



Wrangell, Alaska
May 28, 2020

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 118, Number 22

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

8 Pages

\$1.50

School board president responds to public comments

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

In the last Wrangell School Board meeting, on May 18, several members of the public voiced concerns with how things were running in the school district. Among them were concerns that the technology department was being cut at a bad time, as well as wider concerns that the district has a hostile work environment. The Wrangell Sentinel reached out to Superintendent Debbe Lancaster to seek a response to these concerns. Lancaster said that, after discussing the matter with School Board President Aaron Angerman, it would be more appropriate for him to address the public comments.

Angerman provided a written statement to the newspaper on Tuesday, May 26. In regards to concerns about the technology department, Angerman said that the district is trying to cut costs for budgetary reasons. The district is regularly seeing increases in their student population, as well, so they are having to do more with less. The decision to cut the tech department by 50 percent, from two people to one, was a difficult one for Dr. Lancaster to make. However, Angerman said he believes the district is positioned in a way they will be able to handle the cuts.

"Our tech department and Director Matt Gore have done an excellent job during the past months, not only launching virtual education to assist teachers during the pandemic, but in working to refresh student technology and technology infrastructure in our schools," Angerman wrote. "These additions should provide some breathing room for

reduced staffing in the coming year."

In a technology report submitted to the school board in the May 18 meeting, Gore laid out the current state of affairs for technology in the school district. Wrangell Public Schools operate on three different platforms right now, he said: Mac, PC, and Chromebook. While challenging, he wrote, his department has succeeded in making all the platforms work together. There is a plan to "reset" next year. PCs will still be used in the district office and teachers will have the ability to use Macbooks, but students will be switching to iPads instead of Chromebooks. His report also included summaries of the plan to switch to iPads for students, putting together an option for senior students to purchase laptops from the district, a revitalization of the district website, and plans for a wider network update.

"With changes to budgeting and the inner workings of the school district, the technology department has been reduced by 50% from two technologists to one with the promise of a 4-hour technology assistant in the future," Gore's report reads.

Angerman also responded to concerns about the environment of the school district. In the last school board meeting, IT Coordinator Brittani Robbins said the school district has made efforts to ignore or suppress complaints from employees. She also said that district staff have made fun of her for medical conditions she has, and has had her travel and absenteeism for medical needs discussed by staff without her presence.

"Channels of voicing con-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Goodbye celebration at Evergreen Elementary

Hailey Gablehouse giving teacher Mikki Angerman flowers and a painted rainbow at the EES end of the year celebration last Friday.

cerns and lodging formal complaints are in place and guided by policy and administrative regulation, including complaints regarding actions by the Superintendent," Angerman wrote. "Written complaints re-

garding the Superintendent are routed to the Board through the District Office Administrative Assistant [Kim Powell]. Since becoming a member of the WPSD School Board in October 2018, I have not seen any

formal complaints pertaining to the Superintendent."

Angerman added, in a phone interview, that the school board would only see complaints about the superintendent. For example, if a teacher had a complaint about a principal, that complaint would be taken through proper channels to the superintendent. However, if the complaint is about the superintendent directly, it is in the district's administrative regulations that it must come to the board.

David Macri, former secondary school principal, also accused the district of having unethical and potentially illegal practices. He said the public needed to ask several questions, including why the district has "two of the possibly highest paid teachers in the United States" and how the schools' principal-teachers can enjoy the benefits of teaching and being part of the teacher's union, while also acting in the

Assembly holds Fourth of July workshop

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough assembly met Tuesday evening, May 26, to host a workshop on the drawing-near Fourth of July. This was an initial discussion to talk about how Wrangell's famous Independence Day celebration might look this year, with the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing.

"This is obviously a fairly important topic to Wrangell, our community is known for our fantastic Fourth of July, we all look forward to it every year," Mayor Steve Prysunka said.

Prysunka and Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen pointed out, early in the workshop, that the city does not play a central role in the Fourth of July. Much of the organization behind the celebration

comes from the chamber of commerce. The city supports them through providing public safety at events, and cleaning of streets and restrooms, and things like that. What they were really in the workshop for was to hear from the chamber about what their initial plans were, and how the city could help.

"Our highest priority is the safety and well being of our community members," said Stephanie Cook, with the chamber of commerce, "We have plans in place, and are ready and willing to have a celebration if and when we are able. We respect the decisions and guidance from state and community leadership with regards to having a 2020 Fourth of July celebration, and we will plan our activities according to state guidelines."

This year's Fourth of July is probably

not going to look like the ones of previous years, Cook said. They were working on a "best case scenario" right now, she said, as well as several backup plans. Currently, the chamber is speaking with typical event chairs to see if they are interested in hosting their events this year, and how they can do so safely. Von Bargen suggested that the city could be of assistance in that area, as they already have a committee reviewing safety plans from local businesses on a voluntary basis. People could possibly submit plans for Fourth of July events to them, as well, to see how they could best go about it safely.

The public can likely look forward to some of Wrangell's staple events for the Fourth of July. The chamber is planning to host the annual parade, but the route

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 8

4th of July

Continued from page 1

might be different than usual. Another likely event this year is the boat races. Penny Allen wrote a letter to the assembly, which was read during the workshop, in regards to the annual boat races.

"We have had our scheduled board meetings for the Fourth of July boat races," the

letter reads. "Our permits and insurance with the Coast Guard and APEA are in place and on schedule for the 2020 races on July fourth. We have also discussed alternative plans for varying phases the state may be in at times of the races. Worst case scenario, we feel we are one of the events that can safely proceed if a

COVID outbreak were to occur, and keep within state guidelines."

One Fourth tradition that may not occur this year, Cook said, is the royalty contest. The chamber of commerce did not receive any official candidates for the annual contest before the pandemic really broke out, she said. At this point in the timeline, they are considering alternative fundraising activities instead of the contest. The public can likely expect food

booths of some sort in the downtown pavilion, however.

Cook added that the chamber is considering other aspects of the Fourth, such as the need for additional cleaning and social distancing. The chamber is also wanting to try and compile the events into fewer days than usual: Just the third and fourth, for example.

At the close of the workshop, though no formal action will be taken by the assembly yet, Prysunka asked that Von

Bargen put together an administrative report to outline some recommendations for what level of participation in the Fourth of July events the city is comfortable with.

Assembly Member Mya De-Long also had a message for the listening public.

