

## City issues shelter in place order, effective immediately

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The City and Borough of Wrangell held a special meeting via teleconference last Sunday afternoon, March 22, to issue an emergency “shelter in place” order. The assembly recently granted the mayor and borough manager the ability to issue emergency orders in the interest of public health, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga issued Wrangell’s first emergency orders last week, limiting restaurants to to-go service only and limiting public gatherings to a maximum of 10 people. This new emergency order comes in response to the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, Governor Mike Dunleavy declaring a public health disaster, and President Donald Trump’s declaration of a national emergency.

While there are no known cases of the virus in Wrangell at the time of this article being written, cases are spreading around the state and in nearby communities. Wrangell officials decided to take this action to be proactive to mitigate the spread of the virus.

“Although it appears that home-rule municipalities as the City and Borough of Wrangell have the ability to mandate certain things, right now this is written as a voluntary compliance order,” said Von Barga. “It’s written as a request, it is not written as a mandate. If I could add to that, with regards to quarantine, I do not believe we have the ability to quarantine. If we want to quar-

antine I believe we have to get permission from the state.”

The shelter in place order contains 13 points, listing actions the borough requests people take for the foreseeable future. In summary, the public is asked to stay home and avoid contact with others as much as possible for the time being. Critical supply chain and service businesses, such as grocery stores and gas stations, will remain open, but the public is asked to resist the temptation to panic buy or hoard supplies. Businesses that are “non-critical” are asked to close to the public for a period of 14 days and conduct their work electronically as much as possible. If someone must leave their home, the order reads, they are asked to practice good hygiene and social distancing. Travelers coming into Wrangell are also asked to self-isolate for a two-week period. Anybody showing symptoms of COVID-19, or believe they have been exposed to the virus, are asked to contact their healthcare provider immediately, and to take steps to avoid further spread of the virus.

“Offer assistance to those in need,” the final point of the order reads. “If you are healthy, offer to assist someone in quarantine with shopping or gathering supplies outside the home. If you know of someone in a high-risk category due to age or underlying medical condition, call to check on them, and offer them your assistance.”

The order came into effect shortly after its passage, at 6 p.m. on March 22. The order can be found on the borough’s website, under “Emergency Order 3-22-20”, at [www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com).

## State releases two new health mandates in response to COVID-19 spread

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Governor Mike Dunleavy announced two new statewide health mandates Monday, March 23, in response to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in Alaska. These are the ninth and tenth health mandates the state government has announced regarding the virus. Many local communities have been taking steps of their own to mitigate the risk of the virus spreading further. These mandates, however, are meant to help statewide efforts to combat COVID-19.

The first of these two mandates, Mandate 009 took effect on March 24. All businesses and other gatherings where individuals are within six feet of each other must cease all operations. The mandate specifically mentions businesses like hair salons, tattoo shops, massage therapy locations, tanning facilities, and others. The mandate also states that no gatherings of more than 10 people may take place for the time being. Health care facilities are exempted from this rule. This mandate is in effect until the governor rescinds or modifies it.

Mandate 010, the second announced Tuesday evening, impacts travelers. Effective March 25, everybody arriving

in Alaska is required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. Alaskan residents are asked to self-quarantine where they live and, if possible, work from home. An exception is made for Alaskans who work in “critical infrastructure” businesses such as healthcare or financial services. Non-resident workers or visitors are required to self-quarantine in their hotel rooms or rented lodgings. Those in quarantine may only leave to seek medical attention and may not have visitors save for doctors or

other authorized individuals. This mandate supersedes any travel restrictions set in place by local governments. Failure to follow this order is punishable by a fine up to \$25,000, or a maximum of one year in prison, or possibly both.

“In the last 24 hours we’re now up to 36 cases of infection of this virus, and for the first time we’ve got community spread,” Dunleavy said in a March 23 press briefing. “It’s our healthcare professionals that are going to be the front line troopers as we go through



COURTESY OF KAYLA GILLEN

### Trophies earned at Hoop Shoot regionals

Two Wrangell kids recently returned from Washington after competing in the Hoop Shoot regional tournament. Michael Cook (left) and Aadyn Gillen (right) represented Wrangell as they took part in the tournament, bringing together participants from Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. The annual free throw contest is put on by the Elks Lodge. Jeff Jabusch, organizer of the local hoop shoot contest, said that Cook took fourth place in the 8-9-years-old boys’ bracket with 19 out of 25 baskets. Gillen competed in the 10-11-years-old boys’ bracket. He also shot 19 out of 25 baskets and tied for second place, Jabusch said, but lost a shoot-off and took third place.

The national Hoop Shoot, scheduled for April in Chicago, has been cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19, according to the Elks’ Hoop Shoot website.

this process. We all have our part to play, we’ve talked about that. Social distancing ourselves, washing our hands, not going into crowds, doing our part, all of us sacrificing a little bit now so we can all, Alaska, gain a lot more later.”

A full list of state mandates, and other information regarding the virus, can be found online. Visit the office of the governor’s website, [www.gov.alaska.gov](http://www.gov.alaska.gov), and click on the “COVID-19” tab.

## Census packets delayed by COVID-19, responses still expected

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

While many events have been postponed or cancelled in response to the spread of COVID-19, in Alaska and across the world, Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said that a high response rate to the 2020 census is still important.

Rushmore, who also serves on Wrangell’s census committee, explained in previous meetings that census does much more than help government officials count people. Information provided by the census helps determine how federal and state funding is divided up for many programs, including social services, medicare, and grants. Getting an accurate count on the census is important to determine how much assistance an area realistically could require. Concerns about spreading COVID-19, however, have led to some hiccups in plans to encourage local turnout.

“This week homes were going to start receiving the census packets,” Rushmore said, explaining that the delivery of these

packets has been delayed.

The census packets, which were going to be delivered to people’s homes, would have contained a 12-digit ID number that would let people start filling out their census questionnaire. Despite the delay and delivering these packets, Rushmore said that people can still respond to the census.

People can call 1-844-330-2020, or visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) to fill out the census without their unique ID number. Rushmore said that people will be asked to provide their address in the questionnaire, or to describe the location or their home as much as possible.

“It’s really, really important to get the information out so we have a good response,” she said.

The official census day is April 1, but Rushmore said people can start responding to the census right now. Census workers will begin going door-to-door to get responses sometime in May, she said, and the census will officially close on July 31. The sooner people respond, she said, the better.



