



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK KELLEY

The best views in Anan

Juneau photographer Mark Kelley first visited Wrangell more than 40 years ago as a judge in the Sentinel's annual photo contest. Later, he discovered Anan Creek and its bears, and had been there 11 years in a row until the pandemic canceled his 2020 visit. His 2021 Alaska calendar features for June this 2017 photo of two bear cubs and a couple of bald eagles sharing a tree at Anan. "Anan is one of my favorite go-to places in Alaska for nature and wildlife photography," Kelley said. His 2021 calendar is included free this week in every print subscription of the Sentinel. Additional copies are available for Wrangell residents for free at the Sentinel, one per person while supplies last.

Another year of state ferry budget stress

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Between state budget cuts, a mainline vessel engine breakdown, a halt to port calls in Prince Rupert, B.C., and COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Alaska Marine Highway System has struggled the past year to provide service to Wrangell and the rest of Southeast.

Under the governor's proposed budget for the state fiscal year that starts July 1, the ferry system would have even less money to provide service.

"Woefully inadequate," Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz, who also represents Wrangell, described the governor's budget plan on Dec. 30.

"That's where it is right now," Ortiz said. "We'll try to increase it, but he'll [the governor will] probably veto it."

A three-quarters supermajority vote of legislators is required to override a budget veto — a high bar that law-

makers have not managed since 2009 against then-Gov. Sarah Palin.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy last year used his veto power to reduce by two-thirds a legislative appropriation that would have restored much of the cut-back in ferry service. Overall, the governor vetoed about a quarter-billion dollars from the state budget in an attempt to bring expenses closer to revenues.

"I certainly hear from people about the inadequacy of service," said Ortiz, soon to start his fourth term in the state House. The Legislature is scheduled to convene in Juneau on Jan. 19.

The shortchanged ferry service this winter is a hardship on Wrangell, Mayor Stephen Prysunka said Dec. 30. The community received one northbound ferry in November, none in December, and is scheduled for a single southbound stop in January —

the Kennicott on Jan. 7. That will be the community's first sailing since Nov. 2.

Ferries made several stops in Petersburg in December, which Prysunka noticed. "We're not a bedroom community of Petersburg," he said, adding that Wrangell residents could see the ships pass by on their way to and from their northern neighbor.

Service to Wrangell gets back to one northbound and one southbound sailing a week starting Feb. 14.

Dunleavy's proposed budget for the next fiscal year shows about a 3% cut (\$2.5 million) in funding for Alaska Marine Highway vessel operations, and a 22% cut (\$3.7 million) in fuel. About 60% of the ferry system's funding comes from the state general fund, with 40% covered by passenger and vehicle fares.

The Department of Transportation's budget backup for the ferry system explains that

the Marine Highway will absorb the lower funding "through a reduction in port calls and service gaps during seasons with minimal demand." The reduced funding would still allow "an essential level of service," the budget book said.

The winter schedule runs through April, with the summer schedule dependent on the upcoming budget decisions.

The Alaska Marine Highway budget is down about 25% from two years ago.

Aside from budgetary constraints, Ortiz is hopeful that service can be restored to Prince Rupert sometime this year, dependent on Canada lifting COVID-related travel restrictions and finding solutions to issues with port security and the aging dock. The Alaska ferries haven't stopped in Rupert since spring of last year, eliminating the closer option for travelers to connect

with the highway system in northern British Columbia. Instead, a ferry makes the much longer run each week to Bellingham, Washington.

"The solution of Bellingham and not Prince Rupert is not a solution," Ortiz said. "I am hopeful that once the COVID restriction is over," state officials will figure out a return to service in Rupert, he said.

The state owns the terminal and "the decrepit ramp" at the Prince Rupert dock, and leases the land, the lawmaker said. In addition to finding another ramp to use, if only temporarily — maybe the nearby BC Ferries dock — Alaska needs to do some work at the terminal building to accommodate security protocols, he said.

It's not just the loss of ferry stops that worries the mayor, it's the ongoing loss of state jobs in Wrangell. Losing the community's social worker, full-time magistrate, public

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Ferry

Continued from page 1

health nurse and Fish and Game biologist have been hard on the community, he said. "We lose services and we lose jobs."

The Wrangell Borough government offered last year to provide free office space and pay half the salary to keep a social worker position in town, but the state declined the offer, Prysunka said.

Longer term for the state ferry system, the governor's office is reviewing recommendations from the Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Work Group, which in October after eight months of work presented its report to Dunleavy and the public.

The group evaluated a 2019 quarter-million-dollar study by a private economics firm, which was hired by the Department of Transportation to look at options for reducing state funding for the ferries and perhaps turning over the operation to a new owner.

The Reshaping Working Group has recommended continued state operation of the ferries, though with fewer vessels, a new governing board with members skilled in marine operations, and two years of forward funding so that the system could better prepare and maintain "a more predictable future operating schedule."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL PENN

Engine troubles forced the Matanuska out of service in late January, leaving Wrangell without any ferries until the Columbia came out of winter layup and went back to work mid-April. The state was unable to substitute another ferry for the Matanuska because all of the fleet was either in winter layup, out for repairs, or held out of service to save money. Mechanics Brian Lindgern, left, and Mike Strang, of Vigor Alaska, worked on one of the Matanuska's engines as it was tied up in Juneau on Jan. 31.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, January 7: Rilyn Young, Maren Johnson, Ava Meyerhoff, Teresa Wallace. **Friday, January 8:** Cody Thomassen, Jayden Gillen, Tyla Nelson. **Saturday, January 9:** Chris McMurren, Harper Cook, Sarah Mason, Delton Claggett, Glenn Smith. **Sunday, January 10:** Shane Legg-Privett, Margo Walker-Scott. **Monday, January 11:** Steve Henson, Diana Nore, Steve Helgeson, Davis Dow. **Tuesday, January 12:** Seanne Wickman, Alexa Ferris; *Anniversary:* Brett and Kristy Woodbury. **Wednesday, January 13:** Jessica Rusaw, Nolan Johnson, Sonny Guggenbickler. **Thursday, January 14:** Antoinette Hastings, Mercedes Angerman, Victoria Southland; *Anniversary:* Einer and Carol Haaseth.

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

Senior Center Meals Menu Delivery Only

No Available Menu Until further notice.

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

**January Sailings
No Ferries Scheduled**

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



TIDES January 07 - January 13

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	Ft		
Jan. 07	07:08	15.6	07:53	12.4	00:19	2.2	01:27	2.0
Jan. 08	08:10	16.3	09:10	12.8	01:25	3.0	02:41	0.8
Jan. 09	09:10	17.1	10:18	13.6	02:34	3.5	03:50	-0.7
Jan. 10	10:07	17.8	11:17	14.5	03:43	3.6	04:49	-2.0
Jan. 11	11:01	18.4	04:44	3.3	05:41	-3.0
Jan. 12	00:10	15.2	11:52	18.7	05:38	3.0	06:27	-3.4
Jan. 13	00:58	15.6	12:39	18.7	06:26	2.7	07:11	-3.4

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301.

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.

Jan. 5, 1921

Suratt to film scenes at Sitka

To film the completion of the big naval wireless towers at Sitka and to make arrangements for filming an Alaska play dealing with what is known as the "Breaking of the Fur Trust,"

Richard J. Suratt, of Wrangell, leaves for Sitka on the Santa Rita tonight. Mr. Suratt, who makes his headquarters in Wrangell, takes pictures all over the north for some of the big moving picture concerns. He arrived here on the Spokane last night. He plans on going to Western Alaska later to attend the driving of the golden spike for the government railroad. - Juneau Empire.

Jan. 4, 1946

Former WAC joins local Legion Post

At the regular meeting of the American Legion here Thursday evening, Angeline Tillery, former Wrangell girl recently discharged from the Women's Army Corps (WAC), was made a member of this Post. Mrs. Tillery is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lewis of Wrangell. Mrs. Tillery's husband, Thomas Winslow Tillery, was lost on Submarine 09 off Port Smith, New Hampshire, in 1941. Mrs. Tillery entered the service Dec. 15, 1943, and took her basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, then being transferred to Hobbs, New Mexico, where she was stationed for two years, specializing in radio. Later she was transferred to Kelly Field, Texas, and was discharged at

Fort Sam Houston last Dec. 8. Mrs. Tillery was raised in Wrangell and her many old-time friends are enjoying her visit here.

Jan. 7, 1971

Police Get New Look

Wrangell policemen have taken on a new look. The department's four officers have switched from the old two-tone blue uniforms to a new one that includes olive-colored trousers and jackets, khaki shirts, Stetson-style hats and Wrangell Police shoulder patches. Chief Don Chapman said the new apparel gives police better identity in relation to state troopers, whose uniforms are blue, and it's easier to maintain than the old wear.

Jan. 4, 1996

Legislative coverage begins

Cablevision has announced that daily legislative coverage from Juneau will begin Tuesday, Jan. 9. Rynda Hayes, Cablevision Wrangell manager, says that Gavel-to-Gavel, a joint effort between Juneau's public TV station KTOO and cable television systems throughout Alaska, is a result of the overwhelming success of last year's demonstration project. Gavel-to-Gavel will provide Cablevision customers with an inside look at the legislative process much the same as C-SPAN looks in on Congress. This year's expanded coverage of Gavel-to-Gavel calls for a mixture of live floor sessions from both the state House and Senate, key committee hearings, statewide call-in forums and taped programs.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Dec. 28	37	30
Dec. 29	41	35
Dec. 30	36	29
Dec. 31	38	28
Jan. 01	38	34
Jan. 02	43	34
Jan. 03	41	34
Jan. 04	45	37



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Jan. 7	8:19a	3:32p	07:14h
Jan. 8	8:19a	3:33p	07:16h
Jan. 9	8:18a	3:35p	07:18h
Jan. 10	8:17a	3:37p	07:21h
Jan. 11	8:16a	3:38p	07:24h
Jan. 12	8:15a	3:40p	07:27h
Jan. 13	8:14a	3:42p	07:30h
Jan. 14	8:13a	3:34p	07:34h

Deputy Magistrate Nash retiring after 22 years

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

After two decades at the Wrangell court, Deputy Magistrate Leanna Nash will retire Jan. 30. Nash first accepted a position in the court back in 1999, she said. Twenty-two years later, she felt that it was finally time to step away, spend more time with family and enjoy life.

"I have a grandchild I want to spend more time with," she said. "I'm going to be babysitting her part-time. I don't want to work until I'm ill or die. I want to be able to still enjoy life while I still have some life in me."

Nash said she first heard about the job opportunity from John Bartlett, at Wrangell High School. She was a single mother who needed new job opportunities. She was working part time at one job, she said, and back then owned the snack machine business in town. Bartlett told her about a job opening at the courthouse

while she was at the school refilling a vending machine, she said, and initially she brushed off the idea.

"I sort of laughed at him, because I figured I never had any experience at all with the court system, other than a couple speeding tickets," Nash said. "I figured I didn't have any qualifications. He kept urging me and so I figured well, what the heck, I'll just come up and make an application and see what happens."

She was originally planning to retire last year, around April. However, this plan got put on hold because of a family tragedy. Her husband, Michael Nash, passed away in a plane crash in July 2019.

"That sort of put everything on hold, because of course I had to get his estate done, and I just wasn't sure what my future was holding," she said. "So now I finally I have got pretty much everything done and I'm at a point where I've been wanting to retire for quite



a while. I finally just decided this is the time."

Nash was a deputy clerk when she started, with the title of deputy magistrate at the end of her career.

She saw a lot of changes over her 22 years at the court. When she first started, the court was still using WordPerfect, a word processing program that predated Microsoft Word. She also said the court didn't get real PCs until the early 2000s, a few years into her job. The online CourtView system, which the court uses for recording and looking up case numbers, was introduced in 2010.

She described her job as one of wearing many hats and constant evolution. Wrangell's court is pretty small, she said. Where a larger court would have different people to handle different kinds of cases, she has been a one-woman operation. She has constantly learned and adapted during her time at the court, she said, and help was always available from across the wider court system.

"I figured I didn't have any qualifications. He kept urging me and so I figured well, what the heck, I'll just come up and make an application and see what happens."

Deputy Magistrate
Leanna Nash

"Working here, I've always felt part of a family I guess, especially in First District (Southeast)," she said. "Our courts are extremely tight when it comes to relationships. We rely on each other a lot. That's one thing about this place, you can't do it all on your own. There are people I call when I get something and I'm not sure of how to do it, or it's something brand new I've never seen before. So we use

each other a lot, and also to fill in for each other, but it's more of a support system. It actually feels like a family, it really does. It's a very nice feeling, and I'm going to miss everybody very much."

Nash said applications for her position closed Jan. 6, but she is not involved in the hiring process. There will be temporary fill-ins at the court handling things until her replacement is hired, she said.

Wrangell starts 2021 with cautious optimism for the economy

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

While many are thankful 2020 has come to an end, it does not necessarily mean an end to 2020's problems. Wrangell, like many other communities around the world, has struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic and economic uncertainties. With the start of the new year, city officials, businesses and other community members are looking toward 2021 with cautious optimism.

"I think it's going to be a very mixed bag, to be quite honest with you," said city Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore. "There's a lot of promise moving forward into 2021, but it's going to take time. How much time, that is the big unknown right now."

An October 2020 survey by Rain Coast Data showed that many industries across Wrangell suffered. Revenues for 2020, collected from 114 responding businesses, were on average down 50% compared to the same period in 2019. The tourism industry was hit the hardest, reporting a 77% decline.

Rushmore said a lot of how 2021 goes will depend on the COVID-19 vaccine, and how the pandemic continues. She said she is hopeful for things to be safe enough for a tourism season this summer, but that will depend on many factors outside of Wrangell.

Locally, she said the economy is going to take a while to recover. She compared the economic hits of COVID-19 to the sawmill closing in 1994. That was a hard blow that took years to bounce back from, she said, but eventually things improved. Though the mill closure and the pandemic are two very different situations, there are some similarities that the city is looking at, Rushmore said.

"It's a different situation, completely, but there can be some correlations about recovery on that," she said. "That's kind of what we're trying to look into. ... There are so many unknowns still, but there's a lot of promise as well."

Rain Coast Data's survey showed a roughly 50% decline in revenue for the fishing and maritime industries. Wrangell fisherman Mike Lockabey said he anticipates some improvement in his line of work, but is not expecting too much. Last year's crab harvest was very good, he said, but crab prices were down by half. The 2020 salmon season was also rough.

Lockabey said 2021 could see some improvements to crab and salmon prices, depending on the markets and catch sizes. He said he doubts it will be enough to fully recover from 2020, but any improvement is good.

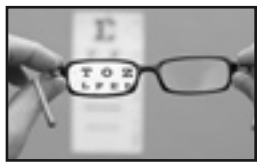
"Compared to 2020 I think it will be a little better," he said.

Retail and wholesale businesses saw a reported 49% decline in revenues. Marlin Benedict, with Ottesen's True Value, said Wrangell was blessed to have seen such limited cases of COVID-19. As for the future outlook for the community, he said the only option is to hope for the best.

Lisa Messmer, of Bunes Bros., said their business had ridden out 2020 mostly unscathed. She had not looked at their books, she said, but business seemed to do OK for the most part, though she shares the sentiment of other community members hoping for a

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COVID-19 vaccines have arrived in Southeast Alaska. SEARHC is distributing the vaccine in accordance with state and CDC recommendations.

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Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera or call your local clinic to schedule your vaccination. Visit covid19.searhc.org for more information.



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

It's good to be back

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

Walking around Wrangell the days before Christmas, it felt much the same as when I first arrived in town in May 1976. People said hello, starting as soon as I stepped out of the airport terminal. Drivers waved. And the Wrangell Sentinel office was on Front Street.

I can't say I planned to return as owner of the Sentinel, but it just seemed right. It's not a matter of reliving my youth — I'm too old and sensible for that. My neck is too stiff to sit at a keyboard 12 hours a day. My knees don't bend enough to crouch on the sidelines taking photos at a high school basketball game all night.

But I want to help.

My late wife and I started in Alaska when we moved to town from Chicago to run the Sentinel and now, as I approach my 70th year, I'd like to support the community. I know it's not the Wrangell of the 1970s, the sawmills are gone, the population a bit less, fewer state offices and a little more politically conservative. But Wrangell has a solid future and the 118-year-old Sentinel will be part of it.

I will help to write, edit and manage the paper from Anchorage and Juneau, where I will be reporting on the state Legislature. Working with reporter Caleb Vierkant and office manager Trisha Schwartz, we will do our best to upgrade and expand the Sentinel, adding more pages, more news, local editorials, an improved website — all the while focusing on what's best for the community.

That means we'll print more copies of the annual Wrangell Visitors Guide this year and improve the online version so that businesses and

community groups can better promote the community. Any Wrangell business that paid for an ad in the 2020 guide will get half off on their ad in the 2021 guide. I know 2020 was a bad year financially for a lot of people and I figure the Sentinel needs to do its part to start the rebuilding in 2021.

We will offer more discounts on weekly advertising for local businesses. Same idea as the visitors guide — doing our part as the community recovers from the financial hit of the COVID-19 pandemic. I expect 2021 will be better than 2020, but a recovery will take longer than just this year.

We plan to add more news from around Southeast and the state, but not at the expense of crowding out news of Wrangell. It's not one or the other, it's both.

Of course, with a small staff we will be limited in what we can report. Please be patient and understanding as we try our best. In time, we'll get to everything and everyone.

We invite letters to the editor from residents. Keep them civil, get the facts straight, no personal attacks and we'll get them into print. Stray from those rules, and I will reject the letters.

Most important, I believe a well-informed public is essential in a functioning democracy, and is crucial for voters and public officials as they make decisions. That's the newspaper's job: Facts and reality and recording history, not spreading rumors or speculation. I have no idea how to send out a tweet and have no intention of learning.

Wrangell may have changed since 1976, but the rules of journalism haven't changed. The Sentinel has operated for 118 years, going on 119 in November. This year starts with changing the name on the state business license. There will be more to come.

Optimism for the economy

Continued from page 3
better future.

Food and beverage services saw a reported 35% decline in revenue, according to Rain Coast Data. Aaron Powell and Jennifer Ludwigsen, of Totem Bar & Liquor, said they are mainly just hoping to avoid shutting down because of a response to the pandemic. They have faced lost business, but Ludwigsen said they were extremely thankful for Wrangell locals and their regular customers who are still coming by and supporting them.

Clarissa Young, with burger eatery J&Ws, said they saw a decrease in business throughout the year. However, numbers were really ticking upward for December and January. They were really thankful for local support through the year, she said.

"The only part of 2020 that was hard was the lack of tourism," she said. "We hope for the best for 2021."

Another area of the Wrangell community looking to the future is the nonprofit sector. Lt. Jon Tollerud, of the Salvation Army, said they are actually in

a comparatively good position to offer aid to people in 2021 due to a proactive approach they took in 2020, he said, as well as the generosity of the public.

"We spent the entire year ensuring that 2,500 people would have two meals a day for a year," he said. "That was our goal with what we purchased and what we were ready for. What we gave out was not even a quarter of that. The community upped their giving, as well, both within the pantry and financial donations to ensure that people were still being able to be taken care of."

He added, "We saw quite a big swing toward the positive, which is unprecedented in Wrangell to start with, and definitely not something you expect during a time of great need like we experienced."

The Salvation Army's goal for the year is to be prepared for three hot meals a day to 2,500 people, Tollerud said. All in all, he is excited to see what the new year could bring, but is remaining cautious.

"I don't want to say we're not cautiously optimistic, be-

cause we're always cautiously optimistic, but I think this year we're kind of taking a bit more of a risk with some of our programs, because we want people to realize that the Salvation Army is here for them in every capacity," he said. "You don't just have to be in need to stop by the Salvation Army."

Editorial

Alaska needs to do better for ferry system

Predictability and dependability.

More than anything else, that's what the communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway System need.

The communities need to know the schedules further in advance so that they can plan school sports, scholastic and musical events, regional festivals, and confidently market to tourists in a post-COVID world.

Residents need the dependability of ferry service for medical appointments, commerce and shopping, vehicle repair appointments at dealers, and of course family visits.

Under the budget cuts directed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, the ferry system — and the coastal communities — are coming up short on all counts. Though it's not entirely his fault. The governor inherited a state fiscal mess that has operated at a deficit for more than half of the past 30 years. Alaskans have been living beyond the means of oil revenues for that long, drawing from savings and hoping for magic or more oil at higher prices. But it looks like there is no rabbit jumping out of the hat and no \$100-a-barrel oil.

So while proclaiming the annual Permanent Fund dividend a top priority for the state's limited dollars, the governor has taken budget-cutting aim at the ferry system, public broadcasting, environmental monitors aboard cruise ships, the University of Alaska system and other public services.

It's time for the Dunleavy administration to acknowledge that its definition of "essential service" for ferry communities is falling short of dependable, stable service levels that are so essential to the well-being of the coastal towns.

When a state ferry calls on Wrangell this week, it will be the first ship to do so in two months. Alas, the town will not see another ferry for more than another month. Alaska can and must do better for its residents.

And if that means imposing a state tax — income or sales tax — so be it. The 58-year-old ferry system cannot run on hope. It needs fuel and everything else that costs money. And if it also means smaller Permanent Fund dividends to adequately fund the ferry system, the university, public schools and health and safety and social services, so be it. All Alaskans, statewide, should help pay for the services that are so important to the economic and social health of our communities.

Hacking away at ferry services for a lack of funding is destructive to coastal towns. Alaskans need to figure out a way to pay for an adequate ferry system.

-- The Wrangell Sentinel

POLICY FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- 400 words or less with consent of publisher.
- Typed or clearly written
- Letters must be signed
- Longer letters can be published as a paid ad
- The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

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Light & Power solves wiring issue with generator

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Early last week, Wrangell Municipal Light & Power repaired an issue involving one of its newer diesel generators. Light & Power Director Rod Rhoades said a computer controlling the generator's output was refusing to detect the generator in question. It was a difficult problem for them to figure out, he said, but was relatively easy to fix with just a simple wire replacement.

Rhoades said all of the city's generators are expected to work together, matching their voltage and frequency to meet power demand. This is controlled through a computer, he said, which receives inputs from the machines and makes appropriate adjustments. The system was working for most of the utility's generators, but was proving to be an issue with one unit.

Wrangell normally gets its power from the Southeast Alaska Power Agency's hydroelectric capacity, but relies on diesel generators for backup. The city received two generators from the city of Nome back in September 2019 to add to Wrangell's backup power output. However, Rhoades said, the computer that kept all the generators working together was refusing to detect one of the Nome generators.

The generator's power supply is up and available, he said, and it runs flawlessly. However, whenever Wrangell separated from SEAPA power, the power to the generator's control systems would disappear and the computer would try to detect five generators but only find four.

To make matters more complicated, the issue would disappear when Wrangell reattached to SEAPA power, creating a "ghost" problem.

Rhoades said they are still unclear as to some of the "whys" of this issue, but they got it fixed. The problem, he said, was when a substation breaker would open, separating Wrangell from SEAPA power, control voltage to the generator would drop. They discovered a missing 24-volt power supply wire in the generator. It was mistakenly removed during its relocation from Nome to Wrangell, Rhoades said. Once it was replaced, the computer was able to detect the Nome generator without any issue.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Members of the Wrangell Swim Club stomp and crush aluminum cans for recycling (from left): AJ Roundtree, Brooke Ostrander, Charlie Nelson and Kailiee Roundtree.

Swim club takes over can recycling

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The aluminum can recycling bins next to Wrangell IGA are under new manage-

ment. Kim Wickman, with the Wrangell Cooperative Association's IGAP department, said the Wrangell Swim Club will handle the can recycling mov-

ing forward.

The club is hoping to use the recycling for fundraising, she said, though no major goals have been outlined at this time.

Aluminum can recycling has been used by a variety of Wrangell sports teams to fundraise, Wickman said. Before the swim club, the Amateur Athletic Union basketball teams managed the recycling.

Though the swimmers will manage the recycling bins, the IGAP department is helping promote the effort.

The swim club has been on a hiatus due to COVID-19, Wickman said. Any money raised from recycling cans will be put into a club's general fund, and the money will be pulled out and used as needed.

Wickman said she did not know how much money they would make. They will get paid by the pound, she said, and the club is planning to send out its first shipment this weekend. She said that they could possibly get between \$600 to \$800 with the first shipment, but reiterated that was only a guess.

Members of the swim club will go down to the bins by the grocery store on a regular basis, where they will crush any cans to compact the load. Wickman said Wrangell IGA is going to let them piggyback on the store's container when it is barged out of town. The cans will then be sent south to scrap buyer Tacoma Metals, in Washington state.

Wickman encouraged the public to leave their empty, and preferably washed, aluminum cans in the bins to support the swim club. She also said that any cans with cigarette butts or chewing tobacco inside should be thrown out and not left for recycling.

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SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Attendees at the Nolan Center's 1920s-themed murder mystery party (left to right): Adam Tlachac, Erica Tlachac, Elisabeth Brown and Adam Rawls.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Wrangell residents held a rally at the ferry terminal Feb. 11, to demonstrate their support of the Alaska Marine Highway. Southeast Alaska communities have lost the use of the ferry system after the Matanuska was laid up for repairs, and other ships in the ferry system are similarly out of service for the time being. Rallies were held in towns across the region, including in Petersburg and Juneau.

Year in review

Part 1, January to June

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

January

Jan. 2: Along with the lights, trees and carolers, the Salvation Army's red Christmas kettles are a common sight during the holiday season. Lt. Jon Tollerud, Wrangell's new corps officer, said the red kettles brought in \$10,469.

Jan. 9: The Nolan Center celebrated the new year Dec. 31 with a murder mystery party. As this new year marks a new decade, a return to the '20s, the party had a 1920s theme to it. With jazz music, themed costumes and masks, partygoers had the chance to return to the previous century. The main theater of the Nolan Center was decorated to look like a Prohibition-era speakeasy.

Jan. 16: After Doug McCloskey's retirement last summer, the Wrangell Police Department has been operating without an official police chief. That came to an end last week, as Tom Radke started his job as the new chief.

Jan. 23: The Wrangell Wolves wrestling team was recognized at the Jan. 14 borough assembly meeting. Among several accomplishments this season, the Wolves claimed the 2A regional championship for the sixth

time in school history, and also won the regional team sportsmanship award. Eleven members of the team qualified for the state tournament this year, and six came home with placement medals. Liana Carney also earned distinction in the state tournament, becoming the first female wrestler in Wrangell's history to win an individual state title.

Jan. 30: While Petersburg's population rose between 2018 and 2019, Wrangell's population saw a drop in the same timeframe, according to data from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

February

Feb. 6: School officials held a community meeting Feb. 3 to learn more about what the public thinks is important for the Wrangell School District as the district undergoes its budgeting process for the new school year. The first draft of the 2021 budget shows revenues at about \$5.5 million and expenditures slightly under \$6.3 million.

Feb. 13: With the Matanuska going out of service for repairs last week, state ferry service has completely shut down. The Alaska Department of Transportation reports finding new issues with the ferry engine's reduc-

tion gear system. The Matanuska is being towed to Ketchikan for repairs.

Feb. 20: The Wrangell Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner Feb. 15. This year, two people were chosen for the Citizen of the Year award. Photographers Vincent Balansag and Rich Einert were honored for their skill and dedication to the art of photography, capturing important moments around Wrangell, and doing their part to record the community's history.

Feb. 27: The community turned out in large numbers last week to support some of their own. Fisherman Randall Ferdinand died in a boating accident Feb. 16. He leaves behind two daughters, Amy and Isabelle. A community walk around town and chili feed were organized by Southeast Beasts and Wrangell Burial Assistance on Feb. 22, to raise money for the Ferdinand family.

March

March 5: The Wrangell Wolves played their final home games of the season Feb. 25 and 26 against the Haines Glacier Bears. The crowd was cheering loudly even before the Feb. 26 game started, as senior Hank Voltz stepped out onto the court. Voltz explained he was born with a heart condition, making participation in sports a potential risk to him. For his last home game, however, the team decided to let him play in the opening. Voltz went on to score the first points of the game,

a three-pointer within the first 30 seconds of the game.

March 12: Trident Seafoods, one of the two main seafood processors in Wrangell, has decided not to operate during the upcoming salmon season. Stefanie Moreland, vice president of government relations, seafood sustainability and corporate social responsibility with Trident Seafoods Corp., said the decision was made earlier this year. Predictions of a low return of salmon in Southeast Alaska waters led to the decision not to operate the Wrangell plant this season.

March 19: As part of an effort to encourage social distancing, the assembly passed a resolution to temporarily cancel all nonessential meetings of borough commissions, boards and committees. The resolution also temporarily amended the municipal code to allow the assembly to hold meetings via teleconference. The assembly also passed an ordinance declaring an emergency during the coronavirus pandemic. This ordinance grants the mayor and borough manager authority to issue emergency orders and take necessary steps to protect public health.

March 26: The borough assembly held a special Sunday afternoon meeting via teleconference March 22 to issue an emergency shelter-in-place order. The assembly a week earlier granted the mayor and borough manager the ability to issue emergency orders in the interest of public health during the ongo-

ing COVID-19 pandemic.

April

April 2: David Macri was brought on as principal of Stikine Middle School and Wrangell High School in August 2018. One year and seven months later, however, he has resigned from the position. Teacher Jack Carney has taken over the role as interim principal for the remainder of the school year.

April 9: As the COVID-19 virus continues to sicken people and economies worldwide, many people are doing their part to lessen its spread. In Wrangell, many community members are putting their crafting skills to good use and sewing homemade masks.

April 16: Gov. Mike Dunleavy signed the state Fiscal Year 2021 budget into law on April 6. In Wrangell, funding has been eliminated for the state Department of Fish and Game office, as well as for a local Office of Children's Services caseworker.

April 23: Late last week, the Wrangell Medical Center received an Abbott Laboratories rapid-test machine, allowing for same-day, in-house testing for COVID-19, according to an April 8 press release from SEARHC. Wrangell is one of seven Southeast Alaska communities to receive rapid-testing equipment.

April 30: Local writer Vivian Faith Prescott recently announced the publication of her newest book, "Silty Water People." The book is a collection of some of her oldest poems, she said, and is a look at "the effects of assimilation" on Wrangell families and the community as a whole.

May

May 7: The majority of the borough assembly meeting April 28 was consumed with public and assembly member comments on the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 14: Three Wrangell High School graduates will head off to college a little more financially secure, thanks to scholarships announced this past week. Laura Helgeson, Kaylyn Easterly and Jing O'Brien were chosen to receive the Alaska Pulp Corp. scholarship this year. Helgeson has also received a scholarship from the Friends of the Wrangell Museum.

May 21: Though it lacked the in-person fanfare of a typical graduation, the Wrangell High School Class of 2020 found a way to commemorate the event. A small graduation ceremony was held May 12, with seniors receiving their diplomas. A video stream was shown publicly May 15, including slide shows of students, speeches from the faculty and student body. A parade through town was organized for after the video aired, where people could drive by the homes of the graduating students to congratulate them.

May 28: The Wrangell Borough Assem-



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Coby Holder, class of 2020, showing off his decorated graduation cap.

bly on May 26 accepted the resignation of member Drew Larrabee. The assembly also approved a resolution to create a Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Special Revenue Fund, which will be used to hold CARES Act funding for the community.

June

June 4: Several Wrangell residents were recognized May 27 for their heroic actions May 16 when a trailer at Panhandle Trailer Court caught fire. Dan Flickinger, Duke Aitken and George Howell helped rescue the trailer's resident, Norm Canaday. They used a mattress to help Canaday jump out of his back door safely and get away from the burning structure.

June 11: The first positive case of COVID-19 was announced in Wrangell on June 7. A joint press release from the city and SEARHC said the patient is an unnamed female Wrangell resident and is asymptomatic. Contact tracing to determine who might have come into contact with the patient and may potentially be at risk is ongoing.

June 18: In one of their final budget workshops for FY 2021, the borough assembly gave guidance to city administration to do as much as they can to close Wrangell's general fund deficit. According to the agenda packet for the June 10 meeting, the FY 2021 general fund was facing a deficit of \$801,451. However, city administration is anticipating that roughly \$350,000 in wages for the upcoming financial year

Loretta Rice celebrated her 70th birthday COVID-safe April 10 when community members organized a surprise parade on her behalf. People drove by her house in cars, four-wheelers and fire trucks, honking and waving, with Rice returning the waves.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

will be eligible for reimbursement through the federal CARES Act, "due to time spent on COVID-19 by existing staff through December." This would bring the deficit down to \$451,451.

June 25: Despite rainy weather, about 30 people gathered together to march in recognition of Juneteenth, which originated in Texas when Gen. Gordon Granger announced from the city of Galveston on June 19, 1865, that all slaves were free. With a

growing focus on race relations and cases of police brutality, the day has received increasing recognition nationwide. Wrangell's Juneteenth march was organized by Kyle Hovarth, with Alaska Crossings. He and other marchers walked from the Marine Bar to City Dock, some of them carrying signs in support of the Black Lives Matter and Pride movements. They also played music from a livestream that was donating money to Black Lives Matter.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Virginia Oliver (right) greets Jerrie Dee Harvey (left) and all of the guides for Alaska Crossings, as part of a welcoming ceremony March 1 on Shakes Island.

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Fish picks and pans for 2020

This year marks the 30th year that the weekly Fish Factor column has appeared in newspapers across Alaska and nationally. Every year it features “picks and pans” for Alaska’s seafood industry — a no-holds-barred look back at some of the year’s best and worst fishing highlights, and my choice for the biggest fish story of the year. Here are the choices for 2020, in no particular order:

Best little known fish fact: The state of Alaska’s Commercial Fisheries Division also pays for the management of subsistence and personal-use fisheries.

Biggest fishing tragedy: The loss of five fishermen aboard the crabber Scandies Rose that sank southwest of Kodiak on New Year’s Eve 2019.

Saddest fish story: The loss of young fishermen Sig and Helen Decker of Wrangell in a car crash.

Biggest new business potential: Mariculture of seaweeds and shellfish.

Ballsiest fish move: Fishermen in Quinhagak formed a cooperative of 70 harvesters to revitalize commercial salmon fishing in Kuskokwim Bay, including members from Goodnews Bay, Platinum and Eek. It’s the first fishery since 2016 when the region’s economic development group abruptly pulled the plug on buying local fish.

Biggest fish challenge: Getting whaled. Many fishermen say they can lose up to 75% of their pricey sablefish catches when whales strip their lines.

Best fish invention: Slinky pots — lightweight, collapsible, inexpensive fishing pots that prevent getting whaled. The new gear is especially beneficial for smaller boats that can’t accommodate the hydraulics and 300 rigid metal pots on deck.

Biggest unexpected fish boost: As restaurants closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, more people turned to buying seafood to cook at home than ever before because of its health benefits.

Best fish straight talker: Rep. Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak.

Best fish knowledge builders: Alaska Sea Grant.

Best fish feeder: Sea Share, with over 220 million fish servings to U.S. food banks since 1994 and counting.

Trickiest fishing conundrum: Balancing sea otters versus crab and other shellfish fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

Biggest fish missed opportunity: Wasting most of Alaska’s annual three billion pounds of fish skins, heads, etc. that could be used in nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals and more. Such byproducts could be worth \$700 million or more to Alaska each year. Cod skins produce about

11% collagen, nearly 20% from salmon skins. The marine collagen market is pegged at nearly \$1 billion by 2023.

Most earth-friendly fishing town: Kodiak, for generating nearly 100% of its electricity from wind and hydropower, and for turning its fish wastes into oils and meals instead of grinding and dumping them, as in most Alaska fishing towns.

Best Alaska ocean watchers: Alaska Ocean Observing System — sea ice, water temperatures, ocean acidification levels, AOOS tracks it all.

Best daily fish news sites: SeafoodNews.com, Undercurrent News, SeafoodSource.

Best healthy fish watchers: Cook Inletkeeper, SalmonState, Alaska Marine Conservation Council.

Best fish mainstream pushers: Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers on its mission to make wild Alaska pollock the world’s favorite whitefish.

Biggest fish budget lead weight: Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in Fairbanks. How much budget would be saved if scientists/students didn’t have to travel to reach the sea life they are studying? Why are those sites located so far away? “It’s the way it has always been.”

Best go to bat for their fishery: Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association. The fishermen-funded and operated group pays a 1% tax on their catches. They can use the money in any way they choose to enhance/protect/promote their fishery. The Cordova/Prince William Sound RSDA is the only other region to take advantage of this opportunity sanctioned by the state in 2005.

Biggest fish broadsides: Ongoing trade tariffs with China, and now the European Union.

Worst fish inequity: The U.S. buying millions of pounds of seafood from Russia since 2014 while Russia refuses to buy any U.S. seafood.

Best eco-friendly fish advocate: Net Your Problem, by Nicole Baker. One woman’s quest to mobilize Alaska to remove old fishing nets, lines and gear has expanded from Dutch Harbor to Southeast and most places in between. The plastic gear is recycled into new products from sunglasses to snowboards.

Biggest fish fake: Genetically modified salmon, aka “Frankenfish.”

Worst fish travesty: Cuts to commercial and sport halibut catches while millions of pounds get dumped as bycatch in trawl fisheries. Alaska can’t lay claim to having the “world’s best managed fisheries” until it gets its



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDER STUBBS

Slinky pots are lightweight, collapsible and inexpensive, and help prevent losing fish to whales. The new gear is especially beneficial for smaller boats that can’t accommodate the hydraulics and rigid metal pots stacked on deck.

bycatch act in order.

Best fish assists: Biologists at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Best building future fishermen: Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association in Sitka. Deckhand apprenticeships, fishing loan payback programs for new entrants based on catches are just a few of ALFA-spawned programs.

Fishing town that celebrates its fishing industry the most: Sitka.

Fishing town that celebrates its fishing industry the least: Kodiak.

Best fish boosters: Alaska’s salmon hatcheries.

Worst fish slap in the face: The state opting to close salmon fishing in federal waters of Cook Inlet. Alaska co-manages several fisheries with the feds but won’t in the Inlet?

Biggest Alaska fish beneficiary: Washington state. Seattle is home port to about 300 fishing vessels and all but 74 make their living in Alaska.

Worst fish flim-flam: The Pebble Partnership for its deceit to Alaskans, investors, Congress about the scope of its mining plans.

Biggest fish sigh of relief: The Pebble Mine permit being denied by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Baddest fish idea: Opening the Tongass National Forest to more roads and development. The Tongass produces 80% of the salmon caught in Southeast Alaska.

Biggest fish fake: Plant-based seafoods such as “vegan shrimp” and “Toona.”

Does fish best with least: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. ASMI promotes Alaska seafood in the US and around the world with zero backing from the state. Norway, for example, backs its seafood marketing with over \$50 million from a small tax on exports.

Biggest fish stiff: Alaska

processors paying millions in out-of-pocket expenses for COVID-19 quarantines in hotels, chartering planes, PPE, testing and other protections and getting no paybacks from federal relief funds.

Biggest fish slap: Gov. Mike Dunleavy’s selection of Fish Board reps who live far inland, including a Pebble Mine director and one who has zero knowledge about commercial fisheries.

Best fish life savers: Alaska Marine Safety Education Association.

Most disliked fish moniker: The term “fisher” in a well-intentioned but misguided attempt to be gender neutral.

Best new buy/sell fish better: The Seafood Auction based in Kenai gives fishermen, buyers and hatcheries an easier way to do business online from a single location.

Worst fish crash: Collapse of the Gulf of Alaska cod fishery due to four years of warm waters that wiped out several years’ classes. The stock appears to be making a slow comeback.

Best fish boost for babies: New federal dietary guidelines for the first time recommend that babies be introduced to seafood starting at six months because of the health benefits. Pregnant women also are

strongly encouraged to eat more fish to enhance their baby’s brain and eye development.

Biggest fish failure: U.S. baby food makers that provide ZERO seafood offerings.

Best fish entrepreneurs: Zoi Maroudas of Bambino’s Baby Food (see above) with frozen portions of halibut, salmon bisque, sockeye salmon strips; and Arron Kallenberg of Wild Alaskan Seafood. Over 140,000 monthly subscribers are serviced from fulfillment centers across the U.S.

Most inexcusable fish gaffe: “Official” trade data from the U.S. Trade Representative that lists petroleum and coal as Alaska’s top exports, although seafood has been tops for decades.

Alaska’s other top manufacturing exports are listed as transportation equipment, computer and electronic products and machinery. Top agricultural products listed are plant and livestock products, feeds and other grains, beef and veal. Really?

Biggest fish story: for 2020 Alaska fishermen, processors, managers and communities pulled off a successful salmon season along with other fisheries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Anchorage retiree remembers kindness and repays Haines

By KYLE CLAYTON
Chilkat Valley News

Wally Smith, 83, a retired industrial arts teacher in Anchorage, donated \$1,000 to Haines disaster relief efforts last month because he “had a kindness to repay to those who were kind to me” during a trip to the Southeast community in 1964.

Smith was responding to the Dec. 2 mudslide that killed two people, damaged homes and stunned the Lynn Canal community.

Back in 1964, Smith was on his way to the Haines ferry terminal bound for the Lower 48, where he would attend graduate school in Colorado. While driving through Canada, a fel-

low teacher had mechanical problems with his pickup truck. Smith stopped to help repair the truck’s broken axle and, in the process, sustained a head injury.

“I knew that (using) an open-end wrench to tighten a nut in the close quarters of a fender was not smart, but I had to use what I had on hand,” Smith said. “The wrench slipped off the nut and hit another nut between the eyes.”

After the repair job, he continued to Haines with impaired vision. When he arrived in town, he sought a doctor.

“I found the doctor’s office above the parade grounds at Fort Seward in one of the officer’s quarters and he was on a call to Schnabel’s mill,” Smith said.

A resident took him to the nearby Alaska Indian Arts, where Carl Heinmiller was teaching carving. One of the students was John Tompkins, who happened to be assigned to the same Army company as Smith’s older brother during World War II. Tompkins kept Smith awake as they waited for the doctor. When the doctor arrived, he diagnosed Smith with a concussion and another resident drove him to a hotel to rest.

“People helped me when I had a problem and it’s my turn,” Smith said. “I still don’t know if I paid the doctor up at Fort Seward. I don’t know if I paid the lady who was watching over me in the hotel. Somebody came in that night and watched over me every hour on the hour checking to make sure I was breathing and got me fed,” Smith said.

“It took a village to raise this fella and I owe the villages that I’ve passed through something back.”



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Second grader Madison Gillen is masked up and ready for the school year to resume.

Students back in class after winter break

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Public Schools reopened their doors Tuesday at the end of winter break, sitting down students back in the classroom.

“I love school,” said second grader Hailey Bartlett as she stood outside Evergreen Elementary, waiting for the doors to open.

Third grader Quinton Davies also said he is excited to be back at Evergreen.

Kindergartener Jackson Gellatle said “homework” is the most enjoyable part of school for him.

Students are not the only ones who are happy to be back at school. Special education teacher Ryan Howe said he is eager to pick up the momentum the school had before everyone left for the holiday break.

“It just feels real good to go back to it,” he said. “I feel like we had a great fall, and I’m looking forward to some excellent teaching and learning heading into spring.”

Assistant principal and lead teacher Jenn Miller-Yancey said she is happy to see the classrooms in use again.

“The staff were so happy to see the students, and the students came into the building and they were ecstatic,” she said near the end of the first day of classes. “We’re really happy to see each other.”

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Letters to the Editor

Thanks to all who helped with Polar Plunge and Dip

Thanks to all who participated in the 2021 Polar Plunge and Dip.

Also, a big thank you to all the folks who came out to help and donate, including the folks who supplied firewood for the burn barrels: Bob Lippert, Todd Torvend and Rolland Howell. Thanks also to John Taylor and Tim Bunes of the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department, the Wrangell Public Works Department and Parks and Recreation Department, and Stephanie Cook at the Wrangell Chamber.

Also, thank you to John and Rose Tollerud of the Salvation Army, to Cindy Martin for dozens of posters put up around town and standing by as lifeguard. To Stacey Bacon, Todd Torvend and Cindy for showing up early to help set up. To Caleb Vierkant from the Sentinel and Vincent Photography for showing up. To John Yeager, Kathleen Harding and Doug Schwartz for safety watch.

To Garret Southland for assisting with the fires and helping out, and to the following businesses and organizations that generously donated prizes

for participants: Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department, City Market, Wrangell IGA, Angerman’s, Nic’s Place, Moody Folks Bakery, J&Ws, Stikine Inn, 56 North, and Stella, Piper and Jaxon Bunes, and the Wrangell Sentinel.

Thank you so much. We’ll be back next year.

Liz Bunes and the Polar Bear Club

American Legion Ladies thank community donors

The American Legion Ladies would like to thank our community for their generous donations in supporting our new project, “Santa for Seniors” – 124 gifts were delivered.

Also in December, we hosted our 10th annual children’s Christmas event for 184 children, 12 and younger, to see Santa and receive a gift.

For our local veterans, the ladies made up and delivered 50 cookie trays. If you are a veteran, please stop in at the Legion to update the list for next year. Thank you for your service.

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Police report

Monday, Dec. 27
 Citizen assist.
 Reckless driving.

Tuesday, Dec. 28
 Traffic stop: Verbal warning for no tail lights.

Wednesday, Dec. 29
 Subpoena service.
 Subpoena service.
 Illegal parking.
 Arrest: Domestic violence assault / criminal mischief.

Thursday, Dec. 30
 Citizen assist.
 Found property.
 Traffic stop.
 Traffic complaint.

Friday, Dec. 31
 Harassment.

Theft.
 Citizen assist.

Saturday, Jan. 1
 Gunfire.
 Noise complaint.
 Fireworks.
 Agency assist.
 Agency assist: Alaska State Troopers.
 Suspicious person.
 Domestic disturbance.

Sunday, Jan. 2
 Dog at large: Citation issued.
 Civil standby.
 Vacation check.
 Family disturbance.
 Service of domestic violence order.

During this reporting period there were seven EMT calls and three agency-assist calls for the Hoonah Police Department.

Classified/ Legals

HELP WANTED

JOHNSON'S BUILDING SUPPLY is looking for a part-time yard employee to help with customers, freight and deliveries. Work schedule: Tuesday through Saturday. Pay DOE. Applications can be picked up at Johnson's Building Supply. (1x1-7b36)

AUTO FOR SALE

2016 Honda Accord EX-L Coupe, silver, less than 18,000 miles, no scratches or dents, always garaged, like new, \$18,000 OBO. Located in Ketchikan. Call 907-254-1547 for info or pictures. (2x1-7p34)

BOATS AND MARINE

IFQS AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits LLC, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437. (tfn1-3b15)

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FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Please call to arrange drop-off or pick-up since our office is closed to the public. Fax number 874-2303. (tfndh)

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide material, equipment, machinery, tools, labor, transportation, and other means to clear, trim, and cut trees and brush that can grow to a height that would compromise SEAPA's transmission line on Vank Island near the communities of Petersburg (located on Mitkof Island) and Wrangell (located on Wrangell Island) in Southeast Alaska. Vank Island is approximately 6 miles south of Mitkof Island or 8.5 miles northwest of Wrangell Island by boat. Petersburg and Wrangell can be accessed by vessels, fixed-wing aircraft, or regularly scheduled jet service. Bids are due February 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. 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: January 7, 2021



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

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

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

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk
 City of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: January 7, 2021

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide material, equipment, machinery, tools, labor, transportation, and other means to clear, trim, and cut trees and brush that can grow to a height that would compromise SEAPA's transmission line along SEAPA's Swan-Bailey transmission line located on central Revillagigedo Island north of Ketchikan, Alaska. The areas to be brushed are accessible by helicopter or truck, and in some locations by boat. Bids are due February 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. 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: January 7, 2021



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will accept sealed bids on the following surplus item:

One (1) IML Resistograph Wood Pole Tester, Model PD-600

The Resistograph may be viewed at the offices of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency, Mile 4.5 Zimovia Highway, Wrangell, Alaska. A bid form and additional information may be downloaded from SEAPA's website at: <http://www.seapahydro.org/rfp.php> or you may submit a request by email to: ContAdmin@seapahydro.org

Minimum bid is \$2,500. Bids are due January 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. All sales will be on an "as-is" "where-is" basis, with no warranties of any kind, express or implied, attached to the property.
Published: January 7, 2021



City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska INVITATION TO BID Water Mains Replacement

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska is accepting sealed bids for the construction of the **Water Mains Replacement** project. WORK consists of furnishing and installing approximately 900 feet of 6" HDPE water line, 500 feet of 8" HDPE and 500 feet of 12" HDPE water line in Wrangell, Alaska. Work also includes installation of 28 new water services varying in size between 1" and 4" diameter.

Sealed bids will be accepted by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:00 PM prevailing time on January 14, 2021 and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com

The BOROUGH reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the BOROUGH.

The City and Borough of Wrangell
 Lisa Von Bargen, Borough Manager

Publish: December 24, 31 2020 and January 7, 2021



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About 40 people got into the cold water for the 2021 Polar Bear Plunge at Shoemaker on Jan. 1. Wrangell has been marking the new year with the plunge for more than 20 years. Organizers this year collected goods for the Salvation Army's food pantry.

Polar Bear Plunge

PHOTOS BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Eli Michael (right) and Cyni Crary, two of the participants in the 2021 Polar Bear Plunge.



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U.S. Rep. Young calls for bipartisanship in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. Rep. Don Young of Alaska issued a call for bipartisanship among his congressional colleagues while giving the oath of office to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Jan. 3. As the longest-serving member, Young, a Republican, is dean of the House and has the responsibility of swearing in the speaker. Pelosi, a California Democrat, was reelected to the role she's held since

January 2019.

Young used the occasion as an opportunity to try to bring together the political parties that have become more deeply divided during Donald Trump's presidency.

"I've served with you longer than anybody else that served with you," Young said. "I love this institution. I will be honest, I do not like what I see. It's time we

hold hands and talk to one another."

Young received a standing ovation.

He then reminded Pelosi that she will be speaker of the entire House, not a single party.

"That may hurt some of you," Young said, looking around the chamber as he spoke.

Young told Pelosi that if she encounters a problem, "let's sit down and have a

drink." He said they could work to "solve those problems for the good of this nation, for this institution, and, as you said, for the future children of this great nation."

Pelosi thanked Young and said that while she does not drink, she would be "happy to have ice cream with anybody, any time."

Young, 87, was elected to his 25th term in the House in November.

Trump vetoes ban on large-mesh drift gillnets off California

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump vetoed a bill Jan. 1 that would have gradually ended the use of large-mesh drift gillnets deployed exclusively in federal waters off the coast of California, saying such legislation would increase reliance on imported seafood and worsen a multibillion-dollar seafood trade deficit.

Trump also said in his veto message to the Senate that the legislation sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., "will not achieve its purported conservation benefits."

Feinstein issued a statement saying Trump's veto "has ensured that more whales, dolphins, sea turtles and other marine species will be needlessly killed, even as we have a proven alternative available."

The fishing bill's sponsors said large-mesh drift gillnets, which measure between 1 mile and 1.5 miles long and can extend 200 feet below the surface of the ocean, are left in the waters overnight to catch swordfish and thresher sharks. But they said at least 60 other marine species - including whales, dolphins and sea lions - can also become entangled

in the nets, where they are injured or die.

It is illegal to use these nets in U.S. territorial waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, and off the coasts of Washington state, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii. They remain legal in federal waters off California's coast.

In 2018, California passed a four-year phaseout of large-mesh drift gillnets in state waters to protect marine life. The bill Trump vetoed would have extended similar protections to federal waters off California's shoreline within five years and authorized the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-

ministration to help the commercial fishing industry switch to more sustainable types of gear.

Feinstein vowed to "reintroduce this bill on the first day of the new Congress" and said she will push for quick enactment once President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20.

Legislature will require masks in Capitol

JUNEAU (AP) - The Alaska Legislature has required all lawmakers and staff to wear masks during the upcoming session in a bid to stop the coronavirus from spreading.

The Legislative Council passed the mandate 11-1 in a virtual meeting the last week of December that determined the rules and guidelines for the session beginning Jan. 19 in Juneau. Only Palmer Republican Rep. DeLena Johnson voted against the policy.

Lawmakers and staffers who refuse to have their temperature taken or answer health screening questions will not be allowed to enter the Capitol, and those who refuse to wear a mask may work in their office but will be barred from the chambers.

The news media will be banned from the House and Senate chambers and galleries, everyone will be required to remain seated when speaking, and Plexiglas dividers must be installed.

"We did decide to ask the media not to be on the floor of the House or Senate," Kodiak Republican Sen. Gary Stevens said. "I'm sorry we had to do that. It was the only way we could find the way to do that," he said.

"We're just trying to make it as safe as possible. I have been surprised to learn how many of our employees as well as legislators have underlying health issues," Stevens said. "It's a serious issue, wearing a mask. There are people who disagree with that, but this is now our policy."

The Legislature when it convenes Jan. 19 will appoint new Legislative Council members for the 2021-2022 term, and those new council members could amend or rewrite the policy.

Questions about COVID vaccines?
Find answers to frequently asked questions and get the latest information at covidvax.alaska.gov

The Wrangell Sentinel will publish Wasilla cartoonist Chad Carpenter's "Tundra" comic strip each week. He started the cartoon almost 30 years ago, and is now published in almost 650 newspapers worldwide. It's a good time to add the Sentinel to that list.

Sentinel publisher Larry Persily

Chad Carpenter's TUNDRA

