



Department budgets discussed as assembly faces general fund deficit

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly began several days of budget workshops last Monday, June 1. The meeting opened with an overview of the borough's general fund for FY 2021, and then went into specific department budgets. Points of interest in the meeting included the budgets for the fire department, police department, and the public safety building.

The general fund is facing a deficit this upcoming year. Total revenues and transfers for the general fund for FY 2021 are estimated at about \$5.32 million, according to the agenda packet. However, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen said that they are anticipating a deficit of about \$516,516. The agenda packet also reports that the budget the assembly was reviewing that night was not including any capital projects. A capital project budget will be brought before the assembly sometime in July, where they will be able to get a better look at expenses Wrangell will be facing this next year. The city administration is also working on some options for how to reduce the deficit, the agenda packet reads, which the assembly will consider in a future workshop.

The Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department is looking at expenses of \$386,301 for FY 2021. This is less than the approved budget of FY 2020, \$432,633, but more than the department's year-to-date expenses of \$289,044. Von Bargen pointed

out that the fire department was seeing an increase in expenses for equipment, repair, maintenance, and capital equipment.

"If you turn to page 23, the air compressor block equipment [\$17,000] was actually in this year's budget and is not going to get expended," she said. "So that's essentially a carry forward ... The fire department has put off, for years, switching out the SCBA units [\$35,000] because they're so expensive."

The Wrangell Police Department is looking at total expenses of \$968,659 next year. This is a decrease from about \$1.04 million approved this year. One point of discussion in this budget was an increase in salaries and wages, from roughly \$500,000 approved in FY 2020 to about \$550,000 this next year. The police department is down one officer, Von Bargen said, and a split position between the DMV and the finance department is not going to be refilled either, so at first glance it does not make sense that wages are going up instead of down. However, she explained that this is because wages for the unfilled police officer position were not included in the FY 2020 budget, so it did not show up in the totals.

"So we could not have hired that position anyway," Von Bargen said.

During the discussion about the police budget, the assembly noticed that the budget had \$5,000 set aside for windshield wiper replacements under the



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Local heroes recognized

Last Thursday evening, May 27, some Wrangell residents were recognized for their heroic actions during a fire. On Saturday morning of May 16, a trailer at the Panhandle Trailer Court caught fire. Dan Flickinger (left), Duke Aitken (right), and George Howell (not present) helped rescue the trailer's resident, Norm Canaday. They used a mattress to help Canaday jump out of his back door safely and get away from the burning building. Members of the fire department and city government convened outside of the Public Safety Building to give these local heroes certificates

and to thank them for their actions.

WVFD Captain Dorianne Sprehe wrote in an email, provided by Fire Chief Tim Buness, "Tonight, the heroic efforts and bravery demonstrated by these individuals (Dan Flickinger, Duke Aitken and George Howell) is acknowledged by the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department and the City and Borough of Wrangell. Thanks to the quick recognition and response by neighbors, Norman Canaday was helped to safety. It is because of your selfless thinking that he is still with us today and doing quite well."

"Boat/Other Transportation" item. That is incorrect, Von Bargen said quickly. Police Chief Tom Radke also added that he assumes that \$5,000 is actually meant to cover a variety of costs for the police boat, not just windshield wipers. A total of \$10,000 was set aside in this budget item, and the money was not properly divided into

line items and instead was bulked together under a few different categories.

"You're not buying those from Bayco, those windshield wipers, are you?" Mayor Steve Prysunka asked, referring to Assembly Member David Powell's business.

"No, he was actually more expensive," Radke responded,

laughing.

The assembly also looked at the budget for the public safety building. The budget calls for expenses of \$230,793 next year. However, the public safety building has been an ongoing topic of discussion for some time amongst the assembly. The building is old and is in need of repairs. The assembly has been wanting to get an assessment done to either repair or entirely replace the building. Assembly Member Powell said he wants the city to stop sinking money into the building, as old as it is. Prysunka added he is frustrated with the pace the city has moved when it came to the public safety building, but they needed to come up with a way to proceed.

Also covered in this meeting, the assembly and clerk budget is anticipating expenses of \$224,392, the administration budget is anticipating expenses of \$416,177, the finance department is anticipating expenses of \$473,547, and corrections/dispatch are anticipating expenses of \$459,642. The assembly is also considering \$43,000 in donations to community service organizations next year, and has roughly \$1.36 million available in an economic recovery fund.

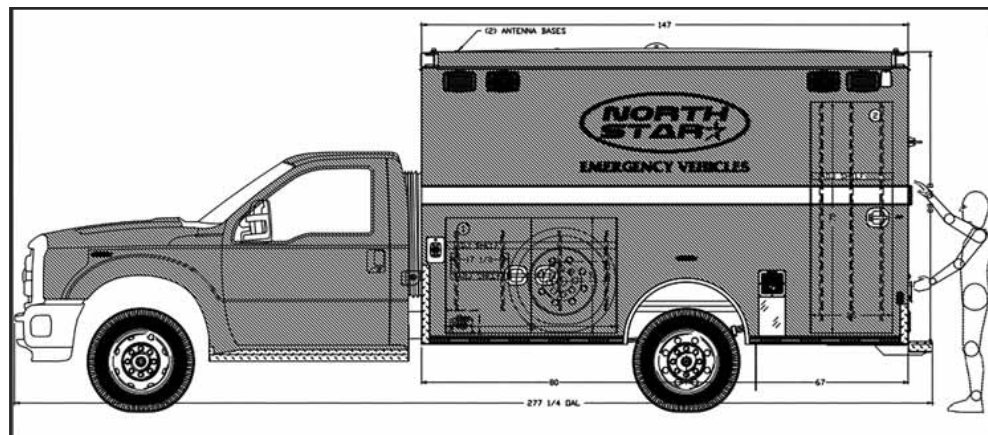
Purchase of new ambulance approved in special assembly meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

In a special meeting last Thursday evening, May 28, the borough assembly approved the purchase of a new ambulance. This purchase, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen, is to strengthen a potential weak spot in the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It became glaringly apparent, recently, that a huge gap in our local medical capacity is an ambulance," she said. "You heard Captain Sprehe speak tonight, now that we have to consider every individual a screen positive because so many folks are asymptomatic, that means we will be even further short on ambulances."