# Senior Center temporarily stopping congregate meals, continuing necessary services

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

As many readers are aware, the COVID-19 virus is continuing to spread around the globe. A relative handful of cases have been confirmed in Alaska, but many people and organizations around the state are taking proactive steps to lessen their risk of contracting or spreading the virus. According to the CDC, the elderly are among high-risk groups of people when it comes to COVID-19. For this reason, the Wrangell Senior Center has temporarily closed its doors.

"We're not doing what they call congregate meals," said Tom Jenkins, senior center manager.

For the time being, the senior center will not be offering its

usual sit-down meals to help protect Wrangell's senior community. However, Jenkins said that they will continue to provide necessary services for elderly. This includes delivering meals and medicine, he said, as well as offering rides in the senior center's van. Jenkins clarified that the rides could only be for necessary situations, such as a trip to the doctor's office. He also added that they would be doing their best to mitigate any risk of illness during all of this, too.

"We're cleaning the van carefully, and cleaning everything here carefully," he said.

The Wrangell Senior Center is located on the corner of Reid and Grief Street. In a recent "shelter in place" order issued

by the borough, local officials have asked healthy members of the public to do their part to limit any spread of COVID-19,

and to help one another get by. This includes offering to purchase groceries or run errands for elderly and other high-risk

members of the community. Call 874-2066 by 10 a.m. to have a meal delivered or to request a ride.

## Continuing Events

**Online AA Meetings: North Star Group Meeting.** Link to online meeting: [www: zoom.us/j/722855768](http://www.zoom.us/j/722855768). Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:45 p.m., Dial-in Number (phone only): (346) 248-7799 / Meeting ID: 722-855-76, Meeting Contact: Eric H: (907) 720 3407.

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

### March 25, 1920

W.E. Parrott received a letter yesterday from A. Everson of Telegraph Creek. Mr. Everson states that he had the misfortune of getting burned out on January 22 when the temperature was 34 below zero. He reports that his wife and little ones are well and that two of the girls and Johnny are attending school regularly. Mr. Everson complained that he is not receiving the Sentinel regularly. He says he has heard that there are four sacks of papers for Telegraph Creek in the office at Atlin. That better transportation facilities between Wrangell and Telegraph Creek would be to the mutual benefit of both towns is again indicated when Mr. Everson says: "I wish I could send you a good fat moose quarter and you could send me a sack of your potatoes in exchange. Potatoes are a commodity that will soon be a thing of the past here. I have the promise of about 20 pounds which will have to do myself and my family from now (Feb. 17) until navigation opens between here and Wrangell." Regarding the weather, Mr. Everson says: "It has been a nice winter here except about two weeks in January when the mercury went down to 36 below. That was the coldest weather we have had."

### March 23, 1945

Last Wednesday, March 14, a movie was shown to the high school. The film was about the U.S. Army Air Force divisions stationed in England. The picture took us with the fliers from the time they left America, over to England, and through many of their missions. Before the boys might visit the towns in England, they were instructed in use of English money. Its value was compared with American money. The boys were also warned to be on guard for spies. The instructor said that clever spies were still at large. When the boys became battle-weary they were taken to a luxurious hotel, that had once been a mansion of an English nobleman, and now run by the Red Cross. There the boys would rest, dance, swim, and eat until time to return to duty. Captain Clark Gable did well as a narrator for he actually gave the audience the feeling of actually being with the men. The film was in technicolor and some of the scenes showing English gardens and country were beautiful. Our fliers have dangerous jobs but they are doing them well. We can all be proud of our men with wings.

### March 26, 1970

Burton W. Silcock, state director for the Bureau of Land Management has announced the sale of five parcels of land in the Wrangell Townsite addition. The

sale is being made at the request of the City of Wrangell and will be held at the Wrangell City Hall at 7:30 p.m. April 9th. George E.M. Gustafson, townsite trustee for the Bureau of Land Management, will handle the public auction. The five parcels of land range in size from 607 square feet to 11,333 square feet and the price range of the lots is from \$40 to \$650. Presently two of the lots have improvements on them. Preference rights under the sale will not be granted to adjacent property owners.

### March 23, 1995

Southeast Energy fund grants of \$4 million were high dollar items among capital projects requested by Gov. Tony Knowles that will impact Wrangell based on a list released Tuesday by State Sen. Robin Taylor. Taylor reports the \$4 million is earmarked for the Tyee/Swan

Lakes Intertie Project, which he considers a major regional priority. Other items on the governor's list include a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Matching Grants Program, which will require a 30 percent match from the city, for Zimovia Highway Water and Sewer Extensions, \$1.75 million. Also listed are Department of Transportation/Public Facilities (DOT/PF) grants: Airport rescue and fire fighting building and water line extension, \$1.4 million; Reid Street paving, \$80,000. Municipal Capital Matching grants provide \$98,751 for Zimovia Highway Water/Sewer Extension, Phase I Design. Grants to municipalities, for City of Wrangell Port fill, \$302,000. All funds must be approved by the state legislature.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, March 26:** Stuart Woodbury, Anniversary: Tony & Kerry Byford. **Friday, March 27:** Abby Haggard, Winston B. Davies. **Saturday, March 28:** Gary Stevens, Trevor Guggenbickler. **Sunday, March 29:** Tamara Eastaugh, Beverly Angerman, Paige Baremore, Larry Taylor Jr. **Monday, March 30:** Bob Wickman, Christian Weber, Alan Westerlund, Gene Fennimore, Kelyn Young. **Tuesday, March 31:** Janell Privett, Andrew Edgley. **Wednesday, April 1:** Donald Covalt, Adrianna Stough, Elissa DeBoer, Erin Hammock, Anniversary: Dave & Arlene Wilson. **Thursday, April 2:** Mark Wooden, Carson Kautz, Edward Kalkins.

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

## Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

### Thursday, March 26

Chicken Chop Suey, Peach, Salad, Rice.

### Friday, March 27

Spaghetti with meat sauce, Vegetables, Salad.

### Monday, March 30

Senior Center CLOSED,

Seward Day

### Tuesday, March 31

Sea Beef Stew, Fruit Slaw, Pilot bread.

APRIL MENU NOT AVAILABLE

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

## FERRY

## March Sailings CANCELLED

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



## TIDES March 26-April 2

	High Tides		Low Tides	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
March 26	02:52	16.3	03:10	15.4
March 27	03:16	16.1	03:41	14.7
March 28	03:41	15.7	04:13	13.9
March 29	04:07	15.3	04:50	12.9
March 30	04:39	14.7	05:39	11.9
March 31	05:21	14.0	06:50	11.1
April 1	06:26	13.3	08:27	11.1
April 2	08:02	13.1	09:48	12.1

	High Tides		Low Tides	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
March 26	02:52	16.3	03:10	15.4
March 27	03:16	16.1	03:41	14.7
March 28	03:41	15.7	04:13	13.9
March 29	04:07	15.3	04:50	12.9
March 30	04:39	14.7	05:39	11.9
March 31	05:21	14.0	06:50	11.1
April 1	06:26	13.3	08:27	11.1
April 2	08:02	13.1	09:48	12.1

## WHS/SMS School Lunches: General Guidelines



- Order your school lunch online as usual through the WPSD School Website at [wpsd.us](http://wpsd.us)
- Orders are due online by 8:30 AM.

