

Fully vaccinated U.S. citizens can start driving into Canada Aug. 9

TORONTO (AP) - Canada announced Monday it will begin letting fully vaccinated U.S. citizens into the country on Aug. 9 — without a 14-day quarantine requirement and with no restrictions on the reason for traveling — and will allow travelers from the rest of the world on Sept. 7.

The open border will apply only to U.S. citizens at least 14 days past their vaccination shot, according to the Canadian government announcement. Travelers will be required to upload proof of vaccination to Canada's web portal, and will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of their arrival at the border.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said the U.S. has not yet announced similar plans to lift restrictions for its northern neighbors to cross the land border for discretionary travel. Canadians already are able to fly into the United States with a negative COVID-19 test.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki declined to say if the U.S. would reciprocate and open its land border to Canadians.

"We are continuing to review our travel restrictions. Any decisions about resuming travel will be guided by our public health and medical experts," Psaki said Monday. "I wouldn't look at

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PHOTO BY KIM ELTON

Time for bear feast and Bearfest

A black bear sow nurses her cub near the trail, about 25 or 30 yards short of the U.S. Forest Service viewing platforms at Anan Creek in this 2019 photo. The bears of Anan may have given their name for Wrangell's annual Bearfest, which starts next Wednesday, but the event is about much more than just bears. The five days include an art workshop, bear symposiums, photography workshops, a golf tournament, book reading for children, workshops and live music, a community market, children's games, and a 5K, half marathon and full marathon. See story on Page 3.

Rising count of infections moves Alaska into high alert

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

As visitor travel to Alaska picks up strength, as residents participate in summer events, and as the pace of vaccinations slows down, the state's COVID-19 case count is rising, prompting a return to high-alert status and warnings by health officials.

The statewide case count has been climbing since mid-June, with Alaska health officials attributing the rise in part to the highly contagious delta variant first identified in Alaska in May.

Sitka went on high alert last week, as did Anchorage. The Kenai Peninsula went to high alert on Monday after counting 53 new cases over the weekend.

Part of the problem is the peninsula's low vaccination rate — 47% of eligible residents with at least one shot — and "part is due to the influx of people that we have coming in," Kenai Public Health Nurse Tami Marsters told radio station KDLL on Monday.

Sitka officials reported 156 active COVID-19 cases in the community as of Sunday evening, including 43 new cases and five hospitalizations over the weekend. Nearly half of the weekend patients were in their 20s and 30s, Sitka

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Wrangell scheduled for reduced ferry service October-November

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell would see one northbound ferry every other week during October and November, and one southbound ferry the other weeks in October and November under the draft winter schedule released by the Alaska Marine Highway System.

That's down significantly from the current summer schedule of one northbound and one southbound stop each week.

"At what point do we just say, 'We don't have a ferry sys-

tem anymore,'" Mayor Steve Prysunka said. "We just get these schedules that are horrendous in the fall."

The community received one northbound ferry in all of November 2020, and none in December, with just one southbound stop in January this year.

Under the draft fall/winter 2021-2022 schedule released the evening of July 13, ferry service to Wrangell for October and November would include a northbound stop by the Kennicott on Mondays the first and third weeks of the months

as the ship continues to Juneau and then to Gulf of Alaska ports, and a southbound visit on Wednesdays the second and fourth weeks of the months on the Kennicott's return voyage to Bellingham, Washington.

Petersburg would receive the same level of service for the two months.

In December through April, the Matanuska would stop in Wrangell once a week southbound (Monday) and northbound (Friday) for three weeks each month, when the Matanuska makes the full run

to Bellingham. But then one week each month, the Matanuska would go only as far south as Ketchikan, giving Wrangell two stops in each direction those weeks.

Budget cuts that have led to pulling ships out of service to save money and maintenance issues with the older vessels have cut into the ferry system's schedule in recent years.

Legislators tried this year to restore much of the past budget cuts, but Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed the additional funding. The state fiscal year started July 1.

A lack of vessels forces the reduced level of service. The Matanuska and the Aurora will be out of service for winter overhaul during October and November. Then the Kennicott will be in winter overhaul Jan. 6 through March 9; the LeConte will be pulled for its winter overhaul January and February; and the Columbia will remain in money-saving layup status.

That will leave the Matanuska as the only operating ferry for several Southeast communities for January and February. The

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Borough will update cost estimate for water treatment plant

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The borough assembly has directed the administration to pursue an updated cost estimate for solving Wrangell's deficient water-treatment plant.

Progress on replacing the treatment process has moved slowly since a 2017 cost esti-

mate of nearly \$10 million, while Wrangell now faces key deadlines to retain \$9 million in federal assistance that was approved for the work between 2017 and 2019.

The likelihood of higher costs since 2017 is another hurdle, should Wrangell proceed with the project.

Borough officials said at a July 13 assembly work session that the pace needs to move quicker to complete construction by the federal aid deadline of 2023, or at least to get close enough to completion to succeed with a requested extension.

The sand filtering system to

clean sediment out of the community's muskeg water supply is old and inefficient, and the borough has struggled for years to meet Wrangell's water supply needs and state water quality standards.

The city has planned to upgrade the plant from sand filtration to what's called a

"dissolved air flotation system," which uses a coagulant to attract and bind together waste to air bubbles, which rise to the surface for removal.

Upgrading to a better treatment system has been on Wrangell's to-do list for years. Amber Al-Haddad, capital fa-

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COVID-19 cases

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reported on its COVID-19 website.

Officials said the surge is driven by residents who refuse vaccination, "even in the face of the more dangerous delta variant of the virus that is spreading across Alaska."

The City and Borough of Sitka on July 14 reinstated a masking requirement in municipal buildings, if six feet of social distance cannot be maintained. "Mask up, whether you are vaccinated or not," said Craig Warren, the emergency operations center incident commander.

Anchorage reported more than 300 new cases last week, 220 more over the weekend, and almost 700 in the past two weeks.

Cordova had more than 40 active cases at its peak last week in the community of 2,400 people, with an additional 14 over the weekend.

On Tuesday, Juneau ordered faces masks in all city and borough buildings and facilities, effective immediately, due to the jump in COVID-19 cases.

Juneau officials also have urged unvaccinated travelers arriving from Alaska communities that are seeing a rise in cases to get tested when they return to town, including travelers from Sitka, Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.

Two Juneau residents who traveled to Sitka within the past week tested positive for the virus.

Wrangell reported two cases last week — the first since the Fourth of July. Both were residents who had been in contact with visitors from out of town.

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department reported last Friday one of the people who tested positive for COVID "has recently frequented the pool facility," and public health officials were reaching out to people who may have been exposed.

"I am concerned, yes, I'm always concerned," Wrangell Mayor Steve Prysunka said of the latest cases in town. "If it blows up, we'll have to back up and punt," and possibly consider further measures to protect public safety.

Wrangell's vaccination rate is 62% of eligible residents. The statewide rate is almost 57%. Skagway leads Southeast at 81%, as of Tuesday.

The state has continued its contract with the SouthEast

Alaska Regional Health Consortium for free COVID-19 testing at the Wrangell airport. The contract had been due to end June 30. Testing at the first sign of any symptoms is important to catch infections before they spread, Prysunka said.

As of Monday, state health officials reported 69 people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 hospitalized in Alaska — more than twice the daily average for most of June.

Alaska's vaccination rate has not moved much in recent weeks, as fewer people are getting their shots. As of Monday, 56% of eligible Alaskans had received at least their first vaccine dose, and 51% were fully vaccinated. While Alaska was among the early vaccination leaders nationwide, the state has now slipped to 29th place as of Monday, according to federal statistics.

And though vaccinations do not guarantee a person will not get COVID-19, the shots are highly effective at preventing infections and, if infected, reducing the severity of the illness, state officials said.

A recent report prepared for the state said only 4.2% of Alaska's COVID-19 cases between February and June were among people who were fully vaccinated, while just 1% of Alaska's COVID-19 hospitalizations during that time involved fully vaccinated individuals.

As public health officials continue to emphasize the need for people to get vaccinated — to protect themselves and anyone around them — more employers are requiring vaccinations of their employees.

Southeast Alaska's largest tribal organization last week joined the growing list of employers. Leadership at the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska met last Friday and decided to require vaccinations, according to Juneau public radio station KTOO.

The Central Council joins the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium and other employers that have adopted similar vaccination policies in recent weeks.

The Tlingit & Haida executive council will also require delegates who attend the September tribal assembly in-person meeting to be vaccinated.



2019 PHOTO BY KIM ELTON

A black bear grabs a salmon near the Anan Wildlife Observatory, working from the rocks just across of the viewing platforms at the falls.

Bearfest starts 5-day run on Wednesday

By SENTINEL STAFF

Wrangell's annual Bearfest opens Wednesday and will feature symposiums by bear experts, art and photo workshops, children's games, pool time and more — even a demonstration by a Seattle sushi chef, adding a seafood entrée to the five-day festival menu.

This year's Bearfest will run to Aug. 1, returning in full force after the COVID-19 pandemic forced a scaled-back celebration in 2020.

The schedule also includes children's events, live music, the annual Bearfest run, a

golf tournament, community market, a plant walk, and lots of food.

