



Wrangell, Alaska
July 16, 2020

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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8 Pages

Professional boundaries, freedom of speech discussed in school policy workshop

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Members of the Policy Committee for the Wrangell School District met last Thursday afternoon to discuss various policies for school board consideration. Among several items on the agenda were two policies covering the topics of professional boundaries between staff and students, and freedom of speech amongst the student body.

Board Policy 5141.42, Professional Boundaries of Staff with Students, as it reads, is meant to protect children from inappropriate conduct by staff, volunteers, and other adults in the school system. In short, the policy outlines that all staff must maintain professional boundaries with students, one that is conducive to education, "based upon mutual respect and trust" The policy also states that staff may have familial or other pre-existing relationships with some students or their families.

In the event a staff member has a dual relationship with a student, they must use sound professional judgment and avoid any appearance of favoritism or impropriety. These pre-existing relationships should be discussed with a building administrator or supervisor, the policy reads. Private electronic communication with students is prohibited, as well, unless the student is a staff member's own child.

The policy goes on to state that the superintendent or a designee by the superintendent shall organize training around this policy to better help staff understand how to maintain professional boundaries with students. It also reads that any violations observed by another staff member must be reported.

Kim Powell, with the school district, explained that this is a brand new policy for the district to consider. It is not in response to anything that has happened within the district,

she said, but has come down from the state level for schools across Alaska to consider.

"This came from AASB," she said. "We don't have a policy at all."

"I'm going to suspect that based on activities in other parts of the state, they have issues with this," added Superintendent Debbe Lancaster. "This is not specific to Wrangell."

Another policy the committee took a look at was in regards to freedom of speech and expression amongst the student body. The board of education respects the right of students to express ideas and opinions, the policy reads, but at the same time they recognize that the right to free speech and expression is limited by the rights of other members of the school district.

"A student's speech may not substantially interfere with the educational process," the policy reads.

The policy also laid out a few examples of what kinds of speech or expression the district considered interference with the educational process. This includes slurs or offensive terms, speech that breaks district policies on discrimination and bullying, threats of violence, violations of privacy, endangerment of the health or safety of others, libel, obscene or otherwise lewd material, speech that encourages the use of illegal substances by minors, speech that incites violation of school rules, or "speech that causes, or in school officials' reasonable judgment appears likely to cause, a substantial disruption to school or district operations or programs."

Members of the committee spent some time in the meeting discussing some of the finer details of what was or was not considered free speech or expression. As an example, Powell said, if a student wore clothing that said "Make America Great Again," that would be allowed. However, staff could not wear clothing that makes a political statement, she said, because they are not supposed to take

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

New ambulance

Wrangell EMS's new ambulance arrived on the barge last week, June 29. The vehicle was purchased with CARES Act money in response to the COVID-19 virus. When the purchase of the new ambulance was first being discussed, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargaen said that EMS response could be a potential weak link in the city's response to the pandemic. With only two ambulances, it could be challenging for EMS to respond to emergencies. This new ambulance, it is hoped, will shore up that area of response.

Captain Dorianne Sprehe, with the fire department, said that the ambulance is especially nice because it comes with a powered system to help load stretchers into the ambulance, saving EMS responders energy by not having to lift patients on their own.

Parks and Rec Board review budget, discuss tentative summer programming

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met Monday, June 29. During the meeting, the board reviewed the department's new budget for FY 2021, and also took a look at some tentative plans for summer programming.

The borough assembly adopted the FY 2021 budget for Wrangell in their assembly meeting on Tuesday, June 23. The entire budget is aiming to break even, according to Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargaen, with expenses and revenues set at approximately \$16 million. The Parks and Rec budget, according to the June 23 agenda packet, has total revenues across the areas of the swimming pool, parks, and recreation set at \$114,114. Total expenses, however, put the department in the red at \$656,236. Transfers from

the general fund, sales tax fund, and permanent fund listed in the budget put the Parks and Recreation Department back at the breakeven point.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many summer plans out the window for many organizations, the P&R board took time in the meeting to look at some potential programming. P&R Director Kate Thomas emphasized that these are tentative plans. The department is still putting together a safety mitigation plan, she said, which will need approval from city administration. Another concern for summer programming, she added, is the department's capacity. Several staff members have gone on to pursue new career opportunities in recent months, she said, as well as students graduating and going off to college. Staff availability and their comfort level

of being around others, during the pandemic, are important factors to consider.

One of the ideas for summer programming is a modified swim camp, for kids from the ages of 9 to 12-years-old. Other ideas include a "Beach Explorers" and "Forest Explorers" program, and a modified version of capture the flag in the parks. Thomas said that these programs will be kept small, and kids who sign up for these programs will have to sign up for the full run of the program. These steps are meant to help limit any potential spread of COVID-19 between kids, or to staff members. Of course, as these are only tentative plans, Thomas said work is still being done to organize the programs and see what is feasible.

"Kids, naturally, do not operate six feet apart," Thomas said.

Alaska sets another daily record with 116 new virus cases

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — There were 116 new COVID-19 cases reported across Alaska Sunday, the highest daily increase so far in the state.

There was one new hospitalization and no new deaths reported in Alaska, The Anchorage Daily News reported.

ported.

The state Department of Health and Social Services said 93 of the new cases involved Alaska residents and 23 involved non-residents.

The new cases reported Sunday break a previous record set the day before, when the state reported 77 cases.

The reason for Sunday's increase was not immediately clear. It was not known if patients were showing symptoms or how sick they were at the time of testing.

Alaska has reported 1,774 cases of COVID-19 statewide, with 847 active cases.