The following guidelines are for the pick up of lunches:

### Mondays-City Market:

- Lunch pickup after 12:00 PM from the deli area
- Provide name to server

### Tuesdays and Thursdays-I&W's

- Lunch pickup at high school main doors off Reid St. after 12:00 PM

### Wednesdays and Fridays-Wrangell IGA

- Students may pick their lunches up after 12:00 PM from the deli area
- Students then proceed to the office to provide their name so they may mark your name off the list

Should you have difficulties in carrying out any of these directions please email [kreeves@wpsd.us](mailto:kreeves@wpsd.us) or [mpowell@wpsd.us](mailto:mpowell@wpsd.us) or call the appropriate number below.

SMS Office at 874-3393 or WHS Office at 874-3395

Students, please continue to monitor your school Gmail account and parents monitor your personal email accounts for pertinent information regarding school updates, academics and other school information.

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Mar. 16	43	27
Mar. 17	45	31
Mar. 18	39	28
Mar. 19	54	31
Mar. 20	48	30
Mar. 21	42	36
Mar. 22	44	31
Mar. 23	47	38

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar. 26	6:34a	7:14p	12:40h
Mar. 27	6:32a	7:16p	12:44h
Mar. 28	6:29a	7:18p	12:49h
Mar. 29	6:27a	7:20p	12:53h
Mar. 30	6:24a	7:22p	12:58h
Mar. 31	6:21a	7:24p	13:03h
Apr. 01	6:19a	7:26p	13:07h
Apr. 02	6:16a	7:28p	13:12h



# Police report

## CORRECTION:

In the March 19 edition of the Sentinel, we printed the police log supplied by the Wrangell Police Department which was a year old. Two weeks of the police log appear below.

- March 09  
Citizen Assist.  
Animal Complaint: Injured doe.
- March 10  
Nothing to report.
- March 11

- Driving Revoked: Citation issued to Taylor Stavee.  
Paper Service.  
Trespass.
- March 12  
Disturbance.  
Agency Assist: Wrangell Medical Center.  
Disorderly Conduct.  
Summons Service.
- March 13  
Agency Assist: Alarm.  
Agency Assist: Hoonah PD.  
Traffic Stop: Mathew Gerald, 47, charged for failure to provide proof of insurance.  
Citizen Report: Gary Hamley,

- 38, charged with Driving Under the Influence.  
Agency Assist: Ambulance.
- March 14  
Agency Assist: Hoonah PD.
- March 15  
Citizen Report: DUI.  
Suspicious Person.  
Citizen Report: DUI.  
Agency Assist: Road Debris.  
Traffic Complaint.

During this reporting period there were four additional Traffic Stops and two Civil Issues.

- March 16  
Suspicious Vehicle.  
Citizen Assist.  
Aggressive Dogs.  
Agency Assist: Alaska State Troopers.  
Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlock.
- Dog Complaint.  
Suspicious Activity.  
Courtesy Transport.
- March 17  
Welfare Check.  
Disturbance.  
Letter for Food Service x 9.  
Suspicious Circumstance.
- March 18  
Paper Service.  
Paper Service.
- March 19  
Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlocked.  
Agency Assist: Paper Service.  
Welfare Check.  
Fireworks.

## SEARHC Introduces Alternative Testing Sites in Five Communities

To expedite the COVID-19 testing process and eliminate unnecessary contamination of primary care clinics, the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) recently opened alternative testing sites in Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell, Haines, and Klawock.

Appointments may be required for testing. For information on screening, call: In Wrangell call 874-4700.

Each alternative testing site is manned by a SEARHC clinician in approved personal protection equipment (PPE), including mask, goggles, gloves, and gown. If the patient meets the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approved guidelines, they will be scheduled for a drive-by appointment during regular business hours. Patients will be tested for influenza, and if negative for influenza, be administered a COVID-19 test.

CDC guidelines state that patients must be exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 (fever and cough, or shortness of breath) and meet the current clinical criteria, including close contact with a confirmed case; travel outside of Alaska within 14 days; or determined to be a high-risk patient.

Patients with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, cancer, or immune compromise, should contact their doctor immediately if they become ill. Adhere to the CDC preventive methods to deter respiratory disease, including washing your hands thoroughly and often, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects, and getting a flu shot.

For up-to-date information on the coronavirus and contact information for the SEARHC provider visit .

- March 20  
Traffic Stop: Brendon Kenfield, age 24, Citation for speeding issued.  
Agency Assist: Fire Department.  
Agency Assist: USFS.  
Welfare Check.  
Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlock.

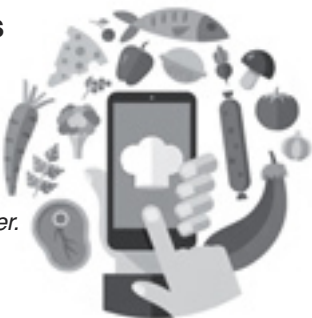
- March 21  
Animal Complaint.  
Trespass: Civil Matter.
- March 22  
Citizen Assist.  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Agency Assist: Public Works.  
Disturbance.  
Disturbance.  
Agency Assist: Ambulance.

## CITY MARKET & SENTRY HARDWARE

As we adjust to new realities, we are instituting the following changes effective immediately

### We encourage customers to send us their orders

by email, fax or drop off orders in a box sitting at the front door. Please include your name, phone number, payment method and place to be delivered on your order.



E: cmarketaccounts@gci.net  
Ph: 874-3333  
Fax: 874-3296

We can call you when the order is ready and we will bring the order to your car to minimize social interaction.

### Sentry Hardware Store New Hours:

Mon-Sat 10a-6p • Sun. 10a-3pm • Ph: 874-3336

### Senior Only Shopping time: THURSDAY: 8A-10A

If you are not with a senior, we will take your order at the door & shop it for you and bring it out to your car.



Our regular ads have been suspended.

Once we receive information what has shipped, we will make an in-house ad to post on Facebook and have flyers on our check stands.

## Court report

March 10: A bail hearing was held for Duke Aitken, charged with assault in the fourth degree and violating conditions of release. The court agreed to re-

issue his conditions of release to allow for visitation with his children.

