

## Industrial subdivision in the works for 6-Mile mill site

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The owner of the former sawmill property at 6-Mile Zimovia Highway has been working with the borough since last year on an application to develop the site into an industrial subdivision, offering more than 32 acres for sale as

individual lots.

The property would include 24 lots, ranging in size from 0.36 to 2.36 acres, with 60-foot-wide roads and utilities serving the subdivision, which is zoned for waterfront development.

"The preliminary (subdivision) plat has been condition-

ally approved," said Carol Rushmore, borough zoning administrator, though "there are changes in the works," including decisions on water service to the lots.

If the changes are substantial, the subdivision plan would go back to Wrangell's Planning and Zoning Commission for approval, Rushmore

more.

The utilities will need to be in place before final borough approval of the subdivision plat, she said.

The developer is considering whether to pay to bring municipal water service to the lots, or build and operate an on-site water system, Rushmore explained to the plan-

ning commission in an April 5 memo.

"The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will need to approve on-site septic systems, outfalls and on-site water system if developed, as well as stormwater outfalls and need for oil/water separators," the memo explained.

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

It was a double special day for Jason Gadd, 16. The Make-A-Wish Foundation sent him supplies for a theme makeover of his bedroom into his favorite film, "Cars," and the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department gave him a ride aboard a fire truck to his home, accompanying the Alaska Marine Lines van carrying the "Cars" supplies.

## Volunteers give Jason Gadd his own special 'Cars' room

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The community came together last week to help make a wish come true for Jason Gadd, 16, with a parade in his honor and a bedroom makeover thanks to community volunteers and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"I don't even have words to describe how thankful I am to everybody who came out to help," Dacee Gustafson, Jason's mother, said. "He's shown emotions and things we haven't seen in years that day."

Jason has Dravet Syndrome, Gustafson said, which causes unpredictable seizures. This has limited him compared to other kids his age, and can be quite dangerous. She put in an application with the Make-A-Wish Foundation last year, she said, and received approval for Jason's wish about six months after.

Originally, Jason wanted to go to Disneyland to see some of his favorite movie characters: Buzz Lightyear and Lightning McQueen among them. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gustafson said they had to change their plans.

Instead, the Make-A-Wish Foundation sent them supplies for a Disney "Cars"-themed makeover of Jason's room.

On top of the makeover, the Wrangell Fire Department and Alaska Marine Lines decided to make the day even more special for Jason. On July 6, with AML decorating some of its vehicles to look like characters from "Cars," and the fire department offering Jason a ride home in one of their trucks, the supplies for the makeover got delivered to his house.

Along the route from AML to Jason's home, people turned out with signs and cheers on the sidewalks as the parade passed by.

The majority of the makeover was completed that day, Gustafson said, but Jason is helping with a few finishing touches. He is also thrilled about the makeover. "He absolutely loves it," she said.

"He's still rearranging and finishing up the final touches and everything. He barely comes out of it!"

## COVID cases climb back up in Alaska

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

State officials say the highly contagious delta variant is likely driving the increase in COVID-19 cases reported in Alaska, plus the fact that more than 40% of Alaskans over the age of 12 still had not received at least their first vaccination shot as of last week.

Sitka has reported its worst outbreak in seven months, with 20 new cases reported Tuesday. There were 51 active cases in the community and at least 15 people hospitalized as of Monday evening. Almost all of the recent cases in the community were among unvaccinated people.

Sitka Fire Chief Craig Warren said last Friday that the city would start publishing on its COVID-19 website the vaccination status of new cases.

Sitka is at high-alert status due to the rising case count.

State officials reported 309 new cases and four deaths

across Alaska Thursday through Sunday, bringing to 374 the number of deaths from COVID-19.

Test results from the third week of June showed that the delta variant comprised almost 40% of the COVID-19 cases sequenced in Alaska — their genetic composition verified in the lab. That is significantly higher than the proportion for the same week nationwide, estimated at 26%.

The Alaska rate was zero the third week of May.

The report on the delta variant and other strains was released July 7, prepared by researchers from the University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks and state public health offices.

"We're looking at a really fast-moving, infectious virus," Jayme Parker, who heads Alaska's public health labs, told Alaska Public Media last week.

"While every choice we make has risks and benefits as-

sociated with them, for the vast majority of people, getting vaccinated is a much safer choice for preventing illness and minimizing the impacts of this virus on your life," Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska's chief medical officer, told reporters at a briefing last Thursday.

"I just continue to encourage Alaskans to seriously consider that option (vaccination), particularly as we see the delta variant spreading," Zink advised.

The delta variant is now present in all 50 states. It was first identified in India in late December. It showed up in Anchorage in May and has spread throughout the state.

To help guard against the spread of COVID-19, and to protect their employees, patients and visitors, several health care providers in Alaska have announced that vaccinations will be required as a condition of employment.

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## New superintendent works to boost enrollment

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Even while Bill Burr, Wrangell's new schools superintendent, is still unpacking, he already is looking toward challenges the district will face in the coming school year. One area of improvement he is optimistic about is bringing enrollment numbers back to previous levels.

Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment in Wrangell schools dropped to about 200 from their typical number around 300 — the largest percentage decrease in any school district in Alaska. Many families chose to homeschool their kids, or pursue correspondence courses.

Wrangell's numbers ticked upward as last year went on, and Burr said he is hopeful to see a lot more kids return when registration opens in August.

"We'll get real numbers, or at least the beginning of real



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bill Burr, Wrangell Public School's new superintendent, said he is looking toward boosting enrollment numbers for the coming school year. Wrangell saw the biggest enrollment decline in the state last year.

numbers, then," Burr said. "We're estimating, it's still gray in July, but we had budgeted on 225. We think we are going to surpass that number. ... The positive comments that we have received, the princi-

pals have received, are encouraging for both the district and the staff to have more students."

At the root of encouraging families to bring their kids

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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.

**Thursday, July 15:** Mary Edgley, Lily Mae Feuerhelm, Kay Nesbitt, Kevin Smalley.

**Friday, July 16:** Kaelene Wilson Harrison, Delores Klinke, Carmen Villarma Pavlina, Casey Seimears.

**Saturday, July 17:** Daniel B. Nore Sr; Anniversary: Bob and Alysse Maxand.

**Sunday, July 18:** Rick Brock, Bethany Comstock, Dave McGuire, Tom Wickman; Anniversary: Scott and Carrie Mason.

**Monday, July 19:** Mike Ottesen Sr., Dorianne Sprehe, Shelley Versteeg; Anniversary: Ben and Rhea Bowman.

**Tuesday, July 20:** Erin Galla, Samantha Southland; Anniversary: Dave and Sharon McGuire.

**Wednesday, July 21:** Liz Rooney.

**Thursday, July 22:** James Castle, Jim Haley, Trevor Keller, Matt Scott, Paul Anthony Smith, Butch Wenderoth; Anniversary: Dewyo and Charley Young.

## Senior Center Menu

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

**Friday, July 16**

Lasagna, zucchini, salad pasta

**Monday, July 19**

Ham, peas and salad

**Tuesday, July 20**

Sweet-and-sour chicken, broccoli, fruit cup, rice pilaf

**Wednesday, July 21**

Texas chili, creamy coleslaw, corn bread

**Thursday, July 22**

Hamburger, fried potatoes, 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, July 16**

Matanuska, 4:15 p.m.

**Friday, July 23**

Matanuska, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, July 30**

Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 6**

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 13**

Matanuska, 5:45 p.m.

### Southbound

**Monday, July 19**

Matanuska, 3:30 a.m.

**Monday, July 26**

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

**Monday, Aug. 2**

Matanuska, 3:30 a.m.

**Monday, Aug. 9**

Matanuska, 7:15 a.m.

**Monday, Aug. 16**

Matanuska, 3:45 a.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 July 15-July 21

	High Tides		Low Tides		AM	PM	Ft	Ft
	AM	PM	AM	PM				
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 15	04:44	14.7	05:42	14.9	11:04	0.0	11:36	3.2
July 16	05:39	13.8	06:30	15.1	11:51	0.9	...	...
July 17	06:47	12.9	07:27	15.5	00:37	2.8	12:43	1.9
July 18	08:07	12.4	08:29	16.0	01:45	2.1	01:44	2.9
July 19	09:28	12.5	09:31	16.6	02:57	1.1	02:51	3.6
July 20	10:41	13.1	10:32	17.4	04:09	-0.1	04:01	3.9
July 21	11:45	13.9	11:29	18.1	05:14	-1.4	05:09	3.6

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**BEARFEST 2021** starts July 28 and runs through Aug. 1. Symposiums, art and photo workshops, cultural events, golf and live music. Check out the full schedule at [www.alaskabearfest.org](http://www.alaskabearfest.org)

**WRANGELL SCHOOL DISTRICT** PowerSchool registration will open online starting Aug. 9. Districtwide registration help will be available 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 17 in the high school commons.

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** presents "The Boss Baby: Family Business," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the animation, adventure and comedy which runs one hour and 47 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**WRANGELL QUILT SHOW**, Christmas in July presented by Wrangell Stikine Stitchers at the Nolan Center through July 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**CAMP LORAINE**, a Christian summer camp for kids between the ages of 8 to 16, is planned for Aug. 1-8. The camp is located west of Wrangell. The cost is \$199. Applications available online: [www.alaskacamps.org](http://www.alaskacamps.org).

**TLINGIT & HAIDA HEAD START** is enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year. Head Start is a free federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Apply online at [www.ccthitansn.gov/services/family/headstart](http://www.ccthitansn.gov/services/family/headstart). For more information, contact Head Start at 907-463-7127, or email [headstartenrollment@ccthitansn.gov](mailto:headstartenrollment@ccthitansn.gov).

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK** 6 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 31, at the sheltered site on Nemo Point Road. All are welcome.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@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](http://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 - 6 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. Philips Episcopal Church.

