



Wrangell, Alaska
December 24, 2020

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 118, Number 52

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

8 Pages

\$1.50



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Steve Kamm of SeaWind Aviation delivering Wrangell's first batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Kathy Jo Blackburn of SEARHC.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEARHC

Buck Bania receiving his COVID-19 vaccination.

Wrangell receives first batch of COVID vaccines

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

There were no sled dogs, and Nome is far away from Wrangell, but last week's delivery of COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines was still very Alaskan. Wrangell received its first batch of vaccines for the virus Wednesday, Dec. 16. The medicine was flown in from Sitka on a float plane.

Steve Kamm, with Sea Wind Aviation, landed at the harbor a little after noon with two boxes of vaccines. They were delivered to SEARHC staff Aaron Angerman and Kathy Jo Blackburn.

Angerman did not say how many

vaccines were delivered, exactly, but did say that vaccinations were scheduled to start immediately upon delivery. According to a Dec. 16 press release from SEARHC, two doses of the vaccine are needed to ensure effectiveness. The second shot will be administered three weeks after the first.

The press release goes on to state that mitigation protocols like social distancing and mask wearing will still be important for limiting the spread of COVID-19, even after one is vaccinated. Until everyone is vaccinated and immunity is widespread, taking precautions

will still be important to keep the wider community safe.

"At SEARHC, our top priority is the health and safety of our patients, communities, and staff," Dr. Elliot Bruhl, SEARHC senior VP and chief medical officer, said in the press release. "Clinical trials have demonstrated that the Pfizer vaccine is 95% effective and has been proven safe."

SEARHC will be prioritizing who gets vaccinated first. The top priority is given to frontline healthcare workers, first responders, and Long Term Care residents and their staff. After them will

come other healthcare workers and the wider public. According to the Department of Health and Social Services' website, 5,674 Pfizer vaccinations have been administered across Alaska as of Dec. 20. More information regarding COVID-19 and the vaccine can be found at www.dhss.alaska.gov.

In a Facebook post of Dec. 21, the City and Borough of Wrangell asked those who have received vaccinations to consider signing up for V-safe, a smartphone tool that checks in on people after their vaccinations. This can be found at www.vsafe.cdc.gov.

Jack Carney named assistant coach of the year

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Family, friends, students, and coworkers gathered online and in the WHS gym last Thursday, Dec. 17, to surprise teacher Jack Carney. Carney was named "Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year" for the 2019-2020 school year. This award came down from the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Activities Director Trisa Rooney said, in an email, that this award is normally presented during the state championship in Anchorage. However, as wrestling season had not yet started they decided to present the award at Wrangell High School.

When Carney was brought into the gym that evening, he had been told there was a fight between students he needed to



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Carney family, at an award ceremony for Jack Carney (left to right): Jack, Mariah, Clara, Isla, Stephanie, Jackson, and Liana.

break up. Instead, he found the wrestling team, his family, and

other community members waiting to congratulate him.

"We are very proud and honored to stand here with

you," said Head Coach Jeff Rooney, presenting the award. "I've got a lot of pride and honor to stand here and call you my friend."

The wrestling season has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Rooney, the next season is scheduled to begin mid-March. This will be Carney's sixth year helping to coach the team, he said, and he is eager to show everyone what his team is capable of.

"I am just really excited to show the team off," he said. "We have so much talent ... I think we got about six kids who could take State this year."

Carney added that he wanted to thank the school, his family, and the Wrangell community for all the support they have shown to him and the wrestling team.

Dr. Zink “cautiously optimistic” in COVID update

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Dr. Anne Zink, Alaska’s chief medical officer, called in to a special meeting of the Wrangell Borough Assembly last Friday afternoon, Dec. 18, to give a brief update on the COVID-19 situation across the state. In her update she said that she is “cautiously opti-

mistic” about the future, with vaccinations being rolled out and a slowdown in rising case numbers.

“Across the state, as a whole, we’re starting to see a tentative decline in the acceleration, which has been fantastic,” she said. “We are cautiously optimistic, I guess is how I would phrase it, about

the numbers.”

Their optimism is only cautious, Zink said, because they know that COVID-19 is highly contagious and the rate of new cases could start accelerating again. There are several factors as to why the virus has been difficult to control, she said. For one thing, there is a long incubation period for the virus. She also said that while a subset of patients will become very sick from COVID-19, others will be asymptomatic or only show mild symptoms. However, she said that mitigation efforts like wearing masks and social distancing work. The recent rollout of the Pfizer vaccine has also been important in efforts to bring the pandemic to a close.