This year's Bearfest will also feature Tlingit cultural stories at Chief Shakes House on July 29, a dinner and auction on July 30 prepared by Seattle chef Carrie Mashaney and the sushi-making demonstration and class with Brandon Wicks on July 31.

The full schedule is available on Facebook at "Alaska Bearfest," or online at www.alaskabearfest.org.

Paper copies of the schedule can be picked up at Alaska Vistas near the City Dock.

Cruise ship COVID case count climbs to 16

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

The COVID-19 case count among the 214 passengers and crew who were aboard the American Constellation's Southeast Alaska cruise the second week of July has risen to 16, as the ship prepared this week to end its 10-day quarantine in Juneau and resume voyages.

Of the 16, four isolated in Petersburg, which was where the first case was discovered on July 8, and a dozen in Juneau, the City and Borough of Juneau reported July 15.

As of Monday, nine had recovered and seven people remained in isolation in Juneau, officials said.

The 267-foot-long ship, operated by American Cruise Lines, tied up in Juneau on July 10 after

cutting short its voyage so that the crew could quarantine, while allowing uninfected passengers to disembark and fly home.

Neither the company nor Petersburg or Juneau officials have disclosed how many of the 16 cases were crew members and how many were passengers.

The company required all of its passengers to get fully vaccinated before traveling, but according to public health officials did not require the same for its crew.

However, at least two of the COVID-19 cases were fully vaccinated individuals, health officials said.

The change in operating plans meant the ship canceled its July 11-12 stopover in Wrangell. The American Constellation is not scheduled to return to

Wrangell until Sept. 7-8.

While docked in Juneau, 43 crew remained on board, in isolation from the community.

"The good news story about the American Constellation is the cases were identified very early," Bryan Fisher, the state's director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said in the state's weekly COVID-19 update.

"The company made the right decision to terminate the rest of that cruise and to isolate the folks that tested positive," Fisher said, as reported by public radio station KTOO in Juneau.

Juneau officials said the isolated cluster presented a "low" potential risk of exposure to the community.

The ship had been in Haines two days before the first case was reported in Petersburg. "There is limited concern of community spread given the date of the test and arrival into Haines," the Haines Borough said in a prepared statement the day the ship went into quarantine in Juneau. "Public Health is not recommending any additional safety precautions for Haines at this time."

American Cruise Lines allowed passengers to leave the boat in Petersburg for tourist activities the day after the first case was reported because the travelers were all fully vaccinated, according to the Petersburg Medical Center.

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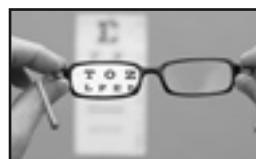
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

We try our best with old news

By LARRY PERSILY & CALEB VIERKANT
Wrangell Sentinel

Newspapers report what happened. Sure, we also report some of what will or may happen in the days ahead, but most of the Sentinel tells you what occurred last week in the community that may affect or interest you.

By definition, it's old news by the time you get it in your mailbox or buy it at the store on Thursdays.

It's not deliberately old, it's just a matter of timing.

Publishing a weekly newspaper has its time and production constraints, which dictate how old the news is by the time we get it into your hands.

To distribute the Sentinel on Thursday mornings, we have the paper printed on Wednesday in Petersburg — the closest printing press — and flown to Wrangell that afternoon. To print on Wednesday morning, we have to finish all of our reporting and writing by Tuesday. That's where the "old" starts to set in.

Numbers, such as COVID-19 cases, can change between Tuesday and Thursday. Ferries can break down over the two days, planes can divert due to bad weather, meeting dates can change, legislative plans can go in the opposite direction of what was expected, and people can change their minds a lot between Tuesday and Thursday.

We try our best to anticipate what may change, what could be different on Thursday, 48 hours after we finish our reporting. But we can't always get it totally right.

Sure, we can always report what changed the next week, but it's frustrating.

Just as exasperating is when something happens after we have finished putting together the Sentinel and we want to get the news into that week's paper but can't, due to the production deadlines.

Such as last week, when the Alaska Department of Transportation late Tuesday evening announced its draft ferry schedule for the fall and winter. The schedule is a stinker for Wrangell, with just one northbound sailing every other week and one lonely southbound sailing the other weeks for October and November.

It's embarrassing that Thursday's Sentinel did not report the news of the ferry schedule, but the news happened too late for deadline. As much as we understand why, it's still frustrating to wait a week to report the news that means so much to the community.

And while the Sentinel has increased its budget to print 12 pages a week instead of eight, that still leaves limited space for articles. That's particularly noticeable with Tuesday evening borough assembly meetings, when we have to pick what news can fit into the Sentinel on deadline night and which stories will have to wait to the next week.

That makes some of the news old news the next week, but still useful news.

The point in all this? Other than explaining why we miss stories sometimes, or why the Sentinel might say something was expected to happen on a Wednesday when, in fact, it never happened by the time you read about it on Thursday.

The point is that we believe it is important for the community to understand how the Sentinel operates, why some stories appear on time in the weekly paper and why some seem to be a week late. Why sometimes the numbers on Thursday look like they are left over from Tuesday.

It's not wrong, just a little old. But always accurate at the time we wrote the story. And that's what counts. Accuracy and fairness never get old, and we do our best to be both.

EDITORIAL

Time to move ahead with water plant project

Looking around at all the boots, raingear and plastic tarps, it's hard to imagine that Wrangell can't handle a little water.

The community can handle the rain alright. It's collecting all that water, cleaning it and delivering it to our homes, offices and businesses that is a challenge.

Wrangell's 23-year-old filtration plant, which runs muskeg water through a variety of sand filters and other processes, struggles to efficiently provide all the water the community needs and often falls short of meeting state standards for safe drinking water.

The borough has been aware of the problem for years and has been working hard to find the right answer. Wrangell succeeded several years ago in winning federal assistance totaling \$9 million toward the cost of a new system. After overcoming various delays imposed by multiple reasons, the borough wants to move ahead. The town's water supply needs a permanent fix.

The best solution looks to be a new filtration system that essentially uses air bubbles to help separate the bad stuff from the good water and bring it to the surface at the plant for removal.

However, other problems are rising to the surface. There is a 2023 use-it-or-lose-it deadline for the federal money, and though an extension is possible, it's less likely if Wrangell isn't making real progress toward a start on real construction.

And the project cost estimate is from 2017. Most definitely, that needs updating.

The borough assembly last week directed the administration to get the number updated. The estimated \$25,000 price tag for the update is smart money. Wrangell needs to know the cost before it can commit to the solution.

Leaving the existing water filtration system untouched is not an option. It falls short of the community's needs, both for supply and healthy water. Likewise, endless debate in search of a more perfect answer would burn up time Wrangell can ill afford — \$9 million in federal aid can fill a lot of glasses with cleaner water.

— *Wrangell Sentinel*

Canada reopens

Continued from page 1

it through a reciprocal intention."

Canadian officials also announced that children who aren't vaccinated but are traveling with vaccinated parents will not have to quarantine, but will have to avoid group activities.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that Canada could start allowing fully vaccinated Americans into the country as of mid-August for nonessential travel and should be in a position to welcome fully vaccinated travelers from all countries by early September.

Trudeau noted his country continues to lead G20 countries in vaccination rates, with approximately 80% of eligible Canadians vaccinated with their first dose and over 50% of those eligible fully vaccinated.

The numbers in the U.S. are almost 66% of eligible Americans with at least their first vaccine dose, and almost 57% fully vaccinated as of Monday, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the early days of the pandemic, the U.S. and Canadian governments both closed the more than 5,500-mile border to nonessential traffic. With increasing vaccination rates and dropping infection rates, many state and local officials and business owners were annoyed that the two governments hadn't laid out plans to fully reopen the border.

Canada began easing its restrictions earlier this month, allowing fully vaccinated Canadians or permanent legal residents to return to Canada without quarantining. But among the requirements are a negative test for the virus be-

fore returning, and another once they get back.

Pressure has been mounting on Canada to continue to ease the restrictions at the border, which have been in effect since March 2020. Providing exemptions for travel into Canada amid the pandemic is politically sensitive and Trudeau is expected to call a federal election next month.

Commercial traffic has gone back and forth normally between the two countries since the start of the pandemic, despite the ban on tourist, business and family travelers.

The U.S. Travel Association estimates that each month the border is closed costs \$1.5 billion in lost revenue. Canadian officials say Canada had about 22 million foreign visitors in 2019 — about 15 million of them from the United States.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Kalkins say thank you

The family of Minnie (Larsen) Kalkins wishes to thank everyone for the outpouring of love. Mom was a special lady and would be overwhelmed to know how many people think so.

Thank you Nettie for the warmth of the family service. The chuckles were comforting.

Thank you Zona, Annette, Lori, Missy and Les for all your work at the American Legion memorial dinner.

Thank you to everyone who provided food for all to share while remembering mom.

Thank you to everyone who came to eat, visit and remember the good times.

Mom loved her home, and you are all part of the reason why. Always smile when you think of her!

The Kalkins family

Thank you from hospice

Hospice of Wrangell thanks the City and Borough of Wrangell, particularly Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen, Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Hadad, and Duke Mitchell, for facilitating the community loan closet relocation.

