



Wrangell, Alaska  
July 1, 2021

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Wrangell B&Bs full with summer visitors

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

After a rough pandemic-closed year for the tourism industry nationwide, especially in visitor-dependent Alaska, businesses are starting to show signs of recovery. And that means guests filling up overnight accommodations in Wrangell after a dismal 2020 visitor season.

"In my estimation, this is my best year ever!" said Leslie Cummings. "My B&B muscles, my breakfast-cooking muscles are way out of shape. I feel like I had a year off, almost. It's been kind of a challenge," she said Monday.

Leslie and her husband Alan run Grand View Bed & Breakfast, which has three bedrooms, as well as All In Charters.

In 2020, they only filled about 22 room nights. This year is much better, she said. In May, they had guests in the three bedrooms for 74 nights in total during the month, and she estimated 90 room nights

for July.

She also said travelers coming to Wrangell this summer are different from the previous 12 years they have operated the business. This summer's guests are longer-term stays, usually for about a week, whereas visitors used to be only two- or three-day stays.

Tourists are more interested in staying longer in Wrangell and seeing what the community has to offer, Leslie Cummings said, rather than island-hopping and potentially risking COVID-19 exposure in other towns or while in transit.

"The other thing that I'm noticing ... when they're getting here, they're so happy," she said. "They're so glad to be traveling."

Wrangell offers 15 lodging options for visitors, including bed and breakfasts, hotel and boathouse, according to the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau website.

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PHOTO COURTESY LUCY ROBINSON / PARKS AND RECREATION

## It's summer, so why not watermelons

Watermelon races in the pool, not watermelon eating contests. Thomas Rohr Wickman (from left), Lucas Stearns, Ryder Ritchie, Lilly Stearns and AJ Roundtree were part of Wrangell Parks and Recreation's wrap-up last Friday of a first round of summer activities, including youth basketball, open gym and swimming. The Parks and Recreation staff is working on future youth activities this summer, including wrestling camps, swim camps, lap swims, parent-and-me swim lessons, forest-and-beach explorers, along with music in the parks, movies in the parks and more. Details will be announced.

## Businesses report heavy loss of revenue during pandemic

By LARRY PERSILY  
*Sentinel writer*

Wrangell businesses did better than those in Skagway but worse than their counterparts in the larger and more diversified economies of Juneau and Sitka during the economic shutdowns amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an online survey of business owners and managers throughout the region.

"On average, reporting businesses in the region lost 42% of their revenue due to COVID-19, while Wrangell businesses were down 48% overall," the third highest for any community in

the area, said the report issued by the Southeast Conference, comprised of chambers of commerce and local governments.

A total of 41 Wrangell businesses participated in the survey, among the 440 respondents across Southeast who answered the 19 questions April 9-23.

Skagway businesses reported the largest revenue loss at 61% due to the pandemic, which shut down cruise ship traffic and most other tourism in 2020, eliminating the bulk of the community's economy.

Ketchikan, Petersburg, Gustavus, Haines and Hoonah were

closely bunched with Wrangell in the middle of the pack. Faring the best during the pandemic were Juneau businesses, which reported a 35% drop in revenues, and Sitka, at 22%.

The Southeast Conference will conduct another survey next April.

The survey also asked businesses whether they were at risk of closure due to the financial strain of the pandemic, with Wrangell doing slightly better than the regional average. Across Southeast, 23% of the responding businesses reported they had closed or were at a sig-

nificant or moderate risk of closing permanently. The number for Wrangell was 19%.

Not surprisingly, visitor and tourism, food and beverage businesses in Wrangell reported the largest drop in revenue due to the pandemic, with retailers reporting the smallest decline.

Federal aid payments over the past 15 months totaling as much as \$3,200 per person, along with additional months of unemployment benefits at a

higher rate covered by the federal government, have helped to lessen the pandemic hit to households.

In addition to direct federal aid to individuals, almost \$18 million in COVID-19 relief funding went to Wrangell businesses, nonprofits, the borough, school district and the tribal Wrangell Cooperative Association. Most of that money was distributed under grant pro-

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## Legislature finishes budget but dividend fight will resume Aug. 2

By LARRY PERSILY  
*Sentinel writer*

The Alaska House avoided a government shutdown when it voted Monday for the state budget to take effect with the start of the new fiscal year today, though the political battles over state spending and the Permanent Fund dividend are far from over.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy was expected to announce any budget vetoes on Wednesday, with Wrangell waiting to learn if he will reduce or eliminate two spending items specific to the community: Restoring the state's commercial fisheries staffer in town, which Dunleavy elimi-

nated a year ago, and restoring an Office of Children's Services caseworker to Wrangell.

The budget approved by lawmakers sets this fall's PFD at \$525. It would have been closer to \$1,100, but advocates of an even larger dividend — mostly Republicans — withheld their votes for the \$1,100 checks in hopes of adding to the pot when lawmakers meet again in another special session starting Aug. 2.

In addition to stopping the \$1,100 payout to continue the battle next month, the lack of votes by reluctant lawmakers will, at least for this month, block state financial assistance to help

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## Jason Rivers ties his love for fly-fishing into business

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

"Fly-fishing in general, I think, it's really hard to explain but everybody that I talk to about fly-fishing, that has fly-fished, they get it," Jason Rivers said. "It's really hard to explain to people until they've caught their first fish on a fly rod."

Rivers, 47, has enjoyed fly-fishing from a young age, only recently pursuing it as a business. His interest dawned in Washington, when he saw somebody catch a steelhead trout while fly-fishing on the Kalama River. He really learned the "how to" when he moved to Fairbanks. Rivers came to Wrangell about three years ago and now operates Wrangell Fly and Tackle, offering handmade flies and other lures and gear.

"A lot of people say, 'Oh, it's no different than catching on a regular rod and reel,' and I would disagree," Rivers said. "I've caught the same salmon on a fly rod and I've caught the same salmon on a conventional set-up. I definitely like the fly-fishing aspect more. I like fishing, period, but it's the fact that

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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, July 1:** Lauren Helgeson, Devyn Jabusch, Emily Mason, Susan Alivia Neff.

**Friday, July 2:** Charlie Kirschner, Jaci Maddox; Anniversaries: Jeff and Dawn Angerman, Curt and Jonna Kautz.

**Saturday, July 3:** Colin Anderson, Lacey Churchill, Christian Kaer; Anniversaries: Roy and Nancy Guthrie, Roland and Donna Larsen.

**Sunday, July 4:** Madelyn Davies, Ryan Edgley, Bill Massin, Gail Rilatos.

**Monday, July 5:** Tyman Comstock.

**Tuesday, July 6:** Cheney Chrisman, Laura Helgeson, Jennifer Miller, Cameron Rilatos, Richard Sumner; Anniversaries: Miles and Waka Brown, Daniel and Tammie Kirschner.

**Wednesday, July 7:** Dawn Angerman, Dutch Mongeon, Devyn Young, Zoey; Anniversary: Kyle and Amber Hommel.

**Thursday, July 8:** Brett Abrahamson, Kyle Scott Angerman, Matt Jurak, Matthew Speers, Barb Taylor; Anniversary: Robert and Lori Baremore.

## Senior Center Meals Menu

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

### Friday, July 2

Hotcha baked beef, carrots, fruit slaw

### Monday, July 5

Closed for Independence Day holiday

### Tuesday, July 6

Chinese fruited pork, rice, salad

### Wednesday, July 7

BBQ chicken, peas, cabbage salad, potatoes

### Thursday, July 8

Macaroni ham and cheese, broccoli, Texas coleslaw

Please call the senior center at 874-2066 by 2 p.m. the day prior to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

## Ferry Schedule

### Northbound

#### Friday, July 2

Matanuska, 4:15 p.m.

#### Friday, July 9

Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

#### Friday, July 16

Matanuska, 4:15 p.m.

#### Friday, July 23

Matanuska, 6:30 p.m.

#### Friday, July 30

Matanuska, 3:45 p.m.

### Southbound

#### Monday, July 5

Matanuska, 4:30 a.m.

#### Monday, July 12

Matanuska, 4:30 a.m.

#### Monday, July 19

Matanuska, 3:30 a.m.