There have been 86 people hospitalized as a result of the virus since March, and 17 residents have died.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. But for some — especially older adults and people

with existing health problems — it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, July 16: Kaelene Harrison, Carmen Pavlina, Delores Klinke, Casey Seimears. **Friday, July 17:** Daniel Nore, Sr. **Saturday, July 18:** Dave McGuire, Tom Wickman, Rick Brock, August Paulsen, Bethany Comstock. *Anniversary:* Scott & Carrie Mason. **Sunday, July 19:** Dorianne Sprehe, Mike Ottesen, Sr., Shelley Versteeg, *Anniversary:* Ben & Rhea Bowman. **Monday, July 20:** Samantha Southland, Erin Galla, *Anniversary:* Dave & Sharon McGuire. **Tuesday, July 21:** Liz Rooney, Honey Kalkins. **Wednesday, July 22:** Trevor Keller, James Castle, Matt Scott, Jim Haley, Paul Smith, Butch Wenderoth, *Anniversary:* Dewyo & Charley Young. **Thursday, July 23:** Allison Petersen, Marni Privett, *Anniversaries:* Matt & Candice Wilsie, Jim & Betty Abbott.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, July 17

Beef Lasagna, Zucchini, Salad.

Monday, July 20

Ham, Peas, Tossed Salad, Au Gratin Potatoes

Tuesday, July 21

Sweet n Sour Chicken, Broccoli, Fruit cup, Rice.

Wednesday, July 22

Venison Chili, Tomatoes, Cole Slaw, Cornbread.

Thursday, July 23

Salmon Burger, Oven Fried Potatoes, Salad.

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

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

FERRY

Northbound

Sunday, July 19

Matanuska, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, July 26

Matanuska, 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 2

Matanuska 01:15 p.m

Sunday, August 9

Matanuska 05:15 p.m

Southbound

Wednesday, July 22

Matanuska, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 29

Matanuska, 5:15 a.m.

Wednesday, August 5

Matanuska 06:45 a.m

Wednesday, August 12

Matanuska 08:00 a.m.

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



TIDES July 16 - July 23

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 16	11:01	12.0	10:48	15.2	04:33	2.1	04:17	4.9
July 17	11:54	12.7	11:34	15.9	05:25	0.9	05:13	4.7
July 18	12:41	13.5	06:10	-0.3	06:02	4.3
July 19	00:17	16.5	01:23	14.1	06:50	-1.3	06:45	3.8
July 20	00:58	17.1	02:03	14.7	07:28	-2.0	07:26	3.3
July 21	01:39	17.5	02:42	15.2	08:06	-2.5	08:07	2.9
July 22	02:20	17.6	03:20	15.6	08:44	-2.7	08:49	2.5
July 23	03:02	17.5	03:58	15.9	09:24	-2.4	09:35	2.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Jury duty for July. You will be receiving notices in the mail in the next few weeks. Court number: (907) 874-2311.

Anyone doing business at the Wrangell Court are required to wear a mask unless under 2 years of age or exempted for medical reasons. This is effective until further notice. All hearings are being conducted telephonically until further notice. Contact the court for the call-in number at (907) 874-2311.

Thursday, July 16

Public Schools Town Hall Meeting: 6:00 pm, via Zoom. To answer questions and take input on the Fall 2020 Smart Start School Reopening Plan. Please email kpowell@wpsd.us prior to 3:30 PM on July 16, 2020 to submit your questions or sign up as a Guest to Be Heard. Use this link to join the Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96816476970?pwd=ODhsR0FVLTk3MldvY1BzOEZpTUREZz09>. Meeting ID: 968 1647 6970, Password: 9dz2rd.

Monday, July 20

Wrangell Public School Board Work Session: 6:30 pm, via Zoom. To review and discuss the 2020 Smart Start School Reopening Plan. To Join the Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97690079319?pwd=akxITDFhNEpSaDRwWlFOMGdDZCtmdz09>. Meeting ID: 976 9007 9319. Password: 2RZym3

Continuing Events

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

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

July 15, 1920

What might have been a most serious calamity occurred last week at the local wharf when the cargo of a steamer was being unloaded. Fifteen sacks of spuds were in the sling when one corner of the net broke loose and the entire fifteen sacks were dumped into the bay. Had this accident occurred in years gone by the steamship company would no doubt have stood the loss without making any effort to recover the spuds. Accordingly the salvage machinery was quickly put into operation and in less than an hour the entire fifteen sacks had been fished up from the bottom of the bay. The sacks were opened and the spuds spread out on the wharf to dry.

July 13, 1945

Sentinel linotype came in for its first "face lifting" and overhaul since 1929 this week when A. R. Bowen, expert linotype machinist for M. E. Baragar company of Seattle paid the Sentinel a professional call. Bowen last saw the Sentinel's Model L in 1929 when the paper was run by Jim Pritchett. Bowen came north from Seattle in December "for three weeks" to work on machines in Anchorage. Since that time he has covered newspaper plants from Nome to Wrangell and is leaving today for Ketchikan. He is accompanied by Mrs. Bowen, to whom he was married last week in Juneau with Secretary of Alaska Lew Williams as witness. Mrs. Bowen is the former Gertrude Copeland, expert typist in her own right.

July 16, 1970

Small man, small fish--large man, large fish? Don't you believe it! With many large men fishing many long weeks, a 12-

year-old boy drops a bait over the side of his granddad's boat and hooks a 56-pound 5-ounce king salmon. He handles and lands it like a seasoned veteran to win the 1970 Wrangell King Salmon Derby. Randy Rasler really did it with a flourish, he waited until just a few hours before the derby ended, with weather so bad between his fishing grounds and the town they had to call Chuck Traylor to fly it in to be weighed. The \$1,000 first prize is great; in time it will be gone, but the memory of the battle and conquest of this great beautiful fish will remain with the boy forever.

July 13, 1995

Wrangell's Native Cultural Summer Program starts July 17 with a kick-off open house. Drawings and refreshments will be served. The summer program will be 2 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents are invited to bring children to the JOM center in the SNO Building

the first day for summer sign up and "goodies." Activities will include picking berries to make jam for the yearly fall potlatch, petroglyph rubbing, Native dance entertainment for tour ships and local gatherings, picnics at Shakes Island with story telling, weaving with Faye Korht, beading with Donna Ward, a smokefish class, arts and crafts, and skin-sewing and regalia making. Anyone wishing to participate or donate fresh fish for the smokefish class is welcome.