The meeting's agenda packet went into a little more detail of Wrangell's situation. When a 911 call is made for an ambulance, the dispatcher screens patients with a questionnaire about their symptoms. Depending on the answers to these questions, the call is deemed a "positive screen" or a "negative



SCREENSHOT

A design of a Ford F-350 ambulance, which the Wrangell Borough Assembly recently agreed to purchase.

screen." This does not mean that the patient has COVID-19, it only means that they show one or more possible symptoms. Only one ambulance has been used to answer positive screen calls, and several extra safety precautions are put in place. After respond-

ing to this positive screen call, the ambulance goes through a thorough cleaning and decontamination process. According to the agenda packet, this can take two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half-hours.

Continued on page 2

Ambulance

Continued from page 1

However, while the virus has not yet reached Wrangell, there has been an increase in asymptomatic cases elsewhere. This prompted the decision by EMS to treat all future calls as positive screens. This only adds to recent evidence that in a major emergency situation during this pandemic, EMS could be stretched quite thin.

“One specific event which took place on Sunday, May 17, 2020 also made this need apparent,” the agenda packet reads. “On this afternoon, there were 4 calls all together in a short time-frame ... Should any of the patients this day been determined to be positive for SARS CoV2 (COVID-19), this would have hindered the response substan-

tially, removing ambulances and crews from service.”

To help ensure that emergency services can properly and quickly respond to calls, Von Bargen approached the assembly with a proposal to buy a third ambulance: A Ford F-350 from Braun NW. This ambulance would also come with a PowerLoad System and a PowerCot, she said, putting the total price at \$205,871. According to the agenda packet, this money will come out of CARES Act funding Wrangell recently received.

There was some discussion amongst the assembly, regarding the costs of transporting the new ambulance to Wrangell, how old the city’s other two ambulances were, and other topics.

When the vote was called, though, the assembly approved of the purchase. Assembly

Member Julie Decker was the only dissenting vote. Fire Chief Tim Bunes said, during the

meeting, that they expect the ambulance to arrive by the end of June.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Candlelight memorial held at City Park

With the recent death of George Floyd, in Minneapolis at the hands of police, there have been protests and riots across the country against police brutality. In Wrangell, last Sunday evening, a candlelight memorial service was held. According to the event’s Facebook page, the memorial was put together to recognize lives lost to police brutality in America. A crowd of about 45 stood in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time that George Floyd had a police officer’s knee on his neck, and they also read the names of others whose lives were lost in recent years.

Pictured here is Ryan Howe and Valerie Massie lighting candles at the start of the vigil.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, June 4: Doug McCloskey, Tayla Williams, Haley Vergilio, Maleah Wenzel, Kira Torvend, **Anniversaries:** Bill & Janell Privett, Jim, Sr. & Sue Nelson. **Friday, June 5:** Jim Holder, Randy Robinson, Jr., Eric Yancy, Mark Stevens, Payton Taillele. **Saturday, June 6:** Mick Young, Chelsea Cleghon, Carter Cummings, Carl Hazelton, **Anniversary:** Jeremy & Dawn Welch. **Sunday, June 7:** Jacob Soeteber, Hunter Abbott, Kelly Tuttle, **Anniversary:** Mike & Natalya Jabusch. **Monday, June 8:** Shannon Smith, Chase Robertson, **Anniversary:** James & Cinda Stough. **Tuesday, June 9:** Jon Pino, Carolyn Gould. **Wednesday, June 10:** Aveline Russel, Dan Newport, Josephine Lewis, **Anniversary:** Trevor & Talea Keller. **Thursday, June 11:** Kiara Meissner, Kim Stover, Danielle Smith, Kyler Young.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, June 5

Ham Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Honey Coleslaw.

Monday, June 8

Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Cauliflower, Rolls.

Tuesday, June 9

Crispy Chicken, Brussels Sprouts, Texas Slaw.

Wednesday, June 10

Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Peas, Fruit cup.

Thursday, June 11

Halibut Caddy Ganty, Broccoli, Salad, Rice.

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

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

FERRY

June Sailings CANCELLED

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



TIDES June 4-June 11

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
June 4	12:49	16.0	06:26	-2.9	06:26	1.4
June 5	00:43	19.4	01:40	16.2	07:12	-3.7	07:12	1.8
June 6	01:27	19.3	02:28	16.0	07:57	-3.9	07:56	2.3
June 7	02:11	18.8	03:15	15.6	08:40	-3.4	08:40	3.0
June 8	02:54	17.9	04:01	15.0	09:24	-2.6	09:24	3.7
June 9	03:38	16.8	04:48	14.3	10:08	-1.5	10:12	4.5
June 10	04:23	15.5	05:38	13.7	10:53	-0.2	11:05	5.2
June 11	05:12	14.1	06:32	13.3	11:40	0.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Monday, June 8

Special School Board Meeting: 6:30 pm via Google Meets.