## The Way We Were

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

**July 14, 1921**

The movement which began here late in May to ask for an open season on beaver and marten for Southeast Alaska is gaining momentum, and the city council is asking other cities and towns of Southeast to help in the matter. At a meeting held by the citizens of Wrangell, resolutions set forth the fact that beaver and marten have become so plentiful that there is no longer any need for their protection, and that the damage they cause to the fishing industry is going to work a hardship on the area's residents. An open season on these animals would relieve the pressure, said a resolution sent to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The city clerk has been instructed to prepare resolutions and to send them

wherever they would help the matter.

**July 12, 1946**

Just like old times, the Farwest Cannery whistle blew Thursday morning at 7 o'clock to call its crews to work after the previous day's opening of the fishing season at Anan Creek. Many boats from town, carrying fisherman, fish buyers and sightseers, made the trip Wednesday and on returning reported Anan fishing as the best in several years. Estimates put the fish at 100,000 in the creek, and Wrangell's Farwest Cannery brought in 6,000 the first day with about the same number being brought in each day since. A total figure of the fish take from Anan was not available today, but it was reported there were 23 buyers on the grounds the opening day. Those who walked up the creek said the creek was thick with fish, which bodes for a good escapement.

**July 16, 1971**

A contract for design of a citywide sewage collection, treatment and disposal system has been awarded by the city council to a Ketchikan firm. Councilmen on Tuesday named Engineering Associates Hill, Ingman & Chase to prepare the plans. The firm, in a proposal to the city, estimated the cost of design at \$15,000. The contract also will call for preparation of applications for state and federal grants to help finance the system. City Manager

Kester Dotts said Wrangell is complying with a federal directive that calls for communities to have sewage disposal systems by 1972. Currently, Wrangell discharges raw sewage into the strait and into the harbor. Health officials have warned that the sewage is polluting area beaches. It is anticipated that state and federal grants will pay for most of the system construction.

**July 11, 1996**

This year, the Alaska legislature considered a 10-year master plan for state prisons, asking for \$219 million for expansion and renovation of the state's existing 12 prisons. Among the places mentioned as possible sites for a new prison were Adak (the former military base in the Aleutians); Delta Junction and its soon-to-be deactivated Fort Greeley; and Wrangell. Since the initial visit last year, neither state Sen. Robin Taylor nor Mayor Doug Roberts have been in contact with the private prison operator interested in operating the new facility. The proposal remains simply a possibility - one of many to bring an economic base back to Wrangell. Mayor Roberts is intrigued by the idea of building a prison on Wrangell Island, but said there are many questions that need to be answered. Would residents here support the idea? Wrangell residents will be asked for their opinions in a city community survey due out soon.



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
July 15	4:22a	9:28p	17:05h
July 16	4:23a	9:26p	17:02h
July 17	4:25a	9:25p	16:59h
July 18	4:28a	9:23p	16:56h
July 19	4:30a	9:22p	16:53h
July 20	4:31a	9:10p	16:50h
July 21	4:33a	9:18p	16:46h

# Borough will check soil for fuel leaks at power plant building

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The borough assembly on Tuesday approved spending about \$42,000 to find out how much diesel and other contaminants may have leaked into the soil around Wrangell Municipal Light and Power's generator building on Case Avenue.

The site assessment will drill down and take samples from 14 different points around the facility and the property next door to help determine if any environmental cleanup will be necessary.

The power plant houses the city's diesel generators, which serve as backup to electricity from the Tye Lake hydropower station. The older portion of the building is used for storage.

The "old concrete" portion of the building is structurally unsound, Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad wrote in a presentation for the assembly. "The newer steel frame generator building is structurally integrated into the old concrete structure, as the old building constitutes the fourth wall of the new building. A solution to the situation needs to be determined."

To find a solution to the deteriorating building, borough officials said they need to understand the environmental conditions of the property.

"The environmental conditions of these sites must be known in order to understand if

any significant environmental cleanup effort may be necessary," Al-Haddad wrote. "Both parcels have had several underground fuel storage tanks on site and there have been a few known buried fuel lines on site."

The Anchorage-based environmental consulting firm Shannon & Wilson will conduct the assessment, similar to the work it is doing at the borough's public works yard.

Assemblymember David Powell questioned why the city was paying for the power plant site assessment. It costs money, he said, and the city was looking for trouble. If they find contaminations, the borough would have to spend more money to clean up the site, he said.

Al-Haddad said the more information the borough has going into the project, the better prepared they will be. If construction began and they discovered unexpected contamination, that would bring construction to a halt and incur additional costs.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said the site assessment was part of being good stewards of public land. Plus, she added, if the borough just bulldozed and rebuilt on the property without a site assessment, there could be legal ramifications.

"If somebody comes back after the fact and says, 'There was contaminated soil there and you didn't look at it,' and you built or you did whatever, and now you have to go back in and dig it up after you've got a brand new building sitting there," she said.

"I think maybe my sensitivity to contaminated sites might be a little stronger than others, but I think that it's absolutely essential to know what you have and know your hazards," said Assemblymember Bob Dalrymple, a retired U.S. Forest Service district ranger for Wrangell.

## Industrial subdivision

Continued from page 1

"They have to have all that in place to sell the property," said Rushmore, who also serves as Wrangell's economic development director.

The roads, sewer and water will be privately owned and maintained, according to plans submitted to the borough, with two access points to the subdivision from Zimovia Highway. The Department of Transportation has approved permits for the highway access points.

The northern driveway to the subdivision would be a one-way, 30-foot-wide exit, while the southern entrance would be twice as wide and with two-way traffic, according to the latest plans presented to the borough.

"Our client intends to keep the roads and utilities in the subdivision private. No utilities or rights-of-way will be dedicated to the public with this plat. Existing overhead electric lines and poles will be removed, and all electrical lines placed underground in the private easement and access area(s)," PDC Engineers, which is working for the property owner, said in an April memo to the borough.

The site is a mix of asphalt, concrete and gravel pads, and is mostly cleared of buildings and debris, Rushmore said.

A sawmill started operations at the site in 1962. The Alaska Pulp Corp., which had

taken over the operation, closed the mill 1995, and later sold the property to Richard Buhler, of Silver Bay Logging, who operated the mill intermittently until 2008 as logs were available, according to a history written by Frank Roppel and published in the Sentinel in 2016.

"Demolition of the mill was essentially completed in 2011, with only the dock, chip-loading facility, office, and a few shop buildings remaining," Roppel wrote.

Richard Buhler died in 2016 at age 85. The property is owned by his wife, Betty Buhler, according to Rushmore's memo.

The mill dock remains, but "it is in extremely poor condition and it's falling apart," Rushmore said.

Buhler has told the borough she wants to relinquish two tidelands leases that are outside of the subdivision plan. One parcel that would revert back to the borough is near the dock, and the other is near the southern end of the subdivision, Rushmore said.

"There are some issues with the condition of the dock that needs to be dealt with prior to the lease termination," she said.

Buhler has been talking with the borough about the possibility of subdividing the land for industrial use since 2019. The land was listed for sale back in 2019, at \$2.7 million for the full 39 acres.

## New schools superintendent

Continued from page 1

back to school, Burr said, is the question of why they left in the first place. The pandemic played a big role, but families may have had other reasons they thought their children could get a better education elsewhere. Burr said that as he and the district learn more, they hope to address these issues. The end goal for the district, he said, is to be an "educationally safe" environment.

"We are hoping that our program, going forward, is educationally sound. ... It seems like I'm talking in a circle, but that the students find an educationally safe place to be. I should say students and staff, that's important also."

Burr replaced Debbe Lancaster as superintendent on July 1. He came to Wrangell from the Delta/Greely School District, where he had worked as assistant superintendent since 2014. He has also served as director of technology and as fill-in principal at the district in Alaska's Interior. The district has over 800 students.

Other challenges that Burr said he hopes to address as he settles into his new role in Wrangell include capital improvement projects to the district's aging buildings, as well as to see what digital education opportunities could work for students.

He also mentioned the introduction of a new state test-

ing system Wrangell and other school districts can look forward to this year, and to see what data can be gleaned from that.

"The assistant principals, Jenn (Miller-Yancey) and Bob (Davis), worked all last year to encourage students to return and to find what needed to be done educationally so that students felt comfortable returning," Burr said. "I know that there was a mask mandate last year, from the assembly as well as the school board. I know the assembly has lifted that, (and) the school board meets in August. But we are discussing what, educationally, the needs are of the students in the community."

### Correction

The Sentinel incorrectly identified Sean Gillen as Sean Thomas in the July 8 report on the men's champions in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament held July 2.

## COVID cases send cruise ship into quarantine

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

The first cruise ship to cancel runs through Southeast Alaska this summer due to COVID-19 cases on board is tied up in Juneau, waiting for the 10-day quarantine for the crew to end.

The 267-foot American Constellation, which was carrying 162 passengers and a crew of 52, docked in Juneau last Saturday after a day earlier letting off several people in Petersburg for medical care and quarantine.

Uninfected passengers flew home from Juneau, while the crew remains on board.

"The three individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, along with their close contacts, remain in Petersburg to isolate. Any unvaccinated crew members will quarantine aboard the ship in Juneau," the City and Borough of Juneau reported last Friday.

All of the ship's guests had

been fully vaccinated, Juneau reported, but not all of the crew.

Neither the ship operator, American Cruise Lines, nor the Juneau borough reported the mix of passengers and crew among the three COVID-19 cases, though the company said two of the infected people had been fully vaccinated.

"The City and Borough of Juneau Emergency Operation Center — in coordination with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and Juneau Public Health — is working closely with American Cruise Lines on a testing plan for the unvaccinated crew during their quarantine on the ship," the borough said.

The Constellation's scheduled stop in Wrangell last Sunday was canceled as the ship headed north to Juneau instead.

