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COVID vaccinations for children could be available next week

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

With approval from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vaccinations against COVID-19 for children ages 5 through 11 could be available in Wrangell next week.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week approved the vaccine for children, and the CDC late Tuesday also approved the shots.

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, which was waiting on that decision, will soon start opening appointments to administer Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11, Maegan Bosak, a senior SEARHC official in Sitka, said Tuesday.

"Vaccines will be available by appointment, and a parent or caregiver must accompany the youth," Bosak said.

Those appointments will be available starting sometime next week, she said.

Parents and/or guardians can preregister their children at covid19.searhc.org.

The vaccine for younger children requires two shots, administered three weeks apart, and at much lower doses than the doses for older children and adults.

Wrangell schools "will work with SEARHC and public health officials in any way we can to support our community. I have been in discussion early on with the possibility of a coordinated event if it will help," Schools Superintendent Bill Burr said Tuesday.

SEARHC also is reminding parents that flu shots are available for adults and children who want to guard against winter illness.

Alaska medical providers and pharmacies have been ordering doses of the COVID vaccine for children, Matthew Bobo, state immunization program manager, said at a briefing last Thursday. About 73,000 Alaska children fall within the latest age group eligible for the shot, he said.

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Interim borough manager started on the job Monday

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Jeffrey Good, who moved to Wrangell after retiring from the U.S. Coast Guard, started work Monday as interim borough manager, replacing Lisa Von Bargen until the assembly can make a permanent hire.

The borough assembly last Thursday offered the position to Good, who was among five candidates for the job.

Von Bargen's last day as manager was Friday.

Good, the only local candidate, served as U.S. Coast Guard base director in Kodiak from 2017 to 2020, according to his résumé. He served as public works manager at Base Kodiak from 2006 to 2008. He holds master's degrees from Duke University and the University of Illinois in engineer-

ing management and civil engineering, respectively, and has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Coast Guard Academy.

"Over the next three months Jeff will be focused on ensuring that operational continuity



JEFFREY GOOD

is maintained, while at the same time reviewing and improving the various capital projects that are currently in progress," the borough said in a prepared statement Monday.

"With his civil engineering and project management expertise we believe he is the right person to assist with getting key projects over the finish line," the statement said.

Good retired from the U.S. Coast Guard last year and has been doing engineering and construction management consulting since then, according to his application letter to the borough.

"My family and I chose Wrangell to establish our permanent residence after retirement," Good wrote. He went on to say "I would like to bring the leadership, management, engineering and administrative skills honed during my active-

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Joan Sargent, the foster/adoption coordinator for St. Frances Animal Rescue, cuddles Simba, one of 12 cats being fostered in homes throughout Wrangell until the shelter finds a permanent location.

Animal shelter receives \$10,000 donation with matching pledge

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A private donation to St. Frances Animal Rescue has made it possible for the nonprofit shelter to keep operating after a difficult year.

The shelter recently received a promise from a private donor to match every dollar donated from Nov. 1 of this year until Nov. 1, 2022, up to \$10,000.

Joan Sargent, the foster/adoption coordinator for St. Frances, is confident the shelter will be able to raise enough to reach its target of \$35,000. That would allow the organization to keep moving toward its goal of a permanent location. Right now, 12 animals are being fostered between Sargent's home and others in Wrangell.

Even after those funds are available, Sargent

said it could take from three to five years to complete the project of moving into permanent quarters and turning the space into an animal shelter.

"We are very realistic about this endeavor," Sargent said. "We've evaluated other nonprofit organizations with efforts like this."

The previous shelter was operated out of the garage of Rick and Delores Klinke, who started the organization in 2009 when Wrangell was having a problem with feral cats. Since March 2020, the shelter has had to rely on homes to foster animals due to Delores Klinke's ailing health.

Since its inception, St. Frances has had 600 cats move through the shelter. It has helped find homes for cats, dogs and even a rabbit. Feral

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Alaska Airlines' end-of-year goal is return to 2019 staffing, flight numbers

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

Alaska Airlines would like to be back to 2019 staffing levels and flight schedules by the end of the year.

"That's our goal," Tim Thompson, company spokesman in Anchorage, said Monday.

From the worst of the pandemic-induced collapse in air travel in the spring of 2020, when the airline carried 4,000 to 5,000 passengers a day across its entire route system, Alaska was back up to 108,000 revenue passengers a day for the quarter that ended Sept. 30, moving toward its pre-pandemic number of close to 140,000.

Carrying all those passengers has meant bringing planes back into service, along with pilots and cabin crews, Thompson said.

Alaska, like other airlines, laid off employees when travel shrank in 2020. "We're trying to get back up to 2019 personnel," he said.

The airline employs about 22,000 people, and is calling back workers and has multiple job postings on its website.

Furloughed pilots and cabin

crew have to requalify with the Federal Aviation Administration before they can go back to work, and the company has stepped up its retraining program at its Seattle base to bring back crew as quickly as possible, Thompson said.

Despite the efforts, the airline sometimes comes up short and has to cancel flights. Wrangell experienced that cancellation pain last Saturday, when Alaska canceled both its northbound (Flight 65) and southbound (Flight 64) service into town.

The Southeast cancellations were among about two-dozen flights dropped that day for lack of crew, Thompson said. "Hands down, we weren't at our best."

The airline runs about 1,200 departures a day. Between crew shortages, weather (dense fog in Juneau most of the day), and a few mechanical issues among the 300 planes operated by Alaska and its regional carrier Horizon Air, about 55 flight "segments" were canceled last Saturday.

A segment, Thompson explained, is one leg of a flight. For example, Flight 65 from Ketchikan to Wrangell is one segment.

That left the airline operating about 95% of its schedule, down from the usual 98% to 99% range, he said.

When short of crew, the airline tries shifting pilots and cabin crew to cover flights and maintain operations, but sometimes not enough people are available or are in the wrong place to staff the flights.

When deciding which flights to cancel during a crew shortage, the airline looks not only at available staff but also where that staff needs to be for the next flight and the next day.

Putting a crew on a flight that will take them out of position for another flight just rolls the problem into the next day, he explained. "It's all about placement of people."

Though Saturday's cancellations created problems for Alaska Airlines' travelers, they were minor compared to the strains at other airlines unable to maintain their schedules.

American Airlines scrapped about 1,900 flights between Saturday and Monday, about 10% of its schedule, according to several news reports. High winds that closed runways at its main hub in Dallas added to

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Don't forget to
**SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK
1 HOUR**

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 7**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, Nov. 4: Deano Barker, Jessica Byrd, Edith Grover, Ayla Harris, Anny "Fyno" Newport, Olga Norris, Claire Rooney, Shelby Smith, Peyton Stolley; Anniversary: Jeff and Pam Wiederspohn.

Friday, Nov. 5: Jimmy Fisher Baggen, Mark Davidson, Kaylauna Warren; Anniversary: Adam and DeeDee Sprehe.

Saturday, Nov. 6: Betsy Golding.

Sunday, Nov. 7: Erik Gile, Jean-Luc Lewis, Pam McCloskey, Garrett Miller, K.D. Roope-Strasburger, Frank Simpson.

Monday, Nov. 8: Taylor Carey, Gabriel Duquemin, Wilder Todd Harding, Jeremy Stolley.

Tuesday, Nov. 9: Ava Lawrance, Sawyer Rooney, Kimberly Szczałko.

Wednesday, Nov. 10: Lee Byrd III, Janae Franklet, Erika Hansen, Marine Corps, Austin Reed Sun.

Thursday, Nov. 11: Daniel Powell, DeAnna Villarma; Anniversary: Lucas and Lisa Messmer.

Senior Center Menu

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

Friday, Nov. 5

Ham and bean soup,
tomatoes with cottage cheese, cornbread

Monday, Nov. 8

BBQ chicken, mixed veggies,
sunshine salad, herb biscuit

Tuesday, Nov. 9

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy,
cranberry sauce, green beans, salad

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Turkey pot pie, salad, herb biscuits

Thursday, Nov. 11

Closed for Veterans day. Meal delivered Wednesday.
Chicken soup, triple-bean salad, fruit slaw

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 by 2 p.m. the day prior to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.



Ferry Schedule

November 10-December 17

Northbound

Friday, Dec. 10

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Matanuska, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 10:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kennicott, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



TIDES

November 4-November 10

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Nov. 4	00:55	16.8	12:58	19.1
Nov. 5	01:39	17.1	01:35	19.6
Nov. 6	02:24	16.9	02:15	19.6
Nov. 7	02:11	16.3	01:57	19.0
Nov. 8	03:00	15.4	02:42	18.0
Nov. 9	03:55	14.3	03:34	16.5
Nov. 10	05:00	13.4	04:38	14.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

THE AMERICAN LEGION will host a Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 11 at the Legion Hall. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Limited to 120 people. If you are planning to attend, you must have a ticket. If you are a veteran living in Wrangell and you didn't receive an invitation, call Marilyn Mork at 907-470-0085 to get your ticket.

WRANGELL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION Thanksgiving box sign-up is open and runs through Nov. 12. Sign up at the Salvation Army, and distribution day is Nov. 19 at Harbor Light Church. Call 907-874-3753 for more information.

NOLAN CENTER community market 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Ron's Gone Wrong," rated PG, at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the animated adventure comedy that runs one hour and 46 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Next weekend: "Clifford Big Red Dog."

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE is hosting a four-week caregiver education speaker series. The second one is "A Loving Approach to Dementia Care," set for 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, via Zoom. The panel discussion will be led by Laura Wayman, a Johns Hopkins Press author, who will provide the tools and inspiration to fight a battle where loss is not the inevitable outcome. Free; no registration required. Link to join: zoom.us/j/9918328338. Visit ccsak.org or email denise.darby@ccsjuneau.org for more information.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION American Red Cross lifeguard registration is open. Courses run Nov. 18-21. Participants are required to complete online content before the first day of class. A portion of the content will be delivered by Zoom. 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 wrangellrec.com. For more information and prerequisites, contact Kate Thomas at 907-874-2444 or email at kthoms@wrangell.com.

EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY's second annual online book fair is open and runs through Nov. 8. The school will receive 25% of all sales. Call for information at 907-874-2321 or visit the fundraising link to browse: www.childrensbookstore.com/welcome/evergreen-elementary-school.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION is offering pickleball, jiu jitsu, volleyball and Keep Moving adult activities. More information online at www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 907-874-2301. 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

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

Nov. 3, 1921

Miss Liberty Worden gave a Halloween party Monday night in the school room of the post office building for her Saturday afternoon girls sewing club. The decorations and dainty refreshments and favors were all in keeping with the traditions of the day. A ghost and a witch who told thrilling fortunes enlivened the program and some jolly games were enjoyed. Miss Betty Matheson won the prize for adjusting the head of a make-believe black cat as near to its proper position on the body as

was possible when blindfolded. Erma Grant was the prize winner in a marshmallow contest.

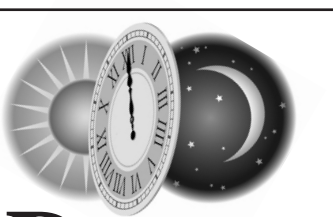
Nov. 1, 1946

The ARB cannery tender Roamer, skippered by John Siversten, arrived in Wrangell on Wednesday evening with 50 tons of merchandise for Grant's Grocery. B.Y. Grant, proprietor of the store, flew south about a week ago to make arrangements for the shipment. "Mr. Grant deserves a lot of credit," Siversten said. "He went down, chartered the boat, bought his groceries and then battled the longshoremen to get the boat loaded. It was tough going for him." Siversten said because of the weather conditions this time of year it was extremely unsatisfactory to bring up supplies on small boats. Bad weather could delay their trip for several days, thereby increasing the danger of spoilage. Siversten said it was hard on a skipper's nerves to make some of the stormy crossings that cannery tenders are not built to endure. They left Saturday and got here Wednesday night, without making a stop.

of a pioneer Wrangell family. She was raised in Wrangell and graduated from the schools. For nine years she was a dental assistant in the office of Dr. Gray Floyd and also is well known in art circles, having had her paintings displayed in the Wrangell Museum. In her new shop, Mrs. Norris will carry a line of her own hand-made ceramics as well as paintings, in addition to a varied line of gifts. Mr. Norris has lived here 11 years. He is from Willamina, Oregon, and is in the construction business here.

Nov. 7, 1996

Residents beyond 9 Mile Zimovia Highway are eagerly awaiting electricity to their property, calling City Hall as they watch the poles being put up and asking: "How soon can you hook us up?" Tim Gillen, the city's electric utility supervisor, says that isn't likely until spring -- as soon as the frost is out of the ground and poles can be put in to carry the wires to houses. The new line will stretch all the way out to McCormick Creek, says City Manager Scott Seabury. Once all the wires and transformers are in place, residents will need to apply with the city for service. The city hopes that extending electricity out to McCormick Creek will enable light industries to establish themselves out the road, and the extra power will be useful if the 6 Mile sawmill again becomes active.



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Nov. 4	8:05a	4:59p	8:53h
Nov. 5	8:07a	4:57p	8:49h
Nov. 6	8:10a	4:55p	8:45h
Nov. 7	7:12a	3:53p	8:41h
Nov. 8	7:14a	3:51p	8:37h
Nov. 9	7:16a	3:49p	8:32h
Nov. 10	7:18a	3:47p	8:28h

Nov. 5, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. George Norris have purchased the former Tom Sawyer Gift Shop here, as of Nov. 1. The new enterprise will be known in the future as Norris Gifts and Ceramics. Mrs. Norris will manage the shop. She is the former Olga Ogelend, member

Library celebrates a century as a place to get lost in a book

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

For lovers of the written word, one might argue that walking into a library is like a family reunion, of the senses at least. The smell of paper and ink pulls memories of curling up with a book, no phone to check or competition for attention.

Last Thursday, it felt like a reunion of the senses and also a library family reunion.

November marks 100 years since the library opened its doors on Oct. 31, 1921.

And before the cake could be cut and whittled down, former library director Kay Jabusch shared memories under the eaves of a building that did the opposite of shrink its size or offerings.

From 802 books in 1921, the library has grown to house thousands of books, plus movies and music, computer access, printing, an online library catalog, and access to the Alaska Digital Library collection of digital and audiobooks.

Jabusch served as library director until retiring in 2014. She recalled conscripting kids at the library into action to dismantle and move the library's computers out of the way of a roof leak, (the children jumped to it, probably better acquainted with dismantling computers than most adults), and her pleasant incredulity at librarian Irene Ingle hiring her in 1980 when she was several months pregnant. At the time, Jabusch thought, who would hire someone who will have to quit?

But then Jabusch stayed a long time. At this library, "people tend to," she said.

The library has grown, and with it, the services it offers.

The library's first summer reading program she headed in 1981 had 16 participants, Jabusch said. By her retirement, approximately 125 children were taking part every summer.

As for her hopes on the next 100 years, Jabusch said, that's up to the community and how much of a need they put on the library. Her hope includes the continuity of a strong, sustainable staff and adequate funding, bolstered by the progress she's seen since her days as library director.

"Since I retired, I see more and more improvements," Jabusch said.

Among the attendees at Thursday's birthday party were Carol Rushmore, president of Friends of the Library, the nonprofit created to promote the library as a cultural, educational and recreational asset to the borough. And an expert cake cutter, as she doled out slices from



PHOTOS BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Above: Former library director Kay Jabusch (left) and Margaret Villarma, current library director, stand in front of a board filled with old newspaper articles about the library, which celebrated its 100th birthday last week. Below: A plaque just outside the entrance commemorates the dedication of the Irene Ingle Public Library, honoring the librarian who retired in 1980 after 33 years of service.

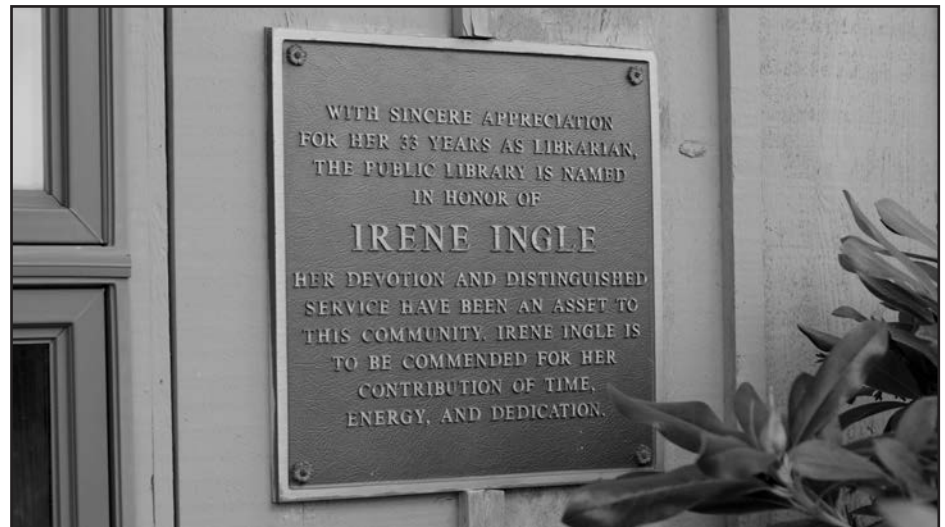
the two cakes commissioned from Sweet Tides Bakery for the event, one chocolate and one vanilla, with "100" emblazoned on both.

Ginny Helgeson, assistant librarian from 1981 to 1989, sat and chatted with Alice Rooney, retired social worker.

"Kay and I catalogued the entire 30,000-book collection," Helgeson said of her time working at the library. Helgeson's daughter, Sarah Scambler, is the current assistant librarian.

Sarah Whittlesey-Merritt, of the library staff, manned the party favors table and recited, from memory, the library card rules.

Among the favors were bookmarks designed to look like library due-date cards, the ones that used to be found in the lending pocket in the back of a book, playfully "issued to our favorite patrons" at the party. Satchels of Hershey's Kisses almond candies, with circular stickers attached to the flat bottom, some with text that had the name of the library, "100-year anniversary celebration," or a photo of the library



itself, sat in a bowl on the table.

There was also a sign-in sheet made to look like stacks of books, with blank spines. Each attendee wrote their name in the spine of a book.

Mayor Steve Prysunka attended the birthday, and Jabusch recalled Prysunka once told her that when he and his wife were mulling the move to Wrangell, the library sold the deal.

New domestic violence shelter opens in former Ketchikan juvenile jail

By DANELLE KELLY
Ketchikan Daily News

Women In Safe Homes has transformed a former youth detention center in Ketchikan into a safe haven for domestic and sexual abuse survivors. The new shelter opened Oct. 23, and serves residents of southern Southeast, including Wrangell.

"We have people here right now from Wrangell," Agnes Moran, executive director of WISH, said last week.

The nonprofit will pay travel costs for out-of-town residents who need to stay at the facility, she said. About a dozen people a year from Wrangell come to the shelter, Moran said.

The organization houses almost 200 people over the course of a year.

Though staff and residents have started the move into the new shelter, the transition will not be completed until the end of the month.

The building opened as a youth detention center in 2002

but the state closed it in 2016, citing high costs. The city of Ketchikan took over ownership. The building was built on city property.

The inside of the building has been transformed from a cold, gray jail to a warm, cheerful space with fresh paint and wooden wainscoting to brighten the concrete-block walls. The original building was constructed with soaring ceilings buttressed by thick, wooden beams, which were retained.

Cell walls have been knocked out to create larger spaces. Concrete beds and metal toilets are gone. In their place is a decidedly warmer décor. Walls are painted in pastels.

The \$1.6 million renovation project not only transformed the interior of the building with more and larger windows and quiet reading areas, but expanded it as well, said Amanda Robinson, the city's project manager.

The renovation expanded bedrooms and the dining area. The

larger bedrooms can house up to six residents each. The new shelter has beds for 30 people.

The old facility offered only dorm-style rooms, in contrast

to the new facility that offers not only larger rooms, but three rooms that have single bunkbeds.

"That's really important to our population," Moran said,

"because quite often we'll get folks in who just can't live well in a dorm setting."

Continued on page 4

Correction

The Sentinel on Oct. 28 incorrectly reported on the dedication of a bench at the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial to Ryan Miller, who died in a 2005 commercial fishing accident. The three memorial benches were a 2017 Wrangell High School senior project. The Ryan Miller bench was built by his son, Garrett Miller. The other two benches were built by Garrett's cousin, Dawson Miller, and their friend, Sam Armstrong.



Now Hiring for Multiple Full-Time, Year-Round Positions!

Alaska Marine Highway System is actively recruiting focused, hard-working individuals interested in positions in our **Passenger Services** department. These employees provide professional customer service and ensure the safety of our passengers while performing tasks in the galley, dining room or cafés, crew mess, staterooms and public areas aboard the ferries.