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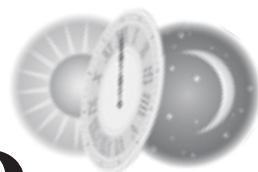
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874-2770, #21633



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
July 6	62	53
July 7	61	53
July 8	61	52
July 9	63	55
July 10	57	54
July 11	56	52
July 12	63	52
July 13	57	51



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
July 16	4:25a	9:23p	16:58h
July 17	4:26a	9:21p	16:55h
July 18	4:28a	9:20p	16:52h
July 19	4:29a	9:18p	16:49h
July 20	4:31a	9:17p	16:46h
July 21	4:32a	9:15p	16:43h
July 22	4:34a	9:14p	16:40h
July 23	4:36a	9:12p	16:36h

Public invited to town hall on school district reopening

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Public School District will be hosting an on-line town hall meeting to discuss the reopening plan for fall 2020, tonight at 6 p.m.. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster said that a meeting was tentatively set for July 16 during a policy committee meeting on July 9. The date was confirmed in an email from Kim Powell,

with the school district, on July 13.

The school district hosted a series of meetings between school staff, administration, and community members on the SMART Start reopening. SMART Start is a state-issued framework for school districts to build their reopening plans off of. In these meetings, meeting participants discussed what other school districts

were planning, how transportation might look for students during this COVID-19 pandemic, how feasible hosting in-person and online classes simultaneously would be, and what the district would constitute a "low risk" or "high risk" scenario, among a variety of other topics. Lancaster said, in the July 9 policy meeting, that a district task force was organized to look at input from the SMART Start meetings and to put together a draft reopening plan. This town hall meeting will be an opportunity to answer ques-

tions and receive further input from the public.

"Wrangell Public Schools' plan has not yet been finalized," the school district wrote on their Facebook page, on July 13. "The District is currently working with the Borough EOC to formulate a draft document. We want to make sure that the community has a chance to give input and voice their concerns during the Town Hall meeting on Thursday evening. We will follow that meeting with a School Board Work Session on Monday, July 20 to give School

Board Members a chance to review the plan and provide input. Once the plan is finalized, it will be shared with the community."

Public attendance and participation is encouraged, according to Powell. Questions should be emailed to kpowell@wpsd.us prior to 3:30 p.m. today, she wrote in her email.

The town hall can be joined on Zoom. The meeting ID is 968 1647 6970, the password is 9dz2rd. The link to the Zoom meeting can be found on the district's Facebook page, "Wrangell Public Schools."

School News

Jade Balansag and Terra Hoyt were some of the 2020 graduates of the Rural Alaska Honors Institute through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. During the six week session which included 36 high school juniors and seniors from 23 communities participated in a fully online curriculum, due to COVID-19 restrictions. During the six-week session, students earned as many as 10 UAF credits in subjects like Alaska Native language, biomedical research, business, chemistry, education, library science, process technology, study skills and writing.

Applications due for back-to-school backpacks

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes is once again distributing back-to-school backpacks across multiple Southeast Alaskan communities this year. Applications for the backpacks are due this Friday, July 17. The backpack distribution is a common occurrence in Wrangell, and in other Southeast communities. However, students can also expect to find new laptops in their bags this year, instead of school supplies.

Julie Chapman, program coordinator with the Central Council, said they are aiming to get the backpacks out to the communities before the start of the school year. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many students taking classes via distance learning, she said that they felt Chromebooks would be more useful for students.

Applications are open to Alaska Native or American Indian families, Chapman said, and the student must be enrolled for the upcoming school year. Backpacks are available for any student from Head Start age to twelfth grade, she said. For Wrangell, applications can be made directly on the central council website, or through the Wrangell Cooperative Association. The WCA will help with the distribution of the backpacks when they are shipped out.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

A backpack pickup from 2018.

"Since we are a tribe, we are providing this service to tribal citizens," Chapman said.

More information, according to the Wrangell Cooperative Association's Facebook page, can be found by calling (907) 470-1011, or emailing receptionist@wrgtribe.org. Paper applications can be dropped off at the WCA on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The central council can be reached at (907) 463-7158.

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SEARHC's Commitment to Wrangell during COVID-19

As our state continues to adjust to COVID-19 developments and mandates, SEARHC is actively monitoring its practices and services in order to continue providing a safe and secure environment.

Recent Activities in Wrangell

- Performed more than 1,800 COVID-19 tests
- Established an alternate COVID-19 testing site for staff and community members
- Continued part of the local Incident Command System
- Began prescription delivery and curbside pick-up service
- Increased access to appointments by video and in-person

Thank you to our professional and experienced caregivers, providing high-quality care in Wrangell.

Learn more by visiting covid19.searhc.org or call your local clinic.



Police report

- July 6:** Animal Complaint. Agency Assist: US Forest Service. Scam/Possible Mail Fraud. Agency Assist: Line Crew. 86'd Letter served.
- July 7:** Agency Assist: Dead Deer. Disorderly Conduct. Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlock. Warrant Check. Motor Vehicle Accident: Private Property. Two Fireworks Complaints.
- July 8:**

- Agency Assist: Wrangell Medical Center. Courtesy Transport. Two Agency Assists: Hoonah P.D.
- July 9:** Driving Under Influence: Unfounded. Citizen Assist. Agency Assist: Office of Child Services.
- July 10:** Illegal Parking Complaint. Child Endangerment. Unattended Death. Emotionally Distressed Person.
- July 11:** Animal Complaint. Wanted Person. Noise Complaint. Disorderly Conduct.
- July 12:** Agency Assist: Public Works. Agency Assist: Fire Department. Intoxicated Person.



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During this reporting period, there were 13 agency assist calls to the airport, five EMT calls, four civil matters, three traffic complaints and three welfare checks.



Obituary: Barbara Cecilia Crabtree, 82

Barbara Cecilia Crabtree, 82, passed away May 3 in Wrangell, Alaska, after a short but recurring bout with cancer.

She was born on August 13, 1937 in Ketchikan, Alaska. She lived most of her life in Southeastern Alaska.

