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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CANOE LAGOON OYSTERS

Brian Herman cleans the harvest at Canoe Lagoon Oysters' operation at Blashke Islands.

Oyster farm part of a growth industry

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel writer

Aquatic farming in Alaska could be a big industry, and completely sustainable.

That's according to Wrangell's Julie Decker, executive director of Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on research and development for the seafood industry.

Shellfish and seaweed farming are the only types of aquatic farming permitted in Alaska. Mariculture includes saltwater farming, differing from aquaculture which "farms" in freshwater.

Mariculture development, if managed properly, has a positive impact on the environment, as opposed to conventional farming on land, Decker said.

"It's a wonderful food source that doesn't need input in the sense of freshwater, feed or fertilizer: All those things that make the other food sources non-sustainable," Decker said.

Then-Gov. Bill Walker in 2016 established and appointed members of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force, which was reauthorized in 2018 by Gov. Mike Dunleavy to implement a plan for a \$100 million annual mariculture

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Voters will decide on school board, borough assembly

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell voters in Tuesday's election will decide on three borough assembly seats, three school board members and three port commission members.

Of the nine races, five are uncontested — unless a write-in candidate declares by Friday — and the other four present voters with a choice of candidates.

The polls will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Nolan Center.

People need to bring their state-issued voter ID card, said Kim Lane, borough clerk. If voters don't have their ID card, they will be allowed to cast their ballot if the election clerks recognize them by name or, if not, they can cast a questioned ballot that will be verified and then counted before the election results are certified, Lane said.

Residents also can vote early, coming to City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays through Monday.

Early voting is allowed for people who will be out of town on election day, otherwise busy, or simply "any reason at all," Lane said. "I have several people who don't want to be out on election day," risking any exposure to groups of people and possible COVID-19 infections.

There are four candidates running for two, three-year terms on the school board; the top two vote-getters in Tuesday's election will win the seats: Angela Allen, Alex Angerman, Brittani Robbins and Elizabeth Roundtree.

The other open seat on the five-member school board is a one-year term, with Julia Ostrander and Jessica Whitaker competing for the job.

None of the three school board members whose terms expire this year — Aaron Angerman, Cyni Crary and Patty Gilbert — are running for reelection.

Three seats are open on the borough assembly, with an uncontested race for two, three-year terms. Jim DeBord and Bob Dalrymple are the only two names on the ballot, unless a write-in declares by the deadline. Dalrymple currently serves on the

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Sentinel adds new reporter to staff

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Sarah Aslam is the newest addition to the Sentinel staff, starting work as a reporter in Wrangell on Sept. 20 after almost eight years in news in Orlando, Florida, with a stint in 2016 in Seward and Anchorage.

"I met Sarah when she was on vacation in Anchorage in July, and knew then she belonged in Alaska, not Florida," said Sentinel publisher Larry Persily.

Aslam will cover borough government and other news in Wrangell, joining editor Marc Lutz and office manager Amber Armstrong on the Sentinel staff.

"Wrangell deserves a newspaper that fully reports on the community, and the staff additions are part of that effort," said Persily, who took over ownership on Jan. 1.

"I thought I had left Alaska in the rearview mirror" after leaving an Anchorage television station in 2016, Aslam said. But after reading a tweet from an Alaska reporter about the Sentinel job opening this summer, she changed her view in the mirror. "This is completely unexpected."

She was born and raised in Maryland, in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., before going to college in Florida and graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 2013. She worked at several TV stations and print publications in Florida, with the break in 2016 to work at the Seward Journal weekly newspaper and Anchorage TV station KTUU.

"The air just smells so good," she said of her first impressions of Wrangell. "It was good not to feel like you're being boiled alive," commenting on the several days of 90-degree weather in

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Composting helps sustain local soil, cut down on landfill volume

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel writer

To some it may look like a

pile of dirt; to others it's a way to sustain agriculture and nurture the land.

The popularity of composting is catching on, giving growers a way to keep operations affordable and sustainable, and potentially helping the borough save on landfill costs.

Composting is the process of breaking down organic materials to be used in growing plants, providing needed nutrients and saving on irrigation. Composting runs hot and cold, literally. Passive or anaerobic composting, also called cold composting, takes longer to break down materials. Active or aerobic composting, also called hot composting, is much quicker, but requires more work on the part of the person managing it.

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The sign on the compost bin at the community garden tells people what items should not be added to the mix.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Thursday, Sept. 30: Cami Bakeberg, LeAnn Bryner, Rick Churchill, Trinity Nore, Kahlan Speers.

Friday, Oct. 1: Adalyn Angerman, Dean Bakeberg, Mark Cummings, Victoria Garcia, Georgia Lewis, Scott Phillips, Gretchen Powell, Fern Seimears, Peter Wilson.

Saturday, Oct. 2: Margie Bartels, Tristan Botsford, Alana Harrison, Kay Jabusch, Mariah Mork, Rory Prunella.

Sunday, Oct. 3: Jeremy Maxand, Brett Woodbury.

Monday, Oct. 4: Connor Dilg, Thane Wyatt Ellsworth, Finley Jane Filer, "Millee," Eva Roher, Bill Privett; Anniversary: K. Rick and Trish Kohrt.

Tuesday, Oct. 5: Tony Byford, Kari Massin, Gerrit Southland, Tara Stutz.

Wednesday, Oct. 6: Betty Newman, Becky Simpson, R. Lee Wiedersphohn.

Thursday, Oct. 7: Kirk Davidson, Dani Easterly, Jimmy Jabusch, Casey Blaze Nore, Ed Rilatos Jr.

Senior Center Menu

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

Friday, Oct. 1

Lasagna, peas and carrots, fruit cup

Monday, Oct. 4

Country pork stew, romaine radish salad, biscuit

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Roast beef, spinach, fruit slaw,
mashed potato with gravy

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Spaghetti with meat sauce, brussels sprouts, salad,
garlic bread

Thursday, Oct. 7

Baked salmon, peas and carrots, pickled beets,
scalloped potatoes

Please call the senior center at 874-2066 by 2 p.m. the day prior to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery.

The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Ferry Schedule

Northbound

Monday, Oct. 4

Kennicott, noon

Monday, Oct. 18

Kennicott, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14

Matanuska, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 10:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kennicott, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

*All times listed are scheduled departure times.
Call the terminal at 874-2021 for information
or call 874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.*



TIDES September 30-October 6

	High Tides		Low Tides		AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft				
Sept. 30	09:31	11.0	09:03	12.3	02:13	3.5	02:27	7.0
Oct. 1	10:31	12.2	10:12	13.3	03:35	2.9	03:56	6.1
Oct. 2	11:16	13.5	11:05	14.6	04:38	1.8	04:57	4.6
Oct. 3	11:53	14.9	11:51	15.8	05:24	0.6	05:42	2.8
Oct. 4	12:28	16.2	06:03	-0.3	06:22	1.1
Oct. 5	00:34	16.7	01:00	17.3	06:39	-0.8	06:59	-0.5
Oct. 6	01:15	17.4	01:33	18.1	07:13	-1.2	07:36	-1.8

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

NOLAN CENTER Community Market this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out the locally grown and handcrafted items.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER - No movie this weekend. Next weekend: "Cry Macho."

WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022 community birthday scholarship calendar fundraiser is underway. \$1 per listing for an anniversary, birthday, event, in memory of, or military service. All proceeds go to scholarships for Wrangell High School graduates. Deadline is Friday. Call 874-3901.

WRANGELL PARKS AND REC youth basketball registration is now open for grades K-5. Season begins Monday and will be held in the community center gym. Volunteers are still needed. Register online or call Parks and Recreation at 874-2444.

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

BRAVE is hosting its fourth annual Family Resilience Fair noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Nolan Center. Learn how your community can help your family. BRAVE is closely watching the Wrangell COVID-19 surge and will make safety decisions dependent on case counts closer to the fair date. BRAVE.Wrangell@gmail.com or 907-204-0530.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301. Or go to the Sentinel website, click on the Calendar tab, and submit your entry online.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

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

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

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

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

Open swim, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

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

Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:

6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

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

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

Sept. 29, 1921

After Oct. 1, the price of milk will be reduced to 20 cents a quart delivered to regular customers. There will be no reduction in the price of milk sold from Coulter's meat market. Furthermore, those of our friends who are not regular customers, and who from time to time hail the milk wagon to buy milk, will not receive the benefit of the reduced price, which is to regular customers only.

Sept. 27, 1946

The first landline connection between Alaska's capital, Juneau, and the outside world became a reality this week as Alaska Communications System completed installation of a cable from Skagway to Juneau and officially opened the circuit yesterday. The new connection affords landline telephone service to Fairbanks, Anchorage and other Interior

points as well as to the states via the line installed by the Army during the war along the Alaska military highway to Edmonton, Alberta, and thence to the states.

Oct. 1, 1971

Mayor Don House participated Sunday at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Wrangell Church of God, which plans a building at Zimovia Highway and Wrangell East Road. About 50 persons attended the rites and watched as House and the Rev. Donald Unsell turned the first shovel of earth for the project. Onlookers sang "Rock of Ages," and heard a reading from the scriptures and from Psalms. The groundbreaking followed services at the church, which is meeting temporarily at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, near the building site. The Rev. Unsell said a two-unit church complex is planned. The first building to go up will be designed as an educational center but will have an 80-seat sanctuary initially as well as educational spaces. Later, he said, a sanctuary with capacity for 144 worshippers will be constructed alongside the first building. The Rev. Unsell brought his family here last September from Houston to take over pastorship of the newly organized church.

were served breakfast in their room this morning. It was a really beautiful day, and Cinda offered to take any who would like to go on a picnic. Most were very enthused about a day out in the fresh air. Maudie and Jack, Martha Jager, Stormy and I, Jane and, of course, Cinda to drive the van, made plans for a dutch treat lunch and a large bottle of Pepsi for each one (the first time I had more Pepsi than I could drink), as well as coffee which Jack really enjoyed. We sat at a long table with benches — with room for all of us. Lots of green grass, sunshine and our delicious lunches. Cinda took care of Stormy and Maudie, who both enjoyed the picnic, and I doubt if either one had room for dinner that evening. Jane finished first and went back early. What really stood out that day was how everyone enjoyed their lunch and all tried to help each other in any way they could think of, while hoping Cinda will take us out again — though we know the snow will be here soon. Written by Clara Benjamin, of the long-term care facility.

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Sept. 30	6:51a	6:25p	11:34h
Oct. 1	6:53a	6:23p	11:29h
Oct. 2	6:55a	6:20p	11:24h
Oct. 3	6:57a	6:17p	11:19h
Oct. 4	6:59a	6:15p	11:15h
Oct. 5	7:01a	6:12p	11:10h
Oct. 6	7:03a	6:09p	11:05h

Call the Sentinel at 907 874 2301

Oct. 3, 1996

All of the patients of long-term care at Wrangell Hospital

Oyster farm

Continued from page 1
industry in 20 years.

