

Lady Wolves power through first match of season, page 10



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A positive BASE



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Freshman Addy Andrews (from left) and juniors Rylee Chelette and Kiara Harrison operate the BASE Café at the high school. Students from the high school and middle school are able to get food from the café before school begins.

High schoolers step up to build supportive environment for peers

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A group of Wrangell High School students saw a problem and decided to do something about it.

Those students wanted to make the school warmer and more inviting. They created BASE — Building A Supportive Environment — a program aimed at inclusivity and helping each other. It's grown from decorating the halls to making sure other students get needed food, recognizing staff, and even securing money to make microloans on a global scale.

The year before COVID-19 hit, several students attempted or considered suicide, and peer counseling was put in place by school administrators. Students at the time did not like the training for the peer counseling.

"The kids walked out and said, 'We don't want anything to do with this. We think we have a better idea,'" said Assistant Principal Bob Davis. "They kind of went rogue on us. Their approach is they want to tackle it globally."

When the program began in 2019, students involved in BASE started decorating the halls with

paintings, photo prints and other art to brighten up the school. Plants were added shortly after that. Then they turned to feeding their fellow students.

Davis said the kids worked with staff to learn how to write grants and find other ways to secure funds to keep the program afloat. That's helped fund the BASE breakfast store, a part of the program that has carried over into this year.

"We sell food in the morning because there's a good amount of kids who come to school hungry," said junior Kiara Harrison.

"Prior to that, there was no school breakfast program," said counselor Addy Esco, who oversees the projects BASE students are working on. Students raised \$2,000 in grants, \$1,500 of which was used for the free or reduced-cost lunch program. The other \$500 was divided into \$5 punch cards that teachers can give out as rewards to students who go above and beyond.

"We're trying to encourage pro-social behavior. We're trying to get students to look out for each

Continued on page 5

Alaska seafood shippers say they are being railroaded by federal law

By PATRICK WHITTLE
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A customs dispute at the U.S.-Canada border in Maine is threatening America's supply of Alaska pollock used for popular products such as fish sticks and fast-food sandwiches.

The pollock has a complicated supply chain. After being caught offshore Alaska, the fish are transported by ship to New Brunswick, Canada, near the border with Maine. Then they're loaded onto rail cars for a brief trip down 100 feet of track in Canada, before being put on trucks and crossing the border into the U.S. for processing.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection alleges the shippers are violating the federal Jones

Act, which requires that goods shipped between U.S. ports be transported on U.S.-owned ships with U.S. crews.

The 100-foot section of rail line -- built solely for this one purpose and opened in 2012 -- is designed to take advantage of a provision in the law that allows non-U.S. ships to move goods between U.S. ports if the cargo makes a railroad trip through Canada somewhere along the delivery route.

The Customs agency decided the 100 feet of rail to nowhere doesn't qualify, and has assessed more than \$350 million in penalties against the shippers. Two of the shipping companies have sued in federal court to stop the enforcement, which they characterized as heavy-handed, unexpected and unfair.

The dispute left 26 million pounds of fish in cold storage in Canada until a federal court judge issued an injunction on Sunday to let the seafood move into the U.S.

Members of the industry said they're concerned about permanent disruption to the seafood supply chain if the disagreement continues.

"We're talking about feeding and employing Americans, right now," said Gavin Gibbons, spokesman for the Virginia-based National Fisheries Institute.

U.S. Customs filed court papers in early October that said the agency agrees with the shippers in desiring a quick resolution to the case. However, the schedule it has proposed in court for resolving the case

Continued on page 5

Updated COVID plan allows student-athletes to compete mask-free

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The school board on Monday night reviewed an updated COVID-19 mitigation plan which now allows student-athletes to go mask-free during training and while competing against other schools.

Mask-wearing and social-distancing guidelines remain in place if athletes are sitting on the sidelines or not actively engaged in play.

The updated policy does not change the requirement for face masks in classrooms and elsewhere in school buildings.

"The mitigation plan ... we are looking at it and making adjustments as we move forward as situations change," Superintendent Bill Burr said. "According to the proposed ASAA (Alaska School Activities Association) rules, athletes that are actively participating in a sanctioned or regular Wrangell School District game, training, practice or class will have the option of wearing a mask during the activity, if possible, and we encourage remaining six feet apart if unmasked."

He added that mitigation measures remain in effect when "outside the field-of-play, such the bench, full-team huddles or other non-court activities."

Before the board meeting,

members held a work session including a question-and-answer session via Zoom with Anna Frick, applied epidemiology fellow at the state health department, and Dr. Mishelle Nace, a pediatrician based in Fairbanks.

The board, including newly elected members Jessica Whitaker, Angela Allen and Brittani Robbins, discussed the mitigation policy, specifically the school district's mask mandate, with Frick and Nace.

"You might have one case and that might jump you up a risk level. I think it's reasonable for a community as small as yours for you guys to consider the situation and the risk of transmission," Frick said. "I do think with the current amount of transmission occurring across Alaska, that a mask policy is probably your best bet for keeping everyone as minimally impacted as possible."

Dave Wilson, who was elected board president, asked if the need to isolate vaccinated student-athletes returning from away games was as great as the need to isolate the unvaccinated ones if there was exposure to COVID-19.

"Being unvaccinated, you have a five-times higher risk of actually getting infected," Nace said. "So your overall risk (if

Continued on page 5

Villarma brings skills to job of borough finance director

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Mason Villarma is good at math.

"It's therapeutic, in a way. It always works out," Villarma, the borough's new finance director, said.

The Gonzaga 2020 grad has plans to work out the borough's books after filling the position — which was vacant for about eight months — in September.

After he snagged an internship with Big Four tax audit firm KPMG in Spokane, Washington, last year, the firm hired Villarma to work in Seattle.

Then the pandemic struck right in the heart of his employment. Like so many others, he was relegated to working from home. That included a lot of remote calls and assisting clients online.

Villarma wasn't looking to leave KPMG, but heard from family members and family friend Jeff Jabusch ("my dad used to say he was such a stellar point guard") that there was a finance director position open in Wrangell.

"My accounting experience, and my goals being directed more toward finance — I thought this could be a really great fit," he said.

Villarma said working for



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Mason Villarma, the borough's new finance director, started on the job last month.

KPMG gave him a solid foundation with a lot of skills, but the position in Wrangell offered the holistic experience he wanted, and a return to his roots. Villarma's grandparents — who are in their 90s, and have been married for nearly seven decades — live here.

And Villarma, who grew up in Washington state, has 13 years of fond memories

Continued on page 5

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, Oct. 14: Ariana Ireland Ellsworth, Dustin Johnson, Erika Seimears.

Friday, Oct. 15: Anniversary: Kenny and Mariah Speers.

Saturday, Oct. 16: Bonnie Dermerjian, Leslie Kagee, Craig Vilarma.

Sunday, Oct. 17: Rachel Angerman, Jonathan Bates, Ann Kramer Benson, Charles Meissner Sr.; Anniversary: Fred and Sumi Angerman.

Monday, Oct. 18: Ian Bunes, Cyni Cray, Mikee Lockabey, Kevin Neyman.

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Lee Byrd Jr, Rob Davidson Sr, Duncan, Marco Garcia, Rian Guggenbickler, Paula Wickman; Anniversary: Chris and Jodie Guggenbickler.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: Patrick Howell, Tony Guggenbickler, Stephen Peabody.

Thursday, Oct. 21: Darlene Bergiof, Debrah Johnson, Alexis Stough Rifenburg, King Sanders.

Senior Center Menu

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

Friday, Oct. 15

Half tuna sandwich, cream of tomato soup, cucumber salad

Monday, Oct. 18

The senior center will be closed for Alaska Day, but a special meal of halibut chowder donated by Island of Faith Lutheran Church will be delivered on Friday

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Salisbury steak, peas, peach salad, mashed potatoes with gravy

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Up North salmon supper, broccoli, carrot and pineapple salad, garlic bread

Thursday, Oct. 21

Chicken adobo, oriental veggie, honey orange salad, rice

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.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION registration for the American Red Cross lifeguard course is open through Oct. 20. Course is Oct. 21-22 in the evenings and all day on Oct. 23-24. Fee is \$150. There is a fee waiver for eligible individuals who commit to a minimum of six months of employment at the pool. Participants can register online at wrangllrec.com. Call 874-2444 for more information or register online at www.wrangellrec.com.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION is offering pickleball for all skill levels for adults 18 years and up, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through Dec. 16 at the community center gym. \$5 drop-in fee or \$40 for the entire season. Players must review the safety mitigation plan and adhere to the established protocols. Register online at www.wrangellrec.com or call 874-2444.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION is offering Keep Moving! This program is perfect for beginners, or those in need of low-impact movement. The cardio portion will consist of gym walking, while the strength series will offer body weight movements, helping to improve range of motion and increase strength. Great for seniors looking to keep their bodies strong and limber during winter. The course runs Oct. 19 to Dec. 16 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the community center gym. Open to 18 years and up. \$5 drop-in fee, \$3 for seniors. The entire program is \$75, or \$45 for seniors. Register at www.wrangellrec.com or call 874-2444.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Dear Evan Hansen," rated PG-13, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the drama and musical that runs two hours and 17 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION will have a pumpkin plunge at the pool, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 for kids 6 months to 11 years old. A parent or guardian must be in the pool with any child 6 years and younger, or non-swimmers. Fee is \$10 per child, with parent/guardian admission free. Space is limited. Call to reserve a spot, 874-2444.

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

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

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:

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

Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

AA Meetings: North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

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

Oct. 13, 1921

An enormous rutabaga, grown on the Kirk ranch near Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, appeared in the Coulter Meat Market window this week. It was brought down the Stikine River to Wrangell on the Hazel B on Sunday by D. W. Kirk, and weighs 27.5 pounds. Mr. Kirk had a 56-pound rutabaga ready for shipment, but a horse discovered it as it lay drying after having been washed and displayed. The horse showed its appreciation of its quality by sampling it

and making it unfit to send away. Several 35-pound rutabagas have been raised on the same ranch as the one exhibited in Wrangell. They are all said to be perfectly sound and of excellent flavor.

Oct. 11, 1946

The city council studied the report of garbage collections at its meeting last night at City Hall. The report had been compiled in the past week in regard to people who are not complying with regulations and who put their garbage in containers that fill with water or fall apart. The council decided that letters would be written to the offenders now, and if the situation did not improve fines would be imposed. The council also decided to make a survey of the street from the light plant to Grant's Grocery corner to determine what improvements are needed and what can be done to make the street more stable this winter. Owen Brothers logging company were given permission to tie their floathouse inside the breakwater this winter. It was pointed out that work on the harbor floats and garbage ramp were delayed because of the lack of nails.

Oct. 15, 1971

In a split vote, the city council on Tuesday voted to relocate the police department in rented quarters and give the entire Front Street city hall facility to the volunteer fire department as a training and meeting area. The

switch will be made when city employees move on Nov. 1 to the new City Hall in the fill area. An upstairs office in the Kadin Building on Front Street has been selected for the police and will cost \$175 per month to rent.

Oct. 17, 1996

Like many museums, the one in Wrangell often receives new acquisitions either on loan or by donation, and there are thousands of undisplayed items kept in storage until exhibit space becomes available or the necessary cleaning and classification is done to make their display meaningful to the public. Museum director Theresa Thibeault pulled out a box of recently donated artifacts, many of which originated near the Old Town village site. My attention was drawn to a rock that was partially painted with red ochre pigment. The head of a maul, fashioned from granite, showed a groove where a handle had once been, or was going to be lashed on, and there were a number of unfinished tools in the Old Town collection including bone and antler awls for making holes in hides. According to a recent visitor, the Wrangell Museum is noted in an international catalog for some of the unique objects it has on display. The Friends of the Mesum are working with the city on building a new museum.



Ferry Schedule October 18-December 13

Northbound

Monday, Oct. 18

Kennicott, 12:15 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Matanuska, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 10:45 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kennicott, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 4:45 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.

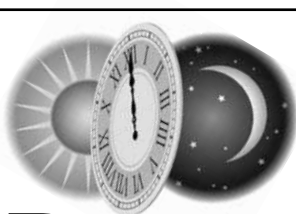


TIDES October 14-October 20

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Oct. 14	09:02	12.6	08:52	13.9	02:02	1.3	02:28	5.8
Oct. 15	10:11	13.8	10:08	14.6	03:27	1.3	04:02	4.7
Oct. 16	11:04	15.1	11:09	15.4	04:36	0.7	05:08	3.0
Oct. 17	11:48	16.2	11:59	16.0	05:28	0.2	05:57	1.5
Oct. 18	12:26	17.1	06:10	-0.1	06:36	0.2
Oct. 19	00:44	16.4	01:01	17.5	06:45	0.0	07:11	-0.6
Oct. 20	01:24	16.4	01:32	17.6	07:16	0.4	07:42	-1.0



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Oct. 14	7:20a	5:49p	10:28h
Oct. 15	7:22a	5:46p	10:23h
Oct. 16	7:24a	5:44p	10:19h
Oct. 17	7:26a	5:41p	10:14h
Oct. 18	7:29a	5:39p	10:10h
Oct. 19	7:31a	5:36p	10:05h
Oct. 20	7:33a	5:34p	10:00h

Borough approves tidelands lease for oyster farm to set up at 4 Mile

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly approved a one-acre tidelands lease to Canoe Lagoon Oysters at its Tuesday night meeting.

