

Superintendent Lancaster offers resignation

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's school board met Monday evening, Oct. 12. Among other business they discussed during the meeting, they accepted a letter of resignation from Superintendent Debbe Lancaster.



"There are several reasons for my resignation with one being that I would like to pursue a position in education in another district to be with my spouse."

-Debbe Lancaster

"There are several reasons for my resignation with one being that I would like to pursue a position in education in another district to be with my spouse," Lancaster wrote in her letter, dated Oct. 1. "I will work until the end of my contract and help the Wrangell Public



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

WCA passes out a ton of fish

The Wrangell Cooperative Association spent last Wednesday, Oct. 7, passing out over a ton of fish to tribal citizens. Tribal Administrator Esther Reese said that the WCA recently received a large donation of fish from several sources: Sealaska, Orca Bay Seafoods, and the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association. They received 2,000 pounds of coho salmon, Reese said, plus an additional 500 pounds of rockfish. They set up shop at the carving shed on Front Street to distribute the fish to tribal members. Pictured here (left to right) are Deanna Horner, Lizzy Romane, Esther Reese, Jana Wright, and Chris Kamal with some of the fish.

School Board and staff transition another superintendent for the School Year 2022. My last day will be June 30, 2021."

Lancaster was brought on as the WPSD superintendent in July of 2018. According to an April 2018 article in the Wrangell Sentinel, she came to Wrangell from Utqiagvik, where she worked as a program administrator for the North Slope Borough School

District. Her contract was for three years. There was some controversy concerning Lancaster recently, when she and other district staff members made an unannounced shopping trip to Juneau for COVID-19 mitigation supplies via chartered plane and ferry, without school board approval and against a district moratorium on travel.

The school board accepted

Lancaster's resignation, amending their motion to reflect an effective date of June 30, 2021. Multiple board members voiced their gratitude for her staying on until the end of her contract to help the district in its transition.

"I thank you, Superintendent Lancaster, for doing this in a timely manner," Aaron Angerman said. "I know it was probably really hard to do so.

It'll help us start our steps to find a replacement, and I'm happy that you're staying on to finish out your contract for the stability of the school year in very unstable times."

"In a meeting, recently, with Dr. Lancaster she said she is still totally committed to finishing out, and going out with a bang, doing as much as she can," David Wilson added. "I appreciate that attitude and that work ethic, that she's going to just push and do as much as she can to keep our district going to the best she's able to."

Wrangell district policy outlines some qualifications for the superintendent position. The document, dated February of this year, reads that a successful superintendent candidate will be expected to guide the district through implementation of a new strategic plan and curriculum mapping, among other projects. Other qualifications listed include grant writing or grant management experience, prior experience as a director or school administrator, strong communication skills and the ability to hold a Type B administrative certificate with a superintendent endorsement.

The Wrangell Sentinel reached out to Lancaster for comment, but she did not respond as of press time.

Assembly approves final election results

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held a special meeting last Thursday, Oct. 8, to certify the final election results from Oct. 6. Following a Canvass board meeting to review preliminary election results, it was found that a total of 483 ballots were cast and counted this election cycle, 419 on election day and 64 absentee.

Steve Prysunka was re-elected to mayor for another two-year term. Anne Morrison and Ryan Howe were re-elected to the assembly for three-year terms. Terry Courson was elected to a one-year unexpired term on the assembly. Gary Morrison was re-elected to the port commission for three years. Laura Ballou was elected to the school board for three years. Wrangell voters also decided in favor of Proposition

Continued on page 2



Terry Courson



Laura Ballou

Election results

Continued from page 1

One, which would remove Wrangell from the Inter-island Ferry Authority.

"We're up 3 percent this year from last year, in voter turnout," Borough Clerk Kim Lane said. "We had 485 total people vote, we had 1,981 registered voters. That's up 40 from last year, which I'm very pleased about. So our voter turnout was 24 percent, last year it was 21 percent."

There were some ballots that

were not counted in this election, explained Lane. There were two ballots that were cast on election day that were not counted, she said, as the two voters were not registered in Wrangell. She went on to say that there were an additional nine mail-in ballots she sent out that were not returned, and another five ballots that were spoiled. Lane also said that there were 199 ballots that were not used at all.

After certifying the election results, the assembly also took a moment to recognize several outgoing elected officials. These include Bob Dalrymple, who served on the borough assembly, Port Commissioner Mark Mitchell, and school board members Beth Heller and Jeanie Arnold.

"It's so nice, in a country where we seem to be so divided, that our hometown can come together and do it [vote], and do it well, and get it done, and we can have a really high-quality election," Prysunka said.

On the right is a list of the finalized election results. Winners are denoted by an asterisk (*).

The final election results

MAYOR,
ONE TWO-YEAR TERM:
*Steve Prysunka, 359
Write-ins, 58
BOROUGH ASSEMBLY,
TWO THREE-YEAR TERMS:
*Ryan Howe, 274
Jennifer Jackson, 217
*Anne Morrison, 332
Write-ins, 5
BOROUGH ASSEMBLY,
ONE ONE-YEAR TERM:
*Terry Courson, 276
Bob Dalrymple, 185

SCHOOL BOARD,
ONE THREE-YEAR TERM:
*Laura Ballou, 314
Constance Harris, 131
Write-ins, 6
PORT COMMISSION,
ONE THREE-YEAR TERM:
*Gary Morrison, 422
Write-ins, 10
PORT COMMISSION,
ONE TWO-YEAR TERM:
Write-ins, 51
PROPOSITION NO. 1:
*Yes, 280
No, 177

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, October 15: Amanda Kalkins, *Anniversary:* Kenny & Mariah Speers. **Friday, October 16:** Bonnie Dermerjian, Leslie Kagee, Craig Villarma. **Saturday, October 17:** Ann Benson, Rachel Angerman, Charles Meissner, Sr., Jonathan Bates, *Anniversary:* Fred & Sumi Angerman. **Sunday, October 18:** Mikee Lockabey, Kevin Neyman, Cyni Cray, Ian Bunes. **Monday, October 19:** Duncan, Marco Garcia, Lee Byrd, Jr., Rob Davidson, Sr., Paula Wickman, Rian Guggenbickler, *Anniversary:* Chris & Jodie Guggenbickler. **Tuesday, October 20:** Stephen Peabody, Tony Guggenbickler. **Wednesday, October 21:** Darlene Berglof, Debrah Johnson, King Sanders, Alexis Rifenburg. **Thursday, October 22:** Kelley Decker, Sandy Massin, Chris Barnett, Verity Waddington, Mason Villarma, Nicole Taylor.

