

## Candidacy declarations close for October election

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Candidacy declarations for Wrangell's Oct. 6 election closed at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31. A variety of positions in city leadership were open for candidates this year. However, unless there are write-in candidates, not enough candidates announced their interest to potentially fill all of the open seats in this upcoming election.

Mayor Steve Prysunka will be seeking re-election to his position this year. He was elected Mayor in 2018. He is running unopposed, pending any write-in candidates announcing themselves.

There are three open seats on the borough assembly. Two of them are for full three-year terms. Candidates seeking these seats are Ryan Howe, Jennifer Jackson, and Anne Morrison. The third seat is for a one-year unexpired term. The candidates for this seat are Terry Courson and Bob Dalrymple.

There is one seat open on the school board, which is being campaigned for by Laura Ballou and Constance Harris this year.

There are two open seats on the port commission. Gary Morrison, barring any write-in candidates, is running unopposed for a three-year term on the commission. The second open seat is for a two-year unexpired term. However, as of Aug. 31, no declarations were filed for this position. Borough Clerk Kim Lane wrote that she will advertise the vacancy, and the assembly



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Car wash

Wrangell's Girl Scout troop held a car wash and bake sale last Saturday to raise money. According to a Facebook post by Elizabeth Roundtree, promoting the event, the fundraiser was to help Troop 26 purchase ukuleles to donate to Evergreen Elementary School's music department. According to Roundtree, the troop was able to raise \$1,595 and one ukulele. Pictured are members of the troop (right to left): Kailee Roundtree, Arabella Nore, Silje Morse, Kysa Harrison, Lynnea Harrison, Peyton Young, AJ Roundtree, Delilah Roane, Hailey Gablehouse, and Rosslyn Nore.

will appoint someone to the empty seat following the election, if there are no write-ins. Those wishing to run as a write-in candidate must file with the city by 4 p.m. on Oct. 2.

## School board reviews SMART Start plan in special meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School Board held a special meeting Monday evening, Aug. 31, to review updated SMART Start plans for the upcoming school year. With the first day of school scheduled for Sept. 8, and the district planning for in-person classes, the SMART start plans are meant to act as a guide for how schools will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the "medium risk" level the schools will open with, staff and students will be required to wear face masks, non-instructional gathering of more than 20 people are discouraged, and social distancing will be in place, among numerous other guidelines. A copy of the SMART Start plans can be found on the school's website, www.wpsd.us.

The meeting opened with a motion by Board Member Patty Gilbert, to suspend the board's normal guidelines on public comments. The board decided to be more lenient on time limits for public comments during this special meeting, and to give board members the opportunity to ask and respond to questions.

Several community members spoke up during the meeting. Bob Davis, lead teacher and assistant principal for the secondary schools, voiced support for the SMART Start plan. A lot of work has been done to put it together, he said, and getting kids back into in-person classes was very important for their social and emotional wellbeing.

Penny Allen voiced concerns, during the meeting, that parents have not had enough input on the plan. One of her main concerns was over the requirement for students to wear face masks. In a personal survey she organized, she said, the majority of 120 responses wanted masks to only be optional, or only required when social distancing was not possible. Later in the meeting, Wrangell resident Brooke Leslie said she felt making masks optional would be a bad idea, but had questions about the feasibility of only requiring them when social distancing was not possible.

Sarah Scambler asked if it would be possible for students to attend school full time, at the elementary level, if enrollment was low enough. Superintendent

Debbe Lancaster said it could be a possibility. However, the district was going to try and stick with the plan in place for the first semester, with half of the students receiving in-class instruction and the other half online. It was something they were going to be continuously looking at and updating, though, she said.

Lancaster also provided current enrollment numbers in the district, as of Aug. 31. There are 63 enrolled or nearly-enrolled students at Evergreen Elementary School for next semester. At Stikine Middle School, enrollment is at 41. Wrangell High School has 37 completed enrollment applications as of the meeting.

Laura Ballou also had questions for the board. In particular, she wanted to know what the district's plans were for notifying parents if a student is found with a positive case of COVID-19 and their response to an outbreak. Lancaster responded that these particular parts of the plan are still in the works. Notification forms are being distributed, she said, and they are practicing with administrators on how to

handle such a potential situation. She added that the district is still trying to hire sanitation aides to assist in keeping the schools clean, but so far they have not been successful.

Much of the discussion amongst the school board revolved around their involvement in updates to the SMART Start plan. Several board members questioned the feasibility of organizing a meeting to approve of every change to the SMART Start plan. It is a living document, they said, and will likely be changed regularly as new information comes in. Even if the board does not meet to approve every change, the general consensus was they wanted to be informed of all changes, and to make sure the public was aware, too.

Another point made in the meeting was that there was still uncertainty about whether or not in-person classes will happen at all. Lancaster said, in the meeting, that there is a soft deadline for Thursday, Sept. 3, to finally determine if in-person education is feasible at this time. This is due to staffing needs across the district, she said, and whether or not

enrollment numbers will mean there are enough teachers and aides. Furthermore, she added, an appropriate level of training for the challenges of the new school year must be in place. Making sure the schools were a safe environment for everybody was a common theme brought up by Lancaster, the school board, and other community members.

After further discussion, the school board approved of the SMART Start plan.

Following the review of the SMART Start plan, the board held an executive session to discuss the superintendent's contract and their relations with the school board. In a press release from the district the following morning, it was announced that the board decided to issue a formal reprimand to Lancaster. This is in response to misconduct involving a staff trip to Juneau, according to the press release, as well as for communications with the borough and the media concerning borough travel policies. The board president will work with the district's attorney to put together the reprimand and an improvement plan.



# Three active COVID-19 cases in Wrangell, 18 total

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The community of Wrangell currently has three active cases of COVID-19, as of Tues-

day, Sept. 1. The three most recent cases were discovered through routine employee testing programs, according to press releases from the

City and Borough of Wrangell. All three cases have been reported to be asymptomatic, as well. This brings the total number of cases of the virus in Wrangell up to 18.

The first of the currently active cases was discovered last Friday, Aug. 21. The second case came on Friday, Aug. 28. The third case was announced on Monday, Aug. 31.

All three press releases from the city remind the public that asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 is available at the SEARHC AICS clinic on week-ends.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, September 3:** Janice Churchill, Tasha Peterman, Colby Nore, Shailyn Nelson. **Friday, September 4:** Kenny Speers, Rynda Hayes, *Anniversary:* Glenn & Rebecca Smith. **Saturday, September 5:** Sandra Byrd, Luke Steele, Helen Keller, Jason Rooney, Devan Massin, Randy Oliver, *Anniversary:* Matt & Margo Walker-Scott. **Sunday, September 6:** Dan Nore, Casey Shilts, Phil Carey, Luke Feuerhelm, *Anniversary:* Jeremy & Brandy Grina. **Monday, September 7:** Chris Versteeg, Clara Waddington, Mathias Wiederspohn. *Anniversary:* Colin & Erin Anderson. **Tuesday, September 8:** Leroy Travers, Peggy Wilson, Maxi Wiederspohn. **Wednesday, September 9:** Andrew Scambler, Hope Miller, Jody Waddington, Marlo Ellsworth, Josh Blatchley, Jasmine Clyburn. **Thursday, September 10:** Connor Blake, Lucille Merrill, Carol P. Haaseth. *Anniversary:* Harry and Rose Sundberg, Arnold and Alice Bakke.

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

## Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

### Friday, September 4

Baked Fish, Steamed Greens, Corn Salad, Buttered Noodles.

### Monday, September 7

\*\*LABOR DAY\*\*

### Tuesday, September 8

Sweet Spare Ribs, Green Beans, Salad, Rice.

### Wednesday, September 9

Baked Chicken, Broccoli, Carrot Pineapple Salad, Au Gratin Potatoes.

### Thursday, September 10

Roast Beef, Spinach, Fruit Slaw, Mashed Potatoes.

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

**Sunday, September 6**

Matanuska 4:15 p.m.

