

Assembly holds workshop on meter upgrades

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Last week, on Nov. 10, the borough assembly met for a work session on the topic of electric meter upgrades. According to a memo from Electrical Superintendent Rod Rhoades, Wrangell Municipal Light & Power's metering system has been deemed obsolete by their software and hardware provider, ITRON. Their current metering system was developed in 1994, according to the memo, and ITRON has decided the continued use of this system, MV-RS, is no longer smart or cost effective. This means, Rhoades wrote, that the MV-RS system will no longer have technical support for the software or hardware by December of 2021.

Rhoades laid out a few potential courses of action for the assembly to consider. They could choose to do nothing, Rhoades wrote in his memo. Their system will continue to work past 2021, but if something breaks down they will not have a way to get it fixed. WML&P will have to go back to taking meter readings with paper and pencil and manually inputting the data for billing.

Another option Rhoades provided was to move to an Automatic Meter Reading system. ITRON has an automatic system known as FCS, he wrote, which uses smartphones or tablets to communicate with the meter through an encoder receiver transmitter, or ERT. However, he pointed out that none of Wrangell's meters have ERT modules in them. Moving to an automatic meter reading system would require replacement of all the meters across the borough. Rhoades wrote that this would be a hardware cost of about \$653,675.

The final option presented to the assembly, one that Rhoades recommended, was to move to an

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This system would provide several advantages, he wrote, such as eliminating the need for monthly manual meter readings, the electrical system could be monitored more quickly, and would enable dynamic pricing and could raise or lower electrical prices based on demand, among other benefits. Moving to an AMI metering system would cost approximately \$550,000, he wrote.

"The new metering system will take advantage of new technologies that will allow electrical meters to talk to each other (mesh network) and for those electrical meters to be read from a desktop computer," Rhoades wrote. "The mesh network will also have the added benefit of being able to support water metering, should Public Works and the Assembly decide to move in the direction of metered water supplies."

Much of the discussion amongst the assembly revolved around the necessity of these upgrades. Mayor Steve Prysunka said he wanted to be very sure that this would be a necessary cost before any money was spent. The assembly also wanted to know what other surrounding communities were doing with their metering systems, to see if there was anything to learn from them. Rhoades said that Ketchikan was moving to an AMI system, as well as the city of Petersburg. He also reiterated that their current metering system would continue to work even if it was obsolete, but without technical support from ITRON there was no way to tell how long it would work past the Dec. 2021 deadline. As this was only a workshop, no formal action was taken. The assembly asked Rhoades to continue to stay on top of the situation and to reach out to other communities for more information.

City adopts mask mandate

WCA election results

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Results are in for the Wrangell Cooperative Association's recent election. The WCA is Wrangell's local tribal organization, and last Tuesday, Nov. 10, they held elections for their tribal council. There were six names on the ballot this year, and voters got to choose among four candidates.

According to the WCA, a total of 90 valid ballots were received this election. There were 83 ballots cast, six absentee ballots, three questioned ballots and two invalidated ballots.

The new members of the council are Frank Churchill Jr. (68 votes), DJ McConachie (61 votes), Ed Rilatos (59 votes), and Lovey Brock (50 votes). They have all been elected to the council for two-year terms. All winners but Rilatos were incumbents.

"I look forward to the next two years ... I think we've come a long way," Brock said.

Brock added that this is her 16th year on the council, she believes. She also said that she wanted to thank Jason Clark, a candidate who did not win election this year, for throwing his hat into the ring. She wanted to encourage more younger people like Clark to get involved.

McConachie has been on the council for several years now, but said he could not recall the exact number. His big goal for the next few years, he said, will be to focus on creating new opportunities for the tribe.

"I want to see the tribe focus on economic development," he said. "I want there to be opportunities for our people."

Rilatos said that he was very excited to work alongside the other members of the council. There were good people there who were doing good work, he said, and he wanted to try and be a positive influence and help keep things moving forward.

"I'm happy to be elected to it," he said. "It looks like a pretty good board."

Churchill declined to comment for the paper.

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Last Thursday morning, Nov. 12, many Alaskans received an emergency alert on their phones from Governor Mike Dunleavy. The message contained a link to a video of Dunleavy, in which he addressed the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the state. Effective immediately, he said, all state employees were to work from home if possible, and face masks and social distancing were mandatory at state work sites. On Nov. 16 he also issued a new 30-day COVID-19 disaster declaration. In his address, the governor also encouraged local governments and organizations to operate remotely where possible, and for businesses to offer curbside service. Furthermore, he urged Alaskans to socially distance and wear face coverings.

"My job as governor is not to tell you how to live your life," Dunleavy said. "My job is to ensure the security and safety of Alaska. I can't do that without your help. I'm asking you to reach deep for the next three weeks. If we can buy time for our critical workers, if we can keep our systems operational, we can avoid being forced to take further action."

In response to this address,

Veterans Day



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRYL HUTCHINSON

Last week, Nov. 11, was Veterans Day in the United States. As part of a variety of programs across Wrangell thanking veterans for their service, the local Elks Lodge hosted a steak dinner. April Hutchinson, with the lodge, said that they served a total of 75 steaks that evening. Of those, 26 were provided free to veterans.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APRYL HUTCHINSON

As part of the Elks Lodge's Veterans Day Dinner, students at Evergreen Elementary School made cards for veterans thanking them for their service. Apryl Hutchinson, with the Elks Lodge, said that these cards came from the second and third graders of Michelle Jenkins, Jenn Davies, and Laurie Hagelman's classes.

the city shortly after took several steps. City offices were closed to the public until Dec. 7. This includes facilities like City Hall, the Nolan Center, the library, and other municipal buildings. Furthermore, the borough assembly called an emergency meeting later that afternoon. The main topic for consideration in this emergency meeting was a local mask mandate, which was eventually approved by the assembly.