The ship's next voyage, which was scheduled to start on July 14, has been cancelled.

The 4-year-old Constellation started its Southeast Alaska cruises in early June, and is scheduled to operate into September.

Though the first case in the outbreak was discovered last Thursday, American Cruise Lines allowed passengers to leave the boat the next morning in Petersburg for tourist activities because the travelers were all fully vaccinated, according to a media release from the Petersburg Medical Center.

Then two more cases were reported on board the ship on Friday and all three stayed behind in Petersburg to isolate. The cruise operator also left a representative in Petersburg.

"American resumed domestic small ship cruise operations in March and since then has carried over 10,000 passengers aboard 130 U.S. cruises without incident," the cruise line said in a prepared statement.

First Bank's 19th Annual

# GOLF

Tournament

Sat and Sun  
July 17 & 18

9 am Registration  
10 am Start

\$50,000  
hole-in-one prize!

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Member FDIC  
For more information and registration, call Muskeg Meadows in Wrangell at 874-4653



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The one who's here.

# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## Alaskans need to understand budget facts

By LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

Could anything be more difficult than getting the Alaska Legislature to settle on a workable, affordable, sustainable fiscal plan for the state?

Yes. Getting a clear majority of Alaskans to accept the reality and the need for a workable, affordable, sustainable fiscal plan for the state probably is more difficult – and yet it has to come first.

Most legislators understand the numbers, even if they disagree or dislike the math and the choices. Many just need a permission slip from their constituents to take the tough votes, especially on the Permanent Fund dividend.

But Alaskans? We're as divided as two feuding neighbors fighting over whose dog left the bigger mess on the lawn. Rather than just cleaning up the mess, they keep walking around it as they argue.

A poll of Alaskans in June, commissioned by the state House majority caucus, found the public split-down-the-middle divided on the question: "If putting the PFD in the constitution meant that the state would need to make deeper cuts to state spending and services, would you support or oppose a state constitutional amendment to guarantee payment of the Permanent Fund dividend each year?"

Precisely 48% said they would support deep cuts and 48% said they would not. That's as close as a middle seat in the back of a full flight.

Sadly, however, many of the answers in the poll are based on false information.

More Alaskans said they believe the state gets more revenue from oil than from Permanent Fund investments. Wrong. The state gets about twice as much revenue from the fund's earnings as it does from oil. No wonder so many Alaskans think we can afford to put the dividend into the constitution, and everything will be OK if legislators just trim a bit from spending. They can't hear the echo coming from

the hollow trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

The false belief that Alaska is still an oil-revenue state puts the Permanent Fund in jeopardy. Gov. Mike Dunleavy has proposed adding a formula to the Alaska constitution that would pay out a PFD of almost double the average of the past 10 years. For that to happen, the state either has to start withdrawing more money from the Permanent Fund than it can earn over time, reducing the account's value and shorting future generations, or Alaskans have to accept large cuts to public services.

And probably a state sales or income tax.

The state had an income tax from 1949 to 1979, until oil started flowing. But oil production has declined more than 75% from its peak. At the same time, the state's population that needs schools and other services has almost doubled. No taxes, less oil, more people needing more services – no wonder we're broke.

To cover big PFD checks from a constitutional amendment without new taxes, we'd have to take the knife to schools, municipal aid, road maintenance, health services and, yes, no doubt many would want to go after the ferry system, which gets about as much political love from the governor and many Southcentral legislators as a swarm of mosquitos.

What this means is that until more Alaskans hear and accept the factual information, they're not about to tell their legislators it's time to make honest decisions on state finances. The most ill-informed Alaskans on that revenue question in the poll were people under age 34, Republicans, men, and residents of Southcentral and the Interior – and Southcentral voters elect more legislators than any other region of the state.

Alaskans need to get that information from credible sources who know what they're talking about, not some Facebook rant, political campaign ad or ill-informed elected official.

Alaska needs honest leadership, and we need to listen.

## Former student says Institute was positive

By MICKEY ALLEN

Many things were said of Wrangell Institute – many bad words, but not in my storied experience.

In 1950, I was sent to the Wrangell Institute when I was 8 years old. Prior to Wrangell, I had gone to first grade in the villages of Kokrines, Galena and Nenana, but never completed a full year of school due to the family trapline and seasonal moving about as part of a nomadic lifestyle.

Finally, my first year at the Wrangell Institute, I got through first grade.

Lately, I have been seeing a lot of perplexing information regarding boarding schools of years past and I gave it some

thought as to which is true.

Many of Wrangell's students came from all over Alaska, and countless students spoke their Native language. While many of us did not, I learned bits of other languages. I have personally heard stories of students getting punished for speaking their Native language when I know for a fact that some of them did not speak their Native language to begin with.

More notably, I did not see anyone get punished for talking in their language.

In the early 1950s, some students with bad character were given a choice to go into a correctional facility or go to Wrangell. Those who chose

Wrangell were some rough students whose only regard were themselves, so when they did bad things. As a result, the whole dormitory suffered the consequences.

I remember my whole dormitory being put on restriction due to these bad guys. Superintendent W.S. Watkins put a stop to those type of guys showing up in Wrangell. I know, personally, some of these guys ended up in federal prison at McNeil Island.

Wrangell's correctional measures varied per offensive behavior. For example, the strapline was more humiliating than any physical harm of

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# EDITORIAL

## COVID isn't out of sight, nor should it be out of mind

Life is returning toward normal, but it isn't normal yet. COVID-19 is still infecting people, putting some in the hospital and killing Alaskans.

The state reported four more deaths Thursday through Sunday last week, bringing the number of Alaskans killed by the virus to at least 374.

Last Friday, Sitka reported its worst COVID-19 outbreak since December, with five new infections, making a dozen new cases in just two days. And then 11 more were reported on Monday. Nearly all of Sitka's recent cases have been among people who were not vaccinated.

The state reported that 46 people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases were hospitalized in Alaska as of Monday, up more than 50% since last Friday.

It's not just Alaskans who are getting infected. The American Constellation, which can carry up to 170 passengers, docked in Juneau last Saturday for 10 days in quarantine after three passengers and crew members tested positive for COVID-19. The ill travelers remained behind in Petersburg, in quarantine. Passengers flew home from Juneau while crew remained quarantined aboard the ship.

The ship canceled a stop in Wrangell due to the change in plans.

State officials report that case counts in Alaska have been moving higher the past three weeks. They said the increase is likely due to the highly contagious Delta variant first identified in India in December and in Alaska in May. The variant will soon become the dominant strain in the state, said Dr. Joe McLaughlin, the state's epidemiologist.

Meanwhile, Alaska, which was once a leader in the nation in vaccination rates, is now down to No. 28 among the states. About 56% of Alaska's population over age 12 had received at least their first vaccine dose, state officials reported Monday.

Wrangell was at 61%. Good, but we can do better. We need to do better for our health and the health of our families, friends and neighbors.

The coronavirus does not care about your political or religious beliefs, or how healthy you may eat or how much you exercise. Or whether you voted for Donald Trump, Joe Biden, or whether you think Facebook is the best thing since Johannes Gutenberg perfected the printing press in Germany in 1450.

The virus just looks for a warm body and sets up a shop.

So get a shot and shut down the shop before it shuts down your good health.

– Wrangell Sentinel

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Stikine Stitchers say thanks

Thank you to the businesses that participated in the Stikine Stitchers 4th of July quilt show.

Joan Benjamin

## Island of Faith grateful for camp support

The Island of Faith Lutheran Church would like to thank everyone who so generously supported our fundraising bake sales for youth headed to Glacier Bible Camp.

Thanks also to City Market for providing space for our table. Because of all of you, our young people will have a rich and faith-filled camp experience this summer.

With a grateful heart, thank you.

Pastor Sue Bahleda

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# Scoping underway for Mt. Dewey trail extension

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

With over \$450,000 in promised federal funding, the city will spend the next few months scoping out a possible extension of the Mt. Dewey trail.

"There are so many conditions or issues at play that affect our timeline," Amber Al-Haddad, Wrangell capital facilities director, said. "Assuming we got that money in short order we would move forward and pursue the full engineering design of the project. ... Our best case would be to see this project constructed in the summer of 2022."

The proposed extension would connect to the trail somewhere along the mountain, Al-Haddad said. It would then go down the backside of the mountain and behind the industrial park. It would let out onto Bennett Street, near Ishiyama Drive, she said, where the city hopes to develop trail parking for vehicles.

Additionally, if there is enough funding, she said the city is considering making a connecting trail between Ishiyama Drive and the Volunteer Park trail, as well as an off-road parking near the end of the drive.

The Mt. Dewey project has

been on the table for years. Al-Haddad said the city received approval for the trail extension back in 2014 through the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The program offered Wrangell \$457,577 for the project, but the funding would only become available in the future.

"The way the FLAP operates is they will indicate your project has been selected for award but with a future award date and availability of funding," Al-Haddad said. "In 2014 we were notified our project was selected for funding in 2018."

However, with so much time having gone by, Al-Haddad said they need to take another look at the trail extension and really figure out design scenarios and costs. This scoping work will look at different routes the trail could take, wetland mitigation, construction methods and estimated costs among other aspects of the project.

"We originally projected it (the extension) to be approximately 4,100 feet, or you could call it 0.8 miles long, or something like that," Al-Haddad said, but added that these numbers could grow or shrink depending on the outcomes of the scoping project.

## Wrangell Institute

Continued from page 4

being struck with a belt. I know some of the boys who ran the strapline for bad behavior and they weren't hurt. Two guys that ran the line were laughing when it was over.

I know of older boys who got caught smoking cigarettes. Four guys had to walk around a pool table to receive three punishing swats with a broom stick. One amusing wrongdoer had a Life magazine tucked inside his pants to absorb the broomstick swats. Jayne Mansfield was on the magazine cover, and the other students sure got a kick out of that scene; no tears shed by the wrongdoer.