#### Monday, July 26

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

#### Monday, Aug. 2

Matanuska, 3:30 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 874-2021 for information

or call 874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



## TIDES July 1-July 7

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM		
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
July 1	06:33	12.9	07:32	14.3	00:27	4.4	12:40	2.0	
July 2	07:44	12.0	08:27	14.4	01:34	4.3	01:33	3.1	
July 3	08:58	11.6	09:19	14.6	02:42	3.8	02:29	4.0	
July 4	10:04	11.7	10:08	15.0	03:48	3.0	03:28	4.5	
July 5	11:03	12.1	10:53	15.4	04:46	2.0	04:26	4.7	
July 6	11:55	12.7	11:37	15.8	05:34	1.1	05:18	4.7	
July 7	...	...	12:41	13.2	06:16	0.1	06:03	4.6	

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**BETA SIGMA PHI FOURTH of JULY PIE SALE** will be held this year with one major change: Only whole pies will be sold, and they will have to be picked up upon purchase. Donations of covered pies will start at 9 a.m. Sunday; sales will begin at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Lorraine Kagee 874-3235.

**NOLAN CENTER THEATER** - No movies this weekend.

**CAMP LORAINE**, a Christian summer camp for kids between the ages of 8 to 16, is planned for Aug. 1-8. The camp is located west of Wrangell. The cost is \$199. Applications available online: [www.alaskacamps.org](http://www.alaskacamps.org).

**TLINGIT & HAIDA and WCA** - Applications for school backpacks are now available for prekindergarten to high school seniors who reside in Wrangell, and are Alaska Native and/or American Indian. Applications are available at the WCA office or online [www.ccthita-sns.gov/info/events](http://www.ccthita-sns.gov/info/events). Apply by July 16. For more information, call WCA at 874-4304 or email [receptionist.wca@gmail.com](mailto:receptionist.wca@gmail.com).

**TLINGIT & HAIDA HEAD START** is enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year. Head Start is a free federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Apply online at [www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/family/headstart](http://www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/family/headstart). For more information, contact Head Start at 907-463-7127, or email [headstartenrollment@ccthita-nsn.gov](mailto:headstartenrollment@ccthita-nsn.gov).

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK** 6 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 31, at the sheltered site on Nemo Point Road. All are welcome.

**IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** summer reading program open for registration. Open to students entering kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall. Register at the library (open Wednesday through Saturday); the reading program runs through July 31. There will be drawings and a special prize for readers. Call 874-3535 for more information.

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

## Continuing Events

**PARKS and RECREATION** [www.wrangellrec.com](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 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

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

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

**Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:**

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

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

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

### June 30, 1921

A letter received from Col. Steese by Mayor Grant yesterday contains the necessary information about the road to the Standard Oil dock and reads as follows: Mr. J. G. Grant, Mayor, Wrangell, Alaska: As I wired you yesterday, we will proceed immediately with the construction of about 2,200 feet of road, connecting Wrangell with the Standard Oil Dock to the north. Mr. Joseph Ulmer, Territorial Divisional Commissioner, will come to Wrangell on the first boat after the Fourth of July to make the final location surveys and open bids. He will make such visits later as may be necessary to check up on quantities and certify payments. While clearing and grubbing is going on, we will arrange for construction, utilizing local labor and supplies to the greatest extent possible.

### June 28, 1946

The Wrangell Post Office will be advanced from its present third-class status to a second-class post office on July 1, according to word received from the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C., this week. Advancement to second class comes as a result of greatly increased postal business during the past year. With the change to second class, longer hours will be inaugurated at the post office. The postal window will only be closed while mail is being sorted. Alaska now has four first-class

post offices. There are 13 third class and 171 fourth-class offices. Wrangell will make the seventh office of the second class for the territory. It is necessary for a post office to do \$10,000 a year in business, at least, to be eligible for second-class rating.

### July 2, 1971

A \$1.5 million state road project, which includes construction of a new, faster route between town and the airport, is nearing completion. Everett Stitz, superintendent of the Burgess Construction Co. job, said the company expects to easily meet the deadline of July 15. The job got underway in June 1970 and included clearing for building 1.2 miles of new road between Zimovia Highway and the airport, plus a spur road opening up new lands to the south for 1.7 miles. The construction firm also has seal-coated Zimovia Highway from the ferry terminal to the Alaska Wood Products Mill, using 1,500 tons of crushed rock which came here by barge from Ketchikan for final surfacing. The construction firm provided jobs last season for some 40 men. About 25 men have been working on the completion phase of the work this year.

### July 4, 1996

Playing in the mud has taken on a new perspective for the Kirk Garbisch family. Together, Kirk and his three children have been busy rolling their sleeves, kneading clay,

throwing it on a wheel and creating colorful, creative pottery at home, at school and downtown at a portable site by the City Dock. Garbisch, along with his children, Alyse, 15, Lindsay, 11, and Tyler, 8, has developed a family business this summer producing pottery and ceramic pieces finished in the raku style. With the aid of a small portable kiln, glazed pieces of pottery are fired for 45 to 60 minutes at 1,750 degrees Fahrenheit. Garbisch then carefully opens the kiln, removes the pieces with tongs, and the process of raku begins. The pottery is placed in an old barrel packed with paper and sawdust that then are set ablaze with the steady flame from a propane torch. With the lid tightly on, the barrel becomes a furnace where metals in the glazes change color depending on whether they're touched by smoke, flames or oxygen.

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
July 1	4:04a	9:41p	17:36h
July 2	4:05a	9:41p	17:35h
July 3	4:06a	9:40p	17:33h
July 4	4:07a	9:39p	17:32h
July 5	4:08a	9:38p	17:30h
July 6	4:09a	9:37p	17:28h
July 7	4:11a	9:36p	17:26h



PHOTO BY DUSTIN SAFRANEK / KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

## All aboard for Spain

The heavy-lift vessel Red Zed I resurfaces with the former Alaska Marine Highway System fast ferries Chenega and Fairweather on its back last Friday in Tongass Narrows in front of Ketchikan. The Amak Towing vessels Ethan B. and Jennie B. moved the 235-foot-long ferries from their moorings in Ward Cove and into the narrows, where the Red Zed I has been anchored since April 2. The 712-foot-long lift vessel submerged, allowing the ferries to climb aboard for the long voyage to their new home in the Mediterranean, where a Spanish operator will run them on short sailings to a resort island. The state sold the vessels — built at combined cost of \$68 million about 20 years ago — to catamaran operator Trasmapi for just over \$5 million. The state tied up the ferries several years ago to save money.

# Governor offers Malaspina to the Philippines for free

JUNEAU (AP) - The state of Alaska is trying to dispose of a 58-year-old, unused ferry, and even has offered to give it free to the government of the Philippines.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy offered to give away the Malaspina in a letter last month to the Philippines consul general in San Francisco, public radio network CoastAlaska reported.

"This vessel is surplus to our fleet, is in need of some repairs, but does have some service life

left," according to Dunleavy's letter dated May 20 and obtained by the Alaska Public Media network in a routine public records request for the governor's correspondence.

"We would be willing to provide the vessel to the Philippine government or to a private ferry company in the Philippines free of charge," the letter states.

The Malaspina, built in a Seattle shipyard in 1963, last sailed in 2019. Instead of paying at least \$16 million in needed steel work,

the state put the 408-foot-long, 450-passenger ferry into cold storage.

The state Department of Transportation has estimated it would cost up to \$45 million to overhaul the ferry, including installing new engines.

The state is paying about \$450,000 a year for maintenance and security to park it in Ketchikan, prompting the Dunleavy administration to look at getting rid of the ship.

"We are actively looking at working with the EPA to scuttle the ship and potentially salvage some of the steel or resale value," Alaska Marine Highway System General Manager John Falvey told the Alaska House Transportation Committee on March 20.

Falvey said there was only

tepid interest in buying the ferry, matching the struggles the state experienced in disposing of three other ferries recently. One went to a scrap yard in India, and two others were sold this spring to a Spanish ferry operator for about 8 cents on the dollar of the \$68 million construction cost when the ships were built almost 20 years ago.

The administration also has considered turning the Malaspina into an artificial reef. Sinking the ship as an artificial reef could cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million, but may make long-term financial sense, Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Rob Carpenter told a legislative committee in March.

If the state were to sell the Malaspina, Falvey said in March

that it would be put out to sealed bids. But if the ferry is given to another government, procurement rules would not normally apply, said Jason Soza, the state's top procurement officer from 2013-2019. However, he noted that the offer to give the ferry to a private ferry company would normally not be allowed.