“This has been long, this has been hard, and I don’t think this has been easy on anyone,” Zink said. “The good thing is I do think that we’re entering kind of our final chapter in COVID. It’s a long chapter, it’s going to be a bit before it’s done, but it’s a big turning point this week.”

On the topic of the vaccine, Zink said that it has appeared to be effective so far. About 95 percent of people who receive both doses of the vaccine are protected from symptomatic disease, she said. However, there are some uncertainties she pointed out. As of right now they are not sure if someone who receives the vaccine could still spread COVID-19 to others, but she said they hope

to figure that out soon. The vaccine has not yet been studied in children, but they know children generally handle COVID-19 better than adults. A few Alaskans have had adverse reactions to the vaccine and Zink said officials are looking into the cause behind the reactions. To put that into perspective, though, she said that those few who had adverse reactions are recovering well, meanwhile in the United States about one person per minute is dying of COVID-19.

“It’s important to note that no vaccine is perfect,” Zink said. “It doesn’t make you immune, so I would not go working in a COVID unit post-vaccine without a mask and protection, as well.”

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, December 24: Ella Chrisman, Kenneth Wilson, Karen Irby, Holly Hammer. **Friday, December 25:** Kade Davidson, Dean Massin, Aminda Skan, Jude Johnson, Holly Nore. **Saturday, December 26:** Aidrick Glass, Dee Gross, Ted Cabot, David Churchill, Vern Cummings. **Sunday, December 27:** no birthdays. **Monday, December 28:** Brittany Holder, Nate Stearns. **Tuesday, December 29:** Gordon McCloskey, Emily Sterner, Christie Jamison, D.J. McConachie, Kim Wickman, Michelle Gross, Kenny Golding, Jennifer Davies, John Feller Jr., Al Brock. **Wednesday, December 30:** Parker Mork, Rhonda Robinson, Ella Simpson, Sophia Ely, Nichole Kagee, Duncan Scambler, **Anniversaries:** Doug & Gail Thomas, Kelly & Dawn Davis. **Thursday, December 31:** Randy Easterly, Brad Angerman, Korben Young, **Anniversaries:** Jerry & Judy Bakeberg, Mark & Dee Galla, Wess & KD Strasburger.

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, December 25

Closed Christmas Day

Monday, December 28

Meatloaf, Broccoli Salad, Scalloped Potatoes

Tuesday, December 29

Mac & Cheese with Ham, Broccoli, Spinach.

Wednesday, December 30

Baked Fish, Carrots and Fruit Slaw, Potatoes with Parsley.

Thursday, December 31

Beef Pot Pie, Spinach, Honey Orange Salad.

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

December Sailings No Ferries Scheduled

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



TIDES

December 24 - December 30

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Dec. 24	08:48	14.5	09:28	12.0	01:59	4.0	03:16	3.1
Dec. 25	09:33	15.1	10:22	12.6	02:58	4.2	04:07	1.8
Dec. 26	10:16	15.7	11:10	13.2	03:51	4.2	04:50	0.7
Dec. 27	10:55	16.2	11:53	13.7	04:38	4.1	05:28	-0.3
Dec. 28	11:33	16.6	05:18	3.9	06:03	-1.0
Dec. 29	00:33	14.1	12:08	16.8	05:55	3.8	06:37	-1.5
Dec. 30	01:11	14.4	12:43	16.9	06:31	3.8	07:10	-1.8
Dec. 31	01:47	14.5	01:18	16.8	07:06	3.7	07:45	-1.9

City provides update on water quality

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The City and Borough of Wrangell gave the public an update on the city’s drinking water quality in a press release on Dec. 18. A few months ago, it was reported that Wrangell’s drinking water contained excessive amounts of Haloacetic Acids, or HAA5. Since then, the city has taken steps to bring the levels of HAA5 back down to allowable levels. According to their recent press release, acid levels have decreased, but still above allowable maximums as of October.

“The elevated level of HAA5s do not mandate additional testing,” the press release reads. “However, the Borough conducted an additional voluntary testing in October and found the HAA5 level had dropped by 34 percent. De-

spite the significant drop, the level still exceeded regulatory maximums. Standard quarterly November testing was conducted but the lab mishandled the sample and another sample had to be taken. Wrangell is still awaiting the results of that test. The levels of HAA5 are expected to be even lower.”