If students just obeyed the school's rules and had done good things, then all went smoothly.

Back in the early 1950s, a lot of the Alaska Native Wrangell Institute students were orphans without a home to go to. I arrived there when I was 8 and I did not return home to my mother and stepfather in Nenana until I was soon to be 12 years old.

The Institute was a must-go for me because my family lived way out in the woods, trapping for a living, and I had no school close by, which was common in those days. I graduated eighth

grade in Wrangell.

In looking back to my boarding school years, the Wrangell Institute was good for me academically. I learned extracurriculars like dance, was on the student council, and I had an excellent basketball coach and teacher, John H. Simpson. Coach Simpson understood us Native boys, and I learned a lot of lifetime skills by participating in as many school functions as possible.

Another great teacher was J. Lester Minner. I was tested in the seventh grade to see how I was doing in school academically, and I achieved a score equivalent to the 11th- to 12th-grade level. Wrangell definitely was good for me.

To sum my lived experience at the Wrangell Institute, my life there was very positive and was not full of false stories as declared in some stories I had read. The best and most positive aspect of Wrangell Institute is this: I acquired very good, lasting friendships from all over Alaska.

*Mickey Allen of Fairbanks is a former diesel technology teacher at Hutchison High School and a lifelong Alaska.*

# Baha'i summer camp starts Monday

The Baha'is of Wrangell are offering a summer "virtues camp" for children ages 5 to 10, covering moderation, unity, beauty, speech, love and wonder.

The six sessions will be held 11 a.m. to noon Mondays and Tuesdays, July 19 through Aug. 3, at the community center, with music, art and games planned for noon to 1:30 p.m. after each

session. Participants may select one or some or all of the sessions.

The summer camp is free, with a light lunch provided, and is open to everyone.

Campers are advised to bring a water bottle. To register, or for more information, call Kay Larson at 907-209-9117.

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PHOTO BY VINCENT BALANSAG, OF VINCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Britni Birchell (left) and Geoffrey Gillen were among the high-speed boaters competing in Wrangell's Fourth of July boat races. Birchell was the only entrant from Petersburg in the event, according to race organizers.

## Easterlys take first place in 4th of July boat races

By SENTINEL STAFF

Randy Easterly took the top spot in the unlimited-horsepower competition in the Fourth of July boat races over the 1,800-foot-long course in front of the City Dock, with Wayne Easterly winning first place in the limited competition for 115-horsepower and under.

The limited and unlimited races were double-elimination, head-to-head competition.

Brandon Kenfield won the jet slalom race, a timed event.

This year's winners were:

### Jet slalom

1<sup>st</sup>, Brandon Kenfield, 20.94 seconds; \$500

2<sup>nd</sup>, Britni Birchell, 35:16 seconds; \$300

### Limited

1<sup>st</sup>, Wayne Easterly; \$750

2<sup>nd</sup>, Sean Gillen; \$400

### Unlimited

1<sup>st</sup>, Randy Easterly; \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup>, Eric Werner; \$700

3<sup>rd</sup>, Gary Allen Jr.; \$450

4<sup>th</sup>, Dustin Phillips; \$250

5<sup>th</sup>, Brandon Kenfield; \$150

### Rooster Tail

Judged by crowd response as the People's Choice.

Sean Gillen; \$400

The annual race is sponsored by Stikine River Rats Racing.

Organizer Marjy Ripley Woods said they get a lot of questions asking why the race course is a straightaway, rather than an oval or something similar. "It is an insurance issue," she said. "The sprint course is all we can get insured for through the various companies that even insure an event like this."

## Rob Cross wins Tongass ToughMan

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The third annual Tongass ToughMan triathlon drew 22 competitors to swim, bike and run through Wrangell, with Rob Cross logging the best solo time of 7 hours, 54 minutes and 40 seconds.

After sparse turnout last year, the July 3 event this year attracted almost as many competitors as 2019.

The triathlon results:

### Solo

Rob Cross, 7:54:50

Patrick Howell, 9:11:00

Robbie Rooney, 12:45:00

Senoe Harris (completed swim and bike but not the run)

### Team

Jackie McMahon, Ceona Koch and Jason Rooney, 8:39:30

Jimmy Nelson and Chadd Yoder, 8:42:35

Sage Smiley, Mitchell Feske and Jonas Crabtree, 9:00:35

Kate Thomas, Angie Flickinger and Alex Freericks, 11:02:15

Organizer Nic Howell said he and fellow organizer Ceona Koch worked out some of the kinks from last year. For example, this year swimmers were taken out from the dock by boat and then swam back, rather than have them swim out and then back. The change

helped things go much more smoothly, he said.

"I am really happy that it was such a perfect day for swimming," said Sage Smiley, one of the participants. "Everything fell together so well."

With the success of the 2021 ToughMan, Howell said he is excited for next year and is planning for bigger and better things.

"Now I feel comfortable opening it up and trying to make a bigger event out of it, bringing in people from out of town," he said. "Something we hope to add next year is a smaller kids' triathlon."

## Big turnout for target competition

By SENTINEL STAFF

The Fourth of July target competition, held July 3 at the gun range, saw a big turnout. According to organizer Allen Rooney, 69 people came out to shoot and test their skills.

The results of the competition are:

### Boys

Gavin Dabrowski, 34 points

Jace Felix, 32 points

Gavin Hunt, 30 points

### Girls

Braidyn Young, 23 points

Kiara Harrison, 17 points

Peyton Paulo-Sambito, 15 points

### Men

John Bunes, 45 points

Jean-Luc Lewis, 44 points

John Felix, 42 points

### Women

Jeanie Littlejohn, 27 points

Leslie Richard, 20 points

Jan Wiederspohn, 18 points



## Library turns the page back toward normal

By SENTINEL STAFF

Though the library is not completely closing the book on pandemic protocols, the numbers are up and "the kids are coming in," with 153 registered for the summer reading program, said Margaret Villarma, director at the Irene Ingle Public Library.

That's just a small drop from the roughly 170 summer readers of 2019, pre-pandemic.

"It feels like we're pretty much back," she said.

The summer reading program will end July 31, with an in-person pool party planned for Aug. 7. "We've always had this pool pizza party," Villarma said. Always, that is, except for last year.

The library has not dropped all of its pandemic safety protocols. The library may split the pool party into two gatherings, to allow more space. And though staff asks children under 12 — who are too young to receive a COVID-19 vaccination — to wear a mask, they do not refuse to admit those who decline, Villarma said.

"We wear them here ... to

show our support" for the kids who wear masks, she said.

A lot of adults still wear masks to the library.

The building is open noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The library still has a one-hour time limit on patrons, to ensure the building does not get too crowded.

The library continues to make its seven computers

available to the public — four desktop units and three laptops, with a printer people can use.

For those who just need an internet connection, the library's Wi-Fi is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the parking lot and even as far as the covered area in front of the building. "You drive by at 10 p.m. and you can see people" in the lot, using the signal, Villarma said.

## Rally for Cancer Care

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# Lawmakers work on fiscal plan, but PFD is the deadline question

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

Alaska lawmakers are scheduled to reconvene in another special session in just over two weeks to consider a long-term fiscal plan for the state — and to set the amount of this fall's Permanent Fund dividend.

The Aug. 2 start date for the special session could be delayed by legislative agreement with the governor, or the session could drag on all month. The dominating deadline will come sometime in September, when the Department of Revenue will need to know the amount of the PFD payment, which usually is issued the first week of October.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy called legislators into their third spe-

cial session this summer to consider his multiple proposals for the state's fiscal future covering spending, use of Permanent Fund earnings, and possibly taxes.

Then after vetoing the dividend approved by lawmakers last month, saying it was too small, Dunleavy also wants lawmakers to redo their PFD decision during the special session.

Before they adjourned last month from their second special session, the House decided to set up a House-Senate, majority-minority working group to come up with recommendations for a state fiscal plan. The eight-member group met last week and was scheduled to meet again this week, though the pace may be insufficient to

reach a recommendation for the start of the session Aug. 2.

Sen. Lyman Hoffman, co-chair of the group, said legislative leaders are committed to having the House and Senate act on the group's recommendations.

"I would like to remind the people of Alaska, the House of Representatives and the senators, and especially the members of this committee: We have the opportunity to have the battle. We may not all win it. But at the end of the day, we should accept what work has been done," said Hoffman, of Bethel.

The state has been grappling with budget deficits for most of the past 30 years as oil production has declined and the cost of public services has

increased.

The Legislature has scaled back the annual Permanent Fund dividend in recent years to conserve enough cash to cover public services, while voting in 2018 to limit annual withdrawals from the fund's earnings to pay for the dividend and the rest of the budget.

Dunleavy wants lawmakers to consider his proposals next month for a constitutional amendment to limit state spending and a constitutional amendment to prohibit new state taxes without voter approval. He also has said he will offer new revenue measures for legislative consideration but has provided no examples other than suggesting maybe it's time to open up Alaska for

gambling, from which the state would take a cut.

Separate from whatever the governor may suggest, the legislative work group was tasked with coming up with its own recommendations aimed at providing "fiscal certainty" for Alaska, including a balanced budget and resolving the lingering dividend dis-

Continued on page 8

## Police report

### Monday, July 5

Citizen assist.  
Theft.  
Burglary.  
Found property.  
Dog complaint.  
Search and rescue.  
Harassment: Fireworks.  
Motor vehicle accident.  
Found property.  
Attempted theft.  
Fireworks compliant.  
Agency assist: Ambulance.  
Agency assist: Ambulance.

### Tuesday, July 6

Traffic stop.  
Abandoned truck.  
Traffic complaint.  
Traffic complaint.  
Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers for traffic stop.  
Harassment.  
Disturbance.

