



Wrangell, Alaska  
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# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Community supports organizations helping others



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volunteer Robyn Booker rings a bell for The Salvation Army's Red Kettle drive outside Wrangell IGA on Dec. 16.

By MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

Fundraising efforts are a year-round task for most organizations, but during the holidays those efforts are increased.

People in Wrangell are willing to give their time, energy and money to support everything from the food pantry and pets to high school athletes.

### A pressing need

"This community, hand over fist, is one of the most generous communities I've ever had the privilege to work in," said Lt. Jon Tollerud, of The Salvation Army.

The Christian-based organization coordinates the community food pantry program, helps with emergency housing needs, and provides other services such as domestic violence prevention. Last year, Tollerud said they raised \$15,000 through the Red Kettle drive (the bell ringers outside of City Market and Wrangell IGA). The goal

this year is to raise \$20,000. Gift-in-kind donations last year totaled about \$12,000.

"This year, we're looking at about \$22,000 so far. We're not done. It's a significant jump," Tollerud said last week. Starting the fiscal year on Oct. 1, he said they've seen a 125% increase over 2020's fundraising efforts.

The Salvation Army doesn't do it alone. It receives generous monthly food donations from the two grocery stores, and the middle school holds a holiday canned food drive. This year, Evergreen Elementary joined the effort. The middle school received more than 400 donations and the elementary school brought in four large boxes filled with multiple dry goods.

Tollerud said building trust within the community is a focus for the organization. "We hand out food, we are there when disaster strikes. We don't go away just because Christmas is over or because a disaster is over. We stay and make sure

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## Wrangell receives 200 at-home COVID test kits and more are expected

By MARC LUTZ  
*Sentinel editor*

Two hundred at-home COVID-19 test kits were delivered to Wrangell's emergency operations center last Friday, and more will soon be on the way.

Capt. Dorianne Sprehe, of the EOC, said the fire department received the kits via SEARHC, and is making them available free to anyone who requests them.

"We've already handed out a couple over the weekend," Sprehe said on Monday. The kits are available to pick up any time at the fire hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. People who plan on large gatherings, especially those with friends or family coming from out of town for the holidays, are encouraged to get kits. They can also be reserved by calling 907-874-2333 or emailing travel@wrangell.com.

After setting a record in November at 66 COVID-19 cases in the community, the borough has reported just one new case in December, as of Monday. The statewide count has averaged about 200 cases per day the past two weeks, down substantially from six times that number in September.

Testing also is still available at the Wrangell Medical Center, Sprehe said.

The tests are QuickVue at-home tests manufactured by Quidel. Each test is a two-step process. The second test needs to be taken between 24 hours 36 hours after the first test. Results for each are available within 10 minutes.

Each box contains two tests.

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## CHAMPIONS



EMILY MESNER/ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Senior Liana Carney raises her fist in victory after winning her third state championship in wrestling last weekend in Anchorage. For more wrestling results, turn to page 7.

## Assembly approves money to drill into upper dam to figure out a fix

By SARAH ASLAM  
*Sentinel reporter*

Wrangell's water reservoir dams need fixing, and the borough assembly last week approved spending \$100,000 to help determine the best options.

The state dam safety engineer at the Department of Natural Resources has identified Wrangell's upper and lower dams as Class I (high) hazard potential with recognized deficiencies that require rehabilitation, said the borough's Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad.

A stability study performed for the U.S. Forest Service in 1993 and a 2006 seismic study for the borough both indicated that while stable under static conditions, a seismic event, such as a strong earthquake, could cause failure because the dams do not meet design standards, Al-Haddad said.

The borough has Shannon & Wilson, a geo-

technical and environmental consulting company, under contract to conduct an analysis to weigh the options and determine an approach to repair and improve the dam's stability to meet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidelines.

The analysis is expected to place the project in "shovel-ready" status as critical drinking water infrastructure, according to a report prepared by Al-Haddad for the borough's Dec. 14 assembly meeting, where the members approved the \$100,000 contract.

Generally, a project deemed "shovel-ready" would be eligible for federal funding, but "the federal government does not seem to have a well-defined definition for shovel-ready," Al-Haddad said.

Stafford Glashan, senior engineer at Shannon & Wilson's Palmer office, said the work will be conducted using staff from Anchorage

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## Health care providers prescribe recreation; SEARHC helps pay the bill

By SARAH ASLAM  
*Sentinel reporter*

Eat your fruits and veggies, move around plenty and drink lots of water - a combination of these recommendations have come from health care providers for generations.

Doctors have always told patients exercise is important, said Dr. Victor Sanoie Harrison, lead hospitalist at Wrangell Medical Center under the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium. What's new is that an entity like SEARHC is helping to pay the costs for exercise.

"Exercise has been prescribed forever," Harrison said, "just finding someone to pay for it is novel."

When Olinda White had to get her hip replaced five years ago, she attended water arthritis classes at the community pool to help improve her muscle tone ahead of the surgery.

After the procedure, she used the class to get her strength back. White, 74, still attends the class, and said she enjoys going to the arthritis class to keep her in shape and moving. It also helps alleviate pain

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, Dec. 23:** "Barney" Benjamin, Nicholas Howell, Don McConachie.

**Friday, Dec. 24:** Ella Chrisman, Holly Hammer, Karen Irby, Kenneth Wilson.

**Saturday, Dec. 25:** Kade Davidson, Jude Johnson, Dean Massin, Holly Nore, George O'Hern, Aminda Mercedes Skan.

**Sunday, Dec. 26:** Ted Cabot, David Churchill, Vern Cummings, Aidrick Joseph Glass, Dee Gross.

**Monday, Dec. 27:** Marlo Gabriele.

**Tuesday, Dec. 28:** Brittney Holder, Nate Sterns.

**Wednesday, Dec. 29:** Al Brock, Jennifer Davies, Kenny Golding, Michelle Gross, Christie Jamieson, Gordon McCloskey, D.J. McConachie, Jesse Peterman, Emily Sterner, Kim Wickman.

**Thursday, Dec. 30:** Sophia Ely, Nichole Kagee, Parker Mork, Rhonda Robinson, Duncan Scambler; Anniversaries: Kelly and Dawn Davis, Doug and Gail Thomas.

**Friday, Dec. 31:** Brad Angerman, Randy Easterly, Korben Young; Anniversaries: Jerry and Judy Bakeberg, Mark and Dee Galla, Wess and KD Strasburger.

## Senior Center Menu

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

### Friday, Dec. 24

Closed. Meal was delivered on Dec. 23

### Monday, Dec. 27

Closed. Meal was delivered on Dec. 23

### Tuesday, Dec. 28

Sweet and sour pork, broccoli, sukiyaki salad, brown rice

### Wednesday, Dec. 29

Oven roasted beef, carrots, fruit slaw, boiled potatoes with parsley

### Thursday, Dec. 30

Meatloaf, broccoli, danish salad, scalloped potatoes

### Closed for New Year's Eve

Two meals delivered on Dec. 30.

The Dec. 31 lunch will be beef pot pie, spinach, honey orange salad

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 24 hours in advance to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.



## TIDES

December 23-December 29

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Dec. 23	03:29	13.4	02:52	14.8	08:48	4.9	09:24	0.0
Dec. 24	04:08	13.3	03:34	14.1	09:34	5.1	10:06	0.6
Dec. 25	04:52	13.4	04:26	13.2	10:29	5.0	10:54	1.3
Dec. 26	05:43	13.7	05:34	12.4	11:33	4.6	11:47	2.0
Dec. 27	06:40	14.2	06:57	12.1	...	...	12:42	3.8
Dec. 28	07:38	15.0	08:18	12.3	00:47	2.6	01:54	2.5
Dec. 29	08:34	16.1	09:28	13.1	01:51	3.0	03:01	0.8

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**WRANGELL COAST GUARD AUXILIARY** is sponsoring the New Year's Day Polar Dip at 1 p.m. Jan. 1 at Shoemaker Park. They are accepting prize donations for participants and firewood for the burn barrels. Free hot dogs cooked up by some "special forces" in town.

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER;** no movies the rest of the year.

**WRANGELL PARKS & REC** is offering free activities for youth throughout the holiday break in an effort to keep kids moving. Capacity is limited; registration required. The free open swim and middle school open gym schedules are available online at [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

**WRANGELL PARKS & REC** is offering tot gym for children 6 months to 5 years of age on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Program runs through Dec. 29. A parent or guardian must provide supervision; staff are not responsible for child supervision. \$2 for the first child, \$1 for the second child, and the third child is free. 10 tot gym punch passes available. Call 907-874-2444 for information.

**WRANGELL PARKS & REC** is offering jiu jitsu Tuesday and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the community center gym for 18 years and up. Information at [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com) or call 907-874-2444.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) or call 907-874-2301. Or go to the Sentinel website, click on the Calendar tab, and submit your entry online.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** [www.wrangellrec.com](http://www.wrangellrec.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:** 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

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

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

### Dec. 22, 1921

A live Chamber of Commerce for Wrangell promises to be a reality. Last week, half a dozen citizens who styled themselves organizers sent out invitations to the business and professional men of the town to attend a meeting in the Wrangell Hotel dining room. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grant. Leo McCormack was elected temporary chairman. The chairman called for the reading of some correspondence which the organization committee had with the Juneau Commercial Club. The correspondence showed that the Juneau organization functions under a board of directors, with five permanent committees and whatever special committees may be necessary. After some discussion in which a number of citizens participated, it was decided to proceed with the work of organizing along the same lines as the Juneau body.

### Dec. 20, 1946

To make room for new and extensive stock expected to arrive soon, the Mildred Pierce Shoppe is remodeling and enlarging its quarters. In the new stock a complete line of the famous Love dresses for girls is expected, besides many other items of interest to milady. During the remodeling, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Chase, proprietors of the shop, have put many garments on sale to make way for the new stock.

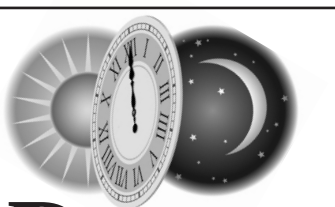
### Dec. 31, 1971

About 20 bulls were taken in the abbreviated Stikine River area moose season this year, the state Department of Fish and Game reported. The drainage was open from Oct. 15-31 only and, according to Bob Wood, game biologist, between 100 and 125 hunters went in after moose. The take, he said, compares with an average of 30 bulls generally taken out of the Stikine drainage. He blamed the low take on a halved season plus bad weather. In a controversial move, the department shortened the season and moved it from September to October in hopes that a lowered kill figure would

help build up the herd.

### Dec. 19, 1996

The official focus of the upcoming Alaska Legislature will be "Jobs, jobs, jobs!" That's good news for the fishing industry, because you can't talk about jobs without paying serious attention to the state's largest private employer. Alaskan fishermen harvest everything from sea cucumbers and snails to salmon and king crab in over 50 commercial fisheries occurring throughout the year from Ketchikan to Kotzebue and far out into the Bering Sea. Those catches contribute lots of cash to state coffers - second only to the money pumped in by Big Oil. Each year, nearly 6 billion pounds of seafood are harvested in Alaska waters worth \$1.25 billion. And that's just the dockside value paid to fishermen. Unfortunately, the real money is being made elsewhere. Alaskans are losing their shirts on salmon, because the world market is awash with fish, and we have more salmon than we know what to do with. It's time for Alaska's policy makers to turn this trend around.



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Dec. 23	8:23a	3:14p	6:50h
Dec. 24	8:23a	3:15p	6:51h
Dec. 25	8:24a	3:16p	6:51h
Dec. 26	8:24a	3:17p	6:52h
Dec. 27	8:24a	3:18p	6:53h
Dec. 28	8:24a	3:19p	6:54h
Dec. 29	8:24a	3:20p	6:55h



## Ferry Schedule

December 27-January 24

### Northbound

#### Monday, Dec. 27

Kennicott, 6:45 p.m.

#### Monday, Jan. 10

Kennicott, 4:45 p.m.

### Southbound

#### Thursday, Jan. 6

Kennicott, 5:30 a.m.

#### Monday, Jan. 24

Matanuska, 6:15 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 907-874-2021 for information or call 907-874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



# Governor's budget relies on high oil prices, federal aid

The Associated Press  
and the Wrangell Sentinel

Gov. Mike Dunleavy last week outlined what he called a responsible budget proposal that doesn't dip into savings, bolsters law enforcement and calls for direct payments of about \$3,700 to residents amid an unsettled dispute with lawmakers over the future of the state's dividend program.

But the budget relies on high oil prices to help pay the bills and is heavily dependent on one-time federal pandemic aid dollars to help cover the cost of public services usually paid out of state funds, such as the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The budget plan, a starting point for lawmakers to consider when they reconvene in Juneau on Jan. 18, proposes

"It is important to remember that a slight rise in the price of oil, changes in the stock market and one-time funding from Washington do not fundamentally change Alaska's fiscal reality."

Louise Stutes,  
House Speaker

a supplemental Permanent Fund dividend next year of about \$1,200 to residents, which would be on top of the \$1,114 PFD paid this fall. Dunleavy had wanted lawmakers to consider a sup-

plemental dividend during the fourth special session of the year, which ended last month with little business being conducted and the issue withering.

Dunleavy's budget plan for the state fiscal year that starts July 1 also calls for a larger dividend next year of about \$2,500 as part of his PFD-focused approach to state spending that lawmakers rejected this year.

The governor is seeking reelection next year, as are most legislators.

House Speaker Louise Stutes in a statement said her coalition supports a number of the priorities and projects Dunleavy outlined. But, she added, "It is important to remember that a slight rise in the price of oil, changes in the stock market and one-time funding from Washington do not fundamentally change Alaska's fiscal reality."