Dunleavy spokesperson Jeff Turner said there had been no response from the Philippines consul general in San Francisco and declined further comment.

The Consul General of the Philippines in San Francisco told CoastAlaska its chief diplomat will visit Juneau in July, but as part of the consul general's normal outreach to Filipino citizens in Alaska. It is not a ferry fact-finding mission, a spokesperson said in an email.

**Save the Date**

Celebration of Life for  
**Robert R Armstrong**

August 12th  
at Shoemaker

*Hosted by his children*

## Businesses report

Continued from page 1

grams, with loans also included in the total — including Paycheck Protection Program loans that can be entirely forgiven if the money is used for payroll expenses.

The federal aid to individuals, businesses, nonprofits, the borough and schools total almost half of what Wrangell's 1,000 households would earn in an entire year, calculated from U.S. Census statistics.

Nearly a quarter of Wrangell businesses that participated in the Southeast Conference survey reported that they would have closed permanently without the pandemic relief dollars. A fifth said the funding allowed them to retain staff that otherwise would have been laid off.

As it appears the worst of the pandemic's hit to the economy had passed by the time the survey was conducted in April, only 12% of Wrangell businesses reported they plan further reductions in staffing levels. More than half said they expect to maintain job levels in the coming year, and 4% reported they expect to add employees.

Even before the pandemic, Wrangell was losing jobs. In 2018, the average employment number for the community over the entire year was 850, not counting self-employed people. In 2019, that number was down to 824 jobs, according to state Department of Labor statistics quoted in a separate Southeast Conference report.

The community lost about 100 jobs during the worst of the pandemic impact in 2020, the organization said.

Despite rebounding employment, millions of dollars in federal aid, the reopening of businesses and further gains in the community's vaccination rate, "confidence in the Wrangell business climate continues to be incredibly poor in the wake of COVID-19," the April survey showed.

"Nearly all (91%) of respondents are concerned about the state of the economy, calling the business climate poor or very poor. Nearly a third of survey respondents expect their prospects to get worse or much worse over the next year," the 41 Wrangell businesses reported.

However, 27% of the respondents "expect the outlook for their businesses to improve in the coming year."

After initial success at getting people vaccinated against COVID-19, the vaccination rate in Wrangell, and in Alaska, has slowed in recent weeks. As of Monday, according to the state's vaccination website, 61% of Wrangell residents age 12 and older had received at least one shot of a vaccine. The statewide rate was 55%.

Happy

4<sup>th</sup> of July

Wishing everyone a  
safe and sane holiday  
weekend!

874-3363

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## EDITORIAL

### Flexibility is good for borough budget

The borough is required to set the property tax rate for the next budget year that starts today, which it did. The rate will not change.

And the borough is required to adopt a budget to guide its spending over the year, which it did, pretty much the same total for public services as this past year.

But within that total, some of the individual numbers will change over the next 12 months, which is OK.

There were too many unknowns, too many variables when the assembly approved the budget last month to expect that changes will not occur.

The borough is still waiting for audit results to confirm some numbers. Wrangell has been without a finance director since February, and the new staffer will not start until the fall. State funding is always uncertain until the governor signs, or vetoes, budget items. And while the borough knows its direct share of the latest round of federal pandemic relief aid, it could receive additional assistance as the state looks at helping the hardest-hit communities.

Add up all those unknowns, and it was wise of the administration and borough assembly to pass a budget while also acknowledging that some of the items will change. It's better to be careful and recognize that amendments will be needed in the spending plan than to lock in numbers that lack certainty.

Any amendments will be publicized for people to see and will require a public vote by assembly members. This amend-as-we-go budget is not an attempt at secrecy. It's simply realistic, flexible planning.

The budget will be revisited and updated at regular intervals, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargaen told the assembly at its June 22 meeting. "The plan moving forward is to work through all these close-out activities that need to be done and then systematically start to bring to the assembly, every meeting, a couple of these budgets for you to review in detail and look at," she said. "Then we will make whatever amendments are necessary."

The assembly adopted the budget unanimously.

In particular, the assembly will have to decide later what to do with Wrangell's share of American Rescue Plan federal funding. "The assembly will have to make a very calculated decision as to how they want to use that," Von Bargaen said.

"We're going to have to remain flexible, light on our feet,"

Mayor Steve Prysunka said of the new budget year.

The borough chose wisely in stepping carefully this year.

— Wrangell Sentinel

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

### News, opinion, advertising are all different

By LARRY PERSILY  
Publisher

This week seems like a good time to explain to readers the different roles of a newspaper. In particular, this newspaper.

Actually, any week would be a good time, as I am often reminded that many readers are confused at the different parts of a newspaper. How are news, opinion and advertising different? What are the rules for each?

And who decides which is what and when?

First and foremost, the Wrangell Sentinel is a newspaper. Which means we try to provide readers with news of the community, its residents, its government, and the businesses and organizations that serve the town.

Reporting the news means telling readers what happened last week, what is planned for next week, how it may affect them and their neighbors, the bad and good things that happen in life and, as best we can, why it's happening in Wrangell.

Deciding which news stories to report each week often is a matter of which ones we know about and which ones we can find people to interview. If you don't tell us about your organization's news, we might not ever hear about it and never report on it for the

Sentinel. Same for our phone calls and emails: If you don't get back to us, we can't gather the information needed for a news story.

We call because it's our job at the Sentinel to verify the facts and ensure that news stories in the paper are fair and accurate.

It's our job to write the stories, select which information to include, and decide the story's importance to the community: Does it belong on Page 1 or Page 12. Those are all judgment calls, which we like to think we get right most of the time.

The rules are different for the opinions page in the Sentinel. That page is reserved for the publisher and readers to express their views, state their grievances and share their praise. Facts are important, and we will not print opinions that promote blatant falsehoods. But, generally, readers are free to spout off and advocate for their own opinions.

We will edit your letters to the editor for spelling, punctuation and readability, but we will not edit your opinions. This is your page, too.

Essentially, the Sentinel provides the page as a soapbox for readers to talk with their neighbors, as long as the people standing on the box do not abuse or attack their neigh-

bors. Your opinions are your judgment, while we will judge if they step over the line. This isn't Facebook, where most anything goes. We take the Sentinel's responsibility seriously to promote respectful discussion, not mud-slinging.

One similarity with Facebook, however, is that the Sentinel does not charge to print letters to the editor, just as it does not charge organizations for coverage in a news story.

Where we do charge is for advertising. Those are the ads you see spread throughout the Sentinel, in a box or other border, usually at the bottom of the pages, promoting a specific business or event.

If you want to tell us what to print, how it should look, how big to make the type, that's an ad. If you want to promote your business, that's an ad. If you want to publicize your event, and want big headlines and artwork and pictures, all wrapped up in a nice border, that's an ad.

The paid ads serve two purposes: They promote your business or event, and they help support the newspaper. Both are good causes.

Whether you submit a news item, a letter to the editor, or an ad, we appreciate your interest in the newspaper and the community.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wrangell B&Bs

Continued from page 1

Hospitality businesses around town report full or nearly full bookings for the summer.

Mike Matney, with Wrangell Extended Stay, said they are fully booked for July and are almost full for August. The business offers single and double rooms, and family units.

Lynda Nore, with Mt. Dewey Sunset and View, is also fully booked for her two rooms. She has actually had to turn away reservation requests, she said. Visitors tend to want to come into town around similar times of the year — particularly the Fourth of July and Bearfest, which is scheduled for July 28 to Aug. 1 this year.

"2020 was definitely a bad year," Nore said. "I haven't been in business that long, this is only my fourth year. So I didn't have too much to compare it to, but the customers that I'm having are returning customers."

Christie Jamieson, of Squawking Raven B&B, is also very busy. She has closed her doors temporarily to enjoy a family reunion, but said they will be back in business around July 12. They did not operate in 2020 at all, but this year is looking good.

"We decided to jump in with both feet for this year, and we have been busy," Jamieson said. "July is going to be busy, August is going to be busy. It's definitely been better."

### Legislature finishes budget, but more to do

The Alaska House of Representative was able to come together Monday for a final-passage vote of the state budget, averting a looming government shutdown. The budget totals \$4.5 billion in state unrestricted general funds, which is very similar to previous year budgets, continuing the six-year trend of flat spending.

