

Assembly considers alternatives to “hollow legislation”

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly convened electronically on last Monday, April 6, to consider a new emergency ordinance in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The final vote on Ordinance No. 977 was delayed, however, to let city officials gather further information. The proposed ordinance would have mandated a two-week self quarantine for any intrastate travelers coming to Wrangell, allowed for modified quarantine plans for critical workforce, and required that travel safety and modified quarantine plans be submitted to the city for approval.

The ordinance was reconsidered in a special meeting on Wednesday, April 8. New information city officials discovered at the last minute, however, made the passage of this ordinance controversial. According to state mandates, only “small communities” are allowed to pass COVID-19-related ordinances stricter than current state guidelines. The state’s qualification for a small community is to have a population below 3,000, to be separate from the road system, and to not have a “hub hospital” in their community. Wrangell, it turns out, only meets two of these three requirements. The Wrangell Medical Center is a

critical access hospital, meaning it serves as a hub. Therefore, Ordinance No. 977 would have gone beyond what the local government is allowed to pass. With this new information in mind, several assembly members agreed that they were not comfortable with moving forward, as it could potentially lead to lawsuits down the road. A vote to withdraw the ordinance passed with a vote of 5-2. Assembly Members Mya DeLong and David Powell were the dissenting votes.

“I really think it should be the other way around, where the state can tell us no,” Powell said. “I don’t understand why we cannot put this into place the way it’s written, and then make the state tell us no. They’re not telling all those other communities no, that we know of. I’m really nervous about putting this off, I’m sorry.”

“We can put this in place, and we are working outside the bounds of the authority within the state,” Mayor Steve Prysunka responded to Powell. “People can just ignore what we’d said because what we’ve done is not recognizable by the state. So, in some ways, it’s just a bunch of hollow legislation that has no teeth to it.”

Following the April 8 meeting, the Assembly came together again on Thursday,

April 9, for a workshop to discuss their next steps. It was

generally agreed upon by the assembly that they wanted to install the requirements in the withdrawn ordinance. It was a question of how to go about it.

“Even though state mandate 12 prohibits intrastate travel unless you are traveling for critical workforce infrastructure or critical personal needs, it does not include a self-quarantine mandate,” Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said, explaining why the city was wanting to pass its own ordinance.

The workshop went on for about an hour and a half, and the assembly came up with several avenues of moving forward they wanted Von Barga to research. Assembly Member Patty Gilbert proposed that while the City and Borough of Wrangell may have their hands tied, the Wrangell Cooperative Association may not. The city and WCA recently adopted a joint hazard mitigation plan. Gilbert also pointed out the Stafford Act, a 1988 piece of legislation, was meant to help organize federal disaster assistance to state and local governments. She argued that as a federally recognized tribal government, the WCA could potentially take action on their

own, not bound by state guidelines. Von Barga said she would reach out to the WCA to discuss the idea, but pointed out that recent state mandates also superseded tribal ordinances as well as municipal.

Another proposal was made by Powell, who suggested that they research the state’s unified command for the COVID-19 situation. Von Barga explained, after the meeting, that a state unified command is typically made up of federal, state, local, and “responsible party” representatives. As an example, she said, if there was an oil spill then a unified command would be made up of the Coast Guard, state environmental agencies, the community the oil was spilled near, and whoever spilled the oil. While the COVID-19 pandemic is an international issue, Powell argued that there should still be someone representing municipal needs at the state level. Through this municipal representation, it might be possible for Wrangell to receive copies of travel and modified quarantine plans that the state receives. Again, Von Barga said she would look into it.