Referring to the yearslong, unresolved debate over the state's financial future, Stutes said, "We need to make the tough decisions on a fiscal plan in order to provide sustainability in budgeting" and the dividend.

The state, heavily reliant on oil revenue for decades, has come to depend on investment earnings from the oil-wealth Permanent Fund as North Slope production is down 75% from its peak of the late 1980s.

The state is expected to draw about \$3.4 billion from Permanent Fund earnings for the upcoming fiscal year under a 2018 law that limits withdrawals to protect the fund from excessive draws so that it can continue growing. The

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## SEARHC continues free COVID testing under state contract

By LARRY PERSILY  
Sentinel writer

SEARHC soon will move into its second year of providing free COVID-19 testing for Wrangell residents and visitors to the community.

The testing is covered under a state contract that had been scheduled to stop Dec. 31 but which has been extended to the end of the state budget year June 30, said Carly Allen, hospital administrator for the SEARHC-operated Wrangell Medical Center.

The state-funded tests for travelers and community members who are not showing any symptoms of the virus are available from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the testing trailer in the WMC parking lot, Allen said. No appointment is necessary.

The testing had been provided at the airport when the morning and afternoon Alaska Airlines flights landed, but SEARHC

moved the operation to its parking lot two months ago.

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 or were in close contact with an infected individual should immediately call the hospital at 907-874-7000 to schedule an appointment.

Testing in Wrangell has dropped off since November's surge, Allen said. The community set a record that month with 66 reported new infections, about one-quarter of all the cases in town since the pandemic count started 21 months ago.

Just one case has been reported in Wrangell the past two weeks, according to the state health department website on Tuesday. Though the Omicron variant is sweeping across much of the country, responsible for an estimated three-quarters of all infections the past week, according to federal health officials, it has yet to produce high case numbers in Alaska.

Before November's record case count, Wrangell's worst month was August, with 48 reported cases. During that month, SEARHC administered almost 1,000 COVID tests.

The health care provider did not have current numbers for November or December's testing volume in Wrangell.

As of Monday, SEARHC had administered over the course of the pandemic 175,000 tests in the Southeast communities it serves, reporting almost 3,200 positive cases, according to its website.

In addition to testing for the virus, SEARHC is busy with providing vaccinations. As of Dec. 13, it had administered more than 35,000 shots in Southeast, with almost 1,300 individuals in Wrangell receiving at least one vaccine dose.

About one-third of vaccinated individuals in Wrangell had received their booster shot as of last week, SEARHC reported.

As of Monday, about 65% of all eligible Wrangell residents 5 years old and up had received at least their first vaccination shot, with almost 62% fully vaccinated, according to

the state's COVID-19 data dashboard.

For residents 18 years and older, the rates are 72% with their first shot and 70% fully vaccinated.

## At-home tests

Continued from page 1

Towns throughout Southeast are receiving at-home testing kits, with some obtaining more initially than others. Haines received 1,000 kits, though it was the brand Binax, with test results available in about 15 minutes.

Ketchikan received 1,300 of the QuickVue kits, said Jen Bergen, nurse manager of public health. The kits are available to residents through public health and at fire stations throughout the borough.

Staff had distributed about 1,100 tests in Ketchikan as of

Dec. 13, Bergen said. If a test is positive, she said the person should isolate for 10 days of the onset of symptoms or from the time the positive result is received if a person is asymptomatic. "Then you'll want to notify all your close contacts, and then follow up with your health provider if you need help."

Anyone who needs help with contract tracing can call the state's COVID-19 hotline at (907) 531-3329.

Wrangell will be receiving additional at-home test kits soon, Sprehe said, though she didn't have an exact amount or date.

## Physical activity

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from a sciatic nerve problem.

"Doing exercises in the water takes all the pull off your muscles," White said. "I thought maybe if I was in pain, I wouldn't be able to do them but the opposite happened."

To allow more people to experience the same benefits as White, SEARHC formed an alliance with the borough's parks and recreation department four years ago, Harrison said. Every year since then, SEARHC contributes to subsidize exercise for its employees and clients.

This year SEARHC contributed \$10,000 to its yearly employee and client fund for the parks and recreation programs. Last year, it was \$7,000.

Providers prescribe a parks and recreation pass that looks like a business card with an expiration date, Harrison said. The idea is to remove financial obstacles to exercise. SEARHC covers the full amount.

Some health care providers at Wrangell Medical Center may not remember it's a benefit they can offer, he said, but if people in the community know about it, they can ask their provider. Harrison said he certainly encourages those who can afford to support parks and rec themselves to do so, but wants people to know this is an option.

Lucy Robinson is recreation coordinator at parks and recreation. At the "expiration date" of their card, the people enrolled in the program can assess, at that time, if the activity has benefited them, Robinson said.

The SEARHC benefit has pro-

vided accessibility for people who don't otherwise have the opportunity or incentive, she said.

Aside from the pool, cardio equipment and weight room, "we try to pump out a healthy balance of activities for all ages," Robinson said. "Youth basketball, open gym, the pumpkin plunge." Between Director Kate Thomas and Robinson, they try to be creative, she said. The community also likes pop-up programming that runs for a certain period of time. "People like to commit, but committing long-term is tough," Robinson said.

The activities run just long enough to maintain the novelty, and the recreation center can rotate the type of play offered.

Among the latest editions that have shown popularity is the "Keep Moving" classes for adults on Tuesday and Thursday mornings that focus on improving cardio endurance and increasing range of motion and strength through low-impact body weight movements. The one-hour class has been among their most popular, Robinson said. The class is going on a short break for the holidays and will resume in January.

Prescribed and funded recreation is a trend nationwide, Harrison said. Companies that see the value of exercise will reimburse for membership to gyms or provide facilities at their workplaces.

Another local program that subsidizes exercise is the federally funded Wisewoman program. The program, administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is going on four years this



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lucy Robinson, recreation coordinator at Wrangell Parks and Recreation, said people can sign up for a card that acts like a prescription and grants them access to exercise programs and other physical activities, courtesy of funds from SEARHC.

spring, said Tammi Meissner, health educator for the program in Wrangell. Income-eligible women enrolled in Wisewoman services get half off the \$4 drop-in rate at parks and recreation.

At SEARHC, Harrison said the tie-in with parks and recreation has been successful, his patients approve of the covered entrance fee, and he said it's "a good option for a lot of patients who need it."

Harrison said he can prescribe parks and recreation for his patients' treatment, be it obesity, diabetes, depression or other ailments.

"It's the answer for almost every single problem in the medical textbook," Harrison said.

## Holiday Schedule

Wrangell Sentinel will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 at noon and will reopen Monday, Jan. 3.





907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com



FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Children show adults the holiday spirit

BY LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

Maybe we need to pay more attention to what kids are saying. Especially around the holidays, when adults can get wrapped up in ribbons and bows and sometimes forget it is the thought, not the gift that really matters.

Youth and innocence make for honest, direct answers. Funny ones, too.

No politically calculated holiday greetings from these children. Sure, they're kids, so they want toys and games and anything electronic. But in their heartfelt letters to Santa, Wrangell elementary school students told us what's important to them and what should be important to us: Family, school, health, helping others, and keeping the world clean.

"I would really like to give my mom free time," wrote Jax Campbell, of Arlene Wilson's kindergarten/first grade class.

"A wish for my mom is for her not to work so hard," wrote Natalie Beale, student in Jennifer Davies' third grade class.

"One wish is for my dad. He really needs a day off. He has been working all day and comes home at dark and his back always hurts. So, I want to give him a present that will help his back," wrote Annika Gillen, of Davies' class. "My second wish is for the world. For all the homeless people, I really want them to have a present and have a home for Christmas, please Santa."

Houston Natt, of Laurie Hagelman's fifth grade class, wrote Santa: "If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would give my mom all my money."

Peyton Young, a student in Hagelman's class, thought of sending his parents out of town: "If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would make it so my mom and dad get a free trip to Paris."

Brogan Booker of the fifth grade class also thought of mom, but wanted to make it a surprise: "I would secretly give mom a note that has positive compliments about her on it."

Cameron Young, a student in Mikki Angerman's kindergarten/first grade class, thought of her teacher: "I would really like to give Mrs. Angerman stuff to make school easier and to have a vacation for a couple days because most of the time she's here."

The kids are aware of illnesses and how they affect everyone.

"I want my mom's sister to not have brain cancer. I don't want my mom to be sad or my dad to be sad, they are really nice," wrote Griffey Angerman, a student in Davies' third grade class.

They are especially aware of the pandemic. "I wish for the world for COVID-19 to stop," wrote Connor Blake, in the third grade.

"I wish that COVID-19 would go away," wrote Chandler Roane, also in Davies' class.

Going a step further than stopping the disease, Everett Edens, of Hagleman's class, wrote Santa: "If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would eradicate COVID-19."

**"I would secretly give mom a note that has positive compliments about her on it."**

*Brogan Booker,  
fifth grader*

Keeping the world clean showed up in several Santa letters.

"I wish for the world to recycle so the fish won't die from trash," wrote Maria Holder, a student in Davies' class.

"I wish for the world that people will stop littering," wrote Piper Bunn, also in third grade.

Third-grader Malachi Harrison was blunt: "I have one wish for the world: It is that people would stop polluting!"

Hagelman's fifth graders focused a lot on telling Santa that they want to help people in need.

"If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would not do it for one person, I would go fishing and catch some fish, then I would have some help cooking it. Finally, I would give cooked fish to people that can't afford food," wrote McKenzie Smalley.

Angus Booker admitted he was getting ahead of himself a bit: "I would pay somebody's electricity bill when they need it (and I know I don't have an electricity bill yet)."

Delilah Clark made her request local: "If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would go to a random person at the Stik and pay for their meal."

Carter Freeman added a P.S.: "One more thing Santa, I want everyone to be treated the same way."

Zander Bartlett summed it up for all the students with his message: "If I could do one kind thing for anyone in the world, I would give a kid who doesn't get Christmas presents one of my toys."

# Governor's budget

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withdrawal from the fund will cover about 60% of the cost of public services and dividends under the governor's budget proposal.

Dunleavy's budget would increase the number of village public safety officers that could be hired by at least 10, said James Cockrell, commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. It also calls for an increase in state troopers and the modernization of the department's aircraft fleet, he said.

The governor said the state's "fiscals have improved dramatically" and that oil prices are doing well.

Prices, which were in the mid-\$80-range per barrel in early November, were around \$75 this week as oil markets reacted to the possibility that the latest COVID-19 variant could constrict global economic activity and demand for crude, driving prices lower.

The state Department of Revenue's own estimate of oil prices for this year dropped by \$6 a barrel between the department's preliminary fall forecast at the end of the October and its official fall forecast Dec. 15.

A steep drop in oil prices could create an instant budget deficit under the governor's spending plan.

Dunleavy faced backlash during his first year in office in 2019 over deep cuts proposed to public services, with that anger fueling a recall effort that fizzled out earlier this year. Dunleavy said his actions then were a recognition of a deficit and that the latest budget proposal recognizes Alaska's current situation.

The budget released Dec. 15 does not include many community-specific grants or public works projects, which usually are added later in the process by legislators.

Dunleavy's bet on higher oil

prices and reliance on federal dollars to boost spending on dividends and popular state programs, such as reimbursing school districts for a share of construction costs, has drawn criticism in the political world.

"The imaginary Dunleavy surplus is largely a product of using more than a half-billion dollars in one-time-only federal disaster funds to underwrite regular agency operations," wrote Dermot Cole, a decades-long reporter and editor in Fairbanks who now publishes his own blog.

The governor also proposes that the state borrow more than \$308 million for construction projects, rather than draw on the checkbook this year, Cole wrote. "Taken together, these gimmicks create upwards of \$700 million in deficit spending for the year that follows the election, with no plan to pay for them."

EDITORIAL

# Give the holiday gift of a healthy life

If the almost 5.5 million deaths from COVID-19 worldwide seem remote and irrelevant in Wrangell; if you feel a safe distance from the 805,000 deaths across the United States; and if the 946 deaths reported in Alaska as of Monday don't touch anyone in your life, then think about your closer neighbors.

State records show COVID-19 as a cause of death for 14 people in Ketchikan, 15 in Juneau, six in Sitka, three in Petersburg, six in Prince of Wales Island communities and Hyder, three in Angoon, Hoonah and Yakutat, and one in Wrangell.

That's almost 50 neighbors, friends and family in Southeast Alaska. Hospitalizations in Southeast have totaled 270 since March 2020.

Almost 50 people who died from a highly contagious but preventable — or at least highly avoidable — disease that could be brought more under control if we think about it, rather than assuming someone else will get sick, someone else will die.

If we wear a face mask when indoors in public spaces. If we treat our neighbors with the courtesy to stay home if we're feeling sick, or have been around someone who is sick.

If we can manage to care more about our community than our so-called freedom to catch the virus and unknowingly expose others.

If we get vaccinated, regardless of what news channel we watch, despite our distrust of government, and regardless of the development of new drugs that can treat the illness after we catch the infectious virus. Better not to spread the disease than to tell your neighbors, "Sorry about that, take two of these and call me in the morning."

As of last week, only one-third of Wrangell residents had received their booster dose of a vaccine, according to SEARHC's online database. That means two-thirds of us are short one shot.

If you are still struggling to find the perfect, last-minute holiday gift for the special friends and family on your list, why not keep it simple: Put on a mask decorated with holiday colors, roll up your sleeve, get the vaccine, including your booster, and then put a bow on your shoulder instead of a Band-Aid.

Take a photo, send it to friends and family, wish them a safe and healthy holiday season, and get them that fruitcake next year. The good thing about fruitcakes is that they last forever. COVID-19 has lasted long enough.

*Wrangell Sentinel*

# Core samples

Continued from page 1

and Palmer, and drilling subcontractor Discovery Drilling, from Juneau.