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

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, October 15

Secondary Advisory Committee Meeting: 6:00pm, WHS Teacher's workroom.

Monday, October 19

School Board Work Session: 6:30pm, Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 932 6754 7215. Passcode: 376651 zoom.us/j/93267547215?pwd=QVJ0NDhJdzg5SGc2QzFEaVE1cHZPUT09.

Jury duty for October. 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.

October 14, 1920

Advertising in the Sentinel pays. For instance, Ed Grigwire this week received an order from U. G. Parks of Newark, Ohio, for a Wisconsin motor to be delivered to him at Wrangell next Spring. Mr. Parks stated in his letter to Mr. Grigwire that he saw his advertisement in the Sentinel. Mr. Parks is a retired tailor. Two years ago he spent the summer in Wrangell putting in most of his time with Charles Borch on Snake Creek. He liked the North so well that he is coming back next year.

October 12, 1945

Alvin T. Nelson, M.D., today issued a statement regarding the recent outbreak of respiratory diseases which has reached serious proportions in Wrangell. The doctor's statement follows: "The condition in Wrangell has involved probably 35 percent of the total population and probably 70 percent of the smaller kiddies, it is serious from the standpoint of public health prophylaxis as well as that of the individual... To the public certain things are important. First, to be aware of the gravity of the situation and second, to be advised as to what to do. The first statement is self-explanatory and because of this part of the treatment is with this in mind. The best way to care for it is (a) with the first symptoms, i.e., muscle aches, pains, 'sniffles', headaches, put the patient to bed. (b) Check temperature three times daily -- morning, mid-afternoon and evening. Keep patient in bed for 2 days after

temperature is normal and up in the house for one day with normal temperature. (c) Force fluids, that is, give a full glass of liquid every hour while awake, for adults and a half a glass for children. This is important for two standpoints, as previously pointed out: Individual and public health welfare.

October 15, 1970

A French company is digging around this week at Groundhog Basin, Humble Oil Co., cleared out after spending the summer seeking something worthwhile there (many said it was copper, but Humble wasn't talking), The French firm has not started a big operation, just some preliminary digs, apparently to see if the Humble experts overlooked anything. Can you imagine what a big mineral strike would mean to Wrangell? Wooosh, new houses, new businesses and

new faces.

October 12, 1995

Each time he directs his skill to a new cutting tool, Christopher A. Cawthorne turns out a blade that is unique, with artistic talent showing through as clearly as it does through any oil painting or bronze sculpture. As do most knife makers, he began by using pieces of metal that were already blade thick, with cast off saw blades as a favorite. Cawthorne doesn't stop with just making a blade, although some of his knives feature only the tang shaped to a hang grip. In most cases he will also make a handle that feels comfortable to the grip and adds immeasurable beauty to the finished product. Other knives are more utilitarian and are used to field dress a deer or moose. "Form follows function," Cawthorne says.

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

Friday, October 16

Beef Stew, Spicy Fruit Cup, Roll.

Monday, October 19

Alaska Day, S.C. Closed

Tuesday, October 20

Macaroni Ham & Cheese, Green Salad, Steamed Vegetables.

Wednesdax, October 21

Chinese Fruited Pork w/Rice, Green Beans, Waldorf Salad.

Thursday, October 22

Baked Fish, Brussel Sprouts, Carrot Raisin Salad.

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

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

FERRY

Northbound

Monday, Oct. 19

Kennicott 01:45 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 2

Kennicott 01:00 p.m.

Southbound

Thursday, Oct. 15

Kennicott 04:45 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Kennicott 05:45 a.m.

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



TIDES

October 15 - October 22

High Tides

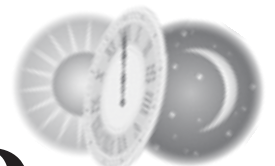
Low Tides

	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	PM Time	Ft
Oct. 15	00:04	12:31	17.1	06:09	06:35	-1.2	06:35	06:35	-1.4
Oct. 16	00:51	01:09	17.9	06:50	07:18	-1.5	07:18	07:18	-2.9
Oct. 17	01:38	01:48	18.2	07:30	08:00	-1.3	08:00	08:00	-3.7
Oct. 18	02:24	02:27	18.0	08:09	08:44	-0.7	08:44	08:44	-3.9
Oct. 19	03:10	03:08	17.2	08:50	09:29	0.4	09:29	09:29	-3.3
Oct. 20	03:59	03:51	16.0	09:33	10:18	1.8	10:18	10:18	-2.2
Oct. 21	04:52	04:39	14.6	10:21	11:13	3.3	11:13	11:13	-0.7
Oct. 22	05:54	05:37	13.3	11:17	...	4.8



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Oct. 05	56	48
Oct. 06	54	46
Oct. 07	46	44
Oct. 08	48	44
Oct. 09	49	45
Oct. 10	49	44
Oct. 11	49	45
Oct. 12	49	44



Daylight Hours

Oct. 15	7:19a	5:47p	10:28h
Oct. 16	7:21a	5:45p	10:24h
Oct. 17	7:23a	5:42p	10:19h
Oct. 18	7:25a	5:40p	10:15h
Oct. 19	7:27a	5:37p	10:10h
Oct. 20	7:29a	5:35p	10:06h
Oct. 21	7:31a	5:33p	10:02h
Oct. 22	7:33a	5:30p	09:57h

Judge dismisses Valvoda lawsuit against city

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

A lawsuit brought against the city by a Wrangell resident has come to a close, after Judge Kevin Miller dismissed the case. Kipha Valvoda brought a lawsuit against several former and current members of Wrangell's government in March of 2019.

An amended complaint was filed by the plaintiff in April 2019, but the lawsuit originally began in March of that year. Valvoda claimed the borough used unfair hiring practices that kept him from finding employment with the city. He also claimed, in his April amended complaint, that city officials violated the law to give preferential treatment to some potential hires and misused taxpayer money. Defendants in the lawsuit included former mayor David Jack, current mayor Steve Prysunka, several current and former assembly members, and other city employees.

"... I intend to expose the

pattern of waste of tax monies, of salaries that are in excess of abilities or experience," Valvoda wrote in his complaint. "I also contend that the hiring managers were lax in their due diligence and absent from their jobs while collecting an inflated salary."