### Wednesday, July 7

Agency assist: EMTs, to assist a person who had fallen in their home; no injuries.  
Parking complaint.  
Agency assist: Sexual assault.  
Agency assist: EMTs, to assist a person who had fallen in their home; no injuries.  
Welfare check.  
Animal complaint: Dead deer on side of road by the old 6-Mile mill.  
Agency assist: Wasilla Police Department.

### Thursday, July 8

Nothing to report.

### Friday, July 9

Citizen assist.  
Theft: Cruise-a-Day fuel tank from a boat.  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.  
Dog complaining: Citation issued for dog at large.  
Fireworks.

### Saturday, July 10

Theft: Unfound.  
Found property.  
Traffic stop: Citation issued for crossing white line and driving on the shoulder.

### Sunday, July 11

Traffic stop.  
Bar fight.  
Deer complaint.  
Dog complaint.  
Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.

During this reporting period there were nine agency assists for the Hoonah Police Department and 21 subpoenas served.

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# OBITUARIES

## Service for Frank Teague on July 27

"It is with deepest sorrow that we announce the passing of Edward Franklin Teague, beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather who passed away in Bend, Oregon, surrounded by family, on June 6, 2021," his family wrote.

"Anyone who ever met Frank knew he was a master storyteller. Frank was never happier than when he was holding court over morning coffee or during happy hour on the back of the boat entertaining everyone with his stories. Like all great storytellers the stories had a little fact, a little fiction, but no matter how many times you heard them they made you laugh. Spend enough time with Frank and you'd know his whole life. He had stories for it all."

He was an exceptional athlete as a young man, and he and his football teammates never lost a game. Drafted into the Army out of high school during the Korean War, he was sent to Alaska where his unit built the phone lines connecting Anchorage to Valdez.

"When confronted with the choice of reenlisting to leave Alaska or staying, Alaska became his home. It was in Valdez at the end of his time in the Army that Frank met the love of his life, Janet," his family wrote. On July 1, 1955, Frank and Janet were married, beginning a partnership which would last 64



Edward Franklin Teague

years until Janet passed in March 2020.

He spent the first half of his life as a truck driver at Weaver Brothers, working for his father-in-law, Russell Weaver. "Frank safely drove more than one million accident-free miles from Anchorage to Seattle and then Anchorage to Prudhoe Bay once construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline began. Frank was proud of being an Alaskan and the role he played in the growth of the home he loved as both a soldier and truck driver."

When Frank retired from trucking, he realized a lifelong dream of buying a boat and becoming a commercial fisherman. "With his wife at his side, Frank and Janet moved to Wrangell, spending the next 30 years plying the waters of Southeast Alaska. Their days were spent sometimes fishing, sometimes sightseeing, but always together and that was what mattered most."

"Frank is once again with Janet."

He is survived by his children: Dorothy, Rick, Joan and Pat; seven grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. "He is missed deeply by them."

A funeral service will be held for Frank and his wife Janet, who passed away on March 15, 2020, at 2 p.m. July 27 at St. Philips Episcopal Church. A reception will follow.

## Bill Churchill dies at 88

William I. "Bill" Churchill Sr. died July 8 at the Wrangell Medical Center.

The lifelong Wrangell resident was 88 years old. He had worked as a tugboat captain, and was well known for his carving and

Native artwork.

A memorial service is planned for Aug. 14 in Wrangell.

A full obituary will follow in the July 22 Sentinel.

# No new count from Dunleavy recall effort

By Becky Bohrer  
The Associated Press

A group seeking Gov. Mike Dunleavy's ouster has yet to gather enough signatures to force a recall election, nearly two years after getting started and with just over a year before the 2022 primary election.

Recall Dunleavy Chair Meda DeWitt said the organization was slowed by the pandemic last year but still continues to gather signatures. She said its leaders are expected to meet soon, though she declined to say when.

The last update on the recall group's website is dated April 26 and showed 57,897 signatures collected. DeWitt said the group is going through an auditing process to "make sure we know what we have, very specifically."

A total of 71,252 valid signatures is needed to qualify for a recall election.

"Can I tell you that we're going to submit all of our signatures to the Division of Elections on X-day? No, I cannot tell you that right now," DeWitt said.

The effort was ignited in 2019 by public outrage over cuts proposed by Dunleavy, a Republican, during his first year in office. Supporters of the recall quickly gathered signatures for an initial phase. But their application was rejected, spawning a legal fight, and then the pandemic hit.

The Alaska Supreme Court in May 2020 ruled the recall effort could proceed. It had earlier allowed the group to

begin the last round of signature-gathering while it weighed the case.

Dunleavy has not yet said whether he will seek reelection next year.

Cynthia Henry, chair of the pro-Dunleavy group Keep Dunleavy, said if there is a recall election, "we will be well positioned to run a campaign to keep the governor in his office."

Under state law, a recall petition must be filed at least 180 days before the end of a governor's term, which in this case would make the deadline June 8, 2022, said Tiffany Montemayor, a spokesperson for the state Division of Elections.

The division has up to 30 days to review a petition. If it finds the paperwork meets requirements, it would notify the petitioners and Dunleavy, and an election would be held 60 to 90 days later, she wrote in an email.

The primary election is scheduled for Aug. 16, 2022. Under a voter initiative passed last year, it would be an open primary, with the top four vote getters advancing to the general election. A legal challenge to the system set up by the initiative is pending.

Lindsay Kavanaugh, executive director of the Alaska Democratic Party, said the party has supported the recall effort. And while there is value in continuing the effort, at some point recall leaders may need to ask whether it's drawing attention and resources from other candidates, Kavanaugh said.

# Legislature

Continued from page 7

pute. A Dunleavy spokesperson said it remains the governor's intent to have the special session start Aug. 2, though some work group members and legislative leaders have suggested the date could be moved if the group needed more time to come up with a plan.

Southeast has two members on the work group: Juneau Sen. Jesse Kiehl, and Sitka Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, who serves as co-chair.

Speaking at a town hall in Haines on July 9, Kiehl reminded constituents that while

lawmakers will set the dividend when they reconvene in special session, "it has to be a PFD we can afford." Whatever goes out in the dividend has to leave enough money in the state checkbook for schools, public safety, roads, "the things we all need."

He expects the Legislature also will find a solution to another mess left on the table after the last session — the loss of state funding for college

scholarships and financial assistance to residents in rural communities with high-cost electric bills.

It will require a three-quarters majority vote of both the House and Senate to restore those accounts, which will require compromise that eluded lawmakers last month when they failed to muster the necessary number of votes.

That failure to achieve a three-quarters majority sup-

port for the entire spending plan also left Alaskans with a \$525 PFD for this fall, which would have been \$1,100 if the vote had passed to draw on other savings. The governor called \$525 a joke and vetoed the entire amount, telling legislators to make it bigger when they meet in August.

Dunleavy has advocated for a PFD of around \$2,400, about double of the past 10 years.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Clayton Smalley. You are notified that the court has appointed a personal representative of the estate of Clayton Smalley, born November 20, 1957, died June 26, 2021. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Case No. 1PW-21-00024PR  
Sherrie Carlson  
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Forks, WA 98331  
360-461-5525  
sher.carlson1956@gmail.com

Publish July 15, 22 and 29, 2021

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- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed and include an address, phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

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*The Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 PM or Thursday publication.*

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# Tribes disagree on benefits versus harm of oil production

By MATTHEW BROWN  
and Felicia Fonseca  
The Associated Press

NEW TOWN, N.D. - On oil well pads carved from the wheat fields around Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota, hundreds of pump jacks slowly bob to extract 100 million barrels of crude annually from a reservation shared by three Native American tribes.

About half their 16,000 members live on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation atop one of the biggest U.S. oil discoveries in decades: The Bakken shale formation.

The drilling rush has brought the tribes unimagined wealth — more than \$1.5 billion and counting — and they hope it will last another 20 to 25 years. The boom also propelled an almost tenfold spike in oil production from Native American lands since 2009, federal data shows, complicating efforts by President Joe Biden to curb carbon emissions.

Burning of oil from tribal lands overseen by the U.S. government now produces greenhouse gases equivalent to about 12 million vehicles a year, according to an Associated Press analysis. But Biden exempted Native American lands from a suspension of new oil and gas



AP PHOTO/MATTHEW BROWN

**Joseph McNeil Jr., manager of Standing Rock's energy authority, looks over the site of the proposed 235-megawatt Anpetu Wi (Morning Light) wind farm in the Porcupine Hills on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation near Fort Yates, North Dakota. Tribal officials predict the project could power roughly 94,000 homes and could double their annual revenue — just as oil has benefited other tribes.**

leases on government-managed land in deference to tribes' sovereign status.

With tribal lands now producing more than 3% of U.S. oil and huge reserves untapped, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland — the first Native American to lead a U.S. cabinet-level agency — faces competing pressures to help a small number of tribes develop their fossil fuels while also addressing climate change that affects all Native communities.

"We're one of the few tribes that have elected to develop our energy resources. That's our

right," tribal Chairman Mark Fox told AP at the opening of a Fort Berthold museum and cultural center built with oil revenue. "We can develop those resources and do it responsibly so our children and grandchildren for the next 100 years have somewhere to live."

Smallpox nearly wiped out the region's Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes in the mid-1800s. They lost most of their territory to broken treaties — and a century later, their best remaining lands along the Missouri River were flooded when the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created Lake Sakakawea.

With dozens of villages uprooted, many people moved to a replacement community above the lake — New Town. Today, leaders of the three tribes view oil as their salvation and want to keep drilling before it's depleted and the world moves past fossil fuels.

And they want the Biden administration to speed up drilling permits and fend off efforts to shut down a pipeline carrying most reservation oil to refineries.

Yet tribes left out of the drilling boom have become outspoken against fossil fuels as climate change worsens. One is the Standing Rock Sioux about 100 miles to the south.