AMHS is also offering a **Hiring Bonus** for qualified candidates interested in building a merchant mariner career.* Best of all, you don't need any prior maritime experience to apply! Choose a position today that can start you on the path to building your certifications for a successful maritime career.

AMHS offers competitive starting pay and a full benefit package including paid leave, medical & dental coverage, retirement options, and opportunities for advancement. If you're ready for a little more adventure and a little less of the same old thing, check out the full job description at our website.

FerryAlaska.com/employment | 1-800-642-0066

#alaskamarinehighway

*Conditions apply. Review the job posting for details.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Supply chain shortages make me nutty

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

It's OK with me if there are few cars to buy. My VW Beetle is more than 15 years old, but only has 72,000 miles on it, so I'm in no hurry. Besides, I like the stick shift and the CD player. And I am particularly fond of the "check engine" light that stays lit longer than the car radio holds a station.

Pandemic-induced shortages of building materials, appliances and electronics are not my immediate concern. Sure, my refrigerator is louder than someone who sings opera in the shower, and my clothes dryer takes as much as an hour and a half to finish a load. I have learned patience during the pandemic.

But now, supply chain disruptions, backlogged factories, delayed container ships, chip shortages and delivery delays have hit home. More specifically, my kitchen.

The problem has spread into the most important part of my daily routine — what I have for breakfast and lunch.

I am a Grape-Nuts fan. Not addicted, but close. I have them in the morning, mixing the teeth-grinding cereal into whatever limp flakes are getting soggy in milk. I add them to my yogurt at lunch — been doing that for more than 20 years. I probably go through 50 pounds a year.

I continue crushing away at Grape-Nuts despite having so many crowns on my teeth that my mouth is worth more (a lot more) than my car.

Yet despite my years of constant-chewing loyalty, I am sadly accepting that Grape-Nuts and private-label look-alike brands at supermarkets are in short supply. I have seen empty shelves several times this summer and fall in Anchorage, not a box in sight between the granolas, flakes and toasted oats. Fred Meyer's private-label,

called Nutty Nuggets, is no more, missing for months. They even took away the tag from the shelf where the boxes used to sit. Walmart's private brand, Crunchy Nuggets, is not available. Safeway also calls its brand Nutty Nuggets, but no nugget of truth to that in Alaska.

Thankfully, boxes of the hard-chewing cereal are available for hard-core enthusiasts in Wrangell.

The original Post Grape-Nuts was cooked up more than 120 years ago in the cereal capital of America, Battle Creek, Michigan. And in all that time, it hasn't changed much: It's wheat, barley, yeast and salt. A 2009 report in The Wall Street Journal noted that a single factory in California makes all of the Grape-Nuts for the entire country. The ovens in Michigan closed down in 2005 as sales declined.

After baking the mix into what looks like large, dense fireplace logs, a conveyor dumps the "loaves" into a combination chipper and grinder — and out pours the nuts. One writer said they look like kidney stones, a thought that would cut into an enjoyable breakfast for many people.

For me, knowing that my favorite cereal once looked like giant Pres-to-Logs (yes, that's how the company spells it), adds an irresistible level of little-boy enjoyment to the food. It's a moment in the day (OK, two moments, breakfast and lunch), when I can feel all is well with the world.

It's a moment when I can shut out the pandemic and crunch so loudly that I can hear it in my head.

I hope there is something somewhere in the Build Back Better trillion-dollar legislature awaiting congressional action to address the risk that Grape-Nuts could someday go the way of other historic American ingenuity, like stick shifts. I can only handle so much change at a time.

EDITORIAL

Anchorage is a lousy role model

As the state's largest city, Anchorage should be a leader, a role model for the rest of Alaska.

The city of almost 290,000 people, about 40% of the state's population, should be a wise, steadying influence — much like a big brother or big sister.

And yet, Anchorage is an unruly sibling of late, more prone to tantrums than solving problems.

The political behavior is appalling. The bickering and nastiness are shameful. The intolerance promoted by some community leaders is a role model of the worst kind.

Anchorage is divided between those who want the city to grow healthier, diverse and more progressive at solving long-standing problems, while a whole lot don't see all that much need for change, other than more jobs and less government — and fewer face masks.

Much of the growing divisiveness comes from efforts to fight the spread and death from COVID-19. The battles are over face masks, social distancing, government's role in the effort, personal responsibility and personal freedom.

Not unlike much of the country, though that doesn't make it OK.

At a municipal assembly meeting, a protestor against a face mask policy publicly shouted a crude, obscene, homophobic slur at an assembly member, who is gay. As the top elected official, Mayor Dave Bronson should have stood up and said something eloquent and forceful about public conduct and hostility. Instead, he was quiet until the next day, when he apologized for not saying anything.

Anti-maskers wore the Star of David to an assembly meeting, likening the Nazi death campaign to public health efforts amid the pandemic. The mayor at first supported the use of the yellow star. Then, a day later, he apologized for endorsing the comparison to the Holocaust.

At one of the most raucous assembly meetings, the mayor's staff removed the plexiglass that had been installed long ago to help protect the assembly from unmasked audience members speaking at the nearby microphone and possibly spreading the coronavirus.

During the ongoing turmoil over face masks, Anchorage's municipal manager, municipal attorney and community development director all came down with COVID. Even then, the mayor did not change his attitude. Meanwhile, Anchorage is in the bottom third of Alaska municipalities for vaccination rates.

Angry residents have twice forced special-election recall votes against assembly members who favored masking orders and other public health initiatives. Both recalls failed by wide margins. The money spent on the latest unsuccessful recall neared half-a-million dollars.

And now the other side of the COVID debate is weighing in with a recall petition against an assembly member who has been a loud and constant critic of mask mandates.

Single-issue recalls are not the answer. They only heighten the divisiveness. Accept that your candidate lost and wait for the next election.

Anchorage needs to grow up and behave like an adult. Stop the yelling and work together. If not, don't expect Alaskans to think of Anchorage as anything more than a place to shop and leave quickly.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brock family thankful for community support

The family of Al and Lovey Brock would like to thank the community of Wrangell for all of the support we have received since Al has been sick. We were showered with many delicious meals, air mattresses, a vehicle to use, thoughts, prayers and love.

A special thank you goes out to the incredible doctors, nurses and other staff at Wrangell Medical Center.

This is what makes living and growing up in a small community special.

Be aware that the internet monetizes your opinions

The internet is first and foremost a business platform. Content (books, videos, articles) is now created only AFTER it can be verified that people are searching for it. "Monetization" drives a person or business to create content, making it available for free and receiving a payment for each view of an advertisement.

The battle for clicks/views directly influences how content creators operate by analyzing search keywords and trends. This method is perfect for entertainment and technical information. A validation process is built in — the more entertaining or more accurate, the more people click it.

My observation is that people

are more frequently searching the internet for answers that are emotionally complex and/or opinion-based. As discussed prior, content will be produced specifically to address the search query. Content creators, vying for clicks, write articles or make videos, infer a searcher's bias, and extrapolate a tailored biased answer.

Why is this an issue? Firstly, opinion content is a popularity contest. Second, and most importantly, is when we search specifically to validate our own opinions. While quite human, "confirmation bias" is also quite dangerous considering the speed at which it can happen online. Any opinion, regardless of morality or truth, can be validated in minutes through biased searching (especially on social media platforms), with reaffirmation over time through suggested content algorithms i.e., "recommended for you" or "others watched this also."

Consider if I lean slightly one way in opinion and unintentionally use biased search terms then read monetized opinions that validate my own opinion, I will instantly be exposed to more monetized and extreme versions of the original opinion while finding more "people" who sympathize. Could this be partially to blame for our increasingly polarized culture?

Two comically exaggerated examples of search bias are: "Why dogs are the worst," and

"why dogs are the best." Instead, one might type: "What are the pros and cons of dog ownership." While monetized opinions may still make up the majority of the search results, an effort was made to remain objective.

My challenge to us all is to be aware of internet monetization and of our human need to validate our feelings and opinions. Honestly, do we need to involve profit-driven strangers into our opinion-forming or decision-making process? I think it best that we guard our opinions and form them with careful, objective consideration.

James Edens

Mariners' Memorial a truly stunning project

Kudos to the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial Committee.

Your years of meetings, emails, fundraisers and hiring "smart hands" have resulted in a stunning project. I hope you realize the impact, and recognize that your time has been well-invested.

The primo accessible location, panoramic view, architectural design, spacing of elements, silhouette, variety and quality of materials will elicit responses for decades.

It's always intriguing when hard, cold elements, like metal, cement and nightlights, can meld and touch soft souls.

Well done.

Cindy Martin

Violence shelter

Continued from page 3

Another advantage with the single bunkbed rooms, Moran said, is that possibly a father and child could be housed in those rooms. Because men must be housed separately from women, in the old shelter one male client would take up an entire six-person room.

Almost \$1.35 million in federal grants, along with grant funds from the Rasmuson Foundation, First Bank and Royal Caribbean cruise line, covered much of the cost, with WISH taking out a mortgage for the balance.

There is a secure vestibule that visitors enter, which provides extra security be-

yond the interior and exterior cameras, Moran said. A WISH advocate is stationed at the desk facing the glassed-in area, to talk with visitors and ask questions before allowing them to enter the main area.

"It's just another layer of security before you enter the building," she said.

Moran said the only requirement to stay at the shelter is that the person has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault.

WISH operates a 24-hour phone line for victims of sexual or domestic violence. Call 907-225-9474 or toll-free at 1-800-478-9474.

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Power plant generator needs \$500,000 in repairs

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Rod Rhoades has a sick generator.

It's down for the count after mechanical issues this summer, said the superintendent at Wrangell Municipal Light & Power.

The generator is one of five that provide backup when Wrangell loses its feed from the Tyee Lake hydroelectric station. After Rhoades started in 2018, he brought a fifth generator online in 2020 to "give me some breathing room."

Before that, there would be times when all four generators were running to meet power demand, he said, and for machines, that lack of spare capacity is chancy.

Having Unit No. 5 out, Rhoades said, puts him right back where he started.

He estimates repairs will cost about \$500,000.

And while he knows what's wrong, and how to fix it, strong inflation and delays could make the repairs cost more.