The lawsuit was removed from the trial schedule on Aug. 10 of this year after the city's attorney, Joseph Levesque, filed a motion to dismiss. In this motion, Levesque claimed that Valvoda had failed to respond to the defense's discovery requests and did not provide any evidence "that his ongoing refusal to comply ... is not willful in nature." In his opposition to the motion to dismiss, Valvoda wrote that he only has limited knowledge of the law and court proceedings, while Wrangell has professional lawyers. He also accused the city of violating state and local laws, and of hiring incompetent people.

Judge Miller dismissed the case on Oct. 7, with prejudice.

In his order, he wrote that Valvoda willfully and repeatedly refused to respond to discovery requests, as well as to court orders to respond to the discovery requests. Furthermore, the order reads, his lack of participation in the proceedings of the case have made its continuation seem unlikely.

"Mr. Valvoda's willful failures to meaningfully participate in preparing this case for trial have resulted in substantial and unfair prejudice to the defendants," Miller wrote. "The Court has ordered Mr. Valvoda to comply and when he has not, the Court has twice sanctioned him. In the Court's last order, Mr. Valvoda was warned that continued failure to comply could result in dismissal. This case has been pending for a year and a half and the defense has expended considerable time and effort to move this case along. Because of Mr. Valvoda's refusal to comply with his obligations under the Civil Rules and Court orders, this case has not progressed and it is clear that it will not likely progress. As a result, the defense is entitled to have this litigation end."

During their meeting on Oct. 13, the borough assembly held an executive session to discuss the city filing a motion for attorney's fees and bill of costs in the Valvoda case. Half of the borough's costs for the lawsuit are covered by Alaska Public Entity Insurance, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen said in a previous interview, but half of costs from the lawsuit are still their responsibility.



FREE Flu Shot Clinic on 10/17

Protect your family from the flu!

SEARHC is helping protect your family from the flu this season by offering free drive-up flu shots at the Evergreen Elementary Parking Lot, October 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Shots will be available for ages 10 and older. No appointments necessary. Masks required.

Visit searhc.org/fluseason for more information.

Evergreen Elementary Parking Lot
Saturday, October 17
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Police report

- October 5**
Driving Complaint
Suicide Threat
Civil Issue
Citizen assist: Return Property
- Disturbance
- October 6**
Citizen assist: Vehicle Unlock
Disturbance
- October 7**
Courtesy Transport
Parking Complaint. Citation Issued to Christine Abrahamson, 45, for Parking on the Sidewalk.
Welfare Check
Parking Complaint
- October 8**
Paper Service
- October 9**
Stolen Firearm: Unfounded
- October 10**
Citizen Assist: Scam
Found Property
Agency Assist
Citizen Assist
Parking Complaint
- October 11**
Agency Assist: EDP
Noise Complaint: Fireworks
Suspicious Circumstance: Vehicle Alarm

During this reporting period there were four EMS calls, two traffic stops: verbal for no headlights, five agency assist: Hoonah PD and two traffic stops.

Obituaries: Roy James Guthrie Sr, 69



Roy James Guthrie Sr

Roy James Guthrie Sr. of Juneau passed away on October 10, 2020 in Wrangell after a brave and difficult battle with brain cancer.

He was born on July 17, 1951 in Metlakatla. He graduated from Kayhi in 1969.

He was an electrician by trade and had been working for Coeur Alaska's Kensington Mine for years up until his diagnosis. He loved his job and his many friends he made while working there. Roy was also an Army veteran, having served honorably for two tours of duty in Vietnam.

He enjoyed traveling and cruising the Caribbean but his favorite vacation spot was Las Vegas. He also loved nature and often found solace there. He was an avid outdoorsman and he loved hunting, fishing, and diving for subsistence foods. He would tell his family he needed to "go to the mountain" when he had something on his mind. He enjoyed carving and creating traditional Native art. Roy stoically faced challenges and drew strength from his spirituality and faith. He never turned down anyone in need.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Viola Guthrie.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Burley Guthrie, of Juneau; three sons Keston Morehouse and (Felicia) of Juneau, Roy Guthrie Jr. (Anna) of Klawock, and Isaac Guthrie of Ketchikan; two stepdaughters Briana Taylor (Dustin) of Texarkana, Arkansas, and Amber Hommel (Kyle) of Wrangell; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters

Verna Hudson, Cecelia Glasser and Janice Williams of Ketchikan; brothers Ralph (Sharon) Bolton of Wrangell, Floyd (Mary Ann) Guthrie of Anchorage, Clifford (Lenore) Guthrie and Jerry (Elma) Guthrie both from Ketchikan as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Roy's life will be held in Klawock at a later date yet to be determined

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James Hiebert, 86

James Hiebert, 86, passed away on September 24 in Newberry, Florida.

He taught his children to work and earn money also, by hiring them to help with his concrete and Chattahoochee jobs when they weren't in school.

After finishing high school, Jim moved to Wrangell, Alaska where he became a logger at his uncle's logging camp on Vank Island. Very soon, he met and married Bella. Eventually, he received a call from his cousin, Wayne Hiebert inviting him and his family down to the jungle of Colombia, South America to help with his sawmill. He moved his family to Colombia in 1968. While in the jungle, he was infected with an amoeba that apparently infected his brain causing memory issues, so he flew to Miami for treatment. His family followed several months later, and the children reached adulthood there.

He was preceded in death by former Wrangell resident, Bella Lauth Hiebert, his wife of 64 years.

He is survived by his four children: Duane, Floyd, Susan, and Gerald.



James Hiebert

VOTE

Dan ORTIZ

- SOUTHEAST INDUSTRIES FIRST
- RESPONSIBLE FISCAL SOLUTIONS
- REPRESENTATION AND RESPECT

FOR ALL OF DISTRICT 36

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Pumpkin Patch festival

Wrangell's annual pumpkin patch festival took place during tax free day last Saturday, Oct. 10. Families were invited to the downtown pavilion to pick out halloween pumpkins, buy food, and play games. Pictured here are Amura, Rory, and Kaiya Roher showing off their Star Wars costumes at the pumpkin patch.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

P&Z commission review proposed zone changes

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Planning and Zoning Commission met last Thursday evening, Oct. 8. During their meeting, they held a public hearing on a proposed zone change on city property.

"The City and Borough of Wrangell, in an effort to release lots for residential construction has proposed a subdivision for Lot 1, Block 35, USS 1119, creating 3 lots approximately 19,000 square feet each," reads the meeting's agenda packet.