Co-owner Brian Herman said the business would use the intertidal area in front of the former airplane pullout at 4 Mile Zimovia Highway to raise oysters in floating containment bags and hold them for sale.

Having the site in Wrangell would allow the operation to bring maturing oysters over in good weather from the existing farm on the Blashke Islands, established in March 2020, making it easier to harvest the oysters when bad weather prevents deliveries from the site just off Prince of Wales Island, he said.

Having the marketable oysters in town would avoid the 30-mile boat trip in rain and rough water to meet supply demands from customers, Herman said.

The port and planning and zoning commissions in September reviewed and approved Herman's request to

lease the site.

The borough assembly Tuesday approved a delayed start date to the lease, estimated at June 2022, so that Canoe Lagoon Oysters can complete the required state testing for the operation.

Before he spends time and money in doing the testing for the site through the state, which is costly and time consuming, "we want to make sure we'll be able to complete the process," Herman said in an interview Tuesday.

The annual lease will be 6% of the site's appraised value, which the borough will set after the property is appraised.

At any one time, Canoe Lagoon Oysters expects to use about 10% of the 42,000 square feet of the area under the lease. The bags will be rotated within the area to minimize any impact to clams in the beach area at the airplane pull-out site, which is designated for recreational use.

Canoe Lagoon Oysters is not seeking to restrict any public access to clamming, according to the material presented to the assembly.

With the tidelands lease ap-

proved, Herman said the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will have to conduct a water quality test and site visit.

Then, the Department of Fish and Game will require a pathology report to make sure nothing biologically harmful is being transported on the oysters from the Blashke Islands site to the new one.

The process to ready the site for growing oysters could take more than a year, Herman said.

Depending on how long the process takes with Fish and Game and the DEC, Herman estimates it could be spring or summer of 2023 before the Wrangell site will be operational.

Herman last month reported the business was selling 200 dozen oysters a week, with a goal of boosting that to selling 400 dozen oysters a week.

Brian and Kristy Herman have invested about \$300,000 in Canoe Lagoon Oysters, they said last month.

No close results in borough elections

By Sentinel staff

None of the four contested races in last week's municipal election were close, though the number of voters who cast ballots compared to last year was about as close as it can get.

Last year's municipal election tallied 485 voters. This year's total was 486. "Yes, you are reading that correctly, we had one more voter this year than we had last year," Borough Clerk Kim Lane reported to the assembly this week.

The assembly certified the results Oct. 7, after the canvass board had counted early and absentee votes and resolved several questioned ballots from the Oct. 5 election.

Incumbent borough assembly member David Powell defeated Don McConachie Sr. for a one-year term, 276-204.

Bob Dalrymple and Jim DeBord ran uncontested for two, three-year terms on the assembly, with incumbent Dalrymple receiving 324 votes and DeBord 363 out of the 485 ballots cast. Voters are not required to choose a candidate in every race on the ballot.

There were four candidates for two, three-year terms on the school board, with Brittani Robbins (287) and Angela Allen (275) winning the seats, defeating Alex Angerman (178) and Elizabeth Roundtree (126).

In the other contested school board race, Jessica Whitaker defeated Julia Ostrander, 269-197, for a one-year term.

The three port commission seats on the ballot all were uncontested, with incumbents John Martin (383) and Frank Roppel (435), and newcomer Chris Bunes (384) elected to the commission.

The turnout in the Oct. 5 election represented about 25% of registered voters in town, though the registration list includes many people who have since left town but have not canceled their registration.

Wrangell voter participation in last year's statewide general election — which included the presidential race — exceeded 800.

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Tent City Days offer 20 events over 3 days

Sentinel staff

Wrangell's Tent City Days start Friday and run through Sunday, with 20 events scheduled for the fall festivities that come a day before Alaska Day on Monday, which celebrates the U.S. purchase of the territory from Russia in 1867.

In keeping with the historical theme, there are some gold rush-named activities among the varied three-day schedule.

And in keeping with COVID-19 safety, organizers advise on the event's Facebook page: "Please mask up. Follow state/local health mandates. Don't feel well? Stay home and call your medical provider."

Tent City Days open at 11 a.m. on Friday with a Zoom storytime presented by the library, 6 p.m. bowling and burgers at the Elks (with a prize for the best long Johns), a 6:30 p.m. open swim at the pool, and 9 p.m. cornhole tournament at Rayme's Bar.

Saturday morning starts with a half-marathon race at 9 a.m., a 10K run at 10 a.m., a 5K at 11 a.m. and one-mile dash at 11:30 a.m., all at the Muskeg Meadows golf course. Family Fun Day, including a scavenger hunt, games, food and face painting, also is set for the golf course, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The day continues with the BRAVE Resilience Fair noon to 2 p.m. at the Nolan Center, open swim 1 to 2 p.m., a "fisherman's crawl" race for children ages 10 and up at 2 p.m. on the grass at Outer Drive, followed at 3 p.m. by the Wild

Woman competition, also at the Outer Drive location.

The high school volleyball team will sell Russian dumplings as a fundraiser at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at the downtown pavilion, with a Taste of Alaska sampling of local cuisine at 3 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. — but seating is limited and contact Groundswell (907-268-4894) for tickets.

The Elks are holding a gold miners brunch 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday (members and guests only).

The deadline is 10 a.m. Sunday, to drop off items at the Elks Club for the food cache contest (canned, jarred, smoked or dehydrated) and for the Trading Post Best in Show contest (jewelry, woven or beaded items, or anything made from animal hides or plants).

A cribbage tournament is planned for 1 p.m. on Sunday at the Elks (sign-up at 12:30 p.m.), with a disc golf tournament at 1 p.m. at Muskeg Meadows (sign-up at noon).

Not to forget the dogs, Tent City Days will hold a virtual Cute Canines Dog Show for the cutest dog and best trick. Submit video entries to tentcitydays907@gmail.com. Entries are due Sunday.

Assembly members say Wrangell and Petersburg not good match in House district

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

By the time they are done touring the state on Nov. 1, the Alaska Redistricting Board will have visited 24 communities to gather public comments on six proposed maps for redrawing boundaries of every legislative district in the state.

On Oct. 7, four of the five board members met with community members in Wrangell at the Nolan Center to explain the maps and how the boundaries were determined. The board will consider the information from its community meetings to decide on its final maps by the Nov. 10 deadline.

When completed, each of 40 state House districts must be as close to a population of 18,355 as possible based on the results of the 2020 census. Some in Wrangell believe that to be a problem since they think the count was inaccurate.

"We have a problem with our census count. We think it's too low," said borough Assemblymember Patty Gilbert.

Redistricting Board member Budd Simpson, of Juneau, said the board is mandated by law to use the census numbers in the redistricting process.

Though the boundaries will change, Southeast will not lose a seat in the Legislature.

Both Gilbert and Assemblymember Anne Morrison voiced displeasure over the maps that put Wrangell and Petersburg in the same district, a change from the current legislative map that has

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Lordy Lordy
Look who's forty!

Happy Birthday Son!
We are Proud of you!

Love you,
Mom and Dad

HARVEST CELEBRATION

Games Food Fun All Ages

Wrangell Community Gym

31 October **5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

Hosted by Harbor Light Assembly of God

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Blaming the media is the real fake news

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Every kid should learn from their parents the modern way to avoid responsibility for misdeeds and missed homework.

When you fail or do something stupid or dishonest or regretful, or just don't like the way the world is spinning that day or how the spicy chili went down, deny you're at fault and deny the heartburn is self-inflicted.

Instead, blame the news media.

No one ever believed the dog ate your homework anyway.

If you disagree with the facts of science, economics, the law or elections, accuse reporters and editors of making it all up.

And if you are running for political office, by all means blame everything on the newspapers, radio or TV if the event or facts don't add up the way you want.

Sarah Palin brought the claim of "fake news" to national attention with a smile, a smirk and a wink. Donald Trump elevated it to a hostile shout and a fire-up-the-crowd rallying cry.

Why own your mistakes or accept responsibility or acknowledge that maybe you had the facts wrong when you can turn it around and point at someone else with a mere type of your tweeter thumb on the phone. Why face reality when you can book on the fact that Facebook will let you say most anything.

Double down and encourage your supporters to do the same, and soon there is a growing chorus of off-key, often misled voices all typing the same keystrokes on their phones, spreading claims of "fake news." It gets so loud, even reasonable people start to wonder, maybe there's something to it.

Nope, there usually isn't. But what it creates can be dangerous. News people covering last

week's public testimony at the Anchorage municipal assembly over a proposed mask mandate were hassled and scared by opponents of what was a sincere effort by elected officials to discuss public health. Last week's threatening behavior was an embarrassment for the state's largest city. Fake news it wasn't.

And even though the U.S. Senate race for the seat held by Lisa Murkowski is a year away, already her Republican opponent, Kelly Tshibaka, is blaming the news media for troubles of her own making.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety last

week fined Tshibaka for commercial fishing without a crew license this past summer when she helped someone on the Kenai Peninsula pick salmon from a setnet. State investigators also looked at whether Tshibaka violated state law in 2019 when she obtained a resident sport fishing license even though she had not

lived in Alaska long enough to qualify.

Her response was to blame Murkowski, "her campaign team, her minions in the media, and her political pals" for tarnishing her name "by falsely accusing me of getting the wrong sport fishing license. It was all a lie."

Yeah, the dog must have eaten her other license.

There is fake fake, as in such political yelling. And there is real fake, such as back in August when federal agents seized more than 3,000 counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards moving as cargo through the Anchorage airport. Good that Customs and Border Protection officers know a fake when they see one. Maybe they should offer a webinar for politicians who don't know a fake even when they create it.

"And if you are running for political office, by all means blame everything on the newspapers, radio or TV if the event or facts don't add up the way you want."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Angerman family grateful for support and kindness

Many thanks to our St. Philip's family for the caring tribute to honor the memory of Leonard on Oct. 8.

Our family and friends extend a sincere thanks to the nurses at Wrangell Medical Center for the wonderful care they provided, the over-the-top service from the dietary team, Dr. Lynn Prysunka for her years of care and more recently Dr. Victor Harrison, the CNAs plus the kindness of the hospital staff.

The family is humbled by the cards, food donations, support from friends, and the Wrangell Fire Department for their presence in our lives.

*Kathie, Scott, Steve, Lorri, Beverly, Jessie, Derek and Kyle
The Angerman family*

Americans can unite and vaccinate to defeat pandemic

The unvaccinated are not idiots. They have been conned, and I feel sorry for them.

There are a few who have legitimate health reasons to not get vaccinated, but that number is far fewer than the number of unvaccinated. The reasons most have for not getting vaccinated are rooted in the fear of the unknown and misinformation.

I am unfortunately limited by 400 words, and cannot cover all of the science and history here, but I will highlight a few points.

Vaccines as a technology have been around for more than 200 years, and have come a long way since the 1700s. During an outbreak of smallpox in the winter of 1776-77, Gen. George Washington ordered all of his troops inoculated against the disease, which was a new process at the time that scared many people. His decision ultimately saved his army from being decimated by the disease, which could have cost them the American Revolution that laid the foundations of our great nation.

You owe your freedoms in part to this technology.

Smallpox and polio have both been eliminated through vaccination. Measles, mumps and rubella were all on their way out until the recent anti-vax movement. Herd immunity works, but only once a critical percentage of the population has been vaccinated. We are currently failing to reach this point.

I chose to get vaccinated to do my part to protect my country and my fellow citizens, no matter their beliefs. Choosing to or not to get vaccinated affects more people than yourself. I am

not refuting your right to choose to vaccinate, but choosing not to leads to further suffering and weakening of our nation. As a species, we have used science and collective might to defeat diseases in the past, and we can do it again.

I want you to fight against the horrid beast that has killed 700,000 of your fellow American citizens. This pandemic can end once we all band together and fight as one.

In the spirit of the revolutionaries who fought for our independence. In the spirit of those Americans who banded together to fight their way out of the Great Depression and defeat the threat of authoritarianism on two fronts. In the spirit of humanity, we must fight, and fight together.

I urge the unvaccinated to choose to fight to protect their nation and their families.

Delton Claggett

Thank you to Haig Demerjian

Thanks to Haig Demerjian for his many years of volunteer service on the Wrangell Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Cindy Martin

EDITORIAL

State psychiatric doctors are not political appointees

Doctors at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute are there to help make people think and feel better about themselves, to overcome the troubles that disrupt their lives and sometimes endanger the public.

They are not there to make a governor look good, or to pledge allegiance to whatever agenda a new governor wants to promote.

Good that a federal judge could see the difference.

The judge last Friday ruled that two psychiatrists were wrongfully fired for political reasons when Gov. Mike Dunleavy took office in 2018. Their offense, according to the governor's team, was that they refused to resign from their jobs, reapply and put in writing that they wanted to work on Dunleavy's agenda — whatever that may be, and whatever it may have to do with psychiatric care.

While acknowledging that new governors can pick and choose, hire and fire policymakers — which would include commissioners, their deputies, division directors and others — U.S. District Court Judge John Sedwick said the rehiring prerequisite for the two doctors was "political."

He wrote in his decision that demanding their resignations "undisputedly went beyond what was customary during an administration transition and extended to employees not occupying policymaking positions ... (it) demonstrates that the purpose went beyond routine employment action."

Sedwick said the governor and his chief of staff essentially wanted a "commitment of political support, or at least deference, in return for continued employment, the effect of which was to either interfere with or chill employees' exercise of protected First Amendment rights. Those that did not want to signal such a commitment ... were fired."