That would include oysters, seaweed, geoduck, mussels and sea cucumbers.

Making their contribution to that 20-year plan, Brian and Kristy Herman purchased Canoe Lagoon Oysters in March 2020. The farm is 30 miles from Wrangell by boat on Blashke Islands, off the northeast end of Prince of Wales Island.

Brian is from Pennsylvania, Kristy is from Arizona. They split their time between Alaska and Arizona. The Hermans had a commercial gillnet operation in Kenai, but left salmon fishing and turned to oysters in pursuit of a more stable industry.

Brian Herman said they moved the base of operations to Wrangell when they purchased the oyster farm. As the third owner of the operation, which was established in 1990, Herman said they made a major investment to change the previous method of farming from lantern nets to a float-bag system.

The float bag keeps the oysters in the most nutrient-rich environment, and allows the farm to turn the bags weekly with much less effort to get a meaty, deep-cupped oyster. The

new system shortens the length of time it takes to get an oyster to market size, Herman said.

The Hermans have invested \$300,000 in the farm. About half of that investment went into boats.

The upgrades were fairly costly, but Herman said the payoff is already showing up. "We're just getting to the point where we are selling at volumes that are actually profitable," he said.

The farm didn't make any money the first year. He said they were establishing themselves in the market, trying out oysters to see which species would stick, and selling 50 dozen a week.

The farm now is selling 200 dozen oysters a week. Herman said they expect the operation will take in \$200,000 a year in gross revenue starting next July, with a goal of selling 400 dozen oysters a week.

Herman said they have been permitted to add sugar kelp farming at Canoe Lagoon Oysters. He's going to work a test plot because there is naturally occurring sugar kelp in the waters at the site. "We won't know until we try."

Herman said he was able to find a good customer in LGO Hospitality, a Phoenix-based

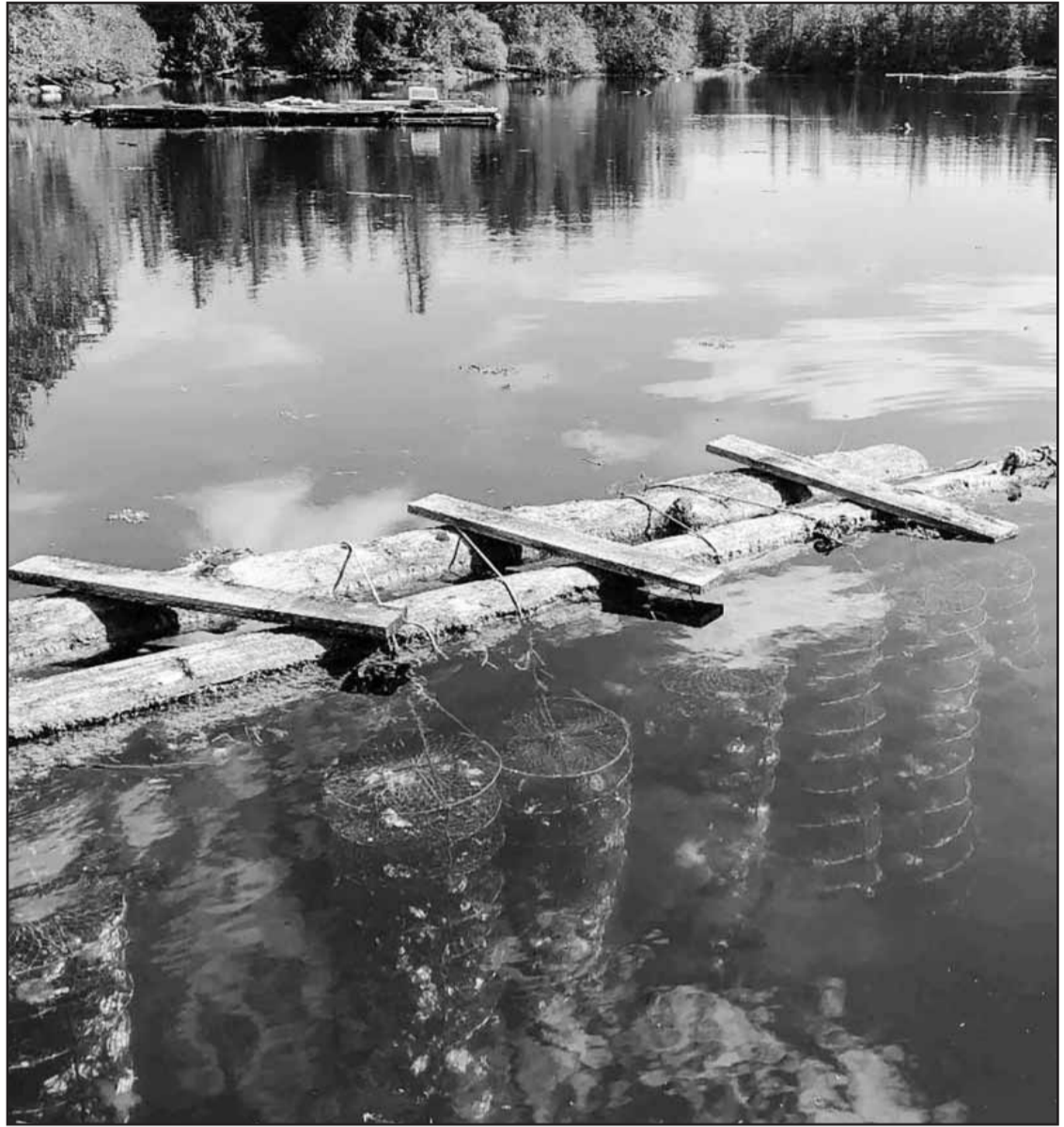


PHOTO COURTESY OF CANOE LAGOON OYSTERS

Oysters growing in the old system called lantern nets, which hang from floating logs at Canoe Lagoon Oysters. The business has been systematically replacing the lantern nets with a float-bag system.

Leonard Charles Angerman

Born June 12, 1935
Died September 22, 2021

Services will be October 8
11 a.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church

restaurant group that is going to buy the majority of the farm's oysters.

They plan to continue investing in Wrangell, envisioning four full-time employees between the farm and in Wrangell. The business runs its oysters by boat to Wrangell, then ships out the boxes on Alaska Airlines. "Even though our farm isn't located in Wrangell, by basing out of Wrangell we're providing economic support to the town," Herman said.

And that ties into Decker's findings, as well. About 70% of what oyster farmers earn is spent within a 50-mile radius of their operations, Decker said.

In addition to turning mari-

culture production into foods — such as kelp that is made into salsas and other products by Juneau-based Barnacle Foods, Ketchikan-based Foraged & Found, and Seagrove Kelp Co. in Craig — tourism is another economic opportunity, Decker said. A farm in Ketchikan recently built a floating oyster bar and started working with cruise ships to tour the growing operation.

Decker said lease applications for aquatic farming sites are on the rise, dampened only by the pandemic. Looking at 2016, the state approved 8 acres. After the task force was established, that number leapt to 636 acres the in 2017.

And now, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources is reviewing 116 applications for a total of 2,940 acres. That includes new applications and expansions to existing opera-

tions.

Taking products Americans already use and incorporating seaweed into them with kelp salsa, noodles and barbecue sauce appears to be the recipe for success, Decker said. It accounts for Americans' different taste sensibility than Asians, who have a long history with dried seaweed. "That to me is the opportunity," Decker said.

Developing anything new is not easy, Decker said. That's a challenge facing the sustainable aquatic farming industry. Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation is working to get more equipment into the hands of farmers to do sampling at sites, and invest in research and development.

Additionally, the University of Alaska Southeast is sponsoring a mariculture conference in Juneau from Feb. 22-24. Students can attend for free.



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

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

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

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

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

#alaskamarinehighway

*Conditions apply. Review the job posting for details.

Election

Continued from page 1

assembly; DeBord previously served as an assembly member but did not seek reelection in 2019.

There is a ballot contest for one year of an unexpired term on the assembly between Don McConachie Sr. and David Powell. McConachie previously served on the assembly, and Powell is currently a member.

Incumbent Terry Courson is not seeking reelection.

There are three seats on the port commission up for election, and all are uncontested. Incumbent Frank Roppel is running for a one-year term, and incumbent John Martin and newcomer Chris Bunes are running for the two open three-year terms.

Port commission member Brian Merritt is not seeking reelection.

This year's ballot is one page; there are no bond issues or ballot propositions to decide.

Preliminary voting results will be announced after the polls close election night, Lane said, with the canvass board to meet Oct. 7 in assembly chambers to count questioned and absentee votes and then certify the final results.

The borough will count write-ins only if individuals declare their candidacy by the close of business Friday, Lane said. Other

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Governor can do more than ‘seriously consider’

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

It was the same day that Gov. Mike Dunleavy announced the state would help hospitals cope with record numbers of COVID-19 patients by assisting with decisions to ration care, and the same day that the state’s chief medical officer, Dr. Anne Zink, said Alaska is “at the worst place in the pandemic that we’ve had this entire time.”

It was the same day that the governor announced Alaska would spend \$87 million to bring in out-of-state medical workers to help relieve pressure on overwhelmed hospital staff.

And it was the same day Alaska set a record for the number of new COVID-19 infections — until that record was broken the next day, and the next day after that.

“This virus is real,” Dunleavy said that day, Sept. 22. “It’s causing more infections, it’s causing more people to go to the hospitals, it’s causing more deaths. This is a fact.”

All factually correct, but he left out a few more facts:

Most Alaskans hospitalized with COVID are unvaccinated. The state health department reported that vaccinated individuals are eight times more likely to avoid hospitalization than Alaskans who have shunned the shots.

Most of the recent deaths are among the unvaccinated. As of Tuesday, the death toll among Alaskans and visitors to the state was at 542, equal to almost 25% of those hospitalized during the pandemic.

Alaska is in the bottom third of states for vaccination rates. The national average is more than a dozen percentage points above Alaska’s anemically unhealthy rate of 63% of eligible Alaskans with at least their first dose.

Considering all those facts, the strongest thing

our governor could say about vaccines on Sept. 22 was pretty weak: “We’re going to continue to ask the people of Alaska to seriously consider getting a vaccination that’s readily available.” Dunleavy a week earlier was a little better: “I strongly urge folks to get a vaccine. I strongly urge them to do that.”

Dunleavy should seriously consider stepping up his urging. He should bluntly tell vaccinated Alaskans that they stand a much greater chance of getting sick, checking into a hospital and dying because of their reluctance to get vaccinated.

He should seriously and urgently tell Alaskans that more than 80% of the people hospitalized for COVID in August were unvaccinated, and that 85% of the patients in intensive care were unvaccinated.

He should tell people that Alaska last week had the highest per-capita rate of new cases among the 50 states. Not the “We’re No. 1” chant to be proud of.