The lot in question is currently zoned multi-family residential, but the city is looking to rezone it to single family residential. This would allow for single family dwellings or duplexes to be built on the property. The proposed lots are located at the intersection of Wrangell Avenue and Etolin Avenue, according to maps attached to the agenda packet. According to the packet, there were some concerns that keeping these lots with a multi-family zoning could create a safety hazard for the area. After some discussion, the commission recommended the lots be rezoned to single family residential.

The commission also approved a final plat for a subdivision and replat requested by Stephen Prunella, and a variance application request from Paul Zahorik. They also continued their ongoing discussion of the old Institute Property, but Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said no final decisions had been made yet.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Begin a tradition of prevention today.

SEARHC is honoring Breast Cancer Awareness month by offering mammograms with no out-of-pocket costs for patients who call in October to make an appointment.

Nothing should prevent you from being screened. No insurance? No problem. SEARHC will cover the entire cost of the service.

Please call 907.874.7000 to schedule.

 **SEARHC** | healthy is here.



Sentinel E-mail
wrgsent@gmail.com

Wrangell and Petersburg face off in first scrimmages

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Lady Wolves travelled to Petersburg last weekend for their first scrimmages of the season, against their school rivals. Coach Alyssa Allen said that they only travelled with six members of the team, via Breakaway Adventures. The players wore masks and followed a mitigation plan while visiting Petersburg, she added, to stay safe from COVID-19.

Shayna Shultz shared scores from the scrimmages to the WHS Volleyball Facebook page on Oct. 10. They played four games, in which Petersburg emerged victorious in all of them. The score from the first game was 9-25. The following three scrimmages were each 19-25, all Petersburg wins.

“Played the fourth game because we had extra time,” Schultz wrote. “The girls played hard and did pretty good, especially for having a last minute rotation switch up and only 6 girls going!”

“The girls played hard,” Allen said, echoing Schultz’s comment. According to a newsletter from the high school, the Lady Wolves will host their first home games of the season this Saturday, Oct. 17, against Craig. Details will be announced in the near future, the newsletter reads.



PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kiara Harrison (No. 10) spiking the ball over the net during their scrimmages against Petersburg.



PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Brodie Gardner (No. 3) hitting the ball during the Lady Wolves’ scrimmages against Petersburg.



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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Swim team competes in Petersburg

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's swim team travelled to Petersburg this past weekend for their second meet. This was their first meet this season where they travelled. The meet in Petersburg was held over two days, Oct. 9 and 10. Coach Jamie Roberts said that the first day of swimming was held virtually, but they travelled to Petersburg on Saturday. Petersburg wrote a six-page mitigation plan just for their one-hour meet, Roberts said, that she was impressed by.

They travelled to Petersburg via boat and met up with Wrangell's volleyball team for a bus ride into town. Every kid had their own seat, she said, and there were several rows between them and the volleyball team during the ride. During the swim meet, Wrangell and Petersburg swimmers each swam in their own designated lanes, Wrangell got their own locker room to change in, and whenever possible a lane was kept empty between swimmers in the pool.

"I have high standards for COVID mitigation and this was a well thought out plan," Roberts said.

Friday results:

Renee Roberts swam 25.94 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:06.89 in a 100-yard backstroke. Aaliyah Messmer swam 31.07 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:12.60 in a 100-yard freestyle. Ashleigh Loomis swam 33.27 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:14.31 in a 100-yard freestyle. Jack Roberts swam 25.84 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:15.33 in a 100-yard breaststroke. Jacob Allen swam 28.81 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:17.41 in a 100-yard backstroke. Tyson Messmer swam 27.93 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:06.27 in a 100-yard freestyle. Jimmy Baggen swam 25.84 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:16.58 in a 100-yard breaststroke. Bruce Smith swam 35.08 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:22.41 in a 100-yard freestyle. Nikolai Siekawitch swam 23.49 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:07.50 in a 100-yard breaststroke.



PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Aaliyah Messmer competing in last weekend's swim meet in Petersburg.

Jacob Allen, Jack Roberts, Jimmy Baggen, and Nikolai Siekawitch swam a combined 2:01.21 in a 200-yard medley relay. Tyson Messmer, Jimmy Baggen, Jack Roberts, and Nikolai Siekawitch swam a combined 1:46.31 in a 200-yard freestyle relay.

Saturday results:

Renee Roberts swam 25.83 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 56.66 in a 100-yard freestyle. Aaliyah Messmer swam 32.05 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 7:30.56 in a 500-yard freestyle. Ashleigh Loomis swam 32.97 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:13.89 in a 100-yard freestyle. Jack Roberts swam 25.42 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:14.57 in a 100-yard breaststroke. Jacob Allen swam 29.14 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:20.47 in a 100-yard backstroke. Tyson Messmer swam 28.28 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:06.18 in a 100-yard freestyle. Jimmy Baggen swam 25.79 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:15.89 in a 100-yard breaststroke. Bruce Smith swam 35.54 in a 50-yard freestyle, and 1:21.85 in a 100-yard

freestyle. Nikolai Siekawitch swam 57.96 in a 100-yard butterfly, and 1:09.28 in a 100-yard breaststroke.

Jacob Allen, Jack Roberts, Jimmy Baggen, and Nikolai Siekawitch swam a combined 1:59.45 in a 200-yard medley relay. Tyson Messmer, Jimmy Baggen, Jack Roberts, and Nikolai Siekawitch swam a combined 1:45.07 in a 200-yard freestyle relay.

Roberts said that while she had times for her swimmers, she had not yet received final results from Petersburg to know how they placed in the competition.

"The Petersburg coach & myself both felt that both teams really pushed themselves since they had someone else to race besides their own teammates," Roberts wrote in a Facebook message. "The majority of the team improved on their times from the last meet. For a couple of the swimmers, Petersburg was their first swim meet they have ever participated in - that is always a special moment."

Officers nominated, other appointments made in school board meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School Board held their first meeting since last week's election on Monday, Oct. 12. This was the first meeting for Laura Ballou, recently elected to the school board. The first order

of business was to nominate new officers for the board. Other appointments were also made.

School Board President Aaron Angerman was nominated back to his position as president. This was unanimously approved by the board. Patty Gilbert was

named school board vice-president, and David Wilson was named board secretary. Kiara Harrison, of Wrangell High School, was appointed as the alternate student representative to the board. Kim Powell was appointed as school board parlia-

mentarian.

A new school board member was appointed, as well. The school board had an empty seat to fill, even after the election, following the resignation of Beth Heller. The district received one letter of interest, from Wrangell resident Cyni Cray.

