Rachel Harris.

Wednesday, Sept. 29: Brandy Grina, Kylee Kvernvik, Matt Nore, Jozlyn Privett, Neal Soeteber.

Thursday, Sept. 30: Cami Bakeberg, LeAnn Bryner, Rick Churchill, Trinity Nore, Kahlan Speers.

Senior Center Menu

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

Friday, Sept. 24

Baked fish, peas and carrots, salad, muffin

Monday, Sept. 27

Chop suey, vegetables, salad, rice

Tuesday, Sept. 28

BBQ beef, mixed vegetables, potato salad, bun

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Clam chowder, sandwich, coleslaw

Thursday, Sept. 30

Chicken enchiladas, black beans, salad

Please call the senior center at 874-2066 by 2 p.m. the day prior to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery.

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

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Friday, Sept. 24

Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 4

Kennicott, noon

Monday, Oct. 18

Kennicott, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Matanuska, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 10:45 p.m.

Southbound

Monday, Sept. 27

Matanuska, 7 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kennicott, 8:30 p.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 874-2021 for information or call 874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



TIDES

September 23-September 29

| | High Tides | | Low Tides | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| | AM Time | PM Ft | AM Time | PM Ft | AM Time | PM Ft | | |
| Sept. 23 | 03:09 | 14.8 | 02:55 | 16.2 | 08:39 | 2.8 | 09:11 | -0.4 |
| Sept. 24 | 03:42 | 13.9 | 03:22 | 15.4 | 09:07 | 3.7 | 09:44 | 0.3 |
| Sept. 25 | 04:18 | 12.9 | 03:50 | 14.6 | 09:39 | 4.6 | 10:23 | 1.1 |
| Sept. 26 | 05:00 | 12.0 | 04:25 | 13.7 | 10:17 | 5.6 | 11:09 | 1.9 |
| Sept. 27 | 05:57 | 11.2 | 05:12 | 12.7 | 11:08 | 6.4 | ... | ... |
| Sept. 28 | 07:19 | 10.9 | 06:30 | 11.9 | 00:08 | 2.6 | 12:19 | 7.0 |
| Sept. 29 | 08:44 | 11.5 | 08:13 | 11.9 | 01:20 | 3.0 | 01:50 | 6.9 |

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022 community birthday scholarship calendar fundraiser is underway. \$1 per listing for an anniversary, birthday, event, in memory of, or military service. All proceeds go to scholarships for Wrangell High School graduates. Deadline is Oct. 1. Call 874-3901.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Jungle Cruise," rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the action, adventure and comedy that runs two hours and seven minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

WRANGELL PARKS AND REC is offering another round of Parent & Me swim lessons with instructor Briana Schilling. One parent with one child between 12 months and 3 years old on Saturdays, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., Sept. 25 to Oct. 16. \$35 for the parent-child pair. Register at wrangellrec.com or call 874-2444.

WRANGELL PARKS AND REC youth basketball registration is now open for grades K-5. Season begins Oct. 4 and will be held in the community center gym. Volunteers are still needed. Register online or call Parks and Recreation at 874-2444.

WRANGELL SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for volunteers to help on a regular basis or on an as needed basis at all three schools. Wrangell High School 874-3395, Stikine Middle School 874-3393, Evergreen Elementary 874-2321.

BRAVE is hosting its fourth annual Family Resilience Fair noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Nolan Center. Learn how your community can help your family. BRAVE is closely watching the Wrangell COVID-19 surge and will make safety decisions dependent on case counts closer to the fair date. BRAVE.Wrangell@gmail.com or 907-204-0530.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrsgent@gmail.com or call 874-2301. Or go to the Sentinel website, click on the Calendar tab, and submit your entry online.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

Arthritis class, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap swim, 6 - 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap/tot swim, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., weekdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Open swim, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:

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

Sept. 22, 1921

Forest Examiner Kline has been a recent Wrangell visitor and while here made a trip up the river with Forest Ranger McKechnie to look over the trail that was put in from the garnet ledge several years ago. It has grown over since then and is almost obliterated in place. Frank Spaulding will brush it out so that it can be used by trappers and other travelers this winter. Mr. Spaulding will also build himself a cabin at Four Mile Creek, which is four miles above the garnet ledge, and will occupy it. Travelers over the trail will be welcome to stop there on their way. Four miles farther up is the government cabin, which makes it possible to find shelter again.

Sept. 20, 1946

Last Friday was strictly a snafu day for a party of travelers coming down the river. In the

party were Mr. and Mrs. John Cartmel, former Provincial Government Agent at Telegraph Creek, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kerr, of Downington, Pennsylvania, who had been big game hunting in British Columbia. The two couples started from Telegraph Creek early that morning, intending to catch the Canadian boat southbound. Just above the canyon, a bearing burned out on their engine and for a few moments they were at the mercy of the river currents. They landed on a sand bar but were unable to get to shore because of the depth of the water between the bar and the riverbank. From 9 in the morning until 7 in the evening they were stranded. They had no wood to make a fire but had meals "out of the can." The boat was small, without many comforts, and big grizzly tracks on the bar added to the thrill of their experience. The Hazel B, owned by Ritchie Transportation, took the party aboard and brought them to Wrangell.

Sept. 24, 1971

Don Schirmer has Wrangell back on the airways as a ham operator after a silence from the island of 11 years. That's when the last ham left, Schirmer said. Schirmer's ham handle (name) is KL7-CYB. He has been a ham operator since 1946 but hasn't been active since he lived in Bethel in 1964. Recently, his wife, Harriet Schirmer, surprised him

on their 10th wedding anniversary with radio equipment to set up shop again, and Don got back on the air. He is chatting now with hams all over the world and one of his first contacts was Art Sorenson, at Ketchikan. "Say hello to my father-in-law at City Market," he told Don. He was talking about Roland Curtis, operator of the market.

Sept. 26, 1996

Visitors to the Wrangell Museum this week will see scenes from Rainbow Falls, Nemo Point, Shakes Island and other local areas painted and sketched, presented as a gift to the Forest Service by interpreter/artist in residence Mary Keefer Bloom. Bloom volunteers her time and talents to the U.S. Forest Service throughout the country. After working in the field, she contributes some of her artwork, primarily paintings, to be used as the Forest Service sees fit. While working in Wrangell this summer, Bloom also offered two free classes in working with pastels, charcoal and watercolors. Throughout her classes she emphasized the importance of gradual light and color movement in the paintings and capturing the feel of day or evening on paper. Her paintings and sketches in the museum represent light at various times of the day and its affect on the landscapes. Bloom's 18 works are now on display.

Daylight Hours

| Date | Sunrise | Sunset | Hours |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| Sept. 23 | 6:37a | 6:44p | 12:06h |
| Sept. 24 | 6:39a | 6:41p | 12:02h |
| Sept. 25 | 6:41a | 6:39p | 11:57h |
| Sept. 26 | 6:43a | 6:36p | 11:52h |
| Sept. 27 | 6:45a | 6:33p | 11:48h |
| Sept. 28 | 6:47a | 6:31p | 11:43h |
| Sept. 29 | 6:49a | 6:28p | 11:38h |

Alaska COVID-19 case count highest per capita in the nation

By SENTINEL STAFF
AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While Wrangell did not report a single COVID-19 infection between Sept. 10 and 21, the state tracking website reported almost 8,000 new cases over that period.

Alaska's numbers are so bad lately that the state's average rate of daily new infections over the past week is more almost triple the national average — and higher than any other state — as reported on The New York Times COVID-19 tracking page.

Alaska is facing “one of the sharpest surges” in the country, the state epidemiologist said Sept. 16, adding that it's not clear when the situation might stabilize.

Daily case counts haven't been this high since November-December 2020.

“A lot of it's going to depend on vaccination coverage rates” and measures such as masking, distancing and avoiding crowds, Dr. Joe McLaughlin told reporters.

Alaska health officials said hospitals are stressed to their staffing and capacity limits. The state health department reported

about 20% of all patients hospitalized in Alaska have COVID-19. More than 80% of hospitalized COVID patients in late August were unvaccinated.

On average from Sept. 9-16, about one in 10 COVID-19 tests administered in Alaska came back positive.

As of Tuesday, 448 Alaska residents had died while in state and an additional 17 died while outside, according to the state tracking website.

The state reported Tuesday there were 196 people hospitalized across Alaska with COVID-19, down slightly from 200-plus last week.

The state's largest hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, shifted to crisis standards of care and rationing treatment for patients due to a combination of staffing and equipment shortages. COVID-19 cases accounted for about a third of the hospital's patients.

A triage team has been asked to help with several patient-care decisions, according to a report in the Anchorage Daily News.

It's likely the hospital will remain in crisis mode for at least

another two weeks “while we wait for this current surge to flatten and then dip back down,” chief of staff Dr. Kristen Solena Walkinshaw said in a media briefing on Monday.

Providence set up a three-person team to help doctors and nurses struggling with decisions, as well as the strains of dealing with younger, more severely ill COVID-19 patients including pregnant women, some of whom have died of the virus, Solena Walkinshaw said.

One person died who was unable to get the continuous dialysis therapy needed, she said. While four patients needed the therapy, only two could get it. The doctor said at the news briefing that a patient died at a rural hospital because the individual needed cardiac catheterization and was “waiting for a bed to free up so we could transfer them.”

The heavy caseload at Anchorage hospitals has delayed or prevented rural facilities from transferring patients in need of higher-level care.

The crisis is getting increased
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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Cooperative Association put its logo on the front of the smokehouses it built for tribal citizens. WCA built 70 smokehouses and provided smaller electric units for people who did not have room for the freestanding wooden structures.

WCA

Continued from page 1

The federal deadline under the American Rescue Plan allows tribes — along with municipalities and states — to use the funds through 2024. Ashton said the WCA tribal council has not yet decided on its entire spending plan for the money.

The borough's share of federal pandemic relief funds last year and this year will total about \$5 million, including money shared by the state with Wrangell, with much of it going toward community grants, assistance programs and municipal costs of dealing with the pandemic.

The Wrangell School District allocation under the two federal programs totals more than \$1 million.

In addition, Wrangell businesses and nonprofits received about \$8 million in CARES Act funds, separate from any borough money.

And just as the state is using \$1 million of its federal aid to run a lottery of weekly \$49,000 prizes to entice residents of the 49th state to get vaccinated against COVID-19, so too is the WCA using some of its money to encourage more of its tribal citizens to get vaccinated.

Unvaccinated citizens are eligible for a \$1,000 payment if they get the shot and apply by Oct. 29, Ashton said. “If people have been on the fences” about vaccination, maybe the financial boost will get them off the fence and into the medical office for a shot.

Much of the WCA's work during the pandemic has been focused on providing people with the skills and opportunities to grow and prepare more of their own foods, particularly traditional foods.

Everyone should have the ability to smoke fish, Ashton said. To reach that goal, the council used its funds to hire tribal citizens to design and build 70 smokehouses for Wrangell households.

For those who did not have room for a smokehouse, the council purchased 126 Big Chief electric

smokers, the large size. The tribe made one change to the smokers, Ashton said. Big Chief removed its American Indian logo from the units and replaced it with the WCA logo.

In addition to promoting more smoked fish, the tribe wanted to encourage more gardening of healthy foods. It has put in 160 gardens for every citizen in town who wanted one, the administrator said.

The WCA, working with its Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP), put together an instructive video on “lasagna gardening,” which teaches layering of compost, seaweed and high-quality soil for better results.

Staff participated in a master-gardener program through the University of Alaska Fairbanks to learn and bring back skills to the community, Ashton said. And the WCA is putting together a workshop on fish processing, teaching how to safely use a pressure cooker and how to brine seafood.

The tribe has purchased pressure cookers and jars, and will be distributing them to its citizens.

Promoting growing, harvesting and preparing foods “is an opportunity” to return to traditional ways, Ashton said. “It's definitely an opportunity to reignite.”