As previously reported in the Sentinel, back in October, HAA5s are a byproduct of organic material in the water supply being treated with chlorine during the disinfection process. In an email to the newspaper, Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga wrote that the regulation limit for HAA5s is 60 micrograms per liter. In August, Wrangell’s HAA5 level was 179.1 ug, she wrote. October test results showed levels down to 118.5 ug.

Continued on page 3

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

AA Meetings: North Star Group Meeting Tuesdays and Fridays 7 - 8 p.m at St. Philips Episcopal Church.

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

December 23, 1920

The merchants of Wrangell have had unusually beautiful window displays this year. Toys, jewelry, articles of wearing apparel, tempting foodstuffs, and fruits and nuts, mingled with brilliant reds and greens of the holiday decorations, have made the stores very attractive. The cut in prices made by several of the merchants has been appreciated by the Christmas shopper. On Christmas Eve, the stores will be kept open late as usual.

December 21, 1945

Wrangell has been busily preparing this week for its first peacetime Christmas in four years. Store windows have been gaily lighted, and many private homes have beautiful outdoor decorations of colored lights, something that was prohibited during the war years. A large Christmas tree has been erected in the center of town, on Front street, facing the Coliseum theater and Den O’Sweets and is also resplendent with lights.

December 24, 1970


Old Santa has always been very busy along about Christmas time and no matter how willing, he could never

keep all of his personal appearance requests. For years he had a volunteer helper in Wrangell who not only gave his time, but also supplied his own red suit and white beard. Any school, organization or individual in need of a Santa Claus had only to pick up the phone, make a call, and he was there. As a matter of fact, the guy made so many appearances the kids in town knew it was really J. Dar Smith under the snowy beard, but with the profound wisdom and faith found only in children, they knew he was only filling

in until the real thing came.


December 21, 1995

The Salvation Army is celebrating Christmas by distributing new toys and food boxes to children and needy families, said Lt. Michael Turnlund. The distributions started Tuesday afternoon with new toys going to children from infants to young teenagers, said Turnlund. The dinner boxes include a ham and all the trimmings, he said. Turnlund expects 45 to 50 families or more to participate up to Christmas Eve.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Dec. 14	39	33
Dec. 15	44	37
Dec. 16	43	30
Dec. 17	42	32
Dec. 18	44	37
Dec. 19	41	39
Dec. 20	41	36
Dec. 21	37	34



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Dec. 24	8:19a	3:17p	06:58h
Dec. 25	8:19a	3:17p	06:58h
Dec. 26	8:19a	3:18p	06:59h
Dec. 27	8:19a	3:19p	07:00h
Dec. 28	8:19a	3:20p	07:01h
Dec. 29	8:19a	3:21p	07:02h
Dec. 30	8:19a	3:22p	07:03h
Dec. 31	8:19a	3:23p	07:04h

Water

Continued from page 2

In response to going over regulatory limits, the water department took measures to lower the amount of organic material in the water. This included, according to the press

release, slowing down the water treatment process to allow more contact time with the water for the ozonation and filtration systems.

According to the city's press release, the city will report No-

vember's test results once they are received. Von Barga explained that the previous sample they sent for lab testing was put too close to ice for the trip south, and froze. This invalidated it for reporting purposes. Wrangell will also undergo extra testing in the months of January, March, and April.

In an interview with the Sentinel, Von Barga said she believed test results will show Wrangell's HAA5 levels back below the MCL in the near future. However, she and the press release said that while the HAA5 levels will continue to decrease, because of the spike in August's levels, the average for 2020 will still exceed regulatory limits.

"Again, this is not an emergency," the press release reads. "In the event that disinfection byproducts ever reach an emergent level the City and Borough of Wrangell and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will immediately work together on additional measures. That being said, Wrangell's water has HAA5 in it. We encourage anyone with concerns to filter water with a carbon-activated (charcoal) based filter."

In a Sept. 24 press release, the city said that those with a compromised immune system, have an infant or are pregnant, or the elderly may be at increased risk and should seek advice from their healthcare providers.

Police report

Monday, December 14

Agency Assist: Search and Rescue.

Tuesday, December 15

Welfare Check.

Shoplifting: Unfounded.

Krysta Gillen, 25, Cited for Dog at Large Complaint.

Citizen Assist.