A mask mandate has been a very controversial issue in Wrangell. The borough has held multiple meetings in the past to discuss the topic and to receive public input. In their last meeting on Nov. 5, the assembly decided

to bring up the mandate for future consideration in either their next scheduled meeting on Dec. 8, or sooner in a special meeting.

The mandate, Ordinance No. 981, requires all individuals in Wrangell to wear a face mask. This was later amended in the meeting to read a face mask or a face shield. These are required when indoors in a public setting or in communal spaces outside the home. There are some exceptions to this mandate, and businesses will not be liable for customers refusing to wear masks so long as they have proper signage stating the requirement. Violators can be sub-

Continued on page 8

Port Commission discusses harbor ladders, other topics

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's port commission met last Thursday, Nov. 12. A large portion of their discussion that night surrounded the installation of ladders between slip spaces at Shoemaker Harbor. Shoemaker has recently undergone extensive renovations, replacing old docking and making the harbor more accessible for vessels.

The commission was looking at installing ladders in between each slip space in the harbor. This would cost about \$84,000, according to the discussion. Brian Merritt, with

the Port Commission, said he has not seen any other harbors that have ladders between each float, and was curious why they were considering this. He understood it would make things safer for anyone who fell into the water, he said, but it was a significant cost for them.

"These new docks, the finger floats are much higher out of the water than we've had in the past," said Commissioner John Martin. "It would be near impossible to get from the water up on one of those fingers."

Steve Miller, Wrangell's new harbor master, said that

this has been an ongoing discussion for the port commission for some time. One idea that was brought up in the meeting, that Miller said he really liked, was getting signage flags, or some other type of markings, to better show the locations of ladders already present in the harbor. No formal decisions were made in the meeting.

Another topic of discussion in the meeting was a new cell tower.

"What's happening is Skybridge is coming in to put a larger cell tower in, and they're also putting 5G in, and it takes a whole lot more gear I guess to power up that 5G," Miller said. "So they're asking for a 40-by-50 foot area where

they're already at. They're going to take all that out and put brand new in."

The cell tower area in question is located near Shoemaker Harbor. There are many hoops to jump through and red tape to clear before this project really begins, Miller said, but part of that process is making sure the port commission sees no problem with it. There were no objections to the expansion of the cell tower area, to allow the installation of a larger tower.

Other items covered in the meeting include lease renewals for Keller Marine Repair, Jenkins Welding, and the Wrangell Machine Shop. In the harbor master's report for October 2020, Miller reported

that Jim Early is now the Marine Service Center Coordinator, and JC Gillen has moved into the maintenance lead position.

In other news, the harbor department recently received a Homeland Security grant for \$135,000 for a new camera system, and the department will be working with the city to move forward with the first phase of installation.

Relocation of the old Forest Service vessel, the *Chugach Ranger*, is also ongoing. Right now, Miller said, they are waiting for the Forest Service to receive beams that the boat will be placed on. They are ready to go, he said, they are just waiting for a few more things to fall into place.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, November 19: David Joseph, Madison Robinson, Kimberly Cooper. **Friday, November 20:** Kayla Gillen, Clayton Smalley, Sue Guggenbickler. **Anniversary:** Dick & Barbara Angerman. **Saturday, November 21:** James Shilts, Jr., Michelle Villarma, Mike Whelan, Kyler Angerman, Trevor Miller. **Sunday, November 22:** Jamie Early, Lynda Nore, Wyatt Thomassen. **Anniversary:** Dave & Colleen Hought. **Monday, November 23:** Arlene Wilson, Doug Thomas, Ron Schmohi, Sherina Meltzer, Laura Davies, Linda Bjorge. **Tuesday, November 24:** Maggie Fennimore, Laurie Barker, Dustin Phillips, Tilly Feudner, Derek Fitzgerald. **Wednesday, November 25:** Shawn Curley, Bryan Ottesen, Bianca Smith, Darin Floyd, Joel Smalley, Clay Hammer, Terra Hoyt, Janet Bunes. **Thursday, November 26:** Alyssa Southland. **Anniversary:** Aaron & Megan Powell.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, November 20

Baked Fish, Broccoli, 3 Bean Salad/Roll.

Monday, November 23

German Meatballs, Beets & Orange Juice, Tossed Salad/Pasta.

Tuesday, November 24

Meatloaf, Steamed Greens, Potato Salad.

Wednesday, November 25

Ham & Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans/Salad.

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

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

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

FERRY

November Sailings CANCELLED

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



TIDES November 19 - November 26

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Nov. 19	03:40	14.7	03:19	16.4	09:05	3.9	09:54	-1.0
Nov. 20	04:38	13.7	04:14	14.8	10:02	5.0	10:51	0.5
Nov. 21	05:44	13.1	05:23	13.3	11:11	5.7	11:55	1.7
Nov. 22	06:57	13.0	06:47	12.4	12:36	5.9
Nov. 23	08:02	13.5	08:06	12.3	01:04	2.5	02:03	5.2
Nov. 24	08:55	14.3	09:11	12.8	02:11	2.8	03:12	3.9
Nov. 25	09:39	15.2	10:04	13.4	03:08	2.8	04:03	2.6
Nov. 26	10:18	15.9	10:51	13.9	03:56	2.7	04:43	1.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

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

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

Continuing Events

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

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

November 18, 1920

Wrangell young people enjoyed excellent skating early in the week as a result of the clear cold weather which prevailed for several days. The little folks made good use of the frosty walks and coasting was a favorite pastime with the grown-ups until the skating began.

November 16, 1945

Report on Wrangell's water supply and condition was received this week by the City Council from Amos J. Alter, U.S. Public Health Service sanitary engineer and is as follows: "The water to 357 private premises in the City of Wrangell was measured by means of a pitometer. Measured flow including that to the cold storage plant and the Far West Cannery. From the observed data, water usage was approximately for peak and minimum periods. At the time of the survey it was found that the total peak flow of water in the distribution system was approximately 735 gallons per minute. It was found that the total minimum flow was approximately 380 gallons per minute. These figures were obtained when only one cannery was operating, and they do not include flows necessary for fire protection. It is estimated that if all canneries were operating, a flow of approximately 500 gallons per minute would be required for them.

November 19, 1970

The Elephant's Nose gets quieter and quieter and with most of the men gone hunting it is worse yet. Not that they are such news makers, but they do help. Frank Denney was in camp last week for three days teaching our high school students. Then the weather kept him from going to Tyler Log the last half of the week. Our school teacher, Mrs.

Rhodes, has helped us solve our garbage problems — at least temporarily. She's having the pupils bring empty cans and boxes to school where they are setting up a grocery store. Hopefully they will learn all about money and using it.

November 16, 1995

Recycling paper as a senior project at Wrangell High School has been started by Chelsea Cleghon and Pamela Lee.

Although not all kinds of paper are acceptable for recycling, the students are asking Wrangellites to bring white ledger and computer paper to the high school office. They plan to accept newspaper later so have advised that people should start saving it now. They conceived the project to help the environment, they said. The paper will be shipped to Seattle for recycling.

EARLIER DEADLINE

For Thanksgiving Week

All ads and letters must be submitted to the Sentinel by **FRIDAY, NOV. 20 at 5 PM**



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Nov. 09	39	37
Nov. 10	38	29
Nov. 11	38	30
Nov. 12	40	37
Nov. 13	40	36
Nov. 14	39	32
Nov. 15	37	29
Nov. 16	37	29

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Nov. 19	7:32a	3:34p	08:02h
Nov. 20	7:34a	3:32p	07:58h
Nov. 21	7:36a	3:31p	07:55h
Nov. 22	7:38a	3:29p	07:51h
Nov. 23	7:40a	3:28p	07:48h
Nov. 24	7:42a	3:27p	07:45h
Nov. 25	7:44a	3:25p	07:41h
Nov. 26	7:46a	3:24p	07:38h

School Board discusses new doors, superintendent search

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School Board met Monday night, Nov. 16, for a regularly scheduled meeting.

During the meeting, the board approved expenses to the City and Borough of Wrangell for new doors for Evergreen Elementary School. According to attachments to the meeting's agenda, the new doors and hardware procurement will cost \$32,250. Additionally, there is another \$10,125 for key scanning software. This money will come from an NRA School Shield grant, according to Board Member David Wilson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Maintenance Director Josh Blatchley told the school board that the doors should arrive within a week. Installation is some concern, however. There is an issue of security during the installation of the new doors, and the fact that it is the middle of winter and things will get cold in the elementary school without doors.

"There are two doors that can be installed fairly easily on the breezeway, with both the primary building and the intermediate building still being secure," Blatchley said. "Once those two doors on the breezeway are installed, then the door going into the primary building, nearest the primary office, can be removed and be secured because the breezeway doors are locked."

Blatchley said it might be a good idea to wait for some warmer weather before installation begins, but he is not sure where he could find storage for them. He also suggested they check with the city to see if they could assist with labor. For timing, he said he believes that it will take about three days per door to get them fully installed. There are several reasons for this, he said, such as the walls around each doorway being dif-

ferent sizes, removing the old doors, and the need to alter the door frames to fit the new doors.

The school board also discussed the search for a new superintendent during this meeting. Dr. Debbe Lancaster, the current superintendent, offered her resignation to the district back in October. The resignation will take effect at the end of her contract in June of next year.

The school board received a proposal from the Association of Alaska School Boards to assist them in the search for a new superintendent. This would incur a fee of \$10,500, according to a letter from AASB Director of Membership Services Lon Garrison. AASB would help Wrangell develop an action plan and identify selection criteria, conduct background investigations, and assist in screening of semi-finalist candidates, among other items listed in the scope of services.

"Our Association has a long history of serving school boards," the letter reads. "We are proud of our track record in assisting many Alaska school boards in their selection process, as well as the selection of one Commissioner of Education. We know that only boards can make the decisions needed to complete a successful search, to create opportunity from change. Our goal is to help your board find the best possible candidate, the individual that matches the selection criteria you adopt for the search and who is committed to enhancing student achievement in your district."

After discussion among the school board, it was decided to defer any action until Nov. 30.

Other items covered in the meeting include the appointment of Laura Ballou to chair the budget/finance committee, Jade Balansag to chair and Katelyn Church to co-chair the curricu-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Harvest Fest contest winner

The Wrangell Chamber of Commerce hosted a contest this past weekend, Harvest Fest, to promote local businesses. Shoppers were given the opportunity to get cards stamped at participating businesses, and having those cards entered into a raffle for a \$500 prize. Pictured here is Apryl Hutchinson, with the chamber, spinning the raffle wheel at the Stikine Inn on Nov. 16. The Harvest Fest winner was Devyn Johnson.

lum committee, and Kim Powell to chair and Kristy Woodbury to co-chair the policy committee.

They also adopted various grant applications and reviewed other policies and approved of a first

reading of proposed revisions to the district's 2018-2023 strategic plan.

Police report

November 9

Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlock.

November 10

Dog Complaint.

Citizen Assist.

Civil Matter.

Disturbance.

Gunshots.

November 11

Citizen Assist.

Paper Service.

Agency Assist: Ambulance.

Citizen Report Driving Under Influence: Unfounded.

November 12

Found Property.

November 13

Agency Assist: U.S. Forest Service.

Agency Assist: U.S. Forest Service.

November 14

Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.

Paper Service.

Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.

Gunshots.

November 15

Welfare Check.

Motor Vehicle Accident: Hit and Run.

Dog at Large.



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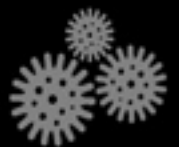
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COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies



Testing is available to anyone with symptoms and those identified as close contacts.



Our facilities are taking extra precautions to ensure safe in person clinic visits.

- Testing staff frequently
- Prescreening patients by phone and at the door of all facilities
- Making waiting areas social distance friendly
- Enhancing onsite cleaning and disinfection
- Requiring face masks
- Limiting visitors



Increased access to video appointments for primary and specialty care.

If you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, call the COVID-19 Hotline at 907.966.8799 to speak to a nurse 24/7 or call your local clinic to schedule a test.

To learn more about COVID-19, testing and SEARHC's safety precautions visit covid19.searhc.org.

 **SEARHC**
healthy is here.

Obituaries:

Margaret Jane (“Tiny”) Hall

Margaret Jane (“Tiny”) Hall, 101, died in her home in Kodiak, Alaska on October 30, 2020.

She was born on June 15, 1919, in Minneapolis Minnesota, to Phyllis and Raymond Gray, and had two older sisters – Mary (Bamby) and Ann. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941, and taught school until 1945, when she married Hugh F. Hall, an Episcopal priest.

In 1948, the couple moved to Wrangell, Alaska. They continued to reside in Alaska, living first in Wrangell (1948-1958), followed by Seward (1958-1962), then Ketchikan (1962-1969), and finally in Kodiak (1969 to present). She was actively involved in all of the communities in which she lived. Some of her activities included participation on school boards, teaching, hospital auxiliaries, AAUW, membership on the University of Alaska

Board of Regents, the Kodiak Senior Center, Baptist Mission Board, KARC, community theater and more. Most significantly her life revolved around the parish communities wherever she lived. She taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, played the organ, served on the altar guild and the vestry. She was loved and revered by the members of the congregations and the greater communities. Margaret was a significant and active supporter of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband Hugh and daughter Margaret “Maggi” Arriola.

She is survived by five children: Hugh Hall (Maureen) Belchertown Massachusetts; Susan Hall-Marley (Peter) North Hollywood, California; Daniel Hall (Stephanie), Juneau, Alaska; Melissa Schille (Jeff), St. Paul,



Margaret Jane (“Tiny”) Hall

Minnesota; and Mary Mohlman (Stan) Hastings, Nebraska; 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

A funeral and burial took place on November 10, 2020, at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Kodiak.

The family can be reached at the Hall Family, Box 1916, Kodiak AK 99615.

Vera Mae Harto, 90

Vera Mae Harto, 90, died October 31, 2020 in Ritzville, Washington.

She was born March 10, 1930 in Central City, Kentucky to Gladys and James Cobb, the eldest of nine children. The family moved to Indiana and then to Chicago, Illinois when Vera was a teen. There, Vera met and married Charles Spoto. The couple moved to Vancouver, Washington with their daughter and their son was born there. Vera was widowed when the children were young.



Vera Mae Harto

She worked as a nanny in Tigard, Oregon for Claude Wren, and they married and had a daughter and were foster parents to three children before divorcing. She met Norman Barnes while working in a tavern in Battleground, Washington and the couple married and moved to Wrangell, Alaska in 1966, where their daughter was born.

She was active in the Wrangell community, making wedding cakes, teaching 4-H classes and working as a manager at the senior center. She enjoyed picnics, camping, fishing and adventures

on the Stikine River. She and Norman moved to Washington in 1987 and purchased a bar and restaurant. She returned to Wrangell a few years later when she and Norman divorced. Vera cooked pizzas at the Marine Bar where she met Tom Harto. They married and built a home south of Wrangell at Old Town where Vera enjoyed gardening, fishing, filling her pantry with canned food and baking in her wood-fired range. She loved reading, quilting, painting and music. After divorcing, Vera moved to Juneau, Alaska and then to the Washington coast, near family, finally settling in Ritzville in eastern Washington.

She is survived by her children: Lorraine (Spoto) Arnold of Ritzville, Washington, Chuck Spoto of Vancouver, Washington, Laura (Wren) Deemer of Shelton, Washington, and Rhonda (Barnes) Bunes of Juneau; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and two of her brothers and three sisters.

The family plans a celebration of Vera’s life at a later time.

Lena Marshall Gillman, 70

Lena Marshall Gillman, 70, passed away November 1, 2020 in Kalispell, Montana where she lived the last 26 years.

She was born September 17, 1950 in Wrangell, Alaska, where she spent her years growing up, graduating from Wrangell High in 1970.

She was preceded in death by parents Jerry and Sonja Marshall; and sister Nellie

Marshall.

She is survived by: husband Walt Gillman; sons Robert Burrill, Cy Burrill; daughter Debbie Burrill; sister Jerrie Sullivan; grandchildren, great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Lena requested no service. Cards can be sent to Walt Gillman family 323 Harrison Blvd. Kalispell, Mt. 59901.



Lena Marshall Gillman



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We've Got Plenty To Be Thankful For

...And that includes the privilege of serving you. We appreciate your support. That's why we'd like to take this opportunity to give thanks to you, our customers and friends. May your holiday be stuffed with joy and include all the trimmings!

WE'LL BE CLOSING AT 1 PM ON
WED., NOVEMBER 25TH
FOR THANKSGIVING.
CLOSED ON FRI., NOV. 27TH



Holiday Copy Services

December 14th is the deadline to guarantee delivery prior to Christmas for copy jobs.

Orders after December 14th will be done in the order they are submitted with no Christmas guarantee.



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Turkey trot supporting middle school runners and food pantry

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Southeast Beasts will be hosting the 9th annual Turkey Trot next Thursday, Nov. 26. Lucy Moline-Robinson, with the running group, said that participants should arrive at the covered basketball court by Evergreen Elementary School at 8:45 a.m. The run will begin around 9 a.m.

This year, the turkey trot is in support of both the Stikine Middle

School Running Club and the Salvation Army food pantry. Participants are asked to make a donation of money and nonperishable food. The money will go towards headlamps for the running club, Robinson said, to let middle schoolers run more safely in the dark. She added that the headlamps were ordered by a local business, 56 North.

The food will be donated to the Salvation Army after the run. In a Nov.

2 Facebook post, Southeast Beasts said that the Salvation Army is looking for specific items like canned tuna, spam, chicken, and shelf stable soups, among other canned goods. Another welcome donation would be unopened, unused spices.

There will be door prizes as well, Robinson said. Two pairs of Xtra-tuff boots are up for grabs. The Turkey Trot will be around the Volunteer Park nature trail, and part of Muskeg

Meadows Golf Course. More information can be found on Facebook, under "Turkey Trot!"

Robinson also said that safety protocols are in place for this run, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is asked to wear masks, she said. The trot will begin in waves to help spread people out at the start. Runners will be sent out first, with people walking the route following behind.

SEARHC rolling back free asymptomatic tests

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

In a Nov. 17 press release, the Southeast Alaska Health Consortium announced that they would soon be discontinuing their free asymptomatic COVID-19 testing program. This program has offered free COVID-19 tests for members of the public not showing any symptoms of COVID-19, freely across many Southeast Alaskan communities. According to

their press release, this decision to roll back the tests is in response to the surge of COVID cases across Alaska, and the need to prioritize symptomatic testing.

"SEARHC was able to administer thousands of tests to asymptomatic patients thanks to an Indian Health Services grant," Dr. Elliot Bruhl, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, said in the press release. "Due to the demand for testing, grant

funds have been depleted. By prioritizing symptomatic patients, we will be able to ensure those who must have a test have access to them. We encourage all patients to continue utilizing free, asymptomatic testing clinics in participating communities until the program sunsets."

In Wrangell, from now on, testing will only be made available on Saturdays at the SEARHC AICS clinic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free

asymptomatic testing will cease altogether on Dec. 19 across the entire consortium. Free asymptomatic testing came to an end in Sitka earlier this month, on Nov. 2. The tests were ceased in Juneau, as well, to prioritize symptomatic testing. Other Southeast communities can anticipate free asymptomatic testing for a little while longer, at a reduced availability. The press release encourages the public to visit [search.org/covid-19-testing](https://www.search.org/covid-19-testing) for testing locations and hours. Moving forward, according to the press release, those wanting an asymptomatic test will have to cover the cost at the time of testing, and must schedule an appointment.

COVID-19 tests are available to those meeting symptomatic guidelines, according to the press release. Symptoms include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headaches, a loss of taste or smell, a sore throat, congestion, a runny nose, or diarrhea. Symptomatic COVID-19 tests are by referral only for community members who meet testing criteria. The press release states that anyone feeling ill or experiencing symptoms should call their healthcare provider or the COVID-19 Hotline at (907) 966-8799. More information can be found at www.covid19.searhc.org.

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

*The Wrangell Sentinel
reserves the right to edit
any submissions.*

*The Deadline for submission is
Monday at 5 PM
or Thursday publication.*

Alaska Fish Factor By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Fishing communities should expect lower tax revenues due to toppled markets due to COVID and low salmon returns

Tamped down prices due to toppled markets caused by the Covid virus combined with low salmon returns to many Alaska regions added up to reduced paychecks for fishermen and will mean lower tax revenues for fishing communities.

A summary of the preliminary harvests and values by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game shows that Alaska's total 2020 salmon catch came in at just under 117 million fish, a 44% decrease from last season's haul of 208.3 million fish, and the 13th lowest on record.

The statewide salmon value of \$295.2 million is a whopping 56% decrease from 2019's \$673.4 million, and when adjusted for inflation, it is the lowest value since 2006.

Sockeyes accounted for nearly 59% of Alaska's total salmon value at \$174.9 million and comprised 40% of the harvest at 46.1 million fish.

Pinks accounted for 51% of the statewide salmon harvest at 51.4 million and 21% of the value at \$61.8 million.

Regional tallies compared to the 2019 catches and values reveal a clearer picture of the economic hits, which are down by half or more across the board.

At Southeast Alaska, 14.3 million salmon crossed the docks valued at just over \$50 million to fishermen. That compares to a catch of 32.2 million fish last year paying out at \$101.8 million.

Prince William Sound fishermen fetched \$49.6 million for salmon catches

totaling 25.5 million this year, down from 57.7 million fish valued at just under \$115 million last season.

At Cook Inlet, a catch of 3.6 million salmon rang in at just over \$10 million, down by 4.3 million fish and \$22.9 million, respectively.

A huge haul of pinks pushed Kodiak's salmon catch to over 24 million with a dockside value of \$26.6 million. That's well below the value of \$47 million last year on a harvest of 35.7 million fish.

Chignik fishermen were beached all season for a fishery value of zero. That compares to 2019 values of 3.5 million sockeyes harvested, worth just over \$8 million.

At Bristol Bay, a catch of just over 40 million salmon was valued at \$140.6 million to fishermen, down from 44.4 million fish and a record payday of \$306.5 million in 2019.

At the Alaska Peninsula, the salmon value came in at \$16.6 million this summer on a harvest of 8.7 million fish, compared to \$49 million on landings of nearly 27 million salmon last year.

Fishermen on the Kuskowkim finally went fishing after being shut out since 2016 when the region's "community development" non-profit abruptly pulled the plug on buying salmon. A newly formed Quinhagak co-op of four villages landed 197,365 salmon this summer (mostly sockeyes) worth \$596,272.

Salmon fishermen on the Yukon took

under 19,000 fish of mostly chums, valued at \$51,444 for a summer harvest only. That compares to 561,644 fish valued at over \$2 million for summer and fall fisheries in 2019.

At Norton Sound, only 50,679 salmon were caught this summer worth under \$300,000 to fishermen. That compares to 381,124 fish valued at over \$2 million last year.

Kotzebue salmon fishermen landed 149,820 chums this summer for a payout of \$542,306.

Last year's catch of 493,340 salmon was valued at over \$1.5 million.

Looking at average salmon prices paid to fishermen compared to 2019: Chinook averaged \$5.07 a pound compared to \$4.48, sockeyes averaged \$0.76 down from \$1.45; cohos averaged \$1.17, down just 2 cents per pound, the average pink price of \$0.30 was the same as last year, and the average dock price for chums at \$0.43 was a drop of 6 cents a pound from 2019.

It's important to note that the dollar values for all salmon catches are preliminary and do not include post-season price adjustments.

Some salmon facts: 95 percent of wild salmon eaten by Americans comes from Alaska, but Alaska salmon provides only about 13 percent of the global supply. Farmed salmon production outnumbers wild harvests by nearly 3 to 1.

Halibut hauls - Alaska's eight-month Pacific halibut fishery ends on November 15 and just a few days later, stakeholders

will get an overview of the health of the stock and a glimpse at potential catches for next year.

The total halibut catch limit for 2020, which includes Alaska, the West Coast states and British Columbia, totaled 35.5 million pounds. Alaska's share was 17.1 million pounds, of which 93% (15.9 million pounds) was landed.

A breakdown by the International Pacific Halibut Commission shows that 64% of the catch went to the commercial fishing sector, 17% to recreational users, 3% for subsistence users and 14% went to "non-directed fisheries," meaning halibut caught and discarded as bycatch. Discarded halibut in 2020 is estimated at just over 5 million pounds, down from 6.56 million in 2019, nearly all of which was taken in Alaska non-halibut fisheries (4.68 million pounds).

Much more will be revealed at the Nov. 18-19 interim online meeting of the IPHC, which already has posted a plethora of documents for review. Of note are the results of the successful summer "Fishery-Independent Setline Survey" at 898 stations that indicates some hopeful upticks.

"Available views allow users to interactively review the raw and adjusted (for hook competition and timing) results from 2020 and prior years with an ability to drill down and track differences among areas and across years," said Dr. David Wilson, IPHC Executive Director.

Continued on page 7

Classified/Legals

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE

At their Regular Assembly meeting held October 27, 2020 the Borough Assembly approved **canceling the Regular Assembly meeting of November 24, 2020.**

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

Publish: November 19, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vertical Bridge Development, LLC is proposing to install a telecommunications facility located near 4.7 Mile Zimovia Highway, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929. The facility will consist of a 130-foot monopole telecommunications tower (overall height). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 6120008552 - JLD EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (203) 231-6643.

Published: November 19, 2020

LEGAL

Pursuant to the City & 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 981 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA REAFFIRMING THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN EMERGENCY ORDINANCES 976 AND 980 AND REQUIRING A FACE COVERING IN CERTAIN INDOOR SETTINGS, ACTIVATING THE PENALTY IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, AND STRONGLY URGING OTHER MITIGATION ACTIONS.

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

Publish: November 19, 2020

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FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Please call to arrange drop off or pick up since our office is closed to the public. Fax number 874-2303tfn dh

WRANGELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER NOTICE

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power would like to remind everyone that an electrical permit is required before doing any electrical work within the City and Borough of Wrangell.

Wrangell Municipal Code 15.12.040 states that no electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premise, public or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any such existing facilities without first securing a permit from the office of the electrical superintendent.

WML&P would also like to remind everyone that per Alaska Statute all wiring must be done by a licensed contractor working under a valid administrator's license. Minor exceptions are allowed for persons working on their own residence provided that residence is owned by and the primary occupancy of the person doing the work and no commercial enterprise is being conducted on the premise.

Anyone having questions is encouraged to contact Wrangell Municipal Light and Power at 907-874-3602.

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Lady Wolves beaten in senior games

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCE BALANSAG

Jamie Early (No. 6) Jumping for the ball during last Saturday's games.

Last Saturday morning, The Wrangell Lady Wolves hosted the Petersburg Lady Vikings for their annual senior games. Two Wrangell seniors were recognized prior to the games: Robyn Booker (No. 7) and Jade Balansag (No. 1). Coach Alyssa Allen praised the seniors for their hard work over the season, and said that she and the team would miss them after they graduated.

While the Lady Wolves played hard, they were not able to overcome Petersburg's team.

The first game started with the Lady Vikings claiming a five-to-nothing lead on Wrangell. Despite the Lady Wolves' best efforts, they were not able to overcome that lead. The final score was 14-25, a loss for Wrangell.

The second game started off more competitively, with Wrangell and Petersburg staying neck-and-neck for some time. The game was tied up 5-5, but then the Lady Vikings were able to pull ahead and maintain a narrow lead. While Wrangell played hard, they were not able to catch up. The final score was 20-25, another loss for the Lady Wolves.

The final game went poorly for Wrangell. Petersburg was able to break into the double digits before Wrangell could score two points. While the Lady Wolves fought hard to catch up, it was a difficult lead to overcome. The final score was 13-25, another loss.

"I think they're adjusting the best they can in new roles," Allen said. "We'll miss the seniors next year and their positive attitudes."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCE BALANSAG

The Wrangell Lady Wolves' two senior players this season: Robyn Booker (left) and Jade Balansag (right).

Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

He noted the catch-per-unit-effort data (per hook) at: <https://www.iphc.int/data/FISS-catch-per-unit-effort>.

Final halibut catch limits will be set at the IPHC annual meeting Jan. 25-29 which also will be online due to Covid concerns. The deadline to submit regulatory proposals is December 26.

Everything about AK fisheries - This week features a virtual fish meeting lineup like never before. And while nothing

can replace in-person gatherings, the online availabilities let many more people participate, and provides documents that remain available long after the meetings are done. The diverse topics provide an opportunity like never before for people to expand their knowledge and understanding of the seafood industry.

United Fishermen of Alaska webinars run from Nov.16 - 20 starting on Monday with a Seafood Marketing Update, followed by the latest updates

on ocean acidification.

Tuesday features Bycatch Management in North Pacific Groundfish Fisheries, an Alaska Hatchery Update and an Update on Transboundary Mining Issues.

On Wednesday, the UFA lineup includes Updates from the USCG and an ADF&G Update. Thursday features Get to Know the Alaska Board of Fisheries Members and Update on BOF Meeting Cycle and a Pebble Mine and Bristol Bay 2020 Recap.

Friday wraps up the online offerings with a webinar called Get to Know Your Coastal Legislators. Find more information at www.ufafish.org/

Pacific Marine Expo virtual meetings, hosted by National Fisherman magazine, also take place from Nov. 17-19.

Day One features Making Waves: Offshore Wind Power & Commercial Fishing, followed by Workforce Development: Resources and Partners.

On Wednesday, a Maritime

Economic Forecast Breakfast will focus on the upcoming year for the Port of Seattle and beyond, followed by a webinar on Vessel Design and Gear Technology and the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act: Funding Repower Partnerships for Commercial Fishing Businesses Day Three will feature a Fishing Industry Career Fair and an update on what's next for the Pebble Mine.

See the full line up at www.pacificmarineexpo.com

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Mask mandate

Continued from page 1

ject to a \$25 fine. The ordinance also outlines some encouraged mitigation strategies, but does not mandate them, like reducing capacity in restaurants and bars, and avoiding gatherings when possible, among others. This ordinance was scheduled to become effective immediately, and will sunset on Dec. 7 unless action is taken by the assembly.

Several people called into the emergency meeting to voice their opinions. Some Wrangell residents, such as Penny Allen and Mike Lockabey, stated their disappointment in the assembly trying to pass the mandate during an emergency meeting, and also expressed their disapproval of a mask mandate in general. Don Sherman called into the meeting to express his support of the mandate. Jennifer Jackson called in to state her fears of losing her business if the city were to shut down.

Assembly Member Ryan Howe also wanted to know whether or not the city could consider reopening their facilities,

should the mandate be adopted. It was decided that this would be worth revisiting in another meeting.

A common topic brought up in previous meetings, too, was why Wrangell was considering a mask mandate when it currently has very few cases. Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen explained that while things in Wrangell are doing alright, the situation across the state is becoming quite serious, and there are ramifications for the local community. According to DHSS, as of Nov. 16, Alaska has over 23,000 resident cases and 1,159 nonresident cases. This was an increase of 563 cases total from the previous day.