She lived most of the 1970s in Petersburg and has lived in Wrangell since 1984. Barb was mainly employed waitressing and as a cannery worker. Barb enjoyed cooking, especially baking, gardening and crocheting. She enjoyed playing cards and was especially competitive when playing Scrabble.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Brix Crabtree (2005); daughter, Nellie Clarke (2008) of El Paso, Texas; and brother, Frederick "Fritz" Blandov (2008) of Metlakatla.

She is survived by: daughter Melody Cooper of Macon, Georgia; sons George Elmore of Southeast Alaska and Frederick Elmore of Wrangell; and multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Barbara Crabtree

Convention and Visitor Bureau discuss branding goals

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Thursday, to workshop their goals for a rebranding project. As part of a large to-do list recently approved by the borough assembly, the CVB is seeking to use CARES Act funding to improve Wrangell's brand and draw in more tourists. As this was just a workshop, no official action was taken. However, the bureau generally agreed that Wrangell's brand should be focused on Wrangell as a community.

"I think our brand should be community-focused," said Brooke Leslie. "That can draw tourists. Maybe we don't have the additional funds right now to do a full-blown community branding scope, but I think the roots in what we're doing should have the community focus, as far as the identity of the brand we're going for."

Stephanie Cook, with the chamber of commerce, said that Wrangell is most likely to attract visitors because it is a unique, small town. The city is not a big tourist-heavy destination, like Ketchikan. Businesses have not been sold to the tourist industry, she said, and the community has a local authenticity that people will enjoy.

The CVB looked in an old Request For Proposals, or RFP, sent out by the economic development council of Petersburg several years ago. This RFP was for a similar topic as the CVB was considering,

brand development. The RFP outlines the goals of the project, gave some history on the city of Petersburg, and provided some details about what scope of services they were looking for. These included assistance with community engagement, brand research, and development of a strategy for improving Petersburg's brand.

"The brand should further the community's interest in attracting new residents, commercial fisherman, visitors, and support its commitment to existing businesses, arts, recreation, and our history and culture," the RFP reads.

The discussion went on for some time. The CVB discussed the need to get more public input on the branding project, potentially increasing the estimated cost of the project, and basing their RFP off of the old Petersburg copy they reviewed.

OpEd: Alaska Native Tribes must act fast to close digital divide

Throughout my life, my grandma, Mary Jane Fate, imparted the importance of education on my brothers and me. We understood early on that education is the means through which we can make a difference in the world. She led by example, and I've carried this message with me each and every day. Education looks very different today than it did 50 years ago. We can no longer rely solely on pen and paper to learn. The way we learn is influenced by technology, which is evolving at an unprecedented rate, meaning education is too. In today's world, the internet is synonymous with opportunity. Jobs are posted online, and the many skills that jobs require can be learned online too -- especially in science, technology, engineering, and math. It's true that access to a reliable and fast internet connection has a direct impact on community growth and the future success of our youth, which has been proven during this unprecedented time. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the inequity of the digital divide between rural Indigenous communities and the rest of America. Children and their families have struggled with distance education because of low or no internet connection in some areas. News outlets across the state have reported on the challenges of low and no-tech education options and the frustration of engaging rural students through paper-based lessons. When it comes to high-speed internet access, rural Alaska communities are lagging behind. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) less than 60% of people living on Tribal Lands have access to broadband compared to 97% of Americans living in urban areas. That is about to change. Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal entities have a once in a lifetime opportunity to claim their internet sovereignty. In February, the FCC opened a priority window for federally recognized Native American Tribes and Alaska Native villages to claim the unlicensed Educational Broadband Service spectrum on their lands

at no cost to them. Licenses for the 2.5 GHz spectrum helps Tribes establish and expand high-speed internet access. If Tribal entities don't apply for the licenses for these airwaves by August 3, 2020, they will be auctioned off by borough to the highest bidder. The FCC's Tribal rural priority window opens the way for Alaska Native Tribes to close the digital divide in their communities. It is also an opportunity for them to plan and integrate permanent solutions that will build a brighter future for the next seven generations. The rural digital divide is surmountable, because almost all of Alaska has unlicensed 2.5 GHz airwaves so Tribes can claim that spectrum over their own lands for free. In partnership with MuralNet and the Google American Indian Network, Tribal25.com is providing assistance at no cost to Tribes by guiding them through the process of submitting their applications to the FCC to claim the 2.5 GHz broadband spectrum. These organizations are ready to assist Alaska Native Tribes with applications, waivers, shapefiles, and the submission of the application so they can claim this valuable natural resource. For more information and to schedule an appointment for a consultation, visit www.tribal25.com or call 702-608-4279. Students without internet access at home are losing out and may be left behind. It's time for every home in Alaska to have equal access to the internet so that children aren't left behind as technology continues to evolve. Reliable, fast-speed internet must be viewed as an integral part of self-reliance. The internet and our own building capacity benefit all Alaska Native peoples and reduces dependence on institutions outside of our communities. Alaska Native Tribes must act fast to claim their broadband spectrum and ensure that no Alaskan child is left behind in the digital divide.

Ben Fate Velaise works in People Operations at Google and is part of the Google American Indian Network Leadership Council. He is a Doyon, Limited shareholder. His family is from Fairbanks.

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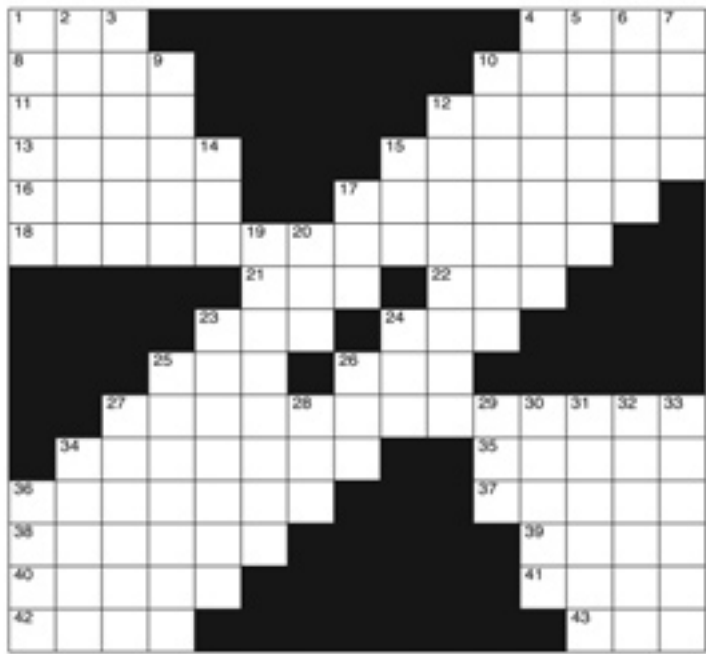
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Comics