Wednesday, December 16

Agency Assist: Wrangell School.

Security Check.

Thursday, December 17

Domestic Violence Assault.

Civil Stand By.

Agency Assist: Office of Child Services.

Agency Assist: Hoonah.

Friday, December 18

Traffic Stop.

Parking Complaint.

Saturday, December 19

Two Agency Assist Requests: Hoonah P.D.

Sunday, December 20

Dog Complaint.

Harassment Text.

Fireworks.

Disturbance.

In this reporting period there were five EMS calls.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VINCENT BALANSAG

Happy holidays at SEARHC

SEARHC staff dressed up for the holiday season (L-R, from the top left): Vince Balansag, Jason Haslip, Jennifer Mangaser, and Cathy Gunther.

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Obituary: Robert H. Grant, Jr., 83

Robert H. Grant, Jr., 83, a retired teacher, and longtime resident of Wrangell, died on October 21, 2020 in Wrangell, Alaska.

He was born on April 19, 1937 to Robert and Catherine Grant in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated from Loras College with a teaching degree and immediately, in 1963, moved to Wrangell to pursue his dream of teaching in Alaska. He taught High School History/Social Studies and English and later, at the end of his teaching career, he taught 6th Grade.

He also worked for the Alaska Fish and Game Department during the summer months counting sockeye up the Tahltan River in Canada, a job that he enjoyed because he got to experience more of the



Robert H. Grant, Jr.

northern territory, and he was able to work outside. He commercially trolled during the summer for many years up and down the Southeast Coast. He retired from teaching in 1986 to enjoy more time hunting, sport

fishing, gardening, and volunteering at the Elks Lodge.

During his lifetime he gave back to his community by serving on the Wrangell City Council and devoted many hours to the local Elks Lodge where he served as Treasurer and was a driving member to raise money for the Lodge.

He was an avid gardener and had a large garden up the Stikine River at his cabin and was happiest when he could share his crop with his friends. He also enjoyed taking his boat out around the Island especially during the Fishing Derby and would buy raffle tickets from anyone that tried to sell him one.

He was the founder of the Close-Up program in the Wrangell High School and was

paramount in picking scholarship applicants for the Elks every year.

Bob had a special place in his heart for dogs of all breeds but especially black labs. Any dog that he owned lived a royal life and he always had a treat for any dog he met.

He took pride in teaching Tiffany Merritt the secrets to his

recipes and telling her all his life stories. He loved being a mentor in her life.

"Uncle Bob" is survived by his sister, Nancy Ellerman (Wayne) and many nieces and nephews as well as many in Wrangell who held him close to their hearts.

Due to the pandemic, a memorial will be held later.

Holiday Schedule

Thursday, December 24

Open 9a-12p

Friday, December 25

Closed

New Year Week Schedule

Open Normal hours except
CLOSED Friday, Jan. 1



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



Joy of Christmas

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Evergreen Elementary School choir, kindergarten through 5th grade, performing "Joy of Christmas" during the district's virtual Christmas concert. (Top row, from the left): Lynnea Harrison, Brogan Booker, Alyssa Roundtree, Everett Edens, Silje Morse. (Middle row): Malachai Harrison, Lilly Edens, Angus Booker, Clara Carney, Charlie Nelson. (Bottom row): Mariah Carney, Kailee Roundtree, Teacher Tasha Morse, Thorin Booker, and Delilah Clark.

Christmas concert goes virtual

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

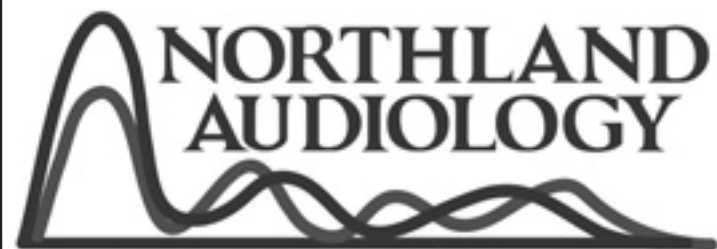
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot when it comes to day-to-day life, especially at the Wrangell School District. Some things remain the same, however, even if they look different.

Last Wednesday, Dec. 16, the district held its annual Christmas concert. The concert brought together students from Evergreen Elementary, Stikine Middle School, and Wrangell High School to perform songs and music for the holiday season. What was different this year was that the concert was not live, but instead hosted virtually on the district's YouTube channel.

