

Scholarships awarded to three Wrangell graduates

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Three Wrangell High School graduates will be heading off to college a little more financially secure, thanks to the awarding of some scholarships this past week. Laura Helgeson, Kaylyn Easterly, and Jing O'Brien were chosen to receive the Alaska Pulp Corporation scholarship this year. On top of that, Helgeson has also received a scholarship from the Friends of the Wrangell Museum.

Frank Roppel, part of the selection committee for the Alaska Pulp scholarship, explained that every year three students from Wrangell and Sitka are selected for a \$20,000 scholarship.

The money is given out to students over a four year period, he said, to help them pursue further education. The first scholarship was awarded in 1992, he said, and today about \$2.86 million has been given out. The scholarship was put together in the first place by Alaska Pulp Corporation's president at the time, George Ishiyama. The company was going out of business, Roppel said, and they wanted to leave something behind to show their gratitude to Wrangell and other Southeast Alaskan communities where they operated.

"The community of Wrangell was very accommodating, and they wanted to leave a legacy," Roppel said.

The Friends of the Wrangell Museum awarded a scholarship this past week to Helgeson in the amount of

\$5,000. This scholarship was set up in the name of Roppel's wife, Patricia. Patricia Roppel was a local writer who passed away in January of 2015, according to Sentinel records. She had several books and hundreds of articles published under her name, Frank said, and was always working to help teach local students.

Helgeson is planning to attend Portland State University this fall, she said in a May 7 interview with the Sentinel, to pursue a degree in either communications or graphic design. She said she was surprised to hear she received the two scholarships, mentioning that her class had a high pool of talent for the selection committees to choose from. The money will be going towards her tuition and housing, she said.

"It was definitely a surprise that I got both of them," she said. "I'm very grateful that I got both."

O'Brien is committed to attending the University of Chicago this fall to study political science. She said she just made her decision early this week. She wanted to say how grateful she was for the scholarship, and to the community of Wrangell for their support. The Alaska Pulp scholarship is very generous, she said, and is thankful for the opportunities it provides.

"I'd just like to say how grateful I am for the opportunity," O'Brien said. Easterly plans to study social work.

"I am very grateful for the scholarships I have been awarded. They will go a long way to help me in my academic success."

**- Kaylyn Easterly
Wrangell High School
Graduate**



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Socially distanced prom

Haven Jack (left) and Kira Torvend pose together for a photo at this year's "socially distanced" prom. Jack was named Freshman Princess in this year's Prom Court, and Torvend was named Junior Princess.

She said she will be attending Skagit Valley College for the time being, before transferring to finish up her education at another university.

"I am very grateful for the scholarships I have been awarded," Easterly said. "They will go a long way to help me in my academic success."

Hospital construction continues with COVID protections in place



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Construction of Wrangell's new medical center is ongoing. Hospital Administrator Leatha Merculieff said the project remains on schedule.

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Construction of Wrangell's new hospital is continuing, despite some impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to an update supplied by Sondra Forrester, with SEARHC, the project has suffered from some small delays due to state and local travel mandates. Dawson Construction and SEARHC have worked with the city government to implement a "Coronavirus Site Response Plan" to help address community concerns. The plan was approved on April 3, and work crews began traveling back to Wrangell on April 10.

Scott Eastwood, superintendent with Dawson Construction, went into some more detail of what safety precautions are now in place. No job site visitors are allowed, for ex-

ample, and the entire crew receives daily health screenings. Other additions made to the site specific safety plan include workers avoiding sharing tools and equipment, regularly washing their hands, socially distancing whenever possible, and reporting all known or suspected COVID-19 illnesses based on symptoms, among other precautions. Eastwood also said, in an email to the Sentinel, that they are monitoring the job site daily and are performing additional testing on crew members flying into town, as well as putting them in isolation for two weeks.

Despite the minor delays, Hospital Administrator Leatha Merculieff said in a May 4 COVID-19 update that overall construction of the hospital is still on schedule. The new hos-

Continued on page 2

Hospital

Continued from page 1

pital is projected to be ready for business in the beginning of 2021. To help mitigate delays

caused by the pandemic, the update reads, crew size has increased from 16 to 32.