The two primary concerns identified in the earlier studies of the upper dam are soft support soils, causing foundation instability, and the deteriorating timber crib, causing internal instability, according to Al-Haddad's report to the assembly.

The review covers only the upper dam.

Shannon & Wilson began with evaluating methods for stabilizing the upper dam, Al-Haddad wrote. They built a seepage model earlier this year to use as the base analysis for the stability model.

"We've been involved with the borough through a number of projects, since 1985. We've been working with the city and borough on the upper dam for decades. We've got a long history of doing projects at the dam," Glashan said. The seepage evaluation was part of an overall project to evaluate stability in the event of seismic activity.

Al-Haddad explained, "The subsurface soils investigation work that we just approved is an amendment to an existing contract we have with them."

Starting with the profiles the

Corps developed in 2006, the contractor ran into problems with the model in that they could not mimic the measured groundwater levels. With further investigation, Shannon & Wilson determined the rockfill on the downhill side of the dam and failures of the silt at the base are the problem, "which led to concern with soil strengths at the downstream embankment and dam foundation materials, which are the controlling features in stabilizing the dam."

The engineers have recommended drilling into the soils to look for weaknesses and help determine the best options to strengthen the structure.

"We are currently conducting an alternatives evaluation for the stabilization of the upper dam," Glashan wrote in a letter detailing the firm's scope of work to the borough. "The static and seismic stability calculations conducted as part of the alternatives evaluation indicates that the strength of the downstream embankment and foundation materials is the controlling feature in stability of the dam."

"This time of year isn't good for any core work. We like to get long days in," Glashan said. The work schedule will be driven by the availability of the subcontractor, Discovery Drilling, and the borough's directions.

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# Fundraising

Continued from page 1

a community is healed."

What they do does not go unnoticed.

"I have a hard time interacting with people and communicating, so I came down here and I found out they had food," said Gabe Montoy, who attends church at The Salvation Army and uses the food pantry. It has become a good outlet for him, helping him to be more social.

Volunteer bellringer Robyn Booker feels that it's important to give back, however possible.

"It's important to give back. If everybody gets in the habit of not giving back, then our community falls apart," she said. "We have a scripture that says when we're being in service to our fellow human beings, we're being in service to God. Not only are you serving others and making life a little more easy — because it's not easy — you're also showing your heavenly father how much you love him."

## Delivering Christmas cheer

Throughout the year, the American Legion Auxiliary raises funds for different programs, like scholarship programs for high school seniors and prizes for the fishing derby. During the holidays, the organization hosts a Christmas party and gift-giving event for children 12 and under.

Marilyn Mork, the auxiliary president, said the COVID-19 pandemic made raising money more difficult since in-person sales like its Taco Tuesdays, Christmas décor and Mooselaneous thrift events rely heavily on foot traffic and not as many people were coming out.

"Another thing we do is send a letter out to businesses and organizations and ask them for money," Mork said. "We usually get a few hundred dollars. This year, we actually had a private donation of \$1,000. That's the first time ever."

The budget for the Christmas party, which the auxiliary holds on a Saturday in mid-December, is typically \$7,000. Since the party was canceled but the gift-giving portion was still held last Saturday, Mork said the budget for gifts was raised from \$15 to \$20 per child. It was enough to provide gifts for the 205 children who signed up in advance and for any that came by the day of the event.

"It means a lot for the families that can't afford a lot. It's a valuable resource," said Sarah Cowen, whose children Vanessa, 11, and Hunter, 8, were among the first attendees.

The funds saved from not having the party, Mork said, will go toward next year's events.

The auxiliary's efforts also extend to seniors in Wrangell. As part of their efforts, Mork said they had a gift drive where people could visit any of the three banks, take a round tag from the tree, buy the gift listed on the tag, and the auxiliary wrapped it and delivered it. "There's a lot of seniors in this town who don't have family or are shut-ins," Mork said.

## The gift of information

Like the auxiliary, radio station KSTK saw its efforts to raise operating funds hindered by the pandemic.

Station Manager Cindy Sweat said the nonprofit usually holds a Halloween party every year to help bring in donations, in addition to their spring and fall membership drives.

"The last two years have been difficult for everybody," Sweat said. "We typically have several indoor events that we just haven't been able to do, so that's been challenging."

This year, the station is holding

a year-end donation drive as well. Donations are tax deductible and can be used on taxes if made by Dec. 31. Along with its regular membership drives, KSTK is holding a raffle for two tickets on Alaska Airlines, which Sweat is hoping will bring in \$9,000.

Even with the lack of indoor events to help raise funds, Sweat said efforts to raise money have been positive.

"Both our spring drive and our fall drive this year were very successful," she said. "We met our goal thanks to so many people in the community. This end-of-the-year drive is a little slower than last year, but I think that's because people already donated. But overall, people have been very generous."

## Finding a home

St. Frances Animal Rescue has been continuously raising money to not only continue operating, but to build or find a new location.

This year, the organization that shelters pets and finds them forever homes, ramped up its fundraising during the holidays with a bake sale at the community market last Saturday and a secret silent auction at First Bank.

As of last weekend, Joan Sargent, the foster/adoption coordinator for St. Frances, said \$3,000 was raised. That money will be matched by a private donor. It's the giving nature of the community that allows the non-profit to continue feeding and housing pets.

"It's definitely open wallets and open hearts," Sargent said. When they hold a bake sale, people don't necessarily want a sweet treat, so they will donate the value of one of the baked goods. But people will walk away with more than just a good feeling. "If we have a mini bake sale, it gives us an opportunity to reach out with education and membership and what we do. It's amazing how many people don't know we exist."

Right now, Sargent estimates it will take about \$50,000 just to build a new location for the animal shelter. That doesn't include purchasing property, ground improvements or the



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Santa Claus (Andrew Zeutzius) listens to Hunter Cowen, 8, telling him what he'd like for Christmas, while mom Sarah Cowen takes their picture at the American Legion. Hunter and his sister Vanessa were two of 205 children who signed up to receive a present as part of the American Legion Auxiliary's yearly gift drive for kids 12 and under.

ability to continue operating on a monthly basis.

"It's hand-to-mouth. Most of these places (animal shelters) operate that way and they do depend on the community to be a real strong supporter," Sargent said. "It has to be a community effort."

## Students helping students

In order to compete, high school athletes need to be able to travel. Unlike Railbelt communities on the road system, Southeast athletes have no choice but sporadic state ferries or costly air travel. And, of course, that takes money that schools don't necessarily have budgeted.

"The funds are going to help us to travel. We're going to be traveling to the ... basketball tournament in Anchorage," said Christina Good, head coach of the girls' basketball team. "Typically, we do fundraisers throughout the season, but right now with COVID, we had to move everything out of the school."

To that end, the Elks Lodge offered its services. Proceeds from last Friday's hamburgers sold at the lodge went toward the team's fundraising efforts. "They're so gracious and we're blessed to always be able to use them. They're

always so supportive of our kids."

Team members helped to take orders from Elks members, served the meals, and sold raffle tickets.

Good said there wasn't a specific goal for money to be raised. Anything they have donated gets deposited into a fund that all the teams can pull from when needed.

"Every single sport pulls out of the same pool, so they try to help out as much they can," she

said. "We don't really set a goal because we want to share with all the other sports teams as well."

Good said when there's a need, the community steps up to help.

Senior Kendra Meissner has been fundraising for basketball and volleyball since her freshman year.

"We did a fundraiser for volleyball once and made \$2,000," she said. "I really do enjoy doing it, at least once a year, to get out and represent (the teams) and get support from the town."

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# Freight rate study shows 4.5% average annual cost increase

By SARAH ASLAM  
Sentinel reporter

The results of a \$7,300 study the borough commissioned in October to take a closer look at the cost of shipping goods by barge to Wrangell shows the average annual increase in marine freight costs from Seattle to Southeast Alaska from 2006 to 2021 was 4.5%, based on published rate tariffs.

The global cost of marine freight has increased at an average rate of 5.7% annually, excluding 2021, while the Consumer Price Index has increased at 2.3% annually.

The 12 Wrangell businesses Rain Coast Data surveyed for the report, representing some of Wrangell's largest freight customers, said freight accounts for 18% of their total annual business costs. A third of businesses surveyed

said the percentage is stable, as they plan for increased freight costs over time and raise their own prices accordingly; while two-thirds said the percentage of their overall business costs has increased significantly over the years as freight costs have gone up.

An "apples-to-apples" comparison of a 500-pound pallet of groceries transported from Seattle on Alaska Marine Lines costs \$147.21 to ship to Wrangell, the study said, versus \$171 to send it to Juneau, and \$302.63 to ship to Thorne Bay.

Borough Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said the study showed her "there are a lot of nuances of shipping - it is certainly not as simple as one thinks - and how their cost structure is established. I learned a lot from the report."

By weight, the top goods shipped into Wrangell include fuel, heavy machin-

ery (often barged into the community for construction projects) and groceries. Top exports by weight include fish and garbage. The borough sends its trash by barge to Seattle, for transfer to a dump site in Washington state.

Maintaining current barge services, frequency and quality of cargo handling are the top freight priorities of the business community, according to the Rain Coast Data report, which was presented to the assembly at its Dec. 14 meeting.

Fuel surcharges represent a cost in addition to other charges for freight, and are applied to all customers, even those with annual contracts.

Since 2015, the fuel surcharge has been as low as 2.5% in March of 2016, to a high of 12.5% in October of 2021. The surcharge is directly tied to the changing price of fuel.

Port Director Steve Miller weighed

in on the assembly-commissioned study. He said the survey didn't really reveal anything new, because everyone has been paying higher and higher bills - other than that increases in rates to Wrangell are less than global shipping freight rates, and hopefully that doesn't encourage freight companies to think they aren't charging Wrangell enough.

The assembly's decision to commission the study was prompted, in part, after Sen. Lisa Murkowski raised "the very serious issue of shipping rates as a concern" when she was in town in September.

"The senator asked if the borough had documentation of the increases. The answer is no," borough officials in October reported to the assembly for its approval of the rate-history contract.

## Borough settling scope of work for inspecting former Institute property

By SARAH ASLAM  
Sentinel reporter

The contractor hired by the borough for survey and design work of the former Institute property has signed up a sub-contractor to advise on historical and archaeological ground searches, which are required before the borough can move ahead with permitting for residential development of the 134-acre site.

Interim Borough Manager Jeff Good and Trevor Sande, principal at R&M Engineering, in Ketchikan, which is doing the survey work, have met with representatives of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the expected requirements for the archaeological survey. The borough needs to meet cultural requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, according to a Dec. 14 report to the borough assembly by Carol Rushmore, zoning administrator.

Work is being coordinated with SHPO and the Army Corps.

R&M subcontracted the archeological work to True North Sustainable Development Solutions (TNSDS), out of Wasilla.

"We don't have historical architects or archeologists on the R&M staff so I reached out to several firms that were recommended," Sande said.

Robert Meinhardt, president and principal consultant of TNSDS, said he is putting together a work plan, weather permitting, to inspect the site, with work likely to start in the spring. When it does, he will send two of his employees to Wrangell - Walker Burgett, a forensic archeologist, and Tiffany Curtis, a historical archeologist - to conduct the work, which will likely take a week, Meinhardt said.

Until then, TNSDS will continue its background review, which consists of research on the area, with a focus on the former Wrangell Institute property.

An Army Corps permit for wetland fill to develop the property for residential use is

on hold until the issues surrounding cultural resources or artifacts are resolved. The borough has owned the land since 1996.

Borough staff also have met with the Wrangell Cooperative Association to review the survey work at the site of the former Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school.

"They basically wanted to make sure the tribe was involved in the process," said Esther Reese, tribal administrator for WCA. "We're still early on (in the process). They're going to be putting out an archeological survey, obtain advice for inspecting the terrain, and we're waiting on guidelines for that and from the Department of the Interior."

Reese said the tribe communicated to the borough that it just wants to be involved in the process. "Early on, when they were going to be turning the area into residential lots, they asked WCA for advice on naming," she said. "The area had already been named." The site is called Keishangita. aan

in Tlingit, meaning Alder Top Village.

The Army Corps will likely require, at a minimum, a survey of where the roads would go within the area and the area where searchers will look for human remains, what the borough referred to as a "high probability area." SHPO, however, is interested in looking at the entire development site, but "what their requirements will be - the type of survey is still to be determined," Rushmore wrote.

In order to continue moving forward on the survey project, the borough modified the scope of work for R&M Engineering to assist with the archaeological services. The borough's contract with R&M totals \$35,904.

"Utilizing our existing contractor R&M Engineering, they can sub the archaeological work for the preliminary assessment and road survey to help determine high probability and development of a more detailed survey plan of work based on the initial assess-

ment," Rushmore wrote.

Once the initial assessment is completed, additional work may be required by SHPO and the Army Corps, and a budget amendment for additional archaeological work, ground-penetrating radar or use of cadaver dogs may be necessary. There will also likely be a future budget amendment to complete the survey and platting work that has been put on hold until an Army Corps permit is obtained.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has undertaken a records search of former American Indian and Alaska Native boarding schools, with a report due by April 1, 2022, as it responds to concerns of unreported gravesites.

"Staff is in contact with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) liaison for Alaska properties. At this time, no federal funds are available for on the ground assessment work," Rushmore wrote.

## Borough will need to replace barge ramp

By SARAH ASLAM  
Sentinel reporter

The out-of-commission barge ramp where Wrangell usually unloads its freight needs to be replaced. Until that happens, repairs will suffice.

A 2011 condition assessment of the barge ramp estimated it had another 10 to 15 years of useful life remaining before reaching a point where it would have degraded enough that it may no longer be considered safe to use, Port Director Steve Miller wrote in his report to the port commission's Dec. 16 meeting.