March 17: A calendar call and status hearing were held for Casey Seimears, charged with criminal trespass, theft, and a probation/parole violation. An omnibus hearing was scheduled for April 27, a calendar call for June 16, and a trial for June 23.

A calendar call was held for Valerie Nakamura, charged with possession of a controlled substance. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

A calendar call was held for Daniel Meissner, charged with driving with a cancelled/suspended/revoked license, causing fear of injury, criminal trespass, and violating conditions of release. Another calendar call was scheduled for April 21, with a trial on April 28.

A calendar call was held for Andrea Marrero, charged with leaving the scene of an accident and a probation/parole violation. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

A calendar call was held for Theodosia James, charged with

entering a premises licensed to carry alcohol while restricted from purchasing alcohol. Another calendar call was scheduled for April 21, with a trial on April 28.

A calendar call was held for Joel Franks, charged with causing fear of injury, sexual assault, and two counts of violating conditions of release. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

A calendar call was held for Alan Cummings, charged with assault in the fourth degree. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

A calendar call was held for Dusty Cowan, charged with online enticement of a minor and distributing indecent material to minors. Another calendar call was scheduled for April 21, with a trial on April 28.

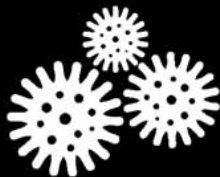
A calendar call was held for Rebecca Bliss, charged with causing serious injury. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

Duke Aitken was arraigned on charges of leaving the scene of an accident and violating conditions of release, and was given a calendar call on charges of two counts of assault in the fourth degree, causing injury with a weapon, and violating conditions of release. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23. He was also ordered to pay a \$200 cash performance bond.

A status hearing was held for Richard Anderson, charged with a probation/parole violation. The hearing was scheduled to

# STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like Coronavirus (COVID-19).



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



If you have symptoms, put on a mask before entering a clinic.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

### LEARN MORE AT COVID19.SEARHC.ORG

Source: CDC. SEARHC's use of this information does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Government, Department of Health and Human Services, or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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Continued on page 4



# Letters to the Editor

**To the Editor:**

As a long-time Southeast resident, I continue to be amazed by the resiliency and determination of our close-knit communities. The preparation that is happening in advance of COVID-19 in our communities is strong. SEARHC continues to enact a comprehensive response plan. As SEARHC Chief Medical Officer, I maintain daily communication with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and other state authorities, including the

Governor's office and the state emergency operations center.

We have implemented up-to-date screening protocols consistent with state and CDC guidance at all entrance points into our facilities. We have implemented off-site testing and screening sites for the safety of patients and staff. The criteria for laboratory testing include fever and cough, or shortness of breath, and possible exposure to the virus, although these criteria are being broadened in some details as the pandemic

progresses. We have supplies to test available in all of our communities and will continue to test all patients who meet the criteria.

If you have any concern about yourself and you are ill, please contact us through our screening hotline (907.966.8799) and we will be glad to assist you.

Routine optometry, dental care, patient travel, and elective surgeries are all temporarily suspended. Currently, primary care services remain available. The goal of these suspensions is

to reduce the social contact and possible community spread of COVID-19. Our hospital and emergency room staff are trained and ready to care for all urgent and emergent medical problems 24-hours a day. We have been ramping up our plans, processes, and staff to respond to any surge in sick patients.

Our Nurse Advice Line is available to answer your questions 24-hours a day (1.800.613.0560).

We strongly encourage all

**Continued on page 5**

# Court report

**Continued from page 3**

continue on April 27.

A hearing was given in the case of Aitken v. Aitken, for a long term protective order. The protective order was granted.

A calendar call was held for Kelly Bullard, charged with three counts of violating conditions of release, driving under the influence, and driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. She was ordered to pay a failure to appear fine of \$200, and was issued a default warning.

A calendar call was held for James Vandebunte III, charged with theft. Another calendar call was scheduled for April 21, with a trial on April 28.

A trial call was held for Opal Wilsey, charged with criminal trespass and theft. A change of plea hearing was scheduled for March 23.

A calendar call was held for Alora Wigg, charged with possession of a controlled substance. Another calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

Taylor Stavee was arraigned on charges of driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. The case was disposed.

Gary Hamley was arraigned on charges of driving under the influence. He was ordered to pay a \$500 cash performance bond. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16.

# Dan's Dispatch

*By Representative Dan Ortiz*

The State of Alaska has been operating at a deficit. This is nothing new and has been the primary challenge for the Legislature over the past five years. However, this year, some new wrenches were thrown into the equation: decreasing oil prices and the stock market. Unfortunately, the State of Alaska revenue comes almost solely from those two sources. For decades, oil covered over 80% of our budget until oil prices and production decreased and we began relying on savings and the Percent of Market Value (POMV) draw. Now, oil accounts for approximately 20% of our revenue. Despite that decrease, oil price and production are still vitally important to our revenue. Our original Fiscal Year 2020 Revenue Forecast assumed \$63 per barrel for oil, but that is no longer the case. We have been hovering under \$30 per barrel for multiple days, which

impacts our current budget (FY2020). We are now assuming a reduction of about \$300 million for FY20. If prices stay low, which we expect, it will also impact the budget we are currently working on for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021. The original forecast for FY21 was \$59 per barrel, but we now assume \$40 per barrel, which is a decrease in revenue of about \$550 million. Those are optimistic numbers, and I expect our loss of revenue to actually be much more. With the deep downturn of the stock market, our Permanent Fund has taken a hit. In January 2020, the corpus of the fund and the Earnings Reserve Account together totaled almost \$67 billion. As of March 20, the total is slightly under \$57 billion – a loss of approximately \$10 billion to date. The Earnings Reserve Account by itself is \$16.1 billion, but much of those funds are already committed; \$7.9 billion is already committed for the FY21 POMV draw, FY20 special appropriation of

\$4 billion, and the inflation proofing. Not including unrealized gains, we have a little under \$8 billion in our Earnings Reserve Account. From that amount, we will have to pay for future services, dividends, inflation proofing, and hopefully, still have some savings. The dividend is paid from the Earnings Reserve Account. As you've read, we do not have the money available to pay a large dividend payout. I understand at this time, a dividend to individuals and families is more important than ever. The amount has not yet been settled upon yet, but I expect the Legislature to vote on the budget, including dividends, this week. Overall, our current legislative priorities are to pass a budget and Covid-19 related legislation as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at 907-465-3824.