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902
Published Weekly By: Good Journalism LLC
PO Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: 907-874-2301

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

Sentinel Staff:

Publisher Larry Persily
News Editors..... Caleb Vierkant
Office ManagerAmber Armstrong
ProductionOla Richards

Wrangell Sentinel (USPS 626-480) is published weekly except the third week of July and the week after Christmas by Wrangell Sentinel, 205 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929. Periodicals postage paid at Wrangell, AK. Phone: 907-874-2301; Email: wrgsent@gmail.com; Website www.wrangellsentinel.com. ©Copyright 2021.

Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1.50
Local.....\$46
Other Alaska.....\$62
2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$70
First Class.....\$102

Wrangell hosts first Heart Walk with Petersburg

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Dozens of people from Wrangell and Petersburg came together at the downtown pavilion Sunday morning for the first Heart Walk of their communities, organized as a fundraiser for the Children's Heart Foundation and as a way for the communities to show support for three families: The Bunes, Shumway and Maddox families.

As of Monday morning, the Heart Walk has raised \$8,797, with donations still coming in online.

Jaxon Bunes, 17 months old, is the child of Wrangell's Shawna and Jordan Bunes. Owen Shumway, 9 months, and his parents Ruby and Tim, are from Petersburg. Liam Maddox, 7 years old, lives in Colorado but his mother Jaci is originally from Wrangell.

"We're just excited to be part of the community that support heart warriors like ours," said Paul Maddox, Liam's father. "He (Liam) is seven years post-transplant. He had his heart transplant after being here, actually. We flew down to Seattle and now he's battling well."

All three of these children are "heart warriors" who were born with congenital heart defects. The Heart Walk was organized by Shawna and Ruby, who wanted to support the Children's Heart Foundation and bring together Wrangell and Petersburg for a good cause.

"Ruby and I met through our

sons," Shawna said. "We found out they both had the same heart condition called Tetralogy of Fallot. It's been quite the bonding experience, as parents, for us. Both of our sons have had their open-heart surgeries: Jaxon's had two, Owen has had one."

Ruby found that the Children's Heart Foundation does a fundraiser walk on July 18, "and so we wanted to be a part of that," Shawna said

Owen was at 23 weeks when Ruby found out about his heart defect and immediately texted Shawna. "I didn't know her personally, just met her on Facebook, and said, 'Hey, this is what's going on.' In true Shawna fashion she said, 'First of all, relax mama. Everything's going to be okay.'"

Tetralogy of Fallot, according to the Mayo Clinic website, is a rare defect that affects the structure of the heart, not allowing blood to carry enough oxygen.

At the walk, Tim Shumway, Owen's father, welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming out.

"We hope that this is kicking off what will become an annual Petersburg/Wrangell children's Heart Walk," he said. "Really what this is, is a continuation of the amazing support that our families have felt for the last 17 months. We've kind of gone through our respective journeys with our amazing heart warrior boys. ... The support has been overwhelming. So many people have been so generous, both



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ruby Shumway (left) and Shawna Bunes, with their kids Owen and Jaxon, at the first joint Wrangell/Petersburg Heart Walk, held Sunday in downtown Wrangell.

"Really what this is, is a continuation of the amazing support that our families have felt for the last 17 months. We've kind of gone through our respective journeys with our amazing heart warrior boys."

Tim Shumway,
Owen's father



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Paul and Jaci Maddox, and children Finley and Liam, live in Durango, Colorado, though Jaci is originally from Wrangell, and Liam, 7, (right), was one of the "heart warriors" recognized at Sunday's Heart Walk.

emotionally and materially."

In addition to walking, supporters could donate through a silent auction, pay-what-you-will snacks and through online donations. J&W's opened for the walk, donating the proceeds.

Winter ferry schedule

Continued from page 1

Aurora will be working in Prince William Sound.

Public comments on the draft schedule are due by July 27 and may be emailed to dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov, or faxed to 907-228-6873.

A teleconference with the Department of Transportation is set for 10 a.m. July 29 for Southeast

residents to comment on the draft schedule. The toll-free number for the teleconference is 1-515-604-9000, access code 279613.

Prysunka is skeptical that public comments will change anything, noting that he has served on the borough assembly for seven or eight years and comments have never led to a change

in the draft schedule.

"It's time now for us to stop pretending someone will rescue us," the mayor said of diminishing ferry service, advocating for Southeast communities to band together and investigate if there are any feasible options for a municipally operated ferry system of some kind, though he acknowledged any service would require a subsidy.

The department said it plans to release its proposed summer 2022 schedule for public comment soon after the fall/winter 2021 schedule is adopted.

The Legislature and governor agreed in this year's budget to fund the state ferry system for 18 months, through Dec. 31, 2022, rather than the usual 12-month spending plan, to allow the Department of Transportation to set schedules further in advance, giving travelers more notice to plan their trips.

More details on the draft winter schedule are available at dot.alaska.gov.



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Baked for Breakfast plans to mix old and new

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The decision to open a business just sort of happened, according to Bridgette Petticrew.

She and Celsee Churchill were sitting with their kids at dinner one night, and had a spur-of-the-moment idea to start one. Churchill is a good cook, Petticrew said, and she is a good baker. Now, about a month down the road from that idea, Baked for Breakfast is gearing up for business.

"We just had a couple of good ideas, and so far it's taking off," Churchill said. "We thought we'd start out small."

Part of what makes Baked for Breakfast unique is how their talents have come together. For example, Churchill did the woodwork for the café's sign, while Petticrew did the artwork. Churchill came up with the business name, while Petticrew designed the logo.

"But we (both) got the talent," Churchill said.

Petticrew said all they're waiting on to officially open is

their permit, which they hope to have approved by early September at the latest. Baked for Breakfast is going to provide Wrangell new choices when it comes to baked goods, and a café to get some breakfast to start the day.

Petticrew learned a lot of her baking skills from her grandmother, Joann. She said the frosting she uses for her dishes is her grandma's secret recipe, and has proven to be popular.

"Pretty much anything a bakery makes, I can do," Petticrew said. "Cupcakes are our biggest, or my biggest, at least at the moment, selling point. I can't seem to keep them in here." They are running just the bakery side of the business while waiting for the café to open.

As Petticrew handles the baking, Churchill said she'll run the breakfast end of the business. There's a demand for breakfast in Wrangell, Petticrew said. Since the closure of the Diamond C Café several years ago, Wrangell has had limited options for breakfast. Baked for

Breakfast plans to change that.

Churchill plans to start off simply with typical dishes: Breakfast burritos, omelets, waffles, pancakes and others. She also said she would like to try and replicate the Diamond C's hash browns, a popular item from the old café.

"It was always my favorite, with sausage gravy on the side," she said. "We'll do a version of it."

One unique option she's bringing to the table, literally, will be "croissants and gravy," rather than the typical biscuits and gravy.

"They're just so much better," Churchill said. "They're lighter, they're fluffier. I know they don't like change in Wrangell, necessarily, but I think it's small enough that it shouldn't make too big of waves."

Baked for Breakfast is located in the Churchill Building on Front Street, where NotSoFamous Pizza used to be. Petticrew said that when they first open for breakfast, it will be Thursdays through Sundays.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bridgette Petticrew (right) and Celsee Churchill are the owners and operators of Baked for Breakfast. Churchill handles the breakfast side of the business, while Petticrew handles the bakery.

Health insurance sign-up extended to August 15

By SENTINEL STAFF

This spring's federal pandemic aid legislation included a provision that could reduce the cost of health insurance available under the Affordable Care Act, the decade-old program that has provided federally subsidized insurance to millions of Americans.

The extended deadline to sign up for the latest savings is Aug. 15.

The American Rescue Plan, signed into law in March, included a provision for a special enrollment period and additional savings, in particular to help people who lost jobs, income or insurance coverage due to the economic hit of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A three-month extension in the sign-up deadline to Aug. 15 applies to people who are not currently participating in the

insurance program and also those who are enrolled but could reevaluate their coverage and possibly save money or boost their coverage under the American Rescue Plan provisions.

The U.S. Department of Health and Social Services estimates the savings would reduce premiums on average by \$85 per policy per month. Or, on average, one in four people

could upgrade to a better plan with more coverage for the same or lower premiums than what they currently pay.

"It would be an excellent time for them to apply," said Kate Govaars, with the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center, which last week reminded Southeast residents to check out the potential savings.

As of February, almost

17,000 Alaskans had signed up for subsidized policies on the federal health care Marketplace, with an additional 63,000 Alaskans covered by Medicaid after the state several years ago accepted the federal offer of expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act.

People can go to HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 for more information.

New jiu jitsu class starts next month

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

"I don't know, somehow you kind of get addicted to it, I guess," Matt Nore said.

Nore, volunteering with the Parks and Recreation Department, will be hosting jiu jitsu classes starting next month. Nore has grown up enjoying combat sports, he said, starting with wrestling in high school. He also participated in mixed martial arts through the Alaska Fighting Championship before he was first deployed to Iraq around 2004.

He started getting back into jiu jitsu early this year, he said, and wants to begin teaching others the basics so he can keep enjoying the sport. With no classes in Wrangell, however, Nore decided that he would have to make some himself.