"It is with great pleasure that I express my interest in serving on the school board," Cray wrote in her letter. "I have previously served on the school board and have worked for the school district. I have two children currently attending WPSD, one in elementary school and one in middle school. I also have two children currently attending college who are graduates of Wrangell Public Schools... I consider myself to be very diplomatic and not afraid to ask questions. I am an advocate for our community and would work hard to ensure that decisions are carefully considered and are in the best interest of the district."

Cray was accepted by the board unanimously. She will sit on the school board until Octo-

ber of 2021.

A document outlining standing committee appointments for 2020-2021 was also accepted at the meeting. The budget/finance committee will be made up of Laura Ballou, Josh Blatchley, Katelyn Church, Bob Davis, Patty Gilbert, Debbe Lancaster, and Leeann Wiggins-Martin. The curriculum committee will be made up of Aaron Angerman, Jade Balansag, Katelyn Church, Cyni Cray, Kiara Harrison, Beth Heller, Bob Davis, Debbe Lancaster, and Kimberly Maenhout. The policy committee will be made up of Jeanie Arnold, Matt Kramer, Debbe Lancaster, Jim Nelson, Kim Powell, Dave Wilson, and Kristy Woodbury.

Other items covered in the meeting include a discussion around the upcoming AASB annual conference, a proposal with Prism Design and Construction for fuel tank inspection, and directing the superintendent to work on adding the high school swim team to the collaborative bargaining agreement, and to fully fund the team.

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Hours: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: AICS Clinic Alternative Test Site
232 Wood Street | Wrangell, AK 99929

Self-swab test results will be available approximately 7 days after testing. Negative test results will be sent by email. If your test result is positive, you will be notified by telephone.

If you are experiencing symptoms such as a headache, cold, cough, sneezing, diarrhea, muscle pain, or loss of taste or smell, please contact your healthcare provider immediately and isolate to protect others. If your symptoms begin to worsen, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 907-966-8799 to speak with a nurse 24/7.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

More young Alaskans among next generation of fishermen

More young Alaskans are officially among the next generation of professional fishermen and ocean stewards to hail from Cordova, Haines, Homer, Ketchikan and Sitka.

The futures of eight fishermen were cemented thanks to \$1.5 million in loans from a Local Fish Fund (LFF) launched in 2019 that enabled them to buy into halibut and sablefish fisheries that normally would be out of reach. Buying quota shares of halibut, for example, can cost from \$40 to \$55 per pound.

"I'm super excited that we were able to move the \$1.5 million that was provided to us to invest in new entrants. Some are deckhands and some are vessel owners. I'm just really pleased at how this has gone for this first tranche of funding," said Linda Behnken, executive director of the Sitka-based Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust which worked for a decade in partnership with conservation and finance experts to craft the fund.

"The cost and risk involved in accessing Alaska's quota share fisheries are comparable to purchasing a hotel as a first step in home ownership," Behnken added. "As a result, the number of young rural residents entering the fisheries has dropped significantly over the past 15 years. Local Fish Fund lowers both the risk and the initial cost new entrants face."

The fishermen will repay the loans based on the prices they

get for their catch.

"It's just a really different loan instrument," Behnken said.

The LFF works on a 10% down payment and the borrower's risk is shielded to that amount. The loan is secured by the quota shares of the fish they are purchasing. Payments are based on what the borrower makes from fishing and fluctuate as the price of fish or the quota go up or down.

Behnken said the structure allows borrowers to build equity and a credit history over a five or six-year period that should enable them to qualify for refinancing with a traditional lender.

The LFF also incentivizes ocean stewardship by giving fishermen a small break on their loan interest by participating in local projects such as electronic monitoring, mapping the ocean floor, logging bycatch to avoid hotspots or networking to keep whales away from fishing gear.

"There are many opportunities for fishermen and the scientific community to team up to get a better understanding of our fisheries and the ocean environment. Some of the partners we're working with are coming specifically from that impact investment sector that is trying to obtain conservation goals through innovative lending," said Dustin Solberg of Cordova, a spokesman for the Nature Conservancy, which works with fishing communi-

ties around the world to develop economic incentives for good stewardship.

The Nature Conservancy, Rasmuson Foundation and Catch Together capitalized the loan fund. Craft3, a nonprofit based in Oregon and Washington, is underwriting, closing and servicing the LFF loans.

Fund managers now will take about a year to assess the LFF program and determine the timing and sizing of a future round of lending. They already have a list of interested applicants, Behnken said, and the goal is to expand LFFs to help safeguard Alaska's fisheries for future generations.

Bering Sea gets three - Bering Sea crabbers will drop pots for king crab, snow crab and bairdi Tanners when the

fisheries get underway on October 15.

As expected, the catch was reduced for red king crab taken in the eastern Bering Sea waters of Bristol Bay - just 2.6 million pounds is a 30% drop from the 3.8 million pounds taken last season.

"We've heard from scientists in the past that there has not been good recruitment into that fishery for over a decade," said Jamie Goen, executive director of the trade group Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers, which represents harvesters.

For the first time since 2018 there will be a bairdi Tanner crab opener with a catch of 2.3 million pounds.

And as expected, the catch for snow crab was increased, but not by as much as crabbers had hoped. Managers set the

snow crab catch at 45 million pounds, a 32 percent increase from last season's take of 34 million pounds.

Signs point to a strong market for snow crab, predicts market expert John Sackton, founder of SeafoodNews.com. The crab has been one of the top selling seafood items all year and Sackton said "snow crab is currently oversold, and back up to record price levels."

He credits the Bering Sea crab's popularity to several things; above all, 16 years of non-stop exposure from the wildly popular "Deadliest Catch" television show.

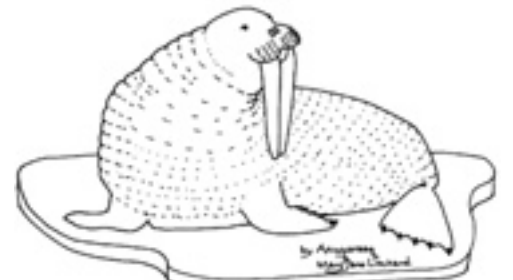
"In this case, crab has benefited from hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars of television exposure consis-

Continued on page 9

Vote "Yes" For Judges on the Ballot

The Alaska Judicial Council, a nonpartisan state agency required by law to evaluate judges standing for retention, found that all judges met performance standards, and is therefore recommending a "yes" vote.