The budget forward funds the Alaska Marine Highway System for 18 months, providing more stability for future seasons' schedules. The budget also includes an additional \$2.5 million for prekindergarten programs, funds to reopen the Wrangell Fish and Game office, and money to partially fund an Office of Children's Services caseworker in Wrangell.

Unique to this year, the budget includes one-time federal COVID-19 emergency funds that will be given directly to communities, money to provide relief for the tourism industry, and

funds to offset lost revenues due to the pandemic at other small businesses and nonprofits.

The budget's effective-date provision, which did not pass the House last month and was causing a holdup with the start of the fiscal year on Thursday, passed 28-10 on Monday. The affirmative vote came after the House approved a Sense of the House statement agreeing to form a working group that will work to negotiate solutions to Alaska's long-term fiscal issues.

Our work is not done. The working group will begin studying and negotiating as soon as possible, and the entire Legislature will be back in special session in August to try to achieve at a long-term fiscal plan for the state.

I hope our plan will resolve the long-standing goal of establishing a sustainable, predictable formula for the Permanent Fund dividend.

I look forward to hearing from you as I navigate difficult fiscal conversations and decisions. You can email me at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at 907-247-4672.

— Rep. Dan Ortiz

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



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## Borough wants to sell unused armory

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The borough is selling the unused National Guard armory at 101 Second Ave. The armory was built in 1982 on land leased from the city, and the building was turned over to the borough when the Guard shut down its Wrangell operations in 2017.

The 30-by-40-foot, wood-frame metal-sided building on a 0.21-acre lot has been appraised at \$110,000. The borough has set a minimum price for the sale at \$99,000.

The borough had planned to sell the property by outcry auction, but the decision was postponed at the June 8 assembly meeting when Assemblymember David Powell asked that the borough sell the building on a national surplus government property website in hopes of attracting a wider pool of potential buyers.

Borough Clerk Kim Lane said bidders will be required to put down a \$500 deposit to show they are serious about their bid. The winning bidder will be required to pay 20% within three days and sign a purchase agreement, and pay the remainder within 60 days.

The \$500 deposit will be returned to all of the bidders, Lane said.

After brief discussion, the assembly at its June 22 meeting unanimously approved the plan to put the armory property up for sale on the website. Bidding opened online June 24, and will remain open until July 30.

A private company operates the website for the sale of surplus government property and passes on its fee to the buyers. The winning bidder for the armory will pay a 5% premium.

The property can be found online at the borough's website link to surplus property for sale.

## The triathlon is real, even if it is 'unofficial'

By LARRY PERSILY  
*Sentinel writer*

Try telling the competitors who swim 1.2 miles in open water, bike for 56 miles and run for 15 miles that they are "unofficial."

Nicholas Howell organized the inaugural Tongass ToughMan Triathlon in 2019 as an official event, but the COVID-19 pandemic and health protocols knocked down attendance from more than 30 participants that first year to just three last year: Nicholas, his brother, and one other person.

"Last year, with COVID happening, it just kind of became unofficial," Howell said Monday. Unofficial meaning no permits or insurance or registration fees for the triathlon, which will start at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the city dock.

"I know of about 20 people right now" who are looking to enter this weekend's event, he said. All participants are local, Howell said, though several traveled to Wrangell from out of town for the 2019 race.

Howell wants to return next year as an official event. "I want to make this a big event for Wrangell," drawing competitors to the community for the holiday. "Next year we're really going to ramp it up."

He hopes to add a children's triathlon next year.

"I'm the kind of person who makes things up and just does them," said Howell, who said he has been covering the event's expenses out of his pocket.

Though he has competed in only one triathlon outside Wrangell, Howell is an ultramarathon runner, with a 100-mile run in Wrangell on Dec. 31 a few years back. He said he is

planning a 260-mile run in Hawaii next winter — competitors have 96 hours to complete the course.

Anyone interested in competing in the Tongass ToughMan this weekend should attend a free pre-event dinner 6 to 9 p.m. Friday in front of Alaska Vistas, near the city dock, Howell said. Participants will receive briefing materials and can sign up unofficially at the dinner.

They also can drop off gear bags and bicycles for the next day.

The event will start at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the dock, and is open to solo competitors and teams.

Boats will take the swimmers 1.2 miles from shore for the swim back to the dock. That's a change from last year, when competitors swam out from the dock and back, Howell said.

The 56-mile bike ride also will start at dock and head out the road, along logging roads to the Lower Salamander Creek Campground and back. The route gains — and loses — almost 4,800 feet in elevation.

The runners will go from city dock to the Rainbow Falls Trail, over the top of the trail and coming out on the other side of the island, connecting to the Spur Road and back to downtown, Howell said. The route climbs almost 3,000 feet in elevation.

An aid station will be available at the dock for the beginning and end of each leg. There will also be an unmanned aid station at Lower Salamander Camp (25 miles into the bike ride) and a manned aid station at the High Country Shelter (7 miles into the run). Each station will have water, Gatorade, energy gels, candy bars and fruit.

## Silversea agrees to COVID protocols for cruise visits

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

With the arrival of the biggest cruise ship to call on Wrangell this summer a month away, the borough and the cruise company have settled on operating plans to help lessen any risk of spreading COVID-19 among passengers, crew and residents.

Silversea Cruises is planning

to dock the Silver Muse in town Aug. 1, 22 and Sept. 12. The ship has capacity to carry 600 passengers and a crew of 400.

Basically, the cruise line and borough have agreed to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, Wrangell Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said Tuesday.

Passengers will be expected to wear masks and socially distance when possible. The city will provide hand sanitizer at the dock and will clean the dock's railings as much as possible. Passengers will also try to avoid congregating together on the dock while waiting for their charter boats or tour guides to pick them up.

"This is very similar to other agreements with other lines," Rushmore said. "The whole idea was to try and set up standard protocols for communities."

Rushmore also said individual tour and charter companies in town will likely have their own safety guidelines in place, as well.

Cruise lines calling on other Southeast ports have signed similar agreements for this summer.

# Find Your Adventure at Wrangell's 4<sup>th</sup> of July



Logo design by Tawney Crowley

## FRIDAY, JULY 2

**3-ON-3 BASKETBALL: Start at 10 a.m.**  
At the covered play area behind Evergreen Elementary School.  
Chairperson: Christie Good

**ART CLARK SCRAP FISH DERBY: 11 a.m.**  
City Dock Summer Float

Two age categories: 6-9 and 10-13  
Rules: No parents allowed on floats unless they are one of the volunteers. All children must wear a life jacket at all times. Hand lines only; no rods or reels. One hook per line; one line per person. Contestants must bait their own hook. Any kind of bait can be used. Bait will be supplied for children who do not have their own. Derby officials will decide any questions not covered by the rules and their decision will be final.

Chairperson: Jamie Stough.  
Scrap fish derby note: For children age 6, parents should decide which derby the kids will enter: Art Clark Scrap Fish Derby or the Tiny Tots Scrap Fish Derby.

**DOG SHOW: 1 p.m.**  
The covered play area behind Evergreen School.

Several categories and contests. Cash prizes.  
Chairpersons: Joan Sargent and Bonnie Ritchie

**TINY TOTS SCRAP FISH DERBY: 3 p.m.**  
City Dock Summer Float

Ages 0-6 years. Rules: All children must be accompanied by at least one adult. All children must wear a life jacket at all times. Hand lines only; no rods or reels. Bring your own bait (some bait, life jackets, and hand lines may be provided, but bring your own if possible.) Prizes will be awarded to all children.

Chairperson: Tessa Appleman.

**DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT: 6 p.m.**  
Muskeg Meadows

Sign-up before 5:30 p.m. \$10 entry fee.  
www.muskegmeadows.com

## SATURDAY, JULY 3

**TARGET COMPETITION 8 a.m. to noon, at the shooting range**  
Firearms and ammo provided. No personal firearms allowed. Adults must accompany all minor participants. Eye and ear protection required for spectators and participants. No drugs or alcohol. Cash prizes.

Chairperson: Allen Rooney.

**WRANGELL COMMUNITY MARKET: 10 a.m.**  
Nolan Center

**CRAZY CRAFT RACE: 11 a.m.**  
City Dock Summer Float

Anything that floats except a boat is eligible. Separate category for air flotation devices. Contestants must be on or in their flotation device. All participants must wear a life jacket.

Chairperson: Stephanie Cook.