The judge's ruling was no surprise, except maybe to the governor, his staff and compliant attorneys who thought a political loyalty pledge should apply to psychiatric doctors the same as political appointees who are routinely rewarded, or punished, after an election.

The attorney representing the two doctors called the judge's decision "a significant vindication for the free speech rights of all state employees, all public employees."

Yes, it was. All that remains — unless the governor wants to appeal the righteous decision — is to decide damages. Because the judge ruled that the firings were not part of their official duties, the governor and his then-chief of staff could be held personally liable for damages.

Maybe if the judge is reluctant to order the governor and his former staffer to write a personal check, he could sentence the two men to community service at the state psychiatric hospital to learn just how little politics has to do with anyone's life there.

— Wrangell Sentinel

REFLECTIONS

Seeing grays helps us see the beauty

By PASTOR SUE BAHLEDA
Island of Faith Lutheran Church

I have long said that if I were conducting job interviews for any position in Southeast Alaska, my first question would be, "Do you like black and white photography or black and white movies?"

These art forms are not stark black and white; what makes black and white movies and photos so striking is the interplay of gray. Seeing and celebrating the variety, contrasts and beauty in the range of the gray tones is critical for appreciating life in Southeast.

Last week, I sat on a bench overlooking the water, and the bright, flat expanse of nickel-gray sky met the steely, hard gun-metal-gray surface of the water, while the warm, lavender grays of Etolin Island rose up amidst the diminishing, foggy grays of the farther-flung islands. It took my breath away.

I find appreciating the grays equally breathtaking when considering the Bible. Scripture insists that we see the wideness of its tones and hues and variations, and not default to a black/white polarity.

The very first stories in the Bible are two stories of creation that do not correspond with each other. While there are those who will work hard to harmonize them, they are distinctly different, even in the name used for the Creator: In the first story, God creates the cosmos in a particular order; in the second, the LORD God concentrates on creating the stuff of the earth, in a very different order.

Noah takes two of every living thing into the ark, right? Except in the paragraph right after it, God tells Noah to take seven pairs

Continued on page 6

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Seafood

Continued from page 1

would still take several weeks.

The agency declined to comment on the case because of the ongoing litigation, a government spokesperson said. The shipping companies behind the lawsuit, Kloosterboer International Forwarding and Alaska Reefer Management, which have offices in Seattle, also both declined to comment.

The dispute is happening at a bad time for the seafood industry because the business is making preparations for the busy Lenten season, said Michael Alexander, president of King and Price, a Georgia company that makes seafood for the food service industry. Many Christians substitute fish for red meat during Lent, and pollock is in higher demand during that part of the year.

In addition, most fast-food chains' fish offering, including the McDonald's Filet-O-Fish, is made from pollock.

"If we can't get the pollock soon, then we will run out of time and other raw material; causing production lines - and people - to sit idle," Alexander said.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, has called on President Joe Biden, a Democrat, to help resolve the dispute. Baker said in a mid-September letter to the president that his state, home to some of the nation's largest seafood processors, stands to be hurt economically if the fish doesn't start moving again.

That could cost jobs in an industry still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, he wrote.

"Processors in Massachusetts will exhaust their remaining inventory, halt production, and be forced to lay off workers," Baker's letter said.

The trucks carrying the fish enter the U.S. in Calais, a small Maine city located about 220 miles northeast of Portland. The city is dependent on cross-border economic activity, and that has suffered during the coronavirus pandemic, said Michael Ellis, the city manager.

"We're all hoping for the border to reopen because it's a big part of our economy," Ellis said.

Villarma

Continued from page 1

of coming to Wrangell and working on fishing boats with his dad, Jeff Villarma, and other residents like Frank Warfel and John Agostine.

In fact, the experience Villarma gleaned on fishing vessels informed how he approaches his career.

"It teaches you about teams and culture, and working with people that don't always have the same background or values," Villarma said. "You really learn to work with all sorts of people."

A panel of seven staff members, among them Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga, interviewed Villarma in late May and offered him the position the following week. He said he wanted to finish up his commitments to KPMG in a respectful way, so his first day at the borough was Sept. 7.

One of his first assignments is wrapping up an audit for fiscal year 2020 that has stretched on for 15 months.

"An audit is like a litmus test," Villarma told the borough assembly at its Sept. 28 meeting. "If an audit stresses the system, it's a failed system, from an accounting structure standpoint."

One issue is that over the years the borough has created too many different fund accounts, he said. "The analogy is like a hoarder in a house."

Villarma estimates Wrangell's total amount of cash and investments at \$35.4 million. That includes general government funds, reserves and self-supporting enterprise funds, such as the electrical department, port and harbors.

But he said those funds are bogged down amid a complicated accounting system that inhibits the borough from producing meaningful financial information. Each transaction varies, and different software is employed at each

department, Villarma said.

Just one small example is the receipt process at the landfill: Information on paper slips has to be brought to the borough and manually entered into the system.

Higher up on the priority list, "every revenue and expense is manually coded at City Hall on the department's behalf using a 19-digit GL (general ledger) code, which is absurd," he said. "We need to streamline how we process transactions at the department level and revitalize our accounting structure and reporting system to be more simple and effective in informing users."

He made those observations from walk-throughs he conducted with each department, from the port to the library.

Villarma also has consulted with finance directors Jody Tow in Petersburg and Jeff Rogers in Juneau.

"It was great having Mason here in Juneau to see how our Finance Department works," Rogers said in an email. "He's clearly intelligent, ambitious, and has great love for Wrangell. We sent him home with a pile of notes."

Tow has been the finance director in Petersburg for 15 years. Villarma shadowed her for a couple of days, walked through with her staff and other departments, learned how the finance department is organized, and what software and programs they use, Tow said.

And it's a bit of a full circle moment.

"When I started, Jeff Jabusch was my mentor," Tow said. "That was pretty neat."

Villarma said he is eager and optimistic. "We have all the tools here to succeed as a community," Villarma said. "I'm concerned with creating revenue streams in the future and attracting industry to this town. Without those two things, we can't grow."

Masks

Continued from page 1

you're vaccinated) is lower. It's not zero. If you're vaccinated, we're not taking you're risk of actually taking your risk of getting infected down to zero, but we are decreasing it."

Nace went onto to say that those who are vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 should still get tested three to five days after exposure and wear a mask.

"If they are one of those that's going to become infected, at least we're protecting those around them," she said.

Burr said he was impressed with students, participants and spectators at last weekend's volleyball games in Wrangell. "We rolled this out in the volleyball games, and I have to give a shout-out to the coaches, to the athletes and the crowd. I was very impressed," Burr said. "This change will go into effect for any of the ASAA activities in the Wrangell School District."

Burr noted that if the borough enacts stricter health protocols regarding travel, the school will abide by those guidelines.

BASE

Continued from page 1

other and take care of one another," Esco said. "Teachers can use those punch cards as an incentive."

Brodie Gardner, another junior in BASE, said they are continuing the teacher appreciation program, where students can fill out a form lauding a specific teacher. Whichever teacher is picked will have something special done for them. One teacher is honored each month of the school year.

"We were thinking of sending out a form (to the teachers) and seeing what kind of snacks they like or what they need in their classroom," Gardner said. "Last year we did little cute potted plants for them to put in their classrooms."

In addition to the goodies, teachers being honored will receive a card that includes students' comments about what makes them special and why they were selected, Esco said.

BASE is also expanding its reach to help others around the world with Kiva micro-loans, which can range anywhere from \$25 to \$15,000.

"Basically, we send a loan to someone, in Africa or somewhere like that, who is in need of money for anything," said freshman Addie Andrews. "It could be for a store they're running or education, health, etc. We're going to send a loan of \$500 to somebody, then over time we'd get that money back."

Any funds that are raised through the program go directly back into BASE to benefit students and staff.

This year's group is com-

prised of 12 students from various grades who work together. No matter what grade a member is in, if that person has an idea for a project and the group votes to do it, the creator will take ownership and lead the project.

Junior Will Ashton wasn't a part of the group last year, but seeing the changes that were happening around the school got him involved this year. "I wanted to help," he said.

Not only does being involved in BASE seem to change the mindset of those in the group, it seems to be influencing the rest of the school, Davis said.

Senior pranks are always dreaded near the end of the school year, Davis said. However, last year's "prank" had an unexpected twist.

"The 'prank' that the seniors decided to pull was to do a barbecue for the entire high school," he said. "They set it up, made an announcement out of the blue, interrupting class, and offered the barbecue. That wasn't BASE doing that, but I think that attitude of helping, of looking out for others, they took that idea and ran with it."

Those changes aren't being lost on the students in BASE.

"Being a part of the program has helped me become more involved in school and more invested, so I want to do what I can to help the school. That, in turn, makes me be a better student," Harrison said.

"The very thing of service is that it generally uplifts you," Ashton added.



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Leonard Angerman remembered for his wit, his smiles and stories

Leonard Charles Angerman was born at home June 12, 1935, and died Sept. 22, 2021, at Wrangell Medical Center. "His 86 years were full of bumps and obstacles, which he met with courage, hope and a positive attitude," the family wrote.

One of the toughest was the death of his 51-year-old father. His mother had \$500, four children, and a cab business to run.

His parents, Fritz and Helen, had emigrated from Austria and were hard workers who successfully instilled that into their children Fred, Helen, Leonard and Dick. At a young age, Leonard sold Wrangell Sentinels for 10 cents, earning a nickel for each sale. "He saved \$12 to buy a bike from Montgomery Ward so he could ride around the bay to sell papers to the bachelor fishermen who always gave him 25 cents! He laughed about not saving enough money for freight on the bike. His father loaned him the cost with the stipulation he pay it back — which he did."

The neighborhood gang consisted of his older siblings, Felix and Dolly Villarma, Olaf B. Hansen, Ralph Deveny and Alfred Oglend. Cutting halibut cheeks and fishing for scrap fish off the dock to sell to the mink farmers Chinky Nore and the Eyons were their pastimes, with games and some escapades to add gray hairs on their parents.

Leonard worked with Lou and Winnie Williams typesetting for the Sentinel, and had jobs at the lumber mill, on fish traps with Olaf Hansen, gillnetting with Winston Davies, driving cab for the family business, and was relief engineer at the Wrangell Cold Storage under the tutelage of John Byrd and a deckhand for Alan Ritchie on the riverboat dredging sand.

He spent time as an altar boy and eventually sang in the church choir.

Graduation from Wrangell High in 1955 and marriage to Kathleen Rooney on Dec. 11, 1957, at St. Philip's were next. One month later, January 1958, Uncle Sam invited him to join the Army, and in February 1958 he joined his unit at Fort Ord, California. After basic training, he was sent to the University of Virginia for court recording training. The next hurdle was being sent to Korea to manage the office of a colonel for 14 months. He had hoped for Germany so he could pop into Austria and meet relatives, but only the single guys were deployed to Germany — married guys went to Korea.

After arriving back home, he purchased a house and welcomed his sons, Scott in 1960 and Steve in 1963. Parenting — scouting, Little League, family camping at cabins on the Stikine and at Ideal Cove — rushed the days and years along. His brother, Fred, offered a partnership in the purchase of the Totem Bar and liquor store. After 38 years they first sold the bar, but had to reclaim it for many more years until it was successfully sold.

He served 36 years with Wrangell's volunteer fire department, ending as assistant chief, and



Leonard Angerman

was active for years on the boards of Wrangell Senior Apartments and Muskeg Meadows.

"Retirement was great except for health issues which he tackled positively," the family wrote. "Leonard survived the sinking of the Rebel, a broken heel, fractured back, empyema, colon and prostate cancers — but other cancers and a weakened heart were too much."

Treasures in his life were his family and a multitude of friends. Family includes his wife, Kathie; sons and their wives Scott and Lorri, Steve and Beverly; grandchildren Jessie Marie, Derek Scott and wife Adrienne, and Kyle Scott; great-granddaughters Adalyn and Kinsley; brother Dick Angerman and wife Barbara, and a sister, Helen Berg; brothers-in-law Rob Rooney and wife Sherry, Brian Rooney and son Sean, Ronan Rooney and wife Mary; mother-in-law Alice Rooney; sisters-in-law Mercedes Angerman, Dorthea Rooney and Lauran Woolery; 18 nieces and 29 nephews; and friends too many to count.

"Leonard will be remembered as a good man with a quick wit, smile and countless stories. He'll not be forgotten."

"Memorials in his memory may go to your personal favorites or ours, St. Philip's Church, Wrangell Fire Department, American Legion Auxiliary or the senior center," the family wrote. "He loved Wrangell."

Redistricting

Continued from page 3

Wrangell and Ketchikan in one district and Petersburg in another with Sitka and smaller Southeast communities.

"We want to be aligned with Ketchikan rather than Petersburg," Gilbert said.

"Or with Sitka," Morrison added.

They believe Wrangell and Petersburg compete over state services.

"Whenever there's a budget cut, we lose a state office. We lost our Fish and Game, we lost our public nurse, and OCS (Office of Children's Services)," Morrison said. "It's always Petersburg, so then we're without it. That's why we would fare better being in with Ketchikan, who's a big enough community to have their own, and we wouldn't have to share it with Petersburg."

While some of the draft maps join Wrangell and Petersburg in the same district, others do not.

"In Petersburg, they had a little bit of an opposite view. They view (Wrangell) as their good neighbor community," Simpson said. "They mentioned the kids play sports together and that's really important, but they don't see you as the competitor."