Find the Council's full report at knowyouralaskajudges.org, or consult the Official Election Pamphlet.

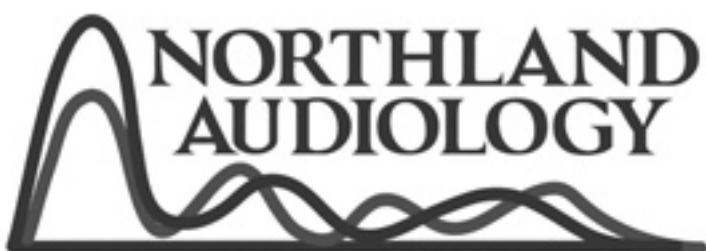


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Comics



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Battered corners: dog-__
- 6. __ Mater: one's school
- 10. National capital
- 14. Frogs and toads order
- 15. Bathrooms (French)
- 17. Praise
- 19. Witch
- 20. Consume
- 21. Pork and lamb are two types
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Women's undergarments
- 24. From end to end
- 26. Bed sheets
- 29. South Sudanese king
- 31. Dislike immensely
- 32. Diving seabird
- 34. Breathe noisily
- 35. Full of roots
- 37. Inside
- 38. Small island in a river
- 39. Tear into pieces
- 40. "CSI" actor George
- 41. Make less dense
- 43. Derogatory term for a country native
- 45. Pike and pickerel genus
- 46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr)
- 47. Belgian city
- 49. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 50. Essence of "Aloha"
- 53. Suggestions
- 57. One who overindulges
- 58. Expression
- 59. Maize dough
- 60. Make into leather
- 61. British noblemen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One of two or more people or things
- 2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
- 3. Part of a ladder
- 4. Unit of work
- 5. Patriotic women
- 6. Fragrant essential oil
- 7. Aggressive, uncouth man
- 8. One thousandth of an inch
- 9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
- 10. Serving no practical purpose
- 11. Prevent from going forward
- 12. Camera part
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Colorless, odorless gas
- 18. Long division of time
- 22. Atomic #73
- 23. Make a bleating sound
- 24. The kids love him
- 25. Female condition prior to menstrual period
- 27. Founder of Sikhism
- 28. Sudanese swamp
- 29. Can help with you finances
- 30. Part of the human body
- 31. Mortar trough
- 33. Greek island
- 35. Change pagination
- 36. Queens hip hop group
- 37. Precursor to the EU
- 39. A way to go on
- 42. Slender marine fish
- 43. Georgetown's mascot
- 44. Farm state
- 46. Military leader (abbr.)
- 47. Russian river
- 48. Teams' best pitchers
- 49. In a more positive way
- 50. Long French river
- 51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry
- 52. Distinctive practices
- 53. Male gypsy
- 54. When you hope to get there
- 55. Men's fashion accessory
- 56. Journalist Tarbell

Fish Factor

Continued from page 8

tently, year after year. It is my view that this exposure has increased demand for snow crab," Sackton wrote in a market analysis.

The fact that snow crab is precooked and ready to eat is a big plus, and a waning Japanese market has provided more snow crab to U.S. buyers. The market also is expanding to China and more European countries.

Sackton said snow crab from eastern Canada, the world's largest producer, already is oversold and orders are now being filled with crab from Russia. "There is little snow crab available and buyers are scrambling to cover their sales," he said, adding that means customers will now have the option to buy more snow crab from Alaska until Canada's fishery reopens in April.

No urchin searchin' - Alaska has urchin fisheries each October in Southeast and Kodiak, but they attract almost no interest from divers.

A harvest of just under 3 million pounds of red urchins is allowed at Southeast this year, but that may not be a true representation of the stock.

"That's a little bit of a ghost guideline average level, because there aren't that many sea urchins still here," said Phil Doherty, co-director of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association in Ketchikan.

Since the 1980s and '90s, Doherty said the bulk of the sea urchin beds have been wiped out by sea otters.

"That's the number one factor in the lack of production in Southeast Alaska, and there's nothing that's going to happen here in the foreseeable future that's going to change that," he said.

A second reason for the disinterest is the difficulty getting the delicate uni from the softball sized urchins to Japanese markets in top condition. Uni, or roe from sea urchins, is a popular delicacy with many sushi lovers.

"The Japanese market is very particular on how seafood looks and uni is one of them. It's very difficult to crack open the urchins and get the roe out and pack it and have it look good, and then put it in special containers and get it onto the airlines and get it over to Japan, which is the main market," he explained.

The most recent Southeast harvest of around 700,000 pounds of urchins in 2015 was taken by a handful of divers who got \$.49 cents a pound.

Green urchins that are found around Kodiak Island are preferred over the reds. But a lack of markets also has stalled fishing interest there and no harvest has occurred since 2001.

"It's not that the harvest stopped because we had concerns about the stock. It was largely mar-

ket driven. I think the major barriers for even a small scale fishery is finding a market and getting them there in good condition," said Nat Nichols, groundfish and shellfish manager for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game at Kodiak.

In the 1980s, Nichols said landings of the hockey puck-sized green urchins reached about 80,000 pounds. Now the harvest limit is 65,000 pounds, but no divers have signed up for the fishery.

Urchin uni is more familiar to U.S. buyers now than in the past, Nichols said, and perhaps there might be more local interest.

"If you could develop a smaller local market, it would alleviate the issue of getting bigger loads of product in good condition. That might spur more participation," he said, adding that he is interested in working with anyone who wants to revive Kodiak's urchin fishery.

Pollock push - No fishing sector is more driven to build demand for their products than Alaska's pollock industry. The trade group Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (GAPP) announced last week that nearly \$750,000 will fund seven familiar food purveyors who are launching new products.

Gorton's Seafood received funding to launch a campaign called, "Move Over Meat, It's Seafood Time" that will feature Alaska pollock recipes and highlight the health benefits of eating more seafood.

High Liner Foods will introduce its new Alaska Wild Pollock Fish Wings as part of its "Go Wild" line in convenience stores and quick serve restaurants.

7-Eleven was awarded funding for a follow-up 2021 promotion to its popular wild Alaska pollock fish sandwich which debuted during Lent this year.

Pescanova USA will use funds to introduce its new chilled Fettuccine Protein Pasta made from Alaska pollock which will be marketed as "all good, no guilt" pasta.

Restaurant Depot will begin carrying a variety of Alaska pollock products in its club stores, and a partnership with Louis Kemp and celebrity chef Nancy Fuller will showcase wild Alaska pollock snacks during the 2021 Super Bowl.