The utility department has \$3.5 million in the bank, but due to the global supply chain snags it can no longer sit on an estimate from vendors, according to a memo Rhoades sent the borough assembly. And, he said, vendors have repeatedly told the department that they will only hold a materials quote for a week or so, instead of 30



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Rod Rhoades, superintendent at Wrangell Municipal Light & Power, shows the utility's coverage area across the island, which includes almost 27 miles of overhead line and 2.4 miles of underground line.

days or more.

"We've never seen that before," he said.

Adding to that is the cost of transporting supplies and equipment, he said.

"It's very, very hard to budget. I recently bought three 15-horsepower electric motors.

The total price on that was somewhere around \$9,000. By the time that we got them shipped out here, it was another \$2,500," Rhoades said.

The utility department is seeking to make repairs to generator No. 5 and add it back to its lineup before the onset of

colder temperatures — 20 degrees or below — that would cause a power draw which only five generators could handle.

Rhoades will present his plan for repair to the borough assembly at its Nov. 9 meeting. As soon as the money is approved, he said the department

will get to work and hire an expert from Seattle-based Marine Systems. He estimates having the generator fixed by the end of December.

The generator fix is just one item on Rhoades \$1.3 million to-do list, which he would like to accomplish over the next two to three years.

Unit No. 1 needs a \$100,000 repair, which Rhoades said can be done in two to three days once they get the parts.

Replacing worn fuel injectors on two generators is estimated to cost \$12,400, plus labor. Fixing power poles along Case Avenue was estimated in 2015 at \$340,000, and has been on the to-do list since then, but that repair, estimated to take six months, will have to be re-estimated in light of inflation.

The list goes on in rough order of magnitude, and consists of 14 items. The No. 1 priority is generator No. 5. The last item on the list is a rate case study to look at what the utility charges its customers versus its costs. The last study done was in 2011.

Rhoades, who presented his list to the assembly at its Oct. 26 meeting, plans to put a more detailed plan of how to approach and fund the repairs in front of the assembly at a future work session.

"Nobody likes to take their bank account down to zero," he said.

Southeast pink salmon harvest six times the volume of last year

By CHRIS BASINGER
Petersburg Pilot

This year's overall Southeast Alaska salmon harvest is headed toward 58 million fish, with pink salmon leading the tally at 48.2 million — more than 40% above the 10-year average for pinks.

This summer's pink catch was six times last year's measly 8 million, and more than double the brood year of 2019.

The numbers for fish tickets are still preliminary, said Troy Thynes, regional management coordinator for commercial fisheries with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Petersburg.

"The main thing is the pink salmon run came in a lot stronger than what was expected. ... The preseason forecast was for a harvest of 28 million pink salmon, and we ended up harvesting over 48 million," Thynes said.

"Whatever is affecting survival out in the ocean was in the pink salmon's favor this year, so they had some really good ocean survival going on," he said.

Chum salmon had the second-highest number of total fish with 7 million, most of which originated in hatcheries, though that was below average compared to previous years.

Sockeye salmon had an average return, while Chinook salmon and coho salmon were below average, according to state statistics.

"If there's good conditions in the ocean the pink salmon are going to be able to take advantage the quickest and return in good numbers, but essentially there needs to be good conditions out in the ocean for several years for other salmon species to really make an effect on their returning numbers," Thynes said.

As of Oct 1, the Southeast estimated ex-vessel value of all salmon was \$132.3 million, with the pink salmon harvest valued at \$48.1 million.

Chum had the next highest value at \$39.6 million, followed by coho at \$17.9 million, Chinook at \$15.2 million, and sockeye at \$11.4 million according to Thynes.

The winter troll fishery, which started Oct. 11, is open until March.

Manager

Continued from page 1

duty career to a city and borough dedicated to providing a safe, secure and prosperous community for its residents."

The interim position comes with an expected commitment of between one to three months at the job, according to the borough's job notice.

"The assembly will continue to move forward with looking

for a full-time borough manager. Applications are being taken and we will start to conduct interviews when appropriate candidates are determined," according to the borough's statement Monday.

The borough is continuing to advertise for a permanent hire, with no application deadline. The job notice says the position will be open until filled.

Shelter

Continued from page 1

cats aren't able to be fostered, but the shelter will still have the animals spayed or neutered.

"We get unadoptable cats. If they're absolutely feral, we go back to the person that reported and say, 'We'll assure it's (fixed). Will you continue feeding it?'" Sargent said. "My motto is: It's almost impossible to turn a feral cat into a domestic cat, but it's also almost impossible to turn a domestic cat into a feral cat."

A new shelter could be built or remodeled, and Sargent said there are a few sites being considered. Whichever property is chosen, it will need to be big enough to house six to 10 cats at a time, with "access to a single extra-large cage for mother and kittens and a few holding cages for new and/or injured animals."

A second phase for the shelter would provide space for one to four dogs.

The property would ideally be 100 feet by 100 feet, with access to water, sewer, electricity and year-round two-wheel drive access for volunteers. It would also need a desk, phone and filing cabinet for reception, a bathroom and an industrial sink among other amenities.

On Nov. 10 at Island of Faith Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m., Sargent and others from St. Frances will discuss the relocation and fundraising efforts. Community



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lanky is one of five cats that Joan Sargent from St. Frances Animal Rescue is fostering at her home.

members are invited to attend and get involved in the process.

"Being tenacious and patient, it takes a lot of patience," Sar-

gent said. "You have to be realistic. This is going to take years, not months. You just have to stick to it."



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Bob Russell takes helm as schools' tech director

By Marc Lutz
Sentinel editor

Bob Russell recently returned to Alaska to continue his career pursuits in the technology arena. He started the next leg of his journey on July 2 as the school district's tech director, overseeing all computer equipment, internet connectivity, networking and learning devices.

In short, if it's technology-related, Russell is in charge.

Before coming to Wrangell, Russell and his wife, Kimberly, and Great Pyrenees dog, Yukon, lived in Tennessee. He had lived and worked in Fort Yukon some time before that and wanted to return to Alaska.

Russell took a break from his schedule to talk about his job, the challenges and his goals.

Q: What is your background in tech?

A: Originally, I went to school for history and got a master's in education. I taught for two years in the public school system, and I taught for three years in junior college for students with learning disabilities. I went back to school and got my associate in computer networking, then I started being an instructor at (State University of New York) Adirondack.

Q: What is it about technology that inspired you to make the switch?

A: Back when we were kids, technology wasn't everywhere. So, as we started getting exposed to it, certain people just really enjoyed it. That's kind of what happened to me. I was an EMT for 10 years and did computer repair on the side, that's during the same time I was teaching at the college.

Q: What does the position of tech director entail?

A: Here at Wrangell, it's everything. It's a one-person department. I take care of the administrative side of it, the testing — which is not actually technology-related but ... it's done online — keep all the kids' applications running, keep the internet connection up and operating, keep all the computers and laptops and printers and cabling up and operating.

Q: Has keeping the internet up and running proven to be a challenge in Wrangell with its adverse weather?

A: It hasn't proved to be so far. It's fiber optic cable that comes up out of the ocean. But if anything ever happens to the cable, of course we'll be without internet for a while.

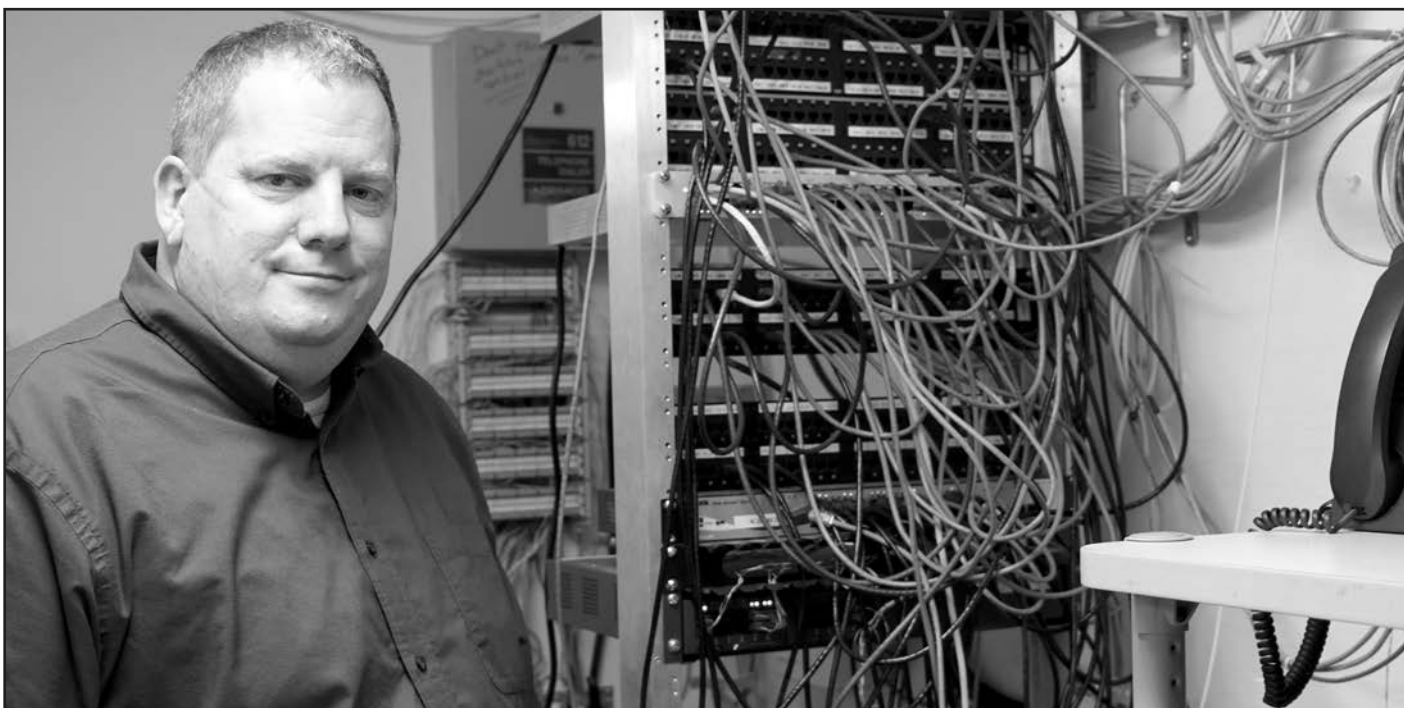


PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bob Russell is the school district's new tech director. He maintains all the computers, servers and other technology in the elementary, middle and high schools.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Bob Russell
Age: 53
Spouse: Kimberly Russell
Hobbies: Rafting, being outdoors

Q: How often are you at the schools troubleshooting problems? What's a typical day like for you?