**Sunday, September 13**

Matanuska 4:45 p.m.

**Sunday, September 20**

Matanuska 3:15 p.m.

**Sunday, September 27**

Matanuska 5:30 p.m.

### Southbound

**Wednesday, September 9**

Matanuska 6:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 16**

Matanuska 6:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 23**

Matanuska 7:15 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 30**

Matanuska 6:15 a.m.

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



## TIDES

September 3 - September 10

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Sept. 3	02:11	16.9	02:44	16.1	08:19	-0.9	08:30	1.4
Sept. 4	02:45	16.3	03:12	15.9	08:46	-0.2	09:01	1.3
Sept. 5	03:18	15.6	03:39	15.6	09:13	0.6	09:32	1.5
Sept. 6	03:50	14.7	04:05	15.2	09:41	1.5	10:06	1.7
Sept. 7	04:24	13.7	04:34	14.6	10:11	2.5	10:45	2.1
Sept. 8	05:02	12.6	05:07	14.0	10:46	3.6	11:30	2.6
Sept. 9	05:52	11.5	05:50	13.4	11:28	4.7	...	...
Sept. 10	07:06	10.7	06:55	12.9	00:27	3.1	12:24	5.7

# Primary election results released, 15 percent turnout in Wrangell

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The official results for the Aug. 18 primary election have been released on the Alaska Division of Elections website. The primary election gives voters the opportunity to narrow down which candidates they would like to consider in the upcoming general election, later this year.

Out of Wrangell's 1,973 registered voters, 299 votes were cast in the primary. This is a turnout of 15.15 percent, according to the state website. Statewide, turnout for the primary election was 22.7 percent.

Across the state, Dan Sullivan and Al Gross received the majority of votes to campaign for U.S. Senate in the general election. Don Young won

the primary election to run once again for his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well. His opponent will be Alyse Galvin.

Wrangell gave 197 votes to Dan Sullivan, and 67 votes to Al Gross. Don Young also received 170 votes from Wrangell, while Alyse Galvin received 61.

In state politics, Bert Stedman received almost 64 percent of the vote, 1,931 total, beating his opponent Michael Sheldon who received 1,096 votes. For House District 36, Leslie Becker received 100 percent of the vote, 1,442 in total.

Wrangell provided 144 votes for Bert Stedman, and 66 votes for Michael Sheldon. The community also provided 188 votes for Becker.

The general election will take place on Nov. 3.

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

### September 8, Tuesday

**American Legion Auxiliary meeting:** 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall.

**Jury duty for September.** 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.

### September 2, 1920

The Willson & Sylvester Mill of Wrangell has this week been cutting lumber for the construction of the first paper mill in Alaska. On Saturday a scow load of lumber will leave the mill dock for Speel river where the paper mill of the Alaska Pulp & Paper Company will be built. The contract for the first pulp wood to be cut in Alaska was let by the Alaska Pulp and Paper Company to Sawyer and Reynolds, loggers operating near Killisnoo. The company's boats are now preparing to tow the booms to Speel river for delivery to the Pulp Plant there. The wood to be used is Alaska Spruce. The first boom should arrive at Speel river shortly and this will be followed by several more until the pulp company has enough on hand to start its plant and to insure a supply to run on over winter.

again received notification from the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools that the local High School is fully accredited and approved.

### September 3, 1970

Two seats on the City Council and two on the school board will become vacant next month. Candidates for the job can pick up filing papers beginning Tuesday at city hall, according to City Clerk Joyce Rasler. The position will be filled in a general city election Oct. 6. The City Council seats are held currently by Olaf Hansen and Ben Engel. The School Board seats up for

refilling are those of Mrs. Mable Fennimore and John Maxand.

### September 3, 1995

Working at the top, Dan Flaughner and Jerry Engleman removed flaking paint as an early step in priming and repainting the flag poles at Wrangell's U. S. Post Office. They had to twice put together scaffolding in order to safely perform the task - taking advantage of pleasant weather last week in order to accomplish the job. The sidewalk, street and parking area in front of the building are also to be resurfaced in the near future.



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Aug. 24	56	52
Aug. 25	57	51
Aug. 26	59	52
Aug. 27	62	50
Aug. 28	57	53
Aug. 29	61	48
Aug. 30	56	52
Aug. 31	62	54



## Daylight Hours

Date	5:56a	7:37p	13:41h
Sept. 3	5:56a	7:37p	13:41h
Sept. 4	5:58a	7:35p	13:37h
Sept. 5	6:00a	7:32p	13:32h
Sept. 6	6:02a	7:29p	13:27h
Sept. 7	6:04a	7:27p	13:23h
Sept. 8	6:06a	7:24p	13:18h
Sept. 9	6:08a	7:21p	13:13h
Sept. 10	6:10a	7:19p	13:09h

### August 31, 1945

Wrangell's teaching staff is complete and the 1945-46 term will begin Tuesday, September 4. Mrs. Walter Knape of Juneau has been secured to teach English, replacing Mrs. Bear who resigned Aug. 15. Parents of children entering the first grade are reminded such children should have a physical examination in the first week of school. Supt. Fabricius has



# Court report

**June 16:** Corey Henderson was arraigned on charges of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance. His request for a court-appointed lawyer was granted. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

Gary Hamley was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. He was released on a \$250 cash performance bond. His request for a court-appointed lawyer was granted. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

**June 30:** Summons were issued for Anthony Guggenbickler to appear on July 14, on charges of assault.

**July 1:** Michael Hall was arraigned on two charges of assault in the fourth degree. He was released on his own recognizance, and a request for a court-appointed lawyer was granted. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

**July 13:** Opal Wilsey pleaded guilty to charges of theft of a firearm or explosive. She was sentenced to 18 months incarceration, with 18 months suspended. She was also ordered to pay a police training surcharge of \$200, a \$100 initial jail surcharge, and a \$100 suspended jail surcharge, as well as to pay restitution for the theft. She has also been ordered to have no contact with the victim(s) and will be on probation for two years.

Charges of theft against Opal Wilsey were dismissed as part of a plea agreement in another case.

Probation for Jennifer Taylor, charged with alcohol consumption, was revoked. She was sentenced to three days imprisonment, or 24 hours of community service. She was also ordered to contact SEARHC for an alcohol assessment.

**July 14:** Corey Henderson

# Police report

**August 24**  
Traffic Complaint.  
Traffic Stop: Jason Burk, 38, citation for speeding.

Traffic Stop: Elizabeth Golding, 53, citation for speeding.  
Theft.  
Child Abuse.  
Welfare Check.

**August 25**  
Subpoena Service.  
Parking Complaint.

**August 26**  
Agency Assist: Office of Child Services.  
Dog Complaints.  
Subpoena Service.

**August 27**  
Disturbance: Domestic Violence, Civil Issue.

Agency Assist: Harbor Dept.  
Agency Assist: Petersburg Police Dept.  
Disturbance: Domestic Violence.

**August 28**  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.  
Vehicle Unlock.  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Reddi Report: DUI.

**August 29**  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Summons Service.  
Traffic Stop.  
Dog at Large.

**August 30**  
Agency Assist: Ambulance.

There were three EMS requests in this reporting period.

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was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. He was released under his own recognizance, and a request for a court-appointed lawyer was granted. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

Charges against Theodosia James, of violating conditions of release, were dismissed by prosecution as part of a plea agreement.

Probation for Theodosia James, charged with alcohol consumption, was revoked. She must serve 60 days imprisonment, followed by electronic monitoring, after which she will no longer be on probation.

Charges against Theodosia James, "alcohol restricted - in licensed areas", were dismissed by prosecution as part of a plea agreement.

Charges against Theodosia James, of violating conditions of release, were dismissed by prosecution as part of a plea agreement.

**July 21:** Travis Wassillie was arraigned on charges of unlawful contact in the first and second degree. He was released on a \$200 cash performance bond. His request for a court-appointed lawyer was granted. He shall have no direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

Myrna Torgramsen II was arraigned on a charge of a dangerous dog violation. A minor offense trial was scheduled for

Aug. 4.

**July 28:** A change of plea hearing was held for Lolita Larsen, charged with assault 1, assault 2, and assault 3. A sentencing hearing was scheduled for Oct. 20.

**July 31:** Myrna Torgramsen II was found guilty of a dangerous dogs violation. She was ordered to pay a fine of \$300, and a \$20 police training surcharge.

**Aug. 4:** Charges against Justin Barker, of driving with a cancelled/suspended/revoked license, were dismissed.

A felony first appearance was held for Trenten Maxand, charged with Assault 3. He was released on his own recognizance and was ordered to have no contact with the alleged victim. His next scheduled appearance is Aug. 10.

Caleb Padgett was arraigned on charges of a probation/parole violation. He was released on his own recognizance. His next scheduled appearance is Nov. 10.

James Vandebunte III was found guilty of failing to signal during a turn, after a default judgment. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$75, a \$20 police training surcharge, and \$35 in court costs. He was also found guilty of a time-limit parking violation. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$50, a \$20 police training surcharge, and \$35 in court costs.

Myrna Torgramsen II was found guilty of a dangerous dogs violation. She was ordered to pay a fine of \$300 and a police training surcharge of \$20.

**Aug. 10:** A pre-trial conference was held for Kipha Valvoda vs. David Jack et al. The case was removed from the trial calendar. Opposition would be due Aug. 20.

**Aug. 11:** An adjudication hearing was held for Nicole Lupro, charged with a probation/parole violation. A status hearing was scheduled for Sept. 15, with another adjudication hearing on Sept. 21.

A sentencing hearing was held for Lynn Marks, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. The defendant failed to appear, and the hearing was reset for Aug. 25.

Travis Wassillie was arraigned on charges of causing

injury with a weapon, causing fear of injury with a weapon, and reckless injury. An omnibus hearing was scheduled for Sept. 21. A calendar call was scheduled for Nov. 10. A jury trial was scheduled for Nov. 17.

Stanley Guggenbickler was arraigned on charges of reckless driving. A calendar call was scheduled for Nov. 10.

Valerie Nakamura pleaded guilty to a charge of misconduct involving a controlled substance. She was sentenced to 30 imprisonment with 30 suspended. She was ordered to report to SEARHC for a substance abuse evaluation. She was ordered to pay a police training surcharge of \$100. She will be on probation for one year.

**Aug. 18:** Jessica Ritchie was arraigned on charges of driving with a cancelled/suspended license, and violating conditions of release. She was released on a \$250 cash performance bond, and was appointed a public defender. A calendar call was scheduled for Sept. 15.

**Aug. 22:** Victor James Stead was arraigned on charges of sexual assault, assault, and burglary. He was released on a cash performance bond of \$50,000. He was ordered to have no contact with his children or to go to the alleged victim's residence, nor is he allowed to be in possession of any weapons. Further proceedings were scheduled for Aug. 25.

**Aug. 25:** A sentencing hearing was held for Lynn Marks, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. The defendant failed to appear. The court issued an order to show cause by Sept. 15.

A minor offense hearing was held for Jessica Ritchie, charged with driving with a cancelled/suspended license. The defendant failed to appear, and a default judgment was entered.


Taler Byrd was arraigned on charges of violating a protective order, and to hold a hearing on a petition to revoke his parole. The defendant was granted a court appointed lawyer, and released on his own recognizance. A calendar call was scheduled for Nov. 10.

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# Dan's Dispatch

*By Representative*  
**Dan Ortiz**

Beginning on June 1st, small businesses were able to apply for AK CARES Act relief funding, which is Federal funds intended to help support local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) and AIDEA have had difficulties getting the money to applicants; of the \$290 million in relief funds allocated by the Legislature in

May, only a small percentage of those funds have been distributed to local businesses. In response, multiple House committees held hearings to take public comment about the AK CARES Act program.

The response from Alaskans was heard loud and clear: changes needed to be made. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, important changes were made to expand eligibility: nonprofit 503(C)(6) organizations and commercial fishermen are now eligible. The changes also allowed small busi-

nesses that had already received up to \$5,000 in PPP/EIDL funds eligible to apply. Now, the State has expanded the eligibility of that last point even more.

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee met to approve additional changes requested by the Governor Now, businesses that received *any* amount of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds are eligible to apply for AK CARES grants. Those businesses must re-apply through the

online portal at [www.akcaresonline.org](http://www.akcaresonline.org). COVID-19 has created unprecedented times and addressing those issues has been a moving target. I understand the frustration that many businesses have had difficulty applying or have not yet received their funds.

Please contact my office if you would like any assistance in applying or just want to know more about the program. You can reach me at [Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov](mailto:Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov) or call my office at (907) 247-4672.

## Guest Commentary *Finances force reduced ferry service*

*By Commissioner,*  
*AK Dept. of Transportation*  
*and Public Facilities*

**John MacKinnon**

Over the past eighteen months, Alaska's ferry system faced unprecedented challenges: a reduced budget, a strike, unanticipated mechanical and structural issues with five aging ships, and a global pandemic. This spring, as the pandemic hit, AMHS had four of those ships scheduled to enter service, a workable budget in place, and expected sufficient revenue to provide reliable ferry service throughout the year. Due to the dramatic decline in revenue as commerce all but stopped, the financial impacts on AMHS have been severe. Because ticket sales support the AMHS operating budget, we're now facing a shortfall of almost \$45 million. This shortfall,

caused by the pandemic, equates to a budget cut of the same amount.

The resulting winter schedule is not what we expected to provide. It's not what Alaska's coastal communities consider to be a satisfactory level of ferry service. Last winter, the system was hit hard with unexpected mechanical issues - now our ships are in good shape, but there are not enough funds to operate them.

When our draft winter operating schedule came out, there were some complaints that we didn't provide enough time for comment. The reality is we accept comments year-round, and we frequently adjust our schedules to accommodate requests from communities. One point to keep in mind is that most of this year's community and school events we build our schedule around have already been canceled. Right now, AMHS needs to finalize its winter schedule so travelers can begin making reservations for our October through April travel season.

In addition to the budget issues we're facing, pandemic conditions have added a whole new level of complexity to running our ships and keeping

passengers and crew safe from another outbreak. I applaud AMHS for their outstanding response to the challenges created by COVID-19. It's been incredibly complicated to coordinate everything, but we've managed to run the mainline route since late June without an outbreak. With the insidious menace of COVID-19, it's not a matter of if, but when an outbreak will occur on an AMHS vessel, so we count every week of successful operation a blessing in these very challenging times. Our crew has done an exceptional job following protocol, and that's been the key to continuing operations.

A recent incident occurred aboard the M/V Matanuska when a group of passengers learned en route that they had been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person before they boarded the ship. Matanuska's crew followed protocol - the affected passengers were quarantined in their cabins with meals delivered for the duration of the voyage. When several of those passengers later tested positive for the virus, we promptly tested the entire crew. Thankfully, all 47 crew received negative results, and Matanuska

returned to service, but not without a one-week delay, considerable cost and lost revenue. What could have easily resulted in a shipboard outbreak and weeks of the entire ship in quarantine was averted by a quick and reasoned response from a well-trained crew.

This pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of our lives and will continue to do so for some time. The incident on the Matanuska is just one example of the commendable job AMHS is doing - they continued providing ferry service when it didn't seem feasible. But in the midst of the pandemic, we have to accept the fact that fewer travelers mean less revenue, and reductions in service are

required to keep the system afloat.

At DOT&PF, we take our responsibilities seriously for all of Alaska's communities - those on the road system, the 35 serviced by AMHS, and the 140+ that are neither on the road system nor on the ferry routes. The AMHS Reshaping Work Group has met regularly over the last six months, receiving input from a diverse group of stakeholders who either compete with, operate, or rely on our ferry system. I look forward to the work group's final report, and to implementing fundamental changes to keep reliable ferry service running in Alaska for the long term.

### Death Notice

Fred P. Thruston Sr., died of a heart attack at Wrangell Medical Center on May 26, 2020. An obituary will follow and a memorial service also at some point.

### Obituary: Colleen L. Hought, 64

Colleen L. Hought, 64, died on August 16, 2020 in Eugene, Oregon.

She was born on May 2, 1956 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Lurine and Mac McGee.

She grew up in Wrangell, Alaska.

Dave Hought can be reached at 2374 E. Irwin, Eugene, OR 97402

The family plans to scatter her ashes in Alaska at a later date.

**Optometrist Susan Haney**  
**will be in Wrangell at the Stikine Inn**  
**SUNDAY - TUESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 20-22**

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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

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Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

**POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

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The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com); website: [www.wrangellsentinel.com](http://www.wrangellsentinel.com)

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#### Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1.50

Local.....\$46

Other Alaska.....\$62

2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$70

First Class.....\$102



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Sunny day

It has been a noticeably rainy summer in Wrangell. However, the community got one day of “summer” weather last Saturday, Aug. 29. It was a good opportunity to go boating, explore the great outdoors, and enjoy the drier weather while it lasted.



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## Family Resilience Fair takes place this month

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The third annual Family Resilience Fair will take place later this month, according to Kay Larson. The fair, set up by local nonprofit BRAVE, is designed to bring together different organizations across Wrangell and beyond to help families discover resources that may be available to them. This year’s fair will take place on Sept. 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Nolan Center.

There are some limitations with the fair this year, Larson

said. With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, those participating in the fair will be asked to follow safety measures. Among the safety guidelines encouraged by the city, and the state, include wearing face masks, sanitizing one’s hands, and keeping one’s distance from others. Larson said she preferred to call it “physical distancing” instead of “social distancing,” because she wants the community to still come together to support each other, even if people have to physically stay apart for the time

being.

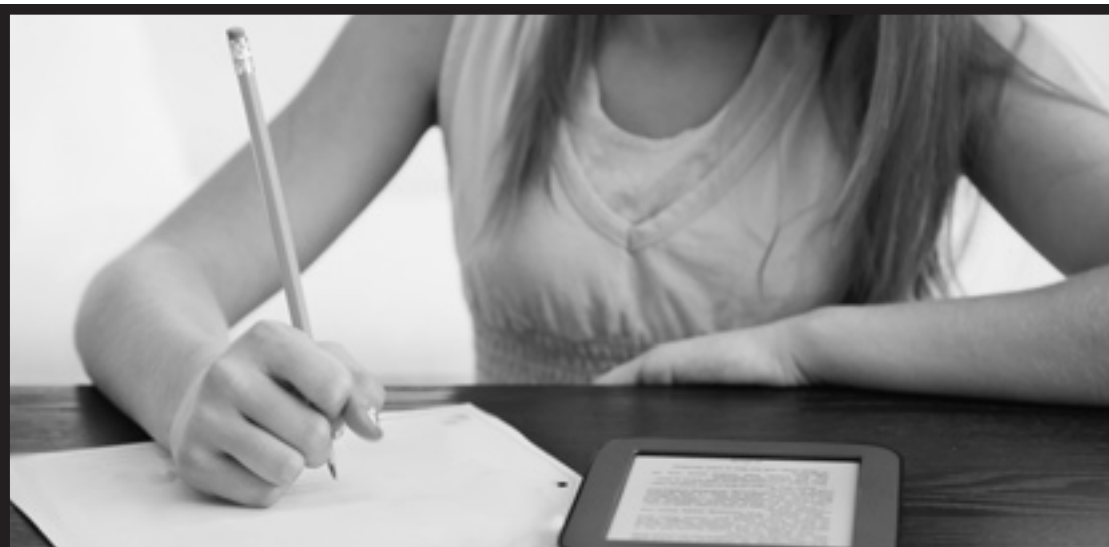
“I think the emphasis this year will be on providing any and all resources that would help strengthen families through these difficult and uncertain times,” Larson said.

Along with bringing together organizations to show what resources they have available, Larson said that people can expect prizes and drawings to be available. She added that BRAVE is trying to find all of the babies that were born between the previous fair, last

September, and this year’s. They would like to celebrate these new additions to the community at the fair, as well, she said.

Larson also added that funding to organize the fair has come from the City and Borough of Wrangell. They awarded BRAVE \$1,800, she said, and about \$600 was used for the Family Resilience Fair.

Anybody with questions, or interested in participating in the fair, can contact Larson at [brave.wrangell@gmail.com](mailto:brave.wrangell@gmail.com)

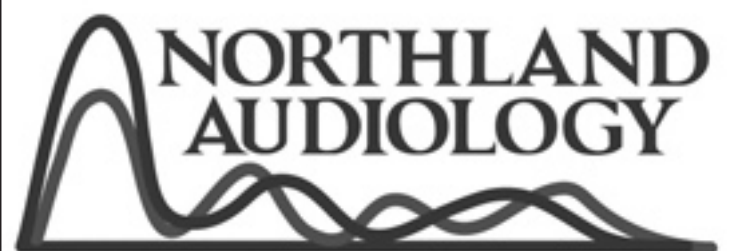


The Wrangell Sentinel welcomes your letters to the editor, particularly letters pertaining to local issues.

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed and include an address, phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.
- Longer letters can be published as paid advertising with consent of publisher.
- The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.



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# WCA provides \$86,000 to fire department

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Two weeks ago the Wrangell Cooperative Association provided \$86,000 to the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department which, according to Tribal Administrator Esther Reese, is to help purchase new ambulance equipment. Some of the equipment includes a PowerCot, a PowerLoad system, and a cardiac monitor.

"We're really happy to be able to contribute in a tangible way to something that is meaningful in our community, and helping keep our community members and our tribal members safe," she said.

The donation was made as part of the tribe's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not the only project the WCA is working on either, Reese said. She added that the tribe has put together utility assistance and food assistance programs, to help tribal members who are struggling through the pandemic. About \$110,000 has been put towards these projects so far, she said.

Reese added that they are looking into food self-sufficiency tools for tribal members, as a future project. This would include gardening equipment and possibly building smokehouses for people. This project is still in the works, she said. They hope to have a concrete plan ready for action by next spring.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Halibee bits for sale

Wrangell Burial Assistance hosted a fundraiser at the downtown pavilion Saturday, Aug. 29, selling plates of halibee bits. Pictured are Greg Meissner, Tammi Meissner, and Loretta Rice. According to Devyn Johnson, with WBA, the fundraiser pulled together \$2,343 after costs.

# Two WPD officers make trip to Ketchikan for training

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Two members of the Wrangell Police Department made a four-day trip to Ketchikan last week for some training, according to city officials. The trip raised some questions, as the city has an ongoing moratorium for employees traveling outside of Wrangell during the COVID-19 pandemic. The trip was made with the full awareness of the borough assembly, it is reported, and an exception for the travel ban exists for public safety training.

Chief Tom Radke said that Officers Connor Philips and Nick Pearson made the trip for training on interviewing and interrogation techniques. It was a course for learning how to talk to people, draw out important information, read cues, and other techniques for communication in police work. Radke explained that the training was originally set to take place in Anchorage, but was cancelled when the COVID-19

pandemic first broke out in Alaska. It was rescheduled to take place in Ketchikan, which he pointed out was even closer and cheaper than originally planned. The training had been budgeted for, and Radke said city officials were aware of the planned trip.

"People want people trained, you got to leave the island to get trained," he said.

Mayor Steve Prysunka confirmed Radke's statement that the borough assembly was aware of the trip to Ketchikan, and the officers went on their authorization. The officers left on Alaska Airlines and were traveling as responsibly as possible, he said.

Prysunka went on to explain that it was true, in general, that the city did not want its employees to travel during the pandemic. However, he said certain exceptions are in place. For public safety training, life safety training, or for city employees to receive or retain important certifications,

travel is allowed. The trip to Ketchikan, he said, was one such exception.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga also commented on the training in Ketchikan.

"The Borough cut all travel and training from the budget,

except for first responder and safety sensitive positions, and positions with required certifications where continuing education training is necessary," she wrote in an email, forwarded to the Sentinel. "All non-essential training/travel

was cut. There are currently two officers in Ketchikan attending training. That training was pre-approved in the FY21 Budget. However, as has been indicated by the Mayor, all non-essential training/travel was cut."

## FREE COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE IN WRANGELL

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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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# High school releases tentative sports schedule

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School has provided the Wrangell Sentinel a very tentative schedule for

sporting events this season. The COVID-19 pandemic cut the basketball season short last year, and as the pandemic is still ongoing there is much uncer-

tainty about what sports will look like this year. Trisa Rooney, activities director for Wrangell High School, emphasized in an email to the Sentinel that the

dates and locations provided were all subject to change. Nothing has been set in stone yet, she said.

Cross country season began

late this July. Their first meet was tentatively scheduled for Sept. 5, on Prince of Wales Island. However, Superintendent Debbe Lancaster informed the Sentinel on Sept. 1 that this meet has been cancelled. The way things stand in the schedule, as of Aug. 27, Regionals and State will take place in early October.

Swim season opened today, Sept. 3. A "virtual meet" is scheduled against Ketchikan on Sept. 25 and 26. Regionals are scheduled for Nov. 20 and 21, with the State meet on Dec. 4 and 5.

Volleyball season opens on Sept. 9. No matches were listed in the schedule provided to the Sentinel. Regionals are set for Nov. 19-21, and State on Dec. 3-5.

Wrestling season opens on Sept. 30. Regionals are scheduled for Dec. 11-12, and State is set for Dec. 18-19.

For basketball, like volleyball and wrestling, little has been scheduled as of yet. Basketball season is scheduled to open on Dec. 2. Regionals will be next year, March 12-13, 2021. State is scheduled for March 17-20, 2021.

## New unemployment payments to begin in Alaska within 2 months

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Additional unemployment benefits approved by the federal government are expected to reach Alaska residents in six to eight weeks, officials said.

The temporary payments that will increase unemployment assistance by \$300 weekly will not be available to all of the state's unemployed residents.

A previous federal program providing an additional \$600 per week for unemployed workers expired July 25 after Congress failed to approve legislation extending the payments.

Without the federal boost, the state's maximum unemployment payment is \$370 per week, plus a stipend for parents.

State governments were given an option to provide an additional \$100 per week above what the federal government is funding.

Alaska independent business owners who are part of the so-called gig economy of short-term jobs, such as Uber

drivers, will not receive the benefits because states were required to contribute for those workers to receive the additional federal funding.

Alaska had three options for the match and Republic Gov. Mike Dunleavy chose to use the state's existing unemployment benefits.

"The extension does not cover gig workers since 100% of the funding made available for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program is federally derived," said Cathy Munoz, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor.

If the state had contributed an extra \$100 million to \$160 million, gig workers would have been covered.

"I was not going to refuse money because certain sectors may not be covered as well as others," Dunleavy said.

State Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter said eligible Alaska residents can expect payments dating back to July.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the state's funding request and most of the delay is the result of the requirements of starting a new program, Ledbetter said.

The governor said he could not advise Alaska residents how to meet expenses while waiting for the additional funds.

"There's no doubt it's going to be difficult for people," Dunleavy said. "This whole thing has been difficult. We're going to do all we can to get the money moving."

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.



## Good Luck WHS 2020 Cross Country



The Wrangell Cross Country team. (Front row, left to right): James Shilts, Alex Rooney, Elias Decker, Devlyn Campbell, Jade Balansag, Killian Booker. (Back row, left to right): Jimmy Baggen, Ethan Blatchley, Daniel Harrison (middle school, not on team), Jamie Early, Tyson Messmer, and Kiara Harrison. Not pictured are Liana Carney and Mia Wiederspohn.

### WHS Cross Country Schedule season 2020

September 5 @ POW	September 12 Home Meet	September 19 Metlakatla or virtual meet	September 26 Haines or virtual meet	October 3 Regions in Petersburg	October 10 State in Anchorage
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**The dates and locations are ALL subject to change at any minute.**

Best of luck to the Wrangell Wolves from the following businesses:

Alaska Cruises & Vacations  
Alaska Waters  
Angerman's Inc.  
Arrowhead LP Gas  
Bay Company

Breakaway Adventures  
City Market, Inc.  
First Bank- Member FDIC



IBEW, Local 1547  
Johnson's Building Supply  
Ottesen's True Value Hardware  
Petro 49  
Sentry Hardware & Marine  
Stikine Inn

Stikine Sportsmen  
Tongass Federal Credit Union  
Wrangell Chamber of Commerce  
Wrangell Public Schools  
Wrangell Sentinel



# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## AK seafood processors pay tens of millions of dollars, most out of pocket, to cover Covid pandemic costs

Alaska seafood processors are paying tens of millions of dollars extra to cover costs from the Covid pandemic, and most of it is coming out of pocket.

Intrafish Media provides a first, in-depth look at how costs for providing protective gear like masks and gloves, testing thermometers, extra staff to handle sanitizing demands between work shifts, and modifying worker lines for social distancing are playing out in the nation's seafood processing sector.

At Bristol Bay, for example, where around 13,000 workers from outside Alaska come to work on fishing boats and in 13 plants of varying sizes, it's estimated that all major processors combined likely spent \$30 million to \$40 million on Covid-related costs during the two peak fishing months of June and July this summer.

Alaska processors covered extra costs for putting up employees in hotels and other 14-day quarantine sites, as required by the state. That alone added up to an estimated \$3,500 per worker.

Seafood companies also paid for pricey charter flights to isolate workers from passengers on commercial flights.

Most medium to large processors had medical professionals onsite for the duration, at a cost of \$30,000 to \$60,000, Intrafish said.

Workers were tested multiple times for the virus, with costs amounting to \$175 per test.

Intrafish cited testimony by Silver Bay Seafoods CEO, Cora Campbell, at a virtual U.S. Senate committee hearing on July 29.

"In the past several months, Alaska seafood processors have spent tens of millions of dollars implementing proactive health and safety protocols to ensure we are minimizing risks to Alaska communities, protecting our seasonal and resident workforce, and maintaining operations," she testified.

"The industry is taking on these costs out of pocket at the same time we are facing severe disruption in key markets and multiple pre-COVID cost burdens," Campbell told the senators. "While a fraction of these costs may be reimbursed, we face significant uncertainty because there's no specific congressional directive to support health and safety protocol costs for critical seafood supply chains."

Covid prevention measures have not been included so far in federal relief loans and funds. It is unknown if they will be added into a stimulus relief package Congress could eventually pass when it returns in September from a month long vacation.

**Symphony of Seafood expands** - The call is out for products for Alaska's biggest seafood

bash: the Alaska Symphony of Seafood.

The annual competition, now in its 28th year, showcases a wide array of new market-ready Alaska seafood items at venues in Seattle and Juneau. Seafood lovers get to sample the goods that are privately judged in several categories. And as part of the event's expansion plans, more opportunities have been added.

"This year, we expanded the product categories to feature whitefish and salmon categories in addition to food service, retail and Beyond the Plate, which features products made from seafood byproducts," said Riley Smith, communications director with the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, host of the Symphony.

The event also has added a special platform for Bristol Bay.

"Additionally, we expanded the special awards category to include a Bristol Bay Choice which will be awarded by the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association to the best sockeye salmon product. And included in that will be promotional and marketing support from the BBRSDA team," Smith said.

Partnering with the fishermen-funded and operated BBRSDA will help Symphony winners grow their promotions and marketing, Smith added. Through savvy branding and marketing strategies, the Bristol Bay model has seen its sockeye salmon sales expand to over 2,000 U.S. retail outlets in just a few years.

"Down the line we hope to create more partnerships with retailers and in-store promotions for our winners, and we're really trying to approach this from every angle to increase the positive impact of the Symphony for companies big and small," Smith said.

One of the most unique things about the Symphony competition is that it levels the playing field between the biggest seafood producers and the smallest mom and pop's.

Last year, for example, Bullwhip Hot Sauce by Barnacle Foods of Juneau was a triple winner at retail, the Juneau People's Choice and the overall Grand Prize.

Big Symphony wins have led to shelf space at Costco and other major outlets for Alaskan Leader Seafood's cod fish and chips meal kit, as well as a pet food deal with Purina for its Cod Crunchies dog treats made from fish trimmings.

"The Symphony is recognized around the world as a spearhead of product development coming out of Alaska and the annual competition is a super great place to show off your favorite recipe," said Keith Singleton, president of Alaskan

Leader's value-added division. "It may lead to e-commerce, retail, club store or food service companies that will carry your brand to consumers."

"It's worked amazingly well for us," he added. "Everyone thought we were just a fishing company, but in reality, we are a 'seafood' company. The winnings that we've enjoyed have landed us in some wonderful markets around the world. So go for it!"

All top winners get a free trip to the big Seafood Expo in Boston in March and entry into its national competition.

This year's lineup of new Alaska seafood products will be judged in late November and top winners will be announced at Pacific Marine Expo in early December. The Symphony then re-plays in Juneau in February where more winners will be announced.

Smith said even if the Expo or the Symphony events are up-ended by the Covid virus, the show will go on.

"Absolutely! There will be a judging and there will be awards and promotions to retail associated with the Symphony," he said.

Find Alaska Symphony of Seafood entry forms at [www.afdf.org/](http://www.afdf.org/) Deadline to enter is October 6.

**Grant give backs** - American Seafoods is accepting applications for its Alaska Community Grant Program from the following regions: Kodiak Island, Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, Western Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, Norton Sound and regions north.

Since 1997, American Seafoods has granted over \$1.7 million to Alaskan groups and programs through its regional programs.

"Our goal is to provide assistance and financial support to organizations that are making a real difference in the communities where we operate," company president Inge Andreassen said in a press release.

The amount available for grant awards for this round is \$45,000 to fund community projects such as food security, housing, safety, education, research, natural resources, cultural activities and other pressing social needs. The majority of grant awards will range from \$1,000 to \$7,500 each.

Find applications at [www.americanseafoods.com](http://www.americanseafoods.com), or contact Kum Lynchat [kim.lynchat@americanseafoods.com](mailto:kim.lynchat@americanseafoods.com) or by calling 206-256-2659.

The deadline to submit applications is October 12. The grant

recipients will be announced by the company's community advisory board on October 28.

**Seafood savvy sought** - The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the state's lone marketing arm, is seeking committee members who advise on strategic operations and selling of nearly every fish in the sea.

ASMI, which is a public/private partnership between the state and industry, is guided by a wide range of stakeholders who provide market insights and strategies for outreach to over 110 countries.

"For example, we refer to one group as the species committee and they focus on issues specific to whitefish, salmon, shellfish. Their issues are all very different and they differ across Alaska, so we have representatives from those fisheries to guide us," said Ashley Heimbigner, ASMI communications director.

Other ASMI committees provide expertise on domestic and international marketing, communications and technical support.

Deadline to apply for an operational or species committee seat is September 30. You can apply for more than one committee. Email applications to Sara Truitt ([struitt@alaskaseafood.org](mailto:struitt@alaskaseafood.org))



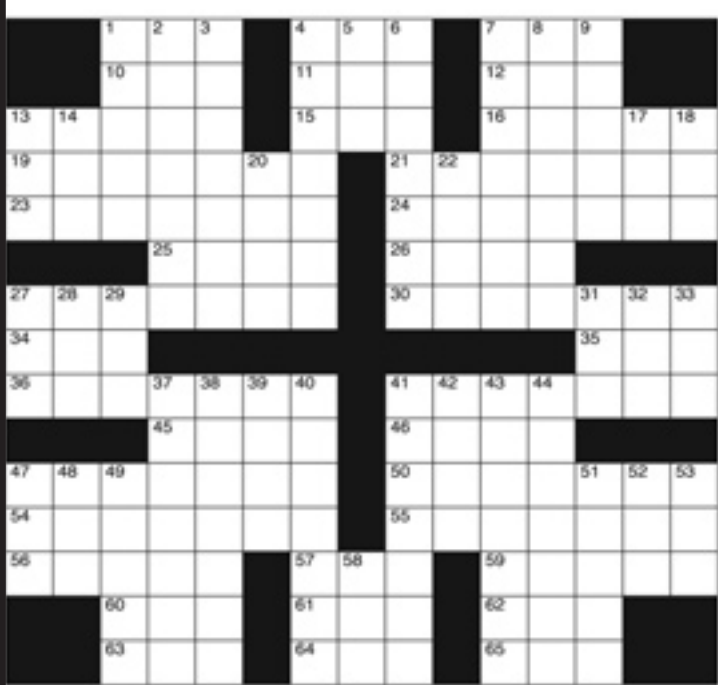
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# Comics



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop with an ax
- 4. Where a bachelor lives
- 7. Indicates near
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. It's just a number
- 12. Type of bread
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
- 16. A way to use up
- 19. Singular event
- 21. Home of Disney World
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Most insightful
- 25. Consult
- 26. In addition
- 27. Agents of downfall
- 30. Organizations
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Bar bill
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dish soap
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Newspaper bigwigs
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Support
- 56. Popular sportcoat fabric
- 57. Take hold of
- 59. Pre-Mayan civilization
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. Wheeled vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Cold War player (abbr.)
- 64. Pitching stat
- 65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Arousing intense feeling
- 3. Elks
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Before the present
- 6. Figures out
- 7. Infinite
- 8. A low wall
- 9. Silly
- 13. Political organization
- 14. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 17. Divisions of the psyche
- 18. Denial
- 20. Ancient Iranian person
- 22. Count on
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Water (French)
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. When you hope to get there
- 32. Angry
- 33. One point east of due south
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew
- 39. French wine grape
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships take on cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. Popular average
- 49. Products
- 51. A type of bear
- 52. Utilize
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

# Assembly reviews FY 2021 Capital Improvement Projects

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Prior to their meeting Tuesday, Aug. 25, the Wrangell Borough Assembly held a workshop to go over several Capital Improvement Projects planned for FY 2021. The city has multiple projects lined up for the near future, across several departments. Last week's workshop was to review these projects, and their estimated costs.

"You approved a handful of items that were already in play, or had critical timelines in the operating budget, and those were attached in the agenda packet," said Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen. "What is before you tonight, for a first review, is the other items that we believe to be of significant importance moving forward."

One project is an assessment of the Public Safety Building. This is estimated to cost \$165,000 total, according to the meeting's agenda packet, though city administration was only requesting \$10,000 from the general fund. Amber Al-Haddad, with the city, explained that this project was already moving forward, as the assembly had previously approved it. A survey team was scheduled to come to town to begin the assessment later in September.

"It will be in this year's CIP fund as a project moving forward," she said.

Another project on the list was improvements to the city's skeet shooting range. Wrangell received a grant in the amount of \$55,070, Al-Haddad said, from the NRA. Any project that is awarded grant funding within a calendar year,

she explained, the NRA wants to see completed in the same calendar year by Nov. 1. If the city accepted the grant now, she said they would have only until Nov. 1 to get the skeet range improvements completed. Fortunately, the NRA was willing to defer the grant award until next year. Given the city's workload this year, she said she believed the short timeframe was too aggressive to consider.

A third project that was reviewed in the workshop was repairs, or potential replacement, of Wrangell High School's elevator. The cost of this project is estimated at \$163,000 out of the Secure Rural Schools fund. This is a top priority among school-related CIPS, Al-Haddad said. The elevator's hydraulic ram has lost its fluid, she said, so the elevator cannot operate. Josh Blatchley, with the school district, said the problems with the elevator were discovered in March. The two primary options they have looked into so far, Al-Haddad said, are repairing the hydraulic ram or replacing the elevator with a smaller car assembly. The first phase of the repair option is estimated at \$66,000. The replacement option represents the full \$163,000 estimate, she said.

Other projects discussed in the workshop included replacing the floors in the Nolan Center, various environmental work plans, upgrades to the community pool, and renovations to the Kyle Angerman Memorial Playground. As this was only a work session, no formal action was taken by the assembly.

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Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the September 10 edition



# Classified/Legals

**FOR SALE** 1.3 acre Thom's Place

**Public Notice**

Construction being performed directly south of the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) office at 1002 Zimovia Highway. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday. Please be advised of trucks hauling to and from worksite. Signs will be posted. Call Bill Willard at 874-3077 for more information.

**Published: August 20, 27, September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2020**

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL**

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month** and shall begin at 6:00 p.m. As per Emergency Resolution No. 03-20-1520, Borough Assembly Meetings shall be held by teleconference/videoconference until October 17, 2020 unless terminated before that date. If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular assembly meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at city hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7:00 p.m.

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk  
City of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish: September 3, 2020**

**City & Borough of Wrangell  
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**Water Treatment Plant Improvements Design**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska is seeking Statements of Qualifications from experienced engineering firms for the *Water Treatment Plant Improvements Design* project. The engineering firm will provide engineering design and permitting, along with construction administration and inspection, of a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) water treatment project. The full Request for Qualifications solicitation may be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, and it may also be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFPs section. Statements of Qualifications are due in the office of the Borough Clerk by 2:00 PM prevailing time on September 30, 2020.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Lisa Von Bargaen, Borough Manager

**Publish: August 27, September 3, 10, and 17, 2020**

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL  
WRANGELL CAPITAL FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
Facility Maintenance Specialist**

The Wrangell Capital Facilities Department is currently accepting applications for the position of **Facility Maintenance Specialist**. This position is open until filled and the first review of applications will begin on September 8. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits and is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

This position performs a wide range of technical maintenance and repairs of building systems, equipment, and grounds throughout all Borough-owned facilities and assists other departments with special projects. Independent or cooperative work with others is required under the daily direction and supervision of the Facility Maintenance Specialist Lead.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 19 with a starting wage at \$24.28 per hour. Applicants must meet the qualifications of the position, as listed in the job description. Employment is based on a successful background check and pre-employment drug screening.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained at City Hall. To be considered, interested applicants must submit a cover letter and resume along with the CBW employment application to Aleisha Mollen at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email at amollen@wrangell.com.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen  
Borough Manager

**Publish: August 27 and September 3, 2020**

Subdiv. on Zimovia Strait, Lot 2, Block 1, Unit 2. \$30,500. Info: carol.warbelow@yahoo.com ...2x9-3p21

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FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes.

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**Annual Diesel Run**

Wrangell Municipal Light & Power will be switching onto Diesel Generation for the annual Tye Lake Maintenance and Transmission Line work.

The diesel run is scheduled to start Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. and is scheduled to end Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.

We are asking the community to conserve electricity as much as possible during the diesel run. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the WMLP office at (907) 874-3602. Thank you.

**Published: September 3, 2020**

**Petersburg Elderly and  
Disabled Housing  
is now accepting  
applications for  
HUD housing.**

**Mt. View Manor  
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**907-772-3445**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 10:00 am AKDT. Due to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and its social distancing guidelines, the meeting will be held electronically. The purpose of the meeting is to consider award of a contract and SEAPA group benefits. During the meeting, the board may enter into an executive session for an update on the negotiations of SEAPA's Submarine Cable Replacement Contract. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281



**Published: September 3, 2020**

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA  
NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020, in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Local Election will be held for the purpose of voting on the following Borough Official positions and proposition.

- Borough Mayor: One – (2 Year Term)
- Assembly: Two – (3 Year Terms)
- Assembly: One – (1 Year *Unexpired* Term until 10-2021)
- School Board: One – (3 Year Term)
- Port Commission: One – (3 Year Term)
- Port Commission: One – (2 Year *Unexpired* Term until 10-2022)

**PROPOSITION 1**

Ratification of Ordinance 979

**Shall the City and Borough of Wrangell withdraw from, and no longer participate in, the port authority known as the Inter-Island Ferry Authority, as provided by Ordinance No. 979 of the City and Borough of Wrangell?**

\*\*\*\*\*

The polls for said election will be open at **8:00 a.m. on the said day and will close at 8:00 p.m.** on the same day.

Each voter must have the qualifications prescribed by state law. *A qualified voter shall vote only once per election* and shall exercise that right at the polling place established in the designated Wrangell Precinct (James & Elsie Nolan Museum/Civic Center) and in which he/she resides within the borough boundaries of the City and Borough of Wrangell.

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

**Publish: August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 2020**

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# Alaska villagers use vehicles to light runway for medevac

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Residents of a remote Alaska village scrambled just before midnight to help save the life of a child, jumping into their vehicles to light up a pitch-black runway as a medical transport plane circled overhead.

People were running around in pajamas to help out, said Ida Nelson, who lives near the runway in the Southwest Alaska village of Igiugig. She had just gotten out of a steam bath herself

when she heard the sound of the plane, and noticed that the runway lights weren't on. She took her ATV to the runway a few hundred yards from her home as a neighbor made 32 phone calls requesting help.

"That's pretty much almost every household in this village. Pretty much every cell phone here," Nelson said.

The medevac pilot circled as Nelson and others on the ground coordinated via phone and radio

and staggered cars, trucks and all-terrain vehicles down the length of the runway, using their headlights to show the pilot where to land Friday night, Alaska's Energy Desk reported.

LifeMed Alaska had sent a King Air flight from Kodiak to the state-owned airport at the mouth of the Kvichak River on Iliamna Lake. The child was safely evacuated to Anchorage.

"Normally if you push the button like 10 or 15 times the

lights will just light up," Nelson said. "But they didn't and so the medevac plane flew over the village."

LifeMed Alaska posted a photo on social media showing a straight line of lights in the distance. "What appears to be a blurry, dark photo is actually a view of what an amazing community can do with a lot of determination," the company wrote.

Department of Transportation spokesperson Sam Dapcevich

said on Sunday that crews have been out to the airport multiple times this year repairing lights that had been run over during winter maintenance and were out there as recently as last week to fix a wiring problem.

"They will be returning soon to repair the damaged lights and make sure the system is operational," he said in a text message, adding: "We're glad the community was able to safely guide the medevac flight in."

# Russian navy conducts major maneuvers near Alaska

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) - The Russian navy conducted major war games near Alaska involving dozens of ships and aircraft, the military said Friday, the biggest such drills in the area since Soviet times.

Russia's navy chief, Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, said that more than 50 warships and about 40 aircraft were taking part in the exercise in the Bering Sea, which involved multiple practice missile launches.

"We are holding such massive drills there for the first time ever," Yevmenov said in a statement released by the Russian Defense Ministry.

It wasn't immediately clear when the exercises began or if they had finished.

Yevmenov emphasized that the war games are part of Russia's efforts to boost its presence in the Arctic region and protect its resources.

"We are building up our forces to ensure the economic development of the region," he said. "We are getting used to the Arctic spaces."

The Russian military has rebuilt and expanded numerous facilities across the polar region in recent years, revamping runways and deploying additional air defense assets.

Russia has prioritized boosting its military presence in the Arctic region, which is believed to hold up to one-quarter of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas. Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited estimates that put the value of Arctic mineral riches at \$30 trillion.

Russia's Pacific Fleet, whose assets were taking part in the maneuvers, said the Omsk nuclear submarine and the

Varyag missile cruiser launched cruise missiles at a practice target in the Bering Sea as part of the exercise.

The maneuvers also saw Onyx cruise missiles being fired at a practice target in the Gulf of Anadyr from the coast of the Chukchi Peninsula, it added.

As the exercise was ongoing, U.S. military spotted a Russian submarine surfacing near Alaska on Thursday. U.S. Northern Command spokesman Bill Lewis noted that the Russian military exercise is taking place in international waters, well outside U.S. territory.

Lewis said the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command were closely monitoring the submarine. He added that they haven't received any requests for assistance from the Russian navy but stand ready to assist those in distress.

Russian state RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russia's Pacific Fleet sources as saying that the surfacing of the Omsk nuclear submarine was routine.

Also late Thursday, NORAD sent F-22 fighter jets to intercept three groups of two Tu-142 Russian maritime patrol aircraft that came close to Alaska.

The Russian aircraft remained in the area for about five hours and came within 50 nautical miles of Alaska. Officials said the Russian jets remained in international air space, and at no time entered United States or Canadian sovereign air space.

"Our northern approaches have had an increase in foreign military activity as our competitors continue to expand their military presence and probe our defenses," Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, commander of NORAD, said in a statement.

## Court orders wording change on Alaska oil tax ballot summary

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration has been ordered to change the language of the ballot summary for a proposed act that seeks to raise taxes on the oil industry.

The Alaska Supreme Court upheld a ruling by Superior Court Judge William Morse, who found in June that Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer did not provide an impartial summary of the measure as required by law, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

The Fair Share Act is designed to make the tax filings of the state's major oil producers "a matter of public record." The legislation is expected to bring in about \$1 billion extra in production taxes, targeting producers with the largest oil fields, including Prudhoe Bay.

Meyer had proposed a summary that claimed if the act passed, tax fillings would allow the state's normal process for the public records act. Morse ruled that the summary implies the act would allow the state to deprive the public access to the records.

Meyer and the state Division of Elections were named in the lawsuit in November by ballot measure group Vote Yes For Alaska's Fair Share Act.

"It is unfortunate we had to bring suit against Lt. Gov. Meyer to get him to fulfill his duty to provide a true and impartial summary of the Fair Share Act, but this is a victory for the voters," initiative chair Robin Brena said. "The Supreme Court upheld their right to an unbiased ballot summary."

In the ruling, the state Supreme Court partially approved a request from Meyer to add the line: "The act does not specify the process for disclosure of the public records."

"This year, we've conducted more than a dozen intercepts, the most in recent years. The importance of our continued efforts to project air defense operations in and through the north has never been more apparent."

It cited former Russian navy's chief of staff, retired Adm. Viktor Kravchenko, as saying that by having the submarine sur-

face in the area the navy may have wanted to send a deliberate signal.

"It's a signal that we aren't asleep and we are wherever we want," RIA Novosti quoted Kravchenko as saying.

The presence of Russian military assets in the area caused a stir for U.S. commercial fishing vessels in the Bering Sea on Wednesday.

# Read All About it.. In the Wrangell Sentinel

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# Alaska attorney general quits after texts with woman surface

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Alaska Attorney General Kevin Clarkson resigned Tuesday, shortly after details of text messages that the state's married and socially conservative top law enforcement officer sent to a female state employee were revealed.

"Kevin Clarkson has admitted to conduct in the workplace that did not live up to our high expectations, and this is deeply disappointing," Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy said in a statement. "This morning he took responsibility for the unintentional consequences of his actions."

The woman later said she was uncomfortable with the contact from Clarkson and reported it to her supervisor. In his resignation letter, Clarkson wrote to Dunleavy: "I sincerely apologize to you for my lapse of

judgment." The Anchorage Daily News and ProPublica published a story earlier Tuesday outlining text messages Clarkson sent to the state employee. In all, he sent her 558 texts in about a month, according to the newspaper, which received them from a third-party source.

In his resignation letter, Clarkson confirmed the text conversations were with a state employee who didn't work for the Department of Law and whom he did not supervise.

They discussed food, movies, books and even attempts by Clarkson's wife to get a visa for her son to leave Colombia. Dunleavy had previously written to President Donald Trump asking if he could help clear immigration challenges so Clarkson's wife and stepson could join him in Alaska.

Clarkson said he and the woman also exchanged pictures of children and grandchildren, and he sent her pictures of food he prepared.

"These texts included invitations for this person and her children to come to my home to share a meal, which she politely declined," Clarkson said. "All of these texts were 'G' rated. There is nothing remotely salacious about the texts."

He said the texts included mutual endearments "between us in words and emojis. On several occasions, this person initiated a friendly hug when I came to her workplace, and I reflexively gave her a tiny peck of a kiss on top of her head."

The woman eventually expressed her discomfort to Clarkson. He said he respected her wishes and stopped communicating with her by text.

He claims a political opponent became aware of the situation and contacted the governor's office.

At that point, the woman reported the situation to her supervisor.

"I immediately and fully cooperated in the ensuing process, and have accepted the finding by Human Resources that my actions, however unintentionally, created an uncomfortable workplace environment for this employee," Clarkson wrote.

He said he made an "error in judgment, which I recognize was wholly and only mine."

Attempts by the AP to reach Clarkson by phone and email weren't immediately successful.

Dunleavy appointed the longtime Anchorage lawyer as attorney general in December 2018, and he was confirmed the following April after telling lawmakers he would not bring his personal views to the job. Gay rights and abortion rights advo-

cates raised concerns over Clarkson, who helped draft the state's 1998 constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. That was struck down in 2015 when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage.

"Governor Dunleavy called Mr. Clarkson 'a wise and trusted legal advisor, a man of exceptional character, and a devoted husband and father,' yet he has proved himself to be none of these things," Lindsay Kavanaugh, executive director of the Alaska Democratic Party said in a statement.

"Sexual harassment must not be tolerated anywhere. When an attorney fails to understand the difference between right and wrong, he has no business in the legal profession, never mind as the top attorney in the state," Kavanaugh said.

Ed Sniffen, an assistant attorney general, will step in as acting attorney general.

## Project adds capacity to Alaska lake's hydro power facility

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - A \$47 million Alaska water diversion project is expected to increase flow to a lake and eventually help generate low-cost power for utility customers.

The Alaska Journal of Commerce reported Wednesday that the Alaska Energy Authority began flowing water through its West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion Project Aug. 25.

The project will raise the amount of water in nearby Bradley Lake, subsequently increasing the practical power production capacity of the Bradley Lake Hydro Project by about 10%, project manager Bryan Carey said.

Bradley Lake, the state's the largest hydro plant, annually produces about 380,000 megawatt-hours of power for six electric utilities in Alaska's Railbelt region.

Bradley Lake power costs 4 cents per kilowatt-hour to produce, the energy authority said.

Because the project produces some of the cheapest power in the state, more is better, said Tony Izzo, CEO of Matanuska Electric Association.

"It's pretty easy to see the benefit (of Bradley Lake) when you look at the numbers," Izzo said.

The Bradley Lake turbines are rated to produce up to 120 megawatts of power but constraints have limited its average production to about 44 MW.

The supply of glacial-fed water stored behind the Bradley dam can be used by utilities to manage the variable portion of their electric loads and optimize operation of their gas-fired generators.

"We want our gas turbines to be at the sweet-spot" for maximum efficiency, Homer Electric Association Board of Directors Vice President David Thomas said. "You could argue Bradley Lake is the largest battery in the state."

**The**  **WRANGELL SENTINEL**  
**Will Be**  
  
**Monday, September 7**

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# When you take care of yourself you take care of all Alaskans.

Together, Alaskans have done an excellent job of managing COVID-19. We responded quickly to keep cases low and our health care system ready to help patients. Now, Alaskans must continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by acting responsibly and taking care of each other. We can slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our communities safe by taking the following actions:

- **Stay six feet or more away** from non-family members.
- **Wash your hands frequently.**
- **Wipe down surfaces frequently.**
- **Wear a face covering** when in a public setting in close contact with others.
- **Stay home if you are sick** and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms.
- **Be mindful and respectful** to those Alaskans that are most vulnerable to this virus.



This message is brought to you by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