The ongoing funding is part of GAPP's partnership programs in North America and Europe to provide support for companies who want to bring new products to market or introduce Alaska pollock where the fish has not had visibility. GAPP has committed nearly \$3 million toward this initiative for 2019-2020.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Puzzle answers will be in the October 22 edition



Tent City Days Festival begins this week

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Tent City Days Festival kicks off this week. The festival, celebrating the city's history from the Alaska gold rush, has been a long-running tradition in the community. However, it has seen a decline in public interest in recent years. Jillian Privett, one of the organizers behind the event this year, said she hopes to help revitalize the festival.

"Tent City Days has been going on for over 30 years, since I was a little kid," she said.

Privett said that Tent City Days usually took place in February or March, but they decided to change dates this year to coincide with Alaska Day. This year's festival will run from Oct. 15, today, to Oct. 18. The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed the look of the festival this year. Some events will be online-only, she said, and people are encour-

aged to adhere to safety guidelines when participating in live events.

Tent City Days has a long schedule of events, from today until this Sunday. Privett pointed out a few that she felt the public would be especially interested in.

The Cute Canines Virtual Dog Show is scheduled for today, Oct. 15, Privett said. The dog show has always been a popular part of the Tent City Days celebration. People are encouraged to enter their dogs for this year's virtual show by today by emailing tentcitydays907@gmail.com.

Privett also pointed out the Food Cache Contest and the Trapper's Market Best In Show as other events she was excited about. These are both scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17. The events call back to Wrangell's time as a gold rush town, she said, where people relied heavily on preserved foods and handcrafted

items. People are invited to submit their canned or otherwise preserved goods to the cache contest, and their handcrafted items to the Trapper's Market, and show off their homemade goods.

Another popular event, planned for Oct. 17, is the Shady Lady Outdoor Ball. Privett said this will take place at the downtown pavilion starting at 6 p.m. Music will be provided by The Powers Band. She encouraged everyone to attend in face masks, but also in their "Alaska best."

"Dress in your Alaska best," Privett said. "Whatever you like to wear that makes you feel Alaskan."

Other events in the Tent City Days Festival include the Alaska Day Fun Run, Three Bob's Cribbage Tourney, and much more.

A full schedule of events, and more information about the fes-

tival, can be found on Facebook under "Wrangell Tent City Days Festival." Privett said people

could also find the schedules around town or they could call her at (907) 305-1095.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT KETCHIKAN

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
) CASE NO. IKE - 20 - 93PR
Timothy Charles Johnson)
Date of Birth: 5/04/1954)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed Peter Neville Johnson as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Date: 09-28-2020

Peter Neville Johnson
2417 Tongass Ave., Ste 111-324
Ketchikan, AK. 99901

Published: October 1, 8 and 15, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ADVERTISEMENT HARBOR MAINTENANCE / SECURITY

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications for the position of **Port & Harbor Maintenance** through October 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. This is a full-time, permanent position with all City & Borough benefits and is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

This position has considerable responsibility for operations at Port and Harbor Facilities. The post comes with autonomy, but also the duty to coordinate and cooperate with those outside the Harbor Department.

This position requires knowledge of marine construction and maintenance operations. Requires basic carpenter skills. Requires boat handling skills. Requires basic computer skills. Requires the ability to weld steel and aluminum, or ability to learn those skills. Requires basic plumbing skills.

A High School Diploma or GED is required. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license, valid TWIC card, and basic First Aid/CPR certification or the ability to obtain all within 6 months.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to jmason@wrangell.com. You can also find the application and job description at <https://www.wrangell.com/jobs>

Applications will be accepted till October 22, 2020.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Published: October 15 and October 22, 2020

Classified/ Legals

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

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

There is ONE (1) Port Commissioner Seat available with the term expiring October 2021

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

Mayor Stephen Prysunka
PO Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

or you can email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com on or before **October 21st, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.**

The Appointment will be made at the October 27th Regular Borough Assembly meeting.

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

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

Published: October 15 and 22, 2020.

ATTENTION SALMON FISHERS

The Board of Directors of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. seeks nominations for the following three (3) year seats:

- Seine - 2 Seats
- Power Troll - 1 Seat
- Gillnet - 1 Seat
- Hand Troll - 1 Seat



Nominations must be in writing and include the permit holder's name, address, vessel name, phone number and a brief statement. Nominees must be "active" Southern Southeast Commercial Salmon permit holders. Permit holders should nominate person from their own gear groups.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
SSRAA, 14 BORCH STREET
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Or email: lizj@ssraa.org

For further information call (907) 225-9605
Deadline: 10/21/20

Puzzle answers from October 8 Edition



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

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Assembly extends suspension of in-person meetings

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening, Oct. 13. During this meeting, they voted to extend a resolution allowing them to forgo in-person meetings during the

COVID-19 pandemic. This resolution was approved back in March when COVID-19 was beginning to impact Alaska. The resolution allowed for the suspension of in-person assembly meetings until Oct. 17, unless extended. According to the meeting's agenda packet, the city is working on plans to return to in-person meetings, but for the time being administration recommended that virtual meetings still be held.

"Regarding the in-person meetings, Staff believes that it is still unsafe to have full in-person (including the Staff and Public) in the Assembly Chambers," the agenda packet reads. "Our Assembly Chambers are not set up for full in-person meetings with Staff and the public ... Staff is proposing that equipment be purchased to allow for in-person meetings with 6 ft. distancing in the large room at the Nolan Center."

The packet went on to explain that the setup in the Nolan Center would allow for each assembly member, the Borough Clerk, and the Borough Manager to have their own table to sit at, equipped with microphones, to maintain 6-foot social distancing. A podium would also be set up for the public and staff to use, that the clerk would sanitize between uses. Face masks and hand sanitizer would also be made available. Chairs for the public would be set up to allow for audience attendance, but still have social distancing.

"The tricky part of this plan is the electronic equipment," the packet reads. "Working with the Nolan Center Director, Staff is looking at purchasing a laptop for the Nolan Center to use for the meetings, as well as the mi-

crophones and a video camera. Staff is wanting to continue using the Zoom option for the public members who do not want to participate in-person."

Assembly Member Terry Courson, this being his first meeting since being elected, stated he would like to find a way for the public to be able to approach the assembly with their thoughts and concerns as easily as they used to before the pandemic. Assembly Member Anne Morrison, recently re-elected, wanted to make sure that the equipment they were considering purchasing would be used beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and would have a

long lifetime of use. Borough Clerk Kim Lane confirmed that this was the plan. Mayor Steve Prysunka stated that as long as this was coming from the city's COVID funds, and not the general fund, he was comfortable with the proposal.