**CANOE RACING: 1 p.m.**  
City Dock Summer Float

Pre-registration opens at noon. Participants must wear personal flotation devices (vests or jackets). Cash prizes awarded for men, women and coed teams. Two-member teams: Ages 11-14, 15-17, and 18 and older. War Canoe race open to 5-member team, 11 years old and up. Special Ancient Mariners award for the two paddlers with the oldest combined ages that complete the race.

Sponsored by: John Martin and Alaska Crossings.

**LOG ROLLING COMPETITION Following the Canoe Races at City Dock**

Must be 18 or older to enter. \$10 registration fee.

Chairperson: Caitlin Cardinell.

**BIG WHEEL RACES: Starting at 3 p.m. downtown.**

Age categories start with 3 years old and up. Adult races as well. Cash prizes for first, second and third places.

Chairperson: Elizabeth Roundtree.

**TALENT SHOW AND 4<sup>TH</sup> CORONATION: 7 p.m.**  
Nolan Center

Lots of prize categories.  
Chairpersons: Bonnie Ritchie and Haley Reeves.

**WIENER TOSS: 8:30 p.m.**  
Front Street

Sponsor: KSTK, Lucy Robinson

**FIREWORKS Starting at dusk (usually about 11 p.m.)**

The fireworks will be shot off from the baseball fields, and can be watched from the covered play area / track behind Evergreen Elementary School. A couple of fireworks will be shot off to signal that the main display will begin in approximately 10 minutes.

Presented by: Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department.

## SUNDAY, JULY 4

**INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN RUN/WALK/BIKE Register at 7 a.m. Race begins at 7:30 a.m.**

No entry fee.  
Sponsored by: Wrangell Parks & Recreation.  
www.wrangellrec.com or call 874-2444

**INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE: 9 a.m.**  
Wrangell IGA parking lot.  
Chairpersons: Wrangell Ministerial Association.

**PIE SALE Starting in the morning — until pies are gone**

At the covered area by Arctic Chiropractic on Lynch Street. Chaired by Beta Sigma Phi and the WMC Foundation.

**4TH OF JULY PARADE 11 a.m. downtown.**

Theme: "Find Your Adventure"  
Participants should line up by the Nolan Center before 10 a.m. Entrants after 10 a.m. will not be judged, but may participate in the parade.  
Float categories: businesses/organizations, families, churches.  
Other parade entrants: motor bikes, ATVs, cars and trucks, bikes, best adult costume, best child's costume.  
First, second and third place cash prizes for each category.  
Chairperson: Keeleigh Solverson



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Rowen Wiederspohn was the smiling winner of the greased pole competition at the 2019 Fourth of July.

**ROYALTY TICKET DRAWING: After the parade.**

In front of the Nolan Center. Prizes are \$2,500 cash for first, \$1,500 for second, and \$1,000 for third.

**ELKS LODGE EVENTS & BEER GARDEN Events starting after the parade**  
Horseshoe tournament registration at 1:15 p.m.; competition starts at 1:30 p.m. New York steaks, 4 to 8 p.m. No reservations

**WRANGELL LOGGING SHOW Sign up at 12:30 p.m. Show begins at 1 p.m. City Dock.**

Open to ages 18 and up. Entry fee \$30 total for all events. A waiver of responsibility must be signed before participating. Prizes for each event: First, \$75; second, \$50, third, \$25.  
Chairperson: Thomas Roland and crew.

**JUNIOR OLYMPICS: 12:30 p.m. On Lynch Street.**

Open to ages 4 to 8 years old. Water-balloon toss, tug-o-war, 50-yard dash. Cash prizes.  
Chairperson: White Enterprises

**TODDLER GAMES: 1 p.m. City Hall lawn.**

For infants to 3 years old.

**EGG TOSS: 2 p.m. Front Street**

Special categories to be announced. Cash prizes, plus drink chips for adults 21 years and older.  
Chaired by: Darian Gerald, Meissner and Ottesen Families

**BOAT RACES: 4:30 p.m. City Dock.**

Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. Zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol.  
Chaired by: Stikine River Rats Racing



PHOTO BY BELLA CROWLEY

Lee Wiederspohn sent Jared Gross into the water in the log rolling competition at the 2019 Fourth of July celebration.



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# Police report

**Monday, June 21**

Agency assist: Harbor Department.  
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for lumber hanging off the vehicle and into the other lane of traffic.  
 Lost property.  
 Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.  
 Traffic hazard: Verbal warning given to children throwing rocks at passing vehicles.  
 Welfare check.  
 Harassment: Verbal only.  
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for headlight out.

**Tuesday, June 22**

Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.  
 Agency assist: American Legion.  
 Parking complaint: Unfounded.  
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.  
 Agency assist: U.S. Forest Service.  
 Motor vehicle accident: Property damage.  
 Dog at large.  
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.  
**Wednesday, June 23**  
 Inmate incident.  
 Agency assist: Alaska State

Troopers.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Animal complaint.  
 Intoxicated person.  
**Thursday, June 24**  
 Found property.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

**Friday, June 25**

Agency assist: Public Works.  
 Agency Assist: Fire.  
 Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.  
 Dog at large.  
 Assault.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.

**Saturday, June 26**

Traffic stop: Citation issued for failure to provide proof of insurance.  
 Traffic stop.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Subpoena service.  
 Traffic stop.  
 Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.

**Sunday, June 27**

Agency assist: Harbor Department.  
 Disturbance.  
 Agency assist: Ambulance.  
 Traffic stop.

## Fly-fisher

**Continued from page 1**

you don't have a lot of gears and you don't have a lot of this fancy mechanization that's associated with a lot of conventional fishing."

Rivers started making his own flies about 12 years ago in Fairbanks. What sets his flies apart from others that people can buy online or in a store is that his are built to last, he said.

He compares it to a chef making food at a restaurant. A good chef would never serve something he or she wouldn't eat themselves, and he won't make a fly that he wouldn't be willing to fish with.

He also credits his time managing a fly and tackle shop in Fairbanks for giving him a good education in tackle building, as well as a friend who mentored him, Scott Murdock.

"I started tying flies and I started showing my friends, and we started to fish with a lot of my stuff and everybody's like, 'Oh, you do some really nice stuff. You should start thinking about tying professionally.' ... He (Murdock) actually cured me of a lot of bad habits, he really set in stone some really good basics."

Fly-fishing uses different cast-



**Jason Rivers**

ing techniques than other types of fishing, with lures that mimic insects or other small creatures fish might try to eat. Fly-fishing is kind of a niche market in Wrangell, Rivers said, but he's had lots of encouragement from friends.

He was getting Wrangell Fly and Tackle up and running right as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which was a challenge. But he sees his business as something of a personal calling. He wants to share his interests with others and get them interested, too.

It's about getting people back to using their hands and really learning a skill. "It's just kind of you, and the rod and the fish," he said. "That's always what has intrigued me, and there's always that challenge."



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Patience and practice

**Nate Rooney (left) practices his casting with help from Jason Rivers at the annual Family Fishing Day last Saturday at Pats Lake. Rivers, who taught kids and adults the basics of fly-fishing, was among several volunteers who helped out at the event, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. The Wrangell Cooperative Association and Stikine Sportsmen Association also participated.**

## Effort underway to bring back Coast Guard Auxiliary

By LARRY PERSILY  
*Sentinel writer*

It's been about 25 years since Wrangell had a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary detachment — and Liz Bunes wants to bring it back.

She thought about the need while she was working aboard the state ferries for 16 years, vowing "when I retire, maybe that'll happen."

Bunes, who retired from the Alaska Marine Highway System as a chief purser in 2019, talked with Coast Guard auxiliary officials, took the classes required for auxiliary membership, and now serves as part of the Ketchikan flotilla in Wrangell. She decided this summer is a good time to start the effort toward building Wrangell's own detachment to provide voluntary vessel inspections, safety classes and other services.

"There are people who have expressed interest," she said last Friday. "It makes it a safer place for everybody to boat."

The commander of the Juneau auxiliary, David Larkin, will be in Wrangell on July 14-15 to meet with anyone interested in joining the effort to build a detachment in town, Bunes said.

Larkin is tentatively scheduled to meet with the public at 1 p.m. July 14 at the covered area in front of the library. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Anyone interested can contact Bunes at wrangellliz@outlook.com, or call 907-305-0014.

