

Wrangell, Alaska  
May 7, 2020

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Three COVID-related items covered in special assembly meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held a special meeting Monday evening, May 4, to discuss three agenda items related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Mike Dunleavy and the Department of Health and Social Services recently announced four metrics by which they would determine if restrictions need to be eased or rolled back, to protect public health. According to the meeting's agenda packet, the four metrics are: Epidemiology, tracking disease trends and forecasts; Testing, tracking overall testing volume and changes in the percentage of positive tests; Public health capacity, monitoring cases and investigating for positive cases; and Health care capacity, ensuring hospitals have adequate capacity and supplies for patients.

In response to these metrics, the Wrangell Medical Center has put together a letter outlining Wrangell's local health care capacity during this pandemic. It came before the assembly for their own information, and for their ap-

proval to forward it up to the state level.

"Wrangell Medical Center under normal operating conditions has eight beds available to treat patients ill enough to need inpatient medical care," the letter, written by Dr. Lynn Prysunka, reads. "This is what we are staffed for and what we have the physical space for ... After considerable thought and evaluation, WMC has written a surge plan that would allow for us to manage 16 patients in need of inpatient care. This is what we could potentially staff and provide care for, for a very short period of time if we were to find ourselves needing to deal with an extreme situation. WMC does not have more capacity than this and it would be disingenuous to lead industry leaders and their patrons to believe otherwise."

After some discussion, the assembly approved of the plan to forward the letter to the state.

Next on the agenda was a proposed addition to the marine service center user agreement. This new "Section 8" to the

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Plant sale

Evergreen Elementary School hosted a plant sale last Friday morning, May 1. Along with the plants, to help raise money for the EATS garden, the school also hosted a book giveaway and opened up their lost and found for families to come pick up missing items. Pictured here is Kristina Bunes with some of the plants for sale.

## Three graduates share thoughts on end of the school year

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

May signals the end of the school year for the Wrangell School District. For 25 students, this May signals the end of their high school careers. The COVID-19 pandemic has created several challenges and changes this year.

Three students of the class of 2020 shared their opinions on this closing chapter of their lives.

In general, all three students agree that the pandemic is a disappointing way to end high school, but they are understanding of the situation and grateful to the community for supporting them regardless.

**Jing O'Brien**

Jing O'Brien serves as the student representative on the school board. Currently, she said she has not committed to any schools after graduation yet. She intends to go to college this fall, but she is still weighing her options. She plans to study political science at whatever university she decides to attend.

O'Brien said that she misses the in-person classroom setting, compared to the online classes she and other Wrangell students are currently taking. She has always enjoyed school, she said, especially the social aspects of it. Learning via online classroom has some advantages, but she also misses seeing her friends in person. On top of that, O'Brien said that she is sad her class is not getting to experience a typical graduation ceremony, or other senior traditions, but understands that everybody in the district and the wider community is making the best of a bad situation. She wanted to thank all of Wrangell for their support over the years, and especially during this pandemic.

"I would say that it is disap-



pointing," she said. "I also recognize that the school did a really good job with the transition ... I think it's great that the community's coming together to make something happen."

**Laura Helgeson**

Senior Laura Helgeson said she is planning to attend Portland State University this fall. She plans to study either graphic design or communications. She has a lot of family in the area, she said, so she is excited for college.

Helgeson shared O'Brien's sentiment that she misses being in school and interacting with her friends. She is not struggling with the sudden transition from in-person classes to online classes, she said, but has heard it has been more of a challenge for underclassmen. Helgeson said she is sad about senior activities getting cancelled, but is not too upset about there not being a big graduation ceremony. What

"I'm actually not having too hard of a time."

-Laura Helgeson

bothers her, she said, is that some of her family will not be able to travel to Wrangell for her graduation. Despite that, she said she has handled the end of the school year well.

"I'm actually not having too hard of a time," she said.

**Hank Voltz**

Hank Voltz plans to go fishing this summer, and head off to college in the fall. He is going to Boise State University, he said, to pursue a nursing degree.

Looking on the bright side of things, Voltz said that the current situation is actually helping students prepare for college better. Students have to be more responsible for their own studying and time management, he said, now that they are doing classes at home and not in school. Voltz said it is like getting a taste of college, since students no longer have teachers looking over their shoulders.

He also wanted to say thank you to the community and the school district for all of their support, especially during the cur-

rent pandemic. In particular, Voltz wanted to say thank you to Jack Carney. Carney is currently serving as interim principal of Wrangell's secondary schools. Voltz said that he is always checking in on the senior classes to make sure they are ready to graduate, and that they have the support they need.

"It is a bum deal that there is no graduation and all the senior stuff got cancelled, but it is what it is," Voltz said.



"It is a bum deal that there is no graduation and all the senior stuff got cancelled, but it is what it is."

- Hank Voltz



"I think it's great that the community's coming together to make something happen."

-Jing O'Brien

# Assembly

Continued from page 1

agreement covers how operations in Wrangell's boat yard will take place during the pandemic. In summary of the section, boat owners wanting their vessels worked on in Wrangell must comply with the guidelines in state Health Mandate 17, and a copy of the mandate acknowledgement form must be provided to the harbor before admittance into the marine yard. Vessel owners, operators, and crew must comply with the self-quarantine rules in Mandate 17, or otherwise complete their quarantine while out on the water. During quarantine ves-

sels are required to fly a Lima flag. Work by vendors or contractors on the boat, below the water line, can begin immediately. Work above the waterline may begin 72 hours after the vessel is admitted to the marine yard and no crew has been on board.

This proposed addition to the user agreement was largely met with approval by the assembly, but there were a few proposed changes. Fisherman Mike Lockabey, speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting, suggested that the 72 hour wait time to get work done above the water line be shortened to 24 hours. After 24 hours,

he said, the chance of germs surviving on the surface of a vessel seemed low, and waiting 72 hours would not be much safer than 24 hours. However, after some discussion, it was decided to keep the 72 hour wait time as it was written. Assembly Member Julie Decker also proposed that hyperlinks to state Mandate 17 be added to Section 8, just for clarification's sake. She also proposed that the harbor department have a supply of spare Lima flags on hand, just in case a vessel comes into town and does not own one. After some further discussion, Section 8 was approved by the assembly.

The final item on the agenda was a motion to approve the establishment and preparation of an alternative COVID-19 isolation site. This is another step in the direction of being prepared,

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said. Wrangell has no confirmed cases of the virus at the time of the meeting, May 4, but setting up an isolation site is something that should not be put off until it was needed.

"We need to have a place ready to go for folks to be able to isolate if they test positive for COVID and just need a place to go and stay, and wait out the symptoms, until they are well and deemed clear of COVID-19," Von Barga said. "This might be used for folks who live here in Wrangell but who can't have adequate separation at home from their families. It may also be used for people who are here just seasonally and don't have a place where they could socially isolate."

According to the agenda packet, the city is working with

Trident Seafood to use one of their bunkhouses as an alternative isolation site, in the event of an outbreak in Wrangell. Aside from finding a physical location, preparation for the site includes cleaning and inspecting the building, organizing transportation and catering for people isolated there, provision kits need to be put together, staff need to be hired and trained, and much more. There is not a budget fully identified for this project yet, according to the agenda packet, but at this time Von Barga was requesting a maximum of \$100,000, which would be eligible for reimbursement under the CARES Act and FEMA. After some discussion regarding the cost of finding and setting up an isolation site, the assembly gave the project their approval.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, May 7:** John Byrd, Kelly Westerlund, Halee Mathis, Andrea Wilborn, Kim Reading, Kayleigh Reading. **Friday, May 8:** Catherine Mathis, Lynne Campbell, Wess Strasburger. **Saturday, May 9:** Tillie Bainter, Iver P. Nore, Hannah Crayne, Carrie Wallace. **Sunday, May 10:** Waka Brown, Alesha Jaybusch, George Benson, Russell Shilts, Jeff Wiederspohn, *Anniversary:* Karl & Adrian Kohrt. **Monday, May 11:** Talea Massin, Jeff Petticrew, Jessie Angerman, Tara Campbell. **Tuesday, May 12:** *Anniversaries:* Bob & Debi Prunella, Ken & Lou Davidson. **Wednesday, May 13:** Gavin Hunt, Harley Johnson, Troy Kagee, Everly Cook, Kyle Hammock, Bart Churchill, Stone Guggenbickler, *Anniversary:* Joe & Donna Kuntz.

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, May 8

Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Raisin Salad.

Monday, May 11

Chili Beef & Cheese, Texas Slaw, Cornbread.

Tuesday, May 12

Sweet & Sour, Carrots, Cauliflower toss, Rice.

Wednesday, May 13

Beef Noodle Casserole, Peas, Sunshine Salad.

Thursday, May 14

Rockfish Chowder, Cheese & Tomato Sandwich, 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

## May Sailings CANCELLED

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



## TIDES May 7-May14

	High Tides				Low Tides			
	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft
May 7	01:08	19.6	01:51	17.4	07:27	-3.7	07:32	0.1
May 8	01:49	19.8	02:38	17.0	08:10	-4.1	08:14	0.9
May 9	02:30	19.4	03:25	16.3	08:54	-3.8	08:56	1.9
May 10	03:12	18.5	04:13	15.2	09:39	-2.8	09:40	3.1
May 11	03:56	17.2	05:04	14.1	10:26	-1.5	10:29	4.3
May 12	04:43	15.6	06:03	13.1	11:17	-0.1	11:25	5.4
May 13	05:38	14.1	07:11	12.6	.....	.....	12:14	1.2
May 14	06:49	12.8	08:24	12.7	00:35	6.1	01:19	2.2

### May 6, 1920

Announcements of the high school commencement are being sent out this week to all the patrons of the school and others. If anyone interested has been overlooked, announcements may be obtained from Miss Crosno, the principal of the school. Everyone is invited to attend the various exercises incidental to the first high school graduation whether an announcement has been received or not.

### May 4, 1945

Construction on a hangar for the Wrangell Terminal of the Wrangell-Petersburg Air service has been started in Petersburg, according to the announcement of Pilot Tony Schwamm, manager of the company. The hangar is being built in Petersburg as labor was not available here for the construction. It will be towed over here when completed. Schwamm also said that his Wrangell office was being moved from its winter quarters in the Wrangell Hotel, to the former express office across the street. Mrs. Wayne Vihenin will be the operator and agent during the summer months.

### May 7, 1970

The Most Rev. Francis Hurley, newly appointed Bishop for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Juneau (Southeastern Alaska) will make his initial visit to Wrangell this weekend. He will concelebrate a first Communion Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church with Father Gorges on Sunday. The mass will be followed by a pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall. The first communicants will be guests of honor, Others will be charged a low admission fee. The usual fare will be served by the men of the parish: pancakes, ham, eggs, coffee and punch.

### May 4, 1994

Six students from Wrangell's Stikine Middle School were honored with listing on the 1994 Alaska State American Junior

High School Mathematics Examination Honor Roll after taking the exam with 722 students from 15 schools in the

state. Honored were Amber McCoy, Alyse Garbisch, Jake Jabusch, Jordan Jones, Alissa Pompek and Robbie Rooney.

## Continuing Events

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

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

## WHS/SMS School Lunches: General Guidelines



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

The following guidelines are for the pick up of lunches:

### Mondays-City Market:

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

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

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

### Wednesdays and Fridays-Wrangell IGA

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

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

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

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

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Apr. 27	48	44
Apr. 28	47	44
Apr. 29	47	42
Apr. 30	46	40
May 1	57	39
May 2	62	44
May 3	53	44
May 4	58	40

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 7	4:51a	8:39p	15:48h
May 8	4:49a	8:41p	15:52h
May 9	4:47a	8:43p	15:56h
May 10	4:45a	8:45p	16:00h
May 11	4:43a	8:47p	16:04h
May 12	4:41a	8:48p	16:07h
May 13	4:39a	8:50p	16:11h
May 14	4:37a	8:52p	16:15h

# Assembly hears public comments, postpones Tax-Free Day

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Last week's borough assembly meeting, on April 28, only had a few items on the agenda. The majority of the meeting was spent receiving comments on the COVID-19 situation from the public and some assembly members.

Joan Sargent, of Island of Faith Lutheran Church, led the invocation for the meeting. Afterwards, she also shared her comments on the pandemic and the community's response to it. She wanted to share with the public that the Irene Ingle Public Library, which has been serving as a hub to collect and distribute face masks around

town, has handed out about 330 masks as of April 28. The library also had a stock of over 100 adult-size masks on hand to distribute, plus an additional 30 child-size masks. She also added that the masks the library has on hand are only a fraction of the masks Wrangellites have made to share with others, and she wanted to express her thanks for everyone's generosity with their time and sewing supplies. She also wanted to request that the city continue to express the importance of wearing masks in public.

"The other 'thank you' goes to those who are wearing them," Sargent said. "I personally just want to thank them

because it just tells me they care about my health and possibly my life."

Local fisherman Mike Lockabey also spoke at the meeting last week. Lockabey came before the assembly to request that they try to disseminate more information to the public during this pandemic, especially when it comes to state health mandates. Most of the mandates passed down from the state government have been fairly straightforward, he said, but recent ones such as Mandate 17 are rather complex. The assembly doing something to disseminate information about the mandates, and how it will impact people, would go a long way in keeping everybody in-

formed.

Lockabey also said he heard from Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga that the sales tax revenue from the last quarter was down by 50 percent. By his own math, he said that Wrangell got \$2.6 million in sales tax revenue last year, which equates to \$37 million in taxable sales. If sales tax revenue is down by 50 percent for the entire year, he said, that is about \$18.5 million not flowing through Wrangell. If further restrictions are put in place during the pandemic, he said, the city will only see sales tax revenue continue to decline. With a lot less money flowing through the com-

Continued on page 4

## Happy Mother's Day from Stikine Drug



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## Court report

**April 21:** Gary Hamley was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. The arraignment was scheduled to continue on April 28.

Theodosia James was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. The arraignment was scheduled to continue on April 28.

Daniel Meissner was arraigned on charges of criminal trespass and violating conditions of release. He was released under his own recognizance, and is not to have contact with the alleged victim or return to their property. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16.

A disposition hearing was held for Dylan Franks, charged with probation/parole violations. His probation was revoked. A prison sentence of 40 days was imposed, with credit being given for time already served.

**April 27:** An omnibus hearing was held for Casey Seimears, charged with burglary and theft. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16, with a trial on June 23.

**April 28:** A felony first hearing was held for

James Howe, charged with unlawful contact, stalking, and violating conditions of release. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for June 16.

Alan Cummings was arraigned on charges of unlawful contact and violating conditions of release. He was released on a \$250 cash performance bond, and will also be under PED supervision. He is not to have contact with the alleged victim or to come within 50 feet of their residence. A calendar call is scheduled for June 16.

Gary Hamley was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. He was released under his own recognizance, is not to consume alcohol, and will be under PED supervision. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16.

Theodosia James was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release. A calendar call was scheduled for June 16.

**April 29:** Russell Grey pleaded guilty to a charge of illegal storage of crab pots. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$900, plus a \$20 police training surcharge.

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We are available at **907 874-3811** or you can text/call Lisa **907 305-0555** for any questions or a need to get in the store.

## Police report

**April 27**

Agency Assist.  
Extra Patrols.  
Search and Rescue.

**April 28**

False Alarm.

**April 29**

Traffic Stop: Verbal Warning.  
Assault.

**April 30**

Domestic Violence Order.  
Courtesy Transport.

Agency Assist: Public Works.

**May 1**

Agency Assist: Harbor Dept.  
Agency Assist: Harbor Dept.  
Agency Assist: Fire Alarm.  
Extra Patrol.

**May 2**

Traffic Complaint.  
Paper Service.

**May 03**

Civil Matter.  
Civil Issue.

During this reporting period there were also three animal complaints, 11 subpoenas served and 12 Agency Assist calls to the airport.

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and these businesses

Any business wishing to participate in this announcement should contact the Sentinel at [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) or email the Wrangell Chamber at [stephanie@wrangellchamber.com](mailto:stephanie@wrangellchamber.com)  
All space is offered at a 25% discount.

## Correction

In last week's edition of the Wrangell Sentinel, we incorrectly reported a web address the public could visit to respond to the census. The correct 2020 Census web address is [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

# Dan's Dispatch

By Representative  
Dan Ortiz

Happy Public Service Appreciation Week! Every year, PSA Week falls on the first full week of May, and its timing is uncanny this year. The past eight weeks have been a whirlwind for our public servants, and I cannot thank them enough. Information and mandates are rapidly changing, but our public servants have worked hard to keep our communities healthy.

As Alaska reopens, we will do so as safely as possible, keeping the health and wellbeing of our neighbors, families, and friends as our highest priorities. Last week, Dr. Zink gave an update on how we plan to reopen Alaska. The details of the plan, including who is considered essential at this time and what restrictions are still in place, can be found at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services website. Overall, Dr. Zink reminded us that social distancing is still an important strategy for remaining healthy.

Immunocompromised folks and anyone 65 and older should especially consider their per-

sonal level of risk when deciding to engage in public activities. If you choose to return to public life, continue wearing a mask, washing your hands often, and staying six feet away from non-household members. Furthermore, keep your social circle small; gatherings of more than 20 people are still not allowed.

Right now, Alaska is proceeding with caution. If we observe downward trends in the virus, we will methodically remove restrictions. If we see a spike or are running low on capacity to care for COVID-19 patients, we will reinstate some restrictions. We will use geography to our advantage. Local authorities can work with the State to implement more strict or liberal rules, as well as implement different reopening phases at different times, depending on their unique situation. This progress would not have been possible without our public servants.

From firefighters and police officers to state and local government officials, thank you for working hard to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We appreciate it every year, but this year it especially rings true.

# Assembly

Continued from page 3

munity, he said that businesses would need support. Lockabey wanted to propose the city set aside any relief money they receive for local businesses. Another idea he had was to suspend Wrangell's sales tax altogether. This has happened in the past, he said, when the city has had an excess of money. It could really help people save money, and the city can cover their incurred losses from a lack of sales tax with COVID-19 relief funding.

"Instead of not having a no-sales-tax day, how about we have a no-sales-tax year?" He suggested.

After Lockabey's comments, Von Bargen clarified that she did not say sales tax revenue was down 50 percent last quarter. What she indicated, she said, is she anticipates sales tax revenue being down 50 percent the last quarter of this fiscal year, which is also the current quarter for the city. This current quarter ends on June 30.

"We are also anticipating considerable reductions in sales tax revenue for the upcoming quarters, as Mr. Lockabey indicated would likely be the case, but I just wanted to clarify that," Von Bargen said.

During the meeting, Mayor Steve Prysunka took the opportunity to voice some concerns he has. There is a trend, he said, where state officials are coming out with new statements and information and claiming to have worked with local communities and gotten their input. This, he said, is not the reality of the situation. He is deeply concerned that there is not really a process for local municipalities to have a say in policymaking when it comes to combating COVID-19.

"For example, with the fishing mandate, the governor characterized that came out to the communities and we

worked with our community partners to create this," Prysunka said. "As I'm talking with other mayors through the region and throughout the state, that is not the case. We were not consulted on that. As a matter of fact we were given it with less than 24 hours to respond, and after we squawked a fair bit they gave us 48."

Under actionable items in the meeting, the assembly approved of senior property tax exemptions that were received after the March 1 deadline, but before the late filing grace period. They also approved of a postponement of Wrangell's Tax-Free Day. Originally scheduled for May 2, the new Tax-Free Day is set for June 6, pending further loosening of state restrictions on social gatherings and allowing retail businesses to operate.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Java Junkie back in business

Local coffee shop Java Junkie celebrated their reopening for the season last Friday, May 1. The coffee shop is located on the cul de sac by City Dock, across from the Stikine Inn. Pictured here is Ceona Koch, taking orders from the shop's window.

## We'll Get Through This Together!

Your support of local businesses is important, now more than ever.

- 1. Buy Gift Certificates**
- 2. Order Take-Out from Restaurants**
- 3. Take advantage of deliveries and online orders from local shops**

This message is brought to you by the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce



Any business wishing to participate in this announcement should contact the Sentinel at 874-2301  
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# Replacement date for SEAPA line unknown

By BRIAN VARELA  
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - Southeast Alaska Power Agency is still in the process of trying to replace a damaged submarine cable that provides Petersburg with power, as complications increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bob Lynn, chairman of the SEAPA board, told the Petersburg Borough Assembly at their meeting on Monday that there are concerns over whether the project can be completed this year. The damaged cable is one of four submarine cables that connects the terminals between Woronofski and Vank islands to provide Petersburg with power. Three of

the cables are needed to transfer power, while the fourth is a backup cable. A fault occurred in the damaged cable on Sept. 29 of last year and caused a power outage in town. The cable carries power to Petersburg from the Tyee hydro facility at Bradfield Canal and is part of an 83-mile transmission line bringing power to both Wrangell and Petersburg.

A request for proposals is out right now and several contractors have shown interest in the project, said Lynn; however, there's concern among contractors and SEAPA staff about the state's various health mandates in effect. Lynn said SEAPA staff have asked contractors replying to the RFP to give multiple bids in

response to different scenarios regarding the health mandates.

Lynn said SEAPA estimates the cost of the cable and installation is somewhere between \$6-8 million. SEAPA may cover the costs out of pocket or take out bonds, said Lynn.

While there is uncertainty as to when the submarine cable will be replaced, Lynn said, as of Monday morning, that there is plenty of water in Tyee and Swan Lakes for the summer. The water level at Tyee Lake, which dedicates its power to Petersburg and Wrangell, was at 1,292 feet of elevation on Monday, about 32 feet above the operations draft limit for the lake. The water level at Swan Lake,

which dedicates its power to Ketchikan, was at 300 feet of elevation on Monday morning, 20 feet above its operations draft limit.

If the water level of either lake drops down to the draft limit, then the hydroelectric project will no longer be able to draw water to produce power, but Lynn said water is still pouring into the lakes rapidly. Additionally, Crystal Lake, which provides water to Petersburg's own hydroelectric project at Blind Slough, is about five feet from spilling over, said Lynn.

"From the aspect of having enough water for the summer, it looks very good," said Lynn.

## Southeast Alaska commercial shrimp pot fishery announcement

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced the following information concerning the 2019/2020 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp summer fishery.

The following areas will re-open by emergency order at 8:00 a.m., Friday, May 15, 2020:

District 4: will be open. The total Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is 20,000 pounds, current harvest information is confidential.

District 5: will be open. The total GHL is 12,000 pounds, current harvest information is confidential.

District 15: (Remainder): will be open in Chilkat Inlet, and in waters south of the latitude of Seduction Point at 59°04.93' N lat, and north of the latitude of Little Island Light at 58°32.41' N lat. The total GHL is 7,500 pounds, current harvest information is confidential.

These areas will close at 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2020, unless closed earlier by emer-

gency order [5 AAC 31.145]. Areas will close when GHLs have been reached or are expected to be reached by the time of the closure.

Fishermen should refer to the "Southeast Alaska Commercial Pot Shrimp Fishery Announcement" from August 16, 2019, for details on reporting, fish ticket, and logbook requirements as well as other information concerning the 2019/2020 pot shrimp season. The weekly reporting requirement for all catcher-processors and catcher-sellers will begin Monday, May 18, 2020.

Fishermen planning to participate in the summer season beginning May 15, 2020, will need to reregister for the fishery since the 2019/2020 registration year for shrimp ended April 14, 2020. Registration is available at any of the Southeast area offices.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1120.

Under Alaska's Health

Mandates 10, 11, 12, and 17 commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Com-

mercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska

COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

## Social media discussed in CVB workshop

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Friday, May 1, for a work session on social media and marketing opportunities it could provide. The bureau wanted to talk about how they could promote local businesses, and Wrangell itself, via social media. As this was just a work session, no formal action was taken in the meeting.

"Webinars that I've been on, ATIA's advice, it seems like most everybody is headed that direction and trying to beef up social media now, while we're all sort of sheltering in place and not traveling," said Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore.

Some common themes for this "beefing up" of social media presence, Rushmore said she's seen across various sources, includes ensuring an organization's Google presence and utilizing Facebook. The CVB has already been working to boost Wrangell's presence in Google through a partnership with Truly360, she said, a company that helps clients reach their full potential across all of Google's products. Brooke Leslie, bureau member, pointed out that their target audience would be people with time and money for traveling to visit Wrangell. This means they would generally be older, so they should not worry about reaching out on social media typically used by younger people.

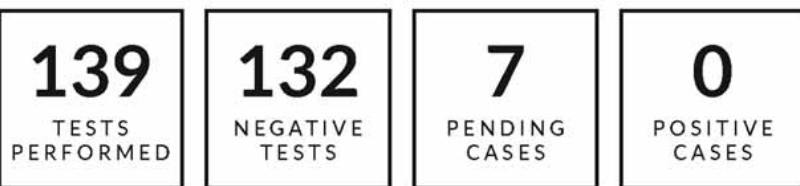
"I don't think Instagram ... is as big of a deal when it comes to what our target market, what they called the 'Donna,' which is your 55-year-old female traveler who's looking to book vacations for the future," she said. "They're not so much Instagram

users, but they are Facebook users."

The CVB had many options available when it came to developing a marketing plan for social media, Rushmore said. Posts could be scheduled on a weekly or biweekly basis, she gave as an example, different businesses could be promoted at different times, and there could be varying themes their posts could follow. In general, the bureau members in the workshop liked the ideas of having different themes for their posts. In the month of May, Rushmore gave as an example, birds could be a good theme for the CVB to use in their posts. Other "theme" ideas included glaciers, bears, local shopping, and outdoor recreation.

Other discussions in the workshop included sharing businesses' posts versus creating their own posts, rates for photo usage in those posts, and other ideas for boosting the bureau's social media marketing presence.

## SEARHC Wrangell COVID-19 Update



SEARHC is committed to providing high-quality healthcare to Southeast Alaska residents and visitors.

As part of our pandemic response, we're providing safe COVID-19 testing to all who meet current symptomatic guidelines, offering prescription delivery services, expanding Telehealth options, and remaining in continued contact with the City and Borough of Wrangell and EMS as part of the local Unified Command.

For more information, visit [covid19.searhc.org](https://covid19.searhc.org) or call Wrangell Medical Center at 907.874.7000 or the AICS Clinic at 907.874.4700.



### CITY MARKET & SENTRY HARDWARE

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

**We encourage customers to send us their orders**

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

E: [cmarketaccounts@gci.net](mailto:cmarketaccounts@gci.net)  
Ph: 874-3333  
Fax: 874-3296

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

**Sentry Hardware Store New Hours:**

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

**Senior Shopping time: Tuesday & THURSDAY: 8A-10A**

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



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

# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

## Suggested lead: COVID-19 cuts values of Alaska salmon permits

The value of Alaska salmon permits is another casualty of the coronavirus with prices dropping for all fisheries across the state. There are a lot of permits for sale - and the most offers ever to lease permits, especially at Bristol Bay.

The virus has changed everything, said Doug Bowen of Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer.

"There's so much uncertainty about if there will even be a salmon season here and there, and if so, what kind of a price can be expected and so on. I can't think of one salmon permit that is going up in value. And if there are different permit values that have not gone down, it's simply because they're not selling," he said.

Prices for the bellwether drift net permits at Bristol Bay are all over the place, he said, but well below last year's high of \$195,000. The 2019 fishery produced the second highest harvest of all salmon species combined, and the highest value ever to fishermen at \$306.5 million.

"We sold quite a few Bay permits at that price and then the market softened a bit after the excitement died down, and we sold a number of them in the \$180,000 range. Since the news of the virus broke, they've sold in the \$150,000 range, and we just sold one recently for \$165,000 and then the next one for \$159,000. They are all over the map but the trend is unmistakable and it's down. And that's the same story with all the salmon permits," Bowen said.

Bowen's brokerage lists 26 Bristol Bay drift permits for sale of which eight are offered for lease as Emergency Medical Transfers (EMTs) in the \$18,000 to \$25,000 range.

That's perhaps the most

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eye-raising twist in this time of pandemic - the number of EMTs listed for Bristol Bay this summer.

Dock Street brokers, for example, has 18 Bristol Bay drift permits listed, of which half are EMTs; Permit Master lists similar numbers. Of the six permits on the board at Alaskan Quota and Permits in Petersburg, four are EMTs.

"Folks that are down in the Lower 48 are having trouble making arrangements or either can't or won't travel up here and they're leasing their permits out," Bowen said, adding

that the same applies to out of state holders of Alaska halibut and black cod quota shares.

"It's not a selling issue. It's just a temporary arrangement that someone else can go out and use your permit for the season. This year we're seeing more folks using COVID-19 as a reason for transferring their permit or their quota on an emergency basis," he explained.

The upturned food market also has more industry stakeholders talking about increasing canning of salmon this summer to feed the need for

more shelf stable proteins. While it's a valuable market, cans have the lowest value of all salmon products.

"Not many are going out

for dinner and that restaurant trade was largely responsible for some of the great prices we've seen for seafood here for

Continued on page 7

### Comments About Judges Needed at a Public Hearing May 12, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

We need your help! State law requires the Alaska Judicial Council to evaluate the performance of judges who will be on the ballot in November (for a list of judges, go to: [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)). The Council would like to hear your opinions about the judges' legal ability, fairness, diligence, integrity, temperament, and overall performance.

Please share your experience by calling into a public hearing on Tuesday, May 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

If calling from Juneau: 907-586-9085

If calling from Anchorage: 907-563-9085

Statewide: 1-844-586-9085

The Judicial Council also welcomes written testimony at the address below or via e-mail.

The Council will review the judges' performances and vote on retention recommendations at a meeting on May 20, 2020. The Council will publish the judges' evaluation information on its web site and in the Official Election Pamphlet.

Alaska Judicial Council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 279-2526

[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

e-mail:

[postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us)

Published: May 7, 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

Published: May 7, 2020

### City & Borough of Wrangell Public Notice of Board of Equalization Hearing

The Borough Assembly, acting as the Board of Equalization, shall hear testimony, both oral and written, **with a decision to follow**, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 11, 2020, by teleconference.

The hearing and meeting are open to the public.

If you wish to call into the meeting to listen in, please contact the Borough Clerk ([clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com)) no later than Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

**Per WMC 5.04.140, the Board of Equalization meetings shall be held on the first Monday following the first Thursday in May and continue each day thereafter until its scheduled business is completed.**

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

Published: May 7, 2020

### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Vacancy on the Economic Development Committee Term expiring October 2020

The Economic Development Committee wants your ideas and your valuable input!

Please submit your *letter of interest* by **5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 2020** to:

Mayor Steve Prysunka  
P.O. Box 531  
Wrangell, AK 99929

Or email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com).

A description of the duties required for the Economic Development Committee may be obtained from the office of the Borough Clerk at 205 Bruger Street or by emailing the Borough Clerk at: [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com).

The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

Published: May 7 and 14, 2020

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION Port & Harbor Director PORT & HARBOR DEPARTMENT

The City & Borough of Wrangell is accepting applications for the position of Port & Harbor Director beginning April 29, 2020. This position is open until filled with the first review of applications beginning the week of May 26, 2020.

The City & Borough of Wrangell is seeking a leader for the Port & Harbor Department with a proven record of port & harbor management. Wrangell's Port & Harbor Department is made up on one port facility, 4 harbors, upland storage for boats, and a Marine Service Center (shipyard). Wrangell operates a 105-ton marine travel lift and a 300-ton ASCOM boat lift, the largest in Southeast Alaska. The Port & Harbor Director will have a crucial role in growing utilization of and revenue from the facilities in Wrangell.

This position plans, organizes, and manages all Port, Harbor, and Marine Service Center functions and operations in accordance with Title 14 of the Wrangell Municipal Code. Delegates tasks to employees and ensures that duties are performed safely and efficiently. Reviews Port & Harbor Department priorities; develops strategic plans, goals and objectives; evaluates and analyzes issues, and recommends and implements solutions; assures that all Port, Harbor and Marine Service Center plans meet state, and federal compliance regulations.

The position requires in-depth knowledge of all harbor regulations, functions, and operations. Requires supervisory skills and the ability to be diplomatic with a variety of people. Requires some accounting knowledge for budget preparation. Requires excellent oral and written communication skills and decision-making ability. Requires experience and thorough knowledge of marine vessel and facility maintenance procedures. Requires maintenance skills to perform a variety of carpentry repair tasks. Requires verbal interpersonal skills to work with Coast Guard and other related agencies. Requires an understanding of all marine regulations to ensure Harbor safety.

This is a full-time, salaried position with full benefits, paid at Grade 25 ranging from \$5363 to \$6769 per month. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs). Applicants must successfully complete a pre-employment criminal background investigation and drug screening. To be considered, submit an application, resume, and cover letter to Aleisha Mollen, PO Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to [amollen@wrangell.com](mailto:amollen@wrangell.com).

The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen  
Borough Manager

Published: May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

# Reopen Wrangell Task Force planning new surveys, looking to meet needs of local businesses

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Reopen Wrangell Task Force, a committee of multiple community representatives working to support local businesses in reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic, met last Monday afternoon. It was a fairly long discussion, according to Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore, and the topics were pretty varied. Surveys were one topic of

discussion in the meeting. The task force recently sent out a survey to businesses around town to see what their situation was during the pandemic, and what their future needs would be. The task force received 35 responses to their last survey, Rushmore said. Out of those responses, she said that 57% of businesses have closed due to the pandemic. Other businesses have modified their hours or regular operations in some way.

About half of the responding businesses have submitted, or are working on, a travel safety or hazard mitigation plan. Rushmore clarified that these plans go up to the state for approval, but some businesses are voluntarily supplying their plans to the city, as well. About 40 percent of closed businesses do not have plans to reopen by May 8, she also added.

Rushmore added that the task force was planning to send

out another survey sometime on Tuesday, May 5. This survey was going to be geared towards “nonessential service” businesses. A third survey, still being put together, will try to gather information on the wider economic impacts of the virus on the community itself.

With all the information the task force has put together so far, Rushmore said that the three areas the task force wants to focus on to help businesses are in safety plan guidance, summaries of state mandates, and disinfectant protocol guidance. She said that they have put together a new email address, [travel@wrangell.com](mailto:travel@wrangell.com), where businesses can submit their safety plans to the city for

recommendations. The task force was going to issue a newsletter soon too, planned for some time on May 5. Rushmore said, that would provide information regarding state mandates and how they affect different businesses. Rushmore also said that businesses largely have a lot of PPE equipment on hand, like gloves and face masks, but there is a need for more supplies of hand sanitizer. The task force is looking into this to see how they can be of help.

In other news, Rushmore said that the task force has a new email address where businesses can submit questions: [reopenwrangell@wrangell.com](mailto:reopenwrangell@wrangell.com). A phone line is going to be set up in the near future as well.

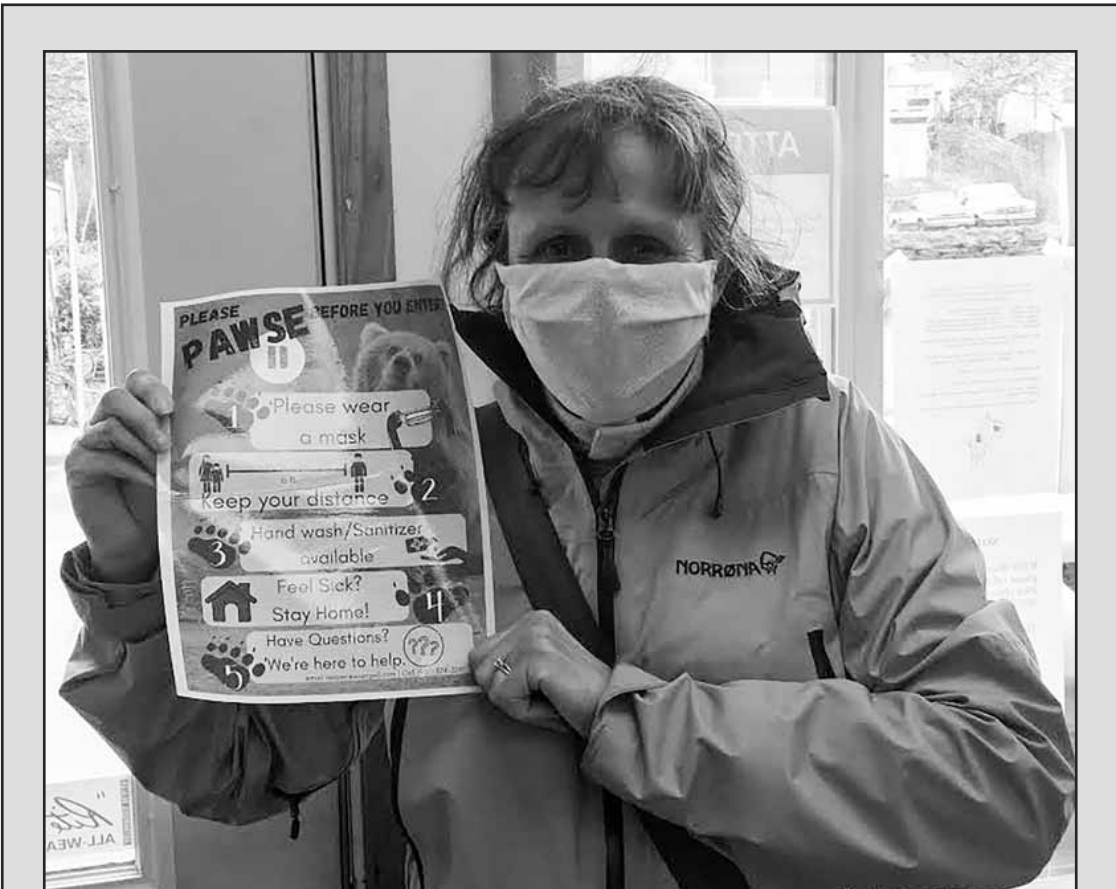


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Pawse posters

As part of their efforts to help local businesses safely reopen and get back to a sense of normality, the Reopen Wrangell Taskforce printed out “Pawse” posters for shops to hang in their windows. The posters lay out guidelines the public should follow when out shopping: Wear a face mask, socially distance, and make use of hand washing or sanitizer stations. Pictured here is Chris Bunes dropping off a poster at the Wrangell Sentinel.

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

many years,” Bowen said. “And I think it’s going to take a while for those restaurants to reopen and for folks to feel confident to go out and sit down and enjoy a great seafood dinner with Alaska salmon, halibut, or whatever. It is just the times that we find ourselves in and there’s so much uncertainty about the virus. I think that’s why you see so many permits on the market.”

**New tool saves fuel** - A new online tool helps fishermen tap into how they can make their vessels more fuel efficient. It’s dubbed the Fishing Vessel Energy Analysis Tool and it was grounds tested in longline, seine, gillnet, troll and pot fisheries.

From 2015 through 2018 the FVEAT was installed on nearly 50 vessels, said Chandler Kemp, an energy consultant with Nunatak Energetics who helped design the user-friendly fuel saver.

“During the course of the project, we installed data loggers and strain gauges and measured all the different types of energy loads on the vessels. The tool compiles that information and puts it in a format that that we hope will be useful to people,” he said.

A user simply enters data about the boat, its fisheries and operating patterns and the readout gives estimates on what fractions of fuel go through the different loads.

“For example, it will give an estimate of how much energy goes to a refrigeration or freezer system versus propulsion versus electrical loads on the boat,” Kemp explained.

Outputs also include hydraulics systems and hybrid propulsion options, which Kemp said can be a fuel saver in several fisheries, notably, trolling and gillnetting.

“When the propulsion engine is doing very little work and you’re idling along at a low speed, maybe even deploying some drag bags to help slow down the boat, or you’re just drifting with the net. In those cases, it can make sense to have even a little electric secondary propulsion system. That would allow you to turn off that main engine during times when the load is really low,” he said.

The Energy Analysis Tool is loaded with short videos. It’s free online at the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation website, a project partner along with Sea Grant, Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association and Navis Energy Management Solutions.

**Fish voice counts** - Scientists who track Alaska’s fish stocks will soon get an assist from voice recognition software that can handle the rigors of an often sloppy job at sea.

During yearly trawl surveys each summer in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, scientists must identify, sort and weigh hundreds of species quickly and accurately. These long-term studies are vital to keeping Alaska’s fisheries healthy and sustainable.

Until 2013, scientists wrote the results on paper forms as they worked on deck, then switched to computer tablets to digitally record the data. But salt spray, rain and lots of fish slime caused the tablets to act erratically and freeze up.

The solution? Voice recognition.

NOAA’s Alison Vijgen is leading a NOAA team that is working with an Ohio-based company called Think A Move, Ltd, or TAM, which specializes in voice recognition software in noisy environments. Together they are developing an application for Alaska’s fish surveys.

Tests so far at sea using eight different voices have worked on 350 of the most frequently encountered fish species. The response has been positive enough to get the software fine-tuned for use in surveys this summer.

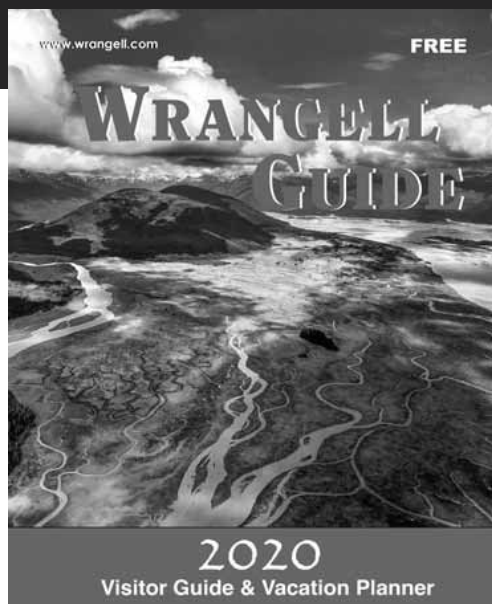
It will include coverage of the nearly 3,000 species found in Alaska’s waters.

# The 2020 Visitor Guide

is now available

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- airlines,
- visitor centers &
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# Alaska's largest newspaper wins Pulitzer Prize

By BECKY BOHRER  
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Alaska's largest newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize in public service Monday for its work examining law enforcement in rural communities, a feat coming less than three years after the outlet was rescued from the brink of financial collapse.

This is the third such award won by the Anchorage Daily News. The award announced Monday was won in collaboration with ProPublica for "a riveting series that revealed a third of Alaska's villages had no police protection, took authorities to task for decades of neglect, and spurred an influx of money and legislative changes," according to the announcement.

Anchorage Daily News Editor David Hulen said the series "called attention to some really serious problems in Alaska that have needed attention for a long time."

"There's more to be done," he said. "We're going to continue working on this."

Anchorage Daily News President and CEO Ryan Binkley said the announcement was watched by staff via video conference, a nod to the fact that many are working remotely due to coronavirus concerns.

"This should be a time of being with each other in person and popping champagne corks, and of course we can't do that these days," he said, adding later: "We've just been receiving all sorts of congratulations from around the country today, which is kind of surreal, actually, considering where we were three years ago."



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Cinco De Mayo at the Elks Lodge

Last Tuesday, May 5, was Cinco De Mayo. To celebrate, the Wrangell Elks Lodge hosted a socially-distanced dinner. Wrangell residents could call ahead to the lodge to order a Mexican dinner of enchiladas, chimichangas, and churros. The dinners would then be packaged up and run out to the people waiting in their vehicles. Pictured here (left to right) are Kayla Gillen, Teresa Allen, Jill Privett, Solvay Gillen, and Dawn Angerman.

Alice Rogoff backed the online Alaska Dispatch before buying in 2014 the Anchorage Daily News, which was re-branded as the Alaska Dispatch News. In 2017, it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

A federal bankruptcy judge in September 2017 approved its sale for \$1 million, calling it a better option than liquidation.

Binkley, his two brothers and his sister became the new owners. The name was changed back to the Anchorage Daily News.

"We came very close to not existing after the newspaper went into Chapter 11, but it never stopped," Hulen said of the outlet's work.

He said the newsroom's size is much

smaller than it was at its peak and the paper has found ways to adapt, including forging partnerships like the one with ProPublica.

He said the Anchorage Daily News would not have been able to pull off the depth of reporting in the Pulitzer-winning series had it not been for that partnership.

## Organizers cancel Southeast Alaska State Fair, citing virus

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Organizers of the Southeast Alaska State Fair said Friday that the summer event in Haines has been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

In a statement, fair officials said it was a difficult decision but the right one to make.

"For us and many across Southeast Alaska and the Yukon, the Fair is something to look forward to at the end of the summer, a moment of congregation and fun separate from the rest of the year," the

statement reads. "2020 has instead united us with the common goal of preserving the health and safety of loved ones and strangers alike."

Meanwhile, the state Department of Public Safety said it will not hold a ceremony next week to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, citing the coronavirus. The ceremony previously has taken place during a memorial week.

The department said a re-

membrance, however, would be recorded and shared.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy, in a re-

lease, encouraged Alaskans to visit local memorials, while practicing social distancing.

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## During these changing TIMES



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