"I'm a lifelong Alaskan, I've been here for 48 years," she said. "This is the first time in my life that I have seen a governor issue a statewide alert like this. I think we should pay attention to that. Even though the governor did not issue a statewide mandate with regard to things, he has up to this point said it is up to the individual municipalities to make these decisions for

themselves."

Mayor Steve Prysunka said that he did not want to adopt a mask mandate, that he hated the entire situation COVID-19 has created within the community. However, he said he felt it was necessary. He also said that it felt like Dunelavy was passing the buck down to municipalities to make difficult choices like the mask mandate. This sentiment was echoed by Assembly Member Julie Decker in the meeting.

"Unfortunately, and I'm not calling down our governor, I'm calling out our governor, he has not been bold in his actions at all during this time," Prysunka said. "He's passed it off to small municipal governments, and city administrators, and EOCs, to basically man up and deal with this situation. It is just beyond unfair, because when Governor Dunleavy goes forward and says 'This is the mandate I'm putting in place, this is the best thing for our state,' he doesn't have to go shop at City Market with somebody who's really

angry with him. He doesn't have to face down the local person at the post office. All these people have to do that, and it is just categorically unfair and I hate it."

Prysunka also compared the mask mandate to laws against smoking inside Wrangell's bars. At the time, he said, it was a very contentious issue over a small ask of the public. That's a mandate that stayed, he also pointed out, while this mandate was only temporary.

There was some division within the assembly about this mandate. Assembly Member Terry Courson said he felt this was not the right time to try and pass a mask mandate. He understood there was an emergency situation, but said that if the governor did not want to mandate mask wearing, why should Wrangell?

A vote was called, following some amendments to the wording and date of the ordinance, and the assembly chose to adopt it. There were two dissenting votes from Assembly Members Courson and David Powell.

Planning and Zoning Commission approve plat reviews

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Planning and Zoning Commission met last Thursday evening, Nov. 12, to cover several items. There were three plat reviews on the agenda

that night, two preliminary and one final.

A final plat review of the Alaska Trust Land Survey 2020-2. According to the agenda packet, Johnson Construction and Victor and Kaelene Harrison

are seeking to purchase lands behind their existing lots from the Alaska Mental Health Trust. A preliminary plat was approved with conditions back in September. This item was approved.

The two preliminary plat reviews on the docket were also approved by the commission. One was in regards to Tidewater Investments, which is looking to combine 16 lots they own with a

filled tideland lot that the city owns. The other was in regards to the Woodbury Industrial Subdivision. Woodbury requested to purchase Lot 6A, Block 61, according to the agenda packet, located behind his existing lots in the Industrial Park. The agenda packet also states that Mike Matney will be purchasing a portion of Lot 6A.

The commission approved of

a conditional use permit to operate a bed and breakfast within Apartment C of Massin Rentals.

The commission also held a discussion on draft zoning districts for the Institute Property. Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said that a workshop, to look further into zoning for the Institute Property, was being scheduled for the near future.

School board holds workshop with APEI

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School Board held a workshop Monday evening, Nov. 16, with Alaska Public Entity Insurance. APEI is the nonprofit administrator of a joint insurance arrangement between a pool of Alaskan entities that self-insure each other. They provide property, liability, and other forms of coverage for 38 school districts and charter school members, as well as 33 municipalities and other related organizations. The City and Borough of Wrangell also receives coverage from APEI. The workshop was organized as the school district is considering renewing their coverage with APEI.

Carleen Mitchell, Deputy Director of APEI, called into the workshop to talk about her organization and what services they offer. Among various types of coverage and legal fee reimbursements, she pointed out Loss Control Grants that they offer.

"Another service that we have is our loss control grants," Mitchell said. "Every year we make available to our members a grant which you can use for safety training, or equipment, or other similar types of services. The amount of your grant is based upon the total premium that you make to APEI for that particular year."

Other services mentioned in the work session include loss control premium credits for adopting certain practices for safety training and loss prevention, free training and webinar resources, and consultation services, among other programs.

School Board Member Patty Gilbert asked if schools and the city both receive coverage from APEI if the coverage was separate or came together as one item? They were separate, she was told. There are some situations where a city will pay for coverage on behalf of the schools, but in Wrangell's case they are separate. The district is covering district buildings and the borough is covering borough buildings, they just happen to both use APEI for coverage.

Board Member Laura Ballou wanted to know what free services the school district was currently making use of. Mitchell said that Wrangell Public Schools was a bit of an oddity, "in a good way," of how well they take advantage of APEI's free services. The district makes heavy use of the grant and premium credit programs, she said and there are not many programs they are not making use of. This has gotten them roughly 8 percent off their premium, it was said. Kim Powell, with the district, said that they saved roughly \$20,000 through this. The district's premium every year comes out to about \$19,500 for workers' compensation, \$79,000 for property insurance, and \$34,000 for liability insurance.

As this was only a workshop, no formal action was taken by the school board.

Mitchell said that APEI and Wrangell Public Schools have worked together for a number of years, in a phone call with the Sentinel, but she could not recall the exact number. Her presentation, she said, was for informational purposes.

"We're always available to answer questions regarding your coverage, how to file or open claims, our loss control services, our premium credit grant programs, and anything else we might be able to assist with," Mitchell said to the school board. "Please don't hesitate to contact us."

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