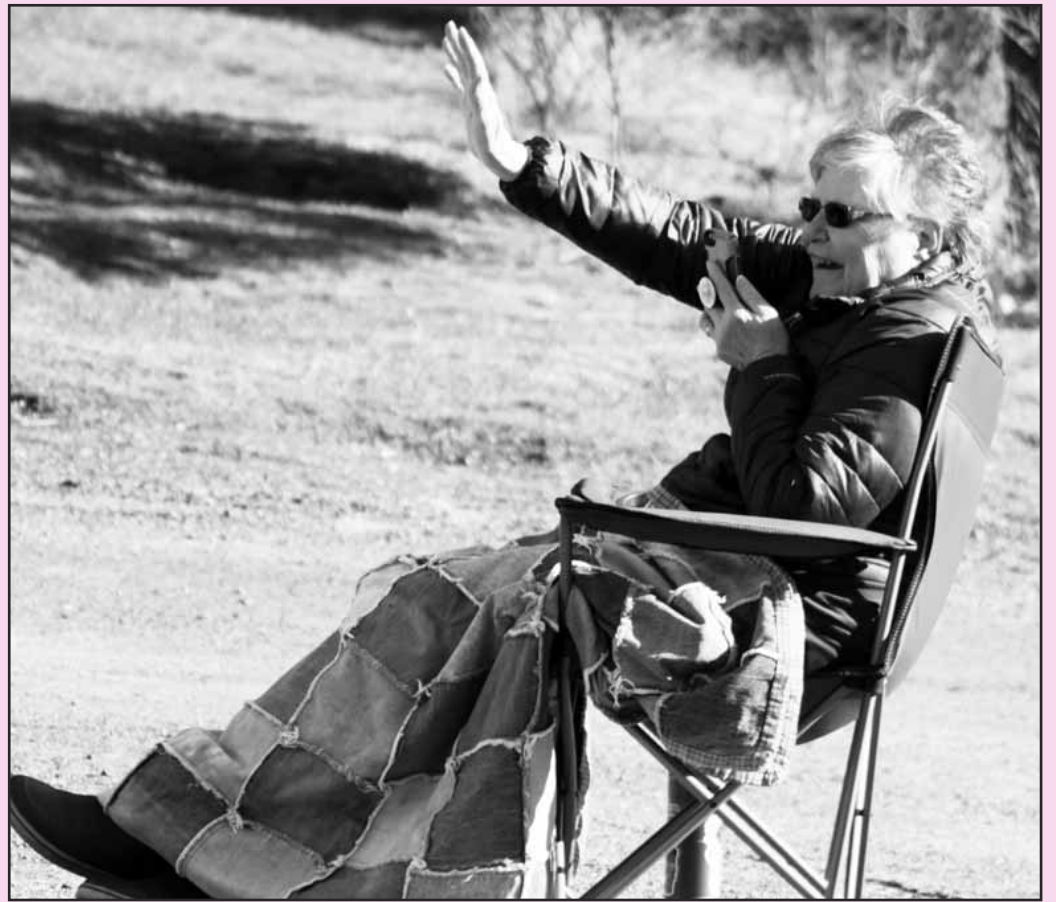


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Birthday surprise for Loretta Rice

Last Friday, April 10, marked the 70th birthday for Wrangell resident Loretta Rice. To commemorate the special occasion, while also maintaining social distancing, community members organized a surprise parade on her behalf. People drove by her house in cars, four wheelers, and fire trucks, honking and waving. Pictured here is Rice, waving to people as the parade goes by.

Wrangell seniors named to all-state teams

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

While basketball season is at an end, a bit abruptly thanks to the COVID-19 virus, the Association of Alaska Basketball Coaches released the names of players who made their all-state teams. The all-state teams represent Alaskan high school players who excelled through the season and really stood out. This year, two Wrangellites received this recognition: Kaylyn Easterly and Trevor Miller.

Kaylyn Easterly (No. 44) has been playing varsity basketball since she was a freshman, she said, and is now in her senior year. The Wrangell Lady Wolves had a strong season. They went into regionals with a second place seed. They were lined up to face off against the Metlakatla Miss Chiefs for a second place seed in the state championship, but the season was brought to a premature end because of the COVID-19 virus.

“It was a big bummer that we didn’t get to finish our season,” Easterly said. “But safety over everything.”

Easterly was named to the first team of the 2A girls’ all-state teams. She said that there was not any real particular moment during the season that she felt made her stand out, but it was just being a team player in general that helped her out. Being an overall player helped her this season, she said.

Easterly said she wanted to thank her father, Wayne Easterly, for pushing her to become a better basketball player.

“I really appreciate the community for all their support,” she said.

Coach Laurie Brown said she was proud of her entire team’s accomplishments this season. She also said that it is no surprise to her that Easterly made the all-state team. Easterly has been one of the top scorers for the Lady Wolves, and she can play in almost any position. Brown added that she is good at hyping up the team and getting them focused on the game.

“She’s been real fun to coach,” she said. “She’s an outstanding player and she deserves the recognition.”

Trevor Miller (No. 34) has played for the Wrangell Wolves for all



Kaylyn Easterly



Trevor Miller

Continued on page 2

All-state teams

Continued from page 1

of his high school career. He was named to the third team of 2A boys' all-state teams. It was a rough season for the Wolves, he said, with a lot of younger players and the fact that it ended suddenly, but he added they ended on a good note and were able to compete with every team they went up against. Miller also said that he felt that this season he tried to take on more of a leadership role, as a senior, and help other players get the ball and set up for baskets. He really focused on teamwork this year, and he said he believed he received all-state recognition for this focus on taking the lead and

working with the whole team.

"It's nice to get the recognition for sure, and just to know that people notice out there," Miller said. "All the players, and the dedication you got to put in to get to that point."

Cody Angerman, the Wolves coach, agreed that Trevor's leadership on the team was a big part of his performance this year. Of course, he added, his skills as a player also helped a lot. He pointed out one point in particular, during Regionals. The Wolves were playing against the Metlakatla Chiefs, and Miller was a key part in keeping the lead for the Wolves. However, Miller caught an

elbow to the head that temporarily took him out of the game. Angerman said that Miller showed a lot of leadership and dedication by wanting

to just get patched up as quickly as possible and get back in the game. All in all, Angerman said, he is really going to miss Miller next season.

"Trevor has been a leader all year," Angerman said. "Obviously his play had a big part to do with that. Trevor's one of the best shooters I've ever seen."

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Jury duty for April - June: no trials for the month of April. You will be receiving notices in the mail in the next few weeks. Court number: (907) 874-2311.

Monday, April 20,

Wrangell Public School Board Regular Meeting: via Zoom, 6:30 pm. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79463310468?pwd=N3JPbWRheHdSaXEwV1FQ-clJlbTVyUT09> Meeting ID: 794 6331 0468 Password: 5Y6huR

Continuing Events

Online AA Meetings: North Star Group Meeting. Link to online meeting: [www: zoom.us/j/722855768](http://www.zoom.us/j/722855768). Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:45 p.m., Dial-in Number (phone only): (346) 248-7799 / Meeting ID: 722-855-76, Meeting Contact: Eric H: (907) 720 3407.

The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

April 15, 1920

A deal has been closed whereby Herbert Harvie, recently of Petersburg, becomes part owner of the Wrangell Machine Shop. Mr. Harvie has spent the greater portion of his life working at the machinist trade. He is a Sourdough and well known through Southeastern Alaska. For the past four years he has been connected with the Bob Allen machine shop at Petersburg. The style of the new firm will be Gingrass & Harvie. The business of the Wrangell Machine Shop is growing rapidly and the introduction of Mr. Harvie into the business as one of the proprietors gives added prestige to this most important institution.

April 20, 1945

Dog owners are again warned by city officials to keep their pets from running at large. The city recently had copies of Ordinance No. 114 printed and Police Chief James Lovett mailed a copy to each dog owner listed in the license books. He said today that mailing of such notices should bring the text of the ordinance to the attention of each owner, along with the penalty for violation of the ordinance. Any person who did not receive a copy, and who is the owner of a dog, may have a copy by applying to Chief Lovett or at the City Hall.