And he should tell his constituents that the vaccines are safe and effective, and reviewed and approved by multiple levels of respected, skilled health care professionals.

Or the governor could continue to dance on the point of a needle, telling Alaskans to “seriously consider” getting vaccinated to protect themselves, their families and friends, while with the other hand, the one not holding the needle, telling people no way does he in any way support government mandating much of anything.

One message is about public health. The other message is about politics.

The governor should more strenuously push for Alaskans to get vaccinated. He doesn’t have to stand on his head while delivering the message, but some stomping his feet, pounding the table and raising his voice might help.

EDITORIAL

Wrangell can do better at filling in the ovals

Filling out an election ballot isn’t very hard. Ink in the ovals, being careful to stay within the lines, and then turn in the single-sided piece of stiff paper for counting.

It’s not much to ask of residents once a year.

Wrangell holds its municipal elections next Tuesday. And while several races are uncontested, three school board seats and a borough assembly seat will be decided by voters. This is a chance for residents to have a say in the direction of the borough and the school district, which combined spend more than \$10 million a year in public funds providing services and education for the community.

That should be reason enough for people to cast a ballot. But Wrangell is coming up short on voter turnout. Maybe it’s apathy, maybe last year it was COVID-19, maybe it’s lack of interest in the candidates or the issues.

Maybe none of those are really good excuses, and this would be a good year to boost participation at the polls. The borough faces several important issues: The need, and the high cost, of rebuilding the rot-damaged public safety building; deciding the future use of the former hospital building; and finding money to pay for needed improvements to the community’s water system. The school district is working to reverse last year’s steep drop in enrollment.

While voters were engaged in last year’s presidential election, with 732 votes cast in Wrangell, the number of ballots marked up for municipal elections has come up far short of that number. Just 483 residents voted in last year’s municipal election, and 406 in 2019. In a community of close to 2,000 residents old enough to vote, those low numbers are nothing to be proud about.

The polls are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday at the Nolan Center. But if it’s easier or fits your schedule better to vote before next Tuesday, you can come to City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. today, Friday or Monday to cast your ballot.

If you’re undecided who to vote for, the Sentinel published candidate profiles last week and in today’s newspaper. Radio station KSTK also broadcast candidate interviews, which are available online (as are the Sentinel profiles).

If you missed last week’s Sentinel with its candidate interviews and want to catch up in print, rather than online, just stop by the office and we’ll give you a free copy of last week’s paper. Anything we can do to help boost turnout.

Now it’s up to you.

— Wrangell Sentinel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A bigger dividend creates problems

Earlier this month, the Alaska Legislature gaveled out of its third special session. During the special session, we discussed the recommendations of the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan Working Group, weighed the merits of a COVID-19 bill, and passed an \$1,100 dividend.

We also considered Senate Bill 3006, a health care bill aimed at providing temporary telehealth and flexible background checks for our hospitals. However, after additional amendments drew concerns from health care providers, the bill did not pass. As our communities fight against this current surge of cases, please make decisions that will benefit your health and the health of your neighbors.

The Legislature’s primary win of this session was the passage of an \$1,100 dividend. This is the second time this year that we have passed a dividend of that amount. When we passed it in July, Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed it. He did not veto this September dividend amount, and dividends should be distributed mid-October.

Dunleavy has called us into a fourth special session to begin early October. His goal is for the Legislature to agree to overdrawing the Permanent Fund in order to pay out an additional \$1,250 (on top of the \$1,100) in PFD payments.

While everyone in the Legislature fully understands that there are many Alaskans who are economically struggling right now, there are long term negative impacts of drawing an additional

\$850 million from the Permanent Fund. It would cost the Permanent Fund roughly \$60 million per year every year into the future in lost earnings if we were to overdraw the additional dividend amount now.

Spending the additional money now would also create a greater likelihood that the Legislature would have to adopt either a statewide sales tax and/or income tax.

Rep. Dan Ortiz
Ketchikan and Wrangell

Thank you to many for help with summer reading program

The public library would like to thank all of the individuals, businesses and organizations who donated prizes for the Summer Reading Program. We appreciate your continued support in assisting us by encouraging children to read during the summer and improve their reading skills.

We would also like to thank: First Bank, for the funds to purchase Rechargeable Hug Lights for all those who completed the program; Alaska Airlines, for the funds to purchase prizes; the City and Borough of Wrangell; Jeff Angerman for his ongoing support; and the Friends of the Library for the funds to purchase prizes.

Thank you again for making the Summer Reading Program a great success!

Irene Ingle Public Library

New reporter



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Sarah Aslam

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Orlando before she boarded the Alaska Airlines flight north.

Aslam said she was drawn to stories as a child and wanted to grow up to be a storyteller. Her mother would take her and her sister to the library and she developed a curiosity about the world. “Journalism seemed a natural.”

She sees her role in Wrangell as reporting on stories that will inform the residents. “I want to do justice by the community.”

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Alaska starts assigning first 100 out-of-state health care workers

By SENTINEL STAFF AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first 100 out-of-state health care workers have started arriving in Alaska to help at medical facilities overwhelmed with record patient counts due to surging COVID-19 infections.

The state health department has contracted to bring on 470 health care workers, including about 300 nurses, to help the strained workforce. Alaska is using \$87 million in federal funds to cover the costs.

The first health care personnel reported to the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage for orientation on Tuesday.

The contractor said the remaining nurses, certified nursing assistants and other health care workers will arrive in Alaska within seven to 10 days on short 30-day contracts, which could be extended, Anchorage TV station KTUU reported Monday.

Officials expect to quickly assign the contract workers where they are needed most. The Department of Health and Social Services has met individually with representatives of hospitals and long-term care facilities from across Alaska to determine their needs, KTUU reported.

Half of the contract workers will be based in Anchorage under the current plan, said Heidi Hedberg, director of the state Division of Public Health. The overall contract is for 90 days, with renewal options, she said.

Alaska averaged 1,250 new COVID-19 cases a day Sept. 21 through Sept. 28, more than double the rate of the past two months and triple the rate of the past three months, with hospitals filling up their intensive-care beds in Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and

Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Wrangell officials reported nine new cases Thursday through Saturday last week, raising the September total to 14. All of the individuals were residents, and most had been close contacts of other infected individuals.

Alaska recently had the highest per-capita rate of new COVID-19 cases among the 50 states, according to a tracker by Johns Hopkins University, and among the highest rates of death, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The state's chief medical officer, Dr. Anne Zink, said she fought back tears during a Sept. 22 news conference outlining the latest state actions.

"I was really trying not to lose it. ... I'd hoped we'd never be at this point in the pandemic," she said in an interview afterward.

"I think this is what we've always been trying to avoid, was getting to the point where our hospital systems were being overwhelmed by the number of patients and starting to see that impact not only COVID patients but non-COVID patients as well," she said.

In an acknowledgment that some hospitals are unable to handle the workload without limiting services, Alaska officials last week outlined plans to help hospitals administer "crisis standards of care" amid the surge of new patients.

State Health Department Commissioner Adam Crum last week signed an addendum to a public health emergency order which he said provides guidance to hospitals, care providers and local health authorities if crisis standards of care are

needed.

The crisis standards provide guidelines for administering health care in extraordinary circumstances when there are insufficient staff and equipment resources to provide levels of care that patients would normally get.

Hospitals or health care facilities can contact the state health department if they think they need to implement crisis standards of care, and a 15-member committee will meet and help provide guidance on options, according to a department statement.

Alaska health officials will organize daily statewide meetings "to identify and prioritize transfers to available beds, treatments, and identify and mitigate gaps in the health care system."

Earlier this month, Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage implemented crisis standards. Dr. Kristen Solana Walkinshaw, the hospital's chief of staff, said the number of patients and level of care they needed had exceeded the hospital's resources.

At the same Sept. 22 news briefing with Dr. Zink, Gov. Mike Dunleavy asked Alaskans to "seriously consider" getting a vaccine. He said he hoped the message coming out of the news conference is that the state is "on top of this."

The state reported Tuesday that 63% of eligible Alaskans have received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, about a dozen percentage points below the nationwide average. Alaska ranks in the bottom third among states. The rate in Wrangell continues to hold steady at 66%, the lowest in Southeast.

COVID testing moves from airport to hospital

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The free testing station for individuals without COVID-19 symptoms but who what to get tested because they had recently traveled or just for peace of mind has moved from the airport to the hospital.

"It's more efficient here, we're able to utilize our staff and resources," said Alicia Gillen, COVID-19 screening manager for SEARHC, which operates the Wrangell Medical Center and ran the airport testing site.

It also will be warmer at the trailer in the far corner of the hospital parking lot than outside the airport terminal as winter weather sets in.

The testing site will be open noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, Gillen said. Appointments are not required.

SEARHC provides the free testing service under a contract with the state, which runs through Dec. 31, and which may be extended into 2022,

Individuals with COVID symptoms, or who have been exposed to someone who tested positive for the coronavirus, should call the Wrangell Medical Center at 874-7000 to schedule an appointment, she said.

Testing numbers at the airport site, which shut down after work on Sunday for Monday's move to the hospital, had been on the increase the past six weeks, Gillen said. Last week, staff administered 53 tests, almost half for high school sports teams.

After declining testing numbers in June and July, SEARHC administered almost 1,000 tests in Wrangell in August, when the community suffered its worst COVID outbreak of the pandemic with 48 new cases. That count represents testing both at the airport and the hospital.

SEARHC has administered more than 18,000 tests in Wrangell since March 2020. As of Monday, the community had reported 141 infections

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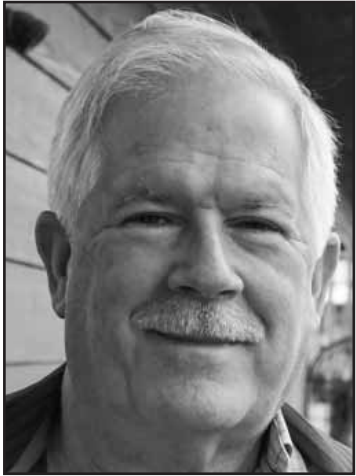
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Municipal election candidate profiles

This week's Sentinel features profiles of port commission candidates Frank Roppel, John Martin and Chris Bunes, and borough assembly candidate Bob Dalrymple. Assembly candidate Jim DeBord declined an interview request. The election is Tuesday.



Bob Dalrymple

Dalrymple wants to continue public service

By SENTINEL STAFF

Bob Dalrymple currently serves on the borough assembly, the second time he has been appointed to temporarily fill a vacant seat. He is running for a three-year term in Tuesday's municipal election.

Dalrymple and Jim DeBord are running for the two open three-year terms. Both will win unless a write-in candidate declares by Monday and gathers more votes than either of the two names on the ballot.

"My entire adult life I've been in public service," Dalrymple said. He serves on

the borough's economic development committee and worked 40 years in the U.S. Forest Service, mostly in Southeast Alaska, the last 10 years in Wrangell before he retired as district ranger in 2019.