Though members of the Ketchikan flotilla come to Wrangell twice a year to conduct boat safety checks, they have time only for commercial vessels, Bunes said.

In addition to conducting safety checks of commercial and also recreational boats — which can save a boater from a Coast Guard boarding at sea to confirm safety equipment — an auxiliary helps out by inspecting navigational aids in the area, Bunes said.

"That's one of the things they would really like us to do," saving the Coast Guard from the chore so that it can handle other duties. Auxiliary members who boat to navigational lights to check on their condition can be reimbursed for fuel and provisions, Bunes said.

Congress established the auxiliary in 1939. Nationwide, there are about 26,000 auxiliary members in 825 local units, according to the organization's website.

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<b>Pulmonology</b>	<b>August 18-20 September 13-16</b>	<b>907-228-7649</b>
<b>Urology</b>	<b>August 16-20 September 13-17</b>	<b>907-225-7346</b>



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# U.S. will investigate past oversight of Native boarding schools

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN  
The Associated Press

The federal government will investigate its past oversight of Native American boarding schools and work to “uncover the truth about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences” of policies that over the decades forced hundreds of thousands of children from their families and communities, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced June 22.

The unprecedented work will include compiling and reviewing records to identify past boarding schools, locate known and possible burial sites at or near those schools, and uncover the names and tribal affiliations of students, she said.

“To address the intergenerational impact of Indian boarding schools and to promote spiritual

and emotional healing in our communities, we must shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past no matter how hard it will be,” Haaland said.

A member of New Mexico’s Laguna Pueblo and the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary, Haaland outlined the initiative while addressing members of the National Congress of American Indians during the group’s midyear conference.

She said the process will be long, difficult and painful and will not undo the heartbreak and loss endured by many families.

Starting with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the U.S. enacted laws and policies to establish and support Indian boarding schools across the nation. For over 150 years, Indige-

nous children were taken from their communities and forced into boarding schools that focused on assimilation.

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs operated three vocational boarding schools in Alaska in the 1920s, then opened the Wrangell Institute in 1932 and Mt. Edgecumbe School at Sitka in 1947.

Thousands of Alaska Native students were also sent to BIA schools in Oregon and Oklahoma, Juneau public radio station KTOO reported. Other Alaska boarding schools were operated by churches.

Some former students say they had a choice of schools and report positive experiences. Many others tell of beatings and other dehumanizing practices, KTOO reported.

Haaland talked about the

federal government’s attempt to wipe out tribal identity, language and culture and how that past has continued to manifest itself through long-standing trauma, cycles of violence and abuse, premature deaths, mental health issues and substance abuse.

The recent discovery of children’s remains buried at the site of what was once Canada’s largest Indigenous residential school has magnified interest in the troubling legacy both in Canada and the United States.

In Canada, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and were not allowed to speak their languages. Many were beaten and

verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

After reading about the unmarked graves in Canada, Haaland recounted her own family’s story in a recent opinion piece published by the Washington Post.

Haaland cited statistics from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, which reported that by 1926, more than 80% of Indigenous school-age children were attending boarding schools that were run either by the federal government or religious organizations.

Besides providing resources and raising awareness, the coalition has been working to compile additional research on U.S. boarding schools and deaths that many say is sorely lacking.

Interior Department officials said aside from trying to shed more light on the loss of life at the boarding schools, they will be working to protect burial sites associated with the schools and will consult with tribes on how best to do that while respecting families and communities.

As part of the initiative, a final report from agency staff is due by April 1, 2022.

Chuck Hoskin Jr., principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma, which had about 80 boarding schools, called the announcement encouraging and said anything that can be done to address those “troubling chapters of history” is a positive thing.

“I hope we don’t discover gruesome incidents like were discovered in Canada. I just think it’s good in this country to have conversations about what happened to Native American children,” Hoskin said.

Navajo Nation President Nez also offered his support for the initiative, noting discrimination against Native Americans continues today on many fronts — from voter suppression to high numbers of missing and murdered people.

This is not the first time the federal government has attempted to acknowledge what Haaland referred to as a “dark history.”

More than two decades ago, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Gover issued an apology for the emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual violence committed against children at the off-reservation schools. Then in 2009, President Barack Obama quietly signed off on an apology of sorts that was buried deep in a multibillion-dollar defense spending bill; the language had been watered down from the original legislation introduced years earlier.

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# Former 2-term Alaska senator Gravel dies at 91

SEASIDE, Calif. (AP) — Mike Gravel, who served as a U.S. senator from Alaska 1969-1981 and who read the anti-Vietnam War Pentagon Papers into the Congressional Record, has died. He was 91.

Gravel died last Saturday, according to his daughter, Lynne Mosier. Gravel had been living in Seaside, California, and was in failing health, said Theodore W. Johnson, a former aide.

Gravel's two terms came during tumultuous years for Alaska when construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline was authorized and when Congress was deciding how to settle Alaska Native land claims and whether to classify enormous amounts of federal land as parks, preserves and monuments.

He had the unenviable position of being an Alaska Democrat when some residents were burning President Jimmy Carter in effigy for his measures to place large sections of public lands in the state under protection from development.

Gravel feuded with

Continued on page 11

## CLASSIFIED/ LEGALS

### FREE ADVERTISING

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

### HELP WANTED

ROBERTS CONSTRUCTION is looking for carpenters and laborers. Pay DOE \$25-\$45 an hour. Call Doug at 425-785-9283.

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an application to lease Borough-owned property near the landfill site for the purpose of constructing a cell phone tower has been received from Vertical Bridge.

The Wrangell Planning & Zoning Commission has reviewed this request and has also approved a Conditional-Use Permit for the proposed purpose. The Planning & Zoning Commission has submitted their approval to move forward. It is not a requirement that the Port Commission review the application, since the subject property is in not on tidelands.

Any person wishing to protest this application to lease the proposed Borough-owned property described as Lot 14, Block 5, USS 2127 (Landfill Area Site for use of a cell transmission tower and fenced leased area), must file a written protest with the Borough Clerk, no later than 4 p.m. July 6, 2021.

Written protests may be emailed to clerk@wrangell.com or delivered to 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, AK 99929. Any such protest shall state the reason(s) for the protest in detail.

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

Publish June 17, 24, and July 1, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID

#### Shoemaker Harbor Boat Grid Electrical Improvements

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for Boat Grid Electrical Improvements for the Shoemaker Harbor Replacement project.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or delivered to the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time July 8, 2021.

Complete bidding/contract documents for this project are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish June 24 and July 1, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell 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 1003 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 retroactively from May 26, 2021, and granting authorization to take actions necessary to protect public health during the emergency through September 30, 2021.

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

Publish July 1, 2021

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID Shoemaker Harbor Net Float Replacement

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of one 26-foot by 75-foot Net Float for the Shoemaker Harbor Replacement project. The work consists of all activities necessary to construct and deliver the float structure as described in the contract documents. The Borough's estimate for the float is approximately \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or delivered to the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time July 8, 2021.

Complete bidding/contract documents for this project are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish June 24 and July 1, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.080, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the month and shall begin at 6 p.m.

If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular assembly meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at city hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7 p.m.

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

Publish July 1, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL INVITATION TO BID

#### Shoemaker Harbor Net Float and Hardware Package

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of a Net Float Lumber and Hardware Package for the Shoemaker Harbor Replacement project.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or delivered to the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2 p.m. prevailing time July 8, 2021.

Complete bidding/contract documents for this project are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the Borough's website, www.wrangell.com, under the Bids and RFP's section.

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish June 24 and July 1, 2021

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Publish July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021

# Alaska Native corporations win access to CARES Act funds

By JESSICA GRESKO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled June 25 that Alaska Native corporations should benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in disputed coronavirus relief funds, rather than be denied access and the money instead spread among Native American tribes around the U.S.

The justices ruled 6-3 in the case, which involved the massive pandemic relief package passed last year and signed into law by then-President Donald Trump. The \$2.2 trillion legislation earmarked \$8 billion for "Tribal governments" to cover expenses related to the pandemic.

The federal government had set aside approximately \$500 million for Alaska Native regional and village corporations under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

But after the CARES Act was passed, three groups of Native American tribes sued to prevent payments to Alaska Native corporations. They argued that under the language of the law, only federally recognized tribes qualify for the aid, and Alaska Native corporations (ANCs) do not qualify because they are not sovereign governments, as tribes are.