A: There really is no typical day. I keep my phone with me or I'm in my office by my computer, and if I get an email from somebody I start troubleshooting with them right away. If I need to go over there, that's what I do.

Q: How many students are issued and use iPads?

A: (Kindergarten through fourth grade) uses iPads. Fifth through the seniors use Chromebooks.

Q: What are the challenges with that come with that many pieces of technology in use by students?

A: It's exactly what you'd think it would be (laughs). Especially all the software the students use on the providers' end. So, the people that are building software and distributing it on the web, they may change something and cause an issue, or change something that could cause a need for retraining for people. Or the school may adopt a new program and need retraining for people. Or something physically could happen to (students') devices.

Q: How durable is the equipment when it comes to kids who might be a little rough with it?

A: I don't want to jinx it, but the students have been very, very good at taking care of their equipment.

Q: Do you handle a central server or a network that the schools share?

A: GCI delivers fiber to the high school, and they take care of the fiber link between the high school and this building (school district offices), and then we're responsible for everything else — the interior cabling in both buildings, the wireless access points, we have several

servers of our own, but a lot of it's done online.

Q: What's your favorite thing about tech?

A: I like the variety. It's a different problem to solve every day.

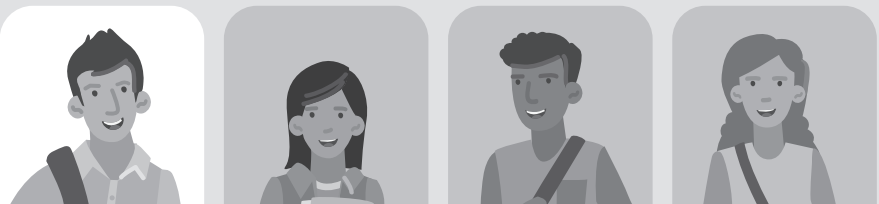
Q: What are your long-term goals for your department?

A: When you start out any job, you want it to go smoothly, and that's really what the goal is for the department; I'd like things to start running smoothly for all the people that the department serves. Over the last couple of years, they've switched tech directors, and I'm the third one in two years, I think. The technology is constantly changing. Every time you have to break someone new in, it takes a while.

Q: How do you think your background education has informed and benefitted your position here?

A: It's an understanding of what the teachers are trying to do and the difficulties they have in the classroom, and trying to make it so that they can do their job well, so the students can do better.

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.



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State waiting for federal review of mortgage relief program before it can start

Sentinel staff

The state has submitted for review its plan to spend \$50 million in federal funds to help homeowners financially strained during the pandemic by loss of income to pay their mortgages.

The U.S. Treasury Department is reviewing Alaska's plan, along with those from other states.

"Our mortgage plan is with Treasury for review and approval," Stacy Barnes, governmental affairs director at the Alaska Housing Finance Corp., said last week.

The \$50 million is Alaska's allocation of the \$9.96 billion Congress appropriated for mortgage relief in the American Rescue Plan Act this past spring.

The assistance for homeowners is in addition to the \$242 million in federal pandemic aid designated for renters in Alaska. AHFC has been managing that program since the summer, and had distributed \$163 million for rent and utility assistance to more than 55,300 households as

of Monday.

The agency continues to send out payments to help with rent in three-month increments, as tenants verify their continued loss of work or income due to the pandemic's hit to the economy.

As of last Monday, AHFC had distributed more than \$326,000 in assistance for 68 rental households in Wrangell.

While many other states have been slow to distribute the federally funded rental assistance payments, Alaska has consistently been among the leaders in sending out the payments, according to Treasury Department statistics. Congress appropriated \$25 billion to states, municipalities and tribes for the rental aid program.

"Providing critical resources to landlords and tenants statewide, in conjunction with statewide nonprofit agencies and tribal partners, has proven to be foundational for shaping the highly successful program," Bryan Butcher, chief executive officer at AHFC, said last week.

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Russian catamaran crew plans return voyage from Sitka next year after delayed by pandemic

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sitka Sentinel staff writer

Two years ago, a Russian-flagged inflatable catamaran sailed into Sitka, concluding a multi-year voyage from central Russia, through the Siberian river network, across the Bering Sea and along the Alaska coast.

The vessel's Siberia-based crew now plans to repeat the voyage in reverse next spring and summer.

Owner and captain of the Iskatel, Anatoly Kazakevich, said he had planned to begin the return trip last summer, but the pandemic sank those plans.

The Iskatel — which translates to English as "The Seeker" — arrived here in August 2019, after retracing the route taken by Russians in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Once in Sitka, Kazakevich arranged to have his 40-foot inflatable stored until he had the chance to put it to sea again.

In a Zoom call late last month, Kazakevich said he and his crew plan to return to Sitka in the spring to make repairs on Iskatel and begin the long voyage back to Siberia.

"Two years ago, we finished ... and now we wait on two questions. First of all is COVID, questions with COVID, but I hope after winter in spring the situation will be better," Kazakevich said in the call from Irkutsk, in central Russia, about 4,200 air miles west of Sitka.

"And the second situation is a visa. Russia and the USA have a political problem with visas and we have a way to make a visa for next year, and I hope in the winter time we will do this. And in May or June we will come next year and prepare boat for organization expedition."

The initial voyage to Sitka took several years, and Kazakevich hopes next year to sail the first leg, about 900 miles, to Kodiak or Homer. But first, the boat needs some repairs after years on shore, exposed to the elements. The vessel is propelled by four sails and twin outboard engines. A large tent on the deck offers shelter to the crew.

He said the initial leg of the return voyage will be a good test to ensure the boat is ready for the Bering Sea.

"We have to prepare the catamaran, we have to buy new masts and do a lot of things. We have a big shadow for this. And after we replace and fix all problems, we have to test a way for 3,000 kilometers (almost 2,000 miles) ... because across the Bering Sea and across the Bering Strait is a difficult way and the catamaran has to be prepared excellently," Kazakevich said.

Last month, Iskatel crew member Andrey Gridnev was in Sitka to check on the condition of the vessel and make preliminary preparations for next summer. He was happy to say the vessel remains in decent condition.

"When I came down and checked out



PHOTO BY JAMES POULSON/SITKA SENTINEL

Bill Foster checks out the 40-foot Russian-flagged inflatable catamaran Iskatel that has been hauled out near the University of Alaska Southeast parking lot in Sitka for the past two years. The pandemic put a halt to the international sailing trip, but the skipper, Anatoly Kazakevich, is hopeful about resuming the adventure next spring and sailing to Siberia.

"First of all, I think ... the people who live in this territory in the coastline, (and) on the rivers are a people who live with nature and they are a very open people and friendship of all people is good."

Cpt. Anatoly Kazakevich

our boat ... in spite of all those years it looks great," Gridnev said.

Back in 2019, Gridnev crewed the catamaran from Whittier to Sitka on the final leg of the voyage. "This is his (Kazakevich's) life," he said. "My part was there in 2019 from Whittier right down to Sitka," Gridnev said.

He especially appreciated the help of Greg George, operations supervisor for the University of Alaska Southeast in Sitka. "We were in a worry, what's happening? ... He was taking care about the boat all these years," Gridnev said.

It sits today where it was pulled up on land in 2019, not far from the UAS boat ramp.

Tensions between the United States and Russia are high, and Kazakevich compared the political dynamic to a "glass wall" that separates neighbors.

"This wall is just in our mind, but we are neighbors and all people are interested and

all people who live in Alaska are interested in how people live in Siberia," he said. "And people in Siberia are very interested in how people live in Alaska, they can communicate. We can exchange experiences and we can try to do something together."

He hopes that Alaskans will join him on his expedition next year.

"Next year, it's our plan in June and we will start and we hope maybe some people from Alaska will come into our crew and we will do an international crew, it will be more interesting," he said.

Looking back on his 2019 voyage, he most misses the people he encountered along the way, comparing them to a family.

"First of all, I think ... the people who live in this territory in the coastline, (and) on the rivers are a people who live with nature and they are a very open people and friendship of all people is good," he said.

After his return to Russia two years ago, he said, he made a number of presentations about his voyage and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kazakevich extended an invitation to anyone interested in the expedition.

"The Alaskan people are very friendly and it's very important that we know that Americans and people from Russia can trust each other and are friendly to each other. Come down to our place and we'll host you," he said.

More information on Kazakevich's adventures is available on en.baikal-alaska.ru/.

Vaccines —

Continued from page 1

Juneau public health officials have tentatively scheduled vaccine clinics in schools beginning next Monday, Nov. 8.

The Anchorage School District expects to offer evening and weekend vaccination clinics for youth, Superintendent Deena Bishop said in a letter to families on Monday. The district has more than 21,000 children in the 5- to 11-year-old age group.

The Anchorage clinics are not intended to convince anyone to get their child vaccinated, Bishop said. The inoculations are optional and dependent on parental consent.

Though Alaska's rate of new COVID-19 infections dropped the past week — down to an average of 600 a day Oct. 27 through Tuesday, Nov. 2 — it's still the highest per-capita among the 50 states, according to the CDC. Tuesday's count was 499 new cases, according to state officials.

In Wrangell, after 10 new cases were reported Oct. 23-26, officials reported just two more cases in the last days of the month — and then three on Tuesday.

All three are Wrangell residents, all are close contacts of previously identified cases, and all were showing symptoms of the illness, the borough reported.

As the statewide case count declines, so too do hospitalizations. COVID-19 patients receiving hospital care totaled 184 on Tuesday, according to state officials, down from the record of 236 set last week.

While health care providers across the state gear up to administer the vaccine to younger children, the vaccination rate for Alaskans already eligible for the shot continues to inch up, though very slowly. It was at 65% statewide on Tuesday. Wrangell, which had been at 61% three months ago, was at 69% on Tuesday, though still the lowest in Southeast.

Flights —

Continued from page 1

the staffing woes.

The airline reported it canceled nearly 21% of its flights on Sunday alone — more than 1,000 in all.

Southwest Airlines ignited a flurry of customer complaints three weeks ago when it canceled 3,100 flights over four days because of storms, staff shortages and other problems. Southwest said it needs to hire more staff to avoid a repeat.

Airlines nationwide have been caught with insufficient planes and staff as travel is rebounding stronger and faster than many had expected.

Transportation Security Administration data shows that the average daily number of passengers screened through airport security last week reached 1.8 million, about 84% of the same week in 2019. That was the highest number, other than holiday-weekend peaks, since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

American is hiring pilots, flight attendants and support staff to handle the growing passenger load, Chief Operating Officer David Seymour wrote in an Oct. 30 letter to employees. The airline plans to have almost 1,800 flight attendants return from leave starting this week, with plans to add 600 newly hired attendants by the end of December.

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Sports Roundup

Three swimmers advance to state tourney

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Three swimmers on the high school team will travel to Anchorage this weekend for the state championship after placing first in their events at regionals last weekend in Ketchikan.

Renée Roberts and Nikolai Siekawitch will compete in two events each, and Jack Roberts will compete in one event and be an alternate for another at the state competition Friday and Saturday.

Renée Roberts will compete in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle. Siekawitch will compete in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard breaststroke. Jack Roberts will compete in the 100-yard freestyle and will be an alternate for the 50-yard freestyle.

Overall, the Wrangell team had eight personal bests, according to head coach Jamie Roberts. Max Lloyd came in under 30 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle; Lloyd, Renée Roberts and Jack Roberts all achieved personal bests in their individual events; Alisha Armstrong and Tyson Messmer achieved personal bests in one event each; Jack Roberts was the first Wrangell swimmer to come in below 51 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle; and Renée Roberts broke a Ketchikan pool record in the 100-yard freestyle.

Jimmy Baggen, Tyson Messmer and Renée Roberts earned the all-academic award presented to seniors who maintain a grade point average of 3.0

or higher. Messmer and Roberts also earned the Great Sports Award, given to "players whose performance during the season exemplifies the highest standards of sportsmanship."

Results for regionals last weekend:

Alisha Armstrong: 15th, 50-yard freestyle (31.40); 10th, 100-yard breaststroke with a personal best (1:37.28)

Jimmy Baggen: 10th, 50-yard freestyle (24.71); 13th, 100-yard freestyle (56.60)

Max Lloyd: 19th, 50-yard freestyle with a personal best (29.25); 18th, 100-yard freestyle with a personal best (1:06.98)

Ashleigh Loomis: 13th, 50-yard freestyle (30.18); 11th, 100-yard freestyle (1:06.44)

Tyson Messmer: 13th, 50-yard freestyle (25.94); 12th, 100-yard freestyle with a personal best (56.47)

Jack Roberts: sixth, 50-yard freestyle with a personal best (23.49); fourth, 100-yard freestyle with a personal best (50.81)

Renée Roberts: second, 50-yard freestyle with a personal best (25.19); second, 100-yard freestyle with a personal best (54.78)

Nikolai Siekawitch: fourth, 100-yard butterfly (56.26); fifth, 100-yard breaststroke (1:04.60)

Boys 200-yard medley relay team (Messmer, Siekawitch, Baggen, Roberts) placed fifth (1:49.37)

Boys 200-yard freestyle relay team (Messmer, Baggen, Roberts, Siekawitch) placed fifth (1:39.40)



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE ROBERTS

From left: Seniors Renée Roberts, Tyson Messmer and Jimmy Baggen each received an all-academic award after last weekend's regionals in Ketchikan. Roberts is one of three swimmers who qualified for state.

Senior center seeks state grant for new bus

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The Wrangell Senior Center wants to buy another bus for moving people around town, adding a four-wheel-drive vehicle to its operation, but it could be 2024 before the bus gets to town.

The senior center already operates two buses, one for people and one for deliveries, but neither is four-wheel-drive, said Solvay Gillen, site manager at the senior center. Buying a four-wheel-drive bus would be helpful in the winter, she said.

"Some of those roads are difficult to access in the wintertime," Gillen said. "It makes a huge difference."

The \$135,000 bus from Schet-

ky Bus & Van Sales, the vendor the senior center has bought its buses from in the past, with locations in Oregon and Washington, would have cost \$90,000 before the global supply chain slowdown snagged it, like so many other orders and supplies, and inflated the cost.

The bus likely will not arrive until 2024, said April Huber, nutrition and transportation regional coordinator at Southeast Senior Services, a division of Catholic Community Service, which operates the Wrangell Senior Center. She said based on shortages, it will take a year to get one after they place the order. And they still need to secure the funds.

As part of that effort to cov-

er the cost, the Wrangell Coordinated Transportation Group held a remote video meeting last Thursday as required to be eligible for state funds from the Department of Transportation's 2023 grant cycle.

The group is seeking a grant to cover 80% of the cost of the bus, with a local match of 20%, said Marianne Mills, Southeast Senior Services program director at Catholic Community Service in Juneau.

Meanwhile, the center hired a second driver on Monday, Gillen said, which should help fill gaps in services for seniors and people with disabilities.

Sara Aleksieva, senior center bus driver, spoke at the virtual meeting about how nice it would be to have a driver available later in the day. The center's bus is not always available to take seniors shopping for groceries, to religious services, or even just out and about when they want a change of scenery, she said.

Alicia Gillen, executive assistant at SEARHC, said seniors use the bus to get to their medical appointments, and residents in long-term care use it to get around.

Lansing Hayes, a Wrangell senior, who will be offering an upcoming tai chi class at the center, said, "I only ride the bus."

Assembly approves money for water treatment upgrade

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The borough assembly has approved \$75,600 to begin upgrades to the community's water treatment plant.

Assembly members on Oct. 26 agreed with the administration's recommendation to move forward with the first phase in a multi-part solution to the ailing water filtration and delivery system. The funds would be used to buy two closed-loop cooling systems valued at \$37,800 each.

Tom Wetor, director of public works, explained that treated plant water is used to cool components within the ozone generators, one of the steps in the filtration process. But the water could contain elements that build up over time and clog the passageways of the ozone generators.

The new cooling systems use a fluid that is recycled rather than using treated plant water. That would keep passageways from getting blocked over time, he said.

Ozone, which is injected into the water at the plant, bubbles up and oxidizes iron, manganese and sulfur to form metal

oxides that can be filtered out before the treated water is sent to users.

To complete more of the necessary upgrades at the plant, Primozone, the company supplying the equipment, quoted \$282,980 for the cooling system, new compressors and other pieces. The compressors are past their suggested lifespan and have never been strong enough for the current ozone generators.

Wetor said Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga recommended starting with just the cooling system and compressors to see if those items address the problem. If not, two other fixes — a power conditioner to filter out anomalies and a deep inspection of the skeletal infrastructure of the ozone generators — would be considered.

The \$75,600 approved last week covers just the cooling units; the new compressors will be covered in a separate bid.

Wetor expects the assembly will consider at its next meeting a sole-source procurement from Primozone for the cooling system. He is unsure of a delivery date.



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Borough's finance director clears up accounting problem

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough finance department has "found" \$2 million to add to its ledger of cash, cash equivalents and long- and short-term investments, boosting the total to closer to \$38 million.

The money wasn't lost as much as left off a ledger.

Joyce Mason, the finance director in 2020, had transferred \$2 million from a UBS operating investment account into a KeyBank account invested in the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, said Mason Villarma, finance director.

"That \$2 million has been sitting in that KeyBank account since May of 2020," said

Villarma. "After digging a little bit, we discovered that was a separate account."

The Key Bank account continues to exist, but Villarma did not include it in his report of cash and investments at the Oct. 12 assembly work session because the finance department didn't know it was there.

That means the additional \$2 million should have been added to the fund balance, according to Villarma's update to the assembly on Oct. 26.

"It's not new money," Villarma said. "It was just never recorded very diligently."

Villarma started in the job in September, after the borough had been without a finance director since February.

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Lester Schultz celebration of life November 14



LESTER ALLAN SCHULTZ

Long-time Wrangell resident Lester Allan Schultz, 60, died Oct. 23 at the Wrangell Medical Center. A memorial service and celebration of life is planned for 1 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Elks. The event is a community potluck.

His family will spread his ashes at the family cabin at Olive Cove. Schultz was born July 27, 1961, in Petersburg, but grew up and lived in Wrangell. "His whole life was here," daughter Shayna Schultz said. He fished commercially with friends in his 20s, and enjoyed hunting with friends, too.

"He was a real talkative guy," his daughter said.

He worked as a longshoreman for 37 years, retiring at age 55. He would travel for work, with longshoring jobs taking him to Ketchikan and as far away as Dutch Harbor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Loretta and August "Rabbit" Schultz; sisters, Debra Clark, Julie Cogan and Harriet Bangs; brothers, John Schultz and David Swetzoff; and nephew, Billy Cogan.

Survivors include daughters, Krystal Shover and Shayna Schultz; brother, Augie Schultz; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that people consider donating to the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department or Wrangell Senior Center.

Donors come to rescue of Kenai library after city council asks to see list of books

KENAI (AP) — An impromptu fundraiser to allow a Kenai library to purchase books amid accusations of censorship has twice surpassed its goal.

The fund was established after the Kenai City Council delayed accepting a federal grant until the library director provides a list of the books that would be purchased with the money.

The council voted Oct. 20 to postpone action that would have accepted a grant to buy library materials related to health and wellness, including mental health, suicide prevention, self-care and reference books about Medicare and Medicaid.

The council asked Library Director Katja Wolfe to provide an inventory of proposed purchases to be funded by the grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine. Some council members voiced concerns about the request, with one saying it could be viewed as censorship and another calling it a "slippery slope."

Two Kenai Peninsula residents, Sovala Kisena and Todd Smith, organized the crowdsourcing page to raise funds for the library and act as a positive response to the council's action.

"It's the definition of censorship and it bothered me," Smith said.

The goal was \$1,500, which would match the amount of the grant. They hit that in three hours. They upped the goal to \$5,000, which was also surpassed. The account stood at \$6,752 as of Oct. 27.

"It's good to see the community come together on a topic that's important," Kisena said.

Before the council voted to postpone action at the Oct. 20 meeting, one resident questioned whether any of the books that would be purchased would be about the coronavirus. "Are there any COVID titles?" asked Sharon Efta, of Kenai.

"I think it's irresponsible to just blan-

ket rubber stamp something that you don't know anything about," Efta then told council members.

Dave Peck, of Kenai, said he took particular issue with the term "equity," used in the name of the award, and asked if the grant would be "enhancing some sort of a federal agenda which would not necessarily represent the views of the people of Kenai."

"I think equity can create division," Peck said.

Council member Te ea Winger said she was concerned about the funding of the grant, and member Jim Glendenning asked whether they could postpone accepting the grant until the council could see an inventory of the proposed purchases.

Multiple people voiced concerns about the council waiting for a list of books before voting on the grant.