“With multiple trades on-

site, the progress has increased threefold,” the update reads.

Currently, duct work is being installed through the building and plumbing work is ongoing. Storm drains and utility connections are being finished up, as well. The main water connection to the build-

ing was completed on April 26, according to the update. Roofing has been completed on about two thirds of the building.

Coming up, according to the update, will be work on the connecting corridor between the new hospital and the exist-

ing AICS clinic. Exterior building siding and trim was scheduled to begin this week, and should be complete by mid-July. Renovations to the clinic and exterior concrete equipment pads are scheduled to be placed in the next couple of weeks.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, May 14: Kjell Nore, Jon Abrahamson, Kristofer Maenhout, *Anniversary:* Joe & Pam Stover. **Friday, May 15:** Terry Davenport, Trista Szeffler, Eliza Villarma, Danika McGee, Hunter Wiederspohn. **Saturday, May 16:** *Anniversary:* Alan & Leslie Cummings. **Sunday, May 17:** Olin Kagee, Della Demerjian, Violet Allen, Brody Hommel, Peighton Royster, Kristin Mill, Deenie Rilatos, Lovey Brock, *Anniversary:* Wayne & Dani Easterly. **Monday, May 18:** Mena Feudner, Jakob Cox. **Tuesday, May 19:** Rhea Bowman, Sheila Wickman, Kolin Wallace, Jacob Werner, *Anniversary:* Jeff & Danielle Smith. **Wednesday, May 20:** Jerry Bakesberg, Dawn Davis, Lindsey McConachie, Ray Francois, *Anniversaries:* George & Ann Benson, Ben & Kristin Schwerin, Felix & Verda Villarma. **Thursday, May 21:** Trevor McGee, Madan Covalt, *Anniversaries:* Dustin & Devyn Johnson, Don & Betsy McConachie.

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 15

Spaghetti with meat sauce, Vegetables, Salad.

Monday, May 18

Beef Stroganoff, Vegetables, Cabbage Slaw.

Tuesday, May 19

Club Sandwich, Vegetable Chili, Orange Salad.

Wednesday, May 20

Hotcha Baked Beef, Broccoli, Green bean Salad, Rolls.

Thursday, May 21

Chicken with Noodle, Vegetables, Pear 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 14-May 21

	High Tides				Low Tides			
	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft
May 14	06:49	12.8	08:24	12.7	00:35	6.1	01:19	2.2
May 15	08:13	12.2	09:25	13.3	02:00	6.1	02:29	2.8
May 16	09:28	12.4	10:15	14.1	03:24	5.3	03:34	2.9
May 17	10:29	12.9	10:58	15.0	04:29	4.0	04:28	2.8
May 18	11:20	13.5	11:35	15.8	05:17	2.6	05:13	2.6
May 19	12:05	14.1	05:55	1.3	05:52	2.5
May 20	00:10	16.3	12:46	14.5	06:29	0.3	06:26	2.5
May 21	00:42	16.7	01:25	14.7	07:02	-0.6	06:58	2.7

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Jury duty for April - June: no trials for the month of April. You will be receiving notices in the mail in the next few weeks. Court number: (907) 874-2311.

Monday, May 18

Wrangell Public School Board, Regular Meeting: via Zoom, 6:30 PM. In order to listen to the meeting, join Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 889 1580 6515 Password: 5nhsNj.

Continuing Events

Online AA Meetings: North Star Group Meeting. Link to online meeting: 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.

May 13, 1920

Two reels of marvelous pictures of the La Conte glacier and the Dease Lake country filmed by Richard Suratt were shown at the Rex Theatre last night, so that the crowd of visitors in town might have a better understanding of the scenic grandeur awaiting them.

May 11, 1945

Wrangell High actors and actresses are busy practicing for the play "Spring Fever" to be given tonight. The play is full of the spirit of youth with its adolescent growing pains. Marion Nielsen as the mother of three, Patty Devenny as the maiden aunt, Shirley McCormack as the fond mother of Baby "Bobkins" Bill Binkley as athletic coach, Rhoda Hanford as the little sister, and Lilly Broad, Margaret Rose Ritchie, Roy Churchill, Gordon Mason and Lloyd Rhinehart make up the cast.