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

Continuing Events

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

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

June 3, 1920

Thomas Dalgity last evening received a cablegram from United States Marshall J. M. Tanner appointing him deputy marshal at Wrangell, the appointment to take effect as soon as his oath of office reaches him. Mr. Dalgity has been jailer in Wrangell for several years. Since the death of H. J. Wallace on May 5 Mr. Dalgrity has been acting deputy marshal. In the meantime L. K. Carson has been acting as jailer and will probably continue to hold this position under the new deputy marshal.

June 1, 1945

During the month of May Wrangell enjoyed one of the driest spells of weather for that month ever recorded here with only four days during the month in which rain fell. Total precipitation for the month was 2.40 inches. Watering cans were popular to help Dame Nature with her work of raising Victory gardens and the City Street Department was kept busy keeping the dust flat on the pavements. It’s the kind of weather we like to see around here often.

June 4, 1970

Work was underway this week on the new Stikine Inn on the waterfront at the north end of town. The \$200,000 structure, which will include 15 rooms on a second level, a cocktail lounge, cafe, banquet and dining rooms

and a gift shop, is due for completion in about four months, according to C.V. Henderson, the contractor. Workers, who were hampered by heavy rains early in the week, had framed and raised walls for the lower level of the 11,000 square-foot structure by yesterday. The foundation had been completed previously. At the water’s edge, the inn will provide its patrons a view of Zimovia Straits and surrounding mountains. The Stikine Club, which has occupied quarters across the street from the new building since 1946, and Aunt Winnie’s Cafe will occupy the new building. The inn is being built by the Highfield Corp. whose stockholders include

Mayor Don House, L. T. Campbell, Olaf Hansen, Arnold Bakke and C. B. Sturtevant.

June 1, 1995

A large ship like the cruise ship Europa dwarfs buildings like the Stikine Inn. Carrying more than 600 passengers, the ship was a welcome sight for many businesses. Tourists strolled the streets and toured the island throughout the day. On hand to greet the arrival of the many tourists were Wrangell’s famous Shady Ladies represented here by Lorraine Bunes, Rynda Howell and Louise Shilts. Wrangell Stevedoring employees were available to help secure the big ship to the mooring at City Dock.

Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
May 25	51	44
May 26	51	43
May 27	58	42
May 28	63	49
May 29	59	50
May 30	58	49
May 31	54	46
June 1	50	46

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
June 4	4:07a	9:26p	17:19h
June 5	4:06a	9:27p	17:21h
June 6	4:05a	9:28p	17:23h
June 7	4:05a	9:29p	17:24h
June 8	4:04a	9:30p	17:26h
June 9	4:03a	9:31p	17:28h
June 10	4:03a	9:32p	17:29h
June 11	4:02a	9:33p	17:31h

Court report

May 12: Wolfe Larsen was arraigned on charges of leaving the scene of an accident. The hearing was scheduled to continue on May 19.

May 18: A minor offense trial was held between the City and Borough of Wrangell vs. Myrna Torgramsens II, on charges of a dangerous dog violation. The defendant failed to appear. A default judgment was entered, ordering Torgramsens to pay a fine of \$300 and a \$20 police training surcharge, as well as costs for entering and collecting on the default judgment.

A felony first appearance was held for Lolita Larsen, charged with assault 1, serious injury with a weapon, assault 2, intent to cause injury with a weapon, and assault 3, causing fear of injury with a weapon. She was appointed a public defender, and released under a \$25,000 cash performance bond. She has been ordered to be under PED supervision and will be under elec-

tronic monitoring. Other conditions of her release include submitting to substance abuse testing or searches as directed by authorities. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for June 30.

May 19: Timothy Lawrence was arraigned on charges of driving under the influence and refusing to submit to a chemical test. The hearing was scheduled to continue on May 26.

Jessica Ritchie was arraigned on charges of driving with a cancelled/suspended/revoked license and violating conditions of release. She was appointed a PDA and released under her own recognizance, along with other standard conditions of release. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16.

Wolfe Larsen pleaded no contest to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$300, as well as a \$100 police training surcharge. If Larsen writes a letter of apology and files it with the court and police department, the fine will be reduced to \$100.

Richard Anderson was arraigned on charges of a probation/parole violation. He was released on a \$1,000 cash performance bond. A status hearing was scheduled for June 22.

May 27: Timothy Lawrence pleaded no contest to charges of driving under the influence. An additional charge of refusing to submit to a chemical test was dismissed. He was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, with 27 suspended, to be served before June 30. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1,500, a police training surcharge of \$150, and \$330 for cost of imprisonment.

Tis Peterman to retire from SEITC

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission has been led by Wrangellite Tis Peterman since 2017. Before that, Peterman was part of the group that put the organization together back in 2014, representing the Wrangell Cooperative Association. SEITC has worked to raise awareness of the risks transboundary mining represents to Southeast Alaskan waters since their founding. The organization will be continuing this mission without Peterman moving forward, however, as she intends to retire next month.

"I've been there for almost three years," Peterman said. "This COVID virus got me thinking I'm of an age where I want to spend more time with my kids."

Peterman said she can recall the first meeting of SEITC back in 2014, held on Prince of Wales. Peterman said before that meeting, she had no idea the dangers that mining operations across the border in Canada could pose to rivers that flowed into Southeast Alaska, and she wanted to do her part to raise awareness and fight to keep Alaskan waters safe.

"It was a real eye opener," Peterman said. "I couldn't believe what was happening at the headwaters of all these rivers."

SEITC has been part of several events and collaborations over the years. The organization itself is a consortium of 15 tribal nations across the region, aimed at the goal of protecting waterways that are important to native culture and way of living. They have been part of several town hall-style discussions in

Wrangell and elsewhere to discuss the issue of transboundary mining. They have also partnered with other conservation organizations such as Salmon Beyond Borders to try and create a unified response to the issues at hand. Some of Peterman's biggest highlights of her time with SEITC, however, are international summits they hosted in 2018 and 2019.

Tribal nations from Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 were present at these summits, she said. There were 25 indigenous leaders present at the 2018 summit, she said, and 34 at the next summit in 2019. All these groups have a shared interests, she said. They all want clean water and salmon. Considering the fact that her great-grandmother came from upriver to marry her great-grandfather, Peterman added that through her time at SEITC she got to meet several potential family members.

"Along the way I've learned that first nations and tribes have more in common than otherwise," Peterman said.

SEITC will be directed by Fred Olsen Jr. moving forward. Peterman said she is staying on in a contractor role for another month to help the transition. After that, she intends to spend her time traveling and visiting family once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed. She has spent so much of her time working on different projects and as part of different organizations, she said it was time for her to dedicate time to things she really wants to do.

"It's been a heck of an experience," Peterman said. "I don't want any more deadlines in my life."

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Police report

May 25

Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.
Suspicious Circumstance.

May 26

Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.
Arson: Unfounded.

May 27

Trespass.
Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning to park vehicle until brakes fixed.

Probation violation.

May 28

Found Property.
Vehicle Theft.
Domestic Violence.
Agency Assist: Search and Rescue.

Driving Complaint.
Citizen Report Driving Under Influence: Unfounded.

May 29

Subpoena Service.

Agency Assist: Line Crew.

Agency Assist: Fire Department.

Traffic Stop: Baylee Thrush, 22 : Citation issued for speeding.

Drug Paraphernalia.

May 30

Suspicious Incident.

Domestic: Unfounded.

Citizen Assist.

Welfare Check.

Agency Assist: Parks & Rec.

May 31

Disturbance.

Agency Assist: U. S. Forest Service.

Three Subpoena Services.

Health & Safety.

During this reporting period there were 11 Agency Assist calls to the airport, six total Traffic Stops and three EMS Calls.

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Dan's Dispatch

By Representative
Dan Ortiz

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated our lives, and it has been the focus of Alaska leaders in an effort to slow the spread. However, I also want to begin focusing on what we will face once the pandemic subsides. Alaska has challenges different and greater than other states, such as the following declines in: the financial markets tied to the Permanent Fund, demand for seafood, the visitor industry, the rural healthcare system, and the oil industry. The Alaska economy cannot be rebuilt unless we fully understand the unique impacts of these fiscal 'earthquakes.'

There has been a dramatic drop in the financial markets that produce the Permanent Fund earnings, which in turn funds our public services and the dividend. Because the Permanent Fund earnings provides more than 70% of the state's revenue in the yearly budget, this drop will impact our state revenue, spending, and dividend. How big the short- and long- term impacts are will be determined by how the legislature decides to handle such pressing fiscal hardships.

Demand for seafood, caused

by lack of foreign trade and restaurant shutdowns, has declined. Many Alaskan seafood products are experiencing significant reductions in market price. Although it is likely that fisheries prices will rebound faster than other industries whenever the global economy returns to "normal," in the short-term, fishermen are struggling. Fishermen are self-employed and do not qualify for many traditional safety nets. Although the long-term outlook for our seafood industry is still strong, the Legislature and the Administration must remain committed to adequately funding the management of this critical renewable resource and the habitat that supports it.

The visitor industry is fueled primarily by cruise ship companies, and unfortunately, Alaska likely won't see any large cruise ships this year. The international ownership structure of major cruise ship companies will make a bailout by a single nation nearly impossible. Currently, there is a pervasive fear of travel around the world. This virus may be a long-term pandemic, with increases in cases every few weeks or months. It may even become a yearly inhibitor to the

industry, at least until we see a vaccine. Alaska will have to slowly rebuild its visitor industry over several years, and the revived tourism industry may look different. I will continue to advocate in the Legislature to support that effort by investing budget resources in the Alaska Tourism Industry Association.

Healthcare is one of the largest employers in the state and is reeling under COVID-19. Revenues have decreased dramatically due to cancelling nonessential healthcare procedures, and those losses have been particularly catastrophic to small hospitals. Dentistry, chiropractic, and other specialties have also had to be shut down or significantly reduced. Staff burnout and gaps in care, especially in rural Alaska, are also negative COVID-19 impacts.

The oil industry is facing a crash like we've never seen before because of reduced demand during the pandemic, as well as a brutal price war instigated by Saudi Arabia and Russia. Demand is down 30% and there is a lack of storage space, leading producers to shut down wells. Conoco announced a 100,000 barrel reductions in June, which is only 20% of the pipeline throughput. In Alaska, Native Corporations and oil-service contractors are a vital part of our

economy and are facing big challenges resulting in hundreds of job cuts.

These topics all need to be part of the conversation as we reopen and rebuild. We also need to be aware of individual hardships; unemployment is at an all-time high. According to an ISER report in April, layoffs could directly affect 27,000 jobs with a payroll loss of almost \$80 million in one month alone. When people have lost an income, they cannot support other businesses, which could indi-

rectly result in an additional 21,000 jobs lost.

Let's start the conversation on how we can prepare for our post-pandemic lives. Many of the ideas in this letter come from conversations and words from Former State House Representative Terry Gardiner, and I'd like to thank him for sharing them with me. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for how we proceed, don't hesitate to email me at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov or call my office at 907-247-4672.

Obituary: Fred John Bache, 78

Fred John Bache, 78 died April 2, 2020, at home with the love and support of his family and friends.

He was born in Aberdeen, Washington on June 7, 1941, to Swiss immigrants August Bache and Johanna Stuber-Bache.

He went to schools in Aberdeen, graduating from Weatherwax High School in 1959, Grays Harbor College in 1961, and then completing his undergraduate and advanced degrees at the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1966. He supported his education by working for Mayr Brothers Logging Company and commercial halibut fishing in Alaska.

His first dental practice was located in the town of Chehalis, where the Loggers World newspaper posted a story about Fred's plans to build a boat for a dental office so that he could combine his love of the woods and sea to serve the communities in Southeast Alaska with his dentistry. He built a 50 ft boat, The Jenny B, and launched her in 1968.

He and his family made their first trip to Alaska in 1969 beginning in Coffman Cove on Prince of Wales Island. Each season would begin with them going to Alaska in spring and returning in the fall to his dental practice in Westport, then Aberdeen, and later in Hoquiam. He and his family were well received in the logging communities in Southeast Alaska and each summer as they continued to circle Prince of Wales Island their itinerary eventually included many families living and working at fish hatcheries and in small villages throughout Southeast Alaska until he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in February of 2018. He enjoyed his family and life aboard the Jenny B for nearly 50 years.

In 2004, he and his wife were baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses and he began using his middle name, John. He remained an active member of Aberdeen Jehovah's Witness Congregation until his passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Laurie Garner, Linda Rattie and brother Ralph Bache.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jeannette Hallmark-Bache; daughters Jolena (Kris) Gienger of Hong Kong, Traci Pearl of Puyallup, and Trudy Swain, and son-in-law Bob Swain of Kenmore; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life will take place once the COVID19 restrictions are lifted.

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Larrabee taking new job as K 12 principal in Tok

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

After several years with the Wrangell Public School District, Wrangell resident Drew Larrabee will be leaving town to take a new position as K-12 principal in Tok.

Larrabee and his family first moved to Wrangell eight years ago, he said. He has been the fabrication teacher for Wrangell High School for the past eight years. Larrabee said that he and his family are going to miss the Wrangell community and school district a lot, but this move is meant to help him advance his career goals.

"I had finished my master's last year, in administrative leadership, with the intention of being a principal," Larrabee said.

Larrabee said he considered applying for a principal position here in Wrangell. However, at the time, he said that the high school's then-principal David Macri was planning to stay on for quite some time. With that in mind he sent out applications to other school districts, and was offered a job in Tok. About a week after he accepted the position, Larrabee said, Macri resigned. Still, Larrabee said Tok seemed like a good place to raise his younger kids, and

they would be back on the road system. Plus, his older daughters Skylar and Adriana just graduated from high school this year. Sometimes, he said, you just have to roll with it.

Larrabee said that he is leaving Wrangell High School's shop program in a good position. It was already a good program when he came on in 2012, he said, but he and the district have spent the past eight years revitalizing it and turning it into a state recognized program.

"We've revitalized equipment, we've revitalized the program," Larrabee said. "I'm leaving it with a well developed program that Winston Davies will be taking over."

The Larrabee family is heading to Tok on June 13. Larrabee said they are leaving this soon because the official start date for his job is July 1, and he wanted to give his family time to unpack and get used to their new surroundings beforehand. It is not easy to move, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic going on right now, but he said they are managing the situation as best as they can.

"Not a very pleasant time to be trying to move," Larrabee said. "It's a bit, but it's going to be manageable."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREW LARRABEE

The Larrabee family (top row, from the left): Skylar, Adriana, Candy, (bottom row) Lucas, Sawyer, Drew, and dogs Loki and Kya.

Larrabee also added that he and his family are sorry to leave behind all the friends they have made in Wrangell. He's appreciative to everyone for eight years of community and friendship, and that they

will be missed. However, he said that he and his family are excited for this next adventure.

"Of course, we're all pretty torn up about leaving our friends," he said.

RAC meeting interrupted by snoring participant

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The local Resource Advisory Committee, which covers the areas of Wrangell, Petersburg,

and Kake, held a series of meetings last week. The RAC, for those who are unaware, is a committee of residents of these three areas that advise the Forest Service on what projects to pursue. There were a variety of interesting and pertinent projects covered in the recent RAC meetings.

In their meeting on May 27, the RAC elected committee co-chairs Kim Powell and Patrick Fowler. They also approved of a proposal to spend \$40,000 on dock repairs in the City of Kupreanof. It should also be noted that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee has been meeting via web conference to keep

everybody safe from the virus. It was in this May 27 meeting that the sound of somebody snoring interrupted the meeting's procession.

"As we have all been learning the advantages and challenges of remote communication these days, the RAC has not been immune to some of those hiccups," Fowler wrote in an email to the Sentinel. "Some comic relief was found when the meeting was temporarily interrupted by what sounded like a bit of snoring. The culprit remains unknown among the several staff, committee members, and guests that were on the line. However, we don't

think this is reflective of the exciting projects the RAC is recommending for funding in our local communities."

As many people likely know, and this reporter can personally attest, sometimes it can be hard to stay awake during a meeting regardless of how interesting it is. In a time where most meetings take place on the internet, from the comfort of one's own home, this is even more true.

Aside from the "mystery snorer," the RAC meeting continued largely as normal. The committee heard readings of several

projects, yet to be approved. Some of these included invasive plant control for the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts, putting interpretive signs on Sandy Beach in Petersburg, discussions regarding a Kaatslitan Culture Camp in Kake, and watershed restoration work at Ohmer Creek.

Fowler added in his email that they are seeking applications for the committee from all three communities in the RAC. Anybody interested should contact Linda Slaght for more information, at linda.slaght@usda.gov.

Correction

In the May 21 edition of the paper, in the story about the senior awards night, it was reported that the Joel Wing and Allen Benjamin Scholarships were awarded from the Wrangell Emblem Club. These two scholarships actually come from the Elks Lodge.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Recycled fishing nets from Cordova will soon help launch a new clothing line

Recycled fishing nets from Cordova will soon help launch a new clothing line by Grundens, the maker of the iconic foul weather gear “built by fishermen for fishermen for over a century.”

The Copper River Watershed Project is “refreshing” its net recycling program underway for a decade that’s been backed by the Pacific Marine States Commission. Now, the program wants to broaden its base and stand on its own, said Shae Bowman, Watershed operations manager.

“The vision with a new program is to create a self-sustaining recycling program that is a valued asset to the commercial fishing fleet. We also want to provide a high quality product to recyclers. And we don’t want to have to be constantly chasing down grants and sources of funding,” Bowman said, adding that the project has recycled over 200,000 pounds over 10 years.

Enter Nicole Baker, founder of Net Your Problem, who since 2015 has jumpstarted net recycling programs across Alaska. Her work so far has included gathering and shipping primarily plastic trawl nets to Europe where they are recycled into pellets for sale to makers of a myriad of products from skateboards to cellphone covers.

“I think the gillnet fleet is pretty dialed in, but seines are made out of the same type of plastic that gillnets are, so those two gear types can be recycled together,” Baker said.

A goal is to fill a 40 foot shipping container this summer. But changes in the recycling market mean that unlike before, the nets must be clean and stripped before drop off.

“You have to collect a really

high quality product that somebody wants to buy,” Bowman explained. “We don’t want to collect something that’s full of garbage and that’s the problem we’ve been struggling with. I really want to get the word out that we need to recycle nets better. Our nets coming in need to be clean and stripped of any non-nylon material – that’s the cork lines, the lead lines, the hanging twine, all that needs to be removed to increase our quality.”

European recyclers will turn the Cordova nets not into pellets for making other plastics, but yarn for clothing.

Enter Grundens.

“Our statement as a brand is “we are fishing,” said Mat Jackson, Grundens chief marketing officer. “We believe it’s really important to use our brand voice and strength to help protect and maintain healthy marine environments and to lend a hand where we can. But at some point, you’ve got to just start doing it and making the process happen. And when talking with Nicole, Cordova became something that seemed like a tangible opportunity.”

Jackson said the net recycling project also dovetails nicely with Grundens new clothing line.

“In 2021 we are launching a full line of products from technical outerwear to more

lifestyle casual items like shorts built out of “Econyl” regenerated nylon, which is largely comprised of recycled fishing nets and has been a main source that Nicole has been pursuing in terms of shipping this gear out of Alaska and into a recycler supply chain,” Jackson said, adding that he believes it is “a really powerful package.”

“Our consumer base is commercial fishermen, but it also includes recreational fishermen and delivering them a product that fits their needs, performs at a high level, and is built from recycled material that our core customer uses to make a living, we just feel is an incredibly powerful message to help put the spotlight on these efforts and hopefully build a coalition around this process,” Jackson said. “Because it’s going to take more than just our brand getting involved. This really has to become an effort that the whole industry starts to embrace.”

Bowman agrees.

“My big hope,” she said, “is that if we can get this program to work out, it can serve as a model for other commercial fishing communities in Alaska as they look into setting up a recycling program.”

Seafood Council redux - Got Milk? ... Beef - It’s What’s for Dinner! ... Pork - The Other White Meat ... The Incredible, Edible Egg those are familiar

brand slogans, all backed by the producers who pitch their products with a unified voice.

From livestock to fruits and dairy, most U.S. food makers have some sort of national marketing board supported by federal and industry dollars to promote their products. Seafood could soon be among them.

Reviving a dormant National Seafood Council is gaining steam among industry members, especially as Covid-19 upends markets.

About a year ago, Seafood Source reports that the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee brought up the idea to restart

the council. MAFAC is a federal advisory committee to the Secretary of Commerce and NOAA Fisheries. Since then, the idea has met with lots of enthusiasm, and MAFAC has formed an 11-member task force to move forward.

A National Seafood Council was created by the U.S. Fish and Seafood Promotion Act in 1987. It operated for five years before running out of money and becoming quietly defunct. MAFAC members agreed that if any food could now benefit from more consumer education, it’s seafood.

A National Seafood Council

Continued on page 7

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Published: May 28, June 4 and 11, 2020

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Richard Franklin Teague has been appointed the personal representative for the above-entitled Estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute, Title 13.16.450, all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Said claims must be submitted to Richard Franklin Teague, c/o Keene & Currall, PPC, 540 Water Street - Suite 302, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901. Dated: 04/14/2020

Richard Franklin Teague
Personal Representative

Published: May 21, 28 and June 4, 2020

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITIONS OF Temporary Workers Harbor Department

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

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

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

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

Published: May 28 and June 4, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, 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 6:00 p.m. As per Emergency Resolution No. 03-20-1520, Borough Assembly Meetings shall be held by teleconference/videoconference until October 17, 2020 unless terminated before that date. 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 7:00 p.m.

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk
City of Wrangell, Alaska

Published: June 4, 2020

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

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

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

Mayor Stephen Prysunka
PO Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

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

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

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

Published: May 28 and June 4, 2020

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Social media discussed in CVB meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Thursday, May 28. The main topic that day was an ongoing discussion of how the bureau can improve Wrangell's social media presence. To promote local businesses and encourage tourists to come to Wrangell, the CVB is interested in using social media to achieve these goals. Lucy Robinson, with the Parks and Rec Department, was invited into the meeting to talk about important aspects of social media marketing they need to keep in mind.

"Lucy has offered her assistance because she's really great at social media," said Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore. "So she's here to provide us with some pointers."

Robinson said that, when it comes to marketing via social media, it is really important to keep up with current trends and to stay relevant. Another good idea is to have themes for social media posts. Some examples tossed around in the meeting could be "Wildlife Wednesdays" that promote Wrangell's nature, or "Fitness Fridays" that promote healthy activities that people can do around town. Robinson also added that it was really important to keep a regular posting schedule and to track where one's online traffic is coming from.

"Not only do you want to schedule your posts and look at your analytics and see who's finding you from what hashtag, but then you also want to be creative in your content," Robinson said. "And you want to keep up with current trends, like what's trendy. That's important, and for me, what I do to get those trendy, fun things, is I look at other people's social media."

Other topics of discussion in the meeting included designing a marketing recovery plan, how best to design a travel planner during the COVID-19 pandemic, and expanding the CVB's contract with Truly360.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Hand sanitizer via city hall

In an effort to help local businesses stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City and Borough of Wrangell recently made a bulk order of hand sanitizer to distribute around town. Borough Clerk Kim Lane said they purchased 48 gallons of hand sanitizer from WESCO, a supply chains solutions company. Business owners were invited to stop by city hall last Thursday afternoon, May 28, to receive 16 oz. of hand sanitizer for their stores. Pictured here are city employees Lane (right) and Aleisha Mollen (left) holding gallon jugs of hand sanitizer.

Seafood companies plan to merge parts of their operations

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Ocean Beauty Seafoods and Icicle Seafoods Inc. announced plans Friday to merge parts of their operations under a new company.

The merger, set to take effect Monday, will include Ocean Beauty and Icicle shoreside plants in Alaska, according to a

release. Financial terms were not released.

Ocean Beauty and Icicle Seafoods each will own a 50% stake in the new company, OBI Seafoods LLC, the release states. Mark Palmer, president and CEO of Ocean Beauty, will be CEO of the new venture. John Woodruff, chief operating officer at Icicle, will be executive

vice president of Alaska operations.

Palmer said discussions about a potential merger started in 2018. It comes as the companies look at ways to best position themselves in the face of market and fish-run fluctuations, he said, noting there is potential among the 10 plants included in the deal to specialize in certain areas.

Palmer said there has been strong domestic demand for canned and frozen products. He said the merger provides an opportunity to "penetrate the best market right now, and we'll use

those returns to drive more innovation and modernization of our facilities."

Woodruff, in a statement, said as a team "we are confident we can make improvements to benefit employees, fishermen, customers and vendors."

Ocean Beauty's smoked salmon and distribution operations will remain under existing ownership. Also not included in the merger are Icicle Seafoods' operations on the processing vessel Gordon Jensen and the Northern Victor, which is moored at Dutch Harbor, the release states.



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Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

could help with marketing, research, and educational awareness for all U.S. fish and shellfish products, both farmed and wild. It also could improve consumer confidence by allaying concerns about seafood safety and sustainability, and highlighting its many proven health benefits.

The MAFAC committee's first task is to define what direction a promotional council could take. Another is checking the language in the 1987 Act to make sure it is meeting the needs of today.

The core mission would be simple - to get Americans to buy and eat more seafood.

Patron saint of salmon - As Alaska's salmon season gets underway, it seems appropriate to acknowledge the patron saint of salmon - Saint Kentigern of Scotland.

Born long ago in 518, Kentigern was the illegitimate son of a king's daughter.

He trained as a priest at a monastery, where his sainthood evolved around a dangerous love-triangle.

Legend has it that the king suspected his wife of having an affair, because she had given one of her favorite rings to a court favorite. The king took the ring when the man was sleeping and threw it far out into the River Clyde.

When he returned home, the king angrily demanded that his wife show him the missing ring and threatened her with death if she could not produce it. In her misery, the queen beseeched the priest Kentigern to help her.

Kentigern took a fishing rod to the spot where the ring had been flung into the river and quickly caught a salmon. Amazingly, upon cutting it open the ring was found in the salmon's belly.

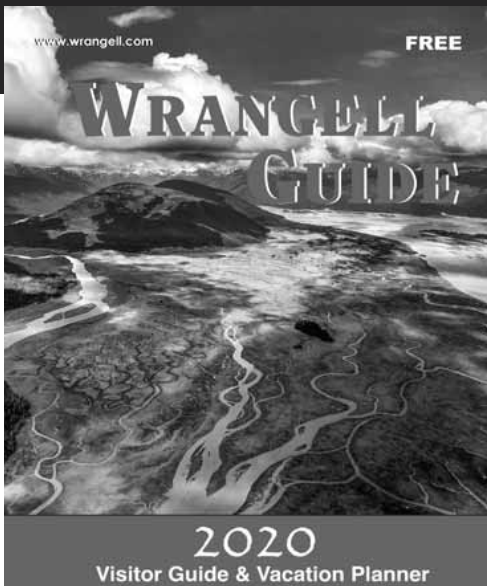
The queen was able to deliver the ring to her doubting husband and peace was restored.

From the time of his death in 603, Kentigern was regarded as Scotland's patron saint and the cathedral at Glasgow was built in his honor. To this day Kentigern's figure and symbols, including a salmon, make up that city's coat of arms.

So who knows - perhaps a quick prayer to the patron saint of salmon will lead more fish to your nets.

The 2020 Visitor Guide is now available

- for distribution to
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Reopening plan covered in Parks and Rec workshop

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Parks and Rec Department hosted a workshop last Wednesday, May 27, to discuss their plans to reopen. The main Parks and Rec facility, housing the gym and swimming pool, closed on March 13 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the state has been moving to reopen, the department is putting plans in place to do the same.