"I wanted to be tough, I guess, when you're young," he said. "Now I just want to continue on for the benefits like muscular strength and flexibility."

Cognitive functions are another benefit the martial art can provide, Nore said. To improve at jiu jitsu, a fighter has to think several moves ahead. They cannot just take the match one move at a time. It is kind of like learning how to read, Nore said. A kid learns some letters, then how to put the letters together to make words, and then

how to put words together to make sentences.

"At first you don't see it in jiu jitsu, then this whole world kind of opens up," he said.

Registration for jiu jitsu classes open Aug. 2 and classes will begin Aug. 24. Nore said he is not sure of registration costs yet, but he is hoping for about 20 participants.

To register, contact the parks and rec department at 874-2444. Students must be at least 18 years old.

The department's website says classes will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with a session pass for the full program or drop-in fees for individual classes.

Nore plans to teach people the basics of jiu jitsu and ease them into the training, and he has been in contact with professional coaches from Ketchikan and Washington state, to see about the possibility of larger seminars in the future. He also said people can learn more by following his new Facebook page, "Wrangell Jiu Jitsu."

"I know enough to teach the basics and get people going," Nore said. "As I'm learning new things, I'm helping also teach other people. Everyone's getting better together. ... I really wanted to continue jiu jitsu so I was like, 'Well, I gotta do it myself.'"

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Water treatment plant

Continued from page 1

cilities director, said the borough received a loan and grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration between 2017 and 2019.

"Each of the agencies, they have a five-year term on their funding," Al-Haddad said. "So here we are. That was 2017 and 2019, and we're at 2021."

Assemblymember Anne Morrison asked for a particular date of when the funding would expire, and specifically how much of the project needed to be completed by then. The water treatment plant would need to be completed and closed out by September of 2023, Al-Haddad said.

Assemblymember David Powell wanted to know why the city had been so delayed in

this project.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said there were several delays in the process. The first was it took two years for the borough to receive the EDA grant. Attorneys from the two different agencies also spent months determining if the company that did the engineering report on the project would be eligible to bid on the work.

"Those delays had not anything to do with us," Von Barga said.

The second issue is the estimated costs for the project may no longer be accurate.

"That (water treatment) project cost and the funding provided for it is based on our preliminary engineering report, which was initially developed in the fall of 2016," Al-Haddad said. "The report was finalized March 2017. We're five years be-

yond those cost estimates."

The assembly is now faced with either moving forward with reevaluating the costs of upgrading the water treatment system, or starting over and revisiting all available options for upgrades.

It would cost about \$25,000 to update the costs for the air flotation system, and Al-Haddad said they could get the results back by September.

There was no firm estimate on how much it would cost to look at all of Wrangell's options again, she said, but it would be somewhere around \$65,000 and take longer.

"I understand the two years for the funding and the one year of lawyers and all that stuff," Powell said. "Do you honestly think that we are going to pull this off? That's my honest question."

"We need to put together a project schedule so that we are meeting that deadline," Von Barga answered. "That being said, both of them (the federal departments) said the end date can be extended. They just don't like to. It's made at the Washington, D.C., level. I believe we have the capacity to go to the delegation if we are making meaningful progress, and I mean meaningful progress, to go to them and ask for an extension. There are ways to get this done."

Assembly members discussed the pros and cons of revisiting the cost of one possible upgrade versus relooking at all alternatives before coming to an agreement that they should move forward with the air flotation project and get the costs reevaluated for that work.

Wrangell short of foster homes for kids in need

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell needs more foster homes for children.

"A lot of people are afraid to even take that first step," said Vena Talea Stough, a tribal family and youth services case worker in Wrangell with the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Providing a safe home could be temporary, such as in an emergency, or a long-term relationship.

"If something happens in the middle of the night, that kid would have someplace to go," Stough said.

"The need is great," for more foster homes in town, she said. Children with family ties to Wrangell are in foster care in Washington, Arizona and Nevada.

As of last week, there were five licensed foster homes in Wrangell, but only one was accepting kids, she said.

Without enough foster homes, children may have to move multiple times, adding to their trauma, said Cindy Mills, field staff supervisor for Wrangell, Saxman, Craig, Kasaan, Klawock and Haines. "If we have someplace, that means they don't have to move two or three times."

Tlingit & Haida and the state Office of Children's Services (OCS) work together to provide support for foster families, Mills said. "We want somebody who cares about these children."

Getting an OCS case worker back in Wrangell will help, Stough said. "We definitely need one."

The community lost its state case worker several years ago, but legislators were successful in restoring funding to the state budget for the year that started July 1. The borough is helping to cover the costs.

It's uncertain how soon the state can hire, train and place the new worker in Wrangell.

OCS works closely with Tlingit & Haida under the Indian Child Welfare Act, a 1978 federal law that sets requirements for child custody proceedings and foster care for American Indian or Alaska Native children who are a member of or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe.

"They need to be tribally tied to Wrangell," Stough said of Tlingit & Haida's case work.

"We work with OCS. ... They need to listen to the tribe," Mills said. In placing a youth in foster care, Mills said they look first to the immediate family, then the extended family, next to members of the child's tribe, and then to other Native households.

"Keeping their cultural connections is huge, keeping their community connections is huge," Stough said.

Mills called the teamwork of Tlingit & Haida, OCS and others, "a big support network in small communities."

For more information, contact Stough at vsstough@ccthitansn.gov, or call 907-874-3482.

Wrangell is not alone in a shortage of foster care. In May, the state reported about 1,390 foster homes in Alaska — almost 300 fewer than February 2020.

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OBITUARIES

Pilot, boat captain Chuck Traylor dies at 86

Longtime Wrangell resident Chuck Traylor, 86, died July 13 at Wrangell Medical Center. As Chuck would say, he had a good run, his family wrote.

He was born in Nebraska in 1934, and his family was in and out of Alaska several times in the 1940s and early 1950s before settling in Alaska permanently.

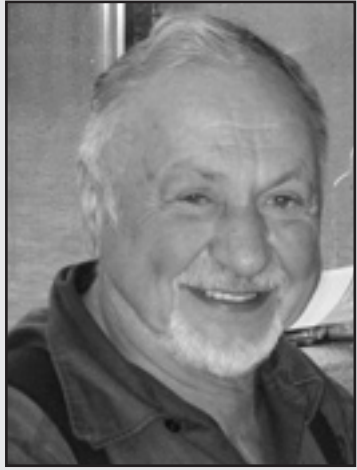
In 1948, the Traylor family was living at the floating logging camp in Hood Bay on Admiralty Island. There, Chuck and his sister, Vona, adopted a starving orphaned fawn, raised it, and released it. They also cared for twin bear cubs, the family wrote. Chuck reminisced about one of the cubs being sweet and easy, and the other one being ornery and knocking the nice cub off of the floating walkway and into the bay.

That summer Chuck found paying work fishing for halibut out of a small wooden rowboat to add to the camp menu. He also ran a laundry service for the loggers.

In the winter of his 14th year, while much of the bay was frozen, Chuck would walk for the logging camp's mail. He walked several miles and then signaled the winter caretaker of the cannery across the north arm of Hood Bay by setting off sticks of dynamite. The caretaker would run across in the skiff to exchange the mail.

Chuck was in the woods working as a stinger man on the tip of the bar of his father's 120-pound Titan two-man chainsaw at age 15. It was during those logging camp days, when the Grumman Goose aircraft brought loggers and freight to the camps, that Chuck's interest in flying sprouted, his family said.

At age 16, Chuck spent some time in Washington state. He jumped onto a bus full of men heading for a forest fire. Chuck agreed with a



Chuck Traylor

fire boss that he was 18 years old, and joined the crew. He ran chainsaw, clearing brush and felling trees at the fire line.

In his late teens he worked at Ellis Airlines in Ketchikan, assisting in the shop.

Chuck graduated from Ketchikan High School.

Chuck was drafted and served in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Germany.

In the early 1960s, he and Johnny Baker partnered to start Stikine Air Service in Wrangell. Later Chuck

bought Johnny out. Originally, Stikine Air Service was in Wrangell harbor. Chuck built a large hanger and office at the airport and moved the business there.

Chuck and his Stikine Air crew served logging camps, took locals and tourists to lakes and up the Stikine River, operated flightseeing tours, and provided the medivac service for Wrangell. He sold Stikine Air in the late 1970s.

After leaving the air travel business, he got his six-pack Coast Guard captain's license and took tourists on Stikine River trips, as well as out fishing. He delivered freight in his boat The Runner to Bradfield Canal when the Tyee hydroelectric power plant was being built. When it was time for another change, he commercial fished for Dungeness crab and spot prawns with the Little Gem.

Chuck enjoyed running the Stikine River in his river scow, spending time at his cabin at the Zimovia Islets, rockhounding, singing a tune at the local bar, and drinks with friends.

He used to joke that he's a has-been because he "has been about all you can be in Alaska."

He was preceded in death by wives Sharon and Yvonne. Survivors include his partner, Donna Grover; three daughters; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services are pending.