The question for the court was whether the corporations, which are for-profit companies that provide benefits and so-

cial services to more than 100,000 Alaska Natives, count as "Indian tribes." The high court answered yes.

"The Court today affirms what the Federal Government has maintained for almost half a century: ANCs are Indian tribes," wrote Justice Sonia Sotomayor for a group of both liberal and conservative members of the court.

The case is important not only because of the amount of money it involves but also because Native Americans and Alaska Natives have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Both the Trump and Biden administrations agreed that the Alaska corporations should be treated as Indian tribes and that doing differ-

ently would be a dramatic departure from the status quo.

In a statement after the ruling, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez said the coalition of tribes that brought the lawsuit to stop the payments to Alaska corporations was disappointed.

"This case was never about the funds. Instead, it was about upholding tribal sovereignty and the status of federally recognized tribes," he said, adding that the ruling "undermines federally recognized tribes and will have consequences far beyond the allocation of CARES Act dollars."

Part of the issue for the court was that Alaska is unique. Unlike in the Lower 48 states, Alaska Native tribes are not situated on reservations. Instead, Native land is owned by the regional and village corporations created under the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The for-profit corporations run oil, gas, mining and other enterprises.

Alaska Natives own shares in the regional corporations, such as Sealaska Corp. in Southeast Alaska, which provide a range of services from health care and elder care to educational support and housing assistance.

The ANCSA Regional Association and Alaska Native Village Corporation Association cheered the decision.

"We are pleased to see the Court affirm Alaska Native corporations' eligibility for CARES Act funds to help our people and communities recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19. Alaska's economy is only now starting to recover, and these funds are needed to help our communities get back on their feet," the associations said.

## Portland melts under record 116 degrees

SEATTLE (AP) - The hottest day of an unprecedented and dangerous heat wave scorched the Pacific Northwest on Monday, with temperatures obliterating records that had been set just the day before.

Seattle hit 108 degrees Fahrenheit by evening. Portland reached 116 on Monday after hitting records of 108 on Saturday and 112 on Sunday.

The temperatures were unheard of in a region better known for rain, and where June has historically been referred to as "Juneuary" for its cool drizzle. Seattle's average high temperature in June is around 70, and fewer than half of the city's residents have air conditioning, according to U.S. Census data.

The heat forced schools and businesses to close to protect workers and guests, including some places like outdoor pools and ice cream shops where people seek relief from the heat. COVID-19 testing sites and mobile vaccination units were out of service as well.

The Seattle Parks Department closed one indoor community pool after the air inside became too hot — leaving Stanlie James, who relocated from

Arizona three weeks ago, to search for somewhere else to cool off. She doesn't have AC at her condo, she said.

"Part of the reason I moved here was not only to be near my daughter, but also to come in the summer to have relief from Arizona heat," James said. "And I seem to have brought it with me. So I'm not real thrilled."

The heat wave was caused by what meteorologists described as a dome of high pressure over the Northwest and worsened by human-caused climate change, which is making such extreme weather events more likely and more intense.

The blistering heat exposed a region with infrastructure not designed for it, hinting at the greater costs of climate change to come. Blackouts were reported throughout the region as people trying to keep cool with fans and air conditioners strained the power grid.

"We are not meant for this," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said in an interview Monday on MSNBC. "This is the beginning of a permanent emergency ... we have to tackle the source of this prob-

lem, which is climate change."

In Portland, light rail and street car service was suspended as power cables melted and electricity demand spiked.

Heat-related expansion caused road pavement to buckle or pop loose in many areas, including on Interstate 5 in Seattle. Workers in tanker trucks in Seattle were hosing down drawbridges with water at least twice a day to prevent the steel from expanding in the heat and interfering with their opening and closing mechanisms.

Alaska Airlines said it was providing "cool down vans" for its workers at Seattle-Tacoma and Portland international airports, where temperatures on the ramp can be 20 degrees higher than elsewhere.

The heat wave stretched into the Canadian province of British Columbia, with the temperature in the village of Lytton reaching 115 on Sunday afternoon, marking an all-time high recorded in Canada.

The heat was heading east, where temperatures in Boise, Idaho, were expected to top 100 for at least seven days starting Monday.

## Former senator

Continued from page 10

Alaska's other senator, Republican Ted Stevens, on the land matter, preferring to fight Carter's actions and rejecting Stevens' advocacy for a compromise.

In the end, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, a compromise that set aside millions of acres for national parks, wildlife refuges and other protected areas. It was one of the last bills Carter signed before leaving office.

Gravel's Senate tenure also was notable for his anti-war activity. In 1971, he led a one-man filibuster to protest the Vietnam-era draft and he read into the Congressional Record 4,100 pages of the 7,000-page leaked document known as the Pentagon Papers, the Defense Department's history of the country's early involvement in Vietnam.

Gravel reentered national politics decades after his time in the Senate to twice run for president. Gravel, then 75, and his wife, Whitney, took public transportation in 2006 to announce he was running for president as a Democrat in the 2008 election won by Barack Obama.

He launched his quest for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination as a critic of the Iraq war.

"I believe America is doing harm every day our troops remain in Iraq — harm to ourselves and to the prospects for peace in the world," Gravel said in 2006. He hitched his campaign to an effort that would give all policy decisions to the people through a direct vote, including health care reform and declarations of war.

Gravel garnered attention for his fiery comments at Democratic forums.

In one 2007 debate, the issue of the possibility of using nuclear weapons against Iran came up, and Gravel confronted then-Sen. Obama. "Tell me, Barack, who do you want to nuke?" Gravel said. Obama replied: "I'm not planning to nuke anybody right now, Mike."

Gravel then ran as a Libertarian candidate after he was excluded from later Democratic debates. In an email to supporters, he said the Democratic Party "no longer represents my vision for our great country." "It is a party that continues to sustain war, the military-industrial complex and imperialism — all of which I find anathema to my views," he said.

He failed to get the Libertarian nomination.

Gravel briefly ran for the Democratic nomination for president in 2020. He again criticized American wars and vowed to slash military spending. His last campaign was notable in that both his campaign manager and chief of staff were just 18 at the time of his short-lived candidacy.

"There was never any ... plan that he would do anything more than participate in the debates. He didn't plan to campaign, but he wanted to get his ideas before a larger audience," Johnson said.

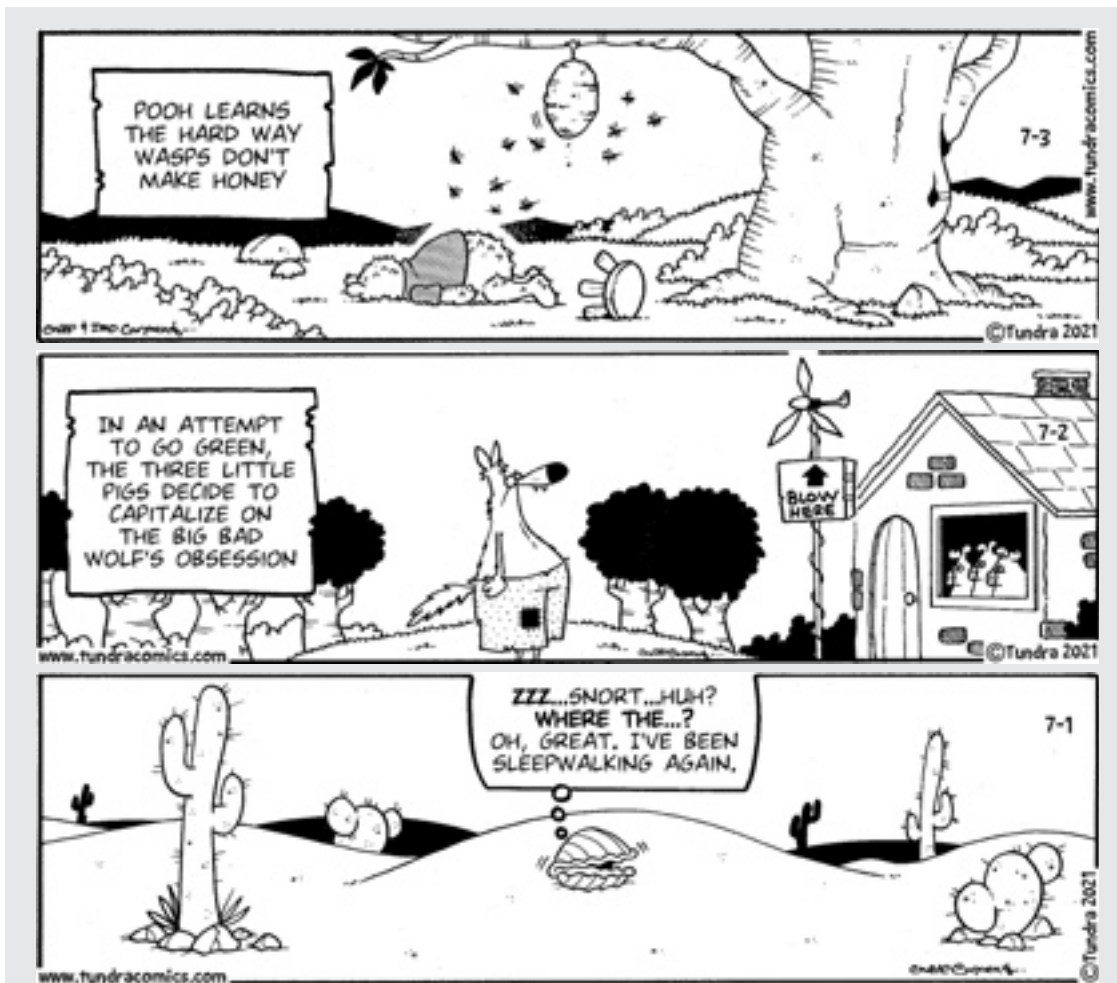
Gravel failed to qualify for the debates. He endorsed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the contest eventually won by now-President Joe Biden.