April 16, 1970

A number of junior class members have received favorably the idea of forming a College Club. This group has been meeting weekly, at noon in the school library for the past three weeks. Last week they were given the opportunity to discuss college life as seen by Levi Dow, now attending AMU in Anchorage and Robert Armstrong, now attending Whitworth College in Spokane. Also, at this meeting, Bill Turner, now serving in the U.S. Army, shared with this group his views of Army life. The group is setting goals and the kind of topics they wish to discuss.

April 6, 1995

Wrangellites have a chance to meet the 1995 Super Bowl champions, the San Francisco

49ers, when seven team members, including four of the current roster, visit the Island to play Wrangell's "Alaskans for Drug Free Youth" basketball team Sunday. Purpose for 49er's visit is promoting a Drug Free Alaska and proceeds from the game will go to Alaskan's for Drug Free Youth for an all-night drug free graduation party.

Although the 49er's are currently 21-0 in Alaska play so far, coaches Keith Appleman and Todd White, who also plan on playing, have high hopes their team can break the string. Also scheduled to compete are Mark Jeffers, Fred Angerman, Chris Versteeg, Keith Young, Tucker Gillen, Dino Barker and Lucas Messmer.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, April 16: Chloe Edgley, Tegan Wolten. **Friday, April 17:** Alyssa Royster, Cheri Wickman, Faye Kohrt, Lily Stearns. **Saturday, April 18:** Byron Cady, Sue Nelson, Stella Feudner. **Sunday, April 19: Anniversary:** Jesse & Amber Sumner. **Monday, April 20:** Odile Meister, Kalin Kohrt. **Tuesday, April 21: Anniversary:** David & Kimberly Powell, Kem Haggard. **Wednesday, April 22: Anniversary:** Christian & Michelle Beaghoff, Rusty Hayes, Rosslyn Nore. **Thursday, April 23:** Logan Hammock, Nathan Robinson, Chris Haggard, Andrew Guggenbickler.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Thursday, April 16

Cheese Sandwich, Split Pea Soup, Sunshine Salad.

Friday, April 17

Chicken Cacciatore, Brussels Sprouts, Salad, Pasta.

Monday, April 20

Crispy Chicken, Steamed Carrots, Cauliflower toss, Rice.

Tuesday, April 21

Pork Steak, Cauliflower, Sunshine Salad, Pasta.

Wednesday, April 22

Salisbury Steak, Peas, Peach Salad, Mashed Potatoes.

Thursday, April 23

Rockfish, Peas, Salad, Garlic Bread.

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

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

FERRY

April Sailings CANCELLED

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



TIDES April 16-April 23

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
April 16	08:53	12.9	10:10	12.9	02:31	6.3	03:27	2.5
April 17	10:07	13.3	11:02	14.0	04:06	5.5	04:35	2.1
April 18	11:05	14.0	11:43	14.9	05:09	4.1	05:25	1.6
April 19	11:52	14.8	05:53	2.8	06:03	1.2
April 20	00:19	15.8	12:34	15.3	06:28	1.6	06:35	1.0
April 21	00:52	16.4	01:12	15.6	06:59	0.6	07:04	1.1
April 22	01:21	16.7	01:47	15.6	07:28	-0.1	07:32	1.3
April 23	01:49	16.8	02:20	15.4	07:57	-0.6	07:59	1.8

WHS/SMS School Lunches: General Guidelines



- Order your school lunch online as usual through the WPSD School Website at wpsd.us
- Orders are due online by 8:30 AM.

The following guidelines are for the pick up of lunches:

Mondays-City Market:

- Lunch pickup after 12:00 PM from the deli area
- Provide name to server

Tuesdays and Thursdays-I&W's

- Lunch pickup at high school main doors off Reid St. after 12:00 PM

Wednesdays and Fridays-Wrangell IGA

- Students may pick their lunches up after 12:00 PM from the deli area
- Students then proceed to the office to provide their name so they may mark your name off the list

Should you have difficulties in carrying out any of these directions please email kreeves@wpsd.us or mpowell@wpsd.us or call the appropriate number below.

SMS Office at 874-3393 or WHS Office at 874-3395

Students, please continue to monitor your school Gmail account and parents monitor your personal email accounts for pertinent information regarding school updates, academics and other school information.

Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Apr. 6	46	33
Apr. 7	45	33
Apr. 8	45	36
Apr. 9	48	34
Apr. 10	51	33
Apr. 11	52	32
Apr. 12	57	30
Apr. 13	46	41

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Apr. 16	5:40a	7:56p	14:16h
Apr. 17	5:37a	7:59p	14:22h
Apr. 18	5:35a	8:01p	14:26h
Apr. 19	5:33a	8:03p	14:30h
Apr. 20	5:30a	8:05p	14:35h
Apr. 21	5:28a	8:07p	14:39h
Apr. 22	5:25a	8:09p	14:44h
Apr. 23	5:23a	8:11p	14:48h

Wrangellite highlighted in teleconference conservation town hall

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Last March was Women's History Month. To recognize several women who have made contributions to the cause of protecting the environment, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council hosted a teleconference town hall meeting on March 31.

Of the women who were highlighted in the meeting, there was one Wrangell resident: Tis Peterman.

"While we planned this event a few months ago, like everyone else we had no idea that our lives would be so upended by the coronavirus health emer-

gency, and that tools like this would be so essential to us all to stay connected," said Sally Schlichting, SEACC environmental policy analyst and host of the town hall. "In honor of Women's History Month we've been shining the spotlight on women leaders in the conservation movement and the work they're doing on climate change all month long."