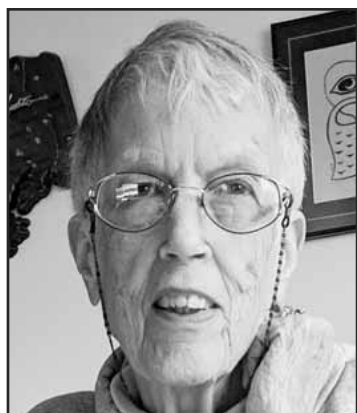
# Obituary: Janet Lee Teague, 83

Janet Lee Teague passed away in Wrangell, Alaska on March 15, 2020.

She was born on January 31, 1937 in Portland, Oregon to Russell and Dorothy Weaver. She and her parents were some of the early pioneers of Alaska, moving to Valdez in the early 1950s. It was in Valdez that Janet met the love of her life, Frank Teague. On July 1, 1955, Janet and Frank began a 64 year journey together which took them to Anchorage, around the state, around the world and ended as it had always been; side by side.

Be it together on the fishing boat, driving to the lower 48 to see her kids or travelling to Japan to see her grandchildren, she was happiest when she was with family. Two of Janet's fondest memories, of which she often spoke, were of her 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries when her children arranged family reunions to celebrate the life she and Frank had built together.

Janet was a multi-faceted woman whose skills and passions were many. She was an accomplished singer. Not only a fixture in her local church choirs, Janet was a long-time member of



Janet Lee Teague

the Anchorage Sweet Adelines Sourdough chorus and barber-shop quartet. Her chorus represented Alaska on multiple occasions at the national Sweet Adelines competition and once at the international level.

Janet was an artist as well, creating works through sewing. From baby blankets to hats, Janet created beautiful pieces which are treasured belongings of her family. Janet's passion was travel. Whether it was a family, summer road trip in California or jetting off to Ireland, Fiji or Japan, Janet loved to see the world. In retirement, Janet indulged her love of travel as she and Frank fished commercially, travelling

throughout southeast Alaska, which is what brought them to Wrangell in 1992. Janet and Frank loved hosting family on the boat, but most importantly it was time spent with Frank, her partner in life.

She is survived by her husband Frank; her children,

Dorothy, Rick, Joan and Pat; seven grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

A funeral will be held in Wrangell for Janet with the date and time to be announced shortly. Janet's family will gather in Wrangell in August for a celebration of Janet's life.

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# GUEST COMMENTARY

BY GOVERNOR *Mike Dunleavy*

Where were you when the pandemic came to Alaska? Future generations will demand an answer from each of us. Did we change our habits to protect the vulnerable? Did we make sure our elderly neighbors had everything they needed?

Long after the virus disappears from the public consciousness, these are the questions we'll be left to grapple with. For so many, we look to government to provide services during a crisis. We forget, as Franklin Roosevelt once said, that "government is ourselves." It's understandable. Few have experienced an event of this magnitude. But we are not alone. Generations of Americans stood where we stand today, facing problems of enormous weight - wondering who they were as a people. Invariably, they rose to meet the great challenges

of their day. They gave of themselves, sacrificing much to sustain this great American experiment. Alaskans will choose a similar path - I have little doubt. Time and again, be it the Anchorage earthquake, last year's fire season, or our highest-in-the-nation percentage of veterans, Alaskans consistently reaffirm their commitment to service. You may say, "But I have nothing to contribute." I would urge you to reconsider.

All over the world, people are finding ways to aid their communities by donating their time, skill, and even blood. Perhaps, you hung up your stethoscope years ago to enjoy retirement or pursue a new career. You wonder if your services could be useful. The answer is yes. Maybe you own a manufacturing company that can produce medical equipment, or a rental car com-

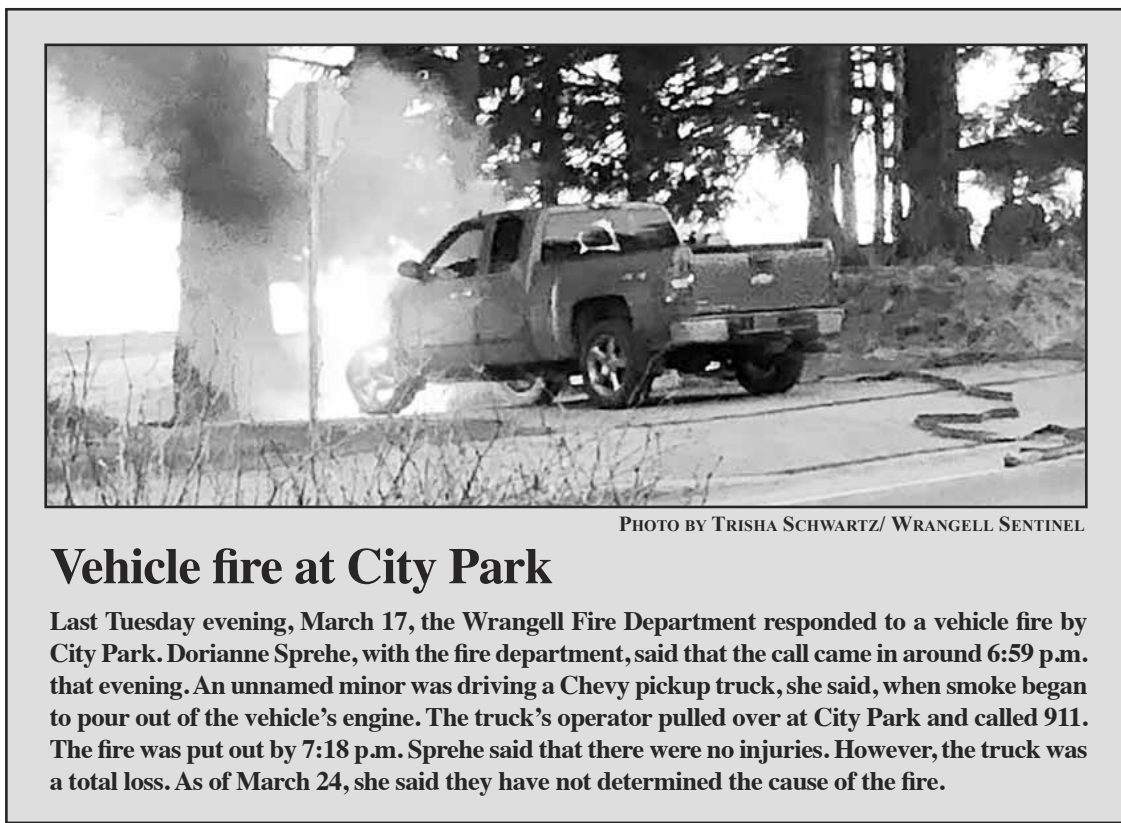


PHOTO BY TRISHA SCHWARTZ/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Vehicle fire at City Park