Music Teacher Tasha Morse began the video by talking about how unique 2020 has been for both teachers and students. They have faced a variety of challenges this year, she said, from wearing specialized masks when playing music to operating in different "pods" of students to limit possible spread of COVID-19. Rather than bring everyone together for an in-person concert this year, Morse said, they decided on a virtual concert. This meant she got to dive into learning about video editing, which she said was a very educational experience for her.

"It's not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but I feel that very few things in the year 2020 are," Morse said. "What we do hope you get from watching our video tonight is a sense of joy, a sense of students who are working hard to keep working on their craft, and overall just a good feeling for kicking off the holiday season. Thank you so much for taking some time out of your busy schedules to watch our video and to support the students here in our school. We sincerely appreciate it, and we really hope that you enjoy what we've put together."

The concert can be found on YouTube on the district's channel, "WPSD.us Streaming".



& Hearing Services

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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

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

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

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

Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers Ron & Anne Loesch

News Editors..... Caleb Vierkant

..... Brian Varela

Front Office Trisha Schwartz

Production Ola Richards

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

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Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1.50

Local.....\$46

Other Alaska.....\$62

2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$70

First Class.....\$102



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Holiday market

Paula Rak at her booth during last Saturday's holiday market, selling jewelry and custom-made paddles.

Assembly approves final CARES Act spending plan

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met last Friday afternoon, Dec. 18, for a special meeting. They convened to approve of a final spending plan for the city's remaining CARES Act funding before the close of 2020.

Wrangell, and many other communities, received government funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic under the CARES Act. The borough received approximately \$3.85 million to use in response to the pandemic near the beginning of last summer. Wrangell has used this funding for a variety of items and other costs. For example, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen, almost \$1 million was used for community grants. A new ambulance was

also purchased for a little over \$205,000. Other expenses the city used CARES Act funding for include a lease on the Sourdough Lodge to use as an isolation site, and wage reimbursements for city employees whose time was spent on COVID-related items, among other items.

According to the meeting's agenda packet, estimating all spent and soon-to-be spent funds, only \$310,559.64 in CARES Act funding remains. This money has to be spent by the end of the year. The city had a variety of spending requests, totaling to \$383,033. Two of the big spending items include SCBAs for roughly \$302,000, and a backup generator for the airport runway lights for roughly \$47,000.

"The SCBAs are the breathing apparatus for the Fire Department and Water/WW Departments that are in need of replacement due to obsolescence," the agenda packet reads. "There is specific language in the Act authorizing use of funds on SCBA's. This eligible expense offsets a future expense that would have to be borne by the Borough. The airport generator provides emergency back-up power for the runway lights. This is necessary as we have already experienced a power failure while on generators with COVID-related medivacs taking place. This also solves a long-standing issue for the community."

Other items on the list of spending requests include \$20,000 for a new server for the police department, \$3,000 for resuscitation training equipment for the parks and recreation department, \$10,000 for a new garage door opener for the fire department, and \$2,000 for COVID-related legal assistance.

After further discussion, this item was approved by the assembly. The assembly also approved of a resolution amending their budget, allowing for the transfer of up to \$15,000 from general fund reserves to the COVID-19 pandemic fund to cover pandemic-related expenses from Dec. 31 to Jan. 31, 2021. According to the agenda packet, this money will help cover the average monthly expenses for the alternate isolation site, wages, benefits, and expense reimbursements for EOC staff, estimated legal fees, and contingency money. Only the amount needed will be transferred, the packet reads, up to the \$15,000 limit.

The assembly was also planning to approve of a memorandum of understanding with the IBEW to adopt a biweekly payroll for next year, and to amend the borough's personnel policies to reflect this change. However, these items were removed from the agenda. According to Assembly Member David Powell, the union was unable to come to an agreement on the proposed change as of the meeting.



Flu season is here.

Staying healthy through the flu season is more important than ever with the current pandemic. The vaccine is your best protection against the flu.

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healthy is here.

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Alaska coastal communities will get economic boost in 2021

Alaska coastal communities will get a bit of an economic boost in 2021 from increased catches of Pacific cod. The stock, which crashed after a multi-year heat wave starting in 2014 wiped out several year classes, appears to be rebounding throughout the Gulf of Alaska.

No cod fishery occurred at all this year in federally managed waters (from three to 200 miles out) where the bulk of the harvest is taken, and a catch of under six million pounds was allowed in state managed waters (out to three miles).

For 2021, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council set the federal cod catch at just over 38 million pounds and nearly 11.7 million pounds for the state. While it's a bump up, managers caution that the stock remains very low.

"The state waters GHs (guideline harvest levels) have gone up about two and half times since last year. While it's good, we are still at a very low level of abundance, so that should be kept in mind," said Nat Nichols, area groundfish manager for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game at Kodiak.

"The model for at least the last year or two have predicted that 2020 would be the low point in abundance and then, based on assumptions of average natural mortality and average recruitment, the stock would begin rebounding beginning in 2021. The model and other indices are still seeing rebounds in cod numbers, not large dramatic rebounds, but steady incremental growth,

which is good," he added.

One reason cod numbers have ticked up, Nichols said, is because of the fishery reductions this year.

"Just by the function of leaving many, many thousands of tons of cod in the water you get more cod in the assessment," he said.

The cod fishery in state waters is carved up based on the federal harvest guidelines for five regions: Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Chignik, Prince William Sound and the South Alaska Peninsula.

That's then broken up into shares for different fishing gears.

"For the most part, it's pot and jig gear with pot gear generally taking more. The one exception is Prince William Sound where they have a longline fishery," Nichols said, adding that each fishery has opening dates ranging from January 1 into March.

Due to the Covid pandemic, fishery managers are making efforts to streamline the process of registering for the cod fishery. Nichols encourages fishermen to contact the Kodiak ADF&G office with any questions. (907-486-1840)

More fishing updates for 2021 - In the Bering Sea, P-cod catches took a 21 percent cut to 245 million pounds. Likewise, the Bering Sea pollock catch for next year was reduced by 3.5% to three billion pounds. Gulf pollock catches were cut by 2.4% to about 250 million pounds.

Other forecasts call for Southeast Alaska's pink salmon har-

vest next summer to be "average" at 28 million fish. Kodiak's pink catch is pegged at a strong 22.5 million and an "excellent" catch of nearly 13 million humpies is projected at the South Alaska Peninsula.

Alaska's largest herring fishery at Togiak in Bristol Bay is projected to produce a harvest of 47,348 tons, the highest since 1993. The fish are valued for their roe and it remains to be seen if there will be any buyers, as the product goes to a single market, Japan, where low interest has seen prices plummet to as little as \$50 per ton.

Meanwhile, trollers at Southeast Alaska are still out on the water pulling up Chinook salmon. Beam trawl and pot shrimping continues at the Panhandle, along with diving for sea cucumbers (1.7 million pounds) and geoduck clams.

Crabbing continues in the Bering Sea for golden kings and Tanners. Red king crab is about a wrap and fishing for snow crab will get underway next month.

The deadline for halibut regulatory proposals for 2021 is December 26. The International Pacific Halibut Commission will set catch limits when it meets virtually the week of January 25.

The deadline for fishermen to apply for trade relief is extended to January 15. That's the program through USDA that pays extra poundage to make up for losses from ongoing trade disputes.

More trade troubles - More trade inequities will bite into

Alaska salmon, crab and other seafood in the coming year. That's alongside the ongoing 38 percent average tariff paid for most U.S. seafood exported to China.

The newest hit is a 25 to 35 percent tariff imposed last month on \$4 billion of U.S. goods, including salmon, that goes to the 27 countries that comprise the European Union. The dispute stems from a spat over U.S. subsidies being paid to Boeing and competing European Airbus aircraft.

"It is going to have an effect on our ability to get wild salmon into the European Union. With that kind of tariff, it's going to make it pretty darn tough," said Allen Kimball, head of global and domestic sales for Trident Seafoods.

In 2019, Alaska exported over \$30.4 million in frozen salmon fillets to the EU, said Dan Lesh, fisheries economist with the McKinley Research Group.

"Of that, \$13.2 million went to the United Kingdom, which is withdrawing from the European Union and announced it will not include the punitive tariff," Lesh said.

"Smoked salmon exports also are subject to the additional tariff, but that is a minor export product to the EU27 - \$341,000 in 2019, he added. "Those are the only two Alaska seafood products subject to additional tariffs under this Boeing/AirBus dispute."

Also, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced that its food embargo on U.S.

goods will be extended through 2021, according to the Moscow Times.

Russia stopped buying all foods from the U.S. and many other countries in 2014 over protests to its invasion of Ukraine. Since then, U.S. purchases of Russian seafood have continued to grow.