Peterman is the executive director of the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, the great-granddaughter of Chief Shakes VII, and a lifelong resident of Wrangell. The organization is a



Tis Peterman

consortium of 15 tribal nations across Southeast Alaska, SEITC's website reads. The consortium

was first established in 2014 with the goal of protecting rivers and waterways that are significant to native culture and way of living, on both the Alaskan and Canadian sides of the border.

"One of the reasons I'm still involved at 63 years of age is because I've always remembered the salmon derbies," she said. "Back in the day the winners of the derbies would be in the 60 to 70 pound range, and in recent years the winners were in the 40 to 45 pound range. The fish are now becoming smaller and fewer."

The decline of salmon derbies in recent history have not only

impacted an important local tradition for Wrangellites and Southeast Alaskans, but she said that it is also impacting the economy. Without large, plentiful salmon for the derbies, travelers will be less inclined to visit. She has worked with SEITC for about three years now as executive director, she said, and prior to that has represented Wrangell in the consortium since its inception. Their goal is to build a unified voice about the threats transboundary mining poses to Southeast Alaskan waters.

"Although this work is not directly about climate change, the effects are the same on salmon and clean water," Peterman said. "Just the sheer number of mines on the British Columbia side of the border is mind boggling."

She is so involved in these conservation efforts, Peterman said, because she is worried about the future. In general she said she thinks women worry about the future more than men do. Men typically focus on the present and providing for their families, she said, but she is thinking about her children and grandchildren's future.

"SEACC has been honored to work closely with Tis and the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission in our water program," Meredith Trainor, executive director of SEACC said. "We work to protect Southeast Alaska's transboundary rivers and watersheds, and we're honored to have her here with us today."

Police report

April 6
Summons Service.
Agency Assist: Harbor Dept.
Suspicious Circumstance.

April 7
Agency Assist: Fire Department.
Fireworks.
Domestic Disturbance.
Agency Assist: Brush Fire.
Harassment.
Civil Matter.

April 8
Nothing to report today.

April 9

Vehicle Unlock.
Found Property/Key turned into the Police Dept.
Alarm/Audible alarm in the area of the Nolan Center.
Intoxicated Person/Person contacted and escorted home.

April 10
Airport Quarantine Papers.
Traffic Stop.
Intoxicated Person.

April 11
Disturbance.
Agency Assist: Ambulance.
Agency Assist: Airport.

Trespass.
Theft.
Disabled Vehicle.
Domestic Dispute.
Violation of Conditions of Release.
Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.
Agency Assist: City Hall.
Traffic Stop.

April 12
Courtesy Transport.
Agency Assist: Airport.
Welfare Check.
Disabled Vehicle.
Domestic Dispute.
Agency Assist: Fire Department.



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Correction

In last week's edition, we reported that families participating in Sunday's "social distancing egg hunt" could expect to pick up plastic Easter eggs at Hannah's Place after the event. Hannah's Place decided not to pass out plastic eggs out of public health concerns.

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All space is offered at a 25% discount.

Petersburg's Little Norway Festival cancelled

By **BRIAN VARELA**
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce has officially cancelled this year's Little Norway Festival due to uncertainties over how long state health mandates to shelter in place and maintaining social distancing will remain in place.

Chamber Administrator Mara Lutomski said the choice to cancel the 62nd Little Norway Festival was a hard decision for the chamber board.

"No one wants to cancel a festival that has been such a rich part of Petersburg history," said Lutomski.

The chamber of commerce

and the Little Norway Festival committee put on the weekend-long event each year. Lutomski said the chamber ensures that the downtown area is shut down to traffic and vendors are able to set up shop, while the committee volunteers organize and plan each of their events.

For about three days, residents and tourists mill around the downtown area, making purchases at local businesses and the vendors that line Main Street with different types of food.

"The Little Norway Festival is like a well-run machine," said Lutomski. "Everybody does their part and the chamber helps to bring those parts together. It

doesn't take a huge amount of effort year after year, but it does take some work and planning and thought."

Lutomski said the borough will likely take a hit in the amount of sales and transient room tax it usually collects in May. Additionally, Lutomski said nearly every hotel room is reserved; as a result, the borough's four percent transient room tax, or bed tax, that it collects on a single night's lodging expense won't be as high. Lutomski said the bed tax goes to a fund that supports the local visitor related industry.

Borough Finance Directory Jody Tow said the borough does-

n't track sales tax and bed tax during the Little Norway Festival since businesses file their sales tax returns on a monthly basis.

"Hopefully this will be a one-off thing," said Lutomski. "This will be the year the Little Norway Festival didn't happen.

We'll come back at it next year and celebrate next year."

Petersburg also hosts a Fourth of July celebration that spans two or more days. Lutomski said planning for that event hasn't started yet, but the borough has discussed purchasing fireworks.

Dan's Dispatch

By *Representative*
Dan Ortiz

House Bill 96, "Pioneers Home and Veterans Home Rates" passed the Legislature and is headed to the Governor's desk for his signature. The goal of the bill is to adjust rates for our Pioneer Homes to reflect the level of service provided while protecting the Pioneer Home residents.

The rate increases proposed by Governor Dunleavy last year were painful and ineffective. With HB96, we adjusted rates for inflation that hadn't been accounted for since 2004. Residents' rates will go up from 2018, but in most cases decrease significantly from last year. By linking future rate increases to the most recent Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment, we ensure that rate increases will not outstrip resident's income. This provides certainty for residents and their families as they plan for their future. Importantly, the bill also followed the Department's need to create more nuanced levels of care.