Miller estimates replacing the ramp could cost \$2 million. A timeline will be de-

pendent on funding, possibly from the recently passed federal infrastructure bill.

The ramp replacement also is on the list of the borough's capital improvement projects it will submit for consideration by the Legislature next year.

Earlier this year, port department staff discovered a hole in a flotation tank that supports the barge end of the ramp, and the bor-

ough is preparing to spend \$115,000 for repairs to put the facility back into use, according to Miller's report. "This is a critical structure where all of the community's freight is routed to town by freight barges," Miller wrote.

"The barge ramp became the number one priority because everything that comes into Wrangell comes along that," Miller told the port commission at its meeting.

Separate from a full replacement of the ramp, the port department is working with Jeff Good, interim bor-

ough manager, and Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad to get the bid packet out for the barge ramp tank repair sometime in January, with completion hopefully before April, according to the report.

Until the repair is complete, the weekly Alaska Marine Lines freight barges will have to continue to side-tie at the former sawmill dock at the Marine Service Center, as it has since September.

The borough assembly at its Nov. 9 meeting authorized \$115,000 for the project to fix the damaged flotation tank.

Workers in October pulled the tank off the end of the barge ramp for repairs of a leak that had reduced its buoyancy.

A local contractor, Tim Heller, of Heller High Water, swung one end of the 140-foot-long ramp onto his barge so both tanks at the water end of the ramp could be removed. The ramp is temporarily secured until the tanks can be reinstalled.

The ramp was built in 1977. An extra layer was steel later was added to the ramp.



STEVE MILLER



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# SENTINEL SPORTS

## Wrestlers return with two state champions

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

The Wolves returned to Wrangell a pack victorious. Two state champions added another title to their high school wrestling careers and others chalked up second- and third-place wins after last weekend's state championship tournament in Anchorage.

Seniors Ryan Rooney and Liana Carney both bested their opponents to win in their weight classes. Rooney is a two-time state champion with a 21-0 record, and this is the third state title for Carney, who is 19-0.

It was a close call for Rooney, though, with Charles Severance of Wasilla's Reddington High School scoring 10 points on him. Rooney was able to finally best Severance in the third round of the 160-pound weight class.

"Ryan hadn't had an offensive point scored on him all season," said assistant coach Jack Carney. "Severance scored 10 unanswered points on Ryan. With 30 seconds left ... Ryan saw Severance hanging his head."

Carney said Rooney saw his opportunity, "ran around, trapped (Severance's) head, and threw him to his back. The crowd was pretty excited about it."

Had Rooney lost to Severance, Reddington would have beat Bethel for the state team title, Carney said, adding that Rooney was pretty popular with Bethel after his win.

"It was a really close match, that's exactly what we preach to those kids about, and instill into them," said head coach Jef Rooney, who is also Ryan Rooney's father. "I don't care if it's 14-0, you go until the bitter end, and you walk off with honor and integrity. There was 30 seconds left and (Ryan) sealed the deal for us and got it for himself as well."

He said there were some questions surrounding Ryan's ability to compete this year after he suffered a broken leg during cross country practice.

"There was definitely some question, and we did have a lot of discussion with the surgeon," Jef Rooney said. "Usually, you're looking at six to eight weeks for a bone to heal, and we did that. At six weeks we cut him loose, started him into some light physical therapy, and then by eight weeks he was on an elliptical and by 13 weeks he was cleared to compete."

The broken leg impeded the senior's ability to run, which the coach believes is imperative to training as it builds up endurance on the mat.

Liana Carney pinned Maysa Brown of East Anchorage in the 135-pound weight class of the girls division, where schools of all sizes compete in the same division. She pinned her opponent at 1:23 in the first round.

Junior Ethan Blatchley fell to Simon Grenier, of Nikiski, giving him a second-place finish in the 171-pound



PHOTOS BY DAVID ROWLANDS

Above: Senior Jamie Early pins Emma Knapp of West Anchorage in the third round of her opening match last weekend in Anchorage. Below: Junior Randy Churchill, right, squares off with Andrew Gaethle from Kenai Central High School last weekend in the semi-finals.

weight class of Division II. Senior Rowen Wiederspohn also finished second in the 189-pound weight class after competing against Seth Briesmeister of Hutchinson High School, in Fairbanks.

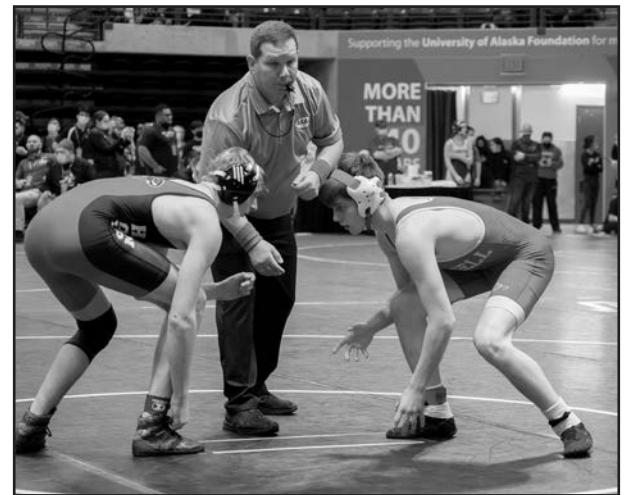
"Just great young men. They went in there and absolutely gave it their all," Rooney said. "If you go out there and wrestle your best, it's never a loss."

Junior Randy Churchill beat Rogan Hanson, of Craig, to win third place in the 152-pound weight class.

Senior Jamie Early fell to Bethel's Fiona Phelan to take fourth place in the 130-pound weight class for girls. And sophomore Mia Weiderspohn ended up in sixth place after a loss to Jahzara O'Neil of Dimond.

Though she didn't place, freshman Della Churchill did beat a returning senior state champion, Carney said.

"It was quite an epic tournament," Rooney said. "We had a ton of fun. Just a phenomenal group of young men and women."



## Boys' basketball team ready to take on competition

By MARC LUTZ  
Sentinel editor

The squeak of shoes on hardwood. The familiar thump thump thump of a ball on the court. The swish of the net. All of it signals the return of boys' basketball season to Wrangell.

And these guys are ready.

"We demand a lot of our kids," said Cody Angerman, head coach. "We tell them it doesn't just happen during the season. Playing during the off-season is kind of what separates people, and a lot of these guys take that to heart."

Like any other sport, he said, there are those who love it more than others, which shows in the amount of practice and gym time the players put in. Though Angerman has coached many of his players all four years of high school, some are brand new to the squad, with five freshmen starting. And he's seen improvements in just the first couple weeks of practice.

"We've seen some in the last few weeks make huge strides," he said. "If you want to do something and get better, all you have to do is work hard."

Angerman is optimistic about his team's chances of progressing to state championships, but said the focus has to be on one game at a time and putting in the work. He tells the team they can do whatever they want during the regular season, but when it becomes tournament time, they have to be the best they can possibly be.

"People always end up seeing your game on the weekend. The two hours that people see you play is sort of what you're judged on," he said. "I've realized that the hours and hours the kids spend



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Junior Jason Hay runs drills with his teammates on Dec. 16 at the high school gym. The team's first game of the season is scheduled for Jan. 15 at home against Haines.

in the gym, in the weight room, that's all the stuff that isn't seen."

The coach also makes sure that his team studies just as hard as they practice. "You're a student-athlete for a reason; you're a student first, then an athlete."

Just like his players, Angerman has found his footing over his five-year coaching career, yet it wasn't always easy. Coaching was difficult for him at first, being the successor to Ray Stokes, "who is a legend around not only Wrangell but is known throughout the state of Alaska,"

he said. "I quickly realized I'm not going to be the same person, I'm not going to be the same coach as somebody else, but I owe a lot to him."

For junior Jason Hay, he believes the team is ready to play, even with newer team members.

"I feel like we have a really good team. We have a tall team and a lot of depth, so I feel like we can do pretty good," Hay said. He's confident about his own performance, having progressed in his abilities over three years playing at the high

school level. "I feel like every year I just got better and better."

Hay is focused on being a better team player and helping the new players perform their best since he remembers what it was like to be starting out. "I try to guide them and motivate them to help them be the best they can be."

Junior Devlyn Campbell said he sees the standouts on the team being those who put in more effort. "There's a couple guys that go extra hard and go to the gym after practice."

Though there are plenty of teams to play against, Metlakatla seems to be the one to beat.

"Metlakatla is always a very competitive team, they're going to be tough this year," Angerman said.

It's also the team Campbell is most looking forward to playing. "They've got a good squad and we've been playing against them since middle school."

Angerman said he wasn't sure about Petersburg's performance level but did know they're well-coached and ready to play. Wrangell is scheduled to square off against Haines at home on Jan. 15 in the first game of the season.

"Haines, I know, is going to be good. I'm just hoping to be better than all of them," Angerman said. "They're pretty dang good players. Most of the time they'll play man-to-man defense, but offensively, they kind of have the green light. If they hit a couple, we'd better start playing some hard-nosed defense."



# Alaskan wins Miss America — first time ever

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) — Emma Broyles, of Anchorage, was crowned Miss America at an event Dec. 16, marking the competition's 100th anniversary and the first time an Alaskan has won the award.

Broyles, 20, won the centennial crown and a \$100,000 college scholarship. She emerged as the winner out of 51 contestants representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia at the competition at a Connecticut casino.

She is a junior honors student at Arizona State University, where she is majoring in biomedical sciences, according to a report in the Anchorage Daily News. She won the Miss Alaska title in June.

Her social impact initiative revolves around the Special Olympics, which she describes as having a positive impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, including her own, the newspaper reported. Her brother, who has Down syndrome, became a Special Olympics athlete more than 12 years ago.

What began as a 1921 Atlantic City beauty pageant has evolved away from the emphasis on looks alone — contestants are no longer judged on physical appearance — with a focus on leadership, talent and communication skills.

The finale that historically has been featured in a primetime television broadcast was available only to stream this year via NBC's Peacock service.



## Season's Readings!

As we turn the page to another holiday season, we'd like to take a moment to thank you, our loyal readers, for your trust and support. We hope this Christmas delivers all the good news you've been hoping for and more.

**Happy Holidays!**

Larry, Amber,  
Sarah and Marc



**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

**907-874-2301**



## Giving it their best shots

PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Bradley Eklund, 12, takes practice shots along with other boys in the 12- to 13-year-old division of the Elks Hoop Shoot last Saturday at the community gym. A total of 32 kids turned out to compete in the annual event, with burgers and awards at the Elks after the basketball shots.

In the 8- to 9-year-old girls division, Charlie Nelson won first place with six out of 25 baskets. Second place was won by Ayla Harris with four baskets. Kaiya Brevick took third with three.

In the 8- to 9-year-old boys division, Malachi Harrison won first with 13. Jude Johnson took second with 12. And Duncan Scambler came in third with four.

In 10- to 11-year-old girls, Saylor Welch won first place with eight out of 25 baskets. Bailey Daughterty won second with four. Hailey Gablehouse won third after a shoot-off.

In 10- to 11-year-old boys, Michael Cook took first with 13 baskets. Ryder Ritchie won second with six. Jaden Daughterty won third five.

In 12- to 13-year-old girls, Hailey Cook won first with 11 shots. Alana Harrison won second with 10 in a shoot-off, and Sophia Martinsen was awarded third place.

In 12- to 13-year-old boys, Aayn Gillen won first with 15 shots that went in. Kasey Whitaker won second with seven in a shoot-off, and Everett Meissner placed third.

## State medical officer says COVID 'not done with us'

BY SHANNON HAUGLAND  
*Sitka Sentinel staff writer*

Greater access to COVID-19 home testing kits, changes to the state statistics dashboard, and the arrival of the Omicron variant in Alaska were among the topics covered by Dr. Anne Zink in a report to the Sitka Assembly on Dec. 14.

"I know the last thing we want is COVID," said Zink, the state's chief medical officer. "Man, we are all done with it. Unfortunately, it's just not done with us."

She said the state's role is "to provide tools for Alaskans to keep themselves, their families and their communities healthy."

Zink attended the meeting by Zoom. Before she spoke, a number of Sitka residents expressed views on COVID that ran counter to those of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

"I love America's big, beautiful, diverse democracy, and really appreciate the city council taking time," Zink said in her opening remarks.

Zink said she encourages those who use the state's dashboard to pay attention to onset date versus report date of new infections, as reports can be delayed.

"There's more than cases to COVID," she said. "We know we don't catch all of the cases — our goal is not to catch all of the cases. Our goal is to provide information and resources to every Alaskan to make the best choices that they can

for themselves, their family, their community, their business, really honoring and respecting those individual choices and freedoms that we appreciate/need."

Other goals in the state's strategies are keeping hospitals open and running and not overwhelmed, and keeping kids in school, she said, talking about the variants of the virus that are emerging.

"Delta was different; Delta was highly contagious and spread quickly from person to person," she said. "And so, from a population perspective, that just meant a lot more people got exposed and a lot more people got infected quickly."

She said previous COVID infection provides some significant protection against reinfection, "but it's not perfect."

"We see reinfections. ... The vaccines provide amazing protection from hospitalization but again it's not perfect, particularly if your immune system has a hard time responding to that."

Referring to another part of the state's statistics dashboard, she said the percentage of tests coming back positive — which has been coming down recently — will be removed due to the burden of reporting by clinics.

Zink said her department is getting a number of questions about the Omicron variant, which she referred to as "another wild card" in the battle to keep people healthy.

"I would just emphasize that science is not a fixed body of knowledge," she said. "It's asking

questions. ... I hate the comment, 'I believe in science.' Science isn't a belief, it's a process, and in that process we learn. And so we are continuing to learn constantly about respiratory illnesses, about this virus."