Tugboat captain, carver Bill Churchill dies at 88

William Irving Churchill, "Uncle Bill," 88, passed away July 8 in Wrangell, where he was born in September 1932. Bill led a full and wonderful life, served in the U.S. Navy, was a member and commander of American Legion Post 6, a Native artist and teacher, tugboat captain, grandfather, great-grandfather, father, brother, uncle and friend to many.

While in the Navy, Bill was a combat air crewman and wore his title very proudly. He was decorated with several

medals for his actions in the Korean War. Bill and his five brothers were active in the military, including during times of war. Many years later, in 1961, he was in a plane crash and was the only survivor. He wrote a short story about it, "I'll Cry Tomorrow."

As a Native artist and master carver, Bill taught Native carving all over Southeast Alaska, teaching his students how to carve and make their own tools. He was well known for his carved canoe nameplates, halibut hooks, paddles and other Native art, which are on display at various locations around town and many offices at Alaska Native health clinics.

In his spare time, until the end, Bill carved items for his friends, and two of his latest carvings were found on his carving table.

He was a tugboat captain for many years,



Bill Churchill

working for Campbell Towing, Sampson Tug & Barge, and Alasco Towing Co. He worked on the tugs Alasco 4, Karen, Mavis Lynn, May, Ernest and others way up north on the rivers. He was happy in the wheelhouse and would entertain himself by playing the harmonica and singing. He had a good singing voice.

In the early 1960s, he owned and operated an auto shop, A & B Auto, with the motto: "Push it in, drive it out."

Bill married Winona in 1955 and had three children. Loved

by many, he is survived by son Maurice Churchill, of Nevada; daughter Nellmarie Churchill; brothers David Roy and Harry Churchill; granddaughter Chasity Noel (Marietta); grandson Michael Churchill (Bill Jr); great-grandsons Carter Noel and Cohen Bennett; many nieces and nephews and lifelong friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Charlotte (Hubert) Churchill; his parents, Frank and Mary (Loftus) Churchill; his sister, Katherine Rude; brothers Leonard, Eddie Pat and Frank "Bummie" Churchill; his son, William Churchill Jr.; daughter Marietta Jo Smith; and granddaughter Tiffany Churchill.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 14 in Wrangell, with a memorial at 3 p.m. at the American Legion Hall.

— the Churchill family

Forest Service proclaims end to large-scale Tongass logging

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said July 15 it is ending large-scale, old-growth timber sales on the nation's largest national forest — the Tongass National Forest in Alaska — and will instead focus on forest restoration, recreation and other non-commercial uses.

The announcement by the U.S. Forest Service reverses a Trump administration decision to lift restrictions on logging and road-building in the Southeast Alaska rainforest, which provides habitat for wolves, bears and salmon, and encompasses several communities totaling more than 70,000 residents.

Smaller timber sales, including some old-growth trees, will still be offered for local communities and cultural uses such as totem poles, canoes and tribal artisan use, the Forest Service said.

The Agriculture Department, which includes the Forest Service, also said it will take steps to restore the so-called Roadless Rule for the Tongass. The 2001 rule prohibits road construction and timber harvests with limited exceptions on nearly one-third of national forest land. The Trump administration moved last year to exempt the Tongass from the rule, winning plaudits from Alaska's Republican governor and its

all-Republican congressional delegation.

By reverse the Trump administration decision and restoring roadless-rule protections, officials are "returning stability and certainty to the conservation of 9.3 million acres of the world's largest temperate old-growth rainforest," the Agriculture Department said.

Conservationists cheered the announcement, which the administration had signaled last month.

"Old-growth forests are critical to addressing climate change, so restoring roadless protections to the Tongass is critical, said Andy Moderow of the Alaska Wilderness League.

"With Alaska experiencing climate impacts more acutely than most, we shouldn't be discussing the continued clearcutting" of a national forest long considered the crown jewel of the U.S. forest system, Moderow said.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said the Biden administration was "literally throwing away" years of work by the Forest Service and Agriculture Department under former President Donald Trump.

"We need to end this 'yo-yo effect' as the lives of Alaskans who live and work in the Tongass are upended every time we have a new president, Murkowski said last month. "This has to end."

Coast Guard promotes formation of Wrangell auxiliary detachment

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Liz Bunes is working to reestablish a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary detachment in Wrangell, and she received some help last week when a retired vice admiral, a division commander and Alaska district chief of staff were in town to meet with community members, answer questions and promote the idea.

Wrangell has been without an auxiliary for about 25 years. While working to change that, Bunes was sworn in as a member by the visiting dignitaries in a ceremony July 14 in Wrangell.

"The Coast Guard, especially in Alaska, has radio stations up around the coast," said David Larkin, commander of the Juneau auxiliary detachment.

"If you're in trouble you get on (channel) 16 and call," Larkin said. But, if the Coast Guard equipment is down for maintenance or is not working, "and the Coast Guard doesn't hear you," auxiliary members monitoring the channel can pick up the call and contact the Coast Guard, he said.

Bunes said it would take 15 members for Wrangell to be recognized as its own detachment, but that is not a firm number, and anyone interested should contact her

for more information at 907-305-0014.

"There's actually a lot of training just to get through the hoops," Bunes said. "But once we get established and get all the training done for basic qualifying, then it would be like once a month, maybe twice a month. ... Then of course the activities you do, it depends on what the need is."

The auxiliary is a volunteer component of the Coast Guard. Auxiliary members can provide a number of duties to assist the Coast Guard and communities such as Wrangell, such as providing vessel safety checks, boating safety checks, youth activities, anti-pollution work, ham radio operators, and serving as cooks aboard Coast Guard cutters.

Being part of the auxiliary also offers training and educational opportunities, the visiting officials said.

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Oregon rain forest no longer safe from wildfires

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

OTIS, Ore. (AP) - Wildfire smoke was thick when Tye and Melynda Small went to bed last Labor Day, but they weren't too concerned. After all, they live in a part of Oregon where ferns grow from tree trunks and rain-fall averages more than six feet a year.

But just after midnight, a neighbor awakened them as towering flames, pushed by gusting winds, bore down. The Smalls and their four children fled, as wind whipped the blaze into a fiery tornado and trees exploded around them.

When it was over, they were left homeless by a peril they had never imagined. Only two houses on their street in Otis survived a fire they expected to be tamped out long before it reached their door less than six miles from the Pacific Ocean.

"Nobody ever thought that on the Oregon coast we would have a fire like this. Here ... it rains. It rains three-quarters of the year," Melynda Small said. "It was one of the scariest things I've ever gone through."

The fire that leveled the rural community of 3,500 people was part of an Oregon wildfire season last fall that destroyed more than 4,000 homes, killed nine people and raged through 1.1 million acres. Almost all the damage occurred over a hellish 72 hours that stretched firefighters to their breaking point.

Pushed by unusually strong winds, fires ripped through temperate rainforest just a few minutes' drive from the ocean, crept to within 30 miles of downtown Portland, leveled thousands of homes and busi-

nesses along Interstate 5 and wiped out communities that cater to outdoors enthusiasts.

It was a wake-up call for the Pacific Northwest as climate change brings destructive blazes that feel more like California's annual fire siege to wet places and urban landscapes once believed insulated from them.

And while last year was a wake-up call, this summer is ringing even louder as Oregon is in another fire season amid some of the worst conditions in memory. The largest blaze is about 200 miles southeast of last year's inferno in Otis.

The destructive Bootleg Fire, one of the largest in modern Oregon history, as of Monday had burned more than 535 square miles.

Thousands have been ordered to evacuate, including some 2,000 people who live in rugged terrain among lakes and wildlife refuges near the fire, which, as of Monday, has burned at least 67 homes and 100 outbuildings while threatening many more.

Oregon weathered its driest April in 80 years, and in the normally wet months of March and April, it had the lightest rainfall since 1924.

Marc Brooks, who founded Cascade Relief Team to help last fall's fire victims statewide, said by this April his group had been put on alert four times for wildfires at a time when "we should be getting snow, not drought."

The warming climate means snow on Oregon's famous peaks melts earlier, leaving soil and vegetation parched by late summer even if it does rain, said Erica Fleishman, director of

the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University.

Last fall's blazes were driven by "extremely rare" powerful, sustained winds, and in combination with the arid conditions, a major wildfire was almost inevitable, she said. "If we had a spark — and any time we have people, we have a spark — there was a high likelihood that a fire would ignite."

Fire on the Oregon coast isn't without precedent. A series of blazes starting in the 1930s scorched 355,000 acres in what's known as the Tillamook Burn. In 1936, a wind-driven fire killed 10 people in the seaside town of Bandon.

But what happened last fall across western Oregon was extreme, said Larry O'Neill, Oregon's state climatologist.

The Cascade Mountains run north-south and separate the notoriously rainy part of the state to the west and the drier climate to the east, where fires usually burn in less populated areas. Last year multiple blazes raged in the western Cascades where "you think of it being a rainforest with ferns" and closer to population centers, O'Neill said.

"I thought we still had a generation or so to get our ducks in a row to prepare for this, and these last couple fire seasons here have been a huge wake-up call that we are experiencing it now," he said.