In 2019, Russia exported over 80 million pounds of seafood to the U.S. valued at nearly \$700 million. Undercurrent News reports that is a 7.4% increase in volume and a nearly 20% increase in value over 2018. Most of the seafood is Russian-caught red king crab, snow crab and sockeye salmon.

According to U.S. trade data, so far this year Russia has sent 1.3 million pounds of frozen red king crab to the U.S. valued at \$268 million, 3.7 million pounds of frozen snow crab valued at over \$282 million and over one million pounds of sockeye salmon worth \$3.4 million. All of the products enter the U.S. nearly duty free.

Meanwhile, SeafoodNews.com reports that Russian crabbers are upping the ante claiming they plan to catch almost 220 million pounds of mostly king and snow crab in 2021. By comparison, Alaska's Bering Sea catch for golden and red king crab, Tanners and snow crab for the 2020/21 season totals under 50 million pounds.

Fish give-backs - American Seafoods since 1997 has donated nearly \$2 million to over 100

Continued on page 7

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Brian Merritt has been appointed executor of Bob Grant's Estate. All persons having claims against this estate need to contact Brian in writing at Box 401, Wrangell, AK 99929. Claims need to be submitted within two months or be forever barred.
Published: December 17, 24 and 31, 2020

JOB OPENINGS

NMS is hiring for full-time and part-time positions at SEARHC Hospital to support the Wrangell dining services team. Seeking to hire immediately for the following opportunities:

- SOUS CHEF (\$20/hr and up DOE)
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City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
INVITATION TO BID
Water Mains Replacement

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska is accepting sealed bids for the construction of the **Water Mains Replacement** project. WORK consists of furnishing and installing approximately 900 feet of 6" HDPE water line, 500 feet of 8" HDPE and 500 feet of 12" HDPE water line in Wrangell, Alaska. Work also includes installation of 28 new water services varying in size between 1" and 4" diameter.

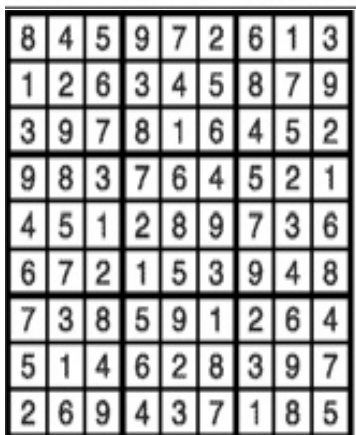
Sealed bids will be accepted by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:00 PM prevailing time on January 14, 2021 and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The BOROUGH reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the BOROUGH.

The City and Borough of Wrangell
Lisa Von Barga, Borough Manager
Publish: December 24, 31 2020 and January 7, 2021

Puzzle answers from Dec. 17 Edition



Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

Western Alaska communities to “make sure they benefit from the industry in their backyard.”

The company maintains a fleet of six vessels that fish primarily for Alaska Pollock in the Bering Sea and hake in the North Pacific.

“It started because we recognize that our livelihoods and what the company is trying to do is really based on cooperation from the local Alaska communities. And this is about us supporting those communities that are helping us do what we do,” said Margery Schelling, vice president of marketing, strategy and innovation.

“It can be for food and fresh produce for shelter residents, safety equipment, or starting a food bank. We did a supportive pet companion program for senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities, even playground equipment. It’s really a grassroots program across Western Alaska supporting the needs of the community, as are recommended by the community,” Shelling explained.

Calls for donations go out twice a year that each total \$45,000.

“As responsible citizens, supporting the well-being of Alaskan communities is a way of giving back. It’s as simple as that,” said American Seafoods president Inge Andreassen.

Another company, Alaskan Leader Fisheries, since 2009 has granted nearly \$600,000 to non-profit groups in Kodiak and Bristol Bay through its foundation. The company was founded in 2000 by six Kodiak fishing families who operate four freezer longliners, and was joined by the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) in 2007.

Grant recipients have included schools and educational programs, food banks, shelters,

Candy Cane Hunt

Scotty Curly, Keeleigh Solverson, and Kelowna Morelli participating in the Candy Cane Hunt along Volunteer Trail last Sunday.



PHOTOS BY CALEB VIERKANT/
WRANGELL SENTINEL



One of many candy canes hidden out in the forest during Wrangell Parks and Rec’s candy cane hunt last Sunday afternoon. There were 219 candy canes in all for people to find.