The redistricting process is contentious, and usually ends up in litigation. One of the proposed maps placed both Juneau House incumbents into the same district, which would force the two Democrats to run against each other or one to drop out.

"Whenever there's a budget cut, we lose a state office. We lost our Fish and Game, we lost our public nurse, and OCS. It's always Petersburg, so then we're always without it."

Anne Morrison, Assemblymember

"It's not our job to make sure that we don't put two representatives into one district because we don't know where they live, but when that was called to our attention I did go back and look at where it was," Simpson said.

There was a "weird little census block," Simpson said, so adjustments were made to correct the split. "We were accused of gerrymandering, which was not the case because to gerrymander, you have to know where (a representative) lives."

The turnout for public hearings in most communities has been, on average, about 12 people, Simpson said, except for Juneau where 40 people attended. He said they were "fired up" about the map that would force the two incumbents to run against each other.

Unless blocked by the courts, the new maps will be in place for the 2022 election.

Reflections

Continued from page 4

of clean animals, and one pair of unclean animals. The four gospels of Jesus tell a variety of stories, some shared across all four, some only in a particular gospel. Scripture itself invites us to see variety and possibility.

Some people use these kinds of examples to pick apart the Bible, to discredit it, to make it unreliable. But just as the sky is the sky, and the sea the sea, and Etolin is Etolin, these grays do not change scripture's realities and truths. They just help us to see all the beauty and wonder, to one day see them this way, and another day to see them in

a different light.

Those different shadings often highlight something we may have missed before: The way a tree grows into the skyline, a clearing that catches the clouds, the way a cove edge meets the water, an uprooted tree that glints and glimmers in the water.

A creator can have many names. The one who created living things wants them to survive, thrive and multiply. Stories about the teachings and activities of Jesus are many and varied, but all end with sacrificial love and life.

I rejoice in the gifts and blessings of the grays.

10-digit dialing required as of Oct. 24

Sentinel staff

Dialing a number within the 907 area code will soon require all 10 digits of a phone number — that's the number along with the area code.

Starting on Oct. 24, under a new federal requirement, it will be mandatory to dial all 10 numbers for calls within the same area code in more than six dozen area codes around the country. Although people can already dial all 10 digits to complete a call, the requirement won't be hard-coded until the mandatory date.

After Oct. 24, callers may not be able to complete a call by dialing only seven digits and could hear a recording directing them to hang up and try again, according to a statement issued by Alaska Power & Telephone, which serves Wrangell and several other small communities.

The move comes as part of the Federal Communications Commission's adoption of 988 as a nationwide number to be dialed to reach the National Suicide Preven-

tion and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, which began in July. Ten-digit dialing is necessary for all other calls for the 988 number to work.

AP&T stated that several things will remain the same with local service, such as:

Local telephone numbers, including the 907 area code, will not change.

The price of a call, coverage area or other rates and services will not change.

Local calls will remain local despite the 10-digit change.

Long distance calls will still require 1 + area code + phone number.

Three-digit service numbers such as 911, 711 and others will not change.

Along with changing dialing patterns, people will need to update all their services and dialing equipment or any other device that currently only dials seven digits for local numbers, such as medical alert systems, alarm services, voicemail or fax machines.

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peacehealth.org/visitingcalendar

Wrangell offers winter fitness options, motivation to keep moving

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Devyn Johnson grew up playing sports in Wrangell.

She didn't think about fitness until she was an adult - who, like a lot of people, gained the "Freshman 15" after high school, that bit of extra weight which comes after college starts, the responsibilities of adulthood creep in and high school gym class and sports are in the rearview mirror.

So, she started to jog. A half mile at first, and then it stretched out from there into longer distances. Jogging turned into a love of working out. "I love how it makes me feel," Johnson said.

As the days grow shorter, the darkness and cold encroaches. It may be even more difficult to find motivation to exercise when motivation can be in short supply at any time of the year.

That's why Johnson makes use of technology to encourage her and her friends to get moving.

"My son and I post a lot of videos of us working out in the backyard and at the playgrounds," Johnson said.

The co-owner of Sweet Tides Bakery and mom to three children under the age of 10 - Jude, 7, Nolan, 4, and Maren, 2 - tags her friends in fitness challenge videos posted to her Instagram, @devynleajohnson. That could include a hundred curtsy or split jumping lunges a day (with one of her dogs, Wilfred, entering the frame,



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL
Julie Decker completes an upper body workout in the recreation center weight room. She says the facility is an integral part of her winter fitness regimen.

making his best doggy lunges, dog siblings Millee and Zoey making cameo appearances), interspersed with video clips of sourdough English muffins or maple shortbread cookies topped with candied

bacon.

Like baking, it's all about balance.

"It's no secret I love my sweets and my sourdough bread," she said.

Johnson's advice for getting or keeping

fit this winter is get an activity partner who can help hold you accountable.

"Get some warm clothes and turn up the tunes," Johnson said.

If she can't run on the Zimovia Highway bike path - "the view never gets old" - or take in the outdoor spots Wrangell has to offer, like the beach off Mile 8 or Upper Salamander Creek, Johnson heads down to the gym and the pool.

And that's where the parks and recreation department comes in.

Director Kate Thomas said the recreation center offers cardio equipment, a weight room, racquetball and swimming pool.

People can come for lap and open swim hours, water aerobics or water arthritis classes, and lap/tot swim hours.

Her favorite part of the job is meeting the variety of people who pass through the rec center doors on a daily basis.

"Bye, River!" she called to a young girl exiting the rec center. Several other children left with their parents, and a few adults too. Thomas said goodbye to them all by name.

"Wrangell offers a sense of community," Thomas said. "The landscape and geography gives direct access to recreation opportunities."

Thomas, who is from Ohio, said living on the small island has enriched her network. She got a job with Alaska Crossings in 2008. She went back to Ohio for a couple

Continued on page 11

Oklahoma nurse finds herself helping out in Wrangell

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Melissa Curtright has been a registered nurse for 16 years - the past two weeks in Wrangell.

Like so many other hospital workers, the pandemic changed her plans. The 52-year-old RN from Oklahoma City said she saw 75% of her hospital's intensive-care unit staff leave, and then she took to the road.

She's been traveling now for almost a year. Wrangell is her latest assignment through SnapNurse,

an Atlanta-based nurse staffing agency, after Los Angeles.

Alaska has contracted with an Atlanta company to send as many as 470 health care professionals to the state to help with the strain of high COVID-19 patient counts which maxed out ICU beds at the state's largest hospitals last month.

Curtright is working the clinic at Wrangell Medical Center under the state's 90-day contract. Though the Wrangell hospital is not stressed by high COVID pa-

tient counts, the contract workers will help take pressure off existing staff.

Curtright said she turned to travel nursing in January because she was tired of working COVID units, and the compensation was three times as much.

"A traveling nurse can make anywhere from \$80 to \$120 per hour," she said. "It's quite a bit, depending on where you go."

The state of Alaska is paying \$87 million for the workers to help out at medical facilities

across the state for 90 days.

Curtright said before the pandemic, she would never have considered a temporary move here. But when she got an email from a recruiter asking if she would like to go to Alaska, she said yes.

After accepting the job, and completing onboarding paperwork in Anchorage, she was told she was heading to Wrangell. "All of us were like, 'Where?'"

Curtright, who is being lodged at the Stikine Inn, is among eight traveling health care workers deployed to Wrangell Medical Center. She said she and one other traveler staff the clinic, and six others work elsewhere at the hospital.

An average day for her consists of work in the clinic, wound care, nurse visits and administering vaccines.

"They need a little bit of a break. They've been working a lot," she said of the clinic and hospital staff. "This is not a metropolis in the hiring world, especially for nurses."

Curtright said at the beginning of the pandemic she, like other health care professionals across the nation, were dealing with sub-optimal personal protective equipment.

Before COVID, her unit at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City was essentially an emergency room overflow hold area with two bathrooms. Then it was shut down and converted to handling cases of the virus, she said.

"We were wearing the same N95 mask for a week," Curtright said. "Our managers made shields from Walmart shower curtain liners and stapled them to a headband."

In the beginning of the pandemic, when patients worsened on a non-emergency floor, she said they could transfer patients out quickly to the ICU. As COVID got worse, her floor had to keep the patients who were deteriorating badly because the hospital didn't have any empty ICU beds.

A traditional nasal tube provides up to four to six liters per minute of supplemental oxygen. Past six liters, a patient would normally be transferred out from a regular floor. But "we were up to keeping a patient on 15 liters of oxygen with a (non-rebreather) mask on," Curtright said.

By the time a patient gets to that point, if they end up getting



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Melissa Curtright is a traveling nurse from Oklahoma City assigned to the clinic at Wrangell Medical Center as part of a state COVID-19 program to help with staffing at health care facilities around Alaska.

intubated, their survival rate is low, she said.

That was difficult to witness. And she experienced personal grief from the pandemic, as well.

Her sister-in-law's brother was a physician, a couple of hours outside Oklahoma City. He died last year after getting the coronavirus. "It was really hard."

When the vaccine became available, Curtright and her son, who is an RN as well, got it the first day the hospital offered it.

"Was I scared to get it? Sure. I don't want something happening to me in a year. But I also don't want to get COVID," she said.

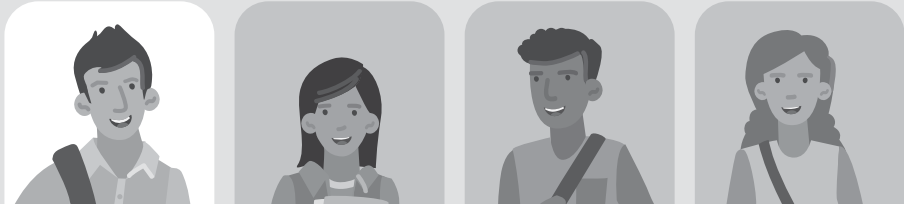
The Associated Press reported the COVID-19 pandemic has created a nurse staffing crisis that is forcing many U.S. hospitals to pay top dollar to get the help they need to handle the crush of patients.

The problem, health leaders say, is twofold: Nurses are quitting or retiring, exhausted or demoralized by the crisis. And many are leaving for lucrative temporary jobs with traveling-nurse agencies that can pay \$5,000 or more a week, according to NBC News.

Curtright said she's seen even higher figures.

"Before COVID, a normal contract working 36 hours a week would have been \$1,500 to \$3,000, depending on your area," she said. "They have contracts now for \$4,000 to \$10,000 for 72 hours a week."

1 in 4 Alaska high school students vape.



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

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



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



Parents, talk to your children about vaping.
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NATIONAL NATIVE NETWORK

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QUITLINE
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alaskaquitline.com

High school students learn to converse in sign language

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Ann Hilburn began learning American Sign Language for an elective course in college, thinking it would benefit her aspirations of becoming a nurse.

That class led her to change her career field entirely. "I had just fallen in love with sign language," she said.

She's passing that love on to a dozen Wrangell High School students taking her class for their foreign language requirement. Hilburn is new to the district this year.

It is a language unto itself, 17-year-old senior Caleb Garcia-Rangel observed, which people unfamiliar with ASL often don't realize.

"I think it's pretty cool," Garcia-Rangel said. "I've taken Spanish for three years. It's refreshing to do something without even speaking orally."

The students have ASL names, too. Names can be a combination of signs and fingerspelling — each letter of the alphabet has a corresponding handshape.

The names can be irreverent, as well. Garcia-Rangel, whose ASL name is "rat" — the letter R brushed against the nose — said ASL is a helpful skill to have. "Some of the kids in our class are losing hearing, too."

Freshman Addy Andrews said it's her favorite class.

"I'm a quick learner," said the 14-year-old. "I find it pretty easy and I can remember most things. I've been able to pick up the signs easily in class. I show my family and they find it cool, too. I have a lot of fun in class."

Andrews wants to go to France one day. Her name sign is the sign for France — the F handshape which the signer



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL
Students practicing their American Sign Language at the high school on Oct. 7: Sophomore Sierra Hagelman (left, in front); freshman Addy Andrews (right, in front); senior Caleb Garcia-Rangel (left, rear); and junior Leroy Wynne (right, rear).

turns in toward themselves, except hers is with the letter A.

"We have an amazing teacher," Andrews said, of Hilburn. "She's really helpful."

Hilburn's first college degree was in education of the deaf, which she earned at Southern Mississippi University, followed by a master's degree in education administration at a university in Illinois.

Of her jobs in Alaska — the Lower Yukon School District, Gustavus and

Angoon — Wrangell is the biggest Alaska town in which Hilburn has worked, she said.

Sierra Hagelman is a 15-year-old sophomore. Her name sign is "Radio Girl." For "radio" take your dominant hand and form it into a claw, then bring it near your ear and twist it back and forth, as if you are adjusting one side of a headset while listening to something. For "girl," form your hand into an A and then trace

along your jawbone with the tip of your thumb, starting near your ear and moving to near your chin.

(The sign for "girl" harks back to bonnets, essentially tracing the bonnet strap under a girl's chin.)

Leroy Wynne, a 17-year-old junior, said Hilburn's ASL classes have been pretty difficult, even a little harder than most of his classes.

"I think it's a really cool skill to have," Wynne said. "I was looking for a language credit, because most colleges require it, so this was my option." His name sign goes out like a layup, then back in toward his shoulder with a W-hand.

Hilburn said Wynne, Hagelman, Garcia-Rangel and Andrews have been working hard, practicing together in class and responding well to instruction, and it's only the end of the first quarter.