Joining the assembly would allow him to continue his public service, Dalrymple said.

He learned during his two temporary appointments to the assembly just how complex some of the issues are for the borough. "That's one of the benefits to me now," he said, pointing to the experience he has gained from his time on the assem-

bly in 2020 and again this year.

Needed repairs and rebuild to the public safety building and the community's water reservoirs and water treatment system are a couple of those complex — and costly — issues, he said. "They're all beyond the (financial) means of Wrangell to deal with," and the borough is looking toward state and federal assistance.

His four decades with the Forest Service gave him an understanding of just how the federal bureaucracy works, which could help as the borough goes after federal funding, he said.

Roppel runs first time for the port commission

By SENTINEL STAFF

Frank Roppel has served the past year on the port commission, but this is the first time he is running for elected office. He was appointed last year to fill a vacant seat, and has decided to seek a one-term term in Tuesday's municipal election.

He is unopposed for the seat.

Roppel, 84, has a lot of experience in marine transportation and docks, working more than 40 years in the Southeast timber industry, including about 20 years as an executive with Alaska Pulp Corp. until his retirement in 2001.

He was in charge of constructing a dock at Klawock in 1980, and oversaw management of Alaska Pulp's two sawmill docks in Wrangell.

From his seat on the port commission, Roppel hopes to work toward attracting more boat owners to come to Wrangell for work on their vessels or just for pleasure. "We have an excellent marine service center and good docks," he said. "There are opportunities to attract visiting boats, not large ones but smaller ones."

In addition to spending money in town on maintenance and hardware, boaters fill up on fuel and stock up on food. "That might help generate extra revenue for the community," he said.

Roppel also cited his experience in public finance, having served 20 years on the state-owned Alaska Housing Finance Corp. board of directors.



Frank Roppel

Martin says marine service facility a big draw for Wrangell

By SENTINEL STAFF

John Martin's first watercraft "would have been the canoe I got when I was 13." Now 72 years old, he has had "a number of boats" and a number of years on boards and councils in the community.

Martin is seeking his third term on the port commission in Tuesday's municipal election. He also has served on the WCA tribal council, the hospital board, and "I did a tour on the museum board."

Martin is unopposed for a three-year term on the port commission. He and Chris Bunes are the only two declared candidates whose names will be on the ballot for the two seats.

"Anything that happens on the water is interesting," said Martin, who, as a 25 year old, paddled with a group from Wrangell to Seattle in 43 days. "We did 20 miles or 10 hours, whatever came first."

When not on the water, Martin was in the classroom. He retired after 25 years as a teacher in Wrangell schools, kindergarten through middle school.

He also thinks long term when it comes to the port and harbors. "If we could get in the habit of setting a little money away" to meet maintenance and improvement needs. "You're always going to be looking for money."

Maintenance is nonstop, he said. "Everything is just waiting to sink," commenting that new floats are needed at the Inner Harbor and Reliance.

Unlike harbor maintenance, which is an expense, boat maintenance can be an economic plus for the community, Martin said. "We're so fortunate to have the Wrangell marine service facility" which provides repair and maintenance services for commercial and recreational boats — in particular, drawing in boats from out of town for work by Wrangell's skilled workforce.

In addition to overseeing the service facility, the port commission sets rates for the harbors, which Martin said Wrangell works to keep competitive with other communities. "We've always thought our rates are in the middle, but our services are above that."



John Martin

Bunes wants to see more boats using the community's services

By SENTINEL STAFF

Chris Bunes describes herself as a "self-propelled boater" — a kayaker and canoer — but that does not diminish her interest in providing services for motorized boaters and working to attract more of them to visit Wrangell.

Bunes is running for a three-year term on the port commission in Tuesday's municipal election. She and incumbent John Martin are the only candidates on the ballot for the two three-year terms.

"I'd love to see more folks from other communities" moor their boats in Wrangell or visit the community, Bunes said, adding that the harbors have capacity to handle more visitors and vessels.

She built a floathouse in Wrangell in 2008, then after a couple of years went back to college to earn her master's degree in environmental education and communications. She has been renting out the floathouse for short-term guests, enjoying the chance to meet fishermen and people from all over the world.

Bunes sees floathouses as one of several options for helping Wrangell to add more housing in the community — an issue important to her. She and her sister, Stephanie Hatton, started a business last year, Stik Built Homes, to see what they could do to improve the availability of housing in town.

They have bought a piece of vacant property and also a foreclosure home in their quest to help bring new housing stock to Wrangell.

The sisters are designing a generic set of plans for a floathouse, and Bunes has been studying harbor ordinances in Wrangell and elsewhere, learning the rules — and helping to prepare her for running to serve on the port commission.

Bunes serves on the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau board, and until recently served on the board of the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority, comprised of seven communities working together on solid waste management. She also is a member of the Wrangell Fire Department.



Chris Bunes



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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kim Wickman, IGAP Tech with the Wrangell Cooperative Association, explains the process of adding "browns" to the "greens" in the community garden compost bin.

Composting

Continued from page 1

Both styles are used in Wrangell.

At the community garden, located just south of Heritage Harbor behind the cemetery, a cold compost box is set up. People can bring their organic

waste — called "greens" — such as banana peels, uneaten fruits and vegetables and coffee grounds, and add them to the existing pile. After that, a small layer of "browns" — dead leaves, straw, cardboard, newspapers, for example —

are added.

Kim Wickman, IGAP technician with the Wrangell Cooperative Association, said the community garden compost effort came out of a 2019 study.

"We went through and worked with 10 different households. We collected their garbage for them, and we waited," she said. "At the end of this study, we discovered that 50% of Wrangell's solid waste is compostable."

According to Tom Wetor, the borough's public works director, Wrangell averages 1,500 to 2,000 tons of garbage shipped out each year. That doesn't include materials that are burned on site, metal shipped separately or hazardous household waste. The trash is barged to Seattle, then hauled by train to the Republic Services landfill in south-central Washington. The shipping budget for trash this year is \$270,000.

"If the community ... participated in more composting, it would certainly reduce our shipping cost," Wetor said. "The biggest challenge will be to get enough people to participate to make a difference."

Though separating out green and brown wastes can be time consuming, the practice does have benefits outside of potentially saving on landfill shipping costs.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, composting reduces waste streams, cuts methane emissions from landfills, improves soil health and lessens erosion, conserves water, and reduces personal food waste.

At the community garden composting station, the process to break down organic materials takes anywhere from six months to a year, Wickman said.

"By doing [cold composting] we have kind of side-stepped the need for turning," she said. Turning compost piles is the one step that differentiates cold and hot composting. Regularly turning or mixing piles will increase the temperature (optimally between 130 and 140 degrees) and decompose materials within a few weeks or months.

"With these cold composting systems, we're not going to get that hot," Wickman said. "It takes a very long time to break down because it's basically using the natural systems that are already in place without us messing with it."

Anyone who is interested in contributing to the community garden can do so at any time of the day. Those would like a walkthrough of how to add their organic waste to the pile can contact Wickman at 874-4304, extension 104, or by email igaptech.wca@gmail.com.

Oceanview Gardens at 6 Mile has several hot composting piles in various stages of decomposition. Dwane and

sary to use compost since the land they're farming is comprised mostly of wood chips from the old sawmill and rock. The compost soil they're making will help crops to take root, use less water, and be fed with more nutrients. The aerobic method also increases the likelihood that pathogens, weed seeds and bug larvae are destroyed.

"In Maine, they'll actually do whole horses and cattle," said Dwane Ballou. "Say a horse dies ... they open their compost piles up and lay the animal in there, and in three weeks the only thing left is, like, the femurs."

The Ballous use a mix of crab shells, sawdust, plant trimmings and other garden waste for their composting. "I did a trial with a halibut carcass in July. I put it in the pile, covered it with sawdust, a week later it was gone," Dwane Ballou said.

No matter which method is used, only four ingredients are needed to compost: nitrogen (the greens), carbon (the browns), oxygen and water. Nitrogen helps to produce the decomposers (microorganisms), carbon feeds the decomposers, and water and oxygen ensure the decomposers survive.

Whatever kind of container is used should have proper drainage so the compost piles don't get too wet, Wickman said, as the mass should only be as damp as a wrung-out sponge. Too much water and complex nutrients can be washed away.

Compost bins can be made out of almost anything, Wickman said. Items such as fencing can be used as long as the material can be contained. Most importantly, there should be a lid to control the amount of moisture that is getting into the compost. And, in Wrangell, the container will help to keep out birds and bears.

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Volunteers help bring subsistence foods to elders

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel writer

When the tide is low, the table is set.

Sandy Churchill, a teacher at Tlingit & Haida Head Start in Wrangell, was referring to the ocean's banquet of sea cucumbers — known as yein in Tlingit — plus kelp, hooligans, beach grasses and fresh fish.

Harvesting the banquet is difficult for about a hundred elders in Wrangell.

That's why Churchill and Kasee Schlotzhauer, branch manager at Wells Fargo, organize a subsistence proxy program to help elders who can no longer subsistence harvest from the land themselves.

The program assigns a more able-bodied person to forage and hunt on behalf of the elders. Wrangell's Subsistence Giving Project also depends on volunteer donations of foods to share.

Schlotzhauer started her efforts last year, grinding deer in a lone KitchenAid mixer. Then the pandemic opened up an opportunity to secure grant fund-

ing to process larger quantities.

With that funding from Juneau-based nonprofit Spruce Root, she purchased mass-processing items like a commercial vacuum sealer and processing tables for fish — materials Schlotzhauer could not afford.

Working with Churchill, they put together bags for Native seniors in town.

Churchill, who is Tsimshian, Tlingit and Haida, is vice president for the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Wrangell, and the first grand vice president for ANS in the state.

She said traditional foods are delicacies.

"If you lose the food, you feel like you lose the culture," Churchill said.

Proxy hunters go out and get deer and moose; a couple others go out and hunt seals. Women gather berries like cranberries, huckleberries, blueberries, thim-



Sandy Churchill is one of the organizers of Wrangell's Subsistence Giving Project.

bleberries and salmonberries when they're in season. They also gather fireweed and make honey and jellies.

This year Schlotzhauer is hoping to offer venison. She'll gather the proxies and hunt, similar to what she did with the 20 sockeye salmon she harvested last year. She processed the catch and donated bags to



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kasee Schlotzhauer started the subsistence sharing program last year with her kitchen mixer and some deer meat.

the Wrangell Cooperative Association and Native elders in town.

"It's something they've eaten their whole lives," Schlotzhauer said.

State law allows residents to harvest fish, shellfish and game on behalf of residents who are 65 years of age or older, legally

blind or physically disabled.

The senior apartments are full of elders, Churchill said. "Being born and raised here, we know where everyone is."

Last year, they surprised the elders with 30 baskets of food, and extra fish that went to 15 more people, benefiting 45 in all, which Churchill said they appreciated. And there were more people to reach.