Zink described vaccines as any substance that teaches your natural immune system to develop antibodies, to take down the virus more quickly.

"And in the process, we are learning more about this virus and this virus is also changing," she said. "Every time that it replicates, every time it uses our bodies to replicate — because viruses need our cells to replicate — it can change. It has a really messy spell-checker. And so every time it replicates it can make 'mistakes' and some of those mistakes make it less likely to spread from one person to another, some of those mistakes make it more likely to spread to one another."

Zink said the initial data about Omicron is that it appears to move more easily and quickly from person to person, but that it may not make people "super, super sick." She added that it's too early to tell at the beginning of a surge. A bad sign is that it also looks like those with one or two vaccine doses and no booster — or who have had COVID already — may be "quite susceptible" to the latest variant that is moving across the country and has been reported in Alaska.

## Police report

**Monday, Dec. 13**

Citizen assist.  
Domestic violence order violation: Unfounded.  
Hit and run.  
Arrest for probation violation.  
Agency assist: Line crew.

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**

Agency assist: Building maintenance.  
Agency assist: Elks.  
Agency assist: Nolan Center.  
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

**Wednesday, Dec. 15**

Agency assist: Elks alarm.  
Agency assist: Nolan Center.  
Civil issue.

**Thursday, Dec. 16**

Traffic stop: Verbal warning given for canceled license.  
Welfare check.  
Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.  
Parking complaint: Vehicles were moved.  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

**Friday, Dec. 17**

Parking complaint.  
Traffic stop.

**Saturday, Dec. 18**

Subpoena service.  
Subpoena service.  
Alarm.  
Traffic stop.

**Sunday, Dec. 19**

Agency assist: Ambulance.  
Welfare check.



## OBITUARIES

## Chuck Helland leaves 38 years of Wrangell family, friends



CLARENCE  
"CHUCK" E.  
HELLAND

Clarence "Chuck" E. Helland died Dec. 6 at Wrangell Medical Center. He was 82 years old.

"Cancer came back and it took over quickly," the family wrote.

He was born April 28, 1939, to Joseph and Leah Helland, in Roosevelt, Montana.

Chuck Helland lived in Wrangell for 38 years. He worked as a chipper operator at the 6-Mile sawmill, then as a cannery worker and later served as a steward for the Alaska Marine Highway System. He retired from the state ferries, and with Julie Wigg, "the love of his life," enjoyed fishing, family and friends. They had purchased a 20-foot boat and went sportfishing as much as they could.

"They really were into family," and Helland was always willing to help family with work and repair projects at their homes.

Helland was preceded in death by Julie Wigg.

Survivors include three step-children Alora Wigg and her son, Troy Winchester; Romona Wigg and her partner Penny Johnson; and Fred Wigg and his son Taylor Wigg and his partner Ashley Nicole, with grandchildren Darren Wigg and Alania Fell; and also grandchild Delila with Bulmaro Ramirez and their son (great-grandchild) Kai Wigg; grandchild Tori and Dante, and their children Aliyah and Kyrie (great-grandchildren); and grandchild Christina and Yuancie-Lee and their children Elias and Azalea (great-grandchildren).

The family has set up an account at First Bank to help with funeral expenses, or friends can send donations to the Ketchikan Mortuary, in care of funeral director David Halko, PO Box 8181, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

Services will be planned for a later date.

## Avid gardener Leona Davidson dies at 86

Leona Kohler Davidson, a 15-year resident of Wrangell, died Nov. 22, at age 86. She was born May 30, 1935, to Leo James Kohler and Delia Nikolai, in Talkeetna.

Davidson moved to Wrangell in 2006 after retiring as a statistician for the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

She was an avid gardener all her life. "We did moose hunting trips and fishing trips, camping too," her family wrote.

She believed in God and was a spiritual person, but was not affiliated with a

church.

Her husband, Willis Davidson, died in 1974.

A granddaughter, Samantha Lane Davidson, passed away in 2016.

Survivors include daughters Linda L. Davidson, Debra A. Davidson and Pamela S. Davidson; son Gregory A. Davidson; and three grandchildren.

No services are planned. The family will take Davidson's ashes back to Talkeetna.

Friends can contact Linda Davidson at akbeader@gmail.com.



LEONA KOHLER DAVIDSON

## Former resident Warren Powers dies at 85

Former Wrangell resident Warren Deville Powers Jr., 85, passed away Dec. 3 in Azle, Texas.

Powers was born in Seattle on Dec. 4, 1935, to Warren D. and Isabelle Powers Sr. He grew up in Wrangell, commercial fishing with his dad and working in the logging industry.

He later moved to Anchorage and then to Texas with his wife, Sylvia. He lived in Texas for 34 years and was a long-haul truck driver, mostly driving to the East Coast but also all 50 states and Canada.

Powers was preceded in

death by his wife Sylvia, daughter Carol Ann Kimble and son Warren D. Powers III.

He is survived by children Sydney Razor and Sandra "Dodie" Powers; grandchildren Andrea Trent and Billy Trent, James Powers, Vance Razor and Brittney Shirey; great-grandchildren; sister Donna Powers Barger (Fred); brother Darrell "Swede" Powers; and stepson Doug Rhoades.

At his request, no service was held.



WARREN DEVILLE POWERS JR.

## Rare sea eagle spotted a long way from home

TAUNTON RIVER, Mass. (AP) — Far away from its home in Asia, a rare Steller's sea eagle was spotted by 200 bird watchers around Taunton River, Massachusetts on Dec. 20.

The eagle is reportedly the same one that went off course a year ago and has been spotted in Alaska and Canada.

Flocks of bird watchers in the Northeast said they traveled hours to the river to catch a glimpse of the eagle in what they said was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Steller's sea eagles, native to Russia, China, Korea and Japan, have wingspans of up to 8 feet and weigh up to 20 pounds. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed as the eagles as a vulnerable species, estimating a population of about 4,000.

"This is like the bird of the decade for people around here," said Andrew Vitz, the state's ornithologist.

Vitz said the bird most likely arrived in North America after it got caught in a weather-related storm. The state has no plans to capture or tag the bird, he said.

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

Emergency Ordinance No. 1014 of the assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, extending the Borough's Declaration of Emergency related to the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic and granting authorization to take actions necessary to protect Public Health during the emergency through June 28, 2022.

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

Publish Dec. 23, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Library Assistant I

The City and Borough of Wrangell and the Irene Ingle Public Library will accept applications for the position of Library Assistant I until filled. This is a temporary, part-time position.

This position organizes and performs a variety of clerical and technical library duties and provision of patron services. Duties may relate to processing and circulation of library materials and responding to routine requests for information and assistance.

This is a temporary, part-time (15-hour) position, paid hourly at Grade 9, Step 11 on the Temp Non-Union Wage and Grade Table at \$18.04 per hour. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs).

A High School Diploma or GED is required along with one year of experience in a library, educational support setting, or equivalent in customer service. The position will require a candidate to occasionally ascend/descend stairs and lift up to 40 pounds. Evenings and occasional Saturdays will be required.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, or via email to [rmarshall@wrangell.com](mailto:rmarshall@wrangell.com).

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

Jeff Good  
Interim Borough Manager

Publish Dec. 23, 2021, and Jan. 6, 2022

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Property and Sales Tax Accounting Clerk Finance Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for a Property and Sales Tax Accounting Clerk to join the Borough's Finance Department. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 31st, 2021.

The Property and Sales Tax Accounting Clerk will primarily be responsible for the collection and processing of property tax, sales tax, excise tax and transient tax. They will be additionally tasked with facilitating work performed by external parties such as sales tax audits, property tax assessments and foreclosure processing. A main function of the role will be able to perform additional oversight procedures to ensure tax revenue streams are maximized. The goal of the Property and Sales Tax Accounting Clerk will be to efficiently and effectively distribute payment notifications, collect taxes, administer penalties and interest and help streamline payment options for taxpayers.

Equivalent to a high school diploma is required for this position. Three years of relevant work experience in a professional business, office or administrative setting is required. Education or experience in accounting, budgeting or position closely aligned with the duties responsibilities and skills of the position is strongly preferred.

This is a full-time position with full benefits, paid hourly (overtime-eligible) at Grade 13 ranging from \$18.55 to \$23.22 per hour. Some overtime may be authorized and/or required. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs). This position will require a successful pre-employment background check and drug screening.

To be considered, submit a cover letter, resume and completed employment application via email to [rmarshall@wrangell.com](mailto:rmarshall@wrangell.com), or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Mason Villarma  
Finance Director

Publish Dec. 23, 2021

### Policy for Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

The deadline for submissions is  
Monday at 5 p.m. for Thursday  
publication.

Letters are run on a  
space-available basis.

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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The Sentinel  
staff is taking  
a break.

Next issue  
will be Jan. 6



# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Processors boost prices paid for sockeye salmon

Strong global and U.S. demand for sockeye salmon has 2021 pushed prices to near record highs and boosted fishermen's paychecks.

Both Silver Bay and Peter Pan Seafoods a few weeks ago increased their base prices to fishermen to \$1.45 per pound, a 20-cent increase from the summer. Other Alaska companies are likely to follow suit. That compares to a final price in 2020 of just \$1.06

"Obviously, the base price is announced earlier in the season. Now that we can see where sales are going and really have a confident look, we're excited to celebrate that with our fleet," Abby Frederick, a spokesperson for Silver Bay, told KDLG radio in Dillingham.

Alaska's total 2021 sockeye catch was 57 million fish, with a preliminary value topping \$361 million — more than 56% of Alaska's total dockside value.

More than 42 million of the reds came from Bristol Bay, worth more than \$248 million to fishermen before final settlements are paid out next year.

Most of Alaska's fish goes to market frozen, headed and gutted, and strong demand by global buyers pushed wholesale prices for Bristol Bay sockeyes this summer to \$4.37 a pound, up \$1.07 from last summer. Sockeye fillets were wholesaling at \$6.61 a pound and averaging \$12.94 at retail counters this fall, up nearly a dollar from a year ago.

The market is tight which underscores increased demand, said Andy Wink, director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

Bristol Bay's sockeye run is projected to be even bigger in 2022 and could mean a catch of 60 million.

"It's the largest we've ever forecasted," said biologist Greg Buck at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

### Bycatch debate continues

Bycatch will continue to dominate headlines as more Alaskans and lawmakers engage like never before. The increased awareness can be credited in great part to one man from Homer.

"If we don't step up and keep an eye out for it now, who will? It seemed like all the Alaska resources were infinite for so long, but now we're coming up to where fisheries are being shut down. It's either step up or step out of the way," said David Bayes, a longtime charter operator who said the waste and habitat damage by trawlers made him step up.

In 2020, the trawl sector in Alaska took 92 million pounds of various species as bycatch, according to NOAA Fisheries data.

Bayes has used social media to educate more Alaskans via a Facebook page called "STOP Alaskan Trawler Bycatch," founded a year ago by Jody Mason, of Whittier, who calls Bayes "an encyclopedia."

"David Bayes has helped pivot the bycatch discussion from one of behind closed doors and buried information to mainstream Facebook posts and dinner table conversations," said Maddie Lightsey, of Alaska

Boats and Permits, in her weekly Fish Ticket report.

Bayes uses federal fishery managers' numbers on bycatch and fishing overages to make his points.

"Every week they update and you can click and see what the new info is," he said. "But I don't think a lot of people have done that. Because once we started to post those numbers, we'd run into trawl captains and crews and people affiliated with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that would say I was crazy. Those numbers are too huge. And then you show them and say, well, those are your numbers."

Bayes also has exposed how catch overage numbers are juggled and often don't add up.

Continued on page 11

Happy  
HOLIDAYS  
From the  
Wrangell  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Remember to shop  
locally and support our  
small businesses!

KEEP YOUR  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON  
Bright

A message from the City & Borough of Wrangell.



# Fisheries Council votes to limit trawl fleet bycatch of halibut

By GARLAND KENNEDY  
Sitka Sentinel Staff Writer

Halibut bycatch by the Bering Sea trawl fleet could be reduced by up to one-third following a vote by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

After days of deliberation and public testimony at the online council meeting, the members voted 8-3 on Monday to link the prohibited-species catch limit of Bering Sea halibut to the abundance of the fish, thereby lowering trawl fleet bycatch when there are fewer

halibut.

Fishermen and stakeholders from across coastal Alaska testified in support of a steep reduction in the allowed halibut bycatch. Hundreds of people commented in writing and by videoconference. Verbal testimony lasted more than eight hours.

State Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, of Sitka, told the council that a wide range of Alaskans support limiting trawl bycatch, which is estimated at about 2.8 million pounds per year.

"There is broad and encompassing support for meaningful action on halibut (abundance-based management) and a reduction of bycatch limits in the Bering Sea. ... That conservation burden should be shared by all groups, including the (Bering Sea trawl) fleet," Kreiss-Tomkins testified.

He said the issues are more than financial.

"There is an additional consideration that is immaterial and somewhat incalculable," he said, "that when the people that are next to the resource, and are stewards of the resource, are alienated from the resource, that's deeply, deeply problematic."

The council deliberated four options on halibut bycatch presented in a draft environmental impact statement. Alternative 1 would have preserved the status quo, regardless of halibut abundance. The other three alternatives offered differing bycatch reductions. In the final vote, the council approved a custom option near the deepest cut.

When the fish are in very low abundance, the bycatch limit will be reduced by up to 35%.

Linda Behnken, executive director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, said the management council's decision "is a big step in the right direc-

tion."

"The biggest benefits of course are to the fisheries of the Bering Sea, particularly in the Pribilofs," Behnken said after the vote. "There are benefits of reduced bycatch to everyone who cares about, depends on, enjoys the halibut resource. This is an abundance-based management approach which has been our focus for the last six years, that the cap should fluctuate with abundance."