"They always have their stuff together," Hilburn said. "They come to class and pay attention. Whatever they have to do, they make it happen."

The students learn from Hilburn as she signs stories in ASL, and from books and videos.

Hagelman said she finds herself turning to signing outside of class, "like when I'm talking to my friends. We do that very much, and fingerspelling."

To display their skills, Hilburn and the students have been preparing a performance in American Sign Language for the school's Christmas program, and the community's Midnight Madness holiday night, Hilburn said.

COVID case count starts heading down in Alaska

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Cases are starting to come down in Alaska after weeks of record-setting COVID-19 infections across the state.

After averaging almost 1,250 new cases a day Sept. 21-27 — far above the numbers of the previous record of last December — the statewide average was just over 800 a day Oct. 5-11, according to the state's COVID-19 data dashboard.

That's still significantly above the average of the past three months, when 560 new cases a day were reported. Alaska had low case counts in May, June and July, until infections increased with the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant.

The Delta variant was responsible for about 99% of new infections across Alaska in August and September, according to the state health department.

September's surge of new cases maxed out Alaska's largest hospitals, prompting the state to commit \$87 million in federal funds to bring as many as 470 health care personnel to help out for up to 90 days.

The state also last month activated emergency protocols that allow most hospitals to ration care and make treatment decisions in individual cases if they lack sufficient staff or resources to fully handle the workload.

As of Tuesday, Wrangell officials reported just two new cases since Oct. 1, as the community is doing better at containing the spread of the coronavirus than many others in the state.

Juneau reported 86 new cases last weekend, with the schools reporting eight COVID-19 infections which resulted in students from an entire class going into quarantine and most of two other classes also being quarantined.

Angoon, population about 500 on northern Admiralty Island, reported 29 active coronavirus cases as of the weekend, its largest outbreak since the pandemic tally started in March 2020.

Mayor Doris Williams said the majority of positive cases were linked to close contacts. "It's basically the five families, and they're all friends, and they all get together, go camping together, do everything together," she said, as reported by Sitka public radio station KCAW on Monday.

Williams told the station she suspects there may be more people in town who are positive for the virus but have yet to get tested.

"As of now, there's a bunch of them that are quarantined because they want to keep people safe. Then there's some that are out and about, and I only know that because people are calling

me telling me," she said. "There are a few that are really doing good and really staying to themselves, but there are a few that are not listening."

Petersburg announced seven new COVID cases over the past weekend. "There is concern for significant community spread, especially from inside gatherings where people have not been masking or observing distancing to avoid spread of COVID-19," the Petersburg Medical Center reported in a press release on Monday.

Ketchikan health officials reported 11 more cases over the weekend, with two people hospitalized. Officials reported 55 active cases as of Monday.

Ketchikan has been one of the hardest hit communities in Alaska, according to state data, with almost 1,600 cases, 23 hospitalizations and eight deaths during the pandemic, in a borough of about 14,000 residents.

Statewide, the majority of cases, deaths and hospitalizations are among unvaccinated people. More than one in 10 COVID-19 tests in Alaska are coming back positive, a sign of continuing spread, health officials reported Tuesday.

Alaska led the nation the past couple of weeks for the highest number of new cases per capita.

The state's vaccination rate is among the bottom third in the country, at 63.9% of eligible residents with at least their first dose as of Tuesday. The rate in Wrangell was at 67% as of Tuesday, according to the state, up from 62% at the end of July.

Almost 600 people have died from COVID-19 in Alaska, according to state data. The nationwide death total was close to 715,000 as of Tuesday.

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State Senate reports two members with COVID-19

JUNEAU (AP) — Two Alaska state senators have tested positive for COVID-19 and a third was not feeling well, Senate President Peter Micciche said Tuesday.

The senators who tested positive are Republicans David Wilson, of Wasilla, and Lora Reinbold, of Eagle River, according to the Anchorage Daily News.

Reinbold has been the Legislature's loudest critic of masking, testing and vaccinations during the pandemic.

Sen. Click Bishop, of Fairbanks, said he is feeling ill but has tested negative for COVID-19 and believes he has a cold or the flu, the newspaper reported.

Lawmakers are in the second week of their fourth special session of the year in Juneau. Six of the Senate's 20 members attended Tuesday's floor session, which was a so-called technical session where no formal business was taken up.

Members have not taken any action during the special session.

The governor called legislators back to work in his push for a larger Permanent Fund dividend and a long-term, sustainable fiscal plan for the state, though he has offered no specific legislation to balance spending and revenues.

Micciche said along with the COVID-19 cases some senators were out of town and unable to be in Juneau on Tuesday, prompting the technical session. The Senate is not scheduled to meet again until Friday.

Masks are required at legislative facilities, including the Capitol, though individual lawmakers can decide if they want to wear masks in their respective offices. Legislators and legislative staff also are to participate in regular COVID-19 testing under a recently adopted policy, but there is no enforcement.

Delta Junction man charged with threatening to kill Alaska senators

BY MARK THIESSEN
The Associated Press

A Delta Junction resident upset over the impeachment of former President Donald Trump, illegal immigration and the direction he thinks the country is headed is accused of threatening the lives of Alaska's two U.S. senators in a series of profanity-laced voicemails that included saying he would hire an assassin to kill one.

"Your life is worth \$5,000, that's all it's worth," the message left at the office of Sen. Lisa Murkowski said. "And as you let in these terrorists, assassins, guess what? I'm going to use them. I'm going to hire them."

Some of the voicemails left for Murkowski and Sen. Dan Sullivan were played in U.S. District Court in Fairbanks last Friday by assistant U.S. Attorney General Ryan Tansey during the first appearance for Jay Allen Johnson, 65, who was ordered held in custody until at least the preliminary hearing set for Oct. 19.



SEN. LISA MURKOWSKI



SEN. DAN SULLIVAN

The hearing provided more details of the government's case against Johnson, who is retired and moved to the rural community from Texas in 2019 with his wife, Catherine Pousson-Johnson. He had earlier ties to the Fairbanks area.

The caller was also upset that Murkowski voted to convict Trump in his January impeachment trial.

"Nobody in this state wanted you to impeach Trump," the caller says. "Just resign and get the f--- gone."

In another voicemail, the caller warned the senator's staff if they didn't quit, "We are coming for you."

"The next insurrection, it will be an insurrection. Period," the voicemail says.

Murkowski in a statement asked the court not to release Johnson on bail, especially because she was traveling to Alaska for work. "I'm concerned for my personal safety if he is not detained," she said in the statement read by Tansey.

The government alleges that Johnson also left 13 voicemails for Sullivan over a five-month period, including one in which he warns Sullivan that he's tired of politicians destroying the country.

He vowed to get out his .50 caliber firearm. "I will be having a GoFundMe page for the shells, and I'm coming with ... with a (expletive) vengeance."

In one voicemail, he claimed he was a veteran. But the Navy, Air Force and Army said they did not have information about Johnson in their ranks. The Marines were still checking.

"My husband is an old man, and he gets very angry listening to politics on the news."

Catherine Pousson-Johnson

In some of the voicemails to Sullivan's office, the government alleges Johnson left his name and address.

In one voicemail, the caller vowed to use "illegals for target practice," Tansey said.

After Johnson was arrested Oct. 4, authorities found seven guns in the home, which is illegal for Johnson to have because he's a felon. He has had several drunken driving charges and one related weapons charge while he was intoxicated, a loaded pistol in a shoulder holster, Tansey said.

Johnson's wife, Catherine Pousson-Johnson, testified on her husband's behalf in trying to have him released, saying she would drive him the 100 miles to Fairbanks for court proceedings.

She detailed a series of recent surgeries he has had, including on his spine, knee and shoulder.

"He's in pain right now. My husband is an old man, and he gets very angry listening to politics on the news," she said before being asked by public defender Gary Colbath to restrict her comments.

Tansey later asked her if she was aware her husband was making threats against two U.S. senators.

"Who hasn't?" she replied. Against the advice of his lawyer, Johnson also made comments throughout the hearing.

"I'm just prepared to sit in prison the rest of my life, I guess," he said at one point. "I'm a senior citizen and I am highly disabled and I will not be carrying out any of these threats."

"I just apologize to everybody," he later said.

Johnson has split his time between Alaska and Texas. In 2019, he appears to have moved from Tuscola, Texas, to Delta Junction.

Few people in Delta Junction, with a population of about 1,000 in town with another 4,000 or so in the surrounding area, know him, Mayor Lou Heinbockel said.

"I've lived here 50 years, and I've never heard of the name until I read it in the paper yesterday," he said.

Johnson registered to vote in 2019 as a member of the Alaska Constitution Party, Tiffany Montemayor, a spokesperson for the Alaska Division of Elections, said in an email to The Associated Press.

It is not recognized as a party in the state, but it is a political group with about 680 members, she said.

3 WEEKS LEFT TO ENTER

Week 4 | Adult Winner: Amber Shanagin, Anchorage
Youth Winner: Wyatt Otness, Fairbanks
Parent/Guardian Winner: Erin Otness, Fairbanks



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Protect Our Economy and Give Alaska a Shot at Recovery

Week 6: Oct 10-Oct 16

Getting your first dose during week 6? Enter to win by Saturday!

Sat 9 th ✗	Sun 10 th ✓	Mon 11 th ✓	Tue 12 th ✓	Wed 13 th ✓	Th 14 th ✓	Fri 15 th ✓	Sat 16 th ✓	Sun 17 th ✗
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Week 6 Eligibility Expires at 11:59 pm Oct. 16

Entries limited to one per person. Eligible Alaskans should enter to win ONCE based on the date of your FIRST dose. You do not need to enter the sweepstakes weekly.

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

You can enter for a chance to win if you:

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

Other restrictions apply. See GiveAKaShot.com for more details.

2 Winners each week!

Vaccinated parent/guardian of youth winners will receive a \$10K cash prize

\$49K

cash prize

for Alaskans 18+

\$49K

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for Alaskans 12-17

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Предоставляются бесплатные услуги переводчика
Servicios de interpretación de idiomas gratuitos disponibles
May makukuhang libreng serbisyo sa pagsasalang wika.
Akiingut mumigcistet nalqigutestet piavngaut

GiveAKaShot.com

SCAN HERE



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

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



SENTINEL SPORTS

Lady Wolves battle back to win second night against Panthers

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Two nights of volleyball at Wrangell High School had spectators cheering, groaning and cheering some more as the Lady Wolves gave their all against the Craig Panthers.

The two-day action saw wins and losses, with the Wolves coming out victorious in Saturday's sets.

In the first game of Friday night, Wrangell came back from a 10-point deficit, coming within four points of Craig toward the end. The Panthers proved formidable

as the team surged forward with scoring. In the end, the Lady Wolves lost the set 25-18.

After a huddle with coach Alyssa Allen, Wrangell came howling back in the second set on Friday, showing their strength. The team answered Craig's points with their own, at one time leading the visiting team by two points. Again, it wasn't enough, and the Wolves lost the set, 25-23.

The final set proved more difficult for the Panthers as the Wolves led by as much as six points at times. With only two points left to win the set for Wrangell, the Panthers pounced, scored four points of their own and won 25-23.

That set ended Friday's match for the best three out of five. Saturday would prove to be much different as the teams went all five sets.

Saturday's match began with more of the same from the previous day's play, with the Panthers taking the first bout 25-18.

TEAM ROSTER

- Jamie Early (senior)
- Emma Martinsen (senior)
- Kendra Meissner (senior)
- Grace Miller (senior)
- Rylee Chelette (junior)
- Brodie Gardner (junior)
- Kiara Harrison (junior)
- Kayla Meissner (sophomore)
- Addy Andrews (freshman)
- Della Churchill (freshman)
- Aubrey Wynne (freshman)
- Kayla Young (freshman)



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Above: Senior Jamie Early (No. 6) jumps up to return a serve from the Craig Panthers in Friday night's match while her teammates prepare to assist in the play. Below: The Lady Wolves huddle up to discuss strategy in between matches at Friday night's volleyball game against the Craig Panthers.

In the second set, Craig couldn't hold their opponent the way they had been. The Lady Wolves easily won 25-12. The win spurred the home team to keep the ferocity flowing, leading to a 25-21 win in set three.

The Panthers evened the day's match by winning set four, 25-23, but the Wolves couldn't be contained in set five, winning 15-12.

"I think they played really well for their first games of the season," said head coach Alyssa Allen. "I think our hitting and net play was awesome, and our serving improved on Saturday. I think communication and serve receive are what we need to improve the most on. Overall, I think it was a great weekend of volleyball."

Wrangell next travels to play Metlakatla on Oct. 22-23.



Carney runs to 3rd place at state; Harrison 11th as freshman

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Senior Liana Carney and freshman Daniel Harrison were the only two Wrangell cross country runners to qualify for the state championships in Anchorage last weekend. Both finished strong.

Carney placed third out of 65 girls in the Division 3 race, finishing with a time of 21:40.5, and Harrison placed 11th out of 84 boys with a time of 18:45.1.

"They both did amazing, and it was such a great finish to an amazing sea-

son," said head coach Kayla Rooney.

In her first mile, Carney ran a 6:47 mile, then 7:07 and 7:06 in her second and third miles, respectively. Harrison's splits were 6:01, 6:12 and 6:09 for the three-mile race.

Carney finished just over a minute behind first-place finisher Ariel Godinez-Long from Haines, who finished at 20:31.1, and just seconds behind second-place finisher Teagan Rude from Glenallen who finished at 21:26.1.

It was the fourth year in a row Carney placed at state, something no other

female runner from the Wrangell team has done since Rooney ran for the team a decade ago.

"All race, she was neck and neck with (Rude). Liana would catch her on the hills and lose her on the flats and declines," said Carney's father Jack, who was in attendance as a parent chaperone. "At the end of the race, I had never seen my daughter so tired. ... There was no question she gave it her all."

As for Harrison, Jack Carney said he had the mindset of a winner for the entire race.

"(Daniel) wasn't playing the part of a typical timid freshman; he was going for it," he said. "He stayed in the top 20 the whole race, and passed several kids over the last kilometer."

The only other freshman close to Harrison finished in 22nd place.

"We are excited to see what he does in athletics over the next three years," Jack Carney said. "As dedicated, hard-working and coachable as he is, Wrangell will have a lot to cheer for and be proud of over the next three and a half years."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK CARNEY

Freshman Daniel Harrison, left, and senior Liana Carney both placed at state finals last weekend in Anchorage. Harrison finished 11th out of 84 boys and Carney finished third out of 65 girls. It was Carney's final race of her high school cross country career, after having placed at state each year of high school.

Exercise

Continued from page 7

of years, then returned to Wrangell in 2010. "And haven't left since," Thomas said. She's been the parks and recreation director for seven years, come February.

"Growing up in a big town you get the luxury of anonymity, but you also don't know your grocery store clerk by name, and people think you're weird if you ask for it," Thomas said.

There is "mall walking" at the community center gym (also called the old gym) for adults 18 and up Oct. 19 to Dec. 16, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It's an indoor option for walkers and those looking to add movement to their day, Thomas said.

Pickleball is also on tap at the community center from

Oct. 14 to Dec. 16 on Thursday nights.

Thomas said a senior weightlifting class is also in the works, and adult jujitsu classes with instructor Matt Nore start Oct. 19.

Parks and recreation offers flexible membership options for individuals, families, seniors and children that range from a day pass to a one-year membership. For hours and rates, go to wrangellrec.com.

You can also stay up to date on the rec center Facebook page, WrangellParksandRec, or sign up for the mailing list for upcoming winter activities to keep the blood flowing through the months ahead.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL
Esther Reese, WCA tribal administrator, says working out at the rec center comes in handy during cold, wet winter weather.

CLASSIFIED/ LEGALS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS
Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for multiple positions. All positions are open until filled.

Business manager: A 12-month position with benefits paid on the exempt employee salary schedule. Responsibilities include oversight of the school budget using a uniform chart of accounts coding, maintaining financial records, conducting all banking, payroll, accounts payable, annual audit preparation and advising the superintendent in all matters that are financially relevant for the district. Degree in business and/or five years experience in school business management preferred.

Temporary migrant program paraprofessional: This is a temporary instructional aide position working with students, 5.75 hours per day in small groups and one-on-one in the Migrant Education Program at Evergreen Elementary School. This position is paid on Column B of the classified salary schedule. Associate's degree is preferred.

Long-term substitute elementary teacher (Grades K-5 Title I/Art/SEL): This position is anticipated to begin on Jan. 3 and run through Feb. 25, 2022. An Alaska Type A teaching certificate with the appropriate endorsements is required. This position is paid on the teacher salary schedule.

Temporary accounting clerk: This is a temporary position working in the business office, assisting with transition until a business manager is hired. This position is paid on Column E of the classified salary schedule. Accounting experience is preferred.

For a complete job description(s) and salary schedule(s), contact the district office at 874-2347. It is the Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

FOR SALE

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

FREE

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

FREE ADS

Do you have something to sell? Having a garage sale? Looking to buy something? Classified ads for individuals and community groups are free in the Sentinel. Contact Amber at 874-2301 or email wrgsent@gmail.com.

Police report

Monday, Oct. 4

Agency assist: Department of Transportation.
Agency assist: Borough water.

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Dead deer.
Theft.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Agency assist: Hoonah.
Agency assist: Fire Department.

Paper service.

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Disabled vehicle.
Suspicious circumstance.
Lost property.
Traffic complaint.
Fight.

Thursday, Oct. 7

Citizen assist.
Hit and run.

Parking complaint.

Friday, Oct. 8

Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.
Civil matter: Property.
Parking complaint.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Saturday, Oct. 9

Agency assist: Borough power.
Traffic complaint.
Suspicious circumstance.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for failure to provide proof of

insurance.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Sunday, Oct. 10

Harassment.
Civil issue.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Five subpoenas were served during the reporting period.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinances listed by title only have been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

Emergency Ordinance No. 1011 of the assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, extending the Borough's Declaration of Emergency Retroactively from September 30, 2021, related to the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic and granting authorization to take actions necessary to protect public health during the Emergency through December 31, 2021.

Emergency Ordinance 1012 of the assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, reaffirming the Declaration of Emergency Ordinances 976, 980, 985, 994, 1003 and 1011 and reenacting the adoption of International, Interstate and Intrastate travel testing measures.

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

Publish Oct. 14, 2021

ATTENTION SALMON FISHERS
The Board of Directors of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. seeks nominations for the following three (3) year seats:

- Seine - 1 Seat
- Gillnet - 2 Seats
- Power Troll - 1 Seat

Nominations must be in writing and include the permit holder's name, address, vessel name, phone number and a brief statement. Nominees must be "active" Southern Southeast Commercial Salmon permit holders. Permit holders should nominate person from their own gear groups.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
SSRAA, 14 BORCH STREET
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Or email: lizj@ssraa.org
For further information call (907) 225-9605
Deadline: 10/20/21

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING: Borough Manager

The island life in Southeast, Alaska is raw, exotic, serene and has a profound sense of community – it is home.

The City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, is looking to hire a dynamic, motivated individual to be our Borough Manager. Our island home is surrounded by towering peaks, the pristine waters of the Inside Passage, and the largest temperate rain forest in the world.

If you have ever dreamed of an Alaska experience, this may be the opportunity for you. Wrangell's rich culture is a unique blend best characterized by its Tlingit heritage and its blue-collar roots as a logging and fishing community. We pride ourselves in being a hard-working and resilient community that reflects the best in authentic Alaska values.

Wrangell operates under an Assembly-Manager form of government. The Assembly and community expect you to chart the path forward toward new opportunities and growth. Come join us as we continue our journey.

Preference is given to candidates who hold a degree from an accredited four-year college or university, with a master's degree in public administration or business administration. A combination of related education and/or municipal experience may be considered.

For a complete job description, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-874-2381 or email: clerk@wrangell.com or visit the Borough website: <http://www.wrangell.com/jobs>.

Please send a cover letter, detailed resume and references to: City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, or fax: (907) 874-2304 or email: clerk@wrangell.com.

This position will be open until filled.

Publish Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2021

Wrangell Public Schools:

Child Find Notice

Wrangell Public Schools offers special education and related services to eligible children, ages 3 through 21, through the development and implementation of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). All children eligible for special education have the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Screenings and Qualifying Services are offered free of charge. All information is kept confidential.

- Eligibility is determined through formal assessment procedures. Areas of eligibility are:
1. Deafness
 2. Hearing Impairment
 3. Deaf and Blind
 4. Orthopedic Impairment
 5. Visual Impairment
 6. Speech or Language Impairment
 7. Other Health Impaired
 8. Autism
 9. Traumatic Brain Injury
 10. Cognitive Impairment
 11. Emotional Disturbance
 12. Multiple Disabilities
 13. Specific Learning Disability
 14. Early Childhood Developmental Delay

To the maximum extent possible, a child experiencing a disability is educated in the same educational environment as their nondisabled peers, with access to the general education curriculum.

If you know a child whom you suspect has a disability or whom you feel would benefit from Wrangell Public School's Child Find efforts please contact any of the following: Ryan Howe at Evergreen Elementary (874-2321), Ann Hilburn at Stikine Middle School/Wrangell High School (874-3393 or 874-3395), or Superintendent Bill Burr (874-2347).

For children birth to age 3, contact REACH Infant Learning Program Developmental Specialist, Emily Arkus, at earkus@reachak.org or 907-796-7283

Judge says state firings were political and illegal

JUNEAU (AP) — A federal judge last Friday sided with two psychiatrists who said they were wrongfully fired for political reasons when Gov. Mike Dunleavy took office in 2018.

Anthony Blanford and John Bellville, who worked at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute in Anchorage, declined to submit resignation letters requested by the chair of Dunleavy's transition team and later by his chief of staff, Tuckerman Babcock. Blanford and Bellville subsequently were fired.

Attorneys for the men in court records argued that Babcock — in demanding resignations from a broad swath of public employees — “unquestionably sought to compel speech in support of Governor-elect Dunleavy's political agenda.” They said the request sought to elicit “a pledge of loyalty” from employees.

In his decision, U.S. District Court Judge John Sedwick said the nature of the demand was “political.”

Babcock in November 2018 told a reporter that the newly elected governor wanted state employees to say, “Yes, I want to work for the Dunleavy administration.” The message was, he said, “Do you want to work on this agenda, do you want to work in this administration?”

The judge wrote that the scope of the demand for

resignations, “which undisputedly went beyond what was customary during an administration transition, and extended to employees not occupying policymaking positions, demonstrates that the purpose went beyond routine employment action.”

“They were not actually asking at-will employees to resign en masse,” Sedwick continued. “Rather, they were asking employees to offer up their job to the new administration's express approval on a basis left unclear, but with suggestive political underpinnings.”

The case was brought against Dunleavy, Babcock and the state. Dunleavy spokesperson Jeff Turner referred a request for comment to the Department of Law. Grace Lee, a department spokesperson, by email said the department was reviewing the order and considering its options.

Babcock is no longer with the administration.

Attorneys for Babcock and Dunleavy, in a court filing, said the “overwhelming majority” of the those who received resignation requests were retained “after they tendered their resignations and indicated an interest in continued service.”

Sedwick said the defendants “were requiring an ostensible commitment of political support, or at least def-

erence, in return for continued employment, the effect of which was to either interfere with or chill employees' exercise of protected First Amendment rights. Those that did not want to signal such a commitment, like Plaintiffs, were fired.”

Stephen Koteff, an attorney with the ACLU of Alaska Foundation representing Blanford and Bellville, said one issue to resolve would be damages.

The judge concluded that the political firings cannot be considered part of the duties as state officials. The governor and Babcock could be held personally liable and ordered to pay financial and other penalties. Further legal action will decide any penalties.

Koteff called Sedwick's decision “a significant vindication for the free speech rights of state employees, all public employees for that matter.”

Koteff said Blanford had returned to work at the psychiatric facility with a contractor following his firing.

Sedwick is also assigned to a separate but similar case brought by former Department of Law attorney Elizabeth Bakalar, who also was fired by the new administration.

‘Into the Wild’ bus on display at university during preservation work

FAIRBANKS (AP) — A bus that people sometimes embarked on deadly pilgrimages to Alaska's backcountry to visit can now safely be viewed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks while it undergoes preservation work.

The bus was moved to the university's engineering facility last week while it's being prepared for outdoor display at the Museum of the North, Fairbanks television station KTVF reported.

The abandoned Fairbanks city bus became a shelter for hunters and others using the backcountry near Denali National Park and Preserve, but it became a beacon for those wishing to retrace the steps of Christopher McCandless, who hiked to the bus in 1992.

The 24-year-old Virginia man died from starvation when he couldn't hike back out because of the swollen Teklanika River. He kept a journal during his last days, which was discovered when his body was found.

McCandless' ordeal was chronicled

in Jon Krakauer's 1996 book “Into the Wild,” followed later by director Sean Penn's movie of the same name. People from all over the world made the bus a focal point and tried to retrace his steps.

The state of Alaska removed the bus located about 25 miles from the town of Healy after two women — one from Switzerland and the other from Belarus — drowned on homages to the bus. There were 15 other search-and-rescue missions since 2009, the state Department of Natural Resources said in August 2020 when the bus was flown out of the wilderness.

Many people have a personal connection to the bus, said Angela Linn, senior collections manager of ethnology and history at the museum.

“It's OK that people have this huge range of feeling about the bus,” Linn said. “That means they're thinking about it. They have opinions about it, and that means they're engaged with

history, which is a really important thing for those of us who are in the business of preserving history.”

The bus is being preserved in a heated, secure space that has environmental controls. It also has an elevated observation space that allows anyone to view the bus for free on weekdays. The bus is expected to remain there through the end of the academic year.

Preparing the bus for outdoor is an extensive process, Linn said.

“One of the very first things we're going to do is to document, really systematically, all the graffiti that you can see on the inside and the outside of the bus. This is a really important part of the last 30 years of the bus,” she said.

Holes cut in the roof and floor of the bus to allow a helicopter to ferry it out of the woods must be repaired, Linn said, and the bus is riddled with bullet holes.

“Some of them are kind of dangerous. The shots that come from inside leave

these jagged holes, so we don't want anybody to be injured when this does eventually go on exhibit,” she said.

The 1940s-era bus, sometimes called “Bus 142” or “The Magic Bus,” was used to house employees by the Yutan Construction Co. when it built an access road about 25 miles west of the Parks Highway, the main thoroughfare between Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The bus was abandoned in 1961 and had become an emergency shelter for those using the backcountry to recreate or hunt.

Telling the other history of the bus will be part of the permanent display.

“That's one of the things that we want to explain to people and show people, that there is a lot more to the history of the bus and the story of the bus than just those 114 days that McCandless is associated with it,” Linn said.

Legislators want easier access to unproven COVID treatment

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Several Republican state lawmakers are urging easier access for Alaskans to ivermectin amid the pandemic, though ivermectin is not authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for preventing or treating COVID-19.

Senate Majority Leader Shelley Hughes, of Palmer, said she urged Gov. Mike Dunleavy and the state health commissioner to consider supplying Alaskans with vitamins and drugs, including ivermectin, “that some Alaskan physicians are prescribing but pharmacies aren't

filling.”

Three Republican House members testified about ivermectin at a recent state pharmacy board meeting. The legislators have been among the lawmakers opposed to face mask requirements.

“Maybe the pharmacists could

be directed — or directed the wrong word — suggested that they allow the doctors to actually be doctors and do their jobs,” Rep. Kevin McCabe, of Big Lake, said. “The patient and the doctor should be the ones to decide.”

The board's chair, Justin Ruffridge, a Kenai Peninsula phar-

macist, in a letter to the House members after the meeting noted potential legal liability of pharmacists for drugs they dispense, and said pharmacists were free to use their “professional judgment” when deciding whether to fill prescriptions.

He said the board has not threatened pharmacists' licenses around the issue but said reports of misuse of ivermectin to treat COVID-19 “should give most prescribers and pharmacists reason to pause.”

Ivermectin is approved to treat certain infections caused by parasites in people. Some vaccine skeptics have championed its use around COVID-19.

“Anyone who claims to be creating medical guidance and they don't have vaccine as their No. 1 recommended tool are pushing misinformation,” said Coleman Cutchins, a state pharmacist. “Vaccine is our No. 1 drug for the prevention of severe disease from this virus.”

The National Institutes of Health has said there is “insufficient evidence for the COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel to recommend either for or against the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. Results from adequately powered, well-designed and well-conducted clinical trials are needed to provide more specific, evidence-based guidance on the role of ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19.”

People nonetheless have

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Stevens on the cutting edge of the job



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KITTY ANGERMAN

Don Stevens, 81, takes advantage of a sunny day to trim a spruce tree on Kitty Angerman's property at 7 Mile on Oct. 5. Stevens estimated the tree at about 100-feet tall. He's been working in the timber industry in one form or another since 1956 and has no plans to stop. "I'll keep doing it until I can't," Stevens said. He transitioned to tree trimming when the logging industry died down.



Treatment

Continued from page 12

sought access.

During the recent pharmacy board meeting, Rep. Ken McCarty, of Chugiak, expressed concern about "making sure that our state has all the medications necessary." Rep. Christopher Kurka, of Wasilla, told board members that "we should allow doctors the freedom, if they're using good clinical judgment, to treat their patients."

McCabe said he's heard from doctors, physician assistants and nurses in his district who are frustrated "when they issue a prescription and the pharmacy will not fill it because it's ivermectin."

Ruffridge pointed testifiers to a draft document under consideration by the board that highlights a joint position statement from three national medical and pharmacist groups that "strongly oppose" prescribing or dispensing ivermectin for COVID-19 outside a clinical trial.

Jeff Turner, a Dunleavy spokesperson, said the Republican governor "maintains that decisions regarding COVID should be left between individuals and their doctor." He also referred to comments Dunleavy made earlier this year when asked about ivermectin.

"I know what ivermectin is — I've had horses and mules, and you use it for worming and other issues that horses and mules have," Dunleavy said. "But as far as prescribing it as a therapy for humans, I haven't heard about that."

Dunleavy had COVID-19 earlier this year and later was vaccinated. He has urged Alaskans to be vaccinated against COVID-19 but has also emphasized that it is a personal decision.

Oregon tribes have plans to develop old paper mill property

BY JAMIE HALE
The Oregonian/OregonLive

After a private blessing and a prayer, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde invited gathered media to watch as an excavator tore into a wall of the old, abandoned paper mill at Willamette Falls, Oregon, that the tribe says has stood on its ancestral grounds for too long.

The tribe held a symbolic demolition event at the old Blue Heron Paper Mill on Sept. 21, representing a small step toward removing the industrial site and returning it to Indigenous hands.

Chris Mercier, vice chair of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council, said the tribe has been trying to reclaim as much of its traditional homelands as possible. The acquisition of the land at Willamette Falls represents the biggest step in that direction, he said.

"This site here is of deep historical and cultural significance," Mercier said at the event. "The fact that we've actually purchased it and own it now is kind of a dream come true for many of us and many of our tribal members, because our roots run deep here."

The land around Willamette Falls was once home to the Clowewalla and Kosh-huk-shix villages of the Clackamas people, who ceded the land to the U.S. government under the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 before being forcibly removed and relocated, according to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

For generations, the falls were also frequented by residents of other Indigenous villages around the area, including the Chinookan peoples of the lower Columbia River, who today are represented by several different tribal bodies.

The Grand Ronde call Willamette Falls "tumwata," which is the Chinook jargon word for waterfall, and refer to the river as "walamt." Every year, members of Oregon tribes visit the waterfall to harvest lamprey — a prehistoric eel-like creature that has been caught there for thousands of years — along with salmon and other fish.

Located on the Willamette River at Oregon City, Willamette Falls has long been one of Oregon's best but least-accessible natural wonders, with public access blocked off by the paper mill that shut down in 2011.

In 2019, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde purchased the land, valued at \$2.9 million, and earlier this year the tribe laid out an ambitious vision that would transform the old mill site into a community center where visitors could walk along the river, dine at a restaurant, stay the night or attend an event. The plans also include space for tribal mem-

bers to hold ceremonies near the waterfall.

Stacia Hernandez, chief of staff to the Grande Ronde Tribal Council, said that vision will likely take years to complete. With any luck, the property will be cleaned up and safe for the public within two to three years, she said, though construction on other buildings is expected to take longer.

When it's finished, however, the Willamette Falls site promises to be a place that is special for both tribal members and the general public alike.

"We want it to be a very welcoming and inviting place and we want people to have a real experience when they come here," Hernandez said. "We don't want it to be a show-up, grab-a-cup-of-coffee-and-leave place, we want people to be able to experience it and feel the falls."

In total, the site has space for up to 300,000 square feet of new buildings, the tribe said, and would be a natural extension of downtown Oregon City. Current plans call for Main Street to simply be extended into the newly developed area.

Plans are similar to those previously drawn up by the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, a collaborative partnership between Oregon City, Clackamas County, Metro and the state of Oregon. The partnership officially organized in 2014 to find a way to provide public access to Willamette Falls and had previously secured an easement on the property to create a riverwalk.

Now, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Willamette Falls Legacy Project and the Willamette Falls Trust (a nonprofit tasked with raising money for the planned riverwalk), are all working together on the project. The first phase of the riverwalk project is estimated to cost \$65 million, the trust said, and \$28 million has been raised in public and private funds. An additional \$20 million in public funding is earmarked for the overall project, as part of the Metro Parks and Nature Bond passed by voters in 2019.

In August, that collaboration expanded to include four additional tribal governments with ancestral ties to Willamette Falls: the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Gerard Rodriguez, associate director for the Willamette Falls Trust, said the recent influx of Indigenous voices has created a new "expanded table" when it comes to who will determine the future of Willamette Falls, and, thankfully, all parties involved seem to agree on what should be done.

Plans call for public access, as well as extensive environmental rehabilitation of the area.

Anchorage schools see increase in bad behavior

The Associated Press

There's been an increase in rude, violent behavior in Anchorage schools, and the superintendent wants parents to help address it with their children.

The bad behavior has included a fight at a high school that prompted a large police response, along with a TikTok challenge where students caused thousands of dollars in damage to school bathrooms, KTUU-TV reported.

"Wrangell schools got off lightly" in September's bout of TikTok-inspired vandalism, Bob Davis, assistant principal at the middle and high schools, said in a letter to parents last week. "I



BOB DAVIS

am asking, however, that you talk with your children about the seriousness of these challenges and to monitor their social

media content."

Anchorage Schools Superintendent Deena Bishop said the pandemic may be behind the behavior.

"We are just finding, more and more, our young people, our children, are mostly as stressed out as the rest of us," Bishop said. "And the stress and the anxiety in the community has taken effect. And we just want to work with our parents to find solutions to this."

The state's largest school district has had nearly 800 suspensions this year, most at the secondary level. Officials say while that's not necessarily a high number, it's the severity of the incidents that has increased, including fights, assaults and drug and alcohol issues.

Teachers also report younger children seem to have lost the coping skills they need to calm down, Bishop said. In a recent newsletter, she asked parents to intervene after students in many incidents lacked respect and patience.

"If you are seeing it at home, guess what's happening in our schools," Bishop said of the bad behavior. "And so that's why we really wanted to reach out and say, let's talk to our kids."

She cited incidents in which a racist term was used during separate altercations at different schools, noting that racism of any type will not be tolerated.

"We want to let our students know we welcome them, we love them," Bishop said. "But we won't tolerate some of those poor behaviors."

Hydroponic farm grows in a shipping container in Ketchikan

By RAEGAN MILLER
Ketchikan Daily News

As one of the rainiest cities in America, Ketchikan has learned to live with constant wet. A young couple is turning some of that water into a growing business. Literally.

Ketchikan Ever Greens, run by Jess and Geoff Jans, focuses on growing, harvesting and delivering a cornucopia of vegetables — all grown through hydroponics methods in a custom-built vertical farm, housed in a metal shipping container.

The Janses met in Ketchikan — Jess Jans' hometown — and left town to pursue other jobs related to tourism in 2009, they explained.

Now back in town with their young son, the family is back to business in the First City.

"We got into kind of bigger systems and remote systems, and vertical farming was kind of getting bigger in 2013 as a concept, and we took an interest in it," Geoff Jans explained. "And it's only now that we've been able to jump into something at this scale. We're still pretty new at hydroponics commercially."

Vertical farming refers to growing produce or crops indoors, lined up vertically on walls. Hydroponics is a method of growing vegetables without soil, in mineral-rich water or another substance.

Jans said hydroponics and vertical farming isn't something you can ease into — "it's kind of sort of an all or nothing thing, and not something that you start small and build slowly."

The container that houses Ketchikan Ever Greens measures about 40 feet long. "It looks like the standard reefer shipping container on the outside, but it's been specifically built, pur-

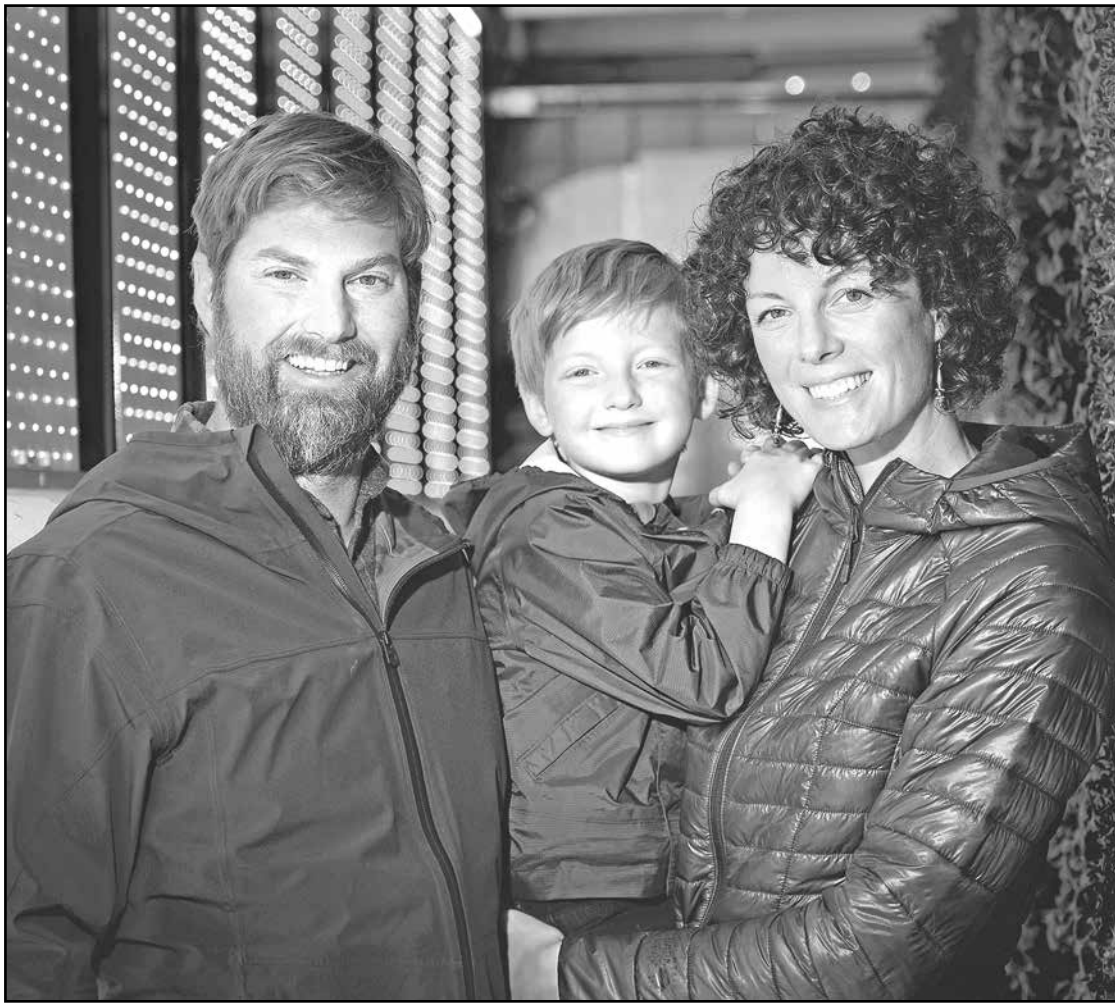


PHOTO BY DUSTIN SAFRANEK / KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS
Geoff and Jessica Jans, with their son Porter, stand next to one of the vertical gardens they farm in a container at Ketchikan Ever Greens.

pose-built I guess, on the inside to be a vertical farm," Geoff Jans said. "It was built in Boston, and we transported it up here."