Council member Henry Knackstedt called the move a "slippery slope," adding what titles would be purchased was not pertinent to him.

Council member Glenese Pettey said it's important that resources available in the library are not censored.

"Making sure that we have books that represent different points of view in our library and not censoring information and protecting our freedom of speech and freedom of access is highly important," Pettey said.

Kenai City Manager Paul Ostrander said the library received \$59,000 last year to buy books at its discretion.

Any funds raised through the crowdsourcing site will be given to the Friends of the Kenai Community Library, which can then donate the money to the library. Ostrander said the council will still need to approve the transfer of funds to the library.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Alaska, 17 other states file lawsuits to block vaccination mandate

The Associated Press

Alaska and 17 other states filed three separate lawsuits last Friday to block President Joe Biden's COVID-19 vaccination mandate for federal contractors, arguing that the requirement violates federal law.

Attorneys general from Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming signed on to one lawsuit, which was filed in a federal district court in Missouri. Another group of states including Georgia, Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Georgia.

Texas also sued individually last Friday.

The states asked the courts to block Biden's requirement that all employees of federal contractors be vaccinated

against the coronavirus by Dec. 8, arguing that the mandate violates federal procurement law and is an overreach of federal power.

"If the federal government attempts to unconstitutionally exert its will and force federal contractors to mandate vaccinations, the workforce and businesses could be decimated, further exacerbating the supply chain and workforce crises," Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican, said in a statement.

"The federal government should not be mandating vaccinations, and that's why we filed suit today," Schmitt said.

New Hampshire's Republican Attorney General John Formella said in a statement that COVID vaccines are safe, effective and encouraged, but that the benefits "do not justify violating the law."

Florida sued last Thursday, bringing to 19 the number of states challenging the

Biden administration mandate in four federal courts.

Biden has argued that sweeping vaccine mandates will help end the deadly pandemic, but Republicans nationwide have opposed the vaccination requirements and have threatened to bring similar legal challenges.

A number of states have also said they will challenge Biden's plan to have the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration issue a rule that would mandate vaccines for all private businesses with 100 or more employees.

"We will not allow the Biden administration to circumvent the law or force hardworking Georgians to choose between their livelihood or this vaccine," Republican Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia said in a statement.

The Democratic Party of Georgia called the state's lawsuit a "dangerous

political stunt."

All the suits argue that the president doesn't have the authority to issue the rule and that it violates procurement law. The suits also argue that the rule violates the 10th Amendment reserving power to the states, illegally uses federal spending to coerce the states, and that 60 days of public comment wasn't properly allowed.

The states argue that large number of federal contract workers will quit, meaning states will have to choose between breaching the contracts because of a reduced labor force that can't do all the work, or breaching the contracts by retaining unvaccinated employees in violation of federal rules.

All but two of the states that have sued trail the national average in vaccination rate. Only New Hampshire and Florida exceed the nationwide rate.

Hawaii welcomes back tourists as state's COVID cases decline

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations have declined to the point where the islands are welcoming travelers once again.

Gov. David Ige said vacationers and business travelers were welcome to return to the islands starting Monday.

His Oct. 19 announcement came nearly two months after he asked travelers on Aug. 23 to avoid Hawaii because case counts were surging with the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant and hospitals were becoming overwhelmed. The state didn't impose any new travel quarantine restrictions, and Ige's

plea was a mere request. Even so, it prompted thousands of travelers to cancel plans to visit Hawaii.

In the intervening months, Hawaii's seven-day average of daily new cases has plummeted from 900 to 117. COVID-19 hospitalizations have dropped from more than 400 to about 100 statewide.

"I think we are all encouraged by what we've seen over the last several weeks with the continuing trend of lower case counts," Ige said in remarks at a ceremony opening a new airport facility in Kailua-Kona. "Our hospitals are doing better, and we have fewer COVID patients

in them. Most importantly, our health care system has responded, and we have the ability to move forward with economic recovery."

To avoid a 10-day quarantine upon arrival, travelers must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of their departure for Hawaii.

Most visitors to Hawaii during the pandemic have come from the other 49 states, in part because countries like Japan still have strict quarantine requirements for those returning to home after traveling abroad.

Alaska Railroad rescinds vaccination requirement

ANCHORAGE (AP) — The board of the Alaska Railroad has voted unanimously to rescind a requirement for all of its employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Initially, railroad employees were supposed to be vaccinated by Dec. 8 to comply with vaccine requirements ordered by President Joe Biden that, in part, required vaccination for employees of contractors doing business with the federal government. The railroad is a federal contractor.

An email sent to railroad employees on Oct. 22 said the railroad must meet the standard. But the board decision on Oct. 26 followed legal challenges that have been filed elsewhere seeking to block the federal mandate, Alaska Railroad spokesperson Tim Sullivan said.

The board could revisit its decision, depending on the outcome of the vaccine mandate legal challenges, he said.

Sullivan said nearly 53% of the railroad's 692 employees are vaccinated.

Failure to comply with the vaccine mandate could cost the state-owned corporation millions of dollars in federal grants and contracts, and the space it leases from the U.S. Forest Service in Anchorage, Sullivan said.

Board members expressed reluctance to require vaccinations.

"We have one of our U.S. senators that has implored us and others within the state of Alaska not to make these decisions until there is more certainty on what direction is the country is headed on this," board member John Binkley said, referring to comments made recently by Republican U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan.

"There just seems to be a lot of state of flux in terms of how this is going to manifest itself," Binkley said.

EARLIER DEADLINE

For Veterans Day

WRANGELL SENTINEL

All ads and letters must be submitted to the Sentinel by **FRIDAY, NOV. 5 at 5 PM** for publishing on **Wednesday, Nov. 10**



Federal COVID rules will be voluntary for cruise lines next year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health officials have extended for nearly three more months its rules that cruise ships must follow to sail during the pandemic, adding that the government will move to a voluntary program next year.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the extension makes only "minor modifications" to rules already in effect. The agency said that after Jan. 15 it plans to move to a voluntary program for cruise companies to detect and control the spread of COVID-19 on their ships.

The current regulations, called a conditional sailing order, were scheduled to expire on Nov. 1.

The CDC imposed the first no-sail order on cruise lines in March 2020, after most companies sailing in U.S. waters had agreed to suspend voyages. The CDC issue technical guidelines for the industry five months later, and began approving trial sailings this spring.

Cruises have since sailed from Alaska, Florida and other parts of the country. Most lines require adult passengers to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, in addition to following the federal rules.

The CDC noted on Twitter that since it first issued restrictions on sailing, cruise lines have developed and implemented health and safety protocols to manage COVID-19 and have resumed cruising.

A cruise industry trade group pledged to continue working with federal officials on health measures on board ships. It cited the CDC announcement as evidence that lines have made a successful — if only partial — return since the pandemic shut down the industry worldwide.

Industry officials have complained that the government took a much tougher stance against cruising — shutting it down entirely last year — than it took toward airlines and other parts of the travel industry.

'Garbage problem' leads to a dozen bears killed in Sitka

SITKA (AP) — A dozen bears have been killed in Sitka this year, including four last week, that were deemed dangers to life and property, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reported.

The city "has a garbage problem," Stephen Bethune, a wildlife biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game, told the borough assembly recently.

"Neither I or any of my agency colleagues like killing bears or the labor that ensues but will continue to do so as necessary," he said. "However, removing bears from the population only serves to treat the symptom and fails to cure the root problem. As long as that root issue remains, we will continue to have bears using our residential neighborhoods," Bethune said.

"That problem can be linked directly to Sitka's current garbage disposal system and the unwillingness or inability of some members of the public to properly store trash."

He urged the use of bear-resistant trash cans and said he would encourage the use of electric fences to help deter bears.

Teal West owns a car damaged by bears last month.

"My back trim and my back bumper were basically ripped off my car," West said. "I taped the bumper back on but I'm looking at around \$6,000 worth of damage."

Bethune said one of the bears killed last week weighed about 850 pounds. "It might be the bear that flipped over a shed," he said.

The four bears killed last Tuesday and Wednesday were skinned and their pelts will be sold by the state, he said.

Bethune said he hopes the tension with bears in town eases soon. "Hopefully in the next couple weeks they'll disappear, go up into the hills for the winter."

Police report

Monday, Oct. 25
Noise complaint.
Agency assist: Airport.

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Suspicious vehicle.
Agency assist: Endangered adult and ambulance requested.
Disabled vehicle.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for defective trailer lights and up-to-date registration.
Domestic violence.

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Fraud.
Civil standby.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Narcotics information.
Traffic hazzard.

Thursday, Oct. 28
Welfare check.

Domestic violence order violation: Unfounded.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Domestic disturbance.

Friday, Oct. 29
Theft.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Saturday, Oct. 30
Reckless driving.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for defective headlight.
Arrest: Violation conditions of release.
Nose complaint.

Sunday, Oct. 31
Agency assist.

Both sides pause lawsuit to negotiate settlement over Columbia River salmon

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday granted a stay in litigation seeking to save endangered salmon runs on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon in Portland granted a request by both sides in the lawsuit seeking the stay until July 31, 2022, so they can try to negotiate a settlement in the lawsuit.

Fishing and conservation groups joined with the state of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Biden administration to seek the pause in litigation challenging the latest federal plan for hydropower operations on the Snake and Columbia rivers that are blamed by many for killing salmon.

The federal lawsuit, filed against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, involves the most recent plan for dam operations issued by the Trump administration in late 2020.

The conservation groups, along with the state and the Nez Perce, sued to block the Trump administration plan and filed a request for an immediate injunction to dramatically increase water flow through the dams to help salmon migrate through the Snake and Columbia rivers to the ocean to mature.

The two sides last week told the judge they had reached an agreement on how eight federal dams in the Columbia River Basin will be operated over the coming year. This will include additional spill of water past the dams at certain times of year to aid fish migration, while still preserving reliable hydropower production, transportation and other services provided by the dams.

Increasing the amount of water next spring for a brief time will help juvenile salmon pass through the dams and avoid the fish-killing turbines during migration.

The Columbia River Basin was once the greatest salmon-producing river system in the world. But dams built in the basin are blamed by conservationists for pushing salmon runs toward extinction. Four dams along the Snake River in eastern Washington state — Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Lower Granite — slow passage along the lower Snake River, a major migration corridor linking pristine cold-water streams in central Idaho to the Pacific Ocean.

About \$17 billion has been spent over two decades in efforts to prevent salmon extinction. Because of that, many groups continue to demand those four dams be breached.

Dam supporters blame declining salmon runs on other factors, such as changing ocean conditions. Opponents of breaching the dams include river users and mostly Republican politicians in the region who argue the dams provide many benefits, such as electricity, river navigation and irrigation.

In another development last

Friday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, of Washington, said they were exploring options to breach the four Snake River dams and replace the benefits they provide.

"The next step is for us to define how to replace the services of the Snake River dams if they are breached," Inslee said. "We know that they are a salmon impediment, we know that the salmon are on the verge of extinction, and we also know that they do provide services upon

Continued on page 12

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Tire Shredder – Temporary SANITATION DEPARTMENT

The Wrangell Sanitation Department will accept applications for two temporary positions of Tire Shredder. These positions are open until filled. These are part-time positions open for the period of time the City and Borough of Wrangell has the equipment on site.

These positions are labor intensive and applicants must have the ability to move tires and rims that weigh up to 100 lbs. Must have the mechanical understanding of operating small engine equipment, including the ability to understand the operating manual and safety standards for said equipment. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and hold a current, valid Alaska Driver's License as well as a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Applications and job descriptions may be returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com. Pay for these positions starts at \$14.54 per hour DOE.

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

Mason Villarma
Finance Director

Publish Nov. 4 and 10, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.080, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and shall begin at 6 p.m.

If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular assembly meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at City Hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7 p.m.

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

Publish Nov. 4, 2021

WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION MAINTENANCE FACILITY PRE-ENGINEERED METAL BUILDING SUPPLY CONTRACT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) is soliciting bids for supplying a pre-engineered steel metal building. The lump-sum base bid and alternate bid shall include all materials, structural steel, secondary steel such as purlins and girts, insulated metal panels, door framing, mechanical openings and misc. metal fabrications as shown on the drawings. Installation of the metal building is not a part of the bid.

To receive the Invitation for Bid (IFB), contact: 907-874-3077, office of Bill Willard. Each firm must register with WCA by sending an email to: wwillard@wca-t.com to receive the IFB documents. The IFB documents will also be posted on The Plans Room. Bids from unregistered bidders will not be accepted. The required email must include the firm name, address and telephone number. No faxed or oral bids will be allowed.

Bid Submission Deadline: To be considered, bids must be emailed to Bill Willard, Wrangell Cooperative Association, at wwillard@wca-t.com by 2 p.m. local time, on December 3, 2021.

Publish Nov. 4, 10, 18 and 24, 2021

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 ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

Ordinance No. 1013 of the assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending Section 5.09.010, Definitions, and Section 5.09.015, Excise Tax on Marijuana, in Title 5, Revenue and Finance, of the Wrangell Municipal Code.

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

Publish Nov. 4, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting and election on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Wrangell Fire Hall and via Zoom web conference. All are welcome to attend.

Agenda items will include the following items: elections, Board of Fish proposals, updates, other business as needed.

To join the meeting from a computer or phone, use the following Zoom link or phone number, and enter the meeting ID.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87191393011>
Phone: 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 871 9139 3011

Advisory committees are local groups that meet to discuss fishing and wildlife issues and to provide recommendations to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game. All meetings are open to the public. Advisory committees are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues. Their purpose includes: 1) developing regulatory proposals, 2) evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board, 3) providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat, 4) advising the appropriate regional council on resources, and 5) consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies.

If you are a person who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in any of these public meetings, please contact Henry at 907-465-6097 no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting, to make any necessary arrangements.

Publish Oct. 28 and Nov 4, 2021

State troopers solve identity of murder victim from 1980s

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A woman known for 37 years only as Horseshoe Harriet, one of dozen or so victims of a notorious Alaska serial killer, has been identified through genetic genealogy and a DNA match, authorities said Oct. 22.

The victim was identified as Robin Pelkey, who was 19 and living on the streets of Anchorage when she was killed by Robert Hansen in the early 1980s, the Alaska Bureau of Investigation's Cold Case Investigation Unit said.

Hansen, who owned a bakery, gained the nickname "Butcher Baker" for abducting and hunting down women — many of them sex workers — in the wilderness just north of Anchorage through the early 1980s, when the state's largest city was booming during and after construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline.

Retired trooper Glenn Flothe, who helped put Hansen behind bars, told the Anchorage Daily News in 2008 that Hansen's victims initially included any woman who caught his eye, but he quickly learned that strippers and prostitutes were harder to track and less likely to be missed.

Hansen was convicted in the deaths of four women but confessed to killing several more, troopers said. At one point, he flew with investigators over an area north of Anchorage, where he pointed out where 17 of his victims were buried.

In 1984, Alaska State Troopers returned to those areas, where the remains of eight women were discovered. In total, 12 bodies have been found, and 11 of those have been identified, trooper spokesperson Austin McDaniel

said.

The only person not yet identified is known only as Eklutna Annie, who is believed to have been Hansen's first victim, McDaniel said. Her body was found near Eklutna Lake just north of Anchorage.

Genetic genealogy efforts are underway in hopes of also identifying her, Randy McPherron, an Alaska State Troopers cold case investigator, told The Associated Press.

"We really got our fingers crossed that we may know, find out who Eklutna Annie is," he said, adding the timeframe could take up to a year.

Among the skeletal remains found in 1984, Pelsky was discovered lying on the ground near Horseshoe Lake, near the Little Susitna River just a few miles northwest of Anchorage, troopers said.

There was no ID on the body that became known as Horseshoe Harriet. Hansen told investigators she was a sex worker he abducted from downtown Anchorage sometime in the winter of 1983. He told investigators he flew her to the lake in his small airplane, murdered her and discarded the body. He didn't know her name or much else about her.

An autopsy confirmed the body was that of a white woman between the ages of 17 and 23. There were no missing persons reports that matched, and she was buried in the Anchorage municipal cemetery as an unknown.

The case was reopened in 2014, the same year Hansen died in prison at the age of 75.

The body was exhumed, and samples were sent to create a DNA profile, which was added to the FBI's national missing per-

son database. It didn't provide an identification.

In September 2020, investigators made another attempt to identify the remains using genetic genealogy.

A bone sample was sent to a private lab and additional DNA was extracted and sent for genome sequencing, troopers said. This data was then sent to another lab, where a DNA profile was generated and uploaded into a public access genealogy database in April.

Troopers said several close matches were found and used to create a family tree for the victim. Research indicated that the victim might be a woman named Robin Pelkey, who was born in Colorado in 1963, troopers said.

Troopers traced her to living in Anchorage in the early 1980s, but no record indicated she was alive after 1984.

Eventually close relatives were located in Arkansas and Alaska. Family members told troopers that Pelkey lived in Anchorage in the late 1970s, but moved to Arkansas as a teenager before returning to Alaska in 1981 to live with her father and stepmother.

Troopers said she wound up living on the streets of Anchorage but had vanished by late 1982 or early 1983.

Relatives told troopers they didn't know for certain why Pelkey's parents, who are now deceased, didn't report her missing.

A DNA match with a close relative in Arkansas confirmed Pelkey's identity and the family was notified in September.

Troopers have purchased a new grave marker for Pelkey, McDaniel said.

Air Force selects Fairbanks base for nuclear microreactor

FAIRBANKS (AP) — The U.S. Air Force has selected a Fairbanks base to receive the nation's first nuclear microreactor at an Air Force installation.

Eielson Air Force Base, about 20 miles southeast of downtown Fairbanks, was selected in a project that began in 2019, when federal legislation required the military to identify potential sites for development and operation of a microreactor by 2027.

"This technology has the potential to provide true energy assurance, and the existing energy infrastructure and compatible climate at Eielson make for the perfect location to validate its feasibility," Mark Correll, the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for environment, safety and infrastructure, said in a statement.

Eielson currently burns coal at its power plant. The small nuclear power plant

"Microreactors are ... particularly well-suited for powering and heating remote domestic military bases like Eielson"

- Mark Correll

could meet up to one-third of the base's peak winter power demand.

"(Microreactors) are a promising technology for ensuring energy resilience and reliability, and are particularly well-suited for powering and heating remote domestic military bases like Eielson," Correll said.

The microreactor will be commercially owned. It will be licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Lawsuit targets dams that present a barrier to Maine salmon runs

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A group of environmental organizations filed court papers Oct. 21 to try to halt operations at Maine dams to protect salmon.

Atlantic salmon are listed as endangered by the federal government. They used to swim upstream and spawn in almost every river north of the Hudson River, but now only return to Maine. The conservation groups want a judge to stop or curtail the operations at four dams on the lower Kennebec River to help the fish.

Brookfield Renewable owns the dams. The company is a subsidiary of a larger Canadian company that owns many of the dams in the state.

The groups said in a statement that the dams "create an impenetrable barrier that blocks endangered Atlantic salmon from traveling from the Gulf of Maine to prime spawning habitat on the Sandy River."

The court action is part of an ongoing legal struggle over the fate of the dams. Brookfield sued Maine state agencies last month with a complaint that the agencies acted improperly in drafting fish-passage policies.

The groups want the judge to shut down or limit operations at three of the four dams to make it easier for salmon to safely pass during two time periods. One is Oct. 15 to Dec. 31, when adult salmon are migrating downstream after spawning. The other is April 1 through June 30, when young salmon are migrating downstream. At a fourth dam, the organization wants the company to open up all options for salmon to safely pass.

Salmon

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which a lot of folks and our economy depends."

That proposal is similar to one offered by Rep. Mike Simpson, an Idaho Republican, who in February said he could support breaching the dams and investing \$33.5 billion to replace their benefits. Simpson's recommendation to breach the dams was met with fierce opposition.

"I'm not announcing a breaching decision today," Inslee said last week. "I don't want to prejudge that next step."

Samuel Penney, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Council, hailed Inslee and Murray's move.

"The Columbia Power System was literally constructed out of the rivers and reservations and homelands

of 19 Columbia Basin tribes," Penney said. "When that destructive history is truly understood, the modesty of the present request is plain, and the science supporting it is clear: salmon need a free-flowing, climate-resilient Lower Snake River, not a series of slow, easily-warmed reservoirs. The Nez Perce Tribe and its people intend to ensure that salmon do not go extinct on our watch."

Kurt Miller, the executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, a hydropower advocacy group based in Vancouver, Washington, called Murray and Inslee's commitment to salmon recovery "commendable," but questioned its transparency and worried it would begin with the assumption that dam breaching is the best way to save Snake River salmon.

Tundra by Chad Carpenter