Also, she said, the decision is a victory for coastal communities.

"There's a really big social justice piece of this action, that we're not allowing these six factory trawl companies (operating 19 vessels) to preempt the people who live in the Bering Sea and have depended on halibut for subsistence and livelihood."

The Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee supported the bycatch reduction in a letter to the management council.

"We favor reducing (trawl) halibut bycatch as much as possible as soon as possible," the Sitka organization said. "Additionally, we feel (trawl) bycatch of other species such as salmon, shellfish, and sablefish need to be reduced as much as possible as soon as possible."

# Fish Factor

Continued from page 10

"In the Bering Sea, for one example, a catcher processor trawl fleet was about five million pounds over its Pacific cod quota. You can see this progression through the year that these guys are past their cap but they adjust the quotas. And then a few weeks ago, NOAA reallocated and simply erased that overage on paper," he explained.

It was Bayes who pointed out this fall that Bering Sea trawlers are allowed more crab as bycatch than the crab fleet can take, even in the red king crab fishery that is closed for the first time in 25 years.

"It's gotten again and again to where the North Pacific Council system has said, 'Okay, we're going to shut directed fisheries but the trawlers can't help it because of the gear type and they must have this quota,'" he said.

"That does so much to prevent the stocks from ever bouncing back. They've shut off directed fisheries, but the trawl fleet keeps hammering it a little bit at a time and the small local boats just sit there and twiddle their thumbs and wait."

The STOP platform has its critics.

Heather Mann, director of the Midwater Trawlers Cooperative of Oregon, said the site "happily hosted bomb threats to individual decision makers, fishermen using gear they didn't like, and more misinformation about a very difficult topic than we've ever seen." The platform "actively hosted and encouraged hate for fisheries, groups and individuals. It is the antithesis of civilized discourse."

Dennis Moran is president of Fishermen's Finest, the 19-boat, Seattle-based bottom trawl fleet that starting in 2023 will be required for the first time to reduce its yearly take of millions of pounds of halibut bycatch.

"The Facebook page has had multiple posts calling for violence against trawl vessels. If you speak up on the page to share the truth and provide sources to accurate information, you are blocked," Moran said. "What Bayes posts is either purposely taken out of context or flat-out misinformation and rhetoric. They allow personal attacks on council members and others."

Those critics are all wet, believes state Rep. Kevin McCabe, of Big Lake, who calls Bayes "an honest broker."

"He takes pains to post links to his data and has often provided amplifying information," McCabe said. Bayes said he knows the trawl sector is not "going away," but he believes it's time to "tap the breaks." Stakeholders need to come up with better fishing solutions as other states and countries have done, he said, before it's too late.

**Wrangell Parks & Recreation would like to give a special thanks to longtime department volunteers**

**Kim Covalt and Michael Bania.**

**Our aquatics classes would not be possible without you. We appreciate all you do!**

**WWW.WRANGELLCOVID19.ORG**  
**907-874-COVI (2684)**

## Corrections

The Fish Factor column in the Dec. 16 Wrangell Sentinel incorrectly next year's proposed cod harvest in federal waters of the Gulf of Alaska, which would increase by nearly 40% to 54 million pounds if approved by the U.S. Commerce Department.

The column also incorrectly reported next year's proposed pollock catches in the Gulf of Alaska, which would increase to nearly 310.5 million pounds, a 26% boost.



# Holiday Greetings 2021

## Wrangell Winter

Crystalline snow cascades toward earth,  
Bedding the land 'til spring's rebirth.

Moose shake their snow-crusted, heavy, white racks.  
Deer paw for lichen and other snow-snacks.

Snowmobiles streak through carved, broken trails.  
Sailing by hemlocks and cedars' white veils.

Fishing boats dodge the waves and the blow.  
Bears curl in slumber missing the show.

Inside, folks hang melting snow garb,  
Light the woodstoves and reach for the carbs.

— *Cindy Martin*



**WRANGELL SENTINEL**





# The best gift is to be sharing and loving

BY OMID RAHMANIAN  
AND KAY LARSON  
Baha'is of Wrangell

Looks like Christmas started for Wrangell after the storm visited us, as so many arose to show loving kindness, forgetful of self and finding time for others. By serving each other, lending a hand, offering hospitality in absence of heat, taking hot food for those without power, checking up on the elders, giving a ride to the stranded — the list goes on.

Isn't that the spirit of Christmas? Love in action. Every time we love without expectation, every time we give unconditionally, it is Christmas, it is prayer, it is worship.

Mother Teresa reminded us, "It is not how much we give but how much love we put in giving that matters."

Expressions of this love are palpable everywhere. We are enriched and warmed by it. Suddenly, we started letting go of the meaningless and focused on values we all cherish. We celebrate Christmas in this spirit. Together we honor love, joy, service, kindness, compassion, generosity, regarding all as members of our family.

We do this so well here in Wrangell, letting our love shine like the rays of the sun to everyone from every race, faith or no faith, culture, creed, or color.

The best gift of this season is to be grateful for how much we already have. Right?

As we gather around the table for meals may this be our prayer: "He is God! Thou seest us, O my God, gathered around this table, praising Thy bounty, with our gaze set upon Thy Kingdom. O Lord! Send down upon us Thy heavenly food and confer upon us Thy blessing. Thou art verily the Bestower, the Merciful, the Compassionate." — Abdu'l-Bahá

## CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE!



Guided by the Star of the East, three wise men traveled far to see the newborn child, bringing their precious gifts.

To all of you who have traveled to see us, we extend our best wishes for a season blessed with faith, family and friendship. Thank you ever so much for the cherished gift of your patronage.

Thank You!

~ The Stikine Drug Family: Stephen, Donna, Nicholas & Josie

# Stikine Drug

### Letters from Matt Nore's kindergarten/first grade class

**Isaac wrote:** "I would like the Avengers tool box, a remote control swim car for my brother, a new phone for my dad, and a makeup kit for my mom."

**Roslyn:** "I would like an easel for painting, a new painting set, and a gnome for mom's garden."

**Kailani:** "I would like a pink teddy bear."

**Peyton:** "I would like a headset for video games, and three plane tickets to New Jersey."

**Emma:** "I would like an Amico robot and for my whole family to be together for the holidays."

**Chloe:** "I would like a real hamster, a robot, and a racetrack with three remote controls."

**Alivia:** "I would like an Xbox one with the game Halo and a new iPhone."

**Parker:** "I would like an Xbox one with a race car game. I would also like four tickets for a train ride and a new iPhone."

**Skylar:** "I would like an Xbox one with the Fortnite game and a new iPhone."

**Carson:** "I would like a baby doll that has a little bottle that you can mix the formula. I would also like an Xbox one with a race car game. I would also like a Pop It and a Squishy. I would like an iPhone for my sister."

**Lillian:** "I would like a little tiny sewing machine."

**Caroline:** "I would like an Anna Santa doll, and a painting easel with a painting set."

**Ashlyn:** "I would like an Xbox one with a game that has horses in it and the Fortnite game. I would also like to ask for fidgets for my brother."

### 'Dear Santa' letters from Arlene Wilson's kindergarten/first grade class

I am now in kindergarten! I would like to go to the North Pole and see Santa. I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have shared my toys and played with people. I've also been thinking a lot about how I can be giving. I would really like to give Jax a toy, because he's my friend. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a toy soldiers!!

Sasha Lofftus

I went on a vacation to Florida with my family! I have been wondering a lot about you, and the North Pole. Do you have trees that are made of candy cane bark? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I helped Millie when she fell down. I also helped my mom wash the dog. I've also been thinking a lot about how I can be giving. I would really like to give a neck-

lace to my mom, because I love her! If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a Magic Mixies!!

Lilly Edens

Some great things have happened this year. Me and my dad went fishing! Do you know my grandfather? He lives at the North Pole too! I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have been helping my sister with cleaning our room! I would really like to give my little sister a water bottle with flowers on it, because she keeps losing hers! If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a toy desk!!

Everly Rose Cook

I have improved more at school. I am a really good student! I have been wondering a lot about you, and the North Pole. What are the reindeers' jobs? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have helped my brother feel better when he is sad. I would really like to give my grandma a new bed, because it's kind of hard for her to sleep when I'm there. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a drone!!

Gretchen Powell

Some great things have happened this year. I helped my sister. Do penguins live at the North Pole? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have pushed my sister on the swings. I would really like to give Jaxon a toy Batman, because he likes Superheroes! If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a

whole pack of Pokemon!!

Walter McHolland

I went sledding at the golf course! I have been wondering a lot about you. Are you magic? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have shared my gloves with my brother. I would really like to give Ellie a new scooter. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a new scooter!! That way I can go scootering with Ellie.

Millie Howe

I got a new baby cousin! Is Rudolf real? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have brought my brother's books to him. I would really like to give Millie a unicorn stick, because she really likes unicorns and she's my friend! If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a Baby Alive!!!

Fiona Scambler

Some great things have happened this year. I had a sleepover! I have been wondering a lot about you. Does Santa Claus have a wife? I have played with kids that wanted people to play with. I would really like to give Millie and Lilly a painting for Christmas. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a huge T-Rex, as big as my sister's unicorn!!

Aura Schlotzhauer

I got to go sledding at the school! How old is Santa? I hope that I am on the nice list this year

Continued on next page

**Merry Christmas to All**

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# Christmas welcomes us as we are

PASTOR SUE BAHLEDA  
Island of Faith Lutheran Church

The best Christmas gift of all is that it comes. Ready or not, December 25 dawns, and Christmas is celebrated.

It doesn't matter if all the gifts have arrived or have been wrapped. It doesn't matter if the turkey is thawed or the last batch (or the first batch) of cookies have been baked. It doesn't matter if the outside lights got hung, or all the doors of the Advent calendar have been opened.

It doesn't matter if you haven't seen "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Home Alone" or "Miracle on 34th Street" yet. It doesn't matter if your uncle got arrested, or if your home has been swept away in a tornado.

It doesn't matter if your family is changed because of a wedding, birth, divorce or death. On December 25, it's Christmas.

Christmas is inconvenient and welcome. Christmas takes us as we are. Christmas, in all its inevitability, interrupts the hustle and bustle, the preparations and the fuss, and moves us from "prepare" to "celebrate." Christmas announces that what we've done is enough, while it reminds us that what we've done is likely incomplete and imperfect.

Christmas calls us to be kind as we accept the wonderfully tacky gift that made someone think "that's perfect for her!" and sings "glory" and "merry" and "joy."

Christmas comes. It doesn't wait for us to have everything ready, everything just so. It comes to reveal that our best efforts are incomplete and imperfect, a practical exercise in how God delights in the ways we try, and encourages us to keep trying. To keep sharing, and giving, and passing along traditions.

To wear the ugly sweater with pride. To snuggle up and read "Twas the Night Before Christmas." To sponsor a food box. To gather up as a church to sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and go back out into the world announcing "Joy to the World."

Christmas comes, insistently, every year on December 25. It comes, over and over and over again, to mark God's deep delight in creation, and God's desire for reconciliation, harmony, care and joy; God's hope that we love God and our neighbor, not just December 25, but every day between now and next Christmas.

All this desire, delight and hope brought to birth on one silent, holy night, always expected, always a surprise.

For me, for you, for all. Rejoice!

## Continued from previous page

because I have cleaned downstairs at my house. I would really like to give my brother a journal, because he rips out a lot of paper from my mom's notebooks. My mom doesn't like that! If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a Hot Wheel set!!!

Thorin Booker

Me and mommy went on vacation to two places. It was really fun and I got to see the rest of my family! I have been wondering a lot about you. How do you stay alive for so long? I have helped my mommy with the new babies! I would really like to give Aura a new pet kitty! One thing I would love to get this year is a Rainbow High Doll!

Finley Churchill

My baby brother was born this year!!! How do you make all those toys in one year? I have helped out doing my brother's chores. I would really like to give my Elf on the Shelf something that he's been wanting. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year are fidgets!!

Kelowna Morelli

I got a puppy in Oregon! Why do you eat cookies and drink milk so much? I have been nice to the puppy and I help my friends when they fall down! I would really like to give Justice and Waylin my Play Station 1, because they have an Xbox. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is an Xbox 1!!

Jaxon Gellatly

I got to see my dad a lot! How does Santa Claus and the elves make toys so fast? I have helped my mom! I would really like to give my mom free time, because she has to stay home a lot! One thing I would love to get this year is a Nintendo Switch!!

Jax Campbell

I am so thankful for my family. I like to do things with them. What would you like me to leave you on Christmas Eve when you come to my house? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have helped my mom a lot! I would really like to give a note to Madison. One thing I would love to get this year is a play car!

Greyson Allen

## Letters from Mikki Angerman's kindergarten/first grade class

My dad is on the Enforcer and he comes home tonight! I have been sharing with my brother. I would really like to give my brother one of my toys because I have a jet and he always wants to play with it. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a Star Wars droid!!

Darius Yoder

I had a birthday and I turned 7! I also have been sledding!! It makes me feel happy. I was wondering if you turn into wall dust on Christmas to jump from rooftop to rooftop. I have been giving nice notes to my teachers and I am going to give my dogs a dog bowl so I can give them food and water at the same time! I would really like to give my teacher, Mrs. Angerman, a nice paper because she has been working so hard this year! One thing I would love to get this year is a white puppy with a pink collar and a pink bow on his head!!

Jessica Schlotzhauer

My friends come over a lot of the time. I have also been doing a lot of crafts! My dad is on a trip, but today he comes back! I have been wondering if you can fly. I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have been loving my mom. I would really like to give my friend Rossy a cat because she really loves cats! One thing I would love to get this year is a stuffed doggy that has a leash and wheels on the feet so I can walk him!!