Parks and Rec Director Kate Thomas explained in a presentation that they would be doing a soft opening, in line with state guidelines from phases three and four of the Reopen Alaska Plan. The weight room and cardio equipment were opened to the public on June 1, and the pool will be reopened on June 8. Locker rooms are going to remain closed for the time being. According to Thomas's presentation, social distancing and wearing face masks while in the rec center is going to be strongly encouraged. There will also be specific hours set aside for seniors, from 9 to 11 a.m. Thomas added that there will be visitor and staff documentation to aid in contact tracing, as well, in the event COVID-19 does come to Wrangell.

When the swimming pool opens, according to the presentation, it will be for lap swimming only, and only one swimmer will be allowed per lane. Swimmers will be required to rest at opposite ends of the pool and to bring their own towels. There will be no open swims or swim lessons initially, according to the presentation.

There are two main areas for cardio workouts in the parks and rec facility. The facility will only allow one patron per area at a time, for a maximum 30 minute workout. Users must also wipe down all the equipment after use. The weight room will allow two patrons at a time. Again, the workouts are limited to 30 minutes and users must wipe down the equipment after use.

In other news from the workshop, Thomas said that the department will not be hosting their typical summer programs this season. The safety precautions that would need to be in place for summer programming would be challenging. On top of that, Thomas said economic and staffing realities necessitate they consider different summer programs. This summer, parks and rec will be following a trend of virtual and at-home programming for people to enjoy. Some of the ideas covered include sidewalk chalk art contests, bird watching, weekly fitness challenges, and scavenger hunts.

The parks and rec department has several goals for the future, Thomas said near the end of the presentation. Short term, the department will be focusing on immediate engagement and feedback from the community, increasing staff capacity and volunteers, and focusing on their immediate priorities for reopening. Long term, she said that they will be streamlining their programming, assessing community needs, hosting public meetings and workshops on the future of parks and rec in Wrangell, and finding ways to diversify their finances.

Assembly postpones vote on quarantine ordinance

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Prior to their budget workshop on Tuesday evening the Wrangell Borough Assembly held an emergency meeting to pass an ordinance establishing quarantine requirements for out of state travelers. Emergency Ordinance No. 978, according to the agenda packet for the meeting, requires that travelers from outside of Alaska, or outside of the United States, quarantine for two weeks when they come to Wrangell. However, this quarantine can be bypassed if the traveler in question has proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of their arrival to Wrangell.

This ordinance comes in response to the state government's plans to remove their interstate travel guidelines on Friday, June 5, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen. The state, Mayor Steve Prysunka said, is not really keeping municipalities safe by opening up. They want people to take COVID-19 tests before entering Alaska or right after they land, but they are not really going to enforce it. With that in mind, he felt that Wrangell needed to take it upon itself to do so. Essentially, Prysunka said, they want to tell travellers they can either get tested when they come to Wrangell, or they can quarantine.

For the most part, the borough assembly approved of this ordinance. However, they did have a few issues with its passage that evening. Assembly Members Mya DeLong, Anne Morrison, Julie Decker, and David Powell said they felt the item should be postponed a few days. This would allow for increased public input on the matter. Several assembly members also brought up the issue of the ordinance not having any teeth to it. They were not sure how the city could enforce this ordinance.

After some discussion, the assembly decided that it would be best to postpone a vote on this item until the public had a longer chance to give their input. They voted to postpone the item until Thursday evening.

Leaders review commercial COVID testing, CBW resources

On Wednesday, May 27, members of the Wrangell Unified Command met via video-conference to consolidate pandemic information and response from respective local organizations.

Wrangell Medical Center (WMC) leadership commented on expansion of testing for select community organizations, while the City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) Manager announced new cleaning supply stock and the potential purchase of an ambulance with CARES Act funding. Representatives from Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Alaska Department of Public Health, and the AICS Clinic were also on the call.

WMC Medical Director Dr. Lynn Prysunka provided an update on local commercial industry COVID-19 testing. SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) representatives are currently working to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Pacific Seafoods to test an estimated 26 seasonal employees traveling to Wrangell from outside communities beginning June 1. SEARHC and CBW are reviewing options for testing of employees of additional commercial operations and local businesses. SEARHC Vice President and WMC Hospital Administrator Leatha Merculieff stated that hospital staff is working with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Captain Dorianne Sprehe to conduct COVID-19 testing on all local EMS staff. Merculieff said that WMC will "designate a block time to test our emergency care partners in the (alternative testing site) tent in the coming days."

CBW Manager Lisa Von Bargen updated meeting participants on response from City Hall, including the arrival of bulk hand sanitizer, which CBW will work to distribute to

businesses and community organizations.

Additionally, CBW Wastewater Department staff has been working to create a bleach alternative for use by the fishing industry, should a bleach shortage present itself in Wrangell.

Von Bargen also notified those on the call about a Thursday, May 28, CBW Assembly special meeting called to approve the purchase of a new ambulance utilizing \$205,871 of CARES Act funding. The vehicle, manufactured by Braun Ambulance, will sup-

plement the existing fleet and features power cot loading capabilities, reducing the number of EMS required to load and unload patients. The purchase of the ambulance was approved by the Assembly last Thursday evening.

Public Health Nurse Erin Michael announced that the Alaska State Laboratory is working to release an online portal, which would streamline the process for providers to receive test results for a variety of services, including COVID-19 testing. Michael also mentioned discussions

within Public Health to soon implement COVID-19 testing of asymptomatic persons in jails across the state. An implementation date has not been decided yet, but discussions are progressing. Michael closed with some guidance from the State regarding congregate gatherings, which she

believed could affect some 4th of July events locally. Per state guidelines, for gatherings of 500 or more people where six-foot social distancing is not an option, masking is recommended and safety plans for the event are required to be submitted to the Department of Public Health for approval.



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