After further discussion, the assembly voted to extend the suspension of in-person meetings until Dec. 31, while staff continue to work on preparing the Nolan Center for use in the future. Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said their goal is to be ready for in-person meetings by the assembly's first scheduled meeting in January.

On a related item, the assem-

bly also extended an emergency declaration regarding COVID-19 to Dec. 31.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved of an application to the ADEC State Revolving Loan Fund for the water treatment plant improvements project interim financing plan. They also approved of an audit engagement letter with BDO for the FY 2020 audit. Other items covered in the meeting include a proclamation declaring Nov. 1 "Extra Mile Day," appointment of Assembly Member Patty Gilbert to vice-mayor, as well as other appointments to various boards and committees.

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PICTURE SHOW

Alaska US Senate debate focuses on mine, money, fisheries

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan and challenger Al Gross met in a debate focused on fisheries policy that ended up focusing on other issues including federal COVID-19 relief funding and Pebble Mine.

The candidates for Sullivan's seat in the U.S. Senate squared off Saturday in the 90-minute debate on Zoom, The Anchorage Daily News reported.

Sullivan, the Republican incumbent, repeatedly characterized Gross as a threat who could hand Democrats control of the Senate. The debate was hosted by ComFish Alaska and the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce.

Gross, a Democratic-backed independent, went after Sullivan for not denouncing the development of the Pebble Mine in southwest Alaska earlier.

Gross used the words of ousted Pebble executive Tom Collier, who was caught on video saying Sullivan was "hiding in a corner."

"I wouldn't stand back and be silent in the corner like Dan has been on Pebble mine," Gross said.

Sullivan said he ensured the process was based on science rather than politics and agreed when federal agencies determined the proposed open-pit mine about 200 miles (322

kilometers) southwest of Anchorage should not move forward.

"The Pebble Mine is dead, and I am going to keep it that way," Sullivan said.

Sullivan touted his work securing approval for more ice breakers and his Save the Seas Act legislation focused on cleaning marine debris.

Sullivan noted his support and work for the legislation establishing federal coronavirus relief funding, which brought financial relief to Alaska's fishing industry. Sullivan also criticized Gross for an ad in which Gross called the legislation a "\$2 trillion bailout bill."

Bailouts are not always bad, Gross said. While he would have supported the virus relief legislation, Gross would have fought harder to steer more money to Alaska, he said.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some especially older adults and people with existing health problems it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

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

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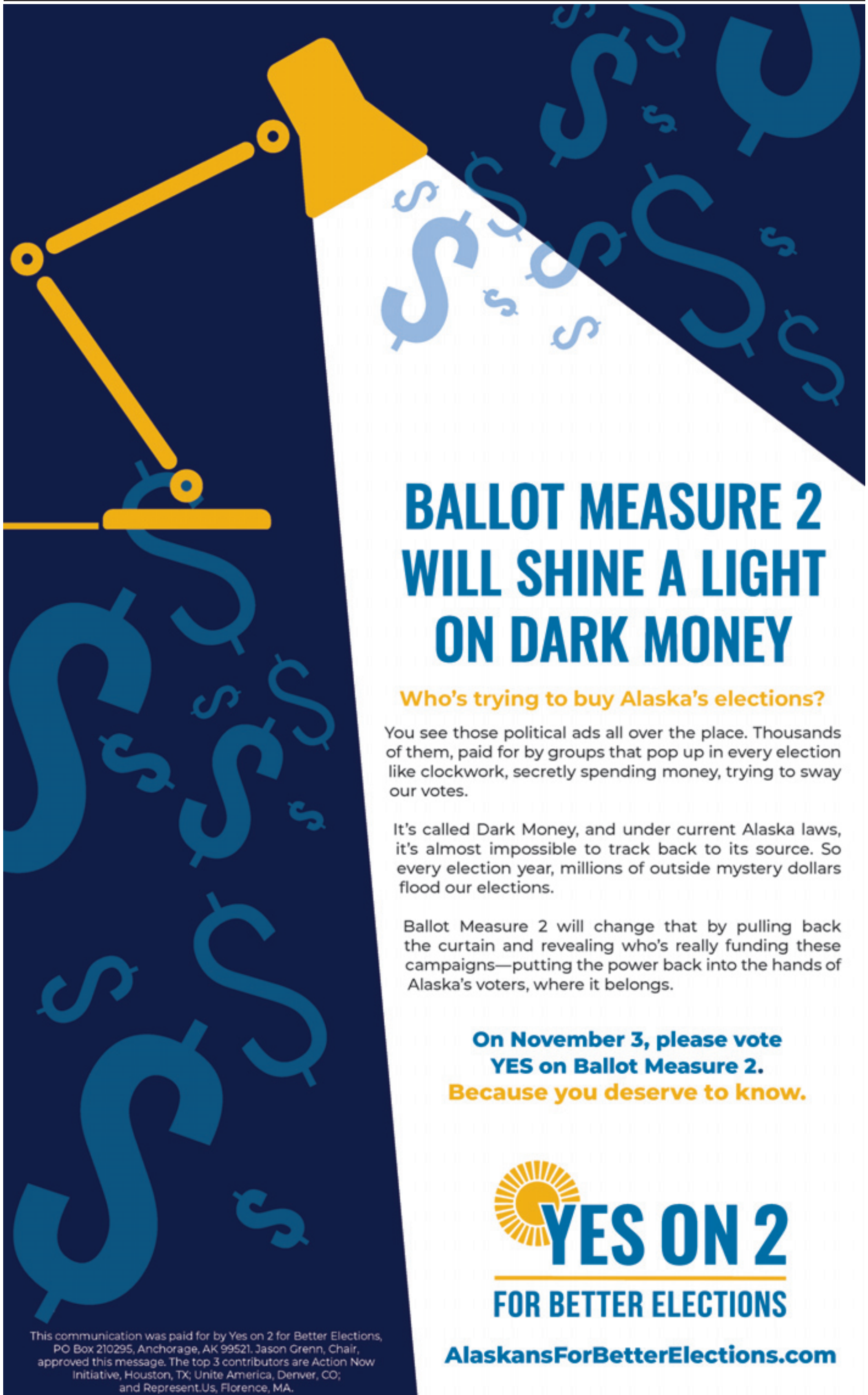
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