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sound unit
- 4. Trim by cutting
- 8. Small buffalo
- 10. Ancient manuscript
- 11. Look angry or sullen
- 12. Glum
- 13. Northern Zambia peoples
- 15. Central
- 16. Collector of birds' eggs
- 17. Misbehavior
- 18. Top of the line
- 21. Political action committee
- 22. Have already done
- 23. Al Bundy's wife
- 24. Entertainment channel
- 25. Holiday (informal)
- 26. The common gibbon
- 27. Legendary actress
- 34. Seasoned sausages
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Ridiculed
- 37. Three-dimensional arrangement
- 38. Emerged
- 39. Type of protein
- 40. Denmark natives
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Artistic dancing
- 2. Plenty
- 3. Act leisurely
- 4. Serve as a warning
- 5. Admired lovingly
- 6. Leftover oil from distillation process
- 7. Company officer
- 9. Egyptian unit of capacity
- 10. One transmits information
- 12. Middle layer of an embryo
- 14. Form of "to be"
- 15. Cairo Regional Airport
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 19. Sample
- 20. A shirt may have none
- 23. Public gatherings
- 24. Disallow
- 25. Overnight suitcases
- 26. French river
- 27. Where boats dock
- 28. Top of a pot
- 29. Type of drug
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. They go in martinis
- 33. A way to break away
- 34. Intermediate ecological stage
- 36. Baby term for father

SUDOKU

8				1				9	
7		1					4		2
	4						8		
4	6				5				3
		3					9	6	
		9			8	1			
				2					
			6		9				1
5	7								

Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the July 23 edition

Port Commission approves subdivision and purchase request

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

It was a short meeting for the Wrangell Port Commission last Tuesday evening, July 7. There was only one item of new business on their agenda, a request by Josh Blatchley to subdivide and purchase a portion of tidelands.

The land in question comes from parcel #02-

024-600, according to the agenda packet. Blatchley owns property just upland of the tidelands he is interested in, the packet reads, and the property owners on either side of him own the tidelands in front of their property. This request would give Blatchley the portion of tidelands between those two lots. The request was approved by the commission.

Two items approved in P&Z meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Two items were approved by the Wrangell Planning and Zoning Commission last Thurs-

day.

The first item was a request to purchase city-owned tidelands, by Josh Blatchley. According to the request, the

tidelands are adjacent to Blatchley's property. The request also notes that tidelands adjacent to the area of interest have already been sold or leased. This request met approval by the Port Commission in their July 7 meeting, as well. This request was accepted by the commission.


The commission also approved of a commercial use permit application by Solvay Gillen. Gillen was seeking to have an in-home licensed child-care facility within her residence, according to the agenda packet, for up to six children between the ages of infancy to 12-years-old. The commission approved of this application, on the conditions that at least three off-street parking spots be reserved for the residence and the business, rules for the day care include "courteous and slow use of the trailer park access road," and children remain in the property's yard area and not adjacent to the landowner's property or in other yards.

The Nolan Center Presents:

As part of our new exhibit: "Alaska's Suffrage Star" we are showing special screenings related to the exhibit.

THE VOTE


Thursday, July 16th
3pm



THE HISTORY OF TILLIE PAUL

Thursday, July 30th
3pm

Ben Paul speaking at the Sharing Our Knowledge Clan Conference



- OBITUARIES
- WEDDINGS
- BIRTHS
- LETTERS



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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Controversial selections to state Board of Fisheries to get legislative hearing in early fall; public comments being accepted

Governor Dunleavy's controversial selections to the state Board of Fisheries (BOF) will get a legislative hearing in early fall and the call is out for public comments.

The board oversees management of the state's subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use fisheries. Appointments were made on April 1 and would normally go through a vigorous vetting process by the Alaska legislature with public input. But COVID-19 sent lawmakers home early from the last session, leaving the confirmation process in limbo.

Now, Representative Louise Stutes (R-Kodiak) has set the date for a hearing.

"I tried to push it out as far as I thought I safely could because I know there's a lot of guys out fishing. But I just didn't dare push it any further than Thursday, September 3 at 10am at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office," she said in a phone interview.

Stutes, who chairs the House Fisheries Committee, added: "I think it is appropriate to vet these appointees prior to the board meetings. I find it disturbing and I question how appointees can be a

viable, countable vote when they have not been confirmed by the legislature, and that's the situation now."

Controversy has swirled over Dunleavy's selection of Abe Williams of Anchorage, director of regional affairs for the Pebble Mine, proposed to be built at the headwaters of the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery at Bristol Bay.

Williams, who would replace Fritz Johnson of Dillingham, is originally from King Salmon and is a Bristol Bay fisherman. He was one of six who in 2019 sued the fishermen-funded Bristol Bay Re-

gional Seafood Development Association for using part of the 1% tax paid by its 1,650 members to oppose the mine. The lawsuit, funded by Pebble, was dismissed by an Anchorage judge.

Williams told KTUU in April that, "My job finds me in communities like Iliamna and other communities talking about the project itself and kind of what it means for the region. "Does that preclude me from being appointed or sitting on the Board of Fisheries? I don't think so. I think it just brings in a level of diversity in my background that really

helps me be better positioned to sit in a coveted spot like this, if you will."

Current BOF member Märit Carlson-Van Dort also was a former Pebble Partnership director as recently as 2018.

Governor Dunleavy also appointed self-claimed fishing/hunting guide McKenzie Mitchell of Fairbanks to replace Reed Moriskey, also of Fairbanks. Mitchell is listed as adjunct faculty in "sport and recreation business" at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks School of Management.