Jans explained that they chose the particular container because of the "density of planting space" that it offered.

"And other containers that we looked at required having multiple containers, one for seeding and one for the main grow area,

so we really liked how this was able to incorporate all of this into one space and really efficiently," Jans said. "And it's production specifics met our goal through our business model."

The Janses plant an estimated 800 heads of lettuce in their vertical farm every week.

From planting a seed to when it is time to harvest is about seven weeks, they said. Harvests

and planting happen weekly at Ketchikan Ever Greens.

"We also harvest about 15 pounds of what we would call leafy greens, kales ... and bok choy (and) arugula," he said. "We are guessing that when it's all said and done, especially as we introduce some other products to the system, that we can produce about four and a half tons of food a year, out of the

one container."

He noted that the most popular offering is a blend of kale, arugula, muzina and tatsoi greens.

And there's growth on the horizon for Ketchikan Ever Greens.

"Our exciting news is, we're in the process of purchasing a second container, so we'll be doubling our production. And that is set to arrive in late December, most likely early January," said Jess Jans.

"Which was always part of the plan, but we weren't anticipating we would do it so soon," she added. "But why not?"

Jess Jans attributed the need for a second container to the community's enthusiastic response to what Ketchikan Ever Greens offers.

"We are able to deliver to their doorstep, and that's going really well," Geoff Jans said. "And we've been encouraged about not only our regular customers who see us each week, but the new ones who are coming on-board."

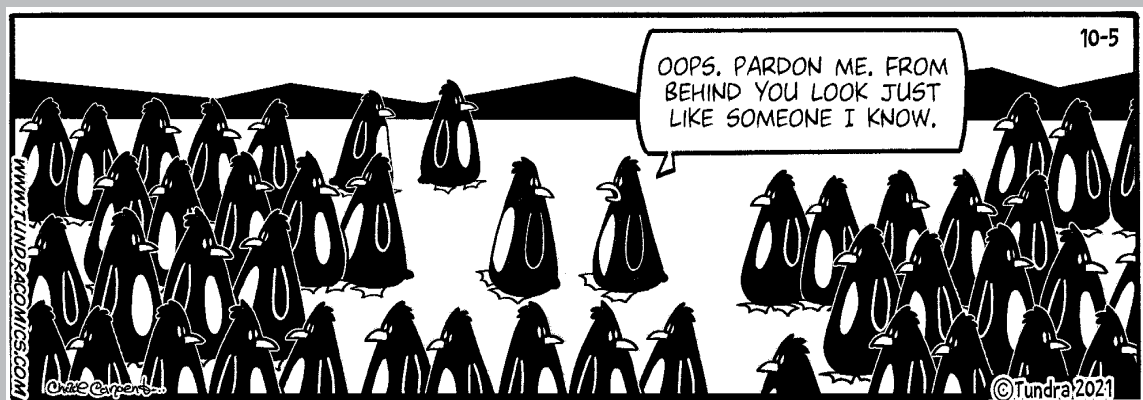
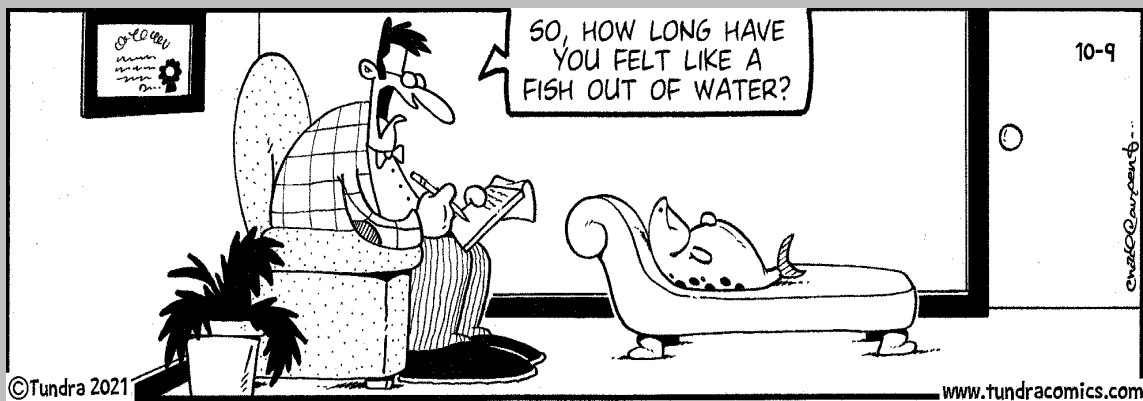
There are two available veggie bundles from Ketchikan Ever Greens. The "farmer's bundle" includes a blend of three to four varieties of baby lettuce, along with a half-and-half mix of arugula, kale, mustard greens, Swiss chard and Asian greens.

The "lettuce bundle" includes between three and four kinds of baby lettuce.

The challenge, he said, is getting enough product to everyone who wants it.

Tundra

by Chad Carpenter



Church adapts to preserve Alaska Day lunch tradition

Sentinel staff

The Island of Faith Lutheran Church was unable to conduct its traditional Alaska Day event last year and didn't want to miss it a second year in a row. But COVID-19 is still a concern.

So instead of inviting senior citizens to lunch at the church, volunteers will deliver halibut to the senior center, which will prepare the meals and deliver them to seniors.

"We didn't want to lose the tradition," said Pastor Sue Bahleda.

Before COVID-19, "we

would host a soup luncheon here at the church," she said. Elementary school students would sing the "Alaska's Flag" song to help commemorate the state holiday, which celebrates the day when the U.S. flag was raised in Sitka on Oct. 18, 1867, as the Russian flag was lowered.

The plan for this year is to bring all the ingredients for a halibut chowder lunch to the senior center this week. Center staff and volunteers will prepare the meal and deliver it to seniors this Friday — the center is closed for Alaska Day on Monday.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Debate heats up over tree thinning to slow wildfires

By Don Thompson
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters and numerous studies credit intensive forest thinning projects with helping save communities like those recently threatened near Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada, but dissent from some environmental advocacy groups is roiling the scientific community.

States in the U.S. West and the federal government each year thin thousands of acres of dense timber and carve broad swaths through the forest near remote communities, all designed to slow the spread of massive wildfires.

The projects aim to return overgrown forests to the way they were more than a century ago, when lower-intensity blazes cleared the underbrush regularly and before land managers began reflexively extinguishing every wildfire as soon as possible.

Such so-called fuel reduction efforts also include using fire to fight fire, with fires deliberately set in the cooler, wetter months to burn out dangerous fuels. Forest managers credit such burns with helping protect the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park. The state of California eased some regulations to increase the use of that tactic.

While most scientific studies find such forest management is a valuable tool, environmental advocates say data from recent gigantic wildfires support their long-running assertion that efforts to slow wildfires have instead accelerated their spread.

The argument is fueling an already passionate debate.

It has led to a flurry of citations of dueling studies and fed competing claims that the science may be skewed by ideology.

The debate came to a head over this year's giant Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon.

"Not only did tens of thousands of acres of recent thinning, fuel breaks, and other forest management fail to stop or slow the fire's rapid spread, but ... the fire often moved fastest through such areas," Los Padres ForestWatch, a California-based nonprofit, said in an analysis, joined by the John Muir Project and Wild Heritage advocacy groups.

James Johnston, a researcher with Oregon State University's College of Forestry, called the groups' conclusions "pretty misleading," irresponsible and "self-contradicting."

"Claims that modern fuel-reduction thinning makes fire worse are not credible," Johnston said.

The debate focused on a project where the Klamath Tribes and The Nature Conservancy have spent a decade thinning smaller trees and using planned fires.

They and the U.S. Forest Service said the treatments slowed the fire's spread and lessened its intensity, while critics said the blaze made its fastest northern run through the same area, spreading 5 miles in about 13 hours.

Scientists say climate change has made the American West much warmer and drier and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires



AP PHOTO/NATHAN HOWARD

The Bootleg Fire in July destroyed this home near Bly, Oregon. Each year thousands of acres of dense timber are thinned near remote communities, all designed to slow the spread of massive wildfires. While most scientific studies find such forest management is a valuable tool, environmental advocates say data from recent gigantic wildfires support their long-running assertion that efforts to slow wildfires have instead accelerated their spread.

more frequent and destructive, accelerating the need for more large-scale forest treatments.

Critics say forest thinning operations are essentially logging projects in disguise.

Opening up the forest canopy and leaving more distance between trees reduces the natural humidity and cooling shade of dense forests and allows unimpeded winds to push fire faster, said Chad Hanson, forest and fire ecologist with the John Muir Project.

Such reasoning defies the laws of physics, said other experts: Less fuel means less severe fire. Fewer trees means it's more difficult for fires to leap from treetop to treetop.

The critics contend recent massive California wildfires also moved quickly through thinned areas that failed to protect communities.

Timothy Ingalsbee, a former federal firefighter who heads Oregon-based Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, said this year's giant Dixie Fire blew sparks past containment lines, igniting piles of dry branches left by a thinning operation near Paradise. The town was nearly destroyed in 2018 in the nation's deadliest and most destructive wildfire in modern times.

Thom Porter, director of California's firefighting agency, said critics miss the point: Fuel breaks are one tool that can

help slow and channel wildfires while protecting rural homes and communities.

"The problem is, when you have a head fire that is a mile or miles wide and it's running through timber like it's grass, there isn't a fuel break out there that's going to stop it," Porter said.

Each side can point to plenty of competing examples, said John Bailey, professor of silviculture and fire management at Oregon State University. Some forest thinning has indeed been mishandled, yet "anywhere that we've done an effective fuels treatment, we have modified fire behavior and reduced the intensity."

The contrasting views prompted a contentious debate, with one paper suggesting supporters of spotted owl habitat, including Hanson of the John Muir Project, are "selectively using data that support their agendas." Another paper said such dissenting views have "fostered confusion" and can slow what the authors contend are necessary forest treatments.

Hanson dismissed the criticism as "character assassination" driven by those who benefit from logging or are reluctant to embrace what he insists is the evolving science.

"On average, all things being equal, the thinned areas tend to burn more rapidly and more intensely most of the

time," he said, citing his own research, including a broad 2016 review of three decades of 1,500 fires across the Western U.S. conducted with the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity and Oregon-based Geos Institute.

The division "reflects both evidence and understandable emotion" when wildfires destroy homes or ecological treasures, said Erica Fleishman, a professor at Oregon State University's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

The competing arguments are part of the legitimate policy and scientific debate, according to Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at California's Pomona College who has written extensively about wildfires, including with Hanson.

Forest managers cite examples like where a 400-foot-wide fuel break helped protect rural Sierra Nevada homes.

The U.S. Forest Service produced a video called "Fuels Treatments Work — A Creek Fire Success Story," and Cal Fire featured it in a fuels reduction guide.

"Clearly it's a matter of debate in policy arenas and management, but I think in terms of the scientific literature, the evidence is overwhelming," said John Battles, a professor of forest ecology at the University of California, Berkeley.

First cruise ship returns to San Francisco since March 2020

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Cruise ships are returning to San Francisco after a 19-month hiatus brought on by the pandemic in what's sure to be a boost to the city's economy, the mayor announced last Friday.

The Majestic Princess sailed into the port of San Francisco on Monday, the first cruise ship to dock in the San Francisco Bay Area since March 2020 when the Grand Princess captured the world's attention and made the coronavirus real to millions in the United States. The ship was carrying people infected with the coro-

navirus, and thousands of passengers aboard were quarantined as the ship idled off the California coast.

The port of San Francisco, home to the Bay Area's only passenger cruise terminal, expects to welcome 21 cruise ships through the remainder of the year.

"Tourism is a critical part of our city's economy, helping to pay for important services that allow us to take care of our most vulnerable residents," Mayor London Breed said in a statement. "This announcement is just another example of our city coming back

to life and emerging from this pandemic stronger than ever before."

The cruise ship terminals are near some of the most famous landmarks in the city, including Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 39 and the Ferry Building. When the largest cruise ships dock, there can be over 6,000 passengers, crewmembers, and terminal workers who disembark and dine and shop in the area, Breed's office said.

The Majestic Princess will sail from Los Angeles for a weeklong California coast voyage that will include an overnight stop in San Francisco.

Passengers will have to show they were vaccinated at least 14 days before embarking on the cruise and have proof of vaccination. They must also have a negative COVID-19 test taken within two days of their embarkation, according to a statement from Princess Cruises, a Carnival Corp. subsidiary that operates the vessel.

Cruises elsewhere in the U.S. began returning to business in June, including Alaska in July, following a lengthy hiatus that saw the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention repeatedly extended

no-sail orders as the pandemic raged.

Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean, the three largest cruise companies, collectively lost \$20 billion last year and another \$4.5 billion in the first quarter of 2021, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

The CDC's latest cruise ship guidance recommends passengers show both a recent negative COVID test and proof they've been immunized. It advises travelers who are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness to avoid cruises.

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