Last Tuesday evening, March 17, the Wrangell Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire by City Park. Dorianne Sprehe, with the fire department, said that the call came in around 6:59 p.m. that evening. An unnamed minor was driving a Chevy pickup truck, she said, when smoke began to pour out of the vehicle's engine. The truck's operator pulled over at City Park and called 911. The fire was put out by 7:18 p.m. Sprehe said that there were no injuries. However, the truck was a total loss. As of March 24, she said they have not determined the cause of the fire.

pany that could offer vehicles to transport volunteers. Others may have the means to contribute to a local food bank or buy supplies for an emergency shelter. All across our state, Alaskans are saying, "I can do that," and stepping up. At Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, soldiers and airmen are packing meals for needy families; in Anchorage, volunteers are sending out 30-day food supplies to seniors while healthcare workers perform drive-up tests in the cold and snow. Behind the frontlines, our state workers are busy processing business bridge loans, reviewing unemployment insurance cases, and ensuring that

your government provides the best possible response to this crisis. Even grocery clerks and delivery drivers are providing a critical service, keeping Alaskans fed and healthy.

But the question remains: How will you answer the call? When our children ask, "Where were you?" will we be able to tell them that we served in an army of Alaskans who did everything in their power to look out for one another? If the past is any indicator, I'm confident the answer will be yes. For those that choose to heed the call of service, I offer you the thanks of a grateful state as we face this historic challenge together.

## Letter to the Editor

Continued from page 4

people over the age of 60, and especially those with chronic illness, to not come into the clinic, and instead contact us by phone and we will arrange to meet your needs while you remain at home. We are committed to the health of our elders, and we are expanding access to this group via phone visits, FaceTime, telehealth, and home visits. Our goal is to provide a deeper level of care for this high-risk group during the COVID-19 pandemic while keeping them out of clinics to avoid any possible exposure.

The most important part of our response to this crisis is you. This is not a time for panic. It is a time to listen to and comply with our requests for your safety and health, as we face a real challenge.

There has not been an equivalent health crisis in our country in living memory. Alaska has the unique opportunity to minimize our own epidemic by greatly limiting our physical contact with others to prevent the spread of this virus. If you have traveled outside the state in the last 14-days, please physically isolate yourself from others and remain in your home for 14-days. If you become ill, do not go to work. If you are ill, stay home and isolate yourself from others and call our hotline: they will screen you for testing on the phone.

The healthcare system, city, and other partners are doing everything they can to prepare for this pandemic. You are the most important part of the response. By being responsible and adopting safe behaviors such as hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and, most importantly, maintaining social distance (over six feet), we can avert disaster.

More information on prevention and treatment of COVID-19 can be found at covid19.searhc.org. During regular business hours, questions can be answered at our COVID-19 Hotline for SEARHC communities and patients at 907.988.8799.

Dr. Elliot Bruhl, MD



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# In times of uncertainty... a prayer of peace and protection

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in Him I will trust."  
Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
And from the perilous pestilence.  
He shall cover you with His feathers,  
And under His wings you shall take refuge;  
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.  
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,  
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,  
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,  
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.  
A thousand may fall at your side,  
And ten thousand at your right hand;  
But it shall not come near you.  
Only with your eyes shall you look,  
And see the reward of the wicked.  
Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,  
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

No evil shall befall you,  
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;  
For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
To keep you in all your ways.  
In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,  
The young lion and the serpent you shall  
trample underfoot.  
"Because he has set his love upon Me,  
therefore I will deliver him;  
I will set him on high, because he has known  
My name.  
He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will deliver him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him,  
And show him My salvation."

*Psalm 91, New King James Version*

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# Alaska Fish Factor By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

## Halibut fishermen face flattened market, firesale prices

The Pacific halibut fishery opened on March 14 amid little fanfare and flattened markets.

The first fish of the eight month season typically attracts the highest prices and is rushed fresh to high-end buyers, especially during the Lenten season. But that's not the case in this time of coronavirus chaos, when air traffic is stalled and seafood of all kinds is getting backlogged in global freezers.

Alaska's share of the 2020 halibut catch is about 17 million pounds for nearly 2,000 fishermen who own shares of the popular flatfish. A week into the fishery, fewer than 50 landings were made totaling just over 262,000 pounds and, as anticipated, prices to fishermen were in the pits.

Earliest price reports at Homer were posted at \$4.20 - \$4.40 per pound, Kodiak prices were at \$3.25 for 10-20 pounders, \$3.50 for halibut weighing 20-40 pounds and \$4 for "forty ups." Prices ranged from \$3.75-\$4.00 at Yakutat and \$3.50 "across the board" at Wrangell, according to Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer.

The highest prices of \$5.00,

\$4.75 and \$4.50 were reported at Southeast ports that have regular air freight service, although they are expected to drop by \$1-\$2 per pound a major buyer said.

The average statewide price for Alaska halibut in 2019 was \$5.30 a pound and \$5.35 in 2018.

For this season's start, some Alaska processors were buying small lots of halibut on consignment or filling existing orders; others were not buying at all.

"We are tentatively going to be buying longline fish on the first of May after the Columbia ferry gets back on line," said a major buyer in Southeast who blamed not having traditional ferries that haul thousands of pounds of fish each week, and a lack of air freight options at smaller communities.

"We're down here where transportation is dictating where fish has to go," he added.

Most of Alaska's halibut goes into the U.S. market where in recent years it has faced stiff competition from up to 8 million pounds of fresh Atlantic halibut, primarily from eastern Canada. And although Russia has banned purchases of U.S. seafood since 2014, increasing amounts of hal-

ibut caught by Russian fishing fleets are coming into our nation. Trade data show that two million pounds of Pacific and Atlantic halibut were imported to the U.S. over the past year through January 2020, valued at nearly \$6.7 million.

A major Alaska buyer said: "One of our salespeople shot us a deal showing that right now you can buy frozen at sea, tail off, 3-5 and 5-8 pound Pacific halibut from Russia for \$3.25 a pound."

Also newly appearing on U.S. shelves: farmed halibut fillets from Norway retailing at \$9.99 a pound.

**Hatchery hauls** - Alaska salmon that got their start in hatcheries made up 25 percent of last year's total statewide catch.

In 2019, roughly 50 million hatchery salmon were caught by Alaska fishermen, mostly pinks and chums, valued at \$118 million, or 18% of the state's total salmon harvest value.