Home to the Dakota and Lakota nations, Standing Rock gained prominence during a months-long standoff between law enforcement and protesters, including tribal officials, who tried to shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline that carries Fort Berthold crude.

A judge revoked the pipeline's government permit because of inadequate environmental analysis and allowed crude to flow during a new review. But Standing Rock wants the administration to halt the oil for good, fearing a pipeline break could contaminate its drinking water.

Meantime, attention surrounding the skirmish provided the Sioux with foundation backing to develop a wind farm in Porcupine Hills, an area of scrub oak and buffalo grass with cattle ranches.

The pipeline fight stirs bitter memories in Fawn Wasin Zi, a teacher who chairs the Standing Rock renewable power authority. She grew up hearing her father and grandmother tell about a government dam that created Lake Oahe — how they had to leave their home then watch government agents burn it, only to be denied housing, electricity and other promised compensation.

Wasin Zi, whose ancestors followed legendary Lakota leader Sitting Bull, wants to ensure the tribe doesn't fall victim yet again to a changing world, where fossil fuels warm the planet and bring drought and wildfire.

"We have to find a way to use the technology that's available right now, whether it's geothermal or solar or wind," she said.

Only a dozen of the 326 tribal reservations produce significant oil, according to a drilling analysis provided to AP by S&P Global Platts.

Biden's nominee to oversee them as assistant secretary for Indian affairs, Bryan Newland, recently told a U.S. Senate committee the administration recognizes the importance of oil and gas to some reservations and pledged to let tribes determine resource development.

However, Fort Berthold still reels from ills oil brought — worse crime and drugs, tanker truck traffic, road fatalities, spills of oil and wastewater. Tribal members lament that stars are lost in the glare of flaring waste gas from wells.

Yet oil brought positive changes, too. As the tribes' col-

fers fattened, dozens of projects got underway. The reservation now boasts new schools, senior centers, parks, civic centers, health and drug rehab facilities. Oil money is building a \$26 million greenhouse complex heated by electricity from gas otherwise wasted.

The \$30 million cultural center in New Town pieces together the tribes' fractured past through displays and artifacts. A sound studio captures stories from elders who lived through dam construction and flooding along the Missouri. And one exhibit traces the oil boom after fracking allowed companies to tap reserves once too difficult to drill.

"Our little town, New Town, changed overnight," said the MHA Nation Interpretive Center Director Delphine Baker. "We never had traffic lights growing up. It's like I moved to a different town."

Lower on the Missouri, Standing Rock grapples with high energy costs. There's no oil worth extracting, no gas or coal. The biggest employer beside tribal government is a casino, where revenue plummeted during the pandemic.

"There's nothing here. No jobs. Nothing," said Donald Whitelighting Jr., who lives in Cannon Ball, near the Dakota Access Pipeline protest.

Whitelighting, who cares for his mother in a modest home, said he pays up to \$500 a month for electricity in winter. Utility costs, among North Dakota's highest, severely strain a reservation officials say has 40% poverty and 75% unemployment.

The tribe hopes its wind project, Anpetu Wi, meaning "morning light," will help. Officials predict its 235 megawatts — enough for roughly 94,000 homes — would double their annual revenue and fund benefits like those Fort Berthold derives from oil — housing, health care, more jobs.

Standing Rock's power authority can directly negotiate aspects of the project. Yet it needs Interior approval because the U.S. holds tribal lands in trust.

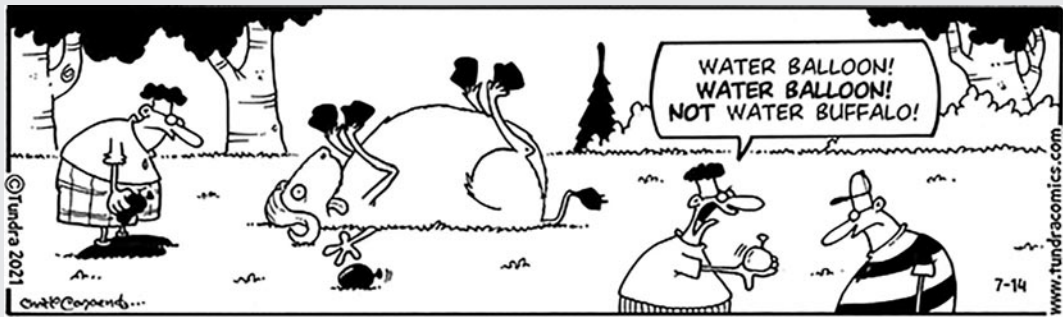
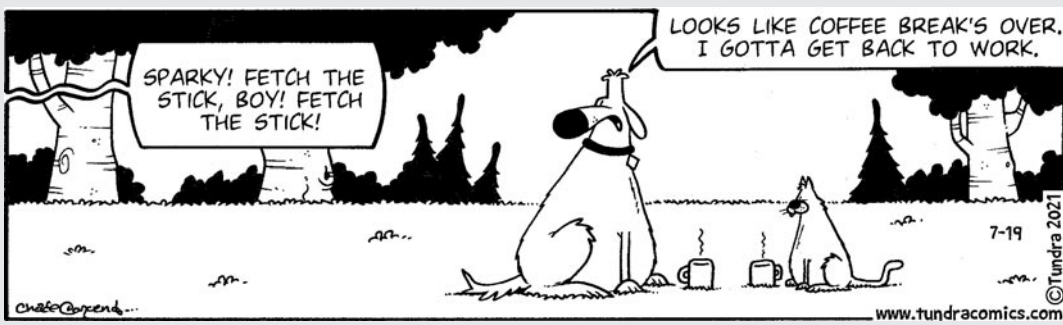
Outside North Dakota, tribes with oil — the Osage in Oklahoma, the Navajo in the Southwest and Native corporations in Alaska — also are pushing the Biden administration to cede power over energy development, including letting tribes conduct environmental reviews.

A Navajo company's operations in the Aneth field in southern Utah has considered expanding into federal land in New Mexico and Colorado. Biden's attempts to suspend new leases could slow those plans, and it's considering helium production as an option.

In northern Oklahoma, the Osage have been drilling oil for more than a century.

Cognizant of global warming and shifting energy markets, they are pondering renewables, too. For now, they want the Biden administration to speed up drilling permits.

"We are looking at what is going to be best for us," said Everett Waller, chairman of the tribe's energy regulator. "I wasn't given a wind turbine. I was given an oil field to protect."



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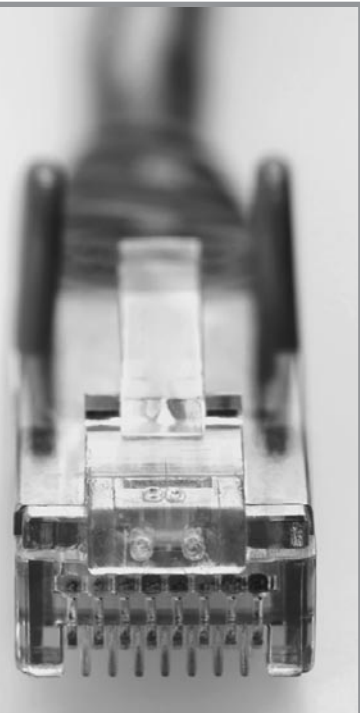
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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Strong start to sockeye at Bristol Bay; Norton Sound chums a bust

“Unprecedented” is how fishery managers are describing sockeye catches at Bristol Bay, which topped one million fish for seven days straight at the Nushagak district last week and neared the two million mark on several days.

By July 9, Alaska’s statewide sockeye salmon catch was approaching 32 million, of which more than 25 million came from Bristol Bay. The only other region getting good sockeye catches was the Alaska Peninsula, where nearly 4.6 million reds were landed so far.

Statewide, the big numbers will be pinks, which run in distinct two-year cycles, with odd years being stronger. The pre-season forecast calls for a total Alaska harvest of 124.2 million pinks this summer.

The timing for peak pink harvests is still several weeks away. Likewise for chums, and

most cohos will arrive in mid-August.

Alaska salmon managers are projecting the 2021 statewide salmon catch to top 190 million fish, a 61% increase over last year’s take of about 118 million. By July 9, the statewide catch for all species had topped 41 million fish.

There is still lots of fishing left to go and so far, the most sluggish catches were coming out of Southeast, where only 258,000 salmon were landed by last week.

On the Yukon River, summer chum salmon returns are the lowest on record and state managers will request a disaster declaration for the second year in a row.

### Norton Sound primes for pinks

Chums also are a bust at Norton Sound, where the runs have dropped to less than 5%

of what is typical each summer.

“Right now, we don’t see any chum salmon openings. Something happened in the ocean that really knocked them down for this stretch,” said Jim Menard, regional manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Nome.

Menard told radio station KNOM that low chum runs have been occurring throughout Western Alaska in general, and it could be a side effect of the high numbers of pink salmon that have been surging into the region.

“Five years running we’ve had incredible pink salmon runs. And the even-numbered year pink runs in Norton Sound are a lot bigger than the odd-numbered years,” Menard said, adding that pink returns to the region’s rivers have skyrocketed to well over 10 million fish.

The shift in fish means a small fleet of Norton Sound purse seiners will test the waters for a new pink salmon fishery this summer. It will be a first try with seine fishing for humpies so far north, and Icicle Seafoods is lined up to buy

all the pinks that the local boats pull in.

“If it’s possible to target pinks without adversely affecting the important subsistence and gillnet fleets, this pink salmon fishery warrants pursuing,” Menard said.

As far as the appearance of so many pinks, fish managers say it’s all about the food.

“They’re definitely the colonizers, for sure,” said Sam Rabung, director of the depart-

ment’s commercial fisheries division. “I’ve had calls from people on the North Slope asking about fisheries because pink salmon are showing up there. I don’t know that they’re going to persist because it still freezes up there, and so the eggs that are deposited in those rivers won’t generally survive. But they’re trying.”

As ocean waters warm,

**Continued on page 11**

### NOTICE OF SALE OF VESSEL

In the United States District Court  
for the District of Alaska at Anchorage

Peter Pan Seafoods LLC, Plaintiff,  
Amak Towing Company, Inc. Plaintiff-Intervenor,  
v.  
Lady Gudny, Official No. 615085, its Engines, Machinery,  
Appurtenances, etc., In Rem, et al., Defendants,  
Kristjan B Laxfoss, Cross-Claimant,  
Lady Gudney, Official No. 615085, et. al. Cross-Defendants.  
In Admiralty Case No. 3:20-cv-00040-SLG

The U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska ordered on June 17, 2021, that the vessel LADY GUDNY and all of its electronic, mechanical, hydraulic and other equipment, gear, furniture, apparel, fixtures, tackle, boats, machinery, anchors and all appurtenances, whether then owned or later acquired, whether on board or not, be sold by the U.S. Marshal as is, where is, free and clear of any liens, claims, maritime liens, rights in rem, rights of redemption or encumbrances whatsoever.

The sale of the vessel, which is now lying at Wrangell Harbor, Wrangell, AK 99929, shall be held on July 16, 2021 at 1 p.m. at the main lobby of the Anchorage Federal Courthouse located on 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, at the 7th Avenue entrance to the building. The sale will be conducted in accord with Local Admiralty Rule (e)-14. The sale will be to the highest bidder. Bidders must be qualified to document vessels under United States law as provided by 46 U.S.C. §31329. Payments must be made in cash or certified or cashier’s check.

Sealed written bids will be accepted by the Marshal until 5:00 p.m. of the business day preceding the sale, and must be accompanied by a certified or cashier’s check for 10% of the bid. Peter Pan Seafood Company LLC, or its designee, shall be permitted to attend the sale and make a credit bid offset bid of all or a portion of \$61,667.01.

**Publish July 8 and 15, 2021**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR SALE

In conformance with WMC 16.12 and approved by Resolution No. 06-21-1592, the Borough is offering for sale the City Owned Property (Building and Land), listed below, on the Public Surplus Website:

<https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wrangell.ak/browse/cataucs?catid=15>

Property Description: Lot 5, Block 59A, Industrial Subdivision (Amended Plat), Plat No. 85-8, Wrangell Recording District (more commonly known as the Armory Property).

The building with property shall be available for bidding on the Public Surplus Website for not less than 30 days, specifically starting on June 25, 2021, and closing on July 30, 2021, ADT at 3 p.m.

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/city-owned-property-sale> 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 July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021**

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

On April 23, 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initiated an environmental cleanup project at the former FAA facilities on lands managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) on the eastern side of Big Level Island, AK (56.465788-133.094870). This project includes the excavation and offsite disposal of approximately 2,600 cubic yards (CYs) of impacted soils (hazardous and non-hazardous waste) associated with the former FAA landfill, former landfill burn and staging areas, and a former barge pipeline connection point. Further, this FAA onsite effort includes a subsurface investigation to delineate potentially impacted soils associated with former FAA housing and mission-supporting FAA mechanical shops. Hazardous substances associated with the project are subject to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). FAA is performing the Big Level Island cleanup activities in coordination and under regulatory oversight of the USDA FS and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).

All waste generated during the project is containerized, appropriately characterized for disposal, and removed from the island on a weekly basis, or as required. Soil and other debris contaminated with hazardous and non-hazardous (petroleum) substances are being shipped to Columbia Waste Management and Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon, respectfully. Lead-painted metal will be sent to the Petersburg Bailer Facility in Petersburg, Alaska, to be transported to a metal recycler in Seattle, Washington. Other non-hazardous waste is being shipped to the Petersburg, Alaska, Landfill.

In accordance with 40 CFR 300.820, the administrative record associated with this environmental cleanup effort on Big Level Island, AK, is available for public review and comment at the USFS Petersburg Ranger District Office located at 12 N. Nordic Drive, Petersburg, AK 99833. The Administrative Record includes the Time-Critical Removal Action Memorandum and the Work Plan governing the project in 2021. Because Forest Service offices are closed due to Covid-19, an appointment can be made by calling (907)-772-3871. A thirty-day comment period begins the date this notice is published. Comments can be sent to Linda Riddle, Alaska On-Scene Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Room 549, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska, 99801 or to linda.riddle@usda.gov.

**Publish: July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021**

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**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

# Washington, Oregon heat-wave deaths total 194

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) - Washington state's death toll from last month's record-breaking Pacific Northwest heat wave has risen to 78.

A year earlier, Washington had just seven heat-related deaths from mid-June to the end of August, the state Department of Health said last week. From 2015 to 2020, there were a total of 39 deaths.

Oregon on July 7 reported 116 deaths following temperatures that shattered previous all-time records during the three-day heat wave.

Of the 116 deaths recorded in Oregon, the youngest victim was 37 and the oldest was 97. In Portland's Multnomah County, where most of the deaths occurred, officials said many victims had no air conditioners

or fans and died alone.

The heat wave was caused by what meteorologists described as a dome of high pressure over the Northwest and worsened by human-caused climate change, which is making such extreme weather events more likely and more intense.

"This huge jump in mortality due to heat is tragic and

something many people thought they'd never see in the Pacific Northwest with its mostly moderate climate," Acting Washington State Health Officer Scott Lindquist said in a statement. "But climates are changing, and we see the evidence of that with dramatic weather events, major flooding, historic forest fires, and more." Seattle, Portland and many

other cities broke all-time heat records, with temperatures in some places reaching above 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

Health officials said the death tolls are preliminary because they are waiting for medical examiners and coroners to determine the cause of a number of other deaths. Heat-related deaths by county will be updated weekly online.

## Idaho rescues endangered salmon to save them from warm waters

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) - Sockeye salmon at risk from high water temperatures are being captured at an eastern Washington dam to save as many of the endangered fish headed for Idaho as possible, wildlife managers said.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game said workers started trapping the salmon July 5 at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River and trucking them to hatcheries to be artificially spawned or to

Redfish Lake in central Idaho for release.

Lance Hebdon of Fish and Game said water temperatures in the Snake and Salmon rivers have been as high as 76 degrees, which can be lethal for salmon.

Fish and Game fisheries biologist Jonathan Ebel said Salmon River flows in one area are about 25% of average, and water temperatures are as high as 76 degrees.

Much of the Northwest has

been in a drought and in late June and early July experienced record heat.

"When flows are low and temperatures are high, it warms up no matter where you are," Ebel said.

Adult sockeye salmon returning from the ocean travel 900 miles up the Columbia, Snake and Salmon rivers to high-elevation Sawtooth basin lakes in central Idaho. There are eight dams total that the fish have to

surmount — four on the Columbia and four on the Snake River.

Snake River sockeye teetered on the brink of extinction in the early 1990s. They have been the focus of an intense recovery program after being listed for federal protection in 1991.

The goal of a self-sustaining wild population took a hit in 2015 when warm water in the Columbia River Basin killed nearly all the returning adult

fish, with only 55 completing the journey to central Idaho.

That was the last year wildlife managers trapped sockeye salmon at Lower Granite Dam, capturing 35 fish to help rebuild and save the run.

This year early indications are that as many as 1,300 Snake River sockeye could pass Bonneville Dam and, based on an average survival rate, 800 could make it to Lower Granite Dam.

## Alaska Republican Party votes to support Murkowski opponent

ANCHORAGE (AP) - The leaders of Alaska's Republican Party on Saturday endorsed a Trump-backed conservative challenger to incumbent U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who has been one of the GOP's most outspoken critics of the former president.

The Alaska Republican State Central Committee endorsed Kelly Tshibaka in the 2022 race for the U.S. Senate seat held by Murkowski. The committee approved Tshibaka's endorsement in a 58-17 vote during a meeting in Fairbanks.

Tshibaka, who ran the Alaska Department of Administration for Gov. Mike Dunleavy, announced March 29 that she would run for the Senate seat held by Murkowski, who has been in office since late 2002.

In a statement after winning her party's endorsement, Tshibaka said she will uphold conservative ideals.

On March 13, the Republican State Central Committee voted 53-17 to censure Murkowski, citing her vote to impeach Trump and other votes that have broken with GOP leadership. Alaska Republican Party leaders said at the time that they would recruit someone to run against her.

"Lisa Murkowski is bad for Alaska," Trump said in a statement last month. "Murkowski has got to go!"

In a statement to the Anchorage Daily News, Murkowski said: "Alaskan voters will decide who represents them in D.C., and I work every day to earn their support."

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 10

Rabung said it changes the makeup of the plankton the pinks feed upon, and the fish are following their healthier food sources northward.

"As the warmer water moves north, the warm water copepods, which are one of the main foods for salmon, move north with it. The cold water copepods have a high lipid, high fat content, so they're very energy dense and have a lot of bang for the buck for eating on them," he explained.

And since salmon are a cold water species, warm waters also boost their metabolism, meaning they need more food to grow, he said.

A changing ocean brings big challenges, he said, and paying attention to the impacts on fish can help managers better react.

### Crab and halibut

Catches for Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska were going slow so far for 163 boats, but prices of \$4.20 a pound are more than double last year's. The crab fishery will run through mid-August and reopen in October.

Kodiak crabbers were getting \$4.25 for their Dungeness, also more than double.

Norton Sound opened for king crab on June 15, with a 290,000-pound catch limit. Concerns over the depleted stock resulted in no buyers and only one participant selling crab locally.

Alaska's halibut catch was nearing 7.8 million pounds out of a nearly 19 million pound catch limit. Continuing demand for fresh fish has kept prices well over \$5.75 a pound at most ports, reaching \$7.50 across the board at Homer.