One fire in southwest Oregon obliterated thousands of homes in two towns along Interstate 5, and was unique for Oregon because it was fueled by houses, gas stations and fast-food restaurants — not forest,



AP PHOTO/GILLIAN FLACCUS

The frame is all that remained of a melted gas station sign in Blue River, Oregon. The unincorporated community along the McKenzie River east of Eugene was one of many places in western Oregon devastated during a 72-hour firestorm last fall. The state's unprecedented fall 2020 wildfire season burned 4,000 homes and more than 1 million acres in areas that are not normally associated with wildfire.

said Doug Grafe, head of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"To lose the number of communities that we did was eye-opening," he said. "That's new ground for Oregon, but California was the canary in the coal mine."

Last fall, that new reality reshaped the Smalls' life — and the lives of hundreds of other Oregon residents — in just a few hours. The Echo Mountain Fire burned nearly 300 homes and displaced about 1,000 people.

Like many of their neighbors, the Smalls were underinsured and did not have wildfire coverage for their house. They bounced around for weeks — an emergency evacuation site, camping by a stream and staying with relatives in Washington state.

An insurance payout of \$50,000 was not enough to buy a manufactured home big enough for their family. Eight

months after the fire, the money goes to keep their kids in a single room at a local Comfort Inn, while the parents sleep in a borrowed trailer outside.

The family had two rooms paid for by the state, but when wildfire survivors were asked to move to a different motel, the Smalls decided to stay and pay their own way rather than uproot their family again. They said they didn't qualify for federal disaster assistance and that the pandemic cost Tye Small his job as a gas station attendant.

"Our 5-year-old, she had a really hard time," Melynda Small said.

Every time a new manufactured home is delivered to a fire survivor, Melynda Small is there in her "Otis Strong" sweatshirt, beaming with excitement and taking photos for a community Facebook page. By her last tally, there are 38 new manufactured homes and six "stick-builds" in progress.

Police report

Monday, July 12

Vacation check.
Disturbance.
Vehicle unlock.

Tuesday, July 13

Citizen assist.
Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.
Citizen assist.
Subpoena served.
Letter served for removing person from licensed establishment.
Citizen assist.

Wednesday, July 14

Dog at large.
Civil matter.
Agency assist: Alarm.
Trespassing.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Traffic.

Thursday, July 15

Traffic Stop: Driving under the influence.
Traffic: Verbal warning for defective brake lights and out-of-state drivers license.
REDDI Report: Driving under the influence.

Friday, July 16

Harassing phone calls.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Theft.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

Saturday, July 17

Traffic stop.
Traffic stop.
Agency assist: Alarm

Sunday, July 18

Disturbance.
Vehicle theft.
Citizen assist.
Noise complaint.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Salmon prices up across the state this summer

Early prices to Alaska salmon fishermen are trickling in and, as anticipated, they are up across the board. That will give a nice boost to the economic base of fishing communities and the state from fish taxes, fees and other assessments.

About one-third (62 million) of Alaska's projected catch of 190 million salmon had crossed the docks by July 16 at the halfway point of the fishing season.

Prices paid to fishermen vary based on buyers, gear types and regions, and bonuses and post-season pay adjustments won't be finalized until early next year.

Here's an early snapshot of average base prices from major processors at this point in the season:

At Bristol Bay, OBI Seafoods has upped the price paid to fishermen to \$1.25 per pound, topping the \$1.10 per pound that Peter Pan posted before the start of the season, up from \$0.70 last year.

Kodiak fishermen were getting \$1.45 to \$1.50 for sockeyes, and \$1.75 in Southeast.

That compares to a statewide average of just \$0.76 a pound for sockeye salmon last year. A 2021 catch of 46.6 million sockeyes is expected for Alaska; the total so far has topped 44 million.

Pink salmon were averaging \$0.35 cents a pound for fishermen. An Alaska harvest of 124.2 million pinks is expected this summer, nearly 49% higher than last year. The statewide pink salmon price in 2020 averaged \$0.30 cents a pound.

Chums were averaging \$0.50 per pound for Kodiak fishermen, twice last year's price, and \$0.85 at Southeast, compared to \$0.45. The average chum price in 2020 was \$0.43 cents a pound.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, troll-caught kings at Southeast were averaging \$6.73 a pound, compared to a statewide average of \$5.07 last year. With aver-

age weights at 11 pounds, each chinook was again worth more than one barrel of Alaska crude oil (\$74.03 vs. 73.48 as of July 16).

Coho salmon catches will begin adding up in August, but troll-caught silvers at Southeast were paying fishermen a whopping \$2.50 per pound for all sizes. That compares to \$1.74 in the Panhandle last year and a statewide average for silvers at \$1.17.

Smaller sockeyes

The run of sockeye salmon returning home to Bristol Bay could set a record at 66 million fish. The catch has topped 36 million, but the reds are smaller than in past years.

The average size this summer is 4.5 pounds, compared to 5.1 pounds last year, said Dan Lesh with McKinley Research Group. Still, the sockeyes are heading into an eager market.

"Supply is low and there is strong demand for premium seafoods across the board," he

said. "People have more money and spending at food service is at pre-pandemic levels."

Bristol Bay reds aren't the only ones shrinking.

Chinook size has declined the most at 8%; 3.3% for cohos; 2.4% for chum salmon; and a 2.1% shrinkage in sockeyes overall.

That's based on 60 years of measurements from 12.5 million Alaska salmon, excluding pinks, by Nature Communications that compared average body lengths before 1990 and after 2010.

Sleeping at sea, or not

Finding time to sleep is one of the biggest challenges during a fishing trip, especially during limited openers. The pressure to bait and pull pots or lines and handle nets can be unrelenting.

"The less you sleep, the more money you make in some sense. That's a really hard thing to overcome. Because everybody wants to make more money," said Jerry Dzugan, director of the Alaska Marine

Safety Education Association at Sitka.

Sleep deprivation leads to more accidents and worsens physical performance, he told public radio station KDLL in Kenai

"The military alone has done volumes on this because of performance of personnel in the military. But not much has been done in the commercial fishing industry. And I think that's the big thing," he said. "I don't think I've had one person tell me it's not a problem."

The safety program has partnered with national organizations for a two-year project with 200 randomly selected fishermen in Alaska, Oregon and the Northeast. The group will track and hear fishermen's concerns about their sleep patterns and possible effects on their safety and health.

Funding comes from the U.S. Coast Guard and the National

Continued on page 11

CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

FOR SALE

Used desk. 41" long, 28" high, 16" deep. Pull-out keyboard tray. \$10. Call 907-209-5616.

HELP WANTED

Tongass Federal Credit Union is seeking a qualified individual for the Branch Manager position in Wrangell. Five years of

financial institution supervisory experience and lending knowledge is preferred. We offer competitive pay, health and employee benefits, paid time off and a fun atmosphere! For more information, please contact Trish Hup at trishhup@tongassfcu.com.

HELP WANTED

Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

Custodians: These are full-time, year-round classified positions with benefits earning \$15.45 to \$23.39/hour, 7.5 hours per day. Job duties include but are not limited to keeping our school complex clean and assisting with setting up rooms for classes, large presentations and business meetings as needed; and assisting with minor repairs. A high school diploma or equivalent is desired.

Paraprofessionals: These are part-time, nine-month positions earning \$14 to \$23.42 per hour. We have multiple open positions

working as instructional aides with students, for a minimum of 5.75 hours per day in small groups or one-on-one in the library or special-education programs. A high school

diploma or equivalent is required. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Clayton Smalley. You are notified that the court has appointed a personal representative of the estate of Clayton Smalley, born November 20, 1957, died June 26, 2021. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Case No. 1PW-21-00024PR
Sherrie Carlson
PO Box 566
Forks, WA 98331
360-461-5525
sher.carlson1956@gmail.com

Publish July 15, 22 and 29, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR SALE

In conformance with WMC 16.12 and approved by Resolution No. 06-21-1592, the Borough is offering for sale the City Owned Property (Building and Land), listed below, on the Public Surplus Website:

<https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wrangell.ak/browse/cataucs?catid=15>

Property Description: Lot 5, Block 59A, Industrial Subdivision (Amended Plat), Plat No. 85-8, Wrangell Recording District (more commonly known as the Armory Property).

The building with property shall be available for bidding on the Public Surplus Website for not less than 30 days, specifically starting on June 25, 2021, and closing on July 30, 2021, ADT at 3 p.m.

Bidders' registration and fee required in advance of the online auction on the Public Surplus Website.

Visit the Borough website at:
<https://www.wrangell.com/community/city-owned-property-sale> for the terms and conditions and specifics of the auction/sale of the property.

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

Publish July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

During the Regular Borough Assembly meeting of Tuesday, July 27, 2021, starting at 6 p.m., there will be a PUBLIC HEARING on the following item(s):

a. Ordinance No. 1004 of the assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, amending the zoning map to effect a change to lot Y2, tract Y, U.S.S. 2321 from light industrial to rural residential 1.

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

Publish July 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

On April 23, 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initiated an environmental cleanup project at the former FAA facilities on lands managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) on the eastern side of Big Level Island, AK (56.465788-133.094870). This project includes the excavation and offsite disposal of approximately 2,600 cubic yards (CYs) of impacted soils (hazardous and non-hazardous waste) associated with the former FAA landfill, former landfill burn and staging areas, and a former barge pipeline connection point. Further, this FAA onsite effort includes a subsurface investigation to delineate potentially impacted soils associated with former FAA housing and mission-supporting FAA mechanical shops. Hazardous substances associated with the project are subject to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). FAA is performing the Big Level Island cleanup activities in coordination and under regulatory oversight of the USDA FS and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).

All waste generated during the project is containerized, appropriately characterized for disposal, and removed from the island on a weekly basis, or as required. Soil and other debris contaminated with hazardous and non-hazardous (petroleum) substances are being shipped to Columbia Waste Management and Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon, respectfully. Lead-painted metal will be sent to the Petersburg Bailer Facility in Petersburg, Alaska, to be transported to a metal recycler in Seattle, Washington. Other non-hazardous waste is being shipped to the Petersburg, Alaska, Landfill.

In accordance with 40 CFR 300.820, the administrative record associated with this environmental cleanup effort on Big Level Island, AK, is available for public review and comment at the USFS Petersburg Ranger District Office located at 12 N. Nordic Drive, Petersburg, AK 99833. The Administrative Record includes the Time-Critical Removal Action Memorandum and the Work Plan governing the project in 2021. Because Forest Service offices are closed due to Covid-19, an appointment can be made by calling (907)-772-3871. A thirty-day comment period begins the date this notice is published. Comments can be sent to Linda Riddle, Alaska On-Scene Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Room 549, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska, 99801 or to linda.riddle@usda.gov.

Publish: July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021

Film school grad returns home to Ketchikan to make sci-fi short

By RAGEAN MILLER
Ketchikan Daily News

While growing up in the First City, Emilio Torres always knew he was going to make a movie.

A recent graduate of New York University's film school, Torres arrived back in Ketchikan early in July to work with a cast of local actors and friends from film school to bring his debut short film, "The Ladder," to life.

Torres, who moved to Seattle from New York City, described the project as a philosophical sci-fi short film about a fisherman who is confronted with a choice to change his life forever.

Filming took four days in Ketchikan. Torres hopes that he will be able to enter "The Ladder" into film festivals. He attributed much of his longtime interest in film to a Ketchikan childhood.

"I grew up in Ketchikan and that was kind of my way into the whole world of filmmaking, because when I was younger I did theater," he told said. "Thanks to First City Players, I had a lot of opportunities to be in theater and involved in theater growing up. And so, because of that, I became fascinated with acting, performing and storytelling (and) directing. That's always what I wanted to do."

Torres wrote the script for the "The Ladder" in 2019, but had to table the project due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Along with a crew of film school associates and other friends — some from Ketchikan — he was ready to get back to business. "There's an excitement just in the fact that I finally get to make it, but there's also like the aspect of, you know, I grew up here in Ketchikan and when I was a kid, I dreamed of going to film school," he said.

In "The Ladder," a fisherman has a big choice to make when a bio-technology company called Actilife makes available a voluntary procedure to transplant older individuals' consciousness into a 21-year-old body.

"In essence, they created a



DUSTIN SAFRANEK/KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS VIA AP

Director Emilio Miguel Torres halts foot traffic on set during filming for "The Ladder" on July 7 in Ketchikan. A recent graduate of New York University's film school, Torres arrived back in Ketchikan early last week to work with a cast of local actors and friends from film school to bring his debut short film, "The Ladder," to life.

way for older people in our communities to restart their lives, if they so choose," Torres explained. "And in the film, it explores Ketchikan, because it is kind of being used as a test city to see how this procedure would work."

The storyline follows a fictitious First City fisherman named Arthur, portrayed by local Keith Smith, who is given the opportunity to complete the procedure.

"And so the film is about whether or not he does this procedure," Torres said. "The film is really just about (if) an older Alaska fisherman would or would not want to restart their life."

Torres said he always had an obsession with the idea of "starting over."

"I'm always like, 'Oh, well, if I just go back to this year or this day, you know, I can change it ... or if I just had more time, I could do this,'" he said. "That's always been on my mind in general. But you know, really, what the movie's about beyond just that concept is how family dynamics change as you age."

The recent graduate also was inspired by his own developing

understanding of how he relates to his family as he gets older.

"Our main character struggles with whether or not to do this and also how to go about telling your son if he wants to do it," he said. "And that came from me, you know, I wrote the script and I went to college and it was kind of the first time as an adult (that) I was interacting with my parents as another adult. And so, it kind of clicked for me to be like, 'Oh yeah, my relationships with these people are different and they're always going to be different.'"

He hopes the movie shows that shifting family dynamics can be positive.

"But of course, it's a challenge and how you navigate it in our modern day world is pretty, pretty crazy," Torres added.

The movie's namesake was derived from the salmon ladder in Ketchikan Creek near Married Man's Trail and Park Avenue.

"The reason the movie's called 'The Ladder' is because it's a metaphor for the salmon ladder," Torres said. "And when I was a kid, I used to think about how the salmon ladder is so interesting because we learn in school that salmon are in the

ocean, and then when it's time for them to spawn, they swim up the creek. They go up the ladder and then they'll spawn and have their children and then die."

He continued, "And that was always really profound to me, even as a kid, because I used to think are the salmon aware when they hop up the ladder in some weird spiritual way that they're accepting the end of their life?"

Torres' thoughts about salmon became part of the movie, inspiring a scene involv-

ing a discussion about salmon between the main character and his daughter-in-law.

While there wasn't a formal casting process, Torres said that there were auditions. He noted that he pictured Keith Smith in the role of Arthur as he wrote the script two years ago, having known him for many years before writing the movie.

"Then it became a question of casting the other actors," he said, adding that he simply reached out to people in Ketchikan.

"I was planning to make it in May of 2020, but obviously in March when the COVID-19 pandemic first started, at that time, it did not feel right or responsible to make the movie," Torres said. "So I went ahead and postponed production. And at that time, I really didn't know when we were going to make it, because at that point, none of us really knew what this pandemic was going to be."

With the production on pause, Torres graduated early from NYU's film school.

He said that in the past year, he decided to aim to start shooting the film this summer. He raised about \$17,000, which went toward production costs such as equipment rental and insurance and other fees.

Torres said that the next step is to start editing the footage from the filming process in Ketchikan when he returns home to Seattle.

Fish Factor

Continued from page 10

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

NIOSH spokesperson Julie Sorensen told *National Fisherman* that fishermen have said they wonder how sleep deprivation will affect their cognitive ability as they get older. Many are curious about energy drinks, naps, diet, and other sleep disrupters.

Find links to the project called "Assessments of Sleep Deprivation and Associated Health and Cognitive Impacts in Commercial Fishermen" at www.necenter.org/

Expo is back

Pacific Marine Expo is back in person after COVID-19 forced it to cancel last year. Now in its 55th year, the trade show is set for Nov. 18-20 at the Lumen Field Event Center in Seattle.

Expo is on track to host about 500 vendors, said Bob Callahan,

vice president of Diversified Communications Group and Expo director.

This year's Expo has another good lure.

"This year is a bonus because the Seahawks play on Sunday, the day after the show closes," Callahan said. "They play the Cardinals. We'll be giving out Seahawks tickets over the three days." www.pacificmarine-expo.com

At the grocery store

U.S. fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable seafood sales reached \$585 million in June. That was a 5.3% drop from 2020, but sales are up nearly 44% compared to June 2019, reported Seafood-Source.

The survey is finding "increases in household penetration, trips and spend per trip," 210 Analytics Principal Anne-Marie Roerink said.

Murkowski out-fundraises Senate challenger

JUNEAU (AP) - U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski ended the latest quarter with a big cash-on-hand advantage over conservative Republican rival Kelly Tshibaka, according to fundraising reports released July 15.