Ellie Silva

I got to play in the snow and make a snowman, which was so much fun. How many presents do you deliver? I have been playing with my friends at school. I would really like to give mom and dad a present because I love them. One thing I would love to get this year is a Lilo & Stitch train!!

Helena Fiske

I have been building a fort with some people. I have been wondering a lot about you, and the North Pole. I really like your reindeer. I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I just want to get presents. I would really like to give Isi something for him because it's his birthday. One thing I would love to get this year is a baseball suit and a new baseball!

Blake Allen

I am starting baseball but I don't know when it starts. I have been helping my friends, and I have been organizing the school. I have also been helping out at home by washing the dishes. I would really like to give Mrs. Angerman a present. One thing I would love to get this year is a cat because I really love cats. I have one and he is really nice to me.

Kayson Stewart

I have got to play at recess and I got to have a really fun play date at Peyton's house. Do you drink milk when you are at the North Pole? I hope that I am on the nice list this year because I have been friends with lots of people. I would really like to give Isi a phone because he has never had one before. One thing I would love to get this year is a PlayStation 5!!

Mason Rushmore

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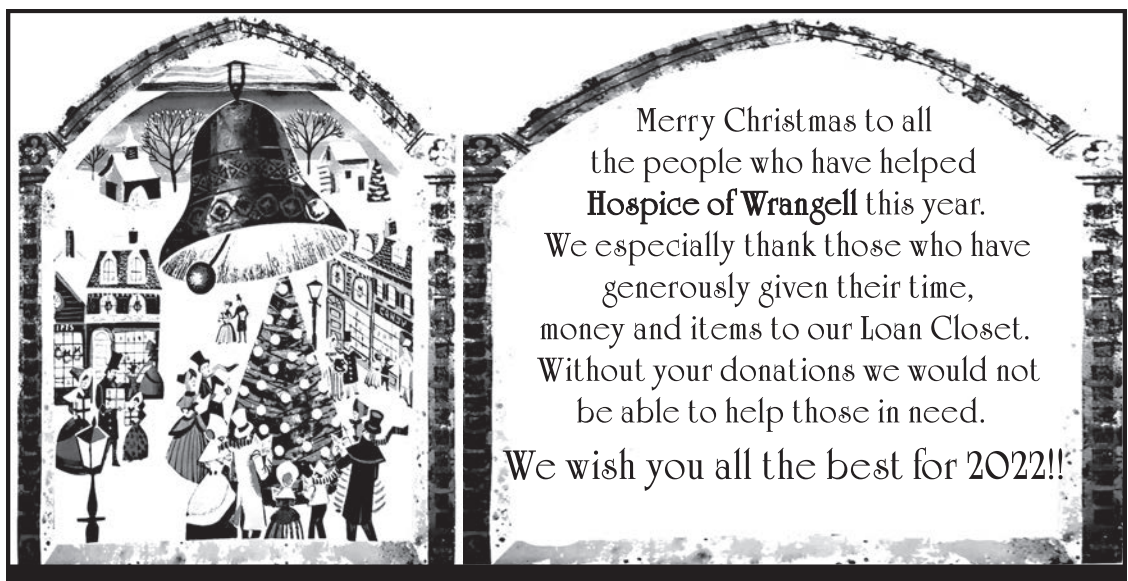
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Continued from previous page

How did Rudolph get a red nose? Sometimes I help my grandma make my couch into a bed. Two times I made the process go so fast! I would really like to give Mrs. Angerman stuff to make school easier and to have a vacation for a couple days because most of the time she's here. If I am on the nice list this year, one thing I would love to get this year is a Treasure X! It's amazing!!  
Cameron Young

I got to move to Wrangell and play on the slide with my friends. How do you make all the toys for kids? I have been helping my mom clean up at home. I would really like to give my mom a big hug and a bike because I love her. One thing I would love to get this year is a baby yoda stuffed toy!  
Isi Pahulu

I got to go to play with my cousins, and it was really fun. How do your reindeer fly? I have helped my mom do the dishes. I would really like to give my puppy a ball because I love my puppy. One thing I would love to get this year is a real life pony!!  
Kennedy Eklund

I have been spending time with my grandma. I like doing that. What do you do on summer break? I have been kind to my friends, and me and my sister have been doing better! I have helped my mom clean the house. I would really like to give Jessica a handbag because we are best friends! One thing I would love to get this year is an LOL camper!!  
Leeya Gillen

**Letters from Michelle Clark's second grade class**

I think I would like a remote controlled car for Christmas, and I will take a bike and a new Nerf gun. I hope you love it up there!  
Jake

I have been naughty and nice this year. I want a Wii Nintendo and a Wii censor. How many reindeer do you actually have?  
Kylar

I really don't want anything new this year, I will be happy with whatever I get. Merry Christmas!  
Hudsyn

I want an VR headset and a 4-wheeler. How many elves do you have?  
Dylan

I am 7 years old and I have been good. I really want a new slime kit and Pop Its. I need a new bed and rug.  
Ayla

I am 8 years old and have been naughty and nice. I want a hammock, a pillow, Bumblebee toy and Nerf gun. How does your sled brake?  
Titan

I have been good this year. I am 7 years old. And I have a question: How many cookies do you eat? I want a new game, a new car, and I need a new alarm clock.  
Kaden

I'm 8 years old and have been nice. I want a hover board and a lot of Squishies. What are your elves names? Also, how many elves do you have?

Dima

I have been naughty and nice. I really want a hover board. I also want more Squishy pens for my collection. I really need a new water bottle. I was wondering, how many reindeer do you have?  
Hailey

I am 7. I was nice and I want a remote control car. I want a toy excavator. I need a water bottle. I have a questions: How many reindeer do you have?  
Chase

I would like a Tomy Thomas and a Tomy Edward for Christmas. I need a new lanyard because mine got waterlogged. How old are you Santa?  
Sylar

I am 6 years old. I have been naughty and nice. For Christmas I want a Jeep and a computer. I need new slippers because mine are lost. I have a question: Is it nice in the North?  
Elise

I have been nice. I am 7 years old and I want a dog

Continued on next page

**The greatest gift is worth remembering this Christmas**

By ROSIE TOLLERUD  
*The Salvation Army*

Growing up, I just wanted to be with my family for Christmas. That may seem so cliché, but it really was all I wanted for Christmas. We didn't have a lot of money, so I didn't want to hope for a present. I know I most likely wouldn't get.

People though would come out of nowhere and have a meal with us. Family members I hadn't seen all year were all of a sudden laughing and hugging each other for the holidays. Joy and peace would fill the house and our hearts.

God created us to be with people. I know people can be difficult to be around sometimes. The funny thing about families is that many times we can be completely different like oil and water. Different is OK.

I'm reading "Windows on Christmas," by Bill Crowder. It is a new look at the Christmas story through the eyes or perspective of each character of Jesus' birth. Mary, Joseph, the Angels, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna all had a different background, different ministry or mission and different response to the birth of the Messiah. But each of these key characters took the news with faith and hope.

It doesn't matter your age, your lifestyle choices or your background, God can use anyone to spread the good news. Good news is not to be secreted away; it is to be shared. Anna (Luke 2:36-38) shared the good news boldly, and her good news was, "Redemption has come."

The Bible describes every human being as being enslaved to sin and without hope in the world. The Christ being proclaimed by Anna, however, had

come to set free that lost human race. He came to bring redemption — deliverance and rescue from sin and its penalty.

God loves you so much that he did the most unthinkable thing for you. He wants to fill your life with hope and peace. He wants to fill your house with warmth and love. As you celebrate Christmas with family and friends, remember the greatest gift is of rescue and redemption.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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*May your Christmas be filled with all the wonderful homespun traditions that bring meaning and love to this joyous time of year.*

- Benn Curtis



*City Market and Sentry Hardware & Marine wish you an Old-fashioned Christmas*



# The gift of love comes alive at Christmas

By SANOE HARRISON

Branch President  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

When I was a very young bishop in 1950, there was a tap at my door and a good German brother from Ogden, Utah, announced himself as Karl Guertler.

He said, "Are you Bishop Monson?"

I answered yes.

"My brother and his wife and their family are coming from Germany. They are going to live in your ward. Will you come with me to see the apartment we have rented for them?"

On the way to that apartment, he told me he had not seen his brother for something like 30 years. Yet all through the holocaust of World War II, his brother, Hans Guertler, had been faithful to the Church — an officer in the Hamburg Branch.

The apartment was cold, it was dreary, paint was peeling from the walls and the cupboards were bare. What an uninviting home for the Christmas

season! I worried about it and prayed about it, and then in our ward welfare committee meeting we did something about it.

The group leader of the high priests said, "I am an electrician. Let's put good appliances in that apartment."

The group leader of the seventies said, "I am in the floor-covering business. Let's install new floor coverings."

The elders quorum president said, "I am a painter. Let's paint that apartment."

The Relief Society representative spoke up, "Did you say those cupboards were bare?" They were not bare very long.

Then the young people, represented through the Aaronic priesthood general secretary, said, "Let's put a Christmas tree in the home, and let's go among our young people and gather gifts to place under the tree."

You should have seen that Christmas scene when the Guertler family arrived from Germany in tattered clothing and with faces that were drawn

by the rigors of war and deprivation! As they went into their apartment, they saw a transformation — a beautiful home.

We spontaneously began singing, "Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright." We sang in English; they sang in German.

At the conclusion of that hymn, Hans Guertler threw his arms around my neck, buried his face in my shoulder, and repeated over and over again those words which I shall never forget: "Mein Bruder, mein Bruder, mein Bruder."

As we walked down the stairs that night — all of us who had participated in making Christmas come alive in the lives of this German family — we reflected upon the words of the Master: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

Continued from previous page

and a Lego set, a Lego Batman 2 and a phone and a stuffed animal. I need an animal.

Justice

I am 7 years old. I have been naughty and nice. I want a pony. I want a floating swing. I need an iPad. Do you have any kids? I want to know their names.

Kimi

I am 8 years old. I have been nice this year. Can I have a light saber? And can I have a lot of paper? And my last Santa, can I have a pet lizard? How many friends do you have?

Taber

I have been nice. I live on Ash Street. I am 8 years old. I want a cat for Christmas. And an American Girl doll and a lot of fidgets. I need more socks, shoes, masks and three sleds.

Sophie

I am 8. I want a motorcycle and a Jeep that is remote

control. I need a saw. I was wondering how many elves do you have?

Kevin

This year I have been naughty and nice. I am 7 years old. I want an Infinity Cube. I was wondering, does Rudolf's nose really shine? Another question, are the elves nice? They probably are nice but I was just wondering.

Jude

## Letters from Jennifer Davies' third grade class

How are you? I am good. How is Clyde? He is funny. How is Amy doing? I hope Amy can come to Wrangell. For Christmas, can I have a bell from your sleigh and a LOL of surprise toys? How is Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? I like him. I like red. What kind of food do they like? Please tell me what I want to know. I live on Case Avenue. I hope you have a good Christmas. If there is no snow, can the northern lights be on FOX live?

Violet Allen

I want to ask you some questions, but I'll only ask a couple. How do you know if they're naughty or nice? Or if they're a cat or dog or human. And do you age? Also does Mrs. Claus make dinner while you protect the place? Also, do you feed the reindeer or can I feed it some food like apples or carrots? Finally, what happens when you are sick? How are we gonna get presents and stuff? Do you not get sick or do you wait or something? All I want for Christmas is my mom and

Continued on next page



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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We toast to those who have stopped by here  
and wish you all a vintage year!



**Rayme's Bar**  
Celebrate Responsibly - Please Don't Drink and Drive



Continued from previous page

dad to be happy, plus a Roblox gift card for 10,000 Robux. Also, I want my mom's sister to not have brain cancer. I don't want my mom to be sad or my dad to be sad, they are really nice. Ally has brain cancer, and Chris is her husband. I love Christmas and I even get to spend time with my family. Well, I have one more question: How did Christmas first start? Did you just come out of nowhere or did you use magic like what happened to Christmas? How was Christmas invented? Please write back.

Griffey Angerman

How are the reindeers and the elves? A wish for Sady Grace some baby toys, and for Ember a unicorn sleeping bag. Dax, a shark sleeping bag. I want Hailee to have amazing days. Then the world I want to make it better for kids. I really want to be nicer to my brother.

Hailey Bartlett

How are you? I'm doing great! Is Rudolph real? How are the reindeers? This year I wish for something special, a locket with a picture of my dad in it. A wish for my mom is for her not to work so hard. Lastly, my wish for the world is for more schools. Thank you Santa, and merry Christmas.

Natalie Beale

How are your reindeer? My name is Connor. I'm 10 years old. How are the elves doing? A wish for my mom is a new truck. A wish for me is Lego. I wish for the world for COVID-19 to stop.

Connor Blake

I wish for the world that people will stop littering. I wish that my dad will have safe travels. I wish for my brother to have health.

Piper Bunes

Hi, I'm Mariah Carney. So how are you doing? I'm good, if you asked. You know I think I can name all of your reindeer, Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. Anyway, one of my wishes is for the world to be clean of all the trash. One is for all people to have a house and one is for my family to be happy.

Mariah Carney

How are you doing? What are you doing? Are the elves

working hard? My first wish is for this year to be over so we can have a great 2022 next year. My second wish is for my nana and pawpaw to come up here for Christmas. My last wish is that I want my own dog for Christmas. the color I want is a white French bulldog and I will take good care of it.

Adlee

My name is Carter Freeman and I am an 8 year old girl. I love to bake you cookies every night before Christmas. Me and my mom say happy birthday to Jesus, then we yell thank you Santa! I thank you for all the gifts you give us. Me and my mom wanted to ask if we were on the naughty or nice list. Santa, can you pretty please get me a new phone, phone case, and AirPods for Christmas? When you get my sister Carson gifts out of your big red bag full of gifts, can you get a Squishy for her and a Pop It, please. Lastly, may you leave a big picture of Rudolph the reindeer? One more thing Santa, I want everyone to be treated the same way.