They hope to have a similar distribution this year in October.

Churchill said helping elders is a big part of tribal values because "they took care of us."

"I'm almost an elder," Churchill said, laughing. "Practicing' elder," she added. "I have a lot of work to do."

Anyone interested in donating subsistence foods can drop off items for Schlotzhauer at Wells Fargo or Churchill at Tlingit & Haida Head Start.

Mass casualty drill postponed to spring

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel writer

A mass casualty exercise planned for the Wrangell Medical Center has been postponed.

The volunteers needed to play victims, friends, family members and news reporters in the drill originally planned for Oct. 5 have been notified that the drill has been moved to the spring of 2022.

A new date is to be determined, said Michelle Walters, operations manager at Tegria Clinical Solutions, the Seattle-based company planning the drill for the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium.

Caregivers are burnt out. "All the communities have been working through COVID," Wal-

ters said. "Every place we've been going to has been short-staffed." Leadership decided adding one more thing to their daily load was not the right call.

"By moving it, we'll be able to focus on the goals of the simulation and engage external partners like the police department. Everyone is just overloaded," Walters said.

Drills provide an opportunity for hospital staff "to test their emergency plans and procedures," SEARHC had said in a promotional flyer for the event.

Wrangell is not the only place where the drill has been postponed. Walters also hopes to set new dates in April for Sitka, Haines and Klawock.



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New finance director will help borough better manage accounts

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel writer

Mayor Steve Prysunka says it's a priority to better understand all of the borough's financial accounts, a job that will be easier now that Wrangell has a full-time finance director for the first time since February.

Mason Villarma presented to the assembly at its meeting Tuesday night, explaining that the borough has created too many different fund accounts.

"The analogy is like a hoarder in a house," the new finance director said. "We've

created funds every year. There are thousands of accounts. A web that is incomprehensible."

The accounting would add up the same but be more manageable with fewer accounts.

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

"What we are invested in and where the funds come

from are two very different things," Villarma said.

He already is compiling for the assembly a summary of all funds, which Prysunka said would be top priority for discussion at the next assembly meeting, dropping a U.S. Forest Service presentation from the agenda to make room.

Villarma proposed bringing in a consultant to help with the undertaking, noting that the finance department has been severely understaffed. The director position has been vacant since the end of February.

He has meetings with mu-

nicipal finance directors in Petersburg and Juneau over the next week to learn from them and bring back more information to Wrangell.

Prysunka said in his seven years on the assembly, he has never been given a breakdown of all of the borough's existing accounts.

After conducting walk-throughs with borough department heads, from the library to the port, and meeting with the municipality's banks (Wells Fargo and First Bank), Villarma has suggestions on how to reduce redundancies and better manage the finances.

For starters, the borough has \$13 million sitting in a checking account, which is not the best way to handle so

much money, he said. A typical checking account for a municipality of Wrangell's size should have no more than \$1 million to \$2 million, Villarma said.

Wrangell's first fiscal priority is closing the books on a financial audit that has stretched on for 15 months.

"An audit is like a litmus test," Villarma said. "If an audit stresses the system, it's a failed system, from an accounting structure standpoint."

Villarma came to Wrangell from Big Four accounting firm KPMG. He will present a more detailed summary of funds to the mayor and borough assembly members at the Oct. 12 meeting.

Wrangell business outlook ranks about in the middle

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell business owners and managers who responded this past spring to an economic outlook survey were about in the middle among Southeast communities.

While about half of those in Wrangell who answered the survey said they expected business would be down the next 12 months, the responses were much more pessimistic in Skagway, Haines, Hoonah and Ketchikan, all of which are more dependent on large cruise ships. In addition, Skagway and Haines have been hit hard by the U.S.-Canada border closure and loss of highway visitor traffic.

Juneau-based Rain Coast Data conducted the survey for the Southeast Conference, a coalition of chambers of commerce and local governments from across the region. The company's owner, Meilani Schijvens, presented the survey results at the group's annual meeting Sept. 14 in Haines.

About three-quarters of Skagway businesses expected another bad to much-worse 12 months, with the glum outlook in Haines and Hoonah at about two-thirds and Ketchikan just under that.

The survey was taken in April, before anyone knew how many visitors would come to Southeast this year and whether the fishing season would be better than last year. Both turned out better than 2020, which wasn't hard considering how bleak that year was for both fish and tourist returns.

The business outlook was positive in Juneau, Petersburg, Sitka, Gustavus and in Prince of Wales Island communities, according to the survey, which counted responses from 440 businesses across Southeast.

Wrangell lost about 8% in wages and 12% in jobs between 2019 and 2020, Rain Coast Data and the Southeast Conference said in their joint annual report on the region's economy. Skagway was hit hardest last year, with more than a 40% loss in

losing about 25%.

"OK is all relative, they all survived," Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's economic development director, said of local businesses. Some tourism-focused operations in town ended up doing well this past summer from a lot of independent travelers, she said.

One of the big problems now for businesses is filling job openings — and not just in Wrangell. "Every teleconference I have sat in on has been about child care or workforce," Rushmore said.

Difficulties in hiring, and getting in inventory, is a problem around the state, especially as the economy reopens and sales rebound, said Jon Bittner, executive director of the Alaska Small Business Development Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. "If businesses can't stay open to take advantage, it's almost like it isn't happening."

Overall business income and jobs fell significantly in 2020 due to the pandemic, with hope for a strong rebound in 2022 for tourism — particularly cruise ship passengers, with a record 1.5 million berths available on ships coming to Southeast.

Until 2022, businesses had been hoping that this fall "would bring a return to normalcy," the report said. "However, the highly contagious Delta variant (of COVID-19), coupled with declining vaccination rates, has meant that infection rates are going up instead of down, threatening gains in health and economic advancement."

The other weak indicator in the "Southeast by the Numbers" report was that the region in 2020 lost population for the sixth consecutive year, dropping from 74,500 in 2014 to 72,286 in 2020.

"The elements that created population losses in recent years, most notably the reduction of state jobs and services, have been exacerbated by the 2020 COVID economy," the report said. "Pandemic conditions will likely lead to further

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



ALASKA CHAMBER
The leading voice advancing business in Alaska

Professional jet skier churns up Dangerous Waters through Southeast

By Marc Lutz
Sentinel writer

It's one thing to experience Alaska's waterways from a ferry, cruise ship or even a fishing boat, but what about a Jet Ski, sitting atop a couple hundred horsepower of a thousand-pound jet pump with handlebars?

One company is doing just that, guiding tours via personal watercraft, from Seattle to Juneau with stops in Wrangell and other Southeast communities.

Dangerous Waters Adventures was founded in 2018 by Steven Moll, offering thrill seekers a chance to experience the Alaska and Canada Inside Passage from a different perspective.

Before opening the tour company, Moll hosted a TV show, also called "Dangerous Waters," where he and a crew traveled the world. The show chronicled their adventures, including everything from being stranded in remote areas to getting arrested by Russian police. It ran for seven seasons on cable and on-demand channels.

Even before that, Moll worked for radio station KFBK in the Sacramento, California, region.

"Once we finished that series, I needed to get a real job," Moll said. "I couldn't go back to (radio reporting). I had a worldly view on things."

Moll decided after the end of the TV show to see if anyone wanted to go with him via Jet Ski from Seattle up to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. From that excursion, the tour company was created.

Originally, he kept his operations based out of his home in Folsom, California, with a fleet of Jet Skis docked in Seattle. But then COVID-19 hit. Moll decided to move the business to Juneau. Since Canada closed its ports during the pandemic, he had to change his tour routes.

Clients can travel with Moll and another guide from Juneau down to Ketchikan, or Sitka to Juneau's Auke Bay, or the opposite direction. The cost is \$6,900. There is also a trip from Seattle to Ketchikan (or reverse) for \$9,900, though he has not run that tour during Canada's border closure.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ / WRANGELL SENTINEL

One of the 10 clients traveling by JetSki with Dangerous Waters Adventures waves farewell before heading to Ketchikan on Sept. 22.

der closure.

Dangerous Waters operates from the last week of May until the last week of October and typically has about 150 clients throughout that time.

On Sept. 22, Moll, guide Drake Stanley and a trainee headed from Wrangell to Ketchikan. Winds were picking up, and Moll said they look for favorable weather before heading out. Iffier conditions need to be subsiding, otherwise the tour stays put.

"If we get down and I determine that the weather is not optimal to our passage to Ketchikan, then we will return here and we will head back to Petersburg," Moll told clients before departing Wrangell. "We have to ride when the weather is good."

Moll and his crew come prepared, with thousands of miles of training and navigation experience. Stanley had to complete 10,000 miles traveling the Inside Passage with Moll to lead tours. His guides have to be familiar with several GPS applications and able to navigate by sight.



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Clients with Juneau-based Dangerous Waters Adventures prepare to leave Wrangell aboard JetSkis on the next leg of their trip to Ketchikan on Sept. 22.

"In the winter I do big-wave rescue on a Jet Ski for surfing, Mavericks (surfing competition), stuff like that," said Stanley, who works on a personal watercraft in various places. "I'm lucky enough to be able to drive a Jet Ski professionally year-round."

The trip to Ketchikan turned out to be ideal, he said, taking

just four hours on water that was "glass."

Before their departure, guides and clients huddle up for instruction and then prayer. Moll describes himself and his wife as "staunch Christians," who practice daily prayer. He believes the views he and his crew and clients get to take in are re-

mindings of "what God's created," whether it's glacial fjords, sweeping views, or seeing things like "orcas preying on humpbacks."

"It's eye candy for one," Moll said. "Then, people with different backgrounds are all laid equal by the ocean. It levels the playing field."

Dividend payments will start the week of Oct. 11

JUNEAU (AP) — Officials are aiming to send out the first wave of Permanent Fund dividend payments to Alaska residents the week of Oct. 11, a Department of Revenue spokesperson said.

The department's Genevieve Wojtusik said in an email Sept. 22 that the first wave would include those who filed for their PFD electronically. She said the second round of payments, which would include those who filed paper applications, would go out about two weeks later.

The Legislature mid-September appropriated \$730.5 million for dividends this year of about \$1,100 and to cover administrative expenses and other related costs. Wojtusik said the final PFD amount is being calculated and is expected to be announced this week.

Dividends typically are paid in the early fall but this year's payout wasn't determined until the Legislature's third special session of the year, which ended last week.

Lawmakers and the governor had battled all year over the amount of this year's PFD. Gov. Mike Dunleavy consistently argued for a much larger check, which would have required drawing additional money out of the Alaska Permanent Fund.

And although many legislators agreed with the governor, most refused to go along with an extra withdrawal from the state's savings account. Eventually, enough lawmakers agreed to the \$1,100 compromise PFD — about \$100 more than last year — resolving the dispute for this year.