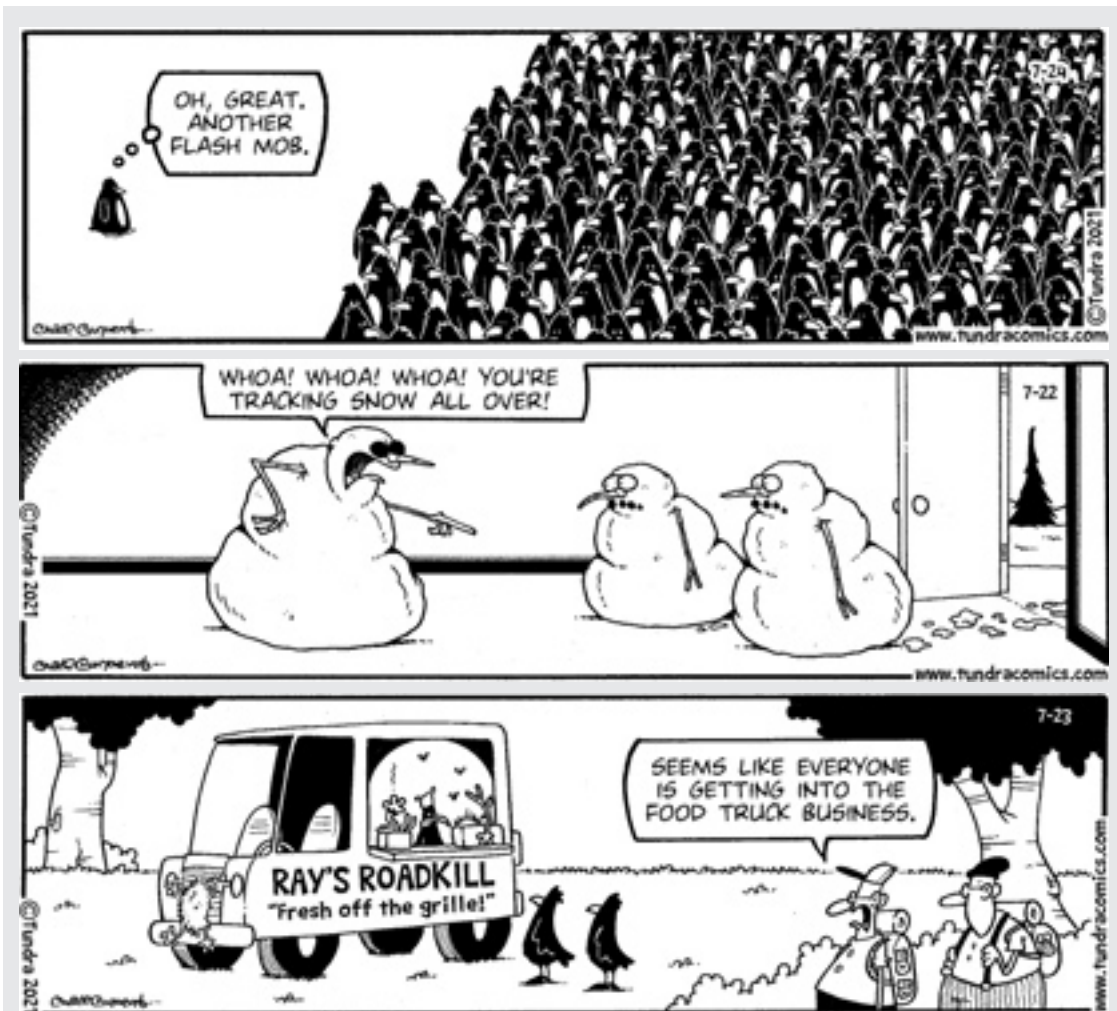
Murkowski, a Republican who has not officially announced plans for reelection next year, came into 2021 with about \$1 million in her campaign coffers. She reported bringing in about \$1.1 million during the most recent fundraising quarter and having \$2.3 million available as of June 30, her report shows.

Tshibaka, a former state Department of Administration

commissioner under Gov. Mike Dunleavy, ended June with about \$275,700 available, her disclosures showed. She reported raising about \$545,000 during the second quarter.

Tshibaka has sought to raise her profile on conservative national programs since announcing her candidacy in late March. She also has touted endorsements from former President Donald Trump and state party leaders.

Murkowski, who has a reputation as a moderate, has at times butted heads with party leaders over her position on issues such as abortion and in her criticism of Trump.



Federal judge says cruise ships must follow COVID rules

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Pandemic restrictions on Florida-based cruise ships will remain in place after a federal appeals court temporarily blocked a previous ruling that sided with a Florida lawsuit challenging the regulations as burdensome.

The one-paragraph decision by a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was filed at 11:50 p.m. Saturday, just minutes before a Tampa judge's previous ruling against the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention restrictions was set to take effect.

The judges' issuance of a temporary stay keeps the CDC regulations regarding Florida-based cruise ships in place while the CDC appeals the June decision by U.S. District Judge Steven Merryday.

The rules require either a 95% vaccination rate among passengers, or a test cruise to ensure adequate measure are in place to protect passengers and crew from COVID-19.

The large cruise ship operators coming to Alaska starting later this month are requiring vaccinations of all passengers, while one ship ran a test cruise to check out its protocols.

The lawsuit against the federal rules, championed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis,

claims that the multiple-step process to allow cruising from Florida is overly burdensome, harming a multibillion-dollar industry that provides some 159,000 jobs and generates revenue for the state.

The CDC said keeping the rules in place would prevent future COVID-19 outbreaks on ships that are vulnerable to the spread of the virus because of their close quarters and frequent stops at foreign ports.

"The undisputed evidence shows that unregulated cruise ship operations would exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, and that the harm to the public that would result from such operations cannot be undone," the CDC said in a court filing.

The CDC first flatly halted cruise ships from sailing in March 2020. Then the CDC on Oct. 30 of last year imposed a four-phase conditional framework it said would allow the industry to gradually resume operations if certain thresholds were met. Those included virus mitigation procedures and a simulated cruise to test them before embarking regular passengers.

Several cruise lines have begun preliminary cruises under those guidelines.

Utah man who killed wife aboard Alaska cruise found dead in cell

JUNEAU (AP) - A Utah man who was sentenced to 30 years in prison last month in the beating death of his wife on an Alaska cruise has died, the Alaska Department of Corrections said.

Kenneth Manzanares was in the department's custody, at its prison in Juneau, when he was found unresponsive in his cell July 14, the department said in a statement. Lifesaving measures were attempted but he was later pronounced dead, the department said.

Manzanares is the seventh person to die in the department's custody this year, according to the department, which said all deaths are reviewed by the Alaska State Troopers and state medical examiner's office. According to the Department of Corrections, he

was 43.

The department declined to provide other details about Manzanares' death, citing confidentiality, though it said no foul play was suspected.

Manzanares pleaded guilty last year to second-degree murder in the beating death of his wife, 39-year-old Kristy Manzanares of Santa Clara, Utah, on a 2017 Alaska cruise. He was sentenced last month in a crime the federal judge overseeing the case described as violent and brutal.

Manzanares' attorneys, in a court filing, said he had brain abnormalities that a defense expert deemed consistent with injuries caused by playing contact sports. The defense filing also said a "combination of prescribed medication and alcohol resulted in an aberrant episode of violence."

Petersburg stores report worker shortage

By CHRIS BASINGER
Petersburg Pilot

Petersburg businesses report they are suffering due to a shortage of workers.

"If you look, people are trying to hire everywhere," said Jim Floyd, the general manager at Hammer & Wikan food and general goods stores.

The several Hammer & Wikan shops all have been affected, according to Floyd. The grocery store has limited hours, the deli has limited service, and the hardware store is short-handed but continues to keep normal business hours.

"The convenience store has to be closed temporarily until we can hire a new manager and get a crew for that," Floyd said.

Several Wrangell businesses also reported difficulty in hiring workers this summer, according to a news story in the June 10 Wrangell Sentinel.

Hammer & Wikan has tried to attract people by starting workers above the age of 18 off at no less than \$12 per hour, but have still faced difficulties hiring. "We've been advertising with little to no success," Floyd said. "We do offer a hiring bonus and a recruiting bonus for our employees if they can get people."

The Trading Union is also facing similar issues, said general manager Barry Morrison. "Most of it's trying to fill any new positions," Morrison said. "We didn't really lose anybody over COVID."

The Trading Union had some success early on with new applicants and college students returning for the summer, but most either left town or found other work, Morrison said. "It's hard to get full-time people that are locals sticking around."

The Trading Union has had to adapt to the new situation by shutting down parts of its operations and streamlining other offerings. "We've shortened hours upstairs so that we rely on less people," Morrison said. "We haven't had it affect the grocery department yet, but I'm sure that will be something to think about as well if it doesn't change."

The worker shortage is not exclusive to stores, as Scandia House is also short-staffed. "We are working everybody very hard," Margareta Ewald, the front desk manager at Scandia House, said. "We are all pitching in, but we would really love to have a couple more people."

Though local businesses are feeling the effects of the shortage, they do not believe Petersburg is alone. "It's not exclusive to us, it's the whole nation," Floyd said.

Morrison puts the nationwide shortage down to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I think people are still a little leery, a lot of people have been rethinking what they're doing, just because it's been a pretty big reset for a lot," he said. "Different priorities, different options."

Record year for sockeye in Bristol Bay district

FAIRBANKS (AP) - It has been a record-breaking year for sockeye salmon catches in Alaska's Bristol Bay region this year, an official said.

"We're approaching 27 million total run," Tim Sands, a state Department of Fish and Game area management biologist said of the Nushagak District.

"Our average run would be 9 million, so to be triple the average is amazing."

The region has experienced numerous record-breaking days.

The all-time record for catch in the Nushagak District on one day was more than 1.7 million set on June 30. "Then the very next day we broke it

again at 1.8 million," Sands said.

"For perspective, up until 2017, we never had a single day in the history of this district where we harvested a million sockeye in a day," Sands said. "We did it seven days (this year)."

The entire Bristol Bay area is doing well.

"I can tell you right now in Bristol Bay, we're over 35 million harvest, and we probably have, I'd say, probably close to another 5 million at least to go," he said.

He is hopeful the strong run will continue next year.

"I'm not a forecaster, but certainly I am optimistic that next year for sure should be a very good year," Sands said.



Summer Activities Include Protecting Against COVID-19

While enjoying summer, protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19 by registering for a vaccine, getting tested when needed and following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) on when to wear a facemask. SEARHC thanks you for being part of the solution to keep our communities, patients and healthcare workers safe and healthy.



Vaccinations are available to all people ages 12 and up. To learn more and sign up for a vaccine or testing, please visit covid19.searhc.org.

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