In addition to programs aimed at its citizens, the WCA has used some of its federal money to help the overall community, including a \$86,520 grant to the Wrangell Fire Department for new equipment that makes it easier — and safer — to move patients in and out of ambulances, Ashton said.

The tribe gave \$2,000 to radio station KSTK to broadcast educational material about COVID-19, and each year grants funds to the Wrangell Senior Center and library.

The newest program soon to get underway at WCA will be a Tlingit language class for adults, Ashton said. The tribe recently was notified of an \$86,000 grant from the federal Administration for Native Americans.

Tlingit language class for adults will start this fall

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Virginia Oliver has been teaching Tlingit at Wrangell schools since 2016, and this fall will expand her student body to include adults in a new twice-a-week program at the WCA Cultural Center on Front Street.

The classes will include a monthly bingo event, with a fluent Tlingit elder calling out the game. Gift cards to local businesses will be awarded the winners, and “everybody is welcome to come,” Oliver said.

The language class will be held at noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a bag lunch provided. The program will be funded by a grant from the federal Administration for Native Americans.

WCA Tribal Administrator Esther Ashton said she hopes to start the language program later this fall. There is a pressing cultural need for more adults to learn Tlingit, Ashton said.

Oliver currently teaches students in each of Evergreen Elementary School's classes one pe-

riod a week, in addition to teaching a daily class at the middle school and also at the high school. She has about eight or nine students each in the middle and high school classes.

At the high school, beginners are in the same class as students who studied Tlingit last year, presenting a bit of challenge to teach students of varied skills, said Oliver, who continues to improve her own knowledge and skills by taking a class through the University of Alaska. “We stick together, all of us Tlingit learners.”

Born and raised in Wrangell, Oliver said she wasn't allowed as a child to speak the language. Her mom, who was from Kake, “put it away.” Looking back at her childhood years, she was told of the language: “There's no room in this century.”

Working with students is a big change from those years. “These students are wonderful,” she said. The high school class is an elective, and students are in the class because they want to learn.



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Federal pandemic aid has meant millions to Wrangell

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

There is no precise count but it looks like federal pandemic aid distributed or allocated over the past 18 months to Wrangell residents, businesses, the borough, school district, tribe and nonprofits totals close to \$30 million.

That's about equal to all the income earned by every household in town in half a year, according to U.S. Census numbers.

It's almost three times the annual budget of the borough and school board combined.

Most of the money came as grants or simply as federal aid to keep communities and people solvent until the pandemic passes and the economy can go back to work. Some of it was no-interest or low-interest loans.

That's a lot of federal money that turned into local dollars.

And it did a lot of good. It helped the school district maintain staff and programs, despite a sharp drop in enrollment last year that cut deeply into its state funding. It helped the city make up for lost revenue from reduced sales tax receipts, fewer visitors paying to tour the museum, fewer cruise ships paying at the dock and fewer boats using the marine service center.

The aid helped the borough pay for COVID-19 testing, buy supplies for the schools, cover police and fire payrolls, buy a new ambulance, and fund a marketing effort to help ensure visitors return to Wrangell as life returns closer to normal.

The combined \$3,200 per person in pandemic relief aid distributed in 2020 and 2021 — three payments of up to \$1,200, \$600 and \$1,400, depending on income — made a huge difference for households hit hard by the loss of work. And much of that money was spent at local businesses.

Grants and forgivable loans to businesses, including charter boat operators and commercial

fishermen, along with nonprofits, totaled more than \$8 million under last year's federal CARES Act.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association reports that its allocation under the CARES Act and this year's American Rescue Plan Act will total about \$7.5 million.

The school district will receive more than \$1 million, while the borough's share of the federal aid will total close to \$5 million since the assistance started flowing last year.

Some of the help came directly from the U.S. Treasury, while some of it went first to the state which then shared it with communities.

And while Congress has taken a breather from handing out pandemic relief aid, programs continue to operate with the money at hand.

Help with rent and utility bills is ongoing. The Alaska Housing Finance Corp. has embarked on its third round of rental assistance, funded by federal dollars, after already sending out about \$300,000 to help Wrangell households.

The state is now accepting applications for \$90 million in new federally funded grants for businesses hit hardest by the loss of income during the pandemic.

Besides for money directly for Wrangell, the state is using some of its federal aid to help support the Alaska Marine Highway System for the next 18 months, expand tourism marketing and pay for free COVID-19 tests at Wrangell and many other airports around the state.

The point of reminding everyone of all the financial help from the federal government? Maybe just that anyone who wants to criticize federal spending, complain about the national debt and bemoan taxes needs to remember that while there certainly is waste and inefficiency in the budget, a lot of that money is helping Wrangell keep its head above the waters of a choppy couple of years.

EDITORIAL

Not easy to draw legislative districts

The math is simple. Take the 2020 Census for Alaska and divide by 40, so that each state House district represents the same number of residents — 18,335.

But then nothing beyond the math is easy.

It's impossible to carve up the state into 40 districts of exactly the same population. A battle ensues every 10 years over where the lines should be drawn for legislative seats, taking into account areas of population growth and population shrinkage.

The job of the Alaska Redistricting Board is to follow the constitutional requirement, which is to come as close as possible on population numbers while making each district "contiguous and compact." The goal is not to divide communities, not to clump unrelated communities together, and not to draw the lines in such a way as to benefit one political party over another.

All the while knowing that the map will end up in court.

Dividing the last piece of holiday pie among a table of disagreeable relatives probably would be easier.

The Redistricting Board has released its draft maps, while others have taken computer mice in hand to draw their own maps. The board will travel around the state next month to gather public comment in advance of the Nov. 10 deadline to adopt a final map.

Wrangell is tangled up in an example of how hard it can be to draw a district that comes close to 18,335 residents in communities that share economic interests. The current House district of Wrangell and Ketchikan doesn't have enough residents to keep its seat. So, the redistricting board added Petersburg, which pushed the district over population by about 1,100 people.

And though Metlakatla and Prince of Wales Island have more in common with Ketchikan, they would stay part of the district that includes Sitka and stretches north to Yakutat. Putting all of Prince of Wales Island and Metlakatla into the Wrangell-Ketchikan district, even if you pull out Petersburg, would far exceed the population target. Not easy, is it?

Of course, nothing to do with legislative power would be complete without politics, or at least the appearance of a partisan tilt. The Redistricting Board used a jigsaw to cross a street in Juneau, which put the community's two incumbent Democrats into the same House district. If left unchanged, one would have to retire — or move to run in another district.

In Anchorage, the board drew a map that put three incumbent Democrats all in the same district.

Carving up the state into right-size districts could decide the direction of legislative action for the next decade. While there is no perfect solution, the Redistricting Board should redraw some of its squiggly lines to make them better.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Middle school battles TikTok-inspired vandalism

I used to believe that living on our island isolated us from all of the craziness of the Lower 48. I've often bragged about how in Wrangell we still lived the white-picket-fence, kids-playing-in-the-streets life of the 1950s. Unfortunately, that is no longer something I can say. Social media is pumping all sorts of Lower 48 craziness into our town.

You can find the latest craziness by going to #deviouslicks on TikTok. There you will find hundreds of short videos from all over the country glamorizing theft and the trashing of schools. And it's happening here. We've lost soap, paper towel, toilet paper and hand sanitizer dispensers. Signs have disappeared. We've had soap spread from one end of the bathroom to the other and several intentional attempts to

plug toilets with rolls of paper.

Believe it or not, I've caught several kids by simply looking at the videos they've posted of themselves doing "the crime." At this point, the situation seems to be primarily middle school students. High school students are doing fine. (Keep your fingers crossed!)

Since most of our problems seem to be in the middle school bathrooms, we are going to implement a new bathroom policy for middle school students:

Each teacher will give each student three free bathroom passes per quarter to be used during class time. Once the three passes are used, students will still be allowed to go to the bathroom, but will have to make up the time after school.

Each teacher will also keep a bathroom log. Students will need to sign in and out for

bathroom breaks taken during class.

Students will be encouraged to use the bathrooms during their passing periods which occur every 45 minutes or so.

We realize that some students might have medical issues that require more frequent breaks during class than three per quarter. If your child is in this situation, please let us know and we will be happy to give additional free bathroom passes.

I suspect that like many internet fads, this one will die out fairly quickly. When it does and when our students get a handle on this type of behavior, we are hopeful that these rules can be phased out.

Bob Davis
Assistant principal/lead teacher
Stikine Middle School

COVID-19

Continued from page 3

ingly harder on staff, Solena Walkinshaw said at the briefing.

Someone spat on a Providence resident as he left work. Families continue to deny that the virus is real even as they're saying goodbye to their loved ones on a video call as they get taken off life support, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

"Health care has become politicized and our entire country is polarized and there's so much discordance around particularly COVID," Solena Walkinshaw said. "Our health care workers feel incredibly unappreciated."

A U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report this month said fully vaccinated people are 10 times more likely to avoid hospitalization and 11 times less likely to die with the virus compared to unvaccinated people.

"Getting vaccinated protects against severe illness from COVID-19, including the Delta variant," the report said.

Statewide, 57.5% of residents 12 or older were fully vaccinated as of Tuesday, and 62.5% had received at least their first dose of a vaccine, according to the health department. The rate in Wrangell was 66% of eligible residents with at least their first dose.

The Alaska Chamber is using \$1 million of federal pandemic aid funneled through the state to run weekly \$49,000 drawings to encourage people who haven't been vaccinated to get the shot. The contest ends Oct. 30.

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Tom Weton, director of public works, inspects one of the two ozone-producing machines at Wrangell's water treatment facility. The machine is the one that has been failing and staff fear the other machine will start failing, as both are running beyond their manufacturer-recommended lifespan.

Water woes

Continued from page 1
they're specified for."

The generators are producing about half the ozone they should, Weton said, possibly due to the compressors being too small, cooling issues, and other problems they haven't been able to identify. One of the ozone generators fails on a regular basis.

McHolland fears what is happening with the failing machine will happen with the machine that is still operating properly.

Another issue faced at the plant is the roughing filter, which helps capture more particulate matter before feeding water into the slow sand filter.

A finer-grain media was originally used for the filter, but the flow capabilities weren't meeting the demand of consumers. Instead of a finer-grain media, a gravel-sized media was put in place. That led to more contaminants making it through to the slow sand filters.

Weton said the highest contaminant levels are seen from August to November.

"Our source water is basically surface water. It comes out of a muskeg," he said. "Late in the summer, after everything blooms and dies off and washes away, it ends up in our water.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The lower reservoir supplies Wrangell with its water. If pumps from the reservoir fail, the borough's water treatment staff don't have a way to bypass the lower reservoir to draw directly from the upper reservoir.

When the organic loading is so high, for the last five years or so, we've struggled to keep up."

The water quality in spring is "as good as you're going to find anywhere," Weton said.

The delivery system to homes and businesses is failing too in some areas. Some of the ductile iron pipes should last 40 to 50 years, and Weton said some are only lasting about 20, possibly due to acidic soil or electrolysis, leading to corrosion.

"The city has been chipping away at replacing that stuff," Weton said. "Everything is

being replaced by ... high-density polyethylene, basically a really heavy-duty plastic pipe."

Then there is the treatment plant itself. Between 2017 and 2019, the borough received commitments for \$9 million in federal funding toward building a new treatment plant. Due to various delays, that cost could be as high as \$12 million now, Weton said. If so, further funding would be needed. The borough is getting an updated estimate.

The project would involve replacing the plant's sand filtration system with a more effi-

cient flotation system that binds pollutants and other material to air bubbles, which rise to the surface for removal.

Until a complete overhaul at the treatment plant, the recommendation from public works is to replace the ozone-making system for \$445,000.

Water department reserves are currently at \$490,000.

"There is no one smoking gun, that's the issue here," Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said at the Sept. 14 assembly meeting. "Obviously, if we had unlimited funds, we could take the all-in approach."

Ground search at former Institute property on hold

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The borough is waiting on further guidance from the U.S. Department of the Interior on the agency's nationwide initiative for researching and even searching the sites of former Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools, including the former Wrangell Institute property.

The borough plans to subdivide the property for residential development, turning the 134 acres into 40 building lots.

While waiting on the Interior Department, borough officials are talking with the State Historic Preservation Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that Wrangell fully complies with whatever process the agencies set out for

the site review, said Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's zoning administrator and economic development director.

The borough also has been talking with the Wrangell Cooperative Association, the tribal government in Wrangell.

The borough will need an Army Corps permit to develop wetlands on the property, upland from Shoemaker Bay.

Borough officials are drafting a request for proposals for professional assistance in a cultural resources survey of the property, such as an archeologist, Rushmore said. "We want to answer questions and concerns to the best of our ability."

The effort "is in a holding pattern," waiting on Interior Department guidance, said Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga. "We want to make sure that what we're doing is in line with (federal) guidance."

Wrangell also will look to the Interior Department for funding for the survey work, the manager said.

The Department of the Interior, which oversees the BIA, has committed to investigating its past operation and oversight of Native American boarding schools. At its peak, the government operated more than 200 boarding schools nationwide and funded over 100 more, mostly run by religious denominations.

A report is due to the Interior Department secretary by April 1, 2022.

The BIA operated the Wrangell Institute from 1932 to 1975. The borough accepted ownership of the property in 1996. The buildings were demolished in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The Interior Department's nationwide initiative was prompted by the discovery earlier this year of children's remains buried at the site in British Columbia of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school, and the fear that burial sites could exist at U.S. school sites.

Correction

A story in the Sept. 16 issue of the Sentinel incorrectly reported there is no real estate agent based in Wrangell. Kathleen Harding with Move-ToWrangell.com is based here.

GET TO KNOW US

The Wrangell Chamber of Commerce and the Wrangell Sentinel invite you to a chamber-members only luncheon

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Southeast visitor industry looks forward to 2022

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

About 200 people convened in Haines last week – in-person and virtually – for the annual Southeast Conference, and much of the discussion among municipal and chambers of commerce officials focused on the region’s economy, in particular the tourism outlook for next year.

Cruise industry and airline officials talked optimistically of strong visitor travel next year, maybe even a record for cruise ship capacity, as the country emerges from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Right now, let’s be positive ... this actually could happen,” said Wendy Lindskoog, an assistant vice president with Royal Caribbean Group, which she said is scheduled to bring two Quantum Class ships to Alaska next year. The 16-deck ships can each accommodate close to 5,000 passengers.

If COVID-19 does not mess up cruise line plans, voyages with capacity for more than 1.4 million passengers could sail to Southeast next year – which would be a record.

Looking back at this past summer, several speakers commented that more independent travelers – non-cruise ship passengers – visited Alaska than anticipated.

For some businesses, independent traveler numbers this year actually exceeded 2019, said Rachel Roy, of the Southeast Alaska Tourism Council, who was among the Sept. 14 speakers.

Looking to build on that growing interest and provide additional months of employment in Southeast communities, “a lot of efforts are being made to spread the season out further,” into April and October, she said.

All those unexpected visitors, however, put a strain on some businesses this summer, especially as companies large and small cut back on staffing to better survive the back-to-back two-year economic hit of the COVID-19 pandemic, several speakers said.

“People came into Southeast Alaska better than we expected,” said Marilyn Romano, regional vice president for Alaska Airlines in Anchorage. The company had cut back on summer flights into Southeast and was caught off-guard by heavier passenger loads, sometimes making it hard for residents to book the flights they needed, for which Romano apologized at the conference.

Continued on page 7



The senator sold garnets, too

It was a homecoming of sorts when Sen. Lisa Murkowski (second from left) and her sister, Carol Murkowski Sturgulewski (left), visited the Ritchie family garnet and jewelry stand near the city dock on Sept. 12. The two Murkowski sisters had sold garnets to tourists when they were kids in the mid-1960s, when their father, Frank Murkowski, managed the National Bank of Alaska branch in Wrangell. “We sold them on the dock, separated by size in egg cartons. I seem to recall 25 cents seemed like a big score!” Murkowski Sturgulewski said. Bar-

bara Ritchie said this was the first summer she and her daughter, Bella, 12, have been selling handmade jewelry, though the family has brought out the garnet trays for tourists for years. The senator purchased a pair of sterling silver and garnet earrings. Bella helps her mom with the design and creating earrings, bracelets and necklaces for Ritchie’s Rocks. Besides for talking about garnet jewelry, Bella, part of a fishing family, also talked with the senator about the heavy toll sea otters are taking on Dungeness crab in Southeast, her mom said.

Tent City Days to become celebration of ‘all things Wrangell’

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Event organizer Jill Privett is looking to make a positive change with Tent City Days.

In the past, the event celebrated the gold rush era, but Privett wants to focus more on “celebrating all things Wrangell, whether that be your love of the land, people, fishing, berry picking, etc.,” she said.

From Oct. 14-17, various in-person and virtual events will be held, such as the Gold Nugget Open Swim, Alaska Day Fun Run, Tent City Steak Night, a food cache contest, Shady Lady Saturday Night, Zoom Story Time, Fisherman’s Crawl and the Wild Woman’s Competition.

Privett organized last year’s Tent City Days in just a few

weeks since she wasn’t sure if it would be held due to COVID-19. This year’s challenge has been finding people to help organize the event. Next year, the event will be called “Wrangell Days.”

“We are doing the best we can with as little help as possible,” Privett said. “Each year it seems like less and less people are willing to help out. There used to be a team of folks who put Tent City on, but now it’s basically me and whoever else steps up to volunteer.”

Privett said interest in the event has dwindled over the past few years, but she would like to see that interest renewed.

“Why does the Fourth of July have to be the only big event Wrangellites get excited for? If I had my way, we’d have a party

every other month,” she said.

Along with the activities, food will be served. The Elks Lodge will serve burgers on the night of Oct. 15, steaks on the night of Oct. 16 and a brunch on Oct. 17. There will be burgers, cotton candy and Jonah’s famous lemonade with the Family Fun Day games Oct. 16 at Muskeg Meadows. And the

high school volleyball team will be selling Russian pelmeni dumplings that night at the downtown pavilion.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Privett at 907-305-1095, email tentcitydays907@gmail.com, or post on the Tent City Facebook page.

Pandemic aid

Continued from page 1

olution requesting the \$604,000 from the state, with spending decisions to come later. Similar to last year’s federal aid under the CARES Act, this latest round of assistance, under the American Rescue Plan Act of this past spring, comes with federal guidelines for what the money can be spent on.

Generally, the spending must be related to the pandemic, either covering expenses or revenue shortfalls, helping communities repair their economy, including work on water and sewer systems. “The full scope of options for eligible expenditures will be provided to the assembly,” the borough manager wrote in her presentation for the meeting.

“We need to have a plan for that money in the next few months,” Von Barga said last Friday. The borough has until June 30, 2024, to spend the funds.

Last year, Wrangell received \$3.85 million under the CARES Act. Congress this year imposed fewer restrictions on spending American Rescue Plan money than it had on CARES Act funds, in addition to providing more time for states and municipalities to spend the money.



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Southeast Conference —

Continued from page 6
ference.

Speakers said hiring enough staff was a problem this year and will be an even bigger issue if tourist numbers return anywhere close to normal next summer.

"That will continue to be a challenge," said Jillian Simpson, vice president of the Alaska Tourism Industry Association. The association board of directors is working to develop programs to help travel businesses find and hire sufficient staff for next year, she said.

Beside for recruiting people to come back to work after losing so much business to the pandemic, employers face challenges in predicting what level of service they will need next year. Do they look to 2019 for staffing levels, or something else, Romano said.

The airline sees a direct correlation between its bookings and COVID-19 case numbers, she said. When infections go up, travel goes in the other direction. The uncertainty of future COVID-19 infection rates makes it difficult to plan flight schedules, she said.

Everyone on the visitor industry panels talked about the importance of keeping customers and employees safe, preventing any outbreaks that could ruin next summer's visitors count. "Some of these protocols may be with us for a long time," Lindskoog said of sanitation, distancing and COVID testing for the cruise lines.

After being a leader earlier this year among the 50 states for its high vaccination rate, Alaska is now in the bottom third nationwide. Just over 62% of eligible Alaskans had received at least their first dose of a vaccine as of Monday versus the national rate of more than 74%.

A low vaccination rate among Alaskans could be a problem for next summer's visitor traffic, Sen. Lisa Murkowski said at the Southeast Conference.

The state's senior senator told the gathering that a higher vaccination rate would be good for tourism, especially as Southeast looks to rebuild its economy next year. "It sends the message that we're safe and we want you to come."

Alaska was among the top five states nationwide for an increase in hospitalizations last week, Murkowski said. "That is not where we want to be."

Southeast has so much to offer visitors and should focus on those attractions, Murkowski said, noting in particular that every town has a local brewery.

Borough to consider its own resolution on B.C. mining

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Acknowledging it is a "polarizing and divisive issue in Canada," the Wrangell borough assembly will proceed "somewhat cautiously" in drafting a resolution on mining in the Stikine River watershed, Borough Mayor Steve Prysunka said.

"Of course, we don't want salmon impacted" by mining, he said. "We're actually uniquely positioned, we're at the outflow."

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission has asked the Wrangell assembly, and other elected bodies in the region, to adopt a resolution calling for a pause on new mining permits, amendments to existing permits and approval of

new projects in the vicinity of any of the three transboundary rivers that flow into Southeast: The Stikine, Taku and Unuk.

The commission's resolution also calls for a ban on tailings dams to hold mining waste rock. The advocacy group believes the dams present a risk to salmon habitat.

The borough assembly considered the commission's request at its Sept. 14 meeting, and directed Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga to draft new language for the assembly to review.

"We want her to be tactful," Prysunka said of "customizing" the resolution to address Wrangell's concerns.

And while protecting salmon habitat and water quality is key, the mayor said, he also appreci-

ates that mining operations in British Columbia generate jobs.

"We've got to be cautious about our Canadian neighbors," the mayor said, noting that mines bring economic benefits to some tribes in the province.

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission has asked for meetings with provincial officials to discuss their concerns, but B.C. ministries have yet to schedule any sessions. The delay prompted the commission to ask for a pause on new permits.

One area of concern for the group is the Red Chris Mine, which has been operating near the headwaters of the Stikine River since 2015. The open-pit copper and gold mine is about 60 miles east of the Stikine, near the community of Iskut.

Police report

Monday, Sept. 13
Welfare check.
Traffic stop.

Tuesday, Sept. 14
Paper service: Domestic violence order.
Property check.
Summons service.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for defective headlights.

Wednesday, Sept. 15
Criminal mischief.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Dog complaint.

Parking violation.
Theft: Unfounded.
Agency assist: Line crew.
Alarm.
Driving under the influence:
Arrested.

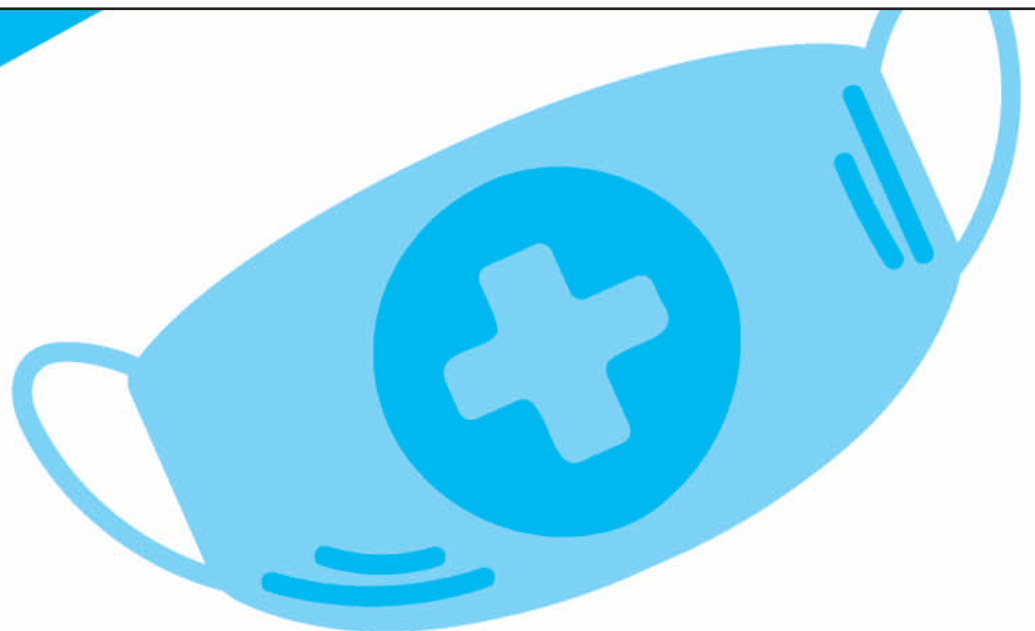
Thursday, Sept. 16
Agency assist: Harbormaster.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Citizen assist.

Friday, Sept. 17
Welfare check.
Motor vehicle accident.

Welfare check.
Violating conditions of release.

Saturday, Sept. 18
Noise complaint.
REDDI report: Unable to locate.
Traffic stop citations: Driving without a valid license and failure to provide proof of insurance.

Sunday, Sept. 19
Harassment.
Citizen assist: Unlocked vehicle.



**The EOC would like to extend
a huge
THANK YOU
to the businesses and residents
of Wrangell for helping us get
through the recent surge in
COVID-19 cases.
Wrangell is now at ZERO
active cases.**

The Sentinel this week presents profiles of candidates for school board and the contested borough assembly seat in the Oct. 5 municipal election. Next week's Sentinel will cover the port commission and uncontested assembly race.

Board candidates express frustration over school communications

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Six candidates are vying for three seats on the Wrangell school board.

Angela Allen, Alex Angerman, Brittani Robbins and Elizabeth Roundtree are running for two open three-year terms. The top two vote-getters will win the election.

Julia Ostrander and Jessica Whitaker are competing to fill one seat for an unexpired one-year term.

Although each candidate has similar goals they want to achieve during their term if elected, they all have varied backgrounds and experience they believe would lend a unique perspective to the board.



JULIA OSTRANDER

"I believe being a community member, a small business owner, I work full-time at the clinic, I'm a parent, basically I'm invested in this community," Julia Ostrander said of her qualifications to serve on the school board. "I think the

school board is all about the community working together. It needs the community."

Ostrander, 36, who moved to Wrangell from Colorado just over three years ago, used to work on a volunteer ambulance in Colorado and was involved in parent-teacher councils.

"The community doesn't feel like they have a voice in the school here. If I get elected, I want to be the voice of the community..."

- Julia Ostrander

She's looking to get more involved in Wrangell and decided to run for the one-year school board term.

She believes the key to solving issues like lower enrollment (and losing state education dollars because of fewer students) is listening to the community.

"The community doesn't feel like they have a voice in the school here," Ostrander said. "If I get elected, I want to be the voice of the community. The school needs to be accountable to the community that's paying the taxes for this. And they need to have a voice and input on what happens at the school."

Ostrander said the community also isn't being listened to on things like masking, and that decisions need to be reasonable and balanced.

Another problem she would

like to see addressed is an over-use of technology during class.

"I once sat in my son's classroom where he was on an iPad for six hours," she said. "He did his spelling on the iPad, he does his reading on the iPad. I would like to see the school review that and make sure we're being reasonable on how much time they're spending on those devices. I don't think a child develops the fine motor skills — fine handwriting — by being on an iPad all day."

Technology should be gradually increased throughout a child's educational years because it's a necessary tool, not used all at once, she said.

Ostrander would also like to see more programs that would direct children toward higher education, and then encourage them to return to the community to fill jobs.

BRITTANI ROBBINS

Brittani Robbins is running for a three-year term on the school board. Currently, the 36-year-old is executive director of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce and serves on the finance committee of the school district. She's also a Little League coach, Girl Scout leader and volunteers for different community events.

"I'm hoping to join the policy committee, but there can only be two board members per committee because of quorum," Robbins said of the open meetings law that limits when three members of the five-member school board can gather. "I want to be on at least two committees within the district. I feel like there needs to be a lot more advocacy for the students and the parents, and a lot less advocacy for the staff."

Robbins, who came to Wrangell with her family when she was just about to



turn 4 years old, is now married and a mother of two. She believes the lack of advocacy for students, parents and classified (non-teacher) staff has a lot to do with the teachers union and negotiated contracts.

"It's all about the certified staff and the administration," she said, adding that maybe that's in the past. "We have just started with [Schools Superintendent] Bill [Burr], so I don't want to say anything bad about him. I'm actually quite

excited to see [how he does]." She worked for two years at the school in the IT department as coordinator, and she advocated for less technology use on the part of students, believing they had too much screen time.

Along with too much tech, Robbins believes the most pressing problem is that parents are not being heard. "I'm not saying no one is getting heard, but they're not getting heard enough," she said. "When you have a majority [of

parents] saying one thing, but [the district] moves in a different direction, it makes those who are trying to have a voice feel like they don't deserve to have a voice, so why would I say anything because they're going to do what they want no matter what."

The focus for Robbins has always been the students. "I have a history, both with the community and with the school, but the most important thing is I want to be on this board to be a voice for our kids," she said.

"I feel like there needs to be a lot more advocacy for the students and the parents, and a lot less advocacy for the staff."

- Brittani Robbins

"I feel like it needs to be more about the kids and the families and the community, and a little bit less about the politics and the bureaucracy."

- Elizabeth Roundtree



ELIZABETH ROUNDTREE

Elizabeth Roundtree came to Wrangell four years ago when her husband, John, got a job working with TSA. Moving from Connecticut, she began her research into the community.

"I have no reason to say, 'no,'" Roundtree said. "The school system's great; there's not that many people here; the crime is barely on the register. I get here and I start getting phone calls and text messages. 'Do you know what your daughter is doing?' I was like, 'I'm in 1950 America! What's going on? I love this.'"

Roundtree, 35, is a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard. She describes herself as a person who "just dives in" to whatever she's doing, which is why she chose to run for the three-year term on the school board. She also volunteers for various community events where she can.

She has worked as a paraprofessional for the school, been a Girl Scout troop leader for six years, and currently works at Wrangell IGA. Roundtree believes kids aren't given enough credit and that the community doesn't have a voice when it comes to school

decisions. "I feel like it needs to be more about the kids and the families and the community, and a little bit less about the politics and the bureaucracy," she said. "I feel like the school board seems to care more about the teachers, and less about what the community needs or the building needs. There's a reason why a bunch of people stopped going to school and tried to homeschool their kids when COVID hit."

Roundtree's children — fourth and fifth graders — weren't among those homeschooled, as both her and her husband work full-time.

Roundtree, 75, who is retired, is running against incumbent David Powell for a one-year term on the borough assembly.

McConachie, 75, who is retired, is running against incumbent David Powell for a one-year term on the borough assembly. "There's no sense in cutting back and cutting back ... so that you're just barely getting by."

Adding a position while holding the line on overall borough spending could require staff cuts to other departments, though the candidate declined to name where he thought positions could be eliminated. "I am not going to say, because this is a small town," and people could mistakenly assume they are able to identify which employees might worry about their job.

McConachie was one of the leaders earlier this year in a recall effort against Mayor Steve Prysunka. The candidate said he supported the recall because he believes the borough did not follow the law in announcing to the public its emergency meetings for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, a charge the mayor has rejected.

In addition to his time on the assembly and as mayor, McConachie served on the planning and zoning commission and was active in the chamber of commerce. He moved to Wrangell from Canada in 1984 to operate the Wrangell Fisheries plant, formerly Wrangell Seafoods.

Part of the problem now, McConachie said, may be too few workers, particularly in the electrical line crew. "There's no sense in cutting back and cutting back ... so that you're just barely getting by."

He tells of how when he was on the assembly, he would hand out pies and coffee cards for employees, to show his appreciation. "I would like to see that happen again."

Part of the problem now, McConachie said, may be too few workers, particularly in the electrical line crew. "There's no sense in cutting back and cutting back ... so that you're just barely getting by."

Powell wants to see more borough land in private ownership

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

One of the bigger issues that got David Powell interested in serving on the assembly several years ago was his belief that the borough needs to get out of the real estate business. He wanted Wrangell to sell off more of its property for private development, and to do it at a faster pace.

He also wanted to serve because "I was interested in how things work with the city," he said. "In a roundabout way, I found it doesn't work as everybody thinks it works."

Powell is running for a one-year term to see through the completion of more land sales, in particular the borough's plan to subdivide the former Wrangell Institute property into residential lots.

That plan, however, is on hold, pending further guidance from the U.S. Department of the Interior as to what it will require of a ground search and cultural site research into the Native boarding school that operated 1932-1975.

"That one I really want to see get done," Powell said. The borough's plan is to subdivide the acreage into at least 40 building lots.

He also would like to serve another year so that he can complete work negotiating a new contract with borough employees — he serves on the negotiating committee.

Along with opening up more land for residential use, Powell also would like to



David Powell

see the borough sell more of its land west of Bennett Street, just past Evergreen Elementary School. "That was all designated for industrial use."

Powell said he doesn't see much point for government to own property unless it has a real use for it. "Unless we are actually going to do something" with the property within two or three years, he doesn't think the borough should hold it "because we might do something in 20 years."

The former hospital building is a good example, he said. Unless the borough has a plan for the building, they should try selling it as is, rather than spending up to \$100,000 a year to keep it dry and insured. Maybe a buyer would be willing to deal the asbestos and other issues, he said.

After five years on the assembly, "I'm actually enjoying it," said Powell, who works as manager at The Bay Co. "I can't say it's exciting all the time, but it keeps you on your toes."

He said his philosophy is that "if you're there for a good reason, to help people, by all means run." But don't run for office because you are mad at someone.

McConachie believes employee relations are a problem for borough

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Don McConachie Sr. served on the assembly or as mayor between 1998 and when he resigned as mayor in 2013 for health reasons. He's ready now to get back to work at City Hall.

McConachie, 75, who is retired, is running against incumbent David Powell for a one-year term on the borough assembly.

"Our city has changed an awful lot. It has deteriorated a substantial amount," McConachie said. He was reluctant to provide specific examples, explaining, "The best way to understand what's going on is to get involved."

He added, "I want to see this city move in a better direction," declining to provide details of that direction until he is on the assembly and could learn more. "I really don't want to say until I know for sure what it is."

McConachie did cite employer-employee relations as one of his big concerns for borough government. "I know a lot of people in the community," he said, and based on phone calls he has received he believes there is a problem with "interference from the upper echelon to the worker."

He tells of how when he was on the assembly, he would hand out pies and coffee cards for employees, to show his appreciation. "I would like to see that happen again."

Part of the problem now, McConachie said, may be too few workers, particularly in the electrical line crew. "There's no sense in cutting back and cutting back ... so that you're just barely getting by."



Don McConachie Sr.

Adding a position while holding the line on overall borough spending could require staff cuts to other departments, though the candidate declined to name where he thought positions could be eliminated. "I am not going to say, because this is a small town," and people could mistakenly assume they are able to identify which employees might worry about their job.

McConachie was one of the leaders earlier this year in a recall effort against Mayor Steve Prysunka. The candidate said he supported the recall because he believes the borough did not follow the law in announcing to the public its emergency meetings for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, a charge the mayor has rejected.

In addition to his time on the assembly and as mayor, McConachie served on the planning and zoning commission and was active in the chamber of commerce. He moved to Wrangell from Canada in 1984 to operate the Wrangell Fisheries plant, formerly Wrangell Seafoods.

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Part of the problem now, McConachie said, may be too few workers, particularly in the electrical line crew. "There's no sense in cutting back and cutting back ... so that you're just barely getting by."

ANGELA ALLEN

"I want to run to make sure the kids are getting the quality education that they deserve," Angela Allen said. "It's time for me to get involved again."

Allen, 40, has two high school-aged children and a first grader. She's been "involved in the parent advisory committee for a long time. ... I run the Hooligan Reading Fair race every year, I have for the past eight to 10 years. Obviously, I have a long investment because my daughter is in first grade and I have a long way to go," she said.

On top of vying for a three-year seat on the board, Allen also operates a sawmill with her husband, works full time for SEARHC as a referral care coordinator, clinical assistant, patient access representative, pharmacy

"Our kids socialize outside of school with all of their classmates at one point or another. I think it's unfair for them to be expected to go to school and wear a mask and distance from their friends when our case count is so low."

- Angela Allen

tech and scope tech. She's also a CPR-first aid instructor.

She moved to Wrangell from Redding, California, in 1998 when she was a senior in high school.

For Allen, the biggest problem facing the district right now is COVID-19-related.

"It's the masking and the social distancing," she said. "Wrangell just had a spot where we had very high COVID count, but now we were at one the other day, I'm assuming we'll be at zero soon, hopefully. Our kids

socialize outside of school with all of their classmates at one point or another. I think it's unfair for them to be expected to go to school and wear a mask and distance from their friends when our case count is so low."

Allen is also frustrated the district sent out surveys asking for input from parents about mask wearing.

"It was under the impression that it would be evaluated for our children to not wear masks after the first two weeks of school," she said.



She would like to also be involved in picking curriculum, staff, funding and maintenance.

"Like I said, it's time for me to be involved," Allen said. Unlike other candidates, she thinks that technology in use by teachers and students and teachers is a good thing, saying it's a new day and age, and tech is a large part of that.

ALEX ANGERMAN

A recent college graduate, Alex Angerman is no stranger to public service.

Angerman, 23, is currently on the planning and zoning commission, is the CARES Act coordinator for the Wrangell Cooperative Association, was an intern with the Spokane Lands Council (in which she assisted with tree planting), a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and was a member of the Association of Student Planning at Eastern Washington University.

She has been a resident of Wrangell since 2011 and graduated high school here. Along with two younger brothers who are still enrolled in school, Angerman's mother is a kindergarten and first grade teacher, and her father has served as

school board president.

"I have a college education, so I have an understanding of what can best prepare students for life after high school," she said. "Overall, I have a passion for education and the student experience means a lot to me."

Angerman is running for a three-year term on the school board, and she believes the biggest issue facing the district is the effect that COVID-19 is having on school life.

"From the political tension to the budget crisis, the pandemic has hit the school district hard," she said. "This is not just a Wrangell issue, as the pandemic has affected education globally."

The school district's current mitigation plan is working, Angerman said, and she would keep that plan in place to prior-

"The greatest year from the community is that students are able to be in class with their peers and following the safety measures will allow them to do so."

- Alex Angerman

itize student and staff safety.

"The greatest year from the community is that students are able to be in class with their peers and following the safety measures will allow them to do so," she said.

For Angerman, education goes beyond what students learn from their lessons.



"Good schools are about much more than covering the curriculum, managing classrooms and preparing students for the future," she said. "Good schools help students feel accepted, safe and appreciated."

JESSICA WHITAKER

Except for a short time away at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, Jessica Whitaker has spent her entire life in Wrangell. While in college, she decided she didn't want to be a teacher and returned to her hometown to figure out what she wanted to do, now working as an administrative operations manager for behavioral health with SEARHC.

"I know that it's a commitment to run for the board and there's a lot of work that goes into it, but this year specifically I just wanted to see what kind of commitment that is [before running for a three-year term]," Whitaker, 36, said of why she decided to seek the one-year term. In addition to working full-time, she also has two small children and is going to college full-time.

Whitaker believes she is qualified for the position since she grew up in the district, has been a volleyball coach, sat on several community boards and been a contract employee for the school, her husband works in the custodial department, and her children are enrolled this year.

She believes the problems facing the school district are

Even though she kept her children out of school last year due to the pandemic, Whitaker kept attending meetings to see how the school board was going to approach the problem.

"What I was looking for myself was, I didn't want my kids to be in school and then the next week be out of school, and be in school and out of school," she said. "I couldn't manage a schedule where they were flip-flopping like that all the time."

Whitaker believes she is qualified for the position since she grew up in the district, has been a volleyball coach, sat on several community boards and been a contract employee for the school, her husband works in the custodial department, and her children are enrolled this year.

She believes the problems facing the school district are

"I couldn't manage a schedule where they were flip-flopping like that all the time."

- Jessica Whitaker



two-fold: a balanced budget with sufficient funding, and mitigating COVID-19 to keep kids in school.

She would solve the budgetary problems by researching dedicated grant writers and looking at spending, seeing where cutbacks could be made, and reallocating funds where possible. However, she admits that without studying the budget, she can't give a detailed answer.

As for COVID-19 mitigation, "it's continued partnership with our local EOC (emergency operations center), making sure that we're looking at things regionally, utilizing resources that are readily available like making sure we're following recommendations by pediatrics, the CDC (federal Centers for Disease Prevention and Control) and our own state medical director," Whitaker said.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Renée Roberts places first in three events at Petersburg meet

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Wrangell High School swim and cross country teams competed in meets last weekend. The results were mixed, but a few athletes turned in personal bests and first-place finishes.

Swimming

The swim team competed in the Petersburg Invitational Swim Meet, going against teams from Juneau-Douglas, Thunder Mountain in Juneau, Petersburg, Craig, Sitka and Ketchikan.

Renée Roberts finished first in three of her events: the 50-yard freestyle (25.92); the 100-yard backstroke (1:05.02); and the 50-yard freestyle (26.18); and third in the 200-yard freestyle (2:08.28).

Jack Roberts showed a significant time improvement in the 100-yard butterfly, according to coach Jamie Roberts, coming in fifth at 57.85.

"Overall, they incorporated the techniques they have been working on in practice," Roberts said. "Several of them commented that they felt like the water was 'thicker.' Ketchikan [where the swimmers competed two weeks ago] is typically a pool where kids swim their fastest (for whatever reason), so I wasn't surprised that we didn't see a lot of time drops at this meet."

The swim team travels to Juneau for its next meet Oct. 15-16. It will not be able to travel to the meet in Juneau on Oct. 1-2 due to insufficient travel funds.

Cross country

The cross country team traveled to Sitka to compete in the Sitka Invitational on Saturday, running a 5-kilometer race against Ketchikan, Haines, Mt. Edgecumbe, Skagway, Petersburg, Sitka,



Tyson Messmer competes in the 100-yard breaststroke during the Petersburg Invitational Swim Meet last weekend.

Juneau-Douglas, Thunder Mountain, Klawock, Metlakatla and Thorne Bay.

The boys' team had a combined time of 1:38:44.41, enough to garner seventh place out of nine competing teams. Their average time per runner on the team was 19:44.89. There were 89 competitors in the boys' race. Combined stats for the girls' team were not available. There were 60 competitors in the girls' race.

Runners results:

Girls

- Liana Carney - ninth (21:35.37)
- Mia Wiederspohn - 43rd (26:55.71)
- Emma Martinsen - 54th (31:09.88)
- Rylee Chelette - 59th (36:16.59)

Boys

- Daniel Harrison - 19th (18:47.69)
- Devlyn Campbell - 20th (18:48.06)
- Ethan Blatchley - 25th (19:23.29)
- Randy Churchill - 36th (20:09.42)
- James Shilts - 67th (21:35.95)
- Jimmy Baggen - 69th (22:12.39)

Swimmers results:

Girls

Alisha Armstrong - 15th, 50-yard freestyle (32.29); ninth, 100-yard freestyle (1:10.06); 14th, 50-yard freestyle (33.08); fourth, 100-yard breaststroke (1:42.95)

Ashleigh Loomis - 14th, 50-yard freestyle (30.50); 13th, 50-yard freestyle (30.74)

Renée Roberts - first, 50-yard freestyle (25.92); first, 100-yard backstroke (1:05.02); third, 200-yard freestyle (2:08.28); first, 50-yard freestyle (26.18)

Boys

Killian Booker - 20th, 50-yard freestyle (30.34); 14th, 100-yard freestyle (1:10.63); 20th, 50-yard freestyle (30.88)

Max Lloyd - 22nd, 50-yard freestyle (32.79); 12th, 100-yard breaststroke (1:33.47); 22nd, 50-yard freestyle (32.97); 15th, 100-yard breaststroke (1:33.28)

Tyson Messmer - 12th, 50-yard freestyle (26.52); 11th, 100-yard freestyle (59.04); 13th, 100-yard freestyle (58.73)

Jack Roberts - third, 50-yard freestyle (23.78); fifth, 100-yard butterfly (57.85); fourth, 100-yard freestyle (52.65); third, 100-yard breaststroke (1:08.31)

Boys' team

Boys' 200-yard medley relay team - seventh on Friday (2:08.53) and seventh on Saturday (2:08.55); boys' 200-yard freestyle relay team - seventh on Friday (1:53.06) and fifth on Saturday (1:53.31)

Anchorage military base declares public health emergency

ANCHORAGE (AP) - Military leaders on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson have declared a public health emergency and encouraged all personnel to avoid places that do not require masks or social distancing in response to increasing COVID-19 cases in Alaska, officials said.

"We've all seen COVID-19 cases continue to spread rapidly across our nation, the state of Alaska and in our local community," U.S. Air Force Col. Kirsten Aguilar, 673d Air Base Wing and JBER commander, said in a statement Sept. 17. "After close consultation with JBER mission commanders, I have decided to declare a public health emergency."

Aguilar said the declaration will remain in effect for 30 days, but could be shortened or extended based on cases and community transmission of COVID-19.

The base has also transitioned to Health Protection Condition Bravo, which means Aguilar will be able to implement additional measures to protect against the spread of the coronavirus.

Continued on page 11



One sale deserves another

25% Off all ads in the September 30 Sentinel

that promote Wrangell's TAX-FREE DAY OCTOBER 2

Shoppers get a break that day and the Sentinel wants to give businesses a break too

Open to all Wrangell businesses - \$25 minimum

Call, email or visit with Amber at the Sentinel to order your ad

Deadline to order your ad is noon Monday, Sept. 27



Call 874-2301 • Email wrgsent@gmail.com • Stop by 205 Front St.

Idaho, Montana hospitals implement crisis controls

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - In another ominous sign about the spread of the delta variant, Idaho public health leaders on Sept. 16 expanded health care rationing statewide and individual hospital systems Montana have enacted similar crisis standards amid a spike in the number of unvaccinated COVID-19 patients requiring hospitalization.

The decisions marked an escalation of the pandemic in several Western states struggling to convince skeptical people to get vaccinated.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare made the announcement after St. Luke's Health System, Idaho's largest

hospital network, asked state health leaders to allow "crisis standards of care" because the increase in COVID-19 patients has exhausted the state's medical resources.

Idaho is one of the least-vaccinated U.S. states, with only about 40% of its residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Crisis care standards mean that scarce resources such as intensive-care beds will be allotted to the patients most likely to survive. Other patients will be treated with less effective methods or, in dire cases, given pain relief and other palliative care.

A hospital in Helena, Montana, was also forced to implement crisis standards of care amid a surge in COVID-19 patients. Critical care resources are at maximum capacity at St. Peter's Health hospital.

The move in Idaho came a week after state officials started allowing health care rationing at hospitals in northern parts of the state.

"The situation is dire — we don't have enough resources to adequately treat the patients in our hospitals, whether you are there for COVID-19 or a heart attack or because of a car accident," Idaho Department of

Welfare Director Dave Jeppesen said in statement.

He urged people to get vaccinated and wear masks indoors and in crowded outdoor settings. "Our hospitals and health care systems need our help."

In Idaho's St. Luke's Health System, patients are being ventilated by hand — with a nurse or doctor squeezing a bag — for up to hours at a time while hospital officials work to find a bed with a mechanical ventilator, said chief medical officer Dr. Jim Souza.

Others are being treated with high-flow oxygen in rooms without monitoring systems, which means a doctor or nurse might not hear an alarm if the patient has a medical emergency, he said. Some patients are being treated for sepsis — a life-threatening infection — in emergency department waiting rooms.

One in every 201 Idaho residents tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The mostly rural state ranks 12th in the U.S. for newly confirmed cases per capita. Hospitalizations have skyrocketed.

On Sept. 15, nearly 92% of all of the COVID-19 patients in St. Luke's hospitals were unvacci-

nated. St. Luke's physicians have pleaded with Idaho residents for months to get vaccinated and take steps to slow the spread of coronavirus, warning that hospital beds were quickly running out.

The health care crisis isn't just impacting hospitals — primary care physicians and medical equipment suppliers are also struggling to cope with the crush of coronavirus-related demand.

One major medical supplier, Norco Medical, said demand for oxygen tanks and related equipment has increased, sometimes forcing the company to send patients home with fewer cylinders than they would normally provide. High-flow oxygen equipment — normally used in hospital or hospice care settings — is also being more frequently requested for at-home patients, said Norco President Elias Margonis.

Primary Health Medical Group, Idaho's largest independent primary care and urgent care system, has been forced to shorten operating hours because its waiting rooms were so packed with patients that staffers were staying hours past closing in order to see them all. Meanwhile, the company was dealing

with higher-than-normal numbers of staffers out sick because they had been exposed to coronavirus in the community or had symptoms and were awaiting tests.

Military base

Continued from page 10

"If the situation continues to worsen, additional measures to protect the force will be implemented, including restricting access to off-base establishments," the statement said.

Hospitalizations and COVID-19 cases across the state have increased due to the highly contagious Delta variant. Alaska on Sept. 17 reported almost 4,400 new infections over the past week — including the highest one-day count since the pandemic tally started almost 18 months ago.

Just over 62% of the eligible population had received at least one vaccine dose as of Sept. 17, according to the state COVID-19 website. That's about a dozen percentage points below the national average.

State offers another business relief program

By SENTINEL STAFF

The state has opened up another round of federally funded pandemic aid for businesses, though this latest program is different from past assistance efforts: The money will be awarded based solely on financial need, not on the date of application.

The state has set aside \$90 million for the program, which is being administered by the Juneau Economic Develop-

ment Council under contract to Alaska Department of Commerce. The application deadline is 8 a.m. Oct. 17.

The money is from the American Rescue Plan Act, which Congress approved and the president signed in March.

"Grants will not be awarded until the end of the application period and after all applications have been reviewed," according to the program website. Ranking all the requests together will allow the funds to go to the businesses most in need of additional assistance.

"Businesses must be able to demonstrate a 50% or greater loss in net income" from 2019 to 2020, due to the pandemic, according to the program guidelines.

"There's a lot of data that has to be submitted with the

application," said Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's economic development director.

Charter boat operators have been among the businesses hit hardest by the pandemic and they are eligible for the new program, Rushmore said.

Businesses statewide will be grouped in three categories: Annual gross revenues under \$2.5 million; up to \$10 million; and up to \$50 million. The grants can cover up to 80% of income loss, with a cap in each category.

Grant funds can go toward past, current, or future business expenses. The deadline to spend the money will likely be fall 2022, the state said.

To apply, go to the JEDC website at www.jedc.org. For more information, call the council at 907-917-3720, or email ARPAGrant@jedc.org.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell 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.

Ordinance No. 1009 of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the zoning map to effect a change to Lot 12-3, Zimovia View Subdivision (Plat No. 86-2) from Light Industrial to Single Family Residential.

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

Publish Sept 23, 2021



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CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR SALE

In conformance with WMC 16.12 and approved by Resolution No. 08-21-1606, the Borough is offering for sale the City-Owned Property, listed below, on the Public Surplus Website: <https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wrangell.ak/list/current?orgid=933515>

Property Descriptions:

Lot 1A, Etolin-Spruce Subdivision, Plat 2020-8
Lot 1B, Etolin-Spruce Subdivision, Plat 2020-8
Lot 1C, Etolin-Spruce Subdivision, Plat 2020-8

The property shall be available for bidding on the Public Surplus Site for not less than 30 days, specifically from September 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, 3 p.m. ADT.

Bidders' registration and fee required in advance of the online auction on the Public Surplus Website.

Visit the Borough website at: <https://www.wrangell.com/community/public-surplus> for the terms and conditions and specifics of the auction/sale of the property.

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

Publish Sept. 9, 16 and 23, 2021



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for an Operator/Electrician for their Swan Lake Hydroelectric facility located approximately 22 air miles or 27 water miles from Ketchikan, Alaska. The position performs typical operations and maintenance duties associated with hydroelectric power generation and transmission facilities. Standard work schedule is 8 days on and 6 days off. Position requires residency on site in employer-provided housing during each tour of duty. Position will require travel by fixed wing aircraft and boat. Qualifications for the position include a High School Diploma, a valid Alaska Driver's license, and State of Alaska Department of Labor Certificate of Fitness in Electrical Field. Position is open until filled. Compensation is defined in IBEW Local 1547 Collective Bargaining Agreement. A general job description and electronic application process are available online at: <http://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>. SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for an Operator/Mechanic for their Tyee Lake Hydroelectric facility, located approximately 40 miles southeast from Wrangell, Alaska. The position performs typical operations and maintenance duties associated with hydroelectric power generation and transmission facilities. Must also be competent at operating and performing major maintenance of vehicles and mobile heavy equipment. Standard work schedule is 8 days on and 6 days off. Position requires residency on site in employer-provided housing during each tour of duty. Position will require travel by fixed wing aircraft and boat. Qualifications for the position include a High School Diploma and a valid Alaska Driver's license. Position is open until filled. Compensation is defined in IBEW Local 1547 Collective Bargaining. A general job description and electronic application process are available online at: <http://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>. SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Plan will restrict West Coast chinook fishing to protect orcas

SEATTLE (AP) - Federal officials have approved a plan that calls for cutting nontribal salmon fishing along the West Coast when the fish are needed to help the Northwest's endangered killer whales.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries adopted the plan Sept. 14 as recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. It calls for restricting commercial and recreational salmon fishing when chinook salmon numbers are especially low.

It's one of the first times a federal agency has restricted hunting or fishing one species to benefit a predator that relies on it.

The southern resident killer whales — the endangered orcas that spend much of their time in the waters between Washington state and British Columbia — depend heavily on depleted runs of fatty chinook. Recent research has affirmed how important chinook are to the whales year round as they cruise the outer coast, and not just when they forage in Washington's inland waters in the summertime.

The fishing restrictions would extend from Puget Sound in Washington to Monterey Bay in central California, and they would be triggered when fewer than 966,000 chinook are forecast to return to Northwest rivers. The last time forecast chinook returns

were that low was in 2007.

The restrictions would include reducing fishing quotas north of Cape Falcon in Oregon; delaying the start of the ocean commercial troll fishery between Cape Falcon and Monterey Bay; and closing parts of the Columbia River and Grays Harbor in Washington and the Klamath River and Monterey Bay to fishing much of the year.

There are 74 orcas in the three pods that comprise the southern resident orca population. Three are pregnant, and given the high rate of failed pregnancies in the population, Washington state officials this week urged boaters to follow state laws on keeping their distance from the whales to give them space to feed and socialize.

The whales have in recent years been at their lowest numbers since the 1970s, when hundreds were captured — and

dozens were kept — for aquarium display. Scientists warn the population is on the brink of extinction.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an application to lease Borough-owned tidelands consisting of approximately one acre of tidelands within a portion of Tract D-1, ATS 1531, S.B.P.L. Subdivision (Parcel No. 03-007-498; Plat No. 99-8) for the purpose of storing and raising mature oysters in plastic mesh containment bags.

The Wrangell Planning & Zoning Commission and Port Commission have reviewed this request and approved the request to move forward with the Tidelands Lease.

Any person wishing to protest this application to lease the proposed Borough-owned property described as:

Approximately One acre of tidelands within a portion of Tract D-1, ATS 1531, S.B.P.L. Subdivision (Parcel No. 03-007-498; Plat No. 99-8)

... must file a written protest with the Borough Clerk, no later than October 1, 2021, at 1:00 PM.

Written protests may be emailed to clerk@wrangell.com or delivered to 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929. Any such protest shall state the reason(s) for the protest in detail.

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

Publish Sept. 16 and 23, 2021

Just 520 salmon return to river in Maine

BANGOR, Maine (AP) - Maine's Penobscot River is on track to see the fewest Atlantic salmon in recent years, state officials said.

According to a trap count report provided by the Maine Department of Marine Resources on Aug. 23, 520 salmon had passed through the Milford and Orono dams this year.

Returning salmon are hampered by hydroelectric dams on the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers that reduce their ability to reach spawning grounds upstream.

The total is the fewest fish counted, as of the same date, in four years and is the fourth-lowest total since 2000, the Bangor Daily News reported.

Department officials said a bad year does not spell disaster for the species, as there are

many factors that contribute to this year's low numbers.

"There are many factors that might contribute to the lower run this year, the most significant likely being low survival at sea and poor freshwater sur-

vival and passage at dams for juveniles in prior years," said Sean Ledwin, the sea run fisheries and habitat division director for the Department of Marine Resources.

Protestors turn out against proposed Maine salmon farm

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP) - More than 125 boats participated in a protest against plans for a salmon farm in waters near Acadia National Park in Maine.

Commercial and recreational vessels comprised the "Save the Bay" flotilla that motored around Frenchman Bay on Aug. 29. Some people on land also participated by holding signs stating their opposition.

American Aquafarms has proposed raising 66 million pounds of Atlantic salmon annually at a pair of 15-pen sites off the coast of Gouldsboro.

Ted O'Meara, of Frenchman's Bay United, likened the scope of the project to "some huge hog farm from the Midwest and plucking it right in the middle of one of the most beautiful parts of Maine."

"Our first goal is to stop this project, and our second goal is to look at changing some of the rules that allow people like this to think they can just come here and plug something like this down in our waters," he said.

Another company, Nordic Aquafarms, wants to build a \$500 million, 55-acre salmon farm in Belfast, in the middle of the state's Atlantic coastline, about 40 miles from the American Aquafarms project. The plant would be capable of producing about 70 million pounds of Atlantic salmon a year.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL SAMPLE BALLOT REGULAR ELECTION OCTOBER 5, 2021

Instructions:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●

Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval and print the person's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate.

| | |
|--|---|
| ASSEMBLY MEMBER THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO | ASSEMBLY MEMBER UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE |
| <input type="radio"/> BOB DALRYMPLE <input type="radio"/> JIM DEBORD <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN | <input type="radio"/> DONALD J. MCCONACHIE SR. <input type="radio"/> DAVID L. POWELL <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN |
| SCHOOL BOARD THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO | SCHOOL BOARD UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE |
| <input type="radio"/> ANGELA ALLEN <input type="radio"/> ALEX ANGERMAN <input type="radio"/> BRITTANI ROBBINS <input type="radio"/> ELIZABETH ROUNDTREE <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN | <input type="radio"/> JULIA OSTRANDER <input type="radio"/> JESSICA WHITAKER <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN |
| PORT COMMISSION THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO | PORT COMMISSION UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE |
| <input type="radio"/> CHRIS BUNESS <input type="radio"/> JOHN M. MARTIN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN | <input type="radio"/> FRANKLIN ROPPEL <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN |

Published: September 16, 23 and 30, 2021

LEGALS

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City & Borough of Wrangell is now accepting letters of interest to fill the following seats on the SEASWA (Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority) Board of Directors:

- Director Seat
- Alternate Board Member Seat

Please turn your Letters of Interest into the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, on or before 4 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Information on the powers and duties of the SEASWA Alternate Board of Directors seat is contained in Wrangell Municipal Code Section 3.30.090 Board of Directors. A copy of that code chapter can be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at: www.wrangell.com.

Appointment will be made at the regular Assembly meeting on September 28, 2021.

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

Publish Sept. 16 & 23, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Borough Assembly meeting on September 28, 2021 (beginning at 7 p.m.), there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

The City and Borough of Wrangell will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, for the purpose of seeking citizen views and community comments and accepting alternative project proposals for funding consideration under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

ELIGIBLE TYPES OF PROJECTS

CDBG funds may be used for:

1) Community Development:

a. Public Facilities including, but not limited to, construction of health clinics, water and sewer systems, day care centers, solid waste disposal facilities, docks and harbors, flood and drainage.

b. Transportation Improvements such as local service roads, boardwalks, barge facilities and airports;

c. Access to Public Facilities and Structures including removal of architectural barriers, improved access for handicapped and elderly persons;

d. Real Property acquisition, building removal, improvements, demolition;

e. Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment acquisition, design, purchase, and rehabilitation.

2) Planning: including feasibility studies, data collection, land-use plans, marketing studies and other planning documents, but NOT engineering design costs; and

3) Special Economic Development: (activities associated with commercial and industrial structures and job creation – very narrowly defined activities).

Project funding ideas may be submitted prior to the public hearing or during the public hearing. Please drop off ideas in writing at City Hall or by email to ecodev@wrangell.com. There are more detailed guidelines for each category, posted on the City's website at www.wrangell.com/economicdevelopment. For more information, please contact Carol Rushmore at 874-2381.

The public is encouraged to attend.

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

Publish Sept. 23, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Persons interested in serving on the following City Boards and Committees, please submit your **Letter of Interest** to the Office of the Borough Clerk, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929. You can also email your Letter of Interest to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com.

Deadline for Letters of Interest is 4 p.m., Wednesday, October 6, 2021, for the following vacancies:

- Planning and Zoning Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Economic Development Committee: One seat, for 3-year term
- Investment Committee: One seat, for 1-year term

Appointments will be made at the October 12, 2021, Regular Assembly meeting. A copy of the code chapter for any of the above boards and commissions can be obtained by contacting the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com. The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Publish Sept 23 and 30, 2021



AP PHOTO/ROBERT F. BUKATY

The Weston Dam, which holds back the Kennebec River in Maine, is the target of a lawsuit filed by conservation groups that allege the dam owner is violating the Endangered Species Act by harming Atlantic salmon.

Lawsuit alleges dams in Maine threaten salmon

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) – Environmental groups contend four Kennebec River dams in Maine are violating federal law by harming endangered Atlantic salmon.

The dam operator, Brookfield Renewable U.S., is violating the federal Endangered Species Act because an exemption spelling out limits on the death and injury of salmon expired in 2019, according to a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Atlantic Salmon Federation U.S., Conservation Law Foundation and Maine Rivers.

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 16, asks a federal judge to find that Brookfield Renewable is operating the dams illegally and to take appropriate steps to protect the salmon.

Brookfield didn't immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

The lawsuit represents the latest twist when it comes to the fate of the four dams, including the 100-year-old Shawmut hydroelectric dam.

It has been a roller coaster ride since the Maine state gov-

ernment took a step toward removing the dams – before backing down after Brookfield sued. Maine environmental regulators then threatened to deny a water certification before backing down again when Sappi North American said loss of the certification could lead to the Shawmut Dam's removal and closure of the company's paper mill in Skowhegan, Maine.

The pulping and papermaking mill employs more than 700 people, according to the company's website.

EPA wants to restart effort that could block Pebble Mine

JUNEAU (AP) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Sept. 9 it would seek to restart a process that could block mining in Alaska's Bristol Bay region, renowned for its salmon runs.

The announcement is the latest in a long-running dispute over the proposed Pebble copper-and-gold mine in Southwest Alaska.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in November 2020, under the Trump administration, denied a key authorization for the proposed Pebble Mine following an environmental review. The Corps concluded the project would "result in significant degradation of the aquatic ecosystem" and that it was "contrary to the public interest."

The Pebble Limited Partnership, the mine developer owned

by Canada-based Northern Dynasty Minerals, appealed that determination.

The 2020 action was a reversal of a move a year earlier by the EPA, when it withdrew proposed restrictions that could have blocked the mine. The agency in 2019 said it was removing what it called an "outdated, preemptive proposed veto of the Pebble Mine," and allowing the project to be vetted through the permitting process.

Earlier this year, a divided appeals court panel, in a case challenging the 2019 action, concluded the decision to remove the proposed veto was allowable.

The matter was sent back to a lower court for further determination, regardless of the 2020 Corps reversal to block the mine.

The EPA, in a statement Sept.

9, said it is asking the judge to vacate the agency's 2019 action to remove the proposed veto of the mine. The EPA said it would "automatically reinstate" the review process through which mine-related activities could be restricted or prohibited.

EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said, "What's at stake is preventing pollution that would disproportionately impact Alaska Natives, and protecting a sustainable future for the most productive salmon fishery in North America."

Northern Dynasty President and CEO Ron Thiessen, in a statement Sept. 9, said the Pebble project "can be designed, built and operated with industry-leading environmental safeguards while generating significant financial returns over multiple decades."

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

For the upcoming City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Election of October 5, 2021, the following ordinance applies:

2.16.030 Write-in Candidates and Write-in Votes. Individuals who fail to file a declaration of candidacy but wish to run for office as a write-in candidate must file with the borough clerk a letter of intent no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election (October 1, 2021) in which the candidate plans to participate.

Write-in votes cast for individuals who do not file a letter of intent will not be counted.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must, in space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the letter of intent filed with the borough clerk. In addition, the voter must mark the oval opposite the candidate's name. Stickers shall not be used.

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

Publish Sept 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Salmon catch tops 219 million fish; 15% above forecast

Alaska's 2021 salmon catch has topped 219 million fish, which is 15% higher than the preseason forecast of 190 million.

The two biggest money makers exceeded expectations the most. The sockeye haul came in at 54 million compared to the predicted 46.5 million reds.

Similarly, the pink salmon catch of nearly 151 million swamped the projection by 27 million humpies.

And although the run of chum salmon was disappointing, falling about 4 million short of the 15.3 million projection, nearly 5 million chums were caught since Aug. 1, "making it one of the three largest chum harvests in the last decade," according to fishery economist Dan Lesh, at the McKinley Research Group, who compiles weekly tracking reports for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

The coho catch of nearly 2.3 million is 1.6 million shy of the forecast, and a harvest of 244,000 Chinook salmon is 25,000 below expectations.

But despite the overall bigger salmon catch, smaller fish sizes will lead to less impressive

harvest totals and revenues for Alaska fishermen. Yet, with higher dock prices across the board, it will still produce a good payday.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will release the catch totals, fish prices and overall revenues by region in early October.

As salmon season draws to a close, many other fall fisheries are underway or gearing up.

In Southeast, beam trawlers are on the grounds for a third go at northern pink shrimp totaling 650,000 pounds in two districts. The spot shrimp fishery opens on Oct. 1 for 457,300 pounds, and the Dungeness crab reopens that same day for a two-month fishery.

Southeast's sea cucumber fishery opens to divers on Oct. 4 with a catch of nearly 1.9 million pounds. Diving for red sea urchins also opens with a harvest set at nearly 3 million pounds.

Alaska halibut fishermen have taken 70% of their nearly 19 million pound catch limit with less than six million pounds left to go. Homer, Seward, Kodiak and Juneau are the top ports for landings and

dock prices remain at over \$6 per pound, topping \$7 at Homer, reflecting continuing high demand for fresh fish.

Alaska and West Coast catches aren't satisfying American's appetites for halibut and trade data show that the U.S. has imported 10.3 million pounds of Atlantic halibut from Eastern Canada so far this year valued at nearly \$77 million.

Gulf of Alaska Tanner crab look strong for this winter

Unlike in the Bering Sea, there's good news for crab harvests in the Gulf of Alaska.

A huge cohort of Tanner crab that biologists have been tracking in the westward region for three years showed up again in this summer's survey.

"We were optimistic and we did find them again. Pretty much all the way across the board from Kodiak all the way out to False Pass we found those crab and in good quantity," said Nat Nichols, area manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak.

The bairdi Tanners are the larger cousins of snow crab (opilio Tanners) found in the

Bering Sea.

"The very, very rough preliminary numbers look like we've at least hit the minimum abundance thresholds in all three areas of Kodiak, Chignik and the South Peninsula. We're excited about that."

The last Tanner opener was in 2020 for 400,000 pounds, the minimum abundance number for a district to have a fishery. A fleet of 49 boats participated in that fishery and averaged over \$4 per pound for the harvestable male crabs that typically weigh between 2 to 4 pounds each.

"A Tanner crab is getting to be legal sized around age four or five, and then they start to die of natural causes or age out of the population by around seven or eight," Nichols explained. "Once they start to become legal, we can expect them to hang around for potentially three years, and there'll be more small crab behind them so you can kind of think of this as the front edge."

The new cohort, Nichols said, is one of the largest ever. It appears to be comprised of two big year classes with a broad range of sizes that could sup-

port several years of fishing.

"In 2019 the estimate was 223 million and then in 2020 it was down to 108 million. Every year, that number gets smaller, because there's pretty high mortality on smaller crab. Anybody who's cut open a halibut stomach knows that," Nichols said.

"And a lot of those are females, so they won't be in the fishery. But the male crab are getting bigger and approaching legal size. So even though you're seeing estimates go down quite a bit, it's still going to turn into a pretty good number of legal grab in the water."

Several more regulatory calculations must still be met as managers move their way through the survey data before a 2022 Tanner fishery gets a green light.

A Tanner announcement will be made in early November for the fisheries which open in mid-January.

Tanner crab is always spelled with a capital T because it is named after discoverer Zera Luther Tanner, commander of the research vessel Albatross, which explored Alaska waters in the late 1800s.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Edward Teague, Jr. deceased. Case No. IKE-21-93PR.

Notice to creditors is hereby given that Richard Franklin Teague has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. All persons having any claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. All claims must be presented to:

Richard Franklin Teague
c/o Keene and Curral, PPC
540 Water Street – Suite 302
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Alternatively, a claim can be filed directly with the Ketchikan Superior Court.

Publish Sept 23, 30 and Oct. 7, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)

STEPHEN DALE URATA,)

)

Deceased.) 1WR-21-15 PR.

)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Jack Michael Urata and Angela Joy Urata have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the estate of Stephen Dale Urata ("Estate"). All persons having claims against Stephen Dale Urata are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Jack Michael Urata and Angela Joy Urata, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate, by mailing each claim to Baxter Bruce & Sullivan P.C. at P.O. Box 32819, Juneau, Alaska 99803, or filing each claim with the Wrangell Superior Court.

Publish Sept 16, 23 and 30, 2021

CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

FOR SALE

Marlin 1894 .44 mag rifle. "JM" stamped, No. 2515120. Original owner since 1975. Some ammo included. Multiple truck rack scuffs, otherwise little used. \$600. Check out at <https://truegunvalue.com/rifle/marlin-1894/price-historical-value/used/2>) Bob: 907-305-0021.

FOR SALE

Audio system for sale, everything works. Technics audio system, 4 Sony speakers and Pioneer turntable. Asking \$50 for the set. Call or text 907-209-5616.

FOR SALE

Remote property, Thoms Place subdivision, South Wrangell Island. 1.88 acres, waterfront. Call 907-321-3240.

GARAGE SALE

Garage and fry bread sale at St. Philip's Parish Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

SERVICES OFFERED

Piano tuner Ryan Gracey will be here Oct. 4-8. Contact Alice Rooney at 305-0007 to get on his work list.

FREE

Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick some up.

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 874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

ABSENTEE VOTING for the Regular Borough Election (to be held October 5, 2021) begins on Monday, September 20, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., (Monday through Friday) at City Hall.

Qualified Voters may vote an Absentee Ballot until Monday, October 4, 2021, at 4 p.m. for the Regular Borough Election.

For those voters who cannot vote absentee in person, you may submit an application to have your ballot mailed or faxed to you. Please stop by the Borough Clerk's Office to apply.

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

Publish Sept 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of October 2021, in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Local Election will be held for the purpose of voting on the following Borough Official positions.