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Schools in desperate need of paraprofessionals, substitutes

By **MARC LUTZ**
Sentinel writer

The district is in dire need of paraprofessionals at each school.

Not only has it been difficult to fill the positions, retaining staff has added to the problem since people can often make more in other jobs.

"Paraprofessionals are - sometimes we call them 'aides' - they help out with kids, particularly right now," said Bob Davis, assistant principal for the high school and middle school. "We have a lot of intensive-needs kids. A lot of them need a lot of one-on-one help."

Intensive-needs children can have trouble with educational, emotional or physical issues, Davis said. They benefit from one-one-one help from adults.

"The problem is, we can't find people to fill the jobs," Davis said. "It says some-

thing about our society that you can make more money serving food than helping kids. That's part of our issue. We can't pay our paras enough to fill the positions."

Paraprofessionals are paid from \$14 to \$23 an hour, but are limited to 5.75 hours per day during the school week. Because it's only part-time work, the district does not offer benefits with the position.

"Without benefits, without pay, you know they have to take care of their families too," Davis said. "So we have amazing people, some who stick around a long time, in very difficult situations, but we just can't find enough."

There are five paraprofessionals working at the high school, but some are preparing to leave for other work.

"We got one that's going to go out shrimping, and he can make more in two

weeks than he could probably make in the whole year with us, so you can't blame him," Davis said.

Jenn Miller-Yancey, assistant principal of Evergreen Elementary, said it's also difficult to fill positions due to staggered scheduling since paraprofessionals can only work 5.75 hours a day.

"That's not as long as our school day is," she said. "We have to get these schedules put together that are staggered so we have help from the start of the day to the end of the day." With an afterschool study program in place, that adds an extra hour to the end of the day to fill.

Evergreen Elementary is looking for at least one more special education paraprofessional position, but it also needs substitutes.

"With COVID, we've got [staff] isolating and quarantining, that's increased our

need for substitutes exponentially," Miller-Yancey said. "Anyone who is interested in substituting, even one day a week, would help."

She went on to say that people are under the misconception that if they substitute, they must teach, but substitutes can fill in for other non-classroom staff too, though the rate of pay is different for each.

Miller-Yancey said she has looked into grant money which could add to the paraprofessional budget, however she said grants are rarely for personnel. "Often-times, we can find grant money for supplies, transportation, but not personnel."

Those interested in applying for a paraprofessional or substitute position can more information on the district's website at www.wpsd.us or by calling Kimberly Powell at 874-2347.

Federal Subsistence Meeting

The public is invited to participate.

October 5-7, 2021

via teleconference
starting daily at 9:00 a.m.

The **Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council** will meet to discuss proposals to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations and other issues related to subsistence. Participate by teleconference, (866) 617-1530 (passcode: 93629472).

For meeting materials or other information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program, visit: www.doi.gov/subsistence or call the Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456.

If you need special accommodations, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at least seven business days prior to the meeting.

Schools will administer COVID tests for student-athletes

By **Marc Lutz**
Sentinel writer

A plan to start testing student-athletes for COVID-19 will produce faster results and make it possible to continue scheduled home and away games while keeping kids safe, school officials said.

Athletes have to test twice a week, before and after games. Results from the tests that look for genetic material from the virus in a nasal swab take two to three days, known as PCR tests. The schools are going to use an antigen test, which looks for a protein from the virus and can yield results in 15 minutes.

Antigen tests for COVID-19 "are generally less sensitive" than the PCR tests, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the antigen tests are useful, the CDC said, for screening and quickly identifying people who may be infectious with the virus.

An initial shipment of 40

antigen testing kits have been sent to Wrangell schools to be used for student-athletes, which is about 20 shy of what is need for the first twice-weekly testing of the 30 kids participating in cross country, swimming and volleyball. That doesn't include the middle school teams or high school wrestling team, which started Wednesday.

"We had tried to order as much as we could when we first started," said Trisa Rooney, activities director for the schools. "The company (providing the kits) said they could supply us with 150 tests but sent us 40. That's not going to get us very far."

Rooney said the next order is for 400 testing kits. Once that's received, the schools will be able to determine how many are needed on a regular basis for the rest of the sports seasons.

The antigen testing kits were picked due to the lower cost and faster results.

Although the state gave Wrangell schools \$49,000 for testing, Superintendent Bill Burr said the initial kits were supplied by the state at no cost. "So far, we haven't spent any of that

money yet."

Burr said certification isn't necessary to administer the tests as long as staff follows the testing guidelines and reports the results back to the state. Both Burr and Rooney have been trained in giving the tests. Rooney said they've considered training other staff on how to give the tests in case she or Burr aren't available.

In the meantime, SEARHC will continue to offer testing at the Wrangell Medical Center if the schools can't provide them.

Testing kits are in short supply across the country, Burr said. Even though nine new cases were reported in Wrangell since last week with one at the school, staff is working to keep student-athletes safe, Rooney said, with twice-a-week testing and other protocols.

"We're trying to stay away from the big tournaments, and maybe just holding scrimmages with other schools," she said.

At a meeting this weekend, Rooney said athletic directors from Southeast schools will discuss the necessity of testing twice a week and whether just weekly testing is enough.

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

The Wrangell-Petersburg-Kake Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will be meeting virtually on October 13-14, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or until business is concluded. The purpose of the meetings is to review the progress of previously funded projects, review new project proposals, and make recommendations for funding of projects through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (PL 115-141).

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

New project proposals from the public or community organizations are welcome and encouraged.

Title II funds allocated to this RAC may be used for projects that benefit the National Forest areas of the Petersburg and Wrangell boroughs, and the Unorganized borough surrounding the community of Kake. Projects should have broad-based support with objectives that may include, but are not limited to:

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

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



The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
Publish September 30, 2021 and October 7, 2021

School bus-tracking app suspended

By **SENTINEL STAFF**

Tracking software that was going to be used this year for the school bus has been nixed.

Zach Taylor, of Taylor Transportation, said the app, which would allow parents to track the school bus location in real-time, didn't live up to the company's expectations.

The school bus operator reported in August that it would install the software, allowing parents to track the bus's whereabouts, particularly in

snowy conditions.

"We are currently abandoning the system," Taylor said of the School Bus Hub software. "It just isn't what we thought it was going to be. Perhaps in the future they'll refine it enough for what we envisioned, but right now we're going to carry on with our current paper list."

Taylor provides information and updates via Facebook and asks that parents subscribe to the page.

ATTENTION SALMON FISHERS

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

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

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

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
SSRAA, 14 BORCH STREET
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Or email: lizj@ssraa.org

For further information call (907) 225-9605

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

'Smart buoys' help track fishing gear so it doesn't get lost

Lost fishing gear — be it nets, lines or pots — continues “ghost fishing” forever, causing a slow death to countless marine creatures and financial losses to fishermen.

Now, new “smart buoys” can track and monitor all types of deployed gear and report its location directly to a cell phone or website.

Blue Ocean Gear, of California, created and builds the buoys that also can track ocean temperatures, depth, movement, even how much has been caught. The small, three-pound buoys are just seven inches in diameter, don't require any special training to use, and are tough enough to handle the harshest ocean conditions.

“All the information is collected in a database,” said Kortney Opshaug, company founder and CEO. “We have both a mobile app that you can access from your phone or a web interface that allows you to see more of the data, charts

and things like that. Most of the buoys have satellite transmission, but some also have radio transmission and we're working more and more with that. They're slightly more cost effective, and we can create networks out on the water that are talking to one another.”

Opshaug and her Silicon Valley team of engineers and product developers were motivated primarily by the damage caused by lost gear on the marine environment and the costs to fishermen.

“Lost fishing gear was one of the most devastating issues that has both environmental impacts as well as financial impacts on the industry,” she said.

“There's about 640,000 metric tons of gear lost every year and it continues to fish. It becomes devastating for the marine ecosystems, but it's also unlimited competition for the fishermen from their own gear that they've lost. Plus, they have to pay to replace that gear. So, we developed our smart buoys to be able to

track gear out on the water. We thought if you could track it, you're not as likely to lose it.”

“There may be a crab pot at the bottom of the ocean and a buoy at the surface, but when the tides and currents are strong, the buoy can get pulled underwater. Fishermen can't find it and they waste a lot of time and fuel. But our device tracks the gear from the surface,” said Peter Macy, chief business officer.

The smart buoys, which first hit the water in 2015, were tested by two vessels during the 2020/21 golden king crab season in the Aleutian Islands to help refine the software and communications settings. The automated system identified several pieces of errant gear, including a line that had severed. It allowed the recovery in real time of nearly 100 pounds of floats and lines that would otherwise have been lost.

The smart buoys also are being used in Alaska's halibut fishery and a first

order has come from a Southeast kelp farm, Macy said, crediting assists from the Alaska Ocean Cluster.

Bristol Bay sockeyes on ice

Sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay is taking to the ice at Seattle's Climate Pledge Arena in a partnership with the National Hockey League's newest team, the Seattle Kraken.

Bristol Bay Native Corp., which represents 31 tribes comprising 10,000 members, also will operate a Bristol Bay Wild Market in collaboration with the fishermen funded and operated Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association and Bristol Wild Seafood Co.

The three organizations have come together to bring “exceptional wild Alaska seafood and the people and rich cultural heritage of Bristol Bay to millions of Arena visitors every year,” the

Continued on page 13

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

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

SERVICES OFFERED

Western Boat and Trawler Marine Survey will be in Wrangell Oct. 10-11. Call 907-321-3240.

FREE

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

FREE ADS

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



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting on October 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. AKDT. Due to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and its social distancing guidelines, the meeting will be held electronically. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss a contract. During the meeting, the Board may hold an executive session to discuss evaluation of the Agency's CEO. For additional information, please call 907-228-2281.
Published: Sept. 30, 2021

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL SAMPLE BALLOT REGULAR ELECTION OCTOBER 5, 2021

Instructions:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●

Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval and print the person's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO	ASSEMBLY MEMBER UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE
<input type="radio"/> BOB DALRYMPLE <input type="radio"/> JIM DEBORD <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	<input type="radio"/> DONALD J. MCCONACHIE SR. <input type="radio"/> DAVID L. POWELL <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
SCHOOL BOARD THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO	SCHOOL BOARD UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE
<input type="radio"/> ANGELA ALLEN <input type="radio"/> ALEX ANGERMAN <input type="radio"/> BRITTANI ROBBINS <input type="radio"/> ELIZABETH ROUNDTREE <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	<input type="radio"/> JULIA OSTRANDER <input type="radio"/> JESSICA WHITAKER <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN
PORT COMMISSION THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO	PORT COMMISSION UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2022 VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE
<input type="radio"/> CHRIS BUNESS <input type="radio"/> JOHN M. MARTIN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN	<input type="radio"/> FRANKLIN ROPPEL <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN

Fish Factor

Continued from page 12

groups said in a press release.