Mitchell "has fished with several remote lodges over the years and was looking to upgrade her captains license so joined our team," according to the website of Kodiak's Wilderness Beach Lodge. It adds that "She goes to school in Fairbanks in the fall/winter where her and her boyfriend reside and enjoy flying their small planes into remote hunting/camping sites."

Attempts to reach Mitchell or to get a resume or any information on her qualifications from the governor's office and Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game were unsuccessful.

"As far as these two appointments go, the Dunleavy administration is once again either out of touch with commercial fishermen at best, or out to get us at worst," said Lindsey Bloom, a fisherman and a campaign strategist for SalmonState. "I fished around Abe in Bristol Bay and cer-

Continued on page 7

Classified/Legals

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

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting *letters of interest* from citizens who wish to serve on the Borough Assembly.

The unexpired term of this appointment is until October 2020

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

Mayor Stephen Prysunka
PO Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

or you can email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com on or before **July 22, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

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

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

Publish: July 2 and July 16, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Over the Counter Sale of Impounded Vessels

The City and Borough of Wrangell held a bid opening on Friday, July 10, 2020 for five (5) vessels that were impounded pursuant to Wrangell Municipal Code, Title 14. There were no bids for the vessels at the Public Auction.

Therefore, the five (5) vessels will be available for sale, over-the-counter beginning **Monday, July 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.** on a first-come-first-serve basis for the minimum value.

The list of the vessels is available at City Hall and on the Borough Website <https://www.wrangell.com/community/harbor-public-auction-vessels-over-counter>
Publish: July 16 and 23, 2020

NOTICE TO TAXPAYER

For the current fiscal year the City and Borough of Wrangell has been allocated the following amount of state aid for school and municipal purposes under the applicable financial assistance Acts:

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE (AS 14.17)	\$3,882,367
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT (AS 14.11.100)	\$0
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (AS 29.60.850-29.60.879)	\$375,363
TOTAL AID	\$4,257,730

The millage equivalent of this state aid, based on the dollar value of a mill in the municipality during the current assessment year and for the preceding assessment year, is:

	MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	
	PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS YEAR
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	21.67 MILLS	24.43 MILLS
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT	1.01 MILLS	0.00 MILLS
COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM	2.58 MILLS	2.36 MILLS
TOTAL MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	25.25 MILLS	26.79 MILLS

Joyce Mason
Finance Director

Published: July 16, 23, 30, 2020



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Fish factor

Continued from page 6

certainly respect his skills and knowledge as a commercial fisherman. That said, his employment with Pebble makes it impossible for him to properly represent the overwhelming majority of Bristol Bay fishermen who oppose the Pebble project because of its detriment to the Bristol Bay brand and fishery. Abe's appointment is a colossal conflict of interest. As far as McKenzie Mitchell goes, I can't find her resume, background or opinions anywhere online and have no idea if she can bring the listening and discernment skills that a seat on Alaska's Board of Fisheries requires, where decisions are made that impact the livelihoods and wellbeing of Alaskans for years to come."

If the governor has his way, all fish board members but one will reside inland.

"There are seven Board of Fish members and John Jensen of Petersburg will be the only coastal representation," said Stutes. "I understand that interior fisheries are important, but so are coastal fisheries. There should be a fair distribution of the resource representation and there isn't. It's just wrong."

If the legislature gets called back to Juneau to deal with budget and Covid relief issues and it interferes with the September 3, date Stutes said she will call a hearing there.

"Bottom line is there will be a hearing prior to the first Board of Fish meeting in October. I believe it's critical to give people an opportunity to weigh in," she said.

After the hearing, the appointee names will be forwarded to the House Resources Committee and then

to the full legislature for confirmation (or not). An emergency measure due to the pandemic was implemented (HB309) which temporarily extended the time for the legislature to meet jointly to take up the governor's appointments prior to the next legislative session in January. If that does not occur, Stutes said the nominees will simply "go away."

Meanwhile, they will be seated as voting members during the meetings starting in October that focus on Prince William Sound, Upper Copper and Susitna Rivers and Southeast and Yakutat regions.

"They are just like a regular board member and that to me is problematic. I believe they should be confirmed by the legislature. It's a goofed up system," Stutes said.

Public comments on the Board of Fisheries appointees can be emailed to Stutes' legislative office at rep.louise.stutes@akleg.gov.

"They can start today," Stutes said.

Salmon predictors - Alaska salmon managers have decades of data to help them forecast and track the arrival of fish each year. Alaska Natives add to that knowledge with their centuries of salmon observations.

One indicator of the size and timing of the runs is the spring bird migration, said James Nicori of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"Looking at the birds and observing them, they were late. So those salmon will come in, but the high numbers will be at a later date," he told KYUK in Bethel. Another sign, he said, is the size of mosquitoes when they arrive in the

Southeast Alaska commercial shrimp beam trawl fishery

The guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for the second fishing period (July 1-August 30) are 308,000 lb in District 6 and 250,000 lb in District 8, in accordance with the preseason GHL news release.

Estimated harvest for the first fishing period (May 1-June 30) in District 6 was 282,000 lb. This harvest was 18,000 lb below the 300,000 lb GHL, thus 18,000 lb will be rolled over in addition to the 290,000 lb GHL announced preseason. Totals for coonstripe shrimp bycatch harvest to date in District 6 are confidential.

Estimated harvest for the first fishing period (May 1-June 30) in District 8 was 31,000 lb. This harvest was 219,000 lb below the 250,000 lb GHL. This rollover poundage

will bring the second period GHL to the upper end of the guideline harvest range (GHR) at 250,000 lb. Totals for spot and coonstripe shrimp bycatch harvest to date in District 8 are confidential.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

spring.

"This year, when the mosquitoes first came in they were bigger than last year, and the first kings that I caught were bigger than last year," he said.

The biggest indicator, Nicori added, is wind.

"When there is a certain wind direction, it pushes fish in the mouth of the river," he said.