- Borough Assembly: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Borough Assembly: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022
- School Board: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- School Board: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022
- Port Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Port Commission: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022

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

Publish Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

Oregon 'in perpetual drought,' climatologist says

SALEM, Ore. (AP) - Experts say Oregon is becoming less resilient to drought as fewer seasons of abundant rain and snow prevent it from bouncing back from hot and dry conditions.

Larry O'Neill, state climatologist at Oregon State University, said the current drought is "historically significant," with about three-quarters of the state experiencing conditions considered "extreme" or "exceptional."

However, the state is actually in the fourth year of below-average precipitation, which has exacerbated the drought during "unprecedentedly" high temperatures this summer, O'Neill told the Oregon Water Resources Commission on

Sept. 1.

"We don't recover from droughts as quickly as we did previously," he said. "We seem to be in perpetual drought."

Parched soils were insufficiently recharged with moisture over winter and spring, which has harmed vegetative growth, including crops and forage, said Ryan Andrews, a hydrologist at the Oregon Water Resources Department, which is overseen by the commission.

Reservoir and stream flow levels are below average across most of the state, reducing water available to irrigators, while ranchers have sold off livestock due to poor rangeland conditions, he said.

Fish die-offs followed the June heat

wave in several important river basins, including the Willamette, Grande Ronde, John Day and along the north coast, Andrews said.

The state would need plentiful rain and snow during the autumn to begin emerging from the drought, but the long-term federal climate forecast doesn't anticipate such a reversal, he said. "We're anticipating conditions to persist, at least in the near term."

Between March and July, the state received less rain than during any comparable period in nearly a century, O'Neill said. "The dry spring and summer is one of the main contributing factors to why this drought has become so severe."

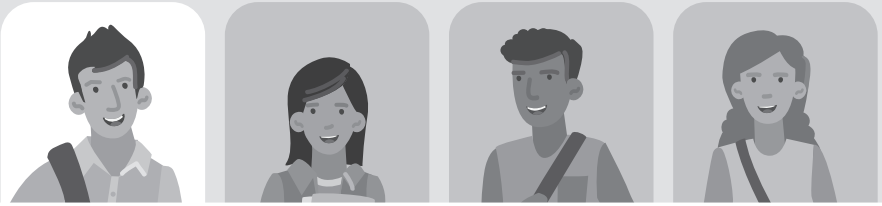
The area under "extreme" and "exceptional" drought ratings is the most extensive in Oregon since the start of the U.S. Drought Monitor more than 20 years ago, he said.

The most severe exceptional level of drought now seen across one-fourth of the state would normally be expected to occur every 20 to 50 years, O'Neill said.

However, droughts are judged by historical standards, so the concept of such "recurrence intervals" grows less valid as dry periods become more common, he said.

"It's going to take some time to get used to the new normal we're experiencing right now," O'Neill said.

1 in 4 Alaska high school students vape.



E-CIGARETTES, or VAPES, can deliver high concentrations of nicotine and other harmful chemicals.

In 2019, nearly 1 of every 4 middle school students (24.3%) and over half (53.3%) of high school students said they had ever tried a tobacco product.



REGULAR NICOTINE USE can have harmful effects on your teen's developing brain. It can affect memory, learning, attention span and can even lead to addiction.



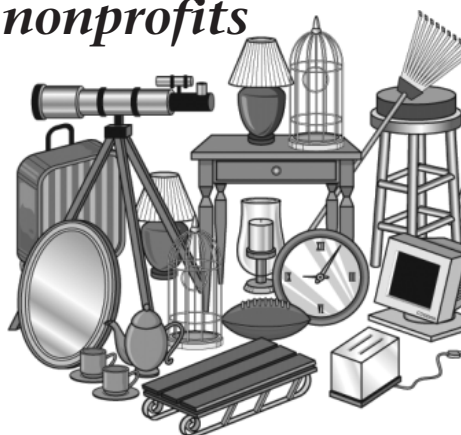
Parents, talk to your children about vaping. Resources are available at alaskaquitline.com/not-buying-it



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Misspelling leads to Hawaii arrest for fake vaccination card

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 24-year-old Illinois woman submitted a fake COVID-19 vaccination card to visit Hawaii with a glaring spelling error that led to her arrest: Moderna was spelled "Maderna," according to court documents.

In order to bypass Hawaii's 10-day traveler quarantine, she uploaded a vaccination card to the state's Safe Travels program and arrived in Honolulu on Aug. 23 on a Southwest Airlines flight, the documents said.

"Airport screeners found suspicious errors ... such as Moderna was spelled wrong and that her home was in Illinois but her shot was taken at Delaware," Wilson Lau, a special agent with the Hawaii attorney general's investigation division, wrote in an email to a Delaware official who confirmed there was no record vaccination record for the

woman under her name and birth date.

She was charged with two misdemeanor counts of violating Hawaii's emergency rules to control the spread of COVID-19. She had been in custody on \$2,000 bail until a judge released her at a hearing Aug. 31 and scheduled another hearing in three weeks.

In addition to the suspicious card, authorities determined that the travel information she provided listed she would be staying at a Waikiki hotel, but an assistant manager at the hotel confirmed the woman did not have a reservation.

Authorities arrested the woman at a Southwest Airlines counter when she was trying to leave Honolulu on Aug. 28, the court document said. She showed her ID and vaccination card, and law enforcement informed her she was being arrested for falsifying vaccination documents.

Vermont state troopers accused in fraudulent vaccination card scheme

WATERBURY, Vt. (AP) - Three Vermont state troopers who are accused of being involved in a scheme to create fraudulent COVID-19 vaccination cards have resigned, state police said Sept. 7.

The three ex-troopers are suspected of having varying roles in the making of fraudulent vaccination cards, according to the state.

"The accusations in this case involve an extraordinary level of misconduct — a criminal violation of the law — and I could not be more upset and

disappointed," Col. Matthew Birmingham, director of the Vermont State Police, said in the release.

"If these allegations are proved to be true, it is reprehensible that state troopers would manipulate vaccination cards in the midst of a pandemic, when being vaccinated is one of the most important steps anyone can take to keep their community safe from COVID-19."

The three ex-troopers all had been on the force at least five years.

Federal authorities are investigating the allegations. Vermont State Police declined to comment further due to the FBI investigation.

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Local growers

Continued from page 1

growing peonies for profit when COVID-19 hit. "We had multiple people approach us in town and they said, 'Why aren't you growing vegetables?' And it's like, 'OK. Fine,'" Laura Ballou said while taking a break from working on the farm. "So, the peony beds are in formation, they'll get planted this year, but we ended up taking the first year and planting some fruits and vegetables for people."

Since starting the farm, the Ballous have grown cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, corn, carrots, potatoes, pumpkins, spaghetti squash, romaine lettuce, cabbage, parsnips, flowering kale, onions and strawberries.

"We'll probably get 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of potatoes this year," Laura Ballou said. Preparation for fruit trees and blueberry bushes is underway, as is asparagus, she said. Located at 6 Mile Zimovia Highway, Oceanview Gardens will eventually use four out of its 8.5 acres to grow.

"If we can keep the deer out of it," Dwane Ballou said.

Farming and its challenges aren't foreign to the couple, who had a small, organic farm in Indiana, including cattle, chickens and other animals. Having been in Wrangell for four years, they started a new farming endeavor with retirement in mind, as they both work full-time at Wrangell Medical Center, Laura as a nurse practitioner and Dwane as the director of facilities.

If they're not working at their day jobs, the Ballous are farming, with a "seven to 10-year plan to have a decent farm," Laura Ballou said.

The work they are putting in now is already starting to yield results, not only with produce, but with connections within the community. Oceanview Gardens and another longtime local grower, Ivy Patch Produce, operated by Katherine Ivy, both sell to the Stikine Inn. Ivy also sells produce directly to consumers during harvest.

"[Local farmers] are a great asset to us in the future. If they're able to develop, then we can supplement with quite a bit of [produce] from the season. It's really great for Wrangell," said Jake Harris, the operational partner for North Star Ventures, which owns the Stikine Inn, restaurant and café.

Harris said using local growers helps with logistics and planning, since he's typically planning the restaurant menu a week out. When produce has to be shipped in, especially now

with supply-chain problems, planning has to be a few weeks ahead to account for delivery times. Locally sourced produce helps ease some of those burdens, like costs, which can be as much as 35% higher when buying from a distributor in a place like Seattle.

"It's been my focus to move as much product from [Laura Ballou] as much as possible this year because she's doing big batches of everything when she does it, so it's been my goal to get it in and move it as quickly as possible," Harris said. "But I've worked with Ivy Patch's produce this year, primarily through the Bear Fest event this July, and I've worked a little bit with the ... program at the school."

The Twisted Root, a downtown shop specializing in organic products, is another business that takes advantage locally source products where it can.

"We do get some of our local produce from people who farm around town," said Sierra Roland, owner of The Twisted Root. "We carry Sweet Tides Bakery's bread, local chicken and duck eggs, all kinds of things."

Roland, who has a background in nutrition and dietetics, sits on the board for the Alaska Farmers Market Association. She said there has been an increase in consumers wanting access to locally grown produce, which her store tries to provide when it can.

"For produce, we do get it from out of town but source others as local as we can," she said. "We believe in access to real foods."

Along with the private and commercial growing operations, there is an effort to restart the community garden, located just past Heritage Harbor.

Valerie Massie, the IGAP coordinator for the Wrangell Cooperative Association, said the organization received CARES Act money last year, most of which was allocated to traditional foods programs. Volunteers from Alaska Crossings helped Massie and IGAP technician Kim Wickman rototill the community garden, and WCA donated 13 new garden beds.

"There definitely seems to be an interest in growing more food locally; knowing what to buy and plant can be daunting, but our goal has been to help tribal households and anyone who is interested see that it doesn't have to be expensive to fill up a planter with quality soil, and make use of our food waste," Massie said.

Though there is a great deal



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Along with potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, romaine lettuce, flowering kale and other fruits and veggies, the Ballous grew pumpkins in this year's crop.

of work that goes into growing produce on the local level, the outcome yields better results.

"You get a much better

product when it's literally five miles away than 800 miles away, sitting in a warehouse for who knows how long," Harris

said. "You can absolutely 100% taste the difference in the product locally versus ... the mega-corporation product."

6 WEEKS LEFT TO ENTER

Week 1 | Adult Winner: Carin Kircher, Valdez
Youth Winner: Ethan, Kodiak

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\$49K

cash prize

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\$49K

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for Alaskans 12-17

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- Are an Alaska resident
- Are age 12 or older
- Received a first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at any time before or during the sweepstakes period
- Received your vaccination in Alaska
 - OR if a veteran, at any VA hospital or VA clinic

Other restrictions apply. See GiveAKaShot.com for more details

Week 3: Sept 19-25

Get your COVID-19 vaccine and enter to win by Saturday

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sat 18 th | Sun 19 th | Mon 20 th | Tue 21 th | Wed 22 th | Th 23 th | Fri 24 th | Sat 25 th | Sun 26 th |
| X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X |

Week 3 Eligibility Expires at 11:59 pm Sept. 25

Alaskans vaccinated before Sept. 2 can enter to win anytime before Oct. 30

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GiveAKaShot.com

SCAN HERE

If you do not have access to the internet or require language or other assistance, call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline for assistance. Callers must ask that they be entered into the Give AK a Shot Sweepstakes, provide the required entry information, and provide the required acknowledgements and consents.

Call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline at 1-907-646-3322 or toll-free 1-833-4-VAXLINE (1-833-482-9546) Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Sat/Sun: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Local Eye Care you can count on! Prism is proud to announce a visiting optometrist will be coming to Wrangell every month to assist with your eye care and optical needs. Our new office is conveniently located at 106 Lynch St, Suite C1 (next to the Wrangell Sentinel, across from Stikine Drug). Come in for a free eyeglass adjustment and tune-up.

For an eye exam appointment or questions, please call us at: 1-800-701-3999 or schedule online at www.PrismBooking.com/Wrangell