Alaskans are living longer, while also experiencing Alzheimer's and other related dementias. The bill accommodates the more detailed levels of care for these residents, and simultaneously lowers the age for entrance into the homes from 65 to 60. Studies show that a diverse mix of residents is beneficial to emotional and physical well-being for those living in the homes. Finally, the bill also allows the Department to rent or sublet empty rooms for respite care, something that the Agnew Beck Report suggested as a key reform for District 36's Ketchikan Pioneer Home. HB96 represents sound bipartisan collaboration for our Pioneer Homes. It was sponsored by Rep. Zack Fields, had multiple co-sponsors including myself, and received unanimous yes votes in both the House and the Senate.

It will bring certainty and reassurance to the residents and their families and includes many ideas that will increase the health and well-being of residents.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

As we grapple with Covid 19 and our Town Council considers more restrictions there are a number of things folks need to know. For the time being I don't see the need for further restrictions. Not that I don't care, I do. My friends are out there on the front lines as well as my family. But I refuse to live in abject fear and panic. A little fear in crisis is a good thing but an over abundance is quite destructive. Wars are lost and nations have collapsed from fear.

The 'Curve' is leveling, there is light. Countries are reopening, there is hope. We need to be aware of what restrictions we are living under now. Our 'curve' is flat as we have not had a case. It is clearly stated that these State Mandates supersede local government and tribal mandates, directives and orders. The Mandates are working and

will continue, they are mostly common sense. The Mandates contain exceptions for 'Critical Infrastructure' businesses and workers. Attachment 'A' states Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the Covid 19 emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well being. Certain critical infrastructure industries have a special responsibility in these times to continue operations.

What will happen to us if we continue down a deepening hole of financial collapse? We need to have vision now and not create a crushed economy and all the suffering that would result. If we continue to further restrict in fear 12% plus sales tax and possibly 18 mil plus property taxes are probable. They will be forever. I spend a fair amount of time in a town that has 15% sales tax, every time you fuel up or

buy groceries or anything, you notice in Canada.

We can work within current restrictions more than we are and with a flat curve be ready to lead ourselves back. The curves are moving in the right direction, there is light. Many in our leadership are already planning a way back, good for them, good for us.

Five countries are reopening and working at coming back as their curves go down. We're lucky and have a flat 'curve', perhaps we too should have the vision to loosen up as we can and plan coming back. Hopefully before our season starts we can lead a reopening and comeback. Talk to your elected leadership, tell them not to live in fear but rather ready ourselves for the inevitable passing of this scourge and let's work as we can and get back to it - remember Roosevelt's words.

Mike Lockabey

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Fax: 874-3296

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3. Take advantage of deliveries and online orders from local shops

This message is brought to you by the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce



Any business wishing to participate in this announcement should contact

the Sentinel at 874-2301

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Governor signs FY 2021 budget, cuts made to Wrangell programs

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Governor Mike Dunleavy signed the Fiscal Year 2021 budget into law on Monday, April 6, according to an April 7 press release from the governor's office. The budget, as en-

acted "maintains spending across various programs and components at a level consistent with FY 2020, and funds an incomplete Permanent Fund Dividend." In short, the approved budget has total revenues set at about \$9.07 billion and expenses

Wrangell CHURCH INFORMATION

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Digital Church: facebook.com/bradtraxler.
Zoom meeting ID: 721-835 1448. with online sermons at wrangellsda.org.

HARBOR LIGHT ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sunday Services: Live feed on Facebook 10:30 am Sundays, podcasts of sermons available on Itunes & Spotify under the Harbor Light Church App & website at www.harborlight.church.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Resources for online Mass for the State of Alaska at www.dioceseofjuneau.org. The Christ Mass will be livestreamed from Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral in Anchorage on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Call 907-470-0806 or check Communion services at www.pcusa.org. The building is closed at this time.

ST. PHILIPS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Call 907-305-0007 or 907-796-9632 for information. Website: www.stphilipswrangell.com.

WRANGELL BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00 am-Adult Bible Study, 10:00 am- Children's classes, 11:00am-Worship. Wednesday Services: 7:00pm-Bible. ALL ONLINE. For additional information email us at: rev210@gci.net or call: 907.723.5893

B'HAI

Daily virtual devotional gathering: www.zoom.us/j/894428842 or website: www.bahai.us/virtual-prayer-sessions-held-daily. Local contact Kay Larson, Secretary 907-209-9117.

WRANGELL SALVATION ARMY

Live devotions and messages through Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wrangellcorps/ with live sermons every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

ISLAND OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Petersburg Lutheran Church: Facebook streaming. www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Center/Petersburg-Lutheran-Church-140995115951390. Shepherd of the Valley, Juneau: pre-recorded audio, www.sovlutheran.org/sermons. Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage: video, www.centluth.org/videos. St. Mark Lutheran Church Anchorage: Zoom online with direct access directly through their website, www.stmarkalaska.com.

If you want to update information email us at wrgsent@gmail.com



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Safety first

Wrangell Sentinel employees Caleb Vierkant and Trisha Schwartz showing off their new newspaper themed face masks.

at about \$10.03 billion. While adopting this budget, the governor also issued some line-item vetoes to some programs. Jeff Turner, deputy director of communications for the governor's office, said that there was a total of \$261 million in line item vetoes. The majority of these vetoes came from undesignated general funds, \$210 million, and the remaining \$51 million was cut from designated general funds.

In Wrangell, funding has been eliminated for the local Department of Fish and Game Office, as well as for a local OCS caseworker. The proposed elimination of Wrangell's fish and game office, first announced back in December of 2019, drew wide criticism from community members and local officials. It

was part of an effort by the department to cut their budget by roughly 15 percent. According to a list of line item vetoes on the Office of Management and Budget's website, the closure of this office saves the state about \$66,000.

"The Alaska Department of Fish and Game determined that the fisheries managed out of the Wrangell office could also be managed out of its larger Petersburg office with no adverse impact on the fisheries," Turner wrote in an email to the Sentinel. "The departmental reorganization will require moving the Assistant Area Management Biologist from Wrangell to Petersburg."

Legislators also tried to set aside funding for a part-time OCS caseworker for Wrangell, in

the amount of roughly \$91,000. Turner said that Wrangell's OCS office closed back in 2008. Local cases have been handled by workers in Petersburg. Calls for a local worker were also heard by community members during the state's budgeting process this year, but funding for the item has now been vetoed.

"Due to budget pressures, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services determined it needed to prioritize services in other areas of the state with disproportionately larger child protection case-loads," Turner said. "Based on its determination, the budget increase was vetoed."

More information about the FY 2021 budget can be found online at the OMB website, www.omb.alaska.gov.

Sport and personal use fishing remain open

There appears to be some confusion regarding an an-

nouncement the Department made recently regarding sport and personal use fishing. The Department understands the value of these activities to Alaskans and supports Alaskans having the opportunity to get out and fish to feed their families and fill their freezers.

Sport and Personal Use fishing in the State of Alaska will remain open, consistent with published regulations during the 2020 season, subject to compliance with State of Alaska Public Health Mandates.

Although travel between communities is prohibited under the issued health mandates, the public may still travel to fishing locations. When traveling to participate in sport or personal use fisheries that occur outside of their communities of residence, the public must follow these guidelines: 1) Conduct your fishing activities as close to your home residence as

possible; 2) Local mandates may be authorized under Public Health Mandate 012. Find out local mandates in communities through which you plan to travel and abide by them; 3) Totally provision your trip from your community of origin. Don't plan on buying food, drinks or even fuel (if possible) after you begin your trip and until you return home; 4) Practice social distancing while sport or personal use fishing; and, 5) Highly suggest anglers wear face coverings as suggested in Health Alert 010 issued April 3, 2020.

Adherence to these stipulations will allow Alaskans the opportunity to fish and put food on their tables while taking measures to protect public health and allow time to build needed health infrastructure.

Also, subsistence fishing remains open and unrestricted under the issued health mandates.



A few minutes can shape your future.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

UFA aims to protect communities while fleets go fishing

How can fishermen be sure their vessels are clean of coronavirus contamination? Where can they find out about relief funds that are newly available for fishermen?

COVID-19 has Alaska's seafood industry traveling in uncharted waters as more fisheries continue and get underway, and fishermen and processors prepare for a salmon season that's just a month away. Information in an upside down world changes daily, making it tough to plot a course.

United Fishermen of Alaska has crafted a "one stop shop" for the latest fishing-related COVID-19 updates, including onboard checklists for fishing vessels and tenders, protocols for crews coming and going and more.

"We have all the mandates the State has put in place, the UFA updates that we send out weekly, helpful documents to download, the onboard procedures telling fishermen what they need to do to have a season, and a tab for economic relief and links to other resources and websites," said Frances Leach, UFA executive director.

Fishermen can apply for a Paycheck Protection Program that offers \$350 billion in low-interest loans to small businesses implemented through the Small Business Administration.

Also offered are low-interest loans related to COVID-19 impacts for businesses with up to 500 employees, up to \$2 million per business, with relaxed collateral requirements.

And for the first time, because fishermen are designated as "essential U.S. food producers," they can apply for extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

"Deckhands who work under 1099s previously were

not eligible for unemployment. Now that has changed and if you are working under a 1099 you are eligible for unemployment and you can apply under the State," Leach said.

"Federal law now extends UI benefits for the first time to the self-employed. This is a brand new program, and we are diligently working with the U.S. Department of Labor to address the requirements and system preparedness including: I.T. upgrades, training and staffing to accommodate the added workload," Tamika Ledbetter, Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development commissioner wrote on April 2 in the Anchorage Daily News.

Ledbetter added "the federal legislation extends the eligibility period by 13 weeks and includes a weekly benefit payment of \$600. Both the currently covered unemployment insurance recipients and the newly covered self-employed will be eligible for the \$600 payment."

Fishermen also will get a \$300 million chunk of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in direct assistance that also includes charter and subsistence fishermen, processors, fishery dependent businesses and coastal communities.

"This assistance is structured similar to fishery disaster payments, but the delivery of the funds will be quicker by allowing the money to be awarded on a rolling basis, even while a season is still underway, and forgoing the usual requirement for the Governor to declare a disaster," the UFA website says. An additional federal relief package also is in

the works.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the nation's largest commercial fishing trade group with 35 member organizations. Leach said a top priority today is protecting communities while the fleets go fishing.

"We are fully aware that communities are very concerned about allowing commercial fisheries to happen in their regions," Leach said. "Since day one, our first priority was 'how can we protect these communities while still having a successful fishery. Our first effort has been to put protocols in place to protect communities and fishermen so that we are not continuing to spread this virus and put undue burdens on communities."

Fish on! Since January, fishing has been ongoing for Alaska pollock, cod, perch, rockfish and a big mix of other whitefish from the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

Kodiak's roe herring fishery kicked off on April 1 with a nearly 1,500 ton harvest limit. About 8 boats are out on the water amid reports of lots of good fishing.

Kodiak also will get a Dungeness crab opener on May 1.

Bering Sea crabbers by last week had taken 90 percent of their 30.6 million pound snow crab quota.

At Prince William Sound, 93 boats signed up for the shrimp pot fishery that runs from April 15 through the 26th. The catch of big spot shrimp is set at 68,100 pounds.

A sablefish fishery for 167,000 pounds also opens at PWS on April 15 for 56 permit holders.

Alaska halibut landings

were nearing 730,000 pounds out of a 17 million pound catch limit; sablefish (black cod) catches topped 2.5 million pounds out of a 26 million pound quota.

A bait herring fishery at Upper Cook Inlet opens from April 20 to the end of May. A combined take of 150 tons can be taken from four areas by a fleet of 10 to 20 set or drift gillnetters. A smelt fishery will open May 1.

There is some rare good news for Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska. Winter troll catches drive the summer numbers and a slight 3,000 fish boost through March 15 means the summer harvest will top 201,100 kings for all users - that's 65,000 more Chinook salmon than last year.

Buy/eat/repeat! How can Americans help a seafood industry and fishing communities clobbered by the coronavirus?

"Just buy seafood, eat seafood and repeat! We need to support our nation's seafood communities by doing that as often as we can," said Linda Cornish, president of the non-profit Seafood Nutrition Partnership which last week launched a 12-week "Eat Seafood, America" campaign in collaboration with 22 major industry groups.

Called the "Seafood4Health Action Coalition," their "rapid response" goal is to help Americans stay healthy during the health crisis while also boosting the seafood economy.

The campaign urges people to build support for the eat fish effort by sharing pictures of their seafood meals on social media.

"Follow the hash tag #eat-seafoodamerica, post a photo of their meal and share it on Instagram, Twitter or whatever social platforms they use. Go out there and urge people to buy seafood. It's as simple as that," Cornish said.

More than 60% of America's seafood is eaten in restaurants and the eat seafood campaign encourages people to continue to order their favorites and do take out at restaurants or retail stores.

Grundens, for example, is promoting sales at www.localcatch.org. And more fishermen are talking about selling their "catch of the day" directly from the docks.

While Americans are hunkered down at home, Cornish said they still can take their taste buds on vacation.

"Think about going on a trip to Alaska and ordering some wild Alaska seafood. You've been wanting to go to Maine so try some lobsters or oysters or mussels, or go on that Florida trip or to the Gulf. And there are so many seafood varieties you can have something different every day," she said.

Along with supporting fishing dependent towns and families, Cornish pointed out that the healthy attributes of seafood can help protect against the coronavirus.

"Whatever coast you're on, whatever segment of the supply chain you're on, we all need help," she added. Seafood is so good for you and I think the message is for people to try and get yourself as healthy as possible. Eat Seafood, America and let's get through this together. We can do it."

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CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the **2020 Assessment Rolls** for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, as of January 1, 2020, have been completed. The Borough Assembly shall sit as a **Board of Equalization on Monday, May 11, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Wrangell Assembly Chambers**, and continue each day thereafter until its scheduled business is completed.

NOTICE OF APPEAL (with respect to any alleged error in the valuation, overcharge, or omission of the assessor) shall be filed with the Board of Equalization within thirty (30) days after the date on which the assessor's Notice of Assessment was given to the person appealing. The Notice of Appeal shall be in writing, on the designated form, specifying the grounds for appeal.

Appeal Forms are available at City Hall or online at www.wrangell.com.

IT IS THE TAXPAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL OF:

1. Properties not included in assessment notices
2. Change of ownership of property not shown on assessment notices

NOTICE OF APPEALS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 20, 2020.

Joyce Mason
Finance Director

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: March 26, April 2, 9 and 16, 2020

SEARHC introduces COVID-19 Rapid Testing

On Tuesday, April 7, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Incident Command System (ICS) announced the pending arrival of several COVID-19 rapid test machines from the medical equipment manufacturer Abbott. Each machine is accompanied by approximately 45 testing kits and will be available in seven SEARHC communities in the coming days, allowing for same-day, in-house COVID-19 test results.

Providers in the communities of Sitka, Juneau, Wrangell, Klawock, Haines, Hoonah and Kake will be the first to receive rapid test machines, with Angoon and other communities to fol-

low as additional units become available. With only a limited number of kits currently on hand, SEARHC Medical Directors have implemented strict guidelines to ensure rapid tests are utilized in only the most timely and essential situations. Prioritizing use of the Abbott rapid test is ultimately at the discretion of the site Medical Director, but criteria is in place to include situations that limit the spread of COVID among community members at high-risk for severe illness, such as long-term care, nursing home, or assisted living. In addition, instances that improve safety of healthcare workers, and availability of critical staff and supplies, may be prior-

itized as well.

"SEARHC leadership is excited to add rapid response testing to our available resources during the pandemic," said SEARHC Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elliot Bruhl. "The ability to produce fast test results in-house will be extremely valuable as we work to protect our high-risk populations, as well as ensure staff on the front lines are safe and available to provide care."

Patients who do not meet the rapid test criteria, but meet the symptomatic guidelines for a COVID-19 test, will be tested by SEARHC providers with either the State Lab or the private Lab-

Corp receiving the cultures, depending on which facility has the quickest turnaround time at the time of testing (typically 24-48 hours).

Due to known community spread of COVID-19 in our region, tests are currently available to all patients exhibiting a fever and cough, or shortness of breath, regardless of travel or exposure history.

For more information on test availability, including alternative test site locations and contact information for the SEARHC provider in your community, visit covid19.searhc.org or call the SEARHC COVID-19 Hotline at 907.966.8799

P&Z Commission gives final plat approval for land swap

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Planning and

Zoning Commission met remotely last Thursday evening, April 9, to give final plat ap-

proval of various land surveys for a proposed land swap between Alaska Mental Health

and the Forest Service. Preliminary plats were approved back in 2018, according to the meeting's agenda packet. The land surveys, No. 2018-9, 10, and 11, were all approved by the commission. Survey 2018-10, however, was approved with some conditions. The City and Borough of Wrangell gets to record an easement document through Lot 26, USS 3403, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority gets to record an easement document through Lot 14, South Wrangell Subdivision and Lot 23, USS 2900.

"Once the final plats are approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the 3 Plats and the 2 easement documents will go to the Assembly

for approval," the agenda packet reads. "The easements will be recorded prior to the plats being recorded in order to include the recorded document numbers of the easements on the plat."