That's according to the annual salmon enhancement report by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

Currently there are 30 hatcheries producing salmon in Alaska, of which 26 are operated by private, nonprofits. ADF&G operates two sport fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the federal government runs a research hatchery near Sitka, and the Metlakatla Indian tribe also operates a hatchery.

The hatcheries are funded by a fishermen's tax and sales of a

portion of the returning fish and receive no state dollars. They also produce salmon for sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries at no cost to the state of Alaska.

"For the coastal communities the hatchery program is a lifesaver for many of the people who fish for a living. It gives about 25% of the salmon harvest and that supplementation is a critical component for their business model," said Steve Reifentstahl, who on March 15 retired after 40 years as general manager at the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

At Prince William Sound, where most of Alaska's hatchery fish call home, 31 million salmon were caught last summer valued at \$64 million, or 56% of the region's total dockside value. Nearly 83% were chums, 61% were pinks and 34% were sockeye salmon.

For Southeast Alaska, the second largest hatchery region, fishermen harvested about 6.5 million hatchery fish valued at \$32 million, or 37% of the region's landings value. Chum salmon contributed \$24 million of that total.

Kodiak has the state's third highest hatchery production and about 3.4 million hatchery salmon were caught last year, nearly all pinks. The value to fishermen was close to \$5 million, or 11% of the total dockside value for Kodiak fishermen.

Three hatcheries in Cook

Inlet produce primarily sockeye and pink salmon. About 42,000 hatchery-produced salmon were harvested there last year for a total of nearly \$2 million, or nine percent of the value for the region.

About 1.7 billion tiny salmon were released by Alaska hatcheries in 2019 which operators predict will produce a total return of about 52 million salmon in 2020 including 35 million pinks, 13 million chums, 2.2 million sockeyes, 1.2 million cohos, and 100,000 Chinook salmon.

**Alaska's on acid** - Alaska waters are showing effects of increasing acidity faster and more severely than lower latitudes because cold water is richer in carbon dioxide and melting sea ice and glaciers worsen the problem. The off kilter ocean chemistry reduces the amount of minerals sea creatures need to build and maintain their shells.

That's the verdict in the 2019 report by the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network which updates the science going on around the state. The Network has modeled 40 years of ocean changes in the Gulf and is doing the same for the greater Arctic.

At Sitka, researchers are testing the effects of acidification and ocean warming on the earliest life stages of herring; early signs point to warming as the bigger threat.

At the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery at Seward, studies on

**Continued on page 7**

### LEGAL

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

**ORDINANCE No 976 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC AND GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE EMERGENCY**

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

**Published: March 26, 2020**

### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the **2020 Assessment Rolls** for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, as of January 1, 2020, have been completed. The Borough Assembly shall sit as a **Board of Equalization on Monday, May 11, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Wrangell Assembly Chambers**, and continue each day thereafter until its scheduled business is completed.

**NOTICE OF APPEAL** (with respect to any alleged error in the valuation, overcharge, or omission of the assessor) shall be filed with the Board of Equalization within thirty (30) days after the date on which the assessor's Notice of Assessment was given to the person appealing. The Notice of Appeal shall be in writing, on the designated form, specifying the grounds for appeal.

*Appeal Forms are available at City Hall or online at [www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com).*

**IT IS THE TAXPAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL OF:**

- 1. Properties not included in assessment notices**
- 2. Change of ownership of property not shown on assessment notices**

**NOTICE OF APPEALS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 20, 2020.**

Joyce Mason  
Finance Director  
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish: March 26, April 2, 9 and 16, 2020**

## Classified/Legals

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# Planning and Zoning Commission holds four public hearings

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Planning and Zoning Commission met last Tuesday evening, March 17, to hold a series of public hearings on several permit requests and agreement modifications.

The first hearing was on a conditional use permit request for agricultural development. This request came from Laura and Dwane Ballou of Oceanview Gardens. They recently purchased Lots 14A and 14B of USS 2589, in an area more commonly known as Sealy's Mt. The Ballous propose to use the land for raised beds, orchards, greenhouses, and high tunnels. The commission approved of this permit request, on the condition that a buffer of trees along the state right-of-way remain intact, light pollution is minimized, access to the property will be solely from the north end of the lot, and all other local, state, and federal requirements for agricultural use of the land be obtained.

Second on the commission's agenda was a hearing over a proposed modification to a contract zone agreement. In 2016, the meeting's agenda packet

reads, Don Glasner received an agreement to change the zone of Lot C in the Torgramsen-Glasner subdivision from "Single Family Residential" to "Light Industrial," to allow him to construct a storage unit. Later that year he received a modification to the agreement, allowing him to construct a second building. This newest request is meant to modify the agreement further, to let him build a third storage unit. The third building, according to the agenda packet, will have a footprint of 60' by 38', with four garage-style units. The commission approved of the agreement modification, upon several conditions: There will be a site-obscuring buffer of vegetation, lighting at the facility will be positioned so as to not disturb adjacent properties, hours of operation will be limited from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and that the driveway entrance to the storage unit be widened.

The commission then held a hearing over a variance permit request by Brooke Reynolds. Reynolds is looking to have a side yard on her property set back two feet from the property line, located at the corner of Reid and St. Michael's Street, to

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

razor clams indicate they are hurt by increasing acidity.

Tiny swimming sea snails called pteropods that make up 40 percent of the diet of juvenile pink salmon already are showing extensive shell corrosion in both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

The 2019 report also updates the monitoring being done since 2017 by the ferry Columbia as part of an unprecedented Alaska/Canada project to learn how increasing ocean acidity affects fisheries. The 418-foot ferry sucks up water samples every two minutes and has produced more than 700,000 measurements. The monitoring will resume when the Columbia is back on the water in May.

"The fantastic thing about this vessel is it's going from Bellingham to Skagway and back

every week. That's a 1,600-kilometer run. Nowhere in the world is there a ferry system that's outfitted with CO2 sensors that's running that scale of a transit. This is really exciting," said Wiley Evans, program technical lead with the Hakai Institute.

Early data point to an extremely variable seascape in which the surface water is more corrosive in fall and winter, representing the most vulnerable time for species that are sensitive to acidity. When spring arrives, the phytoplankton bloom removes carbon dioxide from the water through photosynthesis, and the water gets warmer making conditions more favorable for shell production.