Gravel was born Maurice Robert Gravel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 13, 1930.

In Alaska, he served as a state representative, including a stint as House speaker, in the mid-1960s.

He won his first Senate term after defeating incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening, a former territorial governor, in the 1968 Democratic primary.

Gravel served two terms until he was defeated in the 1980 Democratic primary by Gruening's grandson, Clark Gruening, who lost the election to Republican Frank Murkowski.



# Fiscal battle continues

Continued from page 1

with electricity bills in high-cost rural communities and college scholarships for more than 5,400 Alaska students. Both programs are funded from accounts that no longer will exist at the start of the fiscal year.

Lawmakers could restore the special accounts for the utility assistance plan — known as the Power Cost Equalization program — and the scholarship payments if they can assemble a three-quarters majority vote in both the House and Senate next month.

They also could vote to withdraw additional money from the Permanent Fund to boost the dividend, which usually is paid out the first week of October, though much of the Senate leadership and the House majority coalition oppose exceeding the fund's annual withdrawal limit to pay a larger dividend.

Just as advocates of a larger dividend strongly believe it would be OK to withdraw more from the fund, which has earned strong returns on its investments this year, opponents of such a move contend that overdrawing the fund for short-term benefits would damage the long-term health and earnings potential of the state's largest savings account.

The regular legislative session ended May 19, with the governor calling lawmakers immediately into special session to complete the state budget, which they did — but without the start date of July 1, which passed in the Senate but failed in the House as the Republican minority pushed for consideration of other fiscal issues as part of a deal.

Dunleavy called them into another special session in late

June to resolve the effective-date provision of the budget bill, and enough House Republicans voted with the Democrat-led majority on Monday to adopt the start date and avoid a government shutdown.

Lawmakers will be back in session on Aug. 2. The governor has called them to Juneau one more time to work on his ideas for a long-term fiscal plan and to debate the size of the dividend.

Alaska has been taking money out of various savings accounts for most of the past 30 years to cover public services and the dividend and, other than the Permanent Fund itself, those other accounts are near empty, forcing legislators and their constituents to confront the choices: Smaller PFDs, more budget cuts, taxes, or a combination of all three.

Dunleavy has proposed a constitutional amendment to set a spending limit; a constitutional amendment to prohibit new state taxes without voter approval; an amendment to put the PFD into the constitution and dedicate half of the annual withdrawal to dividends; and "potential measures to increase state

revenues," though he has offered no specific tax proposals.

The governor's 10-year budget plan assumes almost \$500 million in additional spending cuts over the next several years — equal to more than 10% of general fund spending on public services — though he has provided no specifics on what should be cut.

Without deep spending cuts, and depending on oil prices, the state budget would be short about \$1 billion a year if lawmakers adopt the governor's overall plan, which would generate a PFD of close to \$2,400 a year, more than double the average of the past 10 years.

The size of the dividend has become an annual political hot-button, particularly among lawmakers who would prefer to cut the budget for services in favor of a larger dividend.

To help prepare for the August special session, the House on Monday voted to call for creation of a House-Senate working group to make recommendations on a "comprehensive fiscal plan" for the special session.

Senate President Peter Mic-

ciche said considerable work still remains this year and that "very few" in the Legislature are satisfied with the lower dividend amount.

Legislative leaders have indicated they share Dunleavy's stated interest in finding a

long-term solution to the dividend. But what that may look like and what other pieces of a fiscal plan might go with that are yet to be decided.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

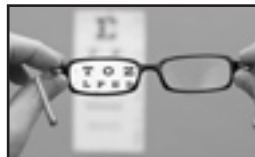
## Celebration of Life for Sig & Helen: Thank You, Wrangell ♥

*The Celebration of Life for Sig and Helen Decker was held in Wrangell on May 28-30, 2021. It was truly a time of celebration and healing, and meant a tremendous amount to so many of Sig and Helen's friends & family. Events like this cannot happen without the help of many.*

Gig & Julie would like to thank everyone in the community for attending & providing food. We would also like to give a special thanks to the following: Lucy Robinson (lead organizer, aka Da Boss); Vicki Buness-Taylor, Janell Privett & Sam Prysunka (food organizers); all the set-up & clean-up crews (you know who you are); Leslie Cummins & crew (memorial candle decorators); Kayla Hay (live music organizer) & other musicians; John Taylor (impromptu lead singer); the Millers/Warfels (you know why); reduced or free charter services by—Alaska Charters & Adventures, Breakaway Adventures, Summit Charters, and Alaska Waters; reduced or free lodging by—Grand View Bed & Breakfast, Stikine Inn, Alaska Charters & Adventures, Mt. Dewey Sunset Bed & View, the Gladsjos, Odile Meister & Kenny Lewis; cooking services by Stikine Inn & Restaurant (Jake Harris); air miles donated by Odile Meister and Susan Ohmer; totes & ice from Pacific Seafoods; construction services for Banana Point Memorial donated by—Reid Brothers Construction, Concrete Connections and Doug Roberts Construction; herding cats by Mike Schwartz; donation of prop & skiff shaft by Garret Miller, Dave Miller & families; support for Banana Point memorial by Petersburg Borough Assembly, Manager & Rep. JKT.



## WRANGELL EYE CARE PRISM OPTICAL OF ALASKA



### VISITING EYE DOCTOR EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

*Eye exams, contact lenses & fashionable eyewear*

Local Eye Care you can count on! Prism is proud to announce a visiting optometrist will be coming to Wrangell every month to assist with your eye care and optical needs. Our new office is conveniently located at **106 Lynch St, Suite C1** (next to the Wrangell Sentinel, across from Stikine Drug). Come in for a free eyeglass adjustment and tune-up.

For an eye exam appointment or questions, please call us at: 1-800-701-3999 or schedule online at [www.PrismBooking.com/Wrangell](http://www.PrismBooking.com/Wrangell)

## Police remind public of pet regulations

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

Wrangell is a dog-friendly town. With easy access to the outdoors and places to explore, exercise and play, the island is a dog's paradise. However, the Wrangell Police Department wants people to remember there are rules when it comes to their pets.

With the warmer weather, Chief Tom Radke said they are seeing more people just letting their dogs wander free, and they have seen an uptick in phone calls complaining about loose dogs.

"You just can't let your dog outside without being with your dog, and the dog's on a leash," he said.

Municipal regulations require that pets are supposed to be up-to-date on their vaccinations, not be a nuisance, and be on a leash except when in designated "off-leash areas."

In a Facebook post, the police reminded the public that the city's ordinances related to dogs are available online at <https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Wrangell/>, under Chapter 7.08.

**City Market and Sentry**  
 Would like to thank all our customers for your continued support over the last year!  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA**