

WPSD town hall answers SMART Start questions

Discussion ranges from schedules to in-class safety protocols

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Public School District held a virtual town hall meeting on Thursday, July 16, where school officials answered submitted questions from families regarding the SMART Start reopening plan for the upcoming school year.

The nearly two hour long meeting at one point had 72 participants. Board President Aaron Angerman, who moderated the town hall meeting, asked school officials the submitted questions from the public. Although a plan for how the school district will operate under COVID-19 restrictions in the fall hasn't been finalized yet, a draft of the document is currently being written with input from the borough Emergency Operations Center and the public.

To start off the meeting, Superintendent Debbe Lancaster explained the use of a low, medium and high risk state of operations system within the school district. The first half of the 2020-2021 school year is expected to be operating under a medium risk level, according to Lancaster. By sticking with a medium risk level for the first couple months, instead of

switching from a low risk level one week to a medium risk the next, students are able to become comfortable with the COVID-19 restrictions by providing a sense of regularity.

"Our children's worlds may change all the time," said Lancaster. "They may have somebody get sick, or they may have something happen. They have got unpredictability in other places. We want school to be predictable. We do not want them to come in and wonder what kind of day it is."

During a medium risk scenario, the school district is looking to get all the students in school five days a week, while meeting social distancing and masking guidelines. A low risk state of operations, which wouldn't be considered until the end of December, would relax some COVID-19 restrictions, such as face masking. A high risk situation would require students to switch entirely to distance learning as no one would be allowed in the buildings.

Lancaster said the state of Alaska has put together a group of state health officials who will assist school districts with determining when they should switch between the three risk situations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF JABUSCH

Top goes on the Mariners' Memorial gazebo

The top of the Mariners' Memorial gazebo was installed last Monday, July 20. The memorial has been a long-running project to recognize Wrangellites who have lost their lives at sea.

In the drafted SMART Start plan for Evergreen Elementary School, students are split into two groups. Group A would attend class in the mornings and group B would have in person

instruction in the afternoons. The purpose of splitting the students up throughout the day is to ensure they stay at least six feet apart. While in class, students would be split up into groups of

ten. The split schedule would also utilize a distance learning plan provided by teachers.

From Monday through Thursday, students in the secondary schools will attend class from 8:45 A.M. until 3:25 P.M. Fridays will be shorter in person instruction district wide, so the buildings can be thoroughly cleaned.

The elementary school could go back to a full day schedule if the school had more paraprofessionals on staff, said Lancaster. More groups of students could be spread throughout the school, who would be monitored by the paraprofessionals. Lancaster made it clear that teachers would still be responsible for the children's education. The paraprofessionals would only help students practice the skills they learned.

"Paraprofessionals are an extremely integral part of our education process, because what they do is allow the teachers to be able to give general instruction, small group instruction and then individualized instruction for those students that are struggling in gaining the content that they need," said Lancaster.

She said the school district has been advertising for paraprofessionals for several weeks, but there have been zero applicants.

The Wrangell Public School District is taking precautions to make sure students stay healthy

New food security project starting up in Wrangell

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

"Concern" is a common theme in the COVID-19 pandemic. People are concerned about their health, their jobs, getting their kids back into school, and the economic prospects of their community, among other things. Wrangell resident Kasee Schlotzhauer wants to help ensure that getting enough to eat is not one such concern, through Wrangell's Subsistence Giving Project.

"My family and me, we like to subsistence hunt, fish, gather for our family for the winters," she said. "This last year I started dabbling in proxying for people. Pretty much, proxy hunting is people that can't get out and do it themselves, I just take their tags and I hunt for them."

Schlotzhauer said that the idea for Wrangell's Subsistence Giving Project came to her when she first heard of a grant program through Spruce Root in Juneau, looking to fund food security programs. She said she sent in an application out of curiosity. Spruce Root liked her idea, and she received a \$4,500 grant to move forward.

The idea behind the food security program, she said, is to continue subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering on behalf of those who cannot do so themselves. She has already been



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kasee Schlotzhauer, organizer behind one of Wrangell's newest food security programs.

gathering berries to make into jam, she said, and will be going out on a fishing trip in the near future. Schlotzhauer added that she hopes to provide some meat in the future, too, once hunting season rolls around.

Once the food is gathered and processed, she said that she plans to go around town to disperse the food amongst elderly Wrangell residents. She also wants to donate any extra food to local nonprofits. The \$4,500 grant is going to be used for equipment to process and prepare food. Schlotzhauer added that she is working on putting together a list of those who might want donations, and that she will also be reaching out to the native community for their input.

"I'm going to be reaching out to our local elders to try and make an elder board, to make sure what I'm doing isn't going to negatively impact any of the native traditions," she said. "From there, they can probably get me a pretty good list of all the local elderly folks that could use that."

More information on the project can be found on Facebook, under "Wrangell's Subsistence Giving Project." Donations and volunteers are welcome, she said.

"I just really want to be able to help people that need it in this time, because it's a little bit uncertain," Schlotzhauer said.

SMART Start

Continued from page 1

while at school. The school district will be receiving several thousand cloth masks from the Wrangell Fire Department for students to wear while in school, in addition to the face masks

being sent from the state, said Lancaster. There will also be one or two screening stations at each of the schools.

Secondary School Principal Bob Davis said the secondary schools are thinking about in-

creasing the time for passing periods to allow for the staggering of students in the hallways. The secondary school could also leave some lockers vacant to create a space between students who might be retrieving materials out of their lockers.

Should a teacher test positive for COVID-19, Wrangell Public Nurse Erin Michael said the whole classroom wouldn't have to quarantine themselves, only the teacher; however, if the teacher came within six feet of a student for more than 10 minutes, that student may have to be quarantined, too. Teachers' desks are purposely spaced

away from students' desk to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In the registration packets for the coming year, parents will sign a form that will allow their students' principal to be informed should the student test positive for the virus that way the school can take appropriate steps in informing close contacts, according to Lancaster.

As of last week's town hall meeting, all sports at the school district were moving forward as planned. Should the school district move to a high risk category, coaches would still be in contact with athletes to encourage them to stay active and fol-

low their workout routines. Physical Education Teacher Jack Carney said some school districts are thinking about not including sports in the upcoming school year. If the pandemic begins to die down and students can safely participate in sports, then those schools that choose not to have sports would be behind the rest of the teams, he said.

"Those kids are going to be out of shape or dealing with some mental issues because they're not getting the activity they need, and they'll be behind in their sport or activity," said Carney.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, July 23: Allison Petersen, Marni Privett, *Anniversaries:* Matt & Candice Wilsie, Jim & Betty Abbott. **Friday, July 24:** Jeanette Covalt, Maddox Angerman, David Smith, Maria Holder, Emily Rugo, *Anniversary:* David & Sabrina Smith. **Saturday, July 25:** Celly Nelson-Young, Lizzy Romane. **Sunday, July 26:** Gus Barlow, Paige Baggen, Darian Burley, Timothy Melzer, David Allen. **Monday, July 27:** Damon Roher, Daniel Churchill, Randy Robinson Sr., Kristy Woodbury, Lester Schultz, Jean Kuntz, Karla Fennimore, Ann Johnson. **Tuesday, July 28:** Tasha Morse, Gavin DeBoer, Danette Grover, Gunner Smith, Micheal Guggenbickler. **Wednesday, July 29:** Devlyn Campbell, Jeffrey Brown, Alice Rooney, Katie Hagan, Tony Rice, *Anniversary:* David & LeAnn Bryner. **Thursday, July 30:** Bruce Jamieson, Scott McConachie, *Anniversaries:* Glen & Kelley Decker, William & Laurie Barker.

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, July 24

Turkey Vegetable Soup, Fruit slaw, cheese sandwich.

Monday, July 27

Chicken Tahitian, Peas, Carrot Salad, Rice.

Tuesday, July 28

A-1 Meatloaf, Greens, Perfection Salad, Mash Potatoes.

Wednesday, July 29

Pork Roast, Sweet Potatoes, Cabbage Salad, Bread.

Thursday, July 30

Beefaroni, Vegetables, Apricot Salad.

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

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

FERRY

Northbound

Sunday, July 26

Matanuska, 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 2

Matanuska 01:15 p.m

Sunday, August 9

Matanuska 05:15 p.m

Sunday, August 16

Matanuska 06:00 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, July 29

Matanuska, 5:15 a.m.

Wednesday, August 5

Matanuska 06:45 a.m

Wednesday, August 12

Matanuska 08:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19

Matanuska 07:15 a.m.

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



TIDES July 23 - July 30

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
July 23	03:02	17.5	03:58	15.9	09:24	-2.4	09:35	2.2
July 24	03:47	16.9	04:39	16.1	10:05	-1.8	10:26	2.0
July 25	04:35	16.0	05:24	16.1	10:49	-0.9	11:22	1.9
July 26	05:31	14.8	06:14	16.1	11:37	0.4
July 27	06:37	13.5	07:12	16.0	00:24	1.8	12:31	1.7
July 28	07:57	12.6	08:17	16.1	01:33	1.6	01:32	2.9
July 29	09:19	12.5	09:23	16.4	02:48	1.2	02:41	3.8
July 30	10:33	12.9	10:26	16.8	04:03	0.4	03:56	4.2

July 22, 1920

The Columbia & Northern cold storage plant at Wrangell has been secured by A.H. Range of Portland who will arrive in Wrangell at an early date for the purpose of starting a crab cannery here. Mr. Range came north last month seeking a location for a crab cannery. After visiting various points in Southeastern Alaska he decided Wrangell was the logical place for the location of a crab cannery. In order to ensure his project having the support and cooperation of the people of Wrangell Mr. Range sought to get some of the local people interested in his proposition. The ready response which came from the leading business people of the town was satisfactory assurance that Wrangell welcomes any legitimate enterprise, and is willing to give its moral support hereto.

July 20, 1945

Z.M. Bradford, manager of the local Standard Oil Company plant, today announced that the price of stove and furnace oil in Wrangell is now reduced ¼-cent per gallon. Word received by Bradford from Seattle headquarters announced reductions ranging from one-half cent to one and one-half cents a gallon on kerosene made effective today in most parts of Southwestern Alaska while decreases from one-fourth and one and one-half cents per gallon were made on heating oils in all points of Alaska. This is the third voluntary decrease made by Standard since September, 1942 when prices were raised to meet increased war shipping costs. The Company explained the decreases were made possible partly by a cut in the War Shipping Administration tanker surcharge and partly by operating economies.

July 23, 1970

A mountain climbing team from British Columbia traveled to the mainland from Wrangell this week with plans to scale Kate's Needle (10,000 feet) and Devil's Thumb (9,100). John Rance, 24, a spokesman for the group from the British Columbia Mountaineering Club at Vancouver, said the climbers will remain inland until Aug. 1. Other members of the team are: Mike Feller, 24, a forestry student at the University of British Columbia; Dick Culbert, 29, a graduate student in geophysics at the university; Fred Douglas, 24, an electrician; Martin Kafer, 43, an electrical engineer; and Kafer's wife, Esther. Rance is a zoology student at the University of British Columbia. He said all the climbers are experienced, including Mrs. Kafer, who has scaled peaks in Europe with her husband. The group arrived by plane over the weekend and were flown Sunday and Monday by Chuck Traylor of Stikine Air to an advance camp at Shake's Lake. The group will trek from the Lake to their climbs at Kate's

Needle and Devil's Thumb.

July 27, 1995

Wrangellites with recreation sites in the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness will be allowed use of chainsaws and power winches under the recently released decision of Stikine Area Forest Supervisor, Abigail R. Kimbell. The U.S. Forest service supervisor has determined there are no adverse environmental effects and chainsaws may be used for subsistence fuelwood gathering annually from Sept. 1 through April 30. Power winches may be authorized annually during moose hunting season. Forest Service permits will be issued for five-year periods. In addition, Kimbell reported, use of other motorized equipment may be authorized under certain circumstances on a short term basis. "Generators, brush cutters, chainsaws, power winches and other hand portable motorized equipment may be permitted on a case-by-case basis at other times," she wrote. Her decision is subject to appeal.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Jury duty for July. 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.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
July 13	59	51
July 14	58	54
July 15	59	54
July 16	61	52
July 17	60	53
July 18	59	54
July 19	59	54
July 20	63	55



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
July 23	4:36a	9:12p	16:36h
July 24	4:38a	9:10p	16:32h
July 25	4:39a	9:08p	16:29h
July 26	4:41a	9:07p	16:26h
July 27	4:43a	9:05p	16:22h
July 28	4:45a	9:03p	16:18h
July 29	4:46a	9:01p	16:15h
July 30	4:48a	8:59p	16:11h



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The new Wrangell Medical Center, under construction.

Progress made on new hospital

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Progress has been made on the new Wrangell Medical Center, according to a press release from SEARHC. Thanks to increases in crew sizes, and new trades coming onto the project, the project has gained momentum.

“WMC staff and SEARHC leadership are excited to hear that the project is currently ahead of schedule,” said SEARHC Vice President and WMC Hospital Administrator Leatha Mercurieff in the press release. “Dawson Construction has worked hard to mitigate any delays due to the implementation of COVID-19 travel mandates. Our staff is looking forward to providing high-quality healthcare in a new, state-of-the-art facility.”

According to the press release, metal framing installation is nearly complete in the hospital wing. Drywall crews and painters are working closely behind. Ductwork and sprinkler systems are currently being installed throughout the new hospital. Electrical contractors have roughed in three out of four of the construction site’s quadrants. The press release also reports that exterior siding and trim has begun to be installed, and is scheduled to be complete in September.






Renovations to the AICS clinic, next door to the new hospital, are continuing as well. This includes, according to the press release, elevator installation, re-designing the registration area, and constructing a second-level office space.

Construction of the new hospital is currently ahead of an April 2021 target date, according to the press release.

SEARHC’s Commitment to Wrangell during COVID-19

As our state continues to adjust to COVID-19 developments and mandates, SEARHC is actively monitoring its practices and services in order to continue providing a safe and secure environment.

Recent Activities in Wrangell

-  Performed more than 1,800 COVID-19 tests
-  Established an alternate COVID-19 testing site for staff and community members
-  Continued part of the local Incident Command System
-  Began prescription delivery and curbside pick-up service
-  Increased access to appointments by video and in-person

Thank you to our professional and experienced caregivers, providing high-quality care in Wrangell.

Learn more by visiting covid19.searhc.org or call your local clinic.



Police report

Monday, July 13
Civil Issue.

Tuesday, July 14
Barking Dog.
Animal Cruelty.
Dog at Large.

Wednesday, July 15
Civil Matter.
Agency Assist: Harbor Department.
Welfare Check.
Dog Complaint.

Thursday, July 16
Criminal Mischief.
Animal Complaint: Dead Deer.
Dangerous Dog.

Friday, July 17
Suspicious Person.
Agency Assist: Public Works.
Theft.
Found Property.

Saturday, July 18
Boating Accident.
Travis Wasillie, 21: Charged for Assault 2 & 3.

Sunday, July 19
Disorderly Conduct.

During this reporting period there were 14 Agency Assist calls to the airport and 6 EMT calls.

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Guest Commentary *Protecting the Permanent Fund*

By Senator Bert Stedman

At a time when the fiscal future of many states looks uncertain, Alaska made the smart choice to protect the state's future income for our children and grandchildren.



Senator Bert Stedman

On June 30, \$4.9 billion was transferred from the Permanent Fund's Earning Reserve Account to its principal account. Once deposited in the principal account, the funds cannot be spent without a vote of the people. But they will produce earnings, a percentage of which will provide for dividends and essential state services. Alaskans are fortunate to have vast resources, whether fur, fish, gold, timber, or oil. This generation has been fortunate to have revenue from oil and gas.

However, oil markets are exposed to unstable political environments causing prices and production to fluctuate. Unfortunately, revenue from oil has declined from previous years (even before the pandemic) and may continue to stay flat for several years, whether from naturally aging fields, economic climates, a pandemic or preferences for alternative energy. For reference, in fiscal year 2011 oil & gas provided over 90% of the state's revenue. In 2021, it will provide only 17%. Consequently, we have tough choices to make to balance our state budget. We can't just print money like the federal government. We must balance our budget.

Over the past several years, policymakers have drained savings accounts while reducing budgets. Some have suggested a solution would be to implement a statewide income tax and/or sales tax on Alaskans. I believe there is a better option. We need to review and sensibly reduce programs while we grow the Permanent Fund to a level that offsets revenue declines and supports dividends. We need to focus on increasing the Permanent Fund and our investment earnings to benefit our state for decades to come.

The Permanent Fund has proven since inception to be a high-performing investment fund, with a historic rate of return of 8.79%. The Permanent Fund is made up of two parts,

the principal account, which cannot be spent by the Legislature, and the earnings reserve, which can be spent by the Legislature. Protecting the Permanent Fund means building up the principal account which can

only be accessed by a statewide vote of the people rather than a simple majority vote in the Legislature draining the Earnings Reserve. On March 5, the Permanent Fund Board of Trustees

passed a resolution that called on the Legislature to combine the principal and the earnings reserve accounts into one (a true endowment). A fixed 5% annual draw would be available for spending by the Legislature on dividends and core state services. The Trustees also recommended maintaining a balance of at least four times the annual draw. Since the annual draw the past several years has been around \$3 billion, the Trustees would like about \$12 billion in the earnings reserve account. I find this alarming. It's dangerous if legislators in one year can access and spend \$12 billion through simple majority votes. History shows, when given a chance, the Legislature and Governors will kick the can down the road and spend down savings to the point of having nothing left. Roughly \$16 billion from our savings accounts has already been spent. As Co-Chair of Senate Finance, I led efforts over several years to wisely save those funds. It is disheartening to see those funds liquidated while we continue to have a structural budget deficit year after year. The balances of our major savings accounts are now effectively zero. I do not want to expose the Permanent Fund to the same outcome. It is too tempting and too easy for the Legislature to overdraw the earnings reserve account to pay for state services and extra dividends while not addressing the structural budget deficits. Be wary of people who think moving money to the principal account and protecting the future of the Permanent Fund is irresponsible. They want access to spend the Permanent Fund. It is judicious to have a high standard and direct input of the people before any amount is

Obituary: Joyce Vivian Phillips, 86

Joyce Vivian Twiss, 86, died July 16, 2020 at her home surrounded by family and friends.

She was born October 13, 1933 to Ben and Martha Twiss in Riverside, California. Her mother was diagnosed with cancer during her pregnancy and bedridden until her passing when Joyce was 12 years old. She was a wild and hyper child, and with her mother confined to bed, she had an unconventional home life. She was raised with the help of her father's seven younger brothers and nuns from the Catholic school she attended. The nuns kept her busy and productive each day after school until her dad got off work. During this time she learned to sing and play violin. She discovered her artistic ability while painting the school's windows for the holidays.

One summer while traveling with her father for work to Oregon, Joyce met Raymond Dean Phillips. After a whirlwind romance, and a promise of moving back to California, the two ran away to Las Vegas to get married on August 26, 1949, Joyce only 15 years old at the time.

Despite Joyce wanting to move to California, Dean moved his family north to Sitka, Alaska. Soon after they moved to Wrangell, Dean found work on a road construction crew. Joyce hated Alaska, and at long last Joyce got her way. They packed up everything and moved to Los Angeles, California. Not even a year later they were on their way back to Wrangell where she lived for the next 63 years.

Her passion for learning and a love of books kept her well versed on a number of subjects and she was always ready to discuss and debate. She was never short of giving her opinion on anything.

She taught Sunday School classes at the Wrangell Institute, which resulted in her often bringing some of the children home, especially over the holidays. She volunteered for Hospice Care and was part of the Wrangell Art's Council. In 1960, she started The Wheel of Fortune 4th of July fundraiser



Joyce Vivian Phillips

for the Catholic Church. She also volunteered at the Wrangell Medical Center's Long Term Care, and started the Dirty Bingo games there. For many years she scouted rummage sales looking for fun and silly prizes to wrap for her seniors.

She taught herself to play the mandolin and the organ, and she worked at Igloo Potters painting pottery with good friends. She took many art classes and had a group of close friends she painted with regularly. A few of the ladies would adventure out on camping trips where they set up easels and painted their surroundings.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dean Phillips, sisters Vera Augello and Fran Anderson, and her granddaughter Talea Stough and grandson Gery Davies.

She is survived by her five daughters Debbie (Dwayne) Davies, Cinda (James) Stough, Rynda (Robert) Hayes, Leda Phillips, Kyna (Danny) DeBoer, 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and an abundance of extended family.

spent above a limited and prudent draw rate.

One of the most irresponsible and shameful actions the current generation could take is to overdraw and/or liquidate the Permanent Fund, thereby destroying its ability to benefit future Alaskans in perpetuity. Our oil and gas basin is a finite resource and should be treated as such. Our Permanent Fund—due to what I like to call the 8th wonder of the world: compounding interest—will be an infinite resource for future Alaskans if we protect it. The legacy of this generation should not be destroying the Permanent Fund for their own immediate benefit while disenfranchising our children and grandchildren leaving them an empty oil basin and a

crippled or liquidated Permanent Fund.

Bert Stedman is a Republican member of the Alaska State Senate.

He represents Southeast communities, including Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Metlakatla, Craig, Petersburg, Klawock & Hoonah.



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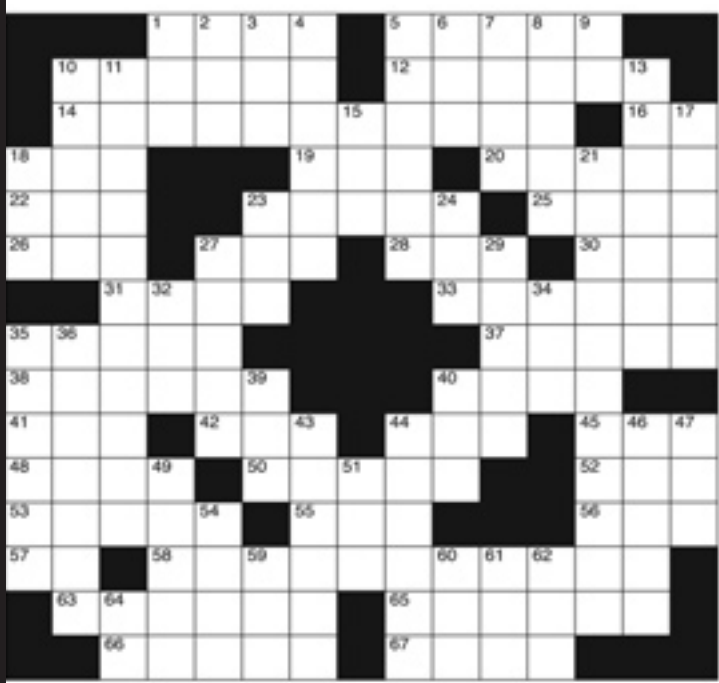
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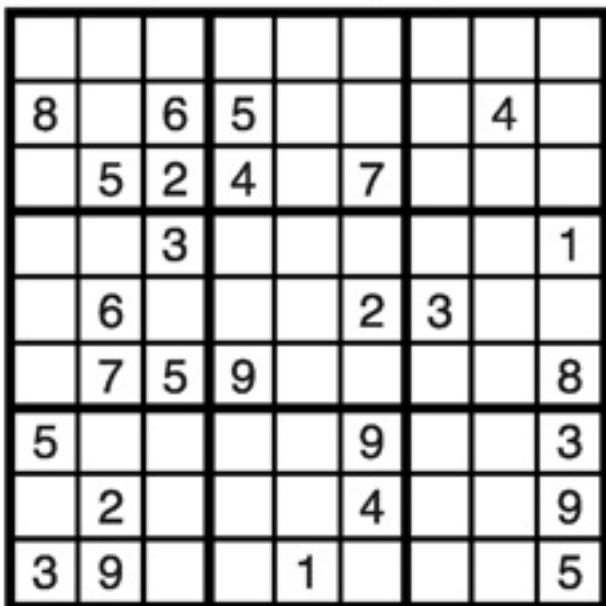
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One-time world power
- 5. Central Florida city
- 10. Winged nut
- 12. Elevate spiritually
- 14. Creative
- 16. It cools your home
- 18. Woman (French)
- 19. "60 Minutes" network
- 20. Old World lizard
- 22. Swiss river
- 23. Ethnic group of Cambodians
- 25. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 26. Tire measurement
- 27. Affirmative
- 28. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 30. One point north of due east
- 31. A type of "pet"
- 33. Tech giant
- 35. European nation
- 37. Fencing swords
- 38. Acquired
- 40. Origin
- 41. Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
- 42. Pouch
- 44. Peter's last name
- 45. Inclined
- 48. Palestinian territory __ Strip
- 50. A type of syrup
- 52. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 53. Weather Underground activist
- 55. Run batted in
- 56. Frozen water
- 57. Sodium
- 58. Philly specialty
- 63. Cuts the wool off
- 65. Rules
- 66. Icelandic literary works
- 67. Tattled

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- 2. Actors' organization
- 3. Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
- 4. Ranch (Spanish)
- 5. Beginning
- 6. Index
- 7. Portuguese wine
- 8. A feudal superior
- 9. Military brach (abbr.)
- 10. Lithuanian given name
- 11. A way to become different
- 13. Able to be domesticated
- 15. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 17. Hosts film festival
- 18. Shows you how to get there
- 21. Arranged alphabetically
- 23. S. Thai isthmus
- 24. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Woods
- 29. Make yourself attractive
- 32. Concealed
- 34. Large primate
- 35. A favorite saying of a sect or political group
- 36. Tropical fruits
- 39. Obstruct
- 40. Car mechanics group
- 43. Stroke gently
- 44. They're in your toolbox
- 46. Throngs
- 47. One and only
- 49. In a way, bent
- 51. "Downton Abbey" broadcaster
- 54. Herring-like fish
- 59. A major division of geological time
- 60. Vast body of water
- 61. Cannister
- 62. Encourage
- 64. The man

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the July 30 edition



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Local dog Sky getting into a staring contest with a Bearfest statue outside of J&W's. This photo was taken about two weeks ago, prior to reporter Caleb Vierkant self-isolating after going on vacation.

Bearfest schedule of events

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

While many traditional events in Wrangell have been altered or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public still gets to enjoy Bearfest this summer. Bearfest is an annual event in Wrangell, drawing in people near and far to celebrate one of Alaska's most well-known animals: Bears.

The week-long celebration kicked off yesterday, July 22, with an art workshop at the Nolan Center and an afternoon of native storytelling at the totem park. While the celebration will not be as big as usual because of the pandemic, there are many things people can look forward to this week.

One of the big events planned for the 2020 Bearfest is a symposium with Dr. Lance Craighead. This will take place at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon, at the Nolan Center. Craighead will speak on black bears in Alaska, as well as the history of the Anan bear observatory.

Tomorrow evening, July 24, the Stikine Inn will

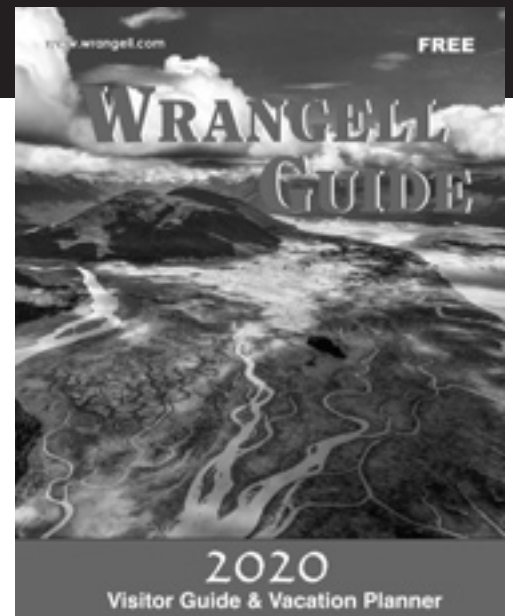
host a dinner and an auction. According to the Bearfest website, Seattle chefs Brian McCracken and Nina Vicente will join Wrangell Chef Jake Harris to create a special meal "based on the abundant riches of SE Alaska's bounty of food." Along with the food, people can expect to enjoy an auction as well as music by Wrangellite Brooke Leslie and Tom Locher of Juneau. Seating is limited to 60 people, due to COVID-19. Tickets can be purchased at Alaska Vistas.

On the last day of Bearfest, Sunday, July 26, the Bearfest Marathon will kick off. An early start for the full marathon will be at 6 a.m., at the Nolan Center, followed by the regular start time for the full and half marathons at 8 a.m. The start time for a 5k will be at 8:30 a.m. A raffle drawing at the end of the marathon will take place at noon.

Besides these main events, there are numerous other activities for people to take part in. These include art and photography workshops, community markets, plant walks, and more.

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Alaska Fish Factor By LAINE WELCH, Fisheries columnist

Seafood is Alaska's top export, source of state's largest manufacturing base

Most Alaskans are surprised to learn that seafood is by far Alaska's top export, the source of the state's largest manufacturing base and its #1 private employer. More surprising is that those simple to find facts are not included in the official trade sheet

for Alaska provided by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The information on the USTR website, for example, incorrectly claims that petroleum and coal were Alaska's top exports in 2018. But seafood has

been state's top export by far for decades. "Seafood comprises over half of Alaska's annual export value, averaging \$3.3 billion annually over the past decade, averaging \$5.6 billion from 20170-2018," reports the Alaska Resource Devel-

opment Council (RDC) on its fisheries page. The USTR states that "Alaska goods exports in 2016 (latest year available) supported an esti-

mated 37 thousand jobs." Wrong again. Alaska's seafood industry alone supports nearly 60,000 di-

Continued on page 7

Classified/Legals

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The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors for the removal, repair, installation, and commissioning of SEAPA's Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project Intake Gate and Related Hydraulic Power Unit (HPU). The project will consist of two phases: Phase 1 (relocate HPU skid from within gate shaft to an above-ground location) and Phase 2 (refurbish intake gate and replace hydraulic cylinders interconnecting gate stems). The Tye Lake Hydroelectric Project is located 40 miles SE of Wrangell, Alaska at the head of Bradfield Canal. Proposals are due by August 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. AKDT. For a complete set of the bid documents with additional details, please navigate to: www.seapahydro.org/rfp.php or interested respondents may call the SEAPA office at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

Published: July 23, 2020

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Over the Counter Sale of Impounded Vessels

The City and Borough of Wrangell held a bid opening on Friday, July 10, 2020 for five (5) vessels that were impounded pursuant to Wrangell Municipal Code, Title 14. There were no bids for the vessels at the Public Auction.

Therefore, the five (5) vessels will be available for sale, over-the-counter beginning **Monday, July 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.** on a first-come-first-serve basis for the minimum value.

The list of the vessels is available at City Hall and on the Borough Website <https://www.wrangell.com/community/harbor-public-auction-vessels-over-counter>

Published: July 16 and 23, 2020

Puzzle answers from July 16 Edition

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

During the Regular Borough Assembly meeting on **July 28, 2020 (beginning at 6:00 p.m.)**, there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

a. ORDINANCE No. 979 OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PORT AUTHORITY KNOWN AS THE "INTER-ISLAND FERRY AUTHORITY" AND CALLING A REFERENDUM ON THE PROPOSITION TO WITHDRAW FROM SAID PORT AUTHORITY.

If you would like to call into the Public Hearing, please email the Borough Clerk at clerk@wrangell.com no later than Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to request the call-in information.

The meeting will be broadcasted over the local radio station (Stikine Radio, KSTK)

Kim Lane, MMC
City & Borough of Wrangell

Publish: July 23, 2020

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY SOUTHEAST AREA OFFICE

PUBLIC REVIEW FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF TIMBER SALES STATE FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry Preliminary Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Southern Southeast Area is available for public review. Per AS 38.05.113 this is a scoping document that outlines the proposed timber sale activity to be undertaken on State land over the next five years. The Five-Year Schedule is not a decision document.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales. Comments should be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry and must be received by the close of business at the Division of Forestry's office no later than **September 4, 2020** to be included as comment in the adopted schedule. This document can be viewed at the Area Office in Ketchikan, the public libraries in Craig, Ketchikan, Petersburg and Wrangell, the State of Alaska's on-line public notice website <http://notice.alaska.gov/198870> as well as the DOF's website <http://forestry.alaska.gov/timber/ketchikan.htm#fiveyear>.

After public comment has been received and reviewed, the Division of Forestry may proceed with planning the proposed timber sales and associated developments. When each sale is prepared and ready for review, notice of the proposed decision and the opportunity for public comment will be given for that specific timber sale, as is required under state statutes and regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

Alaska Division of Forestry
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Contact: Greg Staunton
Phone: 225-3070
Email: greg.staunton@alaska.gov

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry Complies with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.

Published: July 23 and 30, 2020

NOTICE TO TAXPAYER

For the current fiscal year the City and Borough of Wrangell has been allocated the following amount of state aid for school and municipal purposes under the applicable financial assistance Acts:

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE (AS 14.17)	\$3,882,367
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT (AS 14.11.100)	\$0
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (AS 29.60.850-29.60.879)	\$375,363
TOTAL AID	\$4,257,730

The millage equivalent of this state aid, based on the dollar value of a mill in the municipality during the current assessment year and for the preceding assessment year, is:

	MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	
	PREVIOUS YEAR	THIS YEAR
PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE	21.67 MILLS	24.43 MILLS
STATE AID FOR RETIREMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DEBT	1.01 MILLS	0.00 MILLS
COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM	2.58 MILLS	2.36 MILLS
TOTAL MILLAGE EQUIVALENT	25.25 MILLS	26.79 MILLS

Joyce Mason
Finance Director

Published: July 16, 23, 30, 2020

Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

rect jobs and an additional 10,000 secondary jobs.

And as the RDC points out, "seafood processing is the largest manufacturing sector in Alaska, accounting for 70% of Alaska's manufacturing employment."

But the federal trade reps have a different take.

Under the USTR category *Made in America Manufacturing Exports from Alaska and Jobs*, it states: "Other top manufacturing exports are transportation equipment (\$68 million), food & kindred products (\$23 million), computer & electronic products (\$23 million), and machinery, except electrical (\$23 million).

Who knew!

For the category *Agriculture in Alaska Depends on Exports*, the USTR claims that: "Alaska is the country's 50th largest agricultural exporting state, shipping \$17 million in domestic agricultural exports abroad in 2017."

Alaska's top agricultural products listed are "other plant products" (\$14 million), "other livestock products" (\$1 million), followed by "feeds and other grains, processed grain products, and beef and veal" (\$326,000).

But Alaska is not alone in the

seafood snub. A review of other states' official trade pages shows contributions by the industry are not mentioned for fishing powerhouses like Maine, Massachusetts or Louisiana and more. And Hawaii will be surprised to learn that, according to the federal trade office, its largest exports also are petroleum and coal - although it has no reserves of either!

Overall, the USTR state trade data is poorly defined, loaded with incorrect facts and figures, provides no attribution, and each page looks like a sloppy cut and paste job tossed together with no expertise or interest.

Hopefully, the issue will draw the attention of Robert DeHaan who on Friday was appointed to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee that covers trade in animal products.

DeHaan is the Vice President for Government Affairs at the National Fisheries Institute and has worked at the senior government level in both trade and transportation. The committee advises the government on policy matters including existing trade agreements and the negotiation of new ones.

"This is a great opportunity for the seafood community to have a seat at the table where trade decisions are made," DeHaan said in a NFI press release. "I'm thrilled to be able to bring our industry's perspective and guidance to the people in charge of trade policy."

China tariffs tank Alaska seafood - It's been two years since President Trump started a trade war with China by imposing taxes on US seafood going to that country - taxes that are paid by Americans and not the Chi-

nese, as he would have you believe.

Seafood comprises well over 30% of Alaska's export volume and the ongoing tariffs have added up to huge losses from our biggest trading partner.

An analysis by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) shows that exports to China reached the highest level ever in 2017, at nearly \$1 Billion (\$988 million).

By 2018, Alaska seafood exports dropped by \$204 million, the largest year over year decrease ever. And by 2019, sales to China were at the lowest level since 2010 at \$702 million.

That's a drop of more than \$250 million in two years.

During the same time, China saw a 91% increase in seafood imports from other nations, going from \$8.1 billion to \$15.4 billion.

While the exact amount varies by species and product, ASMI said the average tax on Alaska seafood entering China is 38%.

For comparison, it's 8% for Norway, Russia and Canada; Chile and New Zealand pay zero seafood tax to China.

There's been explosive growth among Chinese seafood eaters since the tariffs were enacted, ASMI said, with sales jumping from \$8.1 billion to \$15.4 billion since 2018. But that growing appetite is being filled with seafood from elsewhere than Alaska or the US.

Added to the trade squeeze with China, the US seafood industry also continues to compete with less expensive imports from Russia. Trade data show the US imported nearly \$700 million worth of Russian-caught

seafood in 2019, although that country has embargoed all seafood US imports since 2014.

Combine US trade policies that are clearly at odds with backing the seafood industry, mix in crippling and ongoing market impacts from Covid-19 and it adds up to a triple whammy for Alaska's fishermen and coastal communities.

Don't dump your dumps - Don't be dumping your doings overboard is a message from the state of Alaska to fishing vessel operators.

A letter sent out last week by the Department of Environmental Conservation reminds fishermen that it is illegal to dump sewage within three miles from shore.

"It is common practice, obviously, for folks to use a honey bucket on their boat and to just throw it overboard. There is no doubt it is an ongoing practice. So, we are working to educate folks operating in our waters about the Clean Water Act. I would encourage folks to think about the water in general, think about being good stewards, and to bring that to our proper disposal on shore," DEC Commissioner Jason Brune told KDLG in Dillingham.

Dumping sewage violates the Clean Water Act and can net you a fine up to \$2,000. Brune's letter also said the dumpings damage the nearshore environment by contaminating shellfish beds and fish habitat and can spread diseases to other people.

All boats with onboard bathrooms must use Coast Guard approved sanitation devices with storage tanks that are emptied at a pump station on shore or be-

yond three miles. Boats with honey buckets also can use the pump stations or bag style camp toilets that can be sealed and disposed of at approved collection areas.

Along with the dangers of contamination, Brune pointed out that dumping sewage in nearby waters simply sends the wrong message.

"We have environmental standards that we want to hold folks to," he said, "to make sure that we're being protective of our marine resources, of our fish and of the environment that we love here in Alaska."

Fish Board find - A public records request to Governor Dunleavy's office of boards and commissions produced a redacted resume for his elusive Board of Fisheries nominee, McKenzie Mitchell.

It says since 2019 she has been a professor of economics and "recreation business leadership" at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a "contract economist for NOAA constructing market demand models for fisheries prevalent in Alaska."

Mitchell's resume says she has been a boat captain and sport fishing guide at lodges on Kodiak Island for several years, presently at Raspberry Island Remote Lodge. She also is an assistant big game guide at Afognak Wilderness Lodge at Kodiak and Midnight Sun Safaris and Lazy J-Bar-O Outfitters at Healy.

A hearing on the fish board nominees is set for Sept. 3 at 10am at the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage. Public comments can be submitted now to Rep. Louise Stutes at rep.louise.stutes@akleg.gov.

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Assembly approves CARES Act funding for school district

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening for a special meeting, to consider CARES Act funding for the school district. Wrangell, and many other communities, recently received special funds through the CARES Act to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Wrangell has used these funds, or plans to use them, for items like the purchase of a new ambulance, to cover wages for first responders, and to help pay for an alternate isolation site, among other planned expenses.

As the Wrangell School District plans to reopen for the next school year, they are seeking some CARES Act money to assist in their preparations.

The district provided the city with a list of planned expenditures in the amount of \$483,637, according to the meeting's agenda packet. Some of the uses

of the requested CARES Act funding include portable tables and stools, cleaning supplies, air purifiers, sanitation aid job positions, gym flooring, and tools for distance education, among other items.

"When I sent the laundry list of many, many items that we had gathered from our staff needs and wants, and supplies that are going to have to be in place to re-open school as safely and as educationally proficient as we can make it for distance learning options along with classroom learning, the list could have been longer but this is what we come with," said Superintendent Debbe Lancaster. "I understand that we most likely will not get everything that we're asking for, but appreciate the contribution that the city and borough is able to contribute."

While the school district was looking for a little less than \$500,000 from the CARES Act



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Stikine Inn construction continues

Construction of a new warehouse by the Stikine Inn is ongoing. The project was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission last November. The project, as described in that meeting, was to construct a 45' x 55' x 27' warehouse to serve as storage space for the inn and restaurant, and will also contain an apartment.

Candidacy for local election opening soon

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Declarations of candidacy for Wrangell's election will be opening in the near future. A July 9 Facebook post on the city's page listed open positions interested candidates may consider.

The position of mayor will be up for grabs this year, a two-year term. There are also three seats open on the borough assembly. Two seats are for three-year terms, while another one is for a two-year unexpired term. There is one spot available on the Wrangell School Board, for a three-year term. Lastly, there are two positions open on the port commission, one for three years, and another for a two-year unexpired term.

"Declaration of Candidacy will open on Monday, August 3rd and close on Monday, August 31st," the Facebook post reads. "Forms for declaring your candidacy will be available for pick up in the Borough Clerk's office from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday."

More information on the 2020 election can be found on the city's website, www.wrangell.com. Election Day for Wrangell is October 6. Statewide, the primary election day will be on August 18, followed by a statewide and national election on November 3.

fund, the assembly was only considering giving them an amount of \$250,000. Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga explained that, while the assembly has received approximately \$3.8 million in CARES Act funding, the majority of it has already been allocated or spent. Of this, she said that approximately \$500,000 is still available. Wanting to keep some in reserve in case of emergencies, Von Barga recommended that the best course of action would be to only consider using half of the available funding.

"We don't know what emergencies may lie ahead whether it's for us or even for the school district in the months to come," she said. "So what I started out with was \$250,000 because that's approximately half of what we have remaining, and that leaves us with a cushion to address any emergencies that we may have here locally, for any COVID need."

The discussion continued for some time. Mayor Steve Prysunka questioned some items on the district's "wish list," while other assembly members dis-

cussed the possibilities of a new CARES Act being passed in the near future. They also considered the possibilities of the district finding new funding avenues to cover COVID mitigation costs. The assembly also discussed other places money could be pulled from in case of emergency. Lancaster said that the district had approximately \$1 million in reserves, for emergency use and capital improvements. Joyce Mason, with the city, also pointed out that the city had approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million in Secure Rural Schools funding, as well as several million in general fund reserves, that could potentially be tapped into.

Assembly Member David Powell said that while he supports assisting the schools in reopening, he was concerned about using half of their remaining CARES Act funding. If Wrangell faced some kind of emergency, he said, they might need every dollar they could get. He also said that the idea the city has gone through \$3.8 million in only a few months also worried him, but understood that there

were reasons for all the places the CARES Act money went where it did.

Eventually, all participating assembly members approved the \$250,000 allocation. Assembly Member Patty Gilbert abstained from participating on this item, as she is also a member of the school board. Assembly Member Ryan Howe also announced a conflict of interest, as he is employed by the school district. Mayor Steve Prysunka said Howe was allowed to participate in this item, however, as he was in a different position. Howe was not likely to benefit any more than any other employee of the district from this item, he said, so he was allowed to vote.

During this meeting, the assembly also appointed Assembly Member Anne Morrison and Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore to the collective bargaining team for the city. Before adjourning, they broke into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations, and the ground rules for said negotiations, between the borough and the IBEW, the electrical workers' union.



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