### New phone app collects science from fishermen

Fishermen are the ears and eyes of the marine ecosystem as a changing climate throws

our oceans off kilter.

Now a new phone app is making sure their real-life, real-time observations are included in scientific data.

The new Skipper Science smartphone app, released June 18, comes from the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea as a way "to elevate the thousands of informal yet meaningful environmental observations by fishermen and others into hard numbers for Alaska's science-based management," said Lauren Divine, director of ecosystem conservation for St. Paul's tribal government, whose team created and owns the dataset for the app.

"How do we take what has historically been called anecdotal and create some structure around it that is rigorous and has scientific repeatability?" Divine said told public radio station KCAW in Sitka.

"There is a vast body of deep knowledge that fishermen hold from their experience on the water, indigenous and non-indigenous alike, that they use for decision making and risk evaluation and to execute a likelihood on the water. And we have very much underutilized that knowledge for years, especially here in the North Pacific," she said in a later phone interview.

The free app, which works on or off the internet, is an offshoot of an Indigenous Sentinels Network started 16 years ago at St. Paul Island to monitor wildlife and the environment in the Bering Sea.

To broaden its reach, St. Paul partnered with advocacy group SalmonState's Salmon Habitat Information Program (SHIP). Through its surveys and other outreach, SHIP quantifies what is regarded by scientists as fishermen's "informal observations" and shares the information with fisheries managers and decision mak-

ers.

"We have perspectives that go back decades as persons that are dependent on reading correctly what's going on," said Sitka troller Eric Jordan, who has been out on Southeast waters for 71 years. "We are tuned in to the utmost degree. We know which bird is feeding on what fish, the water temperature, the depth, the bottom structure, all those things," he said of the SkipperScience community.

### U.S. shoppers learn to love Alaska seafood

A new national survey reveals that 26% of U.S. consumers said they purchased seafood for the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly half plan to increase their intake, and nearly 74% plan to continue cooking seafood at home.

That's according to a 2021 Power of Seafood report by Dataessential, which tracks national market trends. The report was compiled for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

Seafood saw unprecedented growth in grocery sales at nearly 30% at the height of the pandemic, far exceeding all other food categories.

The top reasons? It's healthier than red meat and people said they prefer the taste.

Topping the seafood list of favorites was salmon. And by a 5-to-1 margin, responders said they prefer wild over farmed. Having less harmful additives was a top reason they prefer wild-caught seafood.

Over 60% said they want to know where their seafood comes from and that it is sustainably sourced.

Over 70% of 1,000 responders said they are more likely to buy seafood when they see the Alaska logo, and they are willing to pay more for it.

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LYNDESEY BROLLINI/SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE VIA AP

Rebecca Hsieh unpacks copies of "Nang Jáadaa Sgáana 'Láanaa aa Isdáayaan (The Woman Carried Away by Killer Whales)" on their arrival last month at the Sealaska Heritage Institute in Juneau. This new Haida-language children's book is the first in the language to be part of the institute's Baby Raven Reads program. The program offers free books to Southeast Alaska Native families with children ages 5 and younger.

## Sealaska publishes children's book in Haida

By MICHAEL S. LOCKETT  
*Capital City Weekly*

Sealaska Heritage Institute has released the first children's book in the Haida language Xaad Kil through its Baby Raven Reads program.

"Nang Jaadaa Sgaana 'Laanaa aa Isdaayaan," or "The Woman Carried Away by Killer Whales," is a story carried down through generations orally and published through the work of a team of artists and linguists.

"It's the first book I ever illustrated, and now it's the first children's book in the Haida language," said Haida illustrator Janine Gibbons. "I had to stretch my mind. How am I going to represent this? And how am I going to represent this accurately?"

The book's art, painted by Gibbons, was originally created for the Tlingit version of the story. With interest in a Haida translation of the traditional story, Skil Jaadei Linda Schrack and Ilskyalas Delores Churchill worked together to translate it to Xaad Kil.

"I am forever grateful for her. 'Laa an saa Hl gudangang. (I hold her in high esteem)," Schrack said in a news release.

Schrack also narrated a spoken version of the story for SHI's YouTube to accompany readers, so they may hear the language spoken, said Xaad Kil and Sm'alagyax language coordinator Susie Edwardson.

"These books will be good to see the language and listen to it," Edwardson said. "A lot of the learners will be parents practicing the language while reading to their children."

Sealaska Heritage Institute has gone back and narrated the text for all of their Baby Raven Reads books, Edwardson said.

"It's so powerful. I cried the first time I heard it," Gibbons said. "When you look at the

audio with the text, you'll see how the illustrations and the audio and the text all match."

Gibbons painted the original illustrations based on her experiences in Southeast Alaska, based off photos and the land of the Haida people and their forebears.

"You will understand that the language is fully just an extension of the land, and that's how I illustrated the story," Gibbons said. "The images tell the story without the words, too."

Gibbons said the book is particularly important now, as more Indigenous cultures work to connect their people with their roots.

"I'm excited for people to be opening the door of more knowledge," Gibbons said. "It's a great format for other Native cultures to see this is how you can do books. SHI is on the forefront of this."

The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Alaska Native Education Program Grant, Gibbons said. While lack of further funds from this grant precluded the program from planning for any more Haida books immediately, Edwardson said, the future is bright.

"SHI has intentions for future grants to create more language resources," Edwardson said.

The growing resources to help Alaska Native children and adults — and anyone interested in learning more — has shown great strides in just a few years, Gibbons said.

"All these kids are getting the best books out there to learn part of their heritage. In the four years, five years, it's been phenomenal," Gibbons said. "You can definitely see a difference in the kids in their sense of self and their cultural heritage."

The book is available for purchase on the SHI website.

## More graves found at former boarding schools in Canada

CRANBROOK, British Columbia (AP) - A Canadian Indigenous group said June 30 a search using ground-penetrating radar has found 182 human remains in unmarked graves at a site near a former Catholic Church-run residential school that housed Indigenous children taken from their families.

The latest discovery of graves near Cranbrook, British Columbia, follows reports of similar findings at two other such church-run schools, one of more than 600 unmarked graves and another of 215 bodies. Cranbrook is 520 miles east of Vancouver.

The Lower Kootenay Band said in a news release that it began using the technology last year to search the site close to the former St. Eugene's Mission School, which was operated by the Catholic Church from 1912 until the early 1970s. It said the search found the remains in unmarked graves, some about 3 feet deep.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend state-funded Christian boarding schools in an effort to assimilate them into Canadian society. Thousands of children died there of disease and other causes, with many never returned to their families.

Nearly three-quarters of the 130 residential schools were run by Roman Catholic missionary congregations, with others operated by the Presbyterian, Anglican and the United Church of Canada, which today is the largest Protestant denomination in the country.

The Canadian government has acknowledged that physical and sexual abuse was rampant in the schools, with students beaten for speaking their native languages.

Last month the Cowessess First Nation, about 85 miles east of the Saskatchewan capital of Regina, said investigators found "at least 600" unmarked graves at the site of a former Marieval Indian Residential School.

Also last month, the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school near Kamloops, British Columbia.

Before the most recent finding, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canadians are "horrified and ashamed" by their government's longtime policy of forcing Indigenous chil-

dren to attend boarding schools.

"This was an incredibly harmful government policy that was Canada's reality for many, many decades and Canadians today are horrified and ashamed of how our country behaved," Trudeau said. "It was a policy that ripped kids from their homes, from their communities, from their culture and their language and forced assimilation upon them."

On June 29, it was announced that a group of Indigenous leaders will visit the Vatican later this year to press for a papal apology for the Roman Catholic Church's role in residential schools.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said Indigenous leaders will visit the Vatican from Dec. 17-20 to meet with Pope Francis and "foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing."

After the graves were found in Kamloops, the Pope expressed his pain over the discovery and pressed religious and political authorities to shed light on "this sad affair." But he didn't offer the apology sought by First Nations and the Canadian government.

The leader of one of Canada's largest Indigenous groups said there are no guarantees an Indigenous delegation travelling to the Vatican will lead to Pope Francis apologizing in Canada.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde confirmed that assembly representatives will join Metis and Inuit leaders making the trip to the Vatican in late December.

"The Anglican Church has apologized," he told a virtual news conference. "The Presbyterian Church has apologized. United Church has apologized," adding, "This is really part of truth and part of the healing and reconciliation process for survivors to hear the apology from the highest position within the Roman Catholic Church, which is the pope."

Since the discovery of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools, there have been several fires at churches across Canada. There has also been some vandalism targeting churches and statues in cities.

Four small Catholic churches on Indigenous lands in rural southern British Columbia have been destroyed by suspicious fires and a vacant former Anglican church in northwestern B.C. was recently damaged in what police said could be arson.

## COVID cases climbing back

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The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium was among the first, when it notified employees and contractors in late May of the requirement. The Norton Sound Health Corporation, based in Nome, also will require vaccinations.

The Southcentral Foundation and its sister organization, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, sent an announcement to staff last week, notifying them of an Oct. 15 deadline to get vaccinated. The two Anchorage-based providers together employ more than 5,000 people.

As of last Monday, 56% of Alaskans age 12 and older had received at least their first vaccine shot, about equal to the national average among states. Vermont was the leader as of last week, at

almost 75%, with Mississippi in last place at 37%.

Wrangell was at 61%.

The state of Alaska has received federal funding to use toward programs to boost the vaccination rate, and is still working on how it will use the money.

The state this past spring granted \$1 million to the Alaska Chamber of Commerce for distribution in smaller grants to local chambers around the state. In addition, communities, nonprofits and businesses have been offering incentives to attract more people to get a shot.

A Fairbanks profit is running a lottery with a \$1,000 prize for the winner. The city of Bethel offered \$100 gift cards, with other communities offering fresh seafood, heating oil or gasoline.

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