During every game and event held at the arena, an

Alaska seafood menu will feature wild Alaska panko cod and sockeye tacos, fish n' chips, sockeye fillet, bread and chowders.

Bristol Bay also will be splashed across hundreds of TV screens inside the arena, the LED side rings, on the main scoreboards and more.

The marketing move follows the lead of Oregon-based Pacific Seafood, the first seafood supplier to land a sports partnership last fall with a multi-year deal with the Pac-12 men's basketball and football teams which includes a dozen West Coast universities. It added Pac-12 women's basketball earlier this year.

The Kraken team and coaching staff also will hold annual hockey camps in Alaska for kids who wouldn't normally have exposure to the game.

Good to get canned

Sales of canned salmon continue to surge as COVID-19

conscious consumers continue to opt for more healthy, easy-to-use, non-perishable foods.

Seafood Source highlights a new report by market tracker Fact.MR which predicts the global canned salmon market will reach \$4.5 billion this year and sales will continue to grow through 2031.

More global consumers also care more about where their seafood comes from, the report said, and wild Pacific salmon is the top choice. The market experts predict that overall, wild canned salmon will generate 67% of the total global market share and nearly 62% of total North American sales over the next decade.

Not surprisingly, boneless/skinless fish is the preferred canned item and those sales are expected to rise at an annual rate of nearly 7% through 2031.

Canned pinks are expected to have the most demand with a market share this year of

34.5%. Canned sockeye salmon is the second-highest seller, especially in exports to Europe.

Canned chums also are becoming more popular "because of their lighter oil content," and annual sales growth is projected at 6.2% over the forecast period, the report said.

Alaska processor reports show that over 81 million pounds of Alaska salmon went into cans in 2020, valued at nearly \$687 million on their sales sheets.

Of that, nearly 60 million pounds were pinks valued at \$205 million; canned sockeye salmon topped 21 million pounds, worth over \$480 million at first-wholesale.

Salmon canning started in Alaska in the 1870s and by the early 20th century it was the state's largest industry, generating 80% of the territorial tax revenues. Its position then in Alaska's economy is one that oil enjoys today.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Edward Teague, Jr. deceased. Case No. IKE-21-93PR.

Notice to creditors is hereby given that Richard Franklin Teague has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. All persons having any claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or said claims will forever be barred. All claims must be presented to:

Richard Franklin Teague
c/o Keene and Curral, PPC
540 Water Street – Suite 302
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Alternatively, a claim can be filed directly with the Ketchikan Superior Court.

Publish Sept 23, 30 and Oct. 7, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)

STEPHEN DALE URATA,)

)

Deceased.) IWR-21-15 PR.

)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Jack Michael Urata and Angela Joy Urata have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the estate of Stephen Dale Urata ("Estate"). All persons having claims against Stephen Dale Urata are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Jack Michael Urata and Angela Joy Urata, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate, by mailing each claim to Baxter Bruce & Sullivan P.C. at P.O. Box 32819, Juneau, Alaska 99803, or filing each claim with the Wrangell Superior Court.

Publish Sept 16, 23 and 30, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of October 2021, in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Local Election will be held for the purpose of voting on the following Borough Official positions.

- Borough Assembly: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Borough Assembly: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022
- School Board: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- School Board: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022
- Port Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Port Commission: One seat, for 1-year unexpired term until October 2022

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

Publish Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Persons interested in serving on the following City Boards and Committees, please submit your **Letter of Interest** to the Office of the Borough Clerk, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929. You can also email your Letter of Interest to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com.

Deadline for Letters of Interest is 4 p.m., Wednesday, October 6, 2021, for the following vacancies:

- Planning and Zoning Commission: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau: Two seats, for 3-year terms
- Economic Development Committee: One seat, for 3-year term
- Investment Committee: One seat, for 1-year term

Appointments will be made at the October 12, 2021, Regular Assembly meeting. A copy of the code chapter for any of the above boards and commissions can be obtained by contacting the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com. The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Publish Sept 23 and 30, 2021

Former resident Cita Laws dies at age 76

Former Wrangell resident Pacita "Cita" Laws, 76, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 29, in Hemet, California, surrounded by her family. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and auntie.

Cita was born in 1945 to Theodore and Edna Cabot and raised in Wrangell. She graduated high school in 1964. Although she moved away in her early 20s, Wrangell remained close to her heart. She often returned to visit family and friends. On her visits, she would often go out fishing, berry pick-

ing, making jam, smoking salmon or beading with her sisters.

During her life she raised a family, ran a successful business in the fire protection industry with her husband Danny, and enjoyed many hobbies such as crocheting, beading and painting. She also was one of Jehovah's Witnesses and centered her life around her faith, spending much of her time volunteering in the Christian ministry.

She enjoyed being a grandmother and great-grandmother. One of her grandchildren summed it up by saying, "Grandma was the perfect grandma. She was fun to be around, she was silly, sweet and you just couldn't help but feel happy around her."

Cita was a loving, devoted mother and wife, and a loyal friend. Because of her genuinely kind and cheerful nature, people were drawn to her. She was known for her beautiful smile and enthusiasm for life. "She will be deeply missed," her family wrote.

She is survived by her son Arthur and daughters Jacqueline, Cheree and Elizabeth, along with her grandchildren



Pacita "Cita" Laws

Hugo, Julia, Jordan, Alena, Alyssa, Brianna, Michael, Sophia, Spencer and Nicholas, and 12 great-grandchildren with one on the way. She is also survived by her brothers Ted, Wes and Theo, and her sisters Betty, Virginia, Jana, Billie, Gerri, Carolina, Jaqueline and Teresa, and many nieces and nephews.

Cita was preceded in death by her husband Danny, son Michael, mother Edna, father Theodore, brothers John, David, Marc, and nephew Charles.

A memorial was held for Cita via Zoom on Sept. 18.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

For the upcoming City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Election of October 5, 2021, the following ordinance applies:

2.16.030 Write-in Candidates and Write-in Votes. Individuals who fail to file a declaration of candidacy but wish to run for office as a write-in candidate must file with the borough clerk a letter of intent no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election (October 1, 2021) in which the candidate plans to participate.

Write-in votes cast for individuals who do not file a letter of intent will not be counted.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must, in space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the letter of intent filed with the borough clerk. In addition, the voter must mark the oval opposite the candidate's name. Stickers shall not be used.

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

Publish Sept 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

Waterfall Foundation donates \$10,000 to Wrangell-based cancer care group

By **MARC LUTZ**
Sentinel writer

Ever since Nancy Murkowski's friend had a cancer scare in the early 1970s, Murkowski has made it a mission to raise funds to help fight the disease.

On Aug. 20, the Waterfall Foundation, a nonprofit organization Murkowski founded more than 20 years ago, presented the WMC Foundation with a check for \$10,000. In turn, the Wrangell foundation helps cancer patients and their families with travel and lodging expenses related to cancer care.

Murkowski's friend had to travel from Fairbanks to Seattle

all those years ago in order to find a clinic with mammography equipment.

"What we wanted to do was set up a program where anybody who wanted and needed a mammogram could come free of charge," Murkowski said. "Regardless of ability to pay' is our motto."

Out of that effort was born the Breast Cancer Detection Center in Fairbanks. In 1994, the center needed a new mammography machine. Murkowski and her husband, Frank, who was then a U.S. senator, held a fundraiser at the Waterfall Resort, on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, raising \$194,000 — enough to

purchase the new equipment. The charity event has been held 22 of the past 27 years.

The Waterfall Foundation was born of that fundraising effort. Money from Waterfall's have been dispersed to organizations in need throughout the state, including Wrangell.

"She also gave to Wrangell Medical Center when it was our community hospital," said Patty Gilbert, president of the WMC Foundation. "And [Waterfall] gave money ... to obtain new equipment, and I believe part of the money ... bought the X-ray machine."

The money donated to the Wrangell foundation will go to-

ward helping cancer patients and giving scholarships to high school graduates who plan to further their education in a health-related field.

Gilbert said those seeking travel expense funds don't need to disclose their income.

"We just want to make sure the travel and lodging expenses aren't covered by some other entity, or most people's insurance doesn't cover that," she said.

Since 2008, WMC Foundation has had 156 requests and has awarded \$120,173 in travel expense funding. The foundation has also awarded eight scholarships totaling \$10,000, with \$13,000 reserved for awardees' continuing educational pursuits since 2015.

The WMC Foundation serves Southeast communities of 5,000 people or less from Petersburg south, except Ketchikan.

River otters attack people and pets in Anchorage

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Residents of Alaska's largest city often contend with bears and moose, but state officials are warning of another wild animal that has been causing problems: river otters.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says river otters have attacked people and pets in some of the city's most popular outdoor areas, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

Officials are asking people to be extra careful when they are around rivers, creeks and lakes along the city's greenbelt.

Earlier this month, a 9-year-old boy was taken to an emergency room for a rabies shot after being bitten several times

near a duck pond. "This week, another woman was bitten while rescuing her dog from a similar group of river otters at University Lake," Fish and Game said in a written statement. Another dog was bitten at a different area of the same lake, which is a popular dog-walking trail.

River otter attacks do happen, but are not considered commonplace, Fish and Game said. It's not known if the attacks came from the same group of otters, which can range over large swaths of land.

"Because of the risk to public safety, efforts will be made

to locate this group of river otters and remove them," Fish and Game said. "Care will be taken to only remove the animals exhibiting these unusual behaviors."

Police report

Monday, Sept. 20

Civil paper service.
Office of Children's Services referral.
Domestic violence order; violation unfounded.
Vacation check.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Tuesday, Sept. 21

Noise complaint.

Wednesday, Sept. 22

Agency assist: Ambulance.
Dog complaint.
Agency assist: Traffic.
Traffic stop.

Thursday, Sept. 23

Traffic stop.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Breathalyzer test.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Friday, Sept. 24

Civil issue.
Agency assist: Department of Transportation.
Agency assist: Harbor Department.
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Saturday, Sept. 25

Lost bike.
Citizen assist: Unlock door.
Agency assist: Electrical department.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.
Traffic compliant.
Dangerous play.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for

driving habits.
Agency assist: Line crew.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for expired tags.
Traffic stop: Citation issued for failure to provide proof of insurance.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for taillight out.