Yukon elders taught the importance of wind to Phil Mundy, longtime Director of NOAA Fisheries' Auke Bay lab in Juneau, now retired. Cook Inlet elders said the same thing about sockeyes.

"They said 'it's when the wind blows and you get the biggest tide closest to July 17. Everyone knows that,'" Mundy said. "We couldn't figure out how the wind was doing what it did. I didn't think the fish put up their dorsal fin like a sail to blow into the river, but there had to be something there because the elders seemed to be right."

Mundy had studied Alaska salmon since the 1970s, but it wasn't until 2006 when he learned that wind helps trip a calcium ion switch that mixes the water and lets salmon adjust from salt to fresh water and vice versa.

"I used to count fish from airplanes, and I've seen at Bristol Bay and at Cook Inlet where you get the river water piling up against the marine water on the river plume, and

then you'll see the salmon weaving in and out along the edge between the fresh and the salt water," Mundy explained. "And I never knew why they were doing that. They will pile up there if there is no wind to mix that water to make it brackish. They will pile up until some other trigger, which we probably don't understand, sends them all in."

At the Yukon River, Mundy said the wind-whipped water even tops early ice melts as the best indicator of the salmon arrivals. Today satellite data from the Alaska Ocean Observing System make predictions easier and more reliable. www.aos.org

Seafood sales surge - The pandemic stalled seafood sales at restaurants where up to 75 percent of Americans opt for fish or shellfish meals. But at supermarkets and outlets that offer online sales and pickup or delivery services, seafood has become the fastest growing category.

Chicago-based Information Resources Incorporated (IRI) said that year to date sales of both canned and frozen seafood were nearly 37 percent higher over the four weeks ending in mid-April and the upswing has continued.

Nielsen, which has documented eating trends for over 90 years, said seafood was the fastest growing category at the

end of May when purchase volumes jumped 26% over the prior 13 weeks.

At the end of June, IRI added that seafood posted the most significant growth for 10 weeks straight, up 64% from a year ago.

Sales of fresh seafood spiked nearly 60 percent to nearly \$163 million for the week ending June 27, according to Nielsen data provided to SeafoodSource. Sales of fresh lobster increased almost 292%, followed by crab, (up 150.5%), clams (up 80.1%), and snapper (up 79.4%).

Frozen seafood sales jumped more than 50% in May and increased by 21% to \$1.2 billion in late June. Frozen crab had the biggest sales gain of nearly 170% followed by frozen scallops (up 106.6%), crawfish (up 100.8%), and mussels (89.4%).

Canned and pouched seafood saw more modest gains of 12.2% but sales reached nearly \$5 billion at the end of June.

Thirty-two percent of households said they were "extremely or very likely" to use grocery online shopping and delivery or pick up services even if the virus subsides, especially those over 60.

The upward trend at retail is likely to continue. Restaurants that had reopened are now facing restrictions again as the Coronavirus spikes in many U.S. states.



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Wrangell announces COVID-19 economic relief programs

\$915,000 to be distributed

The City and Borough of Wrangell (City) will begin rolling out a series of programs of economic relief for businesses, non-profits and residents in Wrangell who have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The City has designated up to \$915,000 of the CARES Act funds received from the State to these assistance programs which are intended to provide economic relief in the areas of most need. Each program will require a separate application be completed by each business, non-profit or resident. Applications with detailed information about requirements and eligibility will be available at the City's website: www.wrangell.com or www.wrangellcovid19.org. All programs will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The City's goal is to keep the application process as simple as possible, while also meeting the justification required by the fund source. The following programs will become available in July with the first programs released on July 8 and other programs following shortly thereafter. Questions can be emailed to wrangell@wrangell.com with a phone number. Staff will respond by email or phone as quickly as possible (within 24 to 48 hours).

Food Assistance: The goal of this program is to provide food security with free meals and/or food to families, seniors, kids, and individuals that need assistance due to financial hardship and food insecurity caused by COVID-19. The program will provide funding to existing local entities (businesses or non-profits) showing an increased need in the food programs that they currently offer. Restaurants may also offer free meal assistance to those who need it. Local entities may request up to \$3,000 to provide these services. Documentation and reporting of services provided is required.

Mask Cash: In order to encourage both local shopping and public health and safety, the City has been working with the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce to randomly reward people wearing masks or cloth face coverings while shopping downtown. Shoppers wearing masks will be provided a \$10 voucher for purchases in participating stores.

Social Services: The goal of this program is to provide needed social services to families, seniors, kids, and individuals that need assistance due to hardships caused by COVID-19. The program will provide funds to existing local businesses or non-profits that are seeing an increase in need for social services, including services to address domestic violence, homelessness, single parent support, child welfare, childcare, emo-

tional/mental/medical assistance, and public information dissemination. Eligible entities may request up to \$3,000.

Vessel Repair Haul-Out Lift Fee Assistance: The goal of this program is to mitigate negative impacts of COVID-19 related travel restrictions and supply chain disruptions to the Marine Service Center (MSC) businesses which lost considerable revenues in March-May 2020. This program will meet this goal by providing a 50% reimbursement to a vessel owner toward the cost of a lift fee in the MSC from July 8 through November 30, 2020, or until the funds for this program are depleted.

Vessel Repair Extended Stay Assistance: The goal of this program is to mitigate negative effects of COVID-19 related travel restrictions and supply chain disruptions by providing assistance for boat storage fees if a vessel owner was required to stay in the work zone yard 5 days longer than otherwise necessary due to impacts from COVID-19. The City will reimburse each eligible applicant up to \$300. This program is retroactive to March 11 - Alaska's Disaster Declaration for stays through May 31, 2020.

Targeted Visitor Industry Relief: This program is aimed at assisting Wrangell businesses most impacted by COVID-19 through either mandatory closure requirements, travel restrictions and/or cancellations by cruise ships. This program focuses on the visitor industry businesses that are the most critically impacted, including excursions, restaurants and bars, accommodations, and non-essential retail businesses. Each eligible business will receive \$3,000.

General Small Business Relief: This program is aimed at assisting local businesses and commercial fishermen that operate within Wrangell and are directly impacted by COVID-19. Each eligible business or fisherman will receive \$1,000.