Carter Freeman

Continued on next page

# Remember the true meaning of Christmas

By PASTOR NETTIE COVALT  
Presbyterian Church

Lights, decorations everywhere, trees all decorated, presents abounding, parties galore, budgets blown! Seems that this is the modern day Christmas. Or does it?

Living in Wrangell we get to see Christmas, the real Christmas, all year long. We are so fortunate.

During the recent wind storm, people were helping each other in ways that can't be counted. When someone loses a loved one, the people of this town seem to go out of their way to help in some way. Even if someone gets ill, the Meal Train always goes above and beyond.

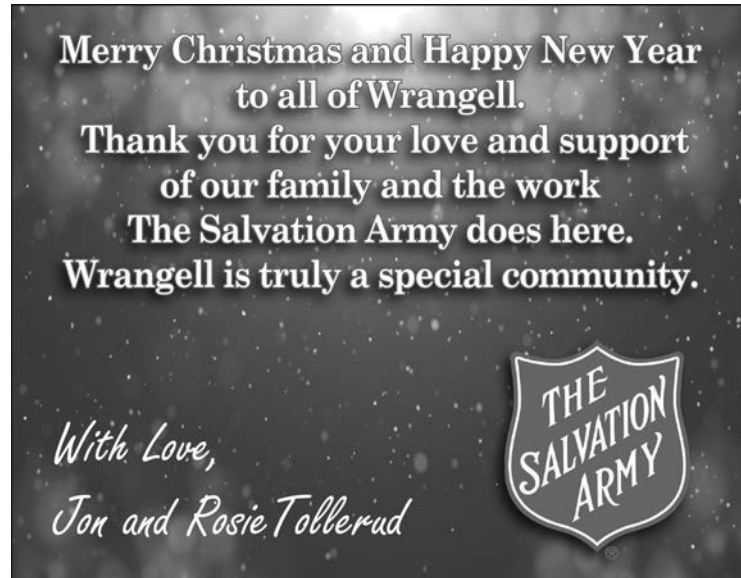
During this COVID time, people are finding ways to help those who are sick, in isolation, need rides, groceries delivered. The resources available in this small town of Wrangell to help each other continue to grow each year.

"I believe that we do remember the meaning of Christmas all year. I think that even when we seem to forget, we remember."

There are so many more, but I only have so many words for this article. To those who live here or have just visited, you know.

I believe that we do remember the meaning of Christmas all year. I think that even when we seem to forget, we remember. We remember because life as we know it is only possible because God came to Earth as a wee baby that first Christmas so long ago, and later took all our sins with Him back to heaven.

It doesn't matter what we have or don't have. The only requirement is that we believe, and seek the forgiveness He has for each of us. All of us. Merry Christmas to all.



The City of Wrangell would like to extend its warmest wishes and expressions of gratitude this holiday season to the folks that volunteer their time on our Boards & Commissions. Service is an American principle that requires hard work, dedication, and much integrity. We are grateful to all those who have served, both past and present.

## Happy Holidays!

<p><b>Borough Assembly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Prysunka</li> <li>• Patty Gilbert</li> <li>• David Powell</li> <li>• Anne Morrison</li> <li>• Ryan Howe</li> <li>• Jim DeBord</li> <li>• Bob Dalrymple</li> </ul> <p><b>Port Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franklin Roppel</li> <li>• John Yeager</li> <li>• Chris Bunes</li> <li>• John Martin</li> <li>• Gary Morrison</li> </ul> <p><b>Friends of the Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol Rushmore</li> <li>• Sarah Merritt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Bauer</li> <li>• Kay Jabusch</li> <li>• Alice Rooney</li> <li>• Renate Davies</li> <li>• Craig Villarma</li> <li>• Jeff Jabusch</li> <li>• Lacey Soeteber</li> </ul> <p><b>School Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Wilson</li> <li>• Jessica Whitaker</li> <li>• Angela Allen</li> <li>• Brittani Robbins</li> <li>• Julia Ostrander</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don McConachie</li> <li>• Jillian Privett</li> <li>• Alexandra Angerman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terri Henson</li> <li>• Apryl Hutchinson</li> </ul> <p><b>Friends of the Museum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Bania</li> <li>• Nancy McQueen</li> <li>• Loretta Rice</li> <li>• Olinda White</li> <li>• Olga Norris</li> <li>• Anne Morrison</li> <li>• Frank Roppel</li> <li>• Gig Decker</li> </ul> <p><b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeanie Arnold</li> <li>• Joan Sargent</li> <li>• Nancy Delpero</li> <li>• Liz Bunes</li> <li>• Cindy Martin</li> </ul>	<p><b>Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corree Delabue</li> <li>• Chris Bunes</li> <li>• Mya DeLong</li> <li>• Brenda Schwartz-Yeager</li> <li>• Stephanie Cook</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joan Sargent</li> <li>• Jacob Hale</li> <li>• Brian Ashton</li> <li>• Bob Dalrymple</li> <li>• Caitlin Cardinell</li> </ul>
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# Wishing You Happy Holidays

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## The perfect gift for God is yourself

By KEM HAGGARD, PASTOR  
Harbor Light Assembly of God

It's that time of year again. The time when you have choices to make. What gifts will you give? A tie, socks, underwear, a ring, a puppy, maybe just play it safe, get a gift card.

Whatever choice you make, you need to make it soon. Time is running out. Get it, wrap it, and place it under the tree.

In the book of Matthew, Chapter 2, we read of "wise men from the East" who, in Verse 11, presented gifts to the newborn King. How did they decide what to get? Perhaps that is a great reason

they were called "wise men." They knew the perfect gifts.

This brings up another question. If you were to get a gift for God, what would it be? I'm thinking the tie, socks, underwear, a ring, puppy, or even the gift card would not be on the list.

However, before you trigger the "Give-xiety" in your life, take a look into God's word. It gives you direction. This Christmas, your best choices are your heart, your life, your troubles, your anxiety, and your cares. His love wants the very best for you. The best gift for the ONE who has everything? Give Him you.

### Continued from previous page

How was today? One wish is for my dad. He really needs a day off. He has been working all day and comes home at dark and his back always hurts. So, I want to give him a present that will help his back. My second wish is

for the world. For all the homeless people, I really want them to have a present and have a home for Christmas, please Santa. One wish for me I do not want a lot. I only need a notebook please. How is Rudolph? I will make sure to give you extra cookies and we'll make sure to give two

carrots to all nine reindeer, like always.

*Annika Gillen*

How's your dog? I'm having a good day. I want a VR please (virtual reality headset). I wish for everyone to be happy. I wish my brother had VR.

*Waylin Grey*

How are you? You get to see the reindeer, so tell them I said hi. It would be nice if you could give them a gingerbread man with some spicy hot tamales. I have one wish for the world: It is that people would stop polluting! Also, one wish for Miss Davies is that the class would stop showing their work even though she can see it! A wish that I have for me is that my family will be happy.

*Malachi Harrison*

I hope you feel good. I have a question for you: Can you make my wishes come true? Here are my wishes: I want to make a wish for the world. This is the wish for the world. I wish for the world to recycle so the fish won't die from trash. Second wish is for my brother. Can my brother get a basketball for Christmas? Can he? The third wish is for me for Christmas. I wish for a computer. Oh, and have a good Christmas. And I will make pie for you maybe. Thank you for reading my letter. We will be in Oregon for Christmas.

*Maria Holder*

Are the elves working hard? If they are, I think you should give them presents. Anyway, I have three wishes, one is for world peace, another is that my dad gets time off, the last one is that I have no more fights with my siblings. I left the elf on the shelf with a cookie. I hope you have a great Christmas! Bye.

*Clayton Howe*

How are you doing? I am feeling great. I wish for no more COVID cases. I wish for you to give my brother lots of toys. My final wish is for a harmonica.

*Jonah Hurst*

My name is Henry. I want a Squishy purple dragon. Also, I would like there to be peace in the world, please. Please help my mama get rid of her stomach pains Thank you.

*Henry Meschark*

P.S. Merry Christmas  
P.P.S. I didn't leave carrots but I left you some cookies and milk on Christmas day. You'll have enough to fill you up big jelly belly.

My name is Brooke Mary Ostrander. How are you this Christmas? This Christmas I was wondering if you could help the world be kinder? I also hope my brother will stop being mean to me. The only present I want is a puppy because puppies are so cute! Can you give the reindeer candy canes? Can you also give the elves a present?

*Brooke Ostrander*

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WRANGELL IGA



## Happy One-Year Anniversary, Larry

Thanks for  
keeping  
local  
journalism  
alive.

Happy Holidays,  
Ralph & Margaret



Continued on next page



**Continued from previous page**

How are the reindeer? And how do you make toys? I wish that the world had peace. I wish that Hawkeye would come back to Alaska. I wish that I would get a pet fish named Brick and a pet hedgehog named Pickles. I wish that you would get my mom and dad a present. I wish for four front-seat tickets for the airplane. I wish that COVID-19 would go away. I wish for a new Nerf gun and new Nerf gun bullets. I wish my dad got a new car. I wish that my mom got a new chair. I wish that you would get presents.

*Chandler Roane*

How are you feeling? I am feeling great. What is the Lego thing in the advent calendar going to be? I think it's going to be a little pyramid. Guess what I want for Christmas, a Nintendo switch. I hope the whole world will have a merry Christmas. I also think my sister wants an American girl doll. I hope you have a merry Christmas.

*Duncan Scambler*

How are you and Mrs. Claus? Are the reindeer doing good? This Christmas I want to help stop litter on Earth. I want to get my mom a plant because she loves nature. For my dad I want to get him a Lobo hat and T-shirt. Clara a loce hat and T-shirt. I want Kyla to work less. Santa, what I want for Christmas is a snake and I want it to be a white snake that is not poisonous.

*Verity Waddington*

Has it been cold up there? How are you? How do you stay warm? How are the reindeer? I have been good this year. What I want for Christmas is Nerf guns, action figures, and most importantly laser tag. I wish my dad didn't have to be away so much. Can you make the world a safer place? Can you give my dog a present?

*Cyrus Yoder*

One thing I wish for myself is new art supplies. One thing I wish for somebody else, which is Ava, is a really happy life where she lives. One thing I wish for the whole world is no more COVID.

*Tegan Kuntz*

**Letters from Laurie Hagelman's fifth grade class**

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would give my mom all my money.

*Houston Natt*

If I could do one kind thing for my sister (Emily), it would be being nice to her, giving what she wants, sharing with her, and listening to her, playing with her, and lastly helping her.

*Carter Cummings*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would make it so my mom and dad get

a free trip to Paris.

*Peyton Young*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would not do it for one person, I would go fishing and catch some fish, then I would have some help cooking it. Finally, I would give cooked fish to people that can't afford food.

*McKenzie Smalley*

If I could do one kind thing for anyone in the world, I would get my mom more plants for Christmas.

*Arabella Nore*

**Continued on next page**



**To our Customers & Friends Near & Dear at Christmas time ...**

**Best wishes for a happy holiday season – our sincere thanks for your loyalty and goodwill throughout the year.**

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**From Our Crew to You!**

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Warm regards,  
 Alan & Leslie Cummings

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

*Wishing all of our customers happy holidays and a prosperous New Year! Thank you for letting us serve you!*

We'll be closing at 1 pm on Friday, Dec. 24 on Christmas Eve.

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**We wish everyone a delightful holiday season and a happy, healthy year!**

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**Continued from previous page**

If I could do one kind thing for ANY person in the world, I would help my teacher in future problems and I would give her a lot of effort from me and to help her with any request she gives me. Although there are many people in the world, I would choose her because she is a great person. I have a good education, even though the place is fairly small where we live.

*Chrysalis Balansag*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would

pay somebody's electricity bill when they need it (and I know I don't have an electricity bill yet).

*Angus Booker*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would go to a random person at the Stik and pay for their meal.

*Delilah Clark*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would help them clean their house if they needed me to. I would also help my mom when she's cooking dinner. I would also go to the store if my mom needed

some things.

*Jenna Meissner*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would earn money for donations to the St. Frances Animal Rescue because they save helpless animals.

*Kaiya Brevick*

If I could do one kind thing for any person I would give to the homeless: give money, food, water, a place to stay, and someone to talk to.

*Stella Bunes*

If I could do one kind thing for

any person in the world, I would go to all the needy kids in Africa and try to help them as much as I can. I would give them medicine, food, and soap. I would also try to find homes for homeless kids.

*Lynnea Harrison*

If I could do one kind thing to any person, I would buy a meal and give some money and supplies to a poor or homeless person.

*Jimmy Jabusch*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would give my Grandpa Terry a video

game club.

*Jacoby Hunt*

If I could do two kind things for anyone in the world, I would give all my cash to Mrs. Tamara so she would have a head start on her job and I would secretly give mom a note that has positive compliments about her on it.

*Brogan Booker*

If I could do one kind thing for someone in the world, I would help a family that had a loss and help them recover.

*Charlie Nelson*

If I could do one kind thing for someone, I would feed the homeless McDonald's and give them \$10.

*Alyssia Roundtree*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would eradicate COVID-19.

*Everett Edens*

If I could do one kind thing for any person in the world, I would give a homeless person enough money to buy a house.

*Orin Beale*

If I could do one kind thing for anyone in the world, I would donate to someone with cancer.

*Clara Carney*

If I could do one kind thing for anyone in the world, I would surprise my parents with a cake that I frost and bake on my own with no help. I'll write "I ♥ Mom and Dad" on it.

*Delilah Ronae*

If I could do one kind thing for anyone in the world, I would give a kid who doesn't get Christmas presents one of my toys.

*Zander Bartlett*

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