Some of the participants in last Sunday’s candy cane hunt along the Volunteer Park Trail: Hailey Bartlett, Ember Mathis, Maelie Freeman, Darryl Bartlett, and Daxton Mathis.

libraries, youth sports programs, museums, and recycling efforts.

“Our most important resource in rural Alaska is our people,” said Robin Samuelsen, CEO of BBEDC. “Many community efforts to provide the best

possible opportunities for our families require financial support that is often difficult to find. These Alaskan Leader Foundation grants help provide the hope and community interaction necessary in facing the challenge

of life in rural Alaska.”

Closer to shore, Sitka-based Alaskans Own has distributed over 533,000 donated seafood meals (302,000 pounds) to more than 100,000 needy families throughout Alaska and the Pa-

cific Northwest this year and plans to continue doing so.

The donation program, an offshoot of the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association, was initially launched in March to address the sharp rise in food insecurity among local families due to the Covid pandemic. The need was increased when dismal salmon runs to many regions left family freezers empty.

“We honestly didn’t intend to create a seafood donation program this year,” said Alaskans Own founder and ALFA director, Linda Behnken. “It just organically happened when we realized that many of our neighbors were struggling to feed their families nutritious protein and our local fishermen were struggling to get a fair price for their catch due to COVID-19.”

The mix of frozen/portioned salmon, halibut, rockfish and more is donated by too many fishermen, processors, and suppliers to mention. Ditto the number of individuals, businesses and community partners who stepped up to assist with distribution logistics, including the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska.

Alaskans Own is continuing its donations into 2021 and hopes to expand to more Alaskan communities. To help sustain the program, it’s offering a special Holiday Gift Box featuring a variety of local Sitka products. Check it out at www.alaskansown.com.



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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

One of the boats participating in last Sunday's Christmas boat parade, the New Freedom.

Boat parade powers forward despite bad weather

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Despite cold weather and choppy water, Wrangell's annual holiday boat parade took place Sunday night. The Doc Davenport Christmas Boat parade has been a local tradition for decades, going back to the 1970s. Three boats participated in the parade this year, the same number as the 2019 parade. The boats came out to City Dock, bobbing in the rough water, all lit up with Christmas lights. Despite the cold and the rain, the parade drew a good crowd of people to watch the boats and the fireworks.

"Thank you to all the Boaters who showed up for the Boat parade," said Stephanie Cook, with the chamber of commerce, in a Facebook message. "The weather was a little rough but we appreciate you getting out there and making it happen! We hope the community enjoyed the show and we look forward to next year. We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas!"

Erosion causes landslide at Public Works in Petersburg

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - Water from this month's heavy rainfall ripped at deformities in a culvert that runs underneath the Public Works yard, opening up a portion of the pipe and causing a landslide near Hammer Slough.

The culvert diverts water from a creek that runs parallel to Kisen St. to Hammer Slough. When 6.63 inches of rain fell over the town on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, water in the creek became backed up as the culvert struggled under the volume of water, said Public Works Director Chris Cotta. The gushing water grabbed at defects in the culvert. One of those defects opened up and water started gushing into the earth.

"It was such a massive amount of water that came down that one night," said Cotta. "That covert filled up, so if there's an edge hanging down, it's going to grab that edge."

Erosion in the earth eventually led to a landslide. Crews set to work moving the dirt and cutting away about 40 feet of damaged culvert that had been exposed. Cotta said the damage extends further into the culvert, though on the opposite end of the culvert where the creek feeds into it is in good condition.

The whole culvert needs to be excavated and replaced, said Cotta. Although his staff can excavate the pipe themselves, Cotta said the borough will



PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Gushing water in a culvert underneath the Public Works lot caused a landslide earlier this month on the abutment next to Hammer Slough.

likely contract someone to excavate the culvert due to the sheer volume of dirt that has to be moved.

Mixed in with the dirt from the landslide were pieces of metallic debris and car parts. Cotta said when the abatement was made about 40 to 50 years ago, city staff must have used garbage to help fill up space. Public Works staff have been regularly patrolling the slough for any garbage that may have originated from the landslide. No oil had been found in the debris from the landslide.

Cotta said he doesn't anticipate another landslide occurring before the culvert can be replaced later this spring. The culvert had always managed

storms common to Southeast Alaska without any problems.

"As long as we don't get an-

other rain event like we had, I think we'll be fine until the spring," said Cotta.

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