So far, only a limited number of Alaska's commercially important species have been studied for their response to increasing acidity.

construct a fence. However, all lot lines are supposed to require a 20-foot setback. The commission decided that, given the physical characteristics of Reynolds' property, strictly following the 20-foot guideline would cause unnecessary hardship, the exception would not result in any prejudice to others, and the variance would not break any other guidelines, the

variance request was approved. Finally, the commission considered a conditional use permit for a temporary use of a trailer on Lot 8, Block 6, USS 2127. This request came from Greg and Tammy Meissner. They are wanting to have a trailer home on their property at Forth Avenue for a period of 18 months, while a permanent home is being constructed. The commis-

sion approved of this request, so long as the trailer is to no longer be used as an onsite living facility once construction is complete, and the Meissners have utilities for the trailer hooked up before moving in. Should they need to stay in the trailer beyond their 18 month period, the commission said they would have to come back to them for a modification.

# School district taking steps to provide education during closure

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Due to the spread of COVID-19 through Alaska, many people and organizations have had to suddenly alter their schedules and day-to-day operations. The Wrangell School District, for example, is looking at an extended closure right at the tail end of the school year. All schools in Alaska are to remain closed until May 1, according to an announcement by Governor Mike

Dunleavy, to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

This is especially important in Wrangell, Superintendent Debbe Lancaster wrote in an email to DEED Commissioner Michael Johnson, which she shared with the Sentinel. Lancaster said that 21 percent of Wrangell's population is over 60-years-old. With such a high percentage of senior citizens on the island, they all need to be especially careful when it comes to

COVID-19. The closure of the school district does not mean kids are forgoing their education, however. In Wrangell, the school district is taking steps to ensure their children are being educated and taken care of.

"We spent this week on an extended spring break for students so staff could continue public education as we prepare for student learning to resume on March 23," Lancaster wrote.

The district has been practicing social distancing during this closure, according to Lancaster, conducting meetings online and via phone or email. They have also tried to stay in regular contact with families to keep them informed about what is going on. Lancaster also highlighted their district website, [www.wpsd.us](http://www.wpsd.us), where people can find updated information regarding the virus and changes to the dis-

Continued on page 8

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### The calendar says spring is here

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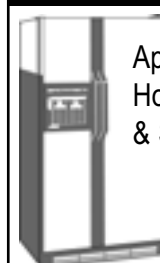


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# Hospital construction nears end of first year of work

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Despite concerns of COVID-19, construction of the new Wrangell Medical Center has continued largely unhindered. Work on the new hospital began back in April of 2019, with an official groundbreaking ceremony in June, after the City and Borough of Wrangell and SEARHC came to a mutual agreement on the project. Work is nearing the one-year mark, and so far everything is largely on track. Current activities at the construction site include sheathing the exterior of the building, roofing work, and installation of plumbing, wall vents, and HVAC ducts.

"We are wrapping up our

first year of construction with our current focus on closing in the building," wrote SEARHC Construction and Engineering Manager Mike Pountney in a March 20 update. "The building is nearly dried-in with only a small section of Area 2 remaining. The interior concrete slab was completed in mid-February and exterior wall sheathing is almost complete."

The new hospital is designed to have a footprint of roughly 45,000 square feet, with a price tag of about \$30 million. SEARHC plans to have construction complete this year, with the new hospital ready for business by early 2021. The new Wrangell Medical Center is lo-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

**Construction of the new Wrangell Medical Center is still ongoing, nearing its one-year mark.**

cated on Wood Street, attached to the current AICS clinic. A virtual tour of the new hospital can be found on SEARHC's Facebook page, "SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)".

When asked if anything has

changed since the COVID-19 mandate went into effect, Pountney answered in an email, "We are evaluating the effects of the COVID-19 mandate with SEARHC leadership and will have an answer to this question soon we hope. Currently the

crew on site has not been reduced, but [we] have implemented safety procedures to reduce risks associated with COVID. The project schedule remains the same and has not changed but will be updated if any delays occur."

## School

Continued from page 7

district's schedule. The district is also hard at work for the student body. While they will not be meeting in person until May, teachers are preparing to do their jobs from a distance.

"Schoolwork has been prepared by teachers," Lancaster wrote. "Packets via email, pick up, and delivery have been a means for getting work into students' hands. Teachers are also connecting through making YouTube or FlipGrid videos, and considering log in platforms to connect classes such as Zoom or Google Hangouts."

Art and home economics teacher Tawney Crowley said this change of pace for the district is causing both her and her students to be more creative. Switching to online classes is actually a benefit for home economics, she said, as students will get the opportunity to practice what they learn immediately in their own homes. Art classes are a little trickier, she said, but her students are rolling with the punches. The classes are now emphasizing things students can do at home, such as photography and creating artwork with materials they can find at home.

"We're using online classrooms for all three of the art classes," Crowley said. "You don't have to have all the stuff to be able to do art."

Matt Gore, technology director for the district, said that this is an opportunity for students to learn skills beyond what they typically learn in the classroom. The modern workforce relies heavily on technology and working remotely, he said. The next few weeks would be a good chance for students to learn how to utilize email, video conferencing, and other skills their future jobs might require.

"As a technologist I see this as an opportunity for growth," Gore said.

Gore added that teachers have been hard at work learning or expanding their knowledge of the tools at hand to teach remotely. The district relies heavily on Google platforms, Gore said, such as Google Classroom and Google Hangout. For families that may not have internet access

at home, Gore also mentioned they would be setting up "Drive-through WiFi" in the Evergreen Elementary School parking lot. Families could pull into the parking lot and use this wifi to help their kids complete their homework. Gore also mentioned that businesses GCI and Alaska Power and Telephone are putting offers in place for new or upgraded internet service parents may want to consider.

Besides homework, the district is also working to make sure students' needs are met in other areas. Lunches for students can be ordered online, and will be made available for pickup from various businesses around town that regularly provide meals, such as City Market, J&W's, and Wrangell IGA. Lancaster is appreciative of members of the community for recently providing free meals to the student body last week, when the schools' food services were unavailable.

"WPSD and the community of Wrangell have worked well together to keep the calm, support all to stay safe, and have worked tirelessly in the best interest of all residents," Lancaster wrote. "The principals, teachers, support staff, tech department, and all employees of WPSD have been amazing and will continue to do whatever needs to be done to continue a level of instruction, skill development, and learning for all WPSD students."

As of Monday, March 23, there were no reported cases of COVID-19 in Wrangell.

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**WRANGELL  
HEALTH FAIR  
POSTPONED**

**In the interest of public safety, the 2020 Wrangell Health Fair, formerly scheduled for April 4, 2020, is being postponed until further notice.**

SEARHC is taking precautionary measures to provide safe and secure environments for all residents in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). More information on the virus can be found at [covid19.searhc.org](https://covid19.searhc.org).

Wrangell Medical Center leadership appreciates your understanding and is working to develop a solution to make low cost blood draws available to our community soon.

For more information, please call 907.874.7000.

**SEARHC**  
healthy is here.