Sunday, Sept. 26

Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

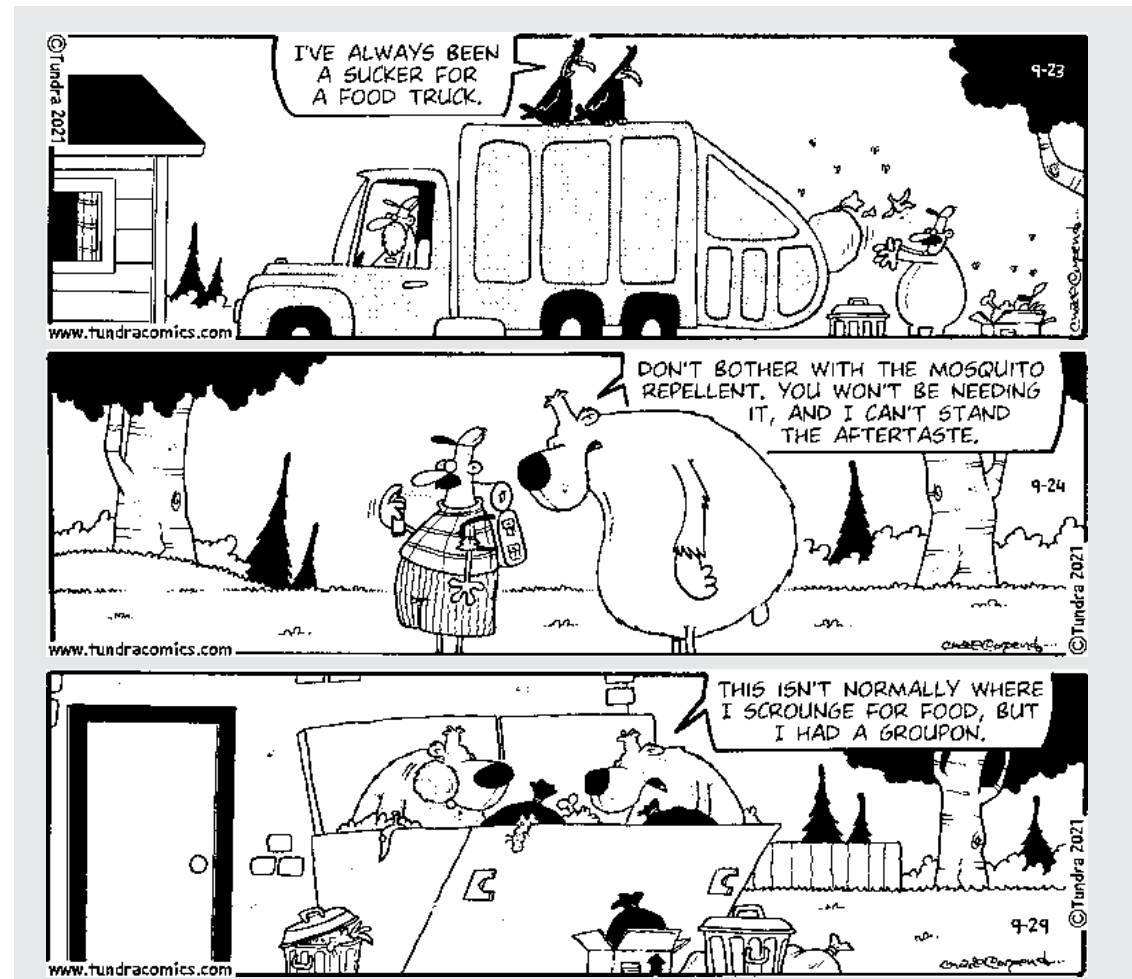
ABSENTEE VOTING for the Regular Borough Election (to be held October 5, 2021) begins on Monday, September 20, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., (Monday through Friday) at City Hall.

Qualified Voters may vote an Absentee Ballot until Monday, October 4, 2021, at 4 p.m. for the Regular Borough Election.

For those voters who cannot vote absentee in person, you may submit an application to have your ballot mailed or faxed to you. Please stop by the Borough Clerk's Office to apply.

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

Publish Sept 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021



Wrangell Voyage Schedule Change

A reminder for all AML customers: our barge service to Wrangell will begin departing Seattle on Friday (rather than Wednesday) beginning with voyage S1402 on Friday, October 1. Cargo availability in Wrangell will be the following Wednesday.

Please visit www.shipaml.com for our current sailing schedules. If you have any questions, please email amlcsc@lynden.com or call 907-874-3314.

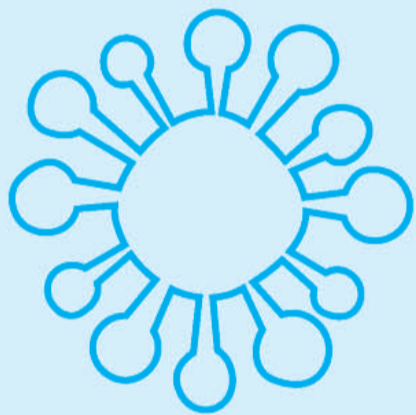
Thank you for your continued support!



#StopTheSpread

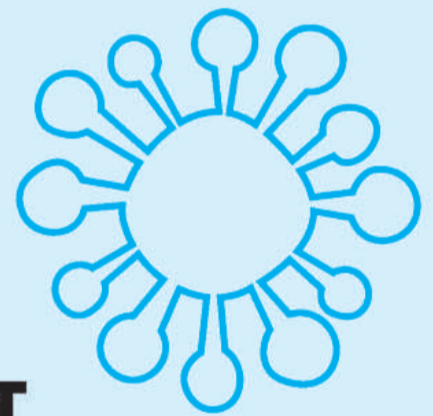


The EOC wants to remind you to please consider these steps as new daily habits instead of short-term prevention strategies to help stop the spread of COVID-19



WASH YOUR HANDS

WEAR A MASK

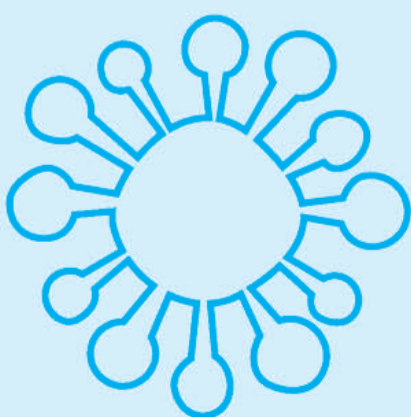


**STAY PHYSICALLY DISTANT
AND SOCIALLY CONNECTED**

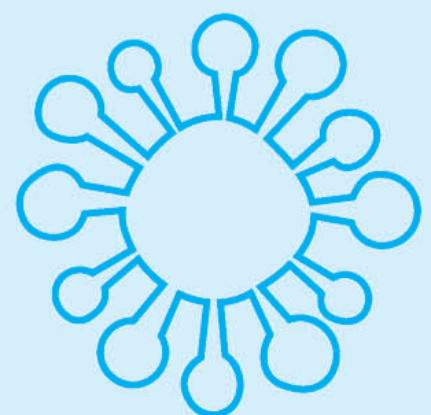
INCREASE FRESH AIR

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

**CHECK FOR SYMPTOMS DAILY
AND STAY HOME IF YOU ARE
SICK**



GET VACCINATED





AP PHOTO/MEAD GRUVER

Tom Wiersema, who has been trout fishing on the upper North Platte River in Wyoming since the 1970s, stands by his drift boat near Encampment, Wyoming. Low water caused him to stop fishing by boat on a long stretch of the river earlier than usual this year. The upper North Platte is one of several renowned trout streams affected by climate change in the western U.S.

Drought hard on trout fishing in western states

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

SARATOGA, Wyo. (AP) - The North Platte River in southern Wyoming has been so low in places lately that a toddler could easily wade across and thick mats of olive-green algae grow in the lazy current.

Just over two years ago, workers stacked sandbags to protect homes and fishing cabins from raging brown floodwaters, the highest on record.

Neither scene resembles the proper picture of a renowned trout fishing destination, one where anglers glide downstream in drift boats, flinging fly lures in hope of landing big brown and rainbow trout in the shadow of the Medicine Bow Mountains.

But both torrent and trickle have afflicted storied trout streams in the American West in recent years amid the havoc of climate change, which has made the region hotter and drier and fueled severe weather events. Blistering heat waves and extended drought have raised water temperatures and imperiled fish species in several states.

In the Rocky Mountains, the attention is on trout fishing, a big part of both the United States' billion-dollar-a-year fly fishing industry and the region's over \$100 billion outdoor

recreation industry.

"It seems the extremes are more extreme," said Tom Wiersema, who's fished the upper North Platte as a guide and trout enthusiast for almost half a century.

Some years, Wiersema has been able to put in and float a section of river about 10 miles (north of the Colorado line all summer. This year, Wiersema hasn't bothered to float that stretch since late June, lest he have to drag a boat over wet, algae-covered rocks.

"That's what the river is at that point. Round, slippery bowling balls," he said.

In nearby Saratoga, population 1,600, leaping trout adorn light posts and the sign for Town Hall. The North Platte gurgles past a public hot spring called the Hobo Pool, and trout fishing, along with the fall elk hunt, are big business.

Phil McGrath, owner of Hack's Tackle & Outfitters on the river, said low flows haven't hurt his business of guided fishing trips on drift boats, which launch from deeper water in town. The fishing has been excellent, he said.

"You want to go easy on the little guys in the afternoon," he urged a recent group of customers who asked where they could wet a line before a guided trip the next morning.

It's basic trout fishing ethics when temperatures get as high as they were that day, 85 degrees, and water temperatures aren't far enough behind.

The problem: Water above 68 degrees can be rough on trout caught not for dinner but sport — and release to fight another day. Low water warms up quickly in hot weather, and warm water carries less oxygen, stressing fish and making them less likely to survive catch-and-release fishing, especially when anglers don't take several minutes to release fish gently.

As air temperatures soared into the mid 80s and beyond this summer, Yellowstone National Park shut down stream and river fishing from 2 p.m. until sunrise for a month. Montana imposed similar "hoot owl" restrictions — so called because owls can be active early in the morning — on fabled trout rivers including the Madison flowing out of Yellowstone.

Low, warm water prompted Colorado for a time to impose voluntary fishing restrictions on the Colorado River's upper reaches.

In rivers like the upper North Platte, which flows north out of Colorado, low water runs not only warm but slow and clear, cultivating algae. Mats of algae can collect insects while offering trout

shade and cover from predators, but they're also a symptom of warm and stressful conditions, said Jeff Streeter, who guided on the upper North Platte before becoming a local representative for the fishing-oriented conservation group Trout Unlimited.

Like Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming didn't order anglers to stop fishing. Such an order was unlikely to have much benefit, Idaho officials decided.

Wyoming's rivers would be difficult to monitor for enforcing closures because temperatures fluctuate widely throughout the day and from riffle to hole, said David Zafft, fish management coordinator for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

What's in store for the North Platte will depend on future rain, snow and melt patterns, not to mention ever-growing human demand for water. McGrath, the fly-fishing guide and tackle store owner, didn't doubt climate change is at work and that it's human caused. But he didn't seem to be losing sleep over it.

"If the world continues to get warmer, is trout fishing going to get worse? Yeah, of course. Trout is a cold-water animal, right?" said McGrath. "But is this going to happen tomorrow? No."

Sentry Hardware

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30% OFF STOREWIDE!!

TAX FREE

IN STORE SPECIALS NOT INCLUDED

CITY MARKET INC.

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Case Lot Sale

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10% OFF Store Wide

Manager Specials Throughout Store

Excludes tobacco product.