During the meeting, the commission also held a public hearing for a conditional use permit, requested by Allen and Deanna Reeves. The Reeves family was seeking the permit to use a residence next to their primary home, at 4 mile Zimovia Highway, as a short term vacation rental unit. The commission approved of this permit request, on the condition the family provides guests guidance on behavior and limiting noise to not disrupt neighbors.

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State of Alaska to Launch Joint COVID-19 Website

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy, Department of Health and Social Services, and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs are launching a new joint COVID-19 website. This new website will be a one-stop-shop for Alaskans as they navigate the resources that the State of Alaska is offering during this unprecedented crisis.

"This outbreak is an all hands on deck situation. Resources are available from every State of Alaska agency working to slow the spread of COVID-19, financially help Alaskans, assist businesses, and stabilize our economy. Now all of those resources can be found in one place," said Governor Mike Dunleavy. "By working together, we will bring Alaska through this crisis and emerge a stronger state."

The new COVID-19 website includes the familiar information such as daily case count updates, health information for those that are sick with COVID-19, and news and announcements from the State. Starting this week however, Alaskans will be able to easily access information for business help, impacts to state agencies, and personal financial information in the same place.

The new COVID-19 website will officially launch on April 14, 2020 at www.covid19.alaska.gov.



I can help you make sure your coverage is up-to-date. Call me today.

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Health safety discussed in meeting with seafood industry

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Representatives of the City and Borough of Wrangell and the local seafood industry held a workshop on Tuesday, April 7, to discuss how public health can be protected with fishing season drawing near. There were over 30 people who called into the meeting, in total. The meeting was chaired by Assembly Member Julie Decker.

"I think, in my opinion, the goal is to move the city in a direction of a set of policies, and procedures, and requirements, for the seafood industry that keep the community safe and keep the fleet safe," said Decker.

There were some documents from other communities Wrangell was looking at, Decker said, to get a sense of what might be appropriate for Wrangell. For example, the city of Craig has issued a quarantine policy for their harbors. All vessels entering any harbor facility in Craig are required to contact the harbormaster or dispatch center before disembarking any passengers or crew members. Vessels that have travelled outside of the state or come from Alaskan communities with known cases of COVID-19 are also required to submit to quarantine procedures. Decker also mentioned a mutual aid agreement for small and large fishing operations from the city of Cordova, in an effort to protect their community from the virus. The agreements, in short, state that operators agree to educate themselves about COVID-19 and to take precautionary measures, to comply with local emergency rules, and to complete a health risk assessment form for all employees.

Locally, Wrangell's seafood processors are taking steps to be safe. Rocky Caldero represented Sea Level Seafoods during the meeting. He said that they are continuing service boats from the dock, but they are not letting fishermen off their boats. If need be, employees can run to the store to get supplies for them. He also said



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Happy Easter

A sign outside of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, wishing passers-by a happy Easter.

that they intend to bring in 35 seasonal workers this summer, but plan to quarantine them for two weeks before letting them into town. Caldero added that they would be happy to hire locally, as well. Should any of these workers begin to show signs of sickness, Caldero said they would be immediately quarantined.

"We would monitor them, see what their progress is, and if it does get worse, then we would contact the doctors," he said.

Mayor Steve Prysunka asked Caldero if these hypothetical sick workers could be flown out of Wrangell, to protect the hospital's supplies. Some communities up north, he said, are looking into having a plane on hand for such a scenario, to take the stress off of the local community. Caldero said they have not had any firm discussions on that topic, but they could look into it.

Trident Seafoods was also represented at this meeting, by Shannon Carroll. Trident will

not be running this summer, as reported in the Sentinel in early March. However, Carroll said that they will maintain a skeleton crew at the local plant. More broadly, looking at Trident's nearby Petersburg and Ketchikan plants, he said that their main concern is protecting the health of their communities, employees, and harvesters. This will not be a "business as usual" season, he said, and they are currently putting together response plans for Southeast Alaska. The plans are still being finalized, but Carroll said they involve limiting exposure between harvesters and employees.

"In general, the policies that we're implementing are not allowing fishermen to get off their boats when they unload at the dock, restricting all sorts of interactions ... The goal is basically to minimize interactions between our employees and our harvesters," Carroll said.

Local fishermen and other residents also got to voice their input during the meeting. Bren-

non Eagle said that he wished there were some better definitions and criteria when it came to whatever safety guidelines the city came up with. He added that he was uncomfortable with the city adopting these sorts of guidelines without technical expertise.

"There's a lot of technical expertise as to how to run a fishing businesses, how to run businesses within town, how to write regulations, but when we start writing these regulations they need to be based in some type of technical expertise as to what causes spread, how to minimize spread, that sort of thing, not how do we make ourselves feel comfortable with things," he said.

Harbor Master Greg Meissner also weighed in during the discussion.

"I had an individual ask me today, he says 'Once in a while I'm out halibut fishing I might pull into Juneau and unload,'" he said. "So if his plan stated that upon that chance he goes to Juneau and unloads his

product, he stays on his vessel, and unloads his product, and does not go up on deck, and doesn't do A, B, or C ... If the plan is accepted that would work, I would think, for you to come and go to those places if you're following the protocol you say you're going to."

Another person who commented during the meeting was Dave Miller. Miller said he works in the marine center. He said he firmly believes that if there's a way for people to potentially bypass safety guidelines, the town needs to hold their own and not allow that. He does not want to work on a boat or around anybody that's been in Ketchikan or another community with cases of COVID-19. It should be mandatory they quarantine or leave, he said.

"I don't think we're going to get to the nitty-gritty of anything except in a later meeting with a smaller group," Decker said. "I'm hopeful that folks recognize that so we can detail out some things."

During these changing TIMES



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