"I just urge you to reach out to any member of the [chamber of commerce] board with any helpful suggestions, and your volunteerism would be greatly appreciated," she said.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, May 28: Debbie Torvend, Lucas Stearns. **Friday, May 29:** Wayne Kaer, Robert Baremore, Jeff Angerman, Dakota Holder, *Anniversaries:* Joe & Alexandra Rugo, Keene and Faye Kohrt. **Saturday, May 30:** Timothy Garcia, Draven Golding, *Anniversaries:* Walter Moorehead & Carol Ross, Rob & Dena McChargue. **Sunday, May 31:** Rose Sundberg, Miles Brown, Michelle Beaghoff, Tristan Byford, William Shilts. **Monday, June 1:** Glen Pollow, Torin Schoonover, Hannah Castle, Marc Gunderson, Jack Pino, Jody Hammock, Deanne Cooper. **Tuesday, June 2:** Willie Bloom, Spencer Ocean, Steve Thomassen, Jr., Janell Stutz. **Wednesday, June 3:** Yuri McCloskey, Matthew Covalt, Robyn Lane, Ryan Reeve, Gail Thomas, Mike Jabusch, Makena Hammer, *Anniversary:* Scott & Lorri Angerman. **Thursday, June 4:** Doug McCloskey, Tayla Williams, Haley Vergilio, Maleah Wenzel, Kira Torvend, *Anniversaries:* Bill & Janell Privett, Jim Sr. & Sue Nelson.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, May 29

Fiesta Pork Chops, Cauliflower, Fruit slaw, Sweet Potato.

Monday, June 1

BBQ Beef on bun, Fried Potatoes, Salad.

Tuesday, June 2

Pork Chop Suey, Broccoli, Peach Salad, Rice.

Wednesday, June 3

Baked Rock Fish Casserole, Peas & Carrots, Tomato Aspic.

Thursday, June 4

Herbed Lime Chicken, Salad, Vegetables, AuGratin Potatoes.

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

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

FERRY

May Sailings CANCELLED

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



TIDES

May 28-June 4

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May 28	04:48	14.7	06:20	13.2	11:30	0.1	11:49	5.2
May 29	05:52	13.9	07:26	13.6	12:29	0.6
May 30	07:14	13.3	08:32	14.4	01:04	4.9	01:34	1.1
May 31	08:40	13.3	09:30	15.7	02:23	3.9	02:40	1.3
June 01	09:54	13.9	10:22	17.0	03:36	2.3	03:44	1.4
June 02	10:58	14.8	11:11	18.1	04:41	0.3	04:44	1.4
June 03	11:56	15.5	11:57	19.0	05:36	-1.4	05:37	1.3
June 04	12:49	16.0	06:26	-2.9	06:26	1.5

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

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

Continuing Events

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

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

June 3, 1920

Charlie Olson made a trip to Woronofski Island on Monday, taking with him a party of young picnickers. They took their lunch and spent the afternoon, indulging in target practice on the beach and climbing the mountain. On their return in the evening they were invited to the Coulter home where the day was finished off properly with a dancing party. Those who made up the party were: Misses Margaret Bronson, Irene Coulter, Helen Hofstad, Lillian Kelly and June Elliot; Messrs. John Coulter, Colonel Mason, Harry McCormack, Leonard Campbell and Tip O'Neill.

June 1, 1945

The increasing use of airmail services to and from Wrangell is clearly shown in the records being kept at the local post office, according to Postmaster E.R. Sharnbroich. The month of May shows that the weight of airmail received and dispatched from Wrangell has almost doubled since January of this year. During the month of May 719 pounds of mail was received and 694 pounds dispatched via plane. There were 58 dispatches of airmail during May. Airmail was sent out and received every day, except one, during May, Sharnbroich urges patrons to get their airmail in the post office early in the morning, if possible as planes go through as early as 8 and 9 a.m. these summer days.

May 28, 1970

A husband-and-wife team has arrived in Wrangell to operate the Wrangell Sentinel. Jamie Bryson, 35, a California businessman, is the new editor of the Sentinel. His wife, Linda, 34, will be business manager. The Brysons, who have six children ranging in age from five to 15, arrived in Wrangell May 23 aboard the ferry Taku

after a 2,500-mile motor trip to Prince Rupert from San Diego, Calif., in their camper-truck. Bryson is a veteran of 15 years in the newspaper business in the San Diego area, including nine years service with the San Diego Union, where he was a general assignment reporter, an assistant city editor and county editor. He studied journalism at San Diego State College. He is a native of San Francisco. His hobbies include flying, sailing and bicycling. Mrs. Bryson is a native of Los Angeles. The Bryson children include Heather, 5; Diana, 10; Belinda, 11; Mark, 13; Bridget, 14 and Betsy, 15. Bryson's appointment as editor was announced by Charles Willis, publisher of the Sentinel. "We are pleased to welcome a newsman of Mr. Bryson's caliber to our family of newspapers," the publisher said. "And we are sorry that Mr. Newman has chosen to leave our employ to return to school." Newman says he plans to enter the newspaper field when he completes his education.

May 25, 1995

Hawaiians are coming to Wrangell. *Hawaii'loa*, an eight-man crewed sailing catamaran, will be welcomed

in Wrangell June 29. On board the vessel will also be Ernie Hillman of Sealaska Corporation, who has spearheaded the arrangements for the Seattle to Alaska portion of the trip. *Hawaii'loa*, was constructed from two 65 feet long by 8 feet in diameter spruce logs donated by Sealaska. Six months of searching the "Big Islands" high koo forests had failed to turn up suitable trees for the canoes. They turned to Southeast Alaska for the material needed to construct the vessel in Hawaii. The trip is being made as a cultural exchange between Native peoples of Hawaii and Southeast Alaska, showing how the logs were used. The twin-hulled craft was barged to Seattle and from there, it will be sailed north through Canadian waters and the Inside Passage to Juneau. The ship and its crew will be stopping along the way to visit Northwest Coast Tribes of Washington, Canada and Southeast Alaska. Events are being planned at each community along this voyage. Wrangell Cooperative Association, the local IRA Tribal government, is coordinating arrangements for their local visit.

Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
May 18	63	47
May 19	52	46
May 20	55	45
May 21	55	48
May 22	58	48
May 23	57	52
May 24	54	46
May 25	51	44

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 28	4:15a	9:16p	17:01h
May 29	4:13a	9:18p	17:05h
May 30	4:12a	9:19p	17:07h
May 31	4:11a	9:20p	17:09h
Jun 01	4:10a	9:22p	17:12h
Jun 02	4:09a	9:23p	17:14h
Jun 03	4:08a	9:24p	17:16h
Jun 04	4:07a	9:26p	17:19h

Assembly discusses potential small ship cruise season this summer

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly, between their weekly COVID-19 update and a budget workshop last Thursday, met to discuss the possibility of small cruise ships visiting town this summer. Cruise season has been a topic of some concern amongst the community. Many ships have delayed or cancelled their planned stops in Wrangell in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A smaller cruise season means fewer tourists and will have a negative impact on Wrangell's economy. On the other hand, there are concerns that ships stopping in Wrangell pose a risk of bringing the virus to the island,

something that has not happened as of Tuesday, May 26.

According to the most recent schedule from Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore, dated May 21, Wrangell has 53 cruise ship stops still scheduled. The original schedule estimated a total capacity of about 24,000 people onboard all the ships this summer. That number is now down to about 7,200. A "small" cruise ship, it was pointed out in the meeting, is defined as a ship carrying 250 passengers or less.

The first stop still scheduled is the *American Constellation*, part of American Cruise Lines. A set date is not determined yet, but American Cruise Lines is wanting to visit Wrangell

sometime at the end of June. Several representatives of American Cruise Lines took part in the meeting with the assembly

"I would just give the guidance to the assembly that I would like this to remain, though we have American Cruise Lines on the line and they are the first company that have expressed interest, I'd like us to keep the discussion relatively general if at all possible," said Mayor Steve Prysunka.

Prysunka had a question of where, exactly, a sick person would go if they came off of a cruise ship and they were determined to have the virus. Would they go back onto the cruise ship, or were they now

the local community's problem? Dr. Edward Dees, speaking on behalf of American Cruise Lines, answered that the Wrangell Medical Center would have to treat this hypothetical patient to the best of their ability to manage, or the person would have to be otherwise isolated. He is not sure if they could come back on board the ship, as a cruise ship is a "closed operation" between ports and could increase risks of the virus spreading to people on board.

Assembly Member Julie Decker wanted to know more about safety procedures American Cruise Lines has in place.

There are a number of plans in place or being formed, Dees said.

"The bottom line is making sure that one, once a case is identified that is symptomatic, that you have a specific area to isolate that person until they can be disembarked or, if in fact you can't manage their medical problem on board they're disembarked," he said. "Secondarily is to increase social distancing and put other people in quarantine until you can do a case contact study there on board, and provide that there's no more opportunities, so to speak, for asymptomatic transfer, or reduce that."

Holly Love, vice president of medical operations for Vikand Solutions, the medical manager for American Cruise Lines, added in another portion of the workshop that they are looking closely at CDC and other health guidelines. If there is a ship that comes into American waters with a fever of unknown origin, she said, that has to be reported to the CDC. A ship can get put into quarantine, depending on how health authorities want to handle the situation under CDC jurisdiction. However, she said American Cruise Lines and their smaller ships fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction, so those rules might vary. Regardless, she said that if they had a person under investigation for COVID-19 and there is no testing available, contact tracing will need to take place quickly and people will have to be quarantined until the situation is worked out.

"A lot would depend on the local health authorities in that situation," she said.

During the workshop, Prysunka said he was worried that cruise lines were not properly understanding Wrangell's limitations when it came to handling an outbreak of COVID-19. The Wrangell Medical Center has five acute care beds, three ER beds, and "a few swing beds in Long Term

Care," he said. There are three doctors, no respiratory technician, and only three ventilators. Wrangell's capacity for handling an outbreak of the virus is limited, he said, and is likely below the expectations that cruise ships might have when they pull into town. If Wrangell is going to entertain cruise ships this summer, Prysunka said, all parties need to proceed cautiously.

"What we can suggest as a possible middle road here is if we have a case where somebody is definitely ill, they have to be disembarked," Dees said. "But if we have somebody who has mild symptoms, one way of getting around it might be to have the sampling done on board and have the specimen sent to the hospital to have it tested. If it's something that can be managed on board ... and it's a mild case they may not have to be disembarked at the local facility."

"We're committed to certainly partnering with the community and only returning when it is, in fact, safe," said Mike Olivo, with American Cruise Lines. "We have been developing our own protocols to manage our experience on the ship, and I understand that in Southeast Alaska the communities are working together to put together a list of protocols. We plan to look at those protocols and ensure that ours are in line with yours."

Attached to the agenda packet for the workshop was a memo from the Alaska Municipal League, outlining some potential shared protocols amongst Southeast Alaskan communities. Some of them include regular testing of crew and passengers on board the ships, face coverings for employees and passengers, setting guidelines in place for disembarking crew, determining quarantine procedures, and agreeing to commit resources to contact tracing if the virus does spread on a ship.

The assembly also heard from some members of the public during this workshop. Borough Clerk Kim Lane read a letter sent to the city from Jim Leslie, president of the Stikine River Jet Boat Association. The association represents five different charter boat companies, the letter read, that rely on cruise ship tourism for a significant portion of their business. They have been "effectively wiped out" for the 2020 tour season by the pandemic. They are ready to get back to work as soon as possible, but they understand that keeping the public safe is the most important.

"Point One: Our highest priority is the health and wellbeing of our community," Lane read. "Point two: We are ready and willing to work, if and when the time comes. Point three: We respect the decisions made by the state and community leadership in regard to whether or not ships should tie up in Wrangell in 2020, and will plan our business activities according to their guidelines."

As this was only a workshop, no formal action was taken at the time.

Police report

May 18

Two Suspicious Circumstances.
Two Found Property Reports.
Violation of Condition of Release.
Parking Complaint.
Paper Service.

May 19

Theft.
Parking Complaint.
Traffic Stop.
Agency Assist.

Hazardous Conditions.

May 20

Agency Assist: Hoohah P.D.
Agency Assist: Sprinkler Alarm.
Illegal Parking.
Parking Complaint: Ferry Terminal.
Agency Assist: Alaska State Troopers.
Agency Assist: Random Breath Testing.
Public Safety: Investigation.
Civil Standby.

May 21

Traffic Stop: Verbal for improper display of license plate.
Trespass Letter Service.
Traffic Stop, Justin D.Barker, 34: Citations for

Driving While License Suspended/Revoked and Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance.

May 22

Agency Assist.
Breath Test.
Agency Assist: Public Works.
Assault.
Noise Complaint.
Gun shot: Unfounded.

May 23

Subpoena Service.
Traffic Stop: James VandeBunte, 57, Citation issued for failure to use turn signal from stop sign.

Noise Complaint: Unfounded.

May 24

Lost Wallet.
Theft.
Litter.
Vehicle Search.

During this reporting period there were nine Agency Assist requests for the Airport, three EMS calls, three Citizen Assists and three Dog Complaints.

SEARHC Facilities are Open to Serve You

We are committed to providing high-quality healthcare to Southeast Alaska residents and visitors. As part of our pandemic response, we are adjusting our practices and services to continue providing a safe and secure environment for all.

COVID-19 protocols are in place at all facilities to ensure your safety, including:



Pre-appointment phone screening of all patients



Screening of all patients and staff upon facility entry



Universal masking of patients and clinical staff



Social distancing modifications in waiting areas



Vigorous cleaning and disinfection at all patient areas



Mandatory testing for all SEARHC staff

Thank you to our professional and experienced caregivers, providing high-quality care in Wrangell.

To learn more, visit covid19.searhc.org or call the Wrangell Medical Center at 907.874.7000.



N K ELECTRIC

Here to serve all your electrical needs

COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

874-2770, #21633



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

To date, 100,000 Americans have succumbed to the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic. So far, Wrangell has been spared, largely due to our remote location and precautions taken by the town fathers and our governor, conscientious individuals devoted to the well-being of our town. How blessed we are to have them.

Talk, talk, talk: meetings, broadcasts, work-sessions, notices posted on store fronts, newspaper articles, mandates, brainstorming, continually. It's all we hear. After a while, we tire of the subject, all of us, but we can't get away from it. We long for normalcy, but it ain't happenin', not yet anyway.

But, just imagine for one brief moment that it

is the life of a loved one of yours that is at stake. Bring it real close to home -- someone you love. his or her life has been spared because of all of the above precautions, inconveniences, considerations, time, expense and aggravation. That life so special to you personally has been spared. How blessed, how thankful, how happy would you feel?

My personal view, and I can speak only for myself, is that if only one life here in Wrangell were to be spared, even if that of a stranger, someone I didn't even know, then I would rejoice for just that one. All the inconvenience to all the people affected would have been justified for this one single life.

Rosemary Ruoff

Our Branch is NOW OPEN

Lobby and drive through
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday- Friday

FirstBankAK.com  **FIRST BANK**
The one who's here. 874-3363

Dan's Dispatch

By Representative Dan Ortiz

Earlier this week, the Alaska Legislature met to appropriate COVID-19 relief funds. The State of Alaska received over \$1 billion from the Federal Government through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Governor Dunleavy sent multiple revised proposals for how to spend that money within our current budget, and the Legislature approved that spending. Some specific allocations include: \$290 million in grants to small

businesses, \$100 million for fishing industry relief, \$45 million for K-12 education (with an additional \$42 million for child nutrition programs and \$5 million for the university), \$29 million for rural transportation costs (including \$10 million specifically for the Alaska Marine Highway System), and \$3.6 million for state and local law enforcement.

The largest portion of money, as recommended by the federal government, went to community assistance. Communities will receive a total of \$568.6 million. Based

on meetings with our Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, I expect Ketchikan (combined City and Borough) to receive \$22.6 million, Wrangell to receive \$3.8 million, and Hydaburg to receive \$242 thousand to help offset the costs of responding to COVID-19. The Legislature has now adjourned sine die. It is yet to be determined if we will return to Juneau later in the year to pass a more robust capital budget.

If you have any questions about the relief money, or anything else, don't hesitate to email me at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at 907-247-4672.

Winners of "Wrangell's Got Talent" to be announced this Saturday

*By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer*

As the COVID-19 pandemic has gone on, people have turned to technology to help stay in touch from a safe distance. The schools have been hosting lessons online, the borough assembly has been meeting via Zoom, and this coming Saturday the public is invited to see the winners of the virtual "Wrangell's Got Talent" show.

The talent show has been put together by Wrangell's parks and recreation department. Lucy Robinson, with the department, said it was an idea they had to stay engaged with the public even with their facilities closed down due to the virus. It is some good, lighthearted fun to take people's minds off of things for a while.

Robinson explained that people can participate in the talent show fairly easily. All they need to do is record a video of themselves demonstrating their talent, for a maximum of three minutes. The videos can be emailed to recreation@wrangell.com, where the department will then post the videos to the event's Facebook page.

The deadline to participate in the talent show is today, May 28. Robinson asked that people wanting to join in choose a safe act. Some suggested acts include magic acts, skits, musical or dance performances, and many others. There is no prize for winning the contest, Robinson said, just the satisfaction of winning.

As of Friday, May 22, there have been two submissions to the talent show. The winners will be announced on May 30. Robinson said that winners will be determined by the number of likes each video gets on Facebook, as well as a vote by parks and recreation administration. The videos, and more information on the contest, can be found at "Wrangell's Got Talent!" on Facebook.

CHURCH INFORMATION

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Mass resuming May 31 with three masses until further notice at 11:00 am, 3:30 Ppm and 5:30 pm. "Social distancing" will be practiced.

WRANGELL BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 10 & 11 am services. Wednesday 7pm Bible Study. Online services to continue on Facebook page at the listed times. Do not attend in person if you are ill. Doug Shoultz bbcwrangell.com 907.723.5893.

BAHÁ'IS
Daily devotional at 12:30 Ppm. Junior youth, adult groups and other devotional gatherings meet at various times online. Children's classes will meet Wednesday 4-4:30 online. Call 907 209 9117 for other times of gatherings.

ISLAND OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Meets Sunday at 9:30 AM. Social distancing of 10 feet will be practiced. Face masks are recommended. For communion, please bring their own bread/cracker/etc. and wine/juice/etc. The kitchen is still closed.

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD:
Bible Study Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. with social distancing.



Respond to the 2020 Census.

Every household has received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census or will receive one soon. It's easy to respond online, by mail, or by phone.

The census is your chance in help inform how much federal money is directed to your community.

2020CENSUS.GOV

**Shape your future
START HERE >**

**United States
Census
2020**

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

207 North Nordic Dr. , PO Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers Ron & Anne Loesch
News Editors..... Caleb Vierkant
..... Brian Varela
Front OfficeTrisha Schwartz
ProductionOla Richards

The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email wrgsent@gmail.com; website: www.wrangellsentinel.com
© Copyright 2020

Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1.50
Local.....\$46
Other Alaska.....\$62
2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$70
First Class.....\$102

Golf tournaments start back up at Muskeg Meadows

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Over Memorial Day weekend, Muskeg Meadows started up their weekend golf tournaments for another season. This first tournament of the season was sponsored by Wrangell IGA.

There were 20 golfers on the first day of the tournament on Saturday. First place went to a team consisting of Kathleen Harding, Wayne Harding, Doug Nelson, and Drew Eyon. Second place went to a team consisting of Spenser Stavee, Aaron Powell, Jonathan Spittler, and Jim Brooks. Brooks had the straightest drive of the day at 38 inches. Eyon was closest to the pin at 27 feet, 3 inches.

There were 21 golfers on the second day of the tournament on Sunday. First place went to a team consisting of Victoria Houser, Matt Houser, and Nate Johnson. Second place went to a team consisting of Brett Woodbury, Jerry Bakeberg, and Frank Roppel. Bakeberg had the straightest drive of the day at 25 inches, and was also closest to the pin at 12 feet, 8 inches.

In an email to the Sentinel, Kristy Woodbury mentioned that Muskeg Meadows was recently featured in NGF, a publication of the National Golf Foundation. She also mentioned that the golf course has multiple vacancies on their board waiting to be filled. Their annual membership meeting will be next Thursday at the Elks Lodge, she wrote.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jerry Bakeberg and Frank Roppel loading up their golf cart at Muskeg Meadow's Memorial Day weekend tournament.

Borough assembly begin budget workshops for 2021

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met this week to begin their workshoping of Wrangell's budget for FY 2021. This first round of workshops looked at various city departments that are funded through the Enterprise Funds which includes the harbor, light and power, sanitation, wastewater, and water departments.

There were two workshops over the past week, on May 19 and May 21. According to the meeting's agenda packet for May 19, there were several things for the assembly to keep in mind when looking at the budgets. Beginning balances, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga, are based on FY 2019 audited numbers and estimated revenues and expenditures for the current financial year. Ending balance numbers are estimated on the beginning balance minus estimated revenues and expenses for FY 2021.

Von Barga also pointed out that there was a new line item added to the budgets, titled "30% Working Capital." According to the agenda packet, the 30 percent is the recommended amount that the Government Accounting Standards Board says municipalities should keep in reserve in case

of emergencies. This means that each department will be subtracting 30 percent of their ending balances for FY 2021 to save.

Assembly Member Julie Decker wanted to know if the city could provide a look at how funds for these different departments have changed over the past 10 years. It would be helpful to her if she could get a look at the wider picture, she said, and not just the immediate revenues and expenses. Finance Director Joyce Mason said she could probably get something like that put together.

"A very generalized chart, line graph, whatever you can come up with," Decker said. "I think it gives a good 30,000 foot level understanding of what's happening in the city."

In summary, the Harbors and Port Fund is looking to be profitable this upcoming year. Between the harbor department, the marine service center, and the ports, revenues are estimated at \$1.45 million, plus a beginning fund balance of about \$1.21 million. The end of the year fund balance is estimated at approximately \$1.49 million.

Decker had a question as to why transient moorage was decreasing by \$90,000 in the harbor fund, from \$170,000 in

revenue in the approved FY 2020 budget to \$80,000 in FY 2021. The agenda packet states that this reflects revenue reductions in transient moorage in FY 2020 as compared to FY 2019 and 2018. The year-to-date actuals for FY 2020 stand at about \$74,000. Harbor Master Greg Meissner said that there were multiple reasons behind this reduction, as well.

"Our transients aren't just the independent travelers coming through, the fishermen coming through," Meissner said. "It's a combination of the yachters and the summer traffic, the transient fishermen, as well as locals who do not have stalls who pay what is considered a transient fee ... We did add new stalls in Shoemaker so a few folks got off that transient list into a stall, and we anticipate a lot less independent traveller activity this year."

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power, according to the operating budget looked at in the workshop, will just barely be staying out of the red in FY 2021. Revenues are estimated at about \$3.99 million, while expenses are estimated at about \$3.95 million. There will be about \$37,277 in profits at the end of the year. The agenda packet points out that the budget for large commercial sales were reduced by \$50,000, to account for Trident Seafoods not operating in Wrangell this season.

Assembly Member Patty Gilbert had a question about insurance for WML&P, particularly why insurance rates were increasing from about \$19,000 this year to almost \$46,000 for FY 2021. Rod Rhoades, with Light and Power, explained that his department added several new generators recently, among other equipment. He speculated, he said, that part of the increase comes from all this new equipment on their insurance rolls. Mason added that there have been no insurance claims from the department

that would explain a rise in insurance rates, but insurance costs by themselves have also recently increased. The value of the department's property has recently been reevaluated and increased, Von Barga added.

The budget for Wrangell's cemetery has been decreased for next year, from \$61,500 in expenses to \$55,000. However, the agenda packet reads, a budget revision may be required if there are more burials or columbarium internments than anticipated this coming financial year.

During the May 19 workshop, the assembly briefly looked at the solid waste/sanitation budget, the wastewater budget, and the water budget. However, due to assembly members finding various errors in the budget's layout that needed to be cleaned up, it was agreed to put those topics on hold until the next meeting.

Funding for sanitation/solid waste is roughly the same as this current year, according to the agenda packet for the May 21 workshop. The FY 2020 budget was approved at revenues of \$623,000 and expenses of \$433,640. The FY 2021 budget has revenues of \$623,523 and expenses of \$419,273. The assembly spent a good part of their discussion on this part of the budget on their interest in using recycling and glass crushing to lower costs.

The wastewater fund has revenue estimated at \$595,057 and expenses at \$432,384. Both revenues and expenses are estimated slightly higher than FY 2020, but not by much. There is a small reduction in revenues being considered due to less wastewater being needed as Trident Seafoods will not be operating in 2020. The budget is also updated to reflect 1.5 FTE, or full time employment.

The water fund has revenues set for \$599,776, a decrease from about \$800,000 in the approved budget for FY 2020. However, once again, this

is taking into consideration the fact that Trident Seafoods is not operating this year. Total expenses are estimated at \$638,833. This is less than the FY 2020 budgeted expenses of \$799,898, but more than the FY 2020 year-to-date expenses of \$485,070.

The residential construction fund is also looking to end FY 2021 in the negatives this year. Revenues are estimated only for \$7,000, a large decrease from the year-end estimate of \$38,608 for FY 2020. Expenses are estimated at \$98,000. The majority of these expenses come from engineering and surveying for the Institute Property, according to the draft operating budget, as well as expenses for the Byford and Etolin properties.

Industrial construction is also estimated to have expenditures higher than revenues, \$15,000 versus \$12,500. However, the industrial fund also has an existing balance of about \$340,000, so the fund can accept this blow without dipping into negative numbers.

The May 21 workshop was concluded with a brief look at Wrangell's Secure Rural Schools funding. The budget is anticipating receiving a little less than \$2.8 million in SRS funding for FY 2021. This is a decrease from the year-to-date SRS funds of about \$3.36 million in SRS Wrangell received this year. Of the revenue, \$1.3 million is being estimated to be given out to the school district, plus an additional \$100,000 for maintenance. Another \$112,000 is being set aside for street repairs.

At the conclusion of the last workshop, Von Barga asked if the assembly would be agreeable to pushing the next round of workshops back to the first week of June. She and Mason needed more time to get the next sections of the budget prepared for review. After some brief discussion, the assembly agreed to this plan.



Call me today to see how much you can save with Allstate's good student discount.

907-874-2359

Dietra Wegener
P-W Insurance

100 N Nordic, Petersburg, AK 99833
inquiry@p-wins.com



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that George S. Woodbury has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Mary J. Woodbury. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to George S. Woodbury, Personal Representative, c/o Faulkner Banfield, P.C., 8420 Airport Boulevard, Suite 101, Juneau, Alaska 99801-6924, or filed with the Superior Court for the State of Alaska, First Judicial District at Wrangell, Alaska, 1WR-20-00009 PR.

Published: May 28, June 4 and 11, 2020

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITIONS OF
Temporary Workers Harbor Department**

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications to establish a pool from which to hire Temporary Laborers for the Harbor Department at City Hall beginning May 26, 2020. Employees will be selected from applications in the pool at the time employees are needed throughout the year. There are multiple immediate openings. You must have a valid Alaska Driver's license, or a valid out-of-state Drivers License with the ability to obtain an Alaska license within 6 months. A CDL license is preferred but not required.

This position will require someone with experience in carpentry and the ability to work independently in a marine environment. Work may include, but will not be limited to replacement of bull rails, fascia boards, decking, plumbing, pile hoops and concrete patching. Duties will also include painting, pressure washing, cutting brush and grass, and working in the boat yard and office. Boat yard duties will include carrying blocking, boat stands, and various types of cleanup. Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds. Successful applicant must be able to work in all weather conditions and weekends.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to amollen@wrangell.com. Pay for this position starts at \$15.39 per hour DOE.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Publish: May 28 and June 4, 2020

**Rental Housing Available
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Wrangell Public Housing**

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation is currently accepting applications for smoke-free, quality **2-br (\$700+elec.) and 3-br (\$800+elec.)** units at Etolin Heights.

1. Subsidized rent for families who meet low and very-low federal income guidelines.
2. Units are also available with no income restrictions or limitations.
3. Applications can be found online at <https://bit.ly/EtolinRental>
 - a. Or the Wrangell housing office is located at 730 Zimovia Hwy #A2.

See AHFC's website, ahfc.us, for complete instructions, eligibility requirements, and submission details. Applicants with questions may call the Wrangell housing office at **907-874-3018** or send an email to gwood@ahfc.us.

AHFC complies with all Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity nondiscrimination laws.

Published: May 21 and 28, 2020

**Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee
Notice of Meetings and Call for Project Proposals**

The Wrangell-Petersburg-Kake Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will be meeting on May 27-28 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and June 2-3 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or until business is concluded. The purpose of the meetings is to review the progress of previously funded projects, review new project proposals, and make recommendations for funding of projects through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (PL 114-10).

The meetings will take place virtually and by teleconference. The meetings are open to the public. A teleconference number will be available for individuals who wish to attend by telephone. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, there will be a one-hour public comment period beginning at 7:00 pm on May 27 and June 2. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing at least five days prior to the meeting in order to be scheduled on the agenda.

Title II funds may be used for projects that benefit the National Forest and have broad-based support with objectives that may include, but are not limited to:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration
- Soil productivity improvement
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds
- Reestablishment of native species



New project proposal forms are available at the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger District offices. To be considered at a committee meeting, proposals should be submitted in writing no later than five days prior to the meeting. Proposals will continue to be accepted after that date, but sufficient funding may not be available to consider all proposals received. For assistance with the form, or for other information pertaining to the meetings, please contact Linda Slaght, RAC Coordinator, at 772-5948 or by e-mail at linda.slaght@usda.gov. For other information, contact either of the Designated Federal Officials; Ted Sandhofer, Petersburg District Ranger, 772-3871 or Clint Kolarich, Wrangell District Ranger, 874-2323.

The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Publish: May 21 and May 28, 2020

Classified/ Legals

BOATS AND MARINE IFQS AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits LLC, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

SERVICES
COPIES: Black and white and color copies up to 11x17. Please call to arrange drop off or pick up since our office is closed to the public. Send us your files to print. The Wrangell Sentinel, 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfnhdh

FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Please call to arrange drop off or pick up since our office is closed to the public. Fax number 874-2303tfnhdh

**Classifieds
deadline is
Tuesday at
noon**

**P: 907-874-2301
F: 907-874-2303**

**Email:
wrgsent@gmail.com**

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
JANET LEE TEAGUE,)
Deceased.) CASE NO. 1KE-20-47PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Richard Franklin Teague has been appointed the personal representative for the above-entitled Estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute, Title 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Said claims must be submitted to Richard Franklin Teague, c/o Keene & Currall, PPC, 540 Water Street - Suite 302, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Dated: 04/14/2020

Richard Franklin Teague
Personal Representative

Published: May 21, 28 and June 4, 2020

**CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION
Port & Harbor Director
PORT & HARBOR DEPARTMENT**

The City & Borough of Wrangell is accepting applications for the position of Port & Harbor Director beginning April 29, 2020. This position is open until filled with the first review of applications beginning the week of May 26, 2020.

The City & Borough of Wrangell is seeking a leader for the Port & Harbor Department with a proven record of port & harbor management. Wrangell's Port & Harbor Department is made up on one port facility, 4 harbors, upland storage for boats, and a Marine Service Center (shipyard). Wrangell operates a 105-ton marine travel lift and a 300-ton ASCOM boat lift, the largest in Southeast Alaska. The Port & Harbor Director will have a crucial role in growing utilization of and revenue from the facilities in Wrangell

This position plans, organizes, and manages all Port, Harbor, and Marine Service Center functions and operations in accordance with Title 14 of the Wrangell Municipal Code. Delegates tasks to employees and ensures that duties are performed safely and efficiently. Reviews Port & Harbor Department priorities; develops strategic plans, goals and objectives; evaluates and analyzes issues, and recommends and implements solutions; assures that all Port, Harbor and Marine Service Center plans meet state, and federal compliance regulations.

The position requires in-depth knowledge of all harbor regulations, functions, and operations. Requires supervisory skills and the ability to be diplomatic with a variety of people. Requires some accounting knowledge for budget preparation. Requires excellent oral and written communication skills and decision-making ability. Requires experience and thorough knowledge of marine vessel and facility maintenance procedures. Requires maintenance skills to perform a variety of carpentry repair tasks. Requires verbal interpersonal skills to work with Coast Guard and other related agencies. Requires an understanding of all marine regulations to ensure Harbor safety.

This is a full-time, salaried position with full benefits, paid at Grade 25 ranging from \$5363 to \$6769 per month. The full job description and employment application can be found online at www.wrangell.com/jobs. Applicants must successfully complete a pre-employment criminal background investigation and drug screening. To be considered, submit an application, resume, and cover letter to Aleisha Mollen, PO Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to amollen@wrangell.com.

The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

Puzzle answers from May 21 Edition

	T	R	W	I	R	E	S	S	T				
	H	I	E	S	O	L	C	O	A				
A	M	U	S	E	R	M	A	O	U	J	D	A	
A	M	M	O	N	I	A	P	A	T	R	I	O	T
R	E	P	T	I	L	E	S	P	E	C	K	L	E
	T	E	L	L	E	I	R	E					
C	O	L	O	S	S	I	D	O	S	S	I	E	R
S	B	A									S	W	A
C	I	C	A	D	A	S	P	A	R	C	H	E	D
	L	A	N	E		U	S	E	R				
R	A	B	B	I	T	S	D	A	M	A	G	E	D
A	L	I	A	S	E	S	E	P	I	S	O	D	E
T	E	R	N	I	I	A	N	S	H	A	D	E	
	T	I	E	L	C	D	E	E	L				
H	A	S	E	T	A	D	D	S					

4	1	7	2	5	9	8	3	6					
8	2	9	1	3	6	4	7	5					
5	6	3	4	7	8	1	9	2					
9	7	8	3	6	1	2	5	4					
6	3	5	8	2	4	9	1	7					
1	4	2	5	9	7	6	8	3					
3	5	6	9	8	2	7	4	1					
2	8	1	7	4	5	3	6	9					
7	9	4	6	1	3	5	2	8					

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Fishermen give guidance on virus relief funds, Kelp farms sprout, Halibut scholarships

A rapid response by nearly 800 Alaska fishermen will provide a guideline for giving them a hand up as the coronavirus swamps their operations.

An online survey from April 14-May 3 by Juneau-based non-profit SalmonState asked fishermen about their primary concerns both before the Covid outbreak and in the midst of the pandemic in April. It also asked what elected officials at local, state and federal levels can do to help them directly.

Over half of the 817 responses came in over four days, said Tyson Fick, Salmon State communications adviser.

"Clearly, people were interested to have their stories heard and to weigh in. In several ways we feel like we had a very broad swath of regions and gear types and fishermen," he said.

A total of 779 responses (95%) were accepted of which 50% were Alaska residents, 28% were from the Lower 48, and 22% did not provide resident information.

Nearly 95% said they participate in a salmon fishery, with the majority fishing for both salmon and a mix of nearly all other species commercially harvested in Alaska.

Some takeaways:

Prior to Covid, the top three concerns among fishermen were fish prices (65%), the Pebble Mine (60%), and climate change (53%).

After Covid hit, concerns shifted to loss of income (75%), preventing the spread in coastal communities (69%), and bad policy decisions being made while fishermen are distracted (58%).

Fishermen are combatting the negative impacts by using a combination of strategies while doing more work with less time and resources. Over half said they would look for non-fishing related work, 27% said they would fish a longer season, and 26% plan to fish with fewer crew. Nearly a quarter expect to venture into direct marketing

or increase dock sales. Just over 4% said they would sell their fishing businesses.

By far, affected fishermen said giving them direct payments from emergency relief funds would be the biggest help (82.73%). The second and third most popular options were favorable debt consolidation opportunities (33.25%) and debt forgiveness (28.61%).

Fishermen provided thoughtful responses when asked about actions of policy makers that revealed several themes.

At both the congressional and state levels, stopping the Pebble Mine was the most frequent request, at 24% and 18%, respectively; keeping fisheries open also was a top issue.

For Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska legislature, respondents said they should focus on Covid-related health and safety support for fishermen and provide help with marketing.

Fishermen also shared their perceptions of the Dunleavy administration, saying it favors other interests over commercial fishermen, naming mining, oil and gas, sport and personal use fishing.

At the local level, fishermen expressed confusion over unclear guidelines for following local health mandates and suggested that signs at airports and boatyards along with a one-page guidance document would be helpful. They also mentioned that local communities should do all they can to support processors and their workforce.

Fishermen also shared ideas on local taxes and harbor fees, and changing infrastructure to include things like cold storages in recognition of dynamic market patterns.

Less than half of the fishermen respondents are members of a commercial fishing organization or trade association and the survey brings their voices into the conversation, said Fick.

"These are frontline workers, small business owners who



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Hiking through the rainforest

Wrangell Island, part of the Tongass National Rainforest, has many hiking trails and old logging roads to explore. Pictured here is Wrangell dog, Willow, next to the beginning of the Nemo Saltwater Access Trail.

are pretty tight lipped and they don't have fancy spokespersons or lobbyists speaking on their behalf. So they often just get left out," he added.

The goal now is to get the goods into the hands of those making the decisions on how Covid relief funds are spent and invested.

"Our commitment was to help get these results to decision makers on behalf of fishermen," said Lindsey Bloom, SalmonState campaign strategist. "We will do our best to get the information out as far as wide as possible for the fleet."

The fishermen's survey is a project of the group's Salmon Habitat Information Program. Find it at www.alaskasalmonhabitat.org

Kelp farms sprout! Interest continues to grow for startups of shellfish and seaweed farms - and in more remote regions of Alaska.

Eighteen growers put in applications for new or modified farms in the 2020 time slot that runs from January through April, an increase of three from last year.

Fifteen plan to grow kelp only, 2 aim to grow oysters, and one will farm kelp and geoduck

clams.

Most of Alaska's growing operations occur in Southeast, near Homer and at Prince William Sound, but the trend is heading west, said Karen Cougan, Aquatic Farming Program Coordinator for the state Dept. of Natural Resources, which leases the farm tidelands.

Kodiak pioneered the first kelp harvests in 2017 and could soon have more than five farms operating around the island, including one by the Afognak Native Corporation.

Sand Point is the first to grow kelp on the Alaska Peninsula, and this year an application came in from Adak.

In all, Alaska has 70 open farm permits, which include eight with nurseries and five hatcheries to provide seed stock to aquatic farmers.

In 2019, Pacific oysters were the biggest crop, making up 95% of sales of \$1.5 million, up slightly from the 10 year average.

For sugar and ribbon kelp, a crop of 112,000 pounds - up from about 17,000 pounds two years ago - was valued at \$60,000.

The advantage of kelp is the short grow-out time, said Flip Pryor, Aquaculture Section Chief for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, which issues the permits.

"While interest is high, kelp farming production is just starting to come online," Pryor said. "The growing process is pretty straight forward, but it sometimes takes a couple of tries to work the proverbial bugs out of each farm site. I expect to see that value increase significantly in the next couple of years."

Alaska's mariculture task force predicts a \$100 million industry by the year 2040.

Halibut scholarships - High school students who feel

a special pull for halibut might merit a scholarship to a university or technical college.

Every two years the International Pacific Halibut Commission funds several \$4,000 scholarships to U.S. and Canadian students connected to the halibut fishery. The IPHC and its scientists have been stewards of the Pacific stock from British Columbia to the Bering Sea since 1923.

"If I was to highlight some of the candidates who've been successful in receiving the scholarship, it's been those who are dependents of active fishers within the directed Pacific halibut fleets, but we will certainly consider others if they are involved in charter or recreational fishing," said David Wilson, IPHC executive director. "We look at candidates from a broad spectrum of backgrounds, and somebody who expresses the desire or is more likely to come back to the industry postgraduate."

The scholarships are renewable annually for the normal four-year period of undergraduate education.

The IPHC also offers other outreach teaching tools for all school ages. An Ocean Literacy Program package is downloadable, including lesson plans. And the colorful Flat or Fiction booklet is a keeper for any halibut lover!

For example, did you know that the treaty that formed the IPHC was the first international treaty in the world for the protection of a marine resource?

Back to the halibut scholarships: they will be available for school entrance or continuation this fall. Deadline to apply is June 30.

Find applications at the IPHC website under opportunities.

Questions? Contact secretariat@iphc.int or 206-634-1838.

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE Vacancy on the Borough Assembly

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting *letters of interest* from citizens who wish to serve on the Borough Assembly.
The unexpired term of this appointment is until October 2020

Any interested person is eligible to apply. Letters of interest should be submitted to:

Mayor Stephen Prysunka
PO Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

or you can email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: on or before **June 3, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

Information on the powers and duties of the Borough Assembly are contained in Wrangell Municipal Code, Chapter 3.04. A copy of the code chapter can be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at

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

Publish: May 28 and June 4, 2020

Call Ottesen's True Value Hardware for all your building & special order needs.

Featuring:
Atrium Windows,
Snap-Loc Roofing,
Treated &
Untreated Wood

Phone 874-3377
Fax 874-3549
e-mail: ottesenstruevalue@ak.net

Ottesen's
BEHIND EVERY
PROJECT IS A
True Value.

School

Continued from page 1
role of principal?

"Our District has highly qualified individuals leading our primary and secondary schools," Angerman wrote. "The Lead Teacher/ Assistant Principal model has proven successful at the elementary school and I'm excited to see what it can do in the middle and high schools. These staff are paid in accordance with the negotiated agreement between Wrangell Public Schools and the Wrangell Teachers Association."

He further clarified that there is a difference between a principal and a lead teacher/assistant principal. The lead teachers still maintain their role as teachers for their schools, but they take on some of the responsibilities of a principal, too. They fulfill similar roles, he said, but they do not have the same level of authority as a principal. The teachers acting as "lead teacher/assistant principal" do not have the authority to sign off on evaluations or to give suspensions, for example, those are passed up to the superintendent. Angerman added that there is language in their negotiated agreements for extensions to their contracts both before and after the school year, for them to get the schools set up and later cleaned up.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Mariners' Memorial, located at Heritage Harbor.

Mariners' Memorial coming together

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

More progress has been made on the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial. The memorial is an ongoing project to recognize Wrangell sailors who have been lost at sea. Jenn Miller-Yancey, with the Mariners' Memorial Board, said that the past month has been spent getting foundations for the memorial completed. She also reported that a lot of progress on the memorial's gazebo has been made. The skeleton of the gazebo is up already, and the

foundations for the memorial walls are complete. The shape of the memorial is really coming together, she said.

"It's exciting out there because there's dimension," Miller-Yancey said.

Currently, the board is looking into final designs for the memorial walls and getting their construction started. Hopefully, she said, the board will be sending out information on plaques for the memorial sometime this summer.

Borough assembly accepts resignation, CARES Act funding

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening, May 26, for their regularly scheduled meeting. In the meeting, the assembly accepted the resignation of one of their members, Drew Larrabee. Larrabee turned in his resignation at the meeting, effective at the end of the evening, and will leave open an unexpired term on the borough assembly that lasts until this October. In his letter, he wrote that he regrets leaving his position in the middle of the budget season. However, he and his family are preparing to move away, and he felt his position needed someone who could be around for the remainder of the process. In a Facebook message, Larrabee said that he has accepted a K-12 principal position in Tok, necessitating the move.

"As my family and I prepare for our move, we are excited about our next adventure but are filled with sorrow for how much we will miss this wonderful community," Larrabee wrote in his resignation letter. "Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve and represent the people of this place we have called home."

During the meeting, the assembly also approved of a resolution to create a "Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Special Revenue Fund." This fund will be used to hold CARES Act funding for the community. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was passed by Congress on March 27, according to the agenda packet, and distributed federal funds to the states for use in recovery from the pandemic. The state of Alaska, furthermore, is passing that money down to individual boroughs and municipalities to use.

Wrangell is expecting approximately \$3.85 million in total, over the course of three payments. According to the agenda packet, the first payment is val-

ued at about \$2.06 million. The remaining two payments will be sent to Wrangell only if the borough uses 80 percent of the first installment. Monthly reports to the state will be expected, the agenda packet reads.

This money can be used for non-budgeted expenditures incurred because of COVID-19. Some examples of potential uses of this money include, according to the agenda packet, payroll expenses for public safety and health employees responding to the pandemic, unemployment insurance costs, costs for provid-

ing COVID-19 testing, among other possibilities. After some discussion, this was approved by the assembly.

On a related topic, the assembly also approved of an outline of plans provided by the Economic Development Committee, for how CARES Act funding could be used for community support. The Economic Development Director said, in the meeting, that work still needed to be done on putting some of the plans together fully, but the document provided to the assembly laid out their general ideas. Assembly

Member Julie Decker added that they were aiming to be conservative with their funding, about 10 percent of CARES Act money, and were also trying to move quickly to get these plans moving when they were most needed. Some of the proposals include food and social service assistance, incentives for local business spending, and business relief programs. The assembly approved of up to \$400,000 of CARES Act money to be spent on community relief assistance.

In other business, the assembly decided to explore ways they

can go back to in-person meetings in the near future, and approved of a relocation of GCI's submarine cable. They also approved a draft letter from the Alaska Municipal League calling on a moratorium on small cruise ship sailings in Southeast Alaska until ports in the region and the industry could agree to shared safety protocols.

They recognized and thanked three Wrangell residents, Dan Flickinger, Duke Aitkin, and George Howell for helping save Norm Canaday from a trailer fire on May 16.

In town
Subscription
\$46
per year*

*Includes Free Online Access! Call today to set up an account.

Get It All In One Place!

Local News & So Much More
In Print & Online!

• P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 • 205 Front Street
 • Ph: (907) 874-2301 • Email: wrgsent@gmail.com • Website: www.wrangellsentinel.com