Business or Non-Profit Support for Accounting or Professional Services: This program is aimed at helping local entities

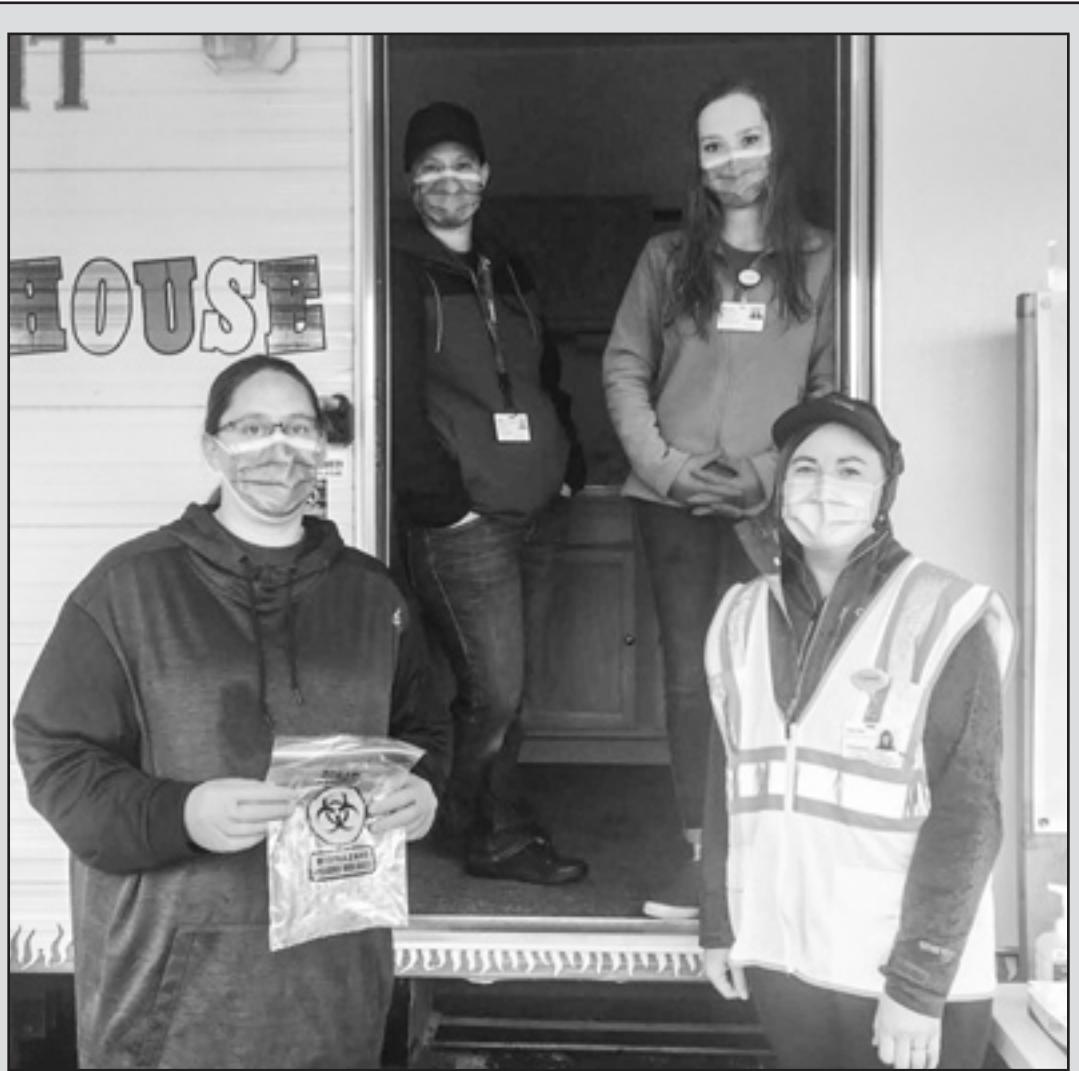


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Asymptomatic testing begins

The Southeast Alaska Health Consortium began their new asymptomatic testing program in Wrangell, and other communities, this past weekend. Members of the public were invited to stop by the testing site by the AICS Clinic for a free COVID-19 test. Unlike previous tests, this program opens the test to anybody, even if they show no symptoms of COVID-19. Pictured here is Carly Allen (bottom right), Julia Ostrander (bottom left), Mel Hansen (top left), and Kayla Hay (top right).

in need of services to help apply for federal or state COVID-19 relief programs. Local eligible entities will receive a \$200 reimbursement for the professional services firm providing these services.

Local Spending Voucher:

This program is aimed at assisting Wrangell businesses impacted by COVID-19 through mandatory closure requirements and stay at home orders. The City will be working with the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce to implement a Local

Spending Voucher program intended to incentivize local shopping in Wrangell. On certain dates to be announced by the Chamber, shoppers will receive a \$10 voucher for every \$50 in purchases at participating stores.

Workshop

Continued from page 1

such stances and influence students. A student wearing a T-shirt with marijuana leaves on it, on the other hand, or hypothetically making a bong in art class would not be allowed.

The committee also discussed a legal case surrounding free speech in schools, which happened several years ago up in the Juneau area. In 2002, according to uscourts.gov, senior high school student Joseph Frederick held up a banner reading "Bong Hits 4 Jesus," while attending the Olympic Torch relay through Juneau as part of a school-supervised activity. The school principal, Deborah Morse, told Frederick to put the banner away, and later took the banner when he refused to do so. Frederick was then suspended for 10 days. In 2007, a 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court

ruled on Morse v. Frederick that the First Amendment does not prevent school administrators from restricting student expression that can be reasonably viewed as promoting the use of illegal drugs.

After some discussion around what potential scenarios could or could not be argued as free speech, Lancaster suggested that they look at the Juneau school district's policies on the matter for guidance.

As this was only a committee meeting, no action was taken. These policies will be considered in a full school board meeting for approval.

Powell mentioned, at the close of the meeting, that there are several positions open on the policy committee if any member of the public was interested in getting involved.



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