May 14, 1970

At its state convention in Fairbanks, May 1 and 2, the Alaska Federation of Women's Clubs installed Mrs. Barbara Klink as its third vice president. Mrs. Klink, the secretary at the elementary school here, is the wife of Wrangell Police Chief William Klink. During the convention, the Sears Foundation awarded certificates to outstanding women's clubs in its Community Improvement Program. The Wrangell Women's Civic Club received a note of achievement for its work in this area.

May 18, 1995

Sherry Preston of Wrangell has just had an original poetry published in Journey of the Mind, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by The National Library of

Poetry. The poem is entitled Forever Free and the main subject is nature. The National Library of Poetry seeks to discover and encourage poets like Preston by sponsoring contests that

are open to the public and by publishing poems in widely distributed hardback volumes. Preston has been writing for three years and her favorite subjects are nature and beauty.

WHS/SMS School Lunches: General Guidelines



- Order your school lunch online as usual through the WPSD School Website at 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 or 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
May 4	58	40
May 5	56	44
May 6	54	41
May 7	59	43
May 8	67	42
May 9	71	45
May 10	70	48
May 11	67	47

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 14	4:37a	8:52p	16:15h
May 15	4:35a	8:54p	16:19h
May 16	4:33a	8:56p	16:23h
May 17	4:32a	8:58p	16:26h
May 18	4:30a	9:00p	16:30h
May 19	4:28a	9:01p	16:33h
May 20	4:26a	9:03p	16:37h
May 21	4:25a	9:05p	16:40h

Port Commission approves request to relocate submarine cable

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

It was a relatively light meeting of the Wrangell Port Commission last Thursday evening, May 7. There was only one agenda item for the commission to consider, a request by GCI to relocate the landing for a submarine cable. The telecommunication company currently has a submarine cable come onto the beach next to the community garden area, near City Park. From there, according to the meeting's agenda packet, the cable hits aerial lines and goes to its hub building, and also leaves the beach area and runs towards Petersburg. However, there is a current need to relocate the cable to a different beach.

"The incoming line crosses over the SEAPA power line out towards Five Mile

Island," the agenda packet reads. "SEAPA will be doing some repairs to its line in that area so GCI is looking to redirect the incoming line to a new location. Their plan is to come through Chichagof Passage and come ashore at the Institute Beach area. From there it would hit the aerial lines and to the hub building."

As this beach is a recreational area, the packet reads, GCI will need to do their best to minimize the cable's impact on the area. Otherwise, the packet reads, there was little reason for the Port Commission to reject this request. Marisa McComas, with the City and Borough of Wrangell, confirmed that this request was approved.

During the meeting, the commission also heard the harbor master's report. Wrangell's boatyard is still receiving

business during the COVID-19 pandemic, the report reads, but traffic is slower than usual. As things stand currently the yard is open for business and taking vessels from anywhere. The vessels must be traveling for essential business and following other guidelines laid out in state health mandate 17. Out-of-state vessels or owners who fly into Wrangell from out of state to get to their vessels must also quarantine for two weeks.

"Early on the city was very protective and proactive in making sure people and or boats that were out of towners were as low as possible when it came to being a possible threat to the local population," the report reads. "During that time we did turn down 2 boats from Ketchikan because at that time Ketchikan was get-

ting a new COVID case daily. Since then mandates have come out and things are different."

In other news from the harbor master's report, all large cruise ship sailings to Wrangell have been cancelled until July 23. Some smaller ships are still wanting to visit but, as they are not "essential," they are restricted by current state mandates. This information is subject to change, as new information and new mandates are coming out regularly.

Greg Meissner, the harbor master, also announced that he would not be retiring this summer as originally planned. With the current situation being what it was, he said in his report that he offered to stay employed through September, as this summer would be a bad time for a transition.

Wrangell Command talks COVID-19 isolation plans, testing, community resources

Wrangell's Unified Command participated in their weekly conference call on Wednesday, May 6, to provide organizational updates on COVID-19 developments and changes in respective protocols. The City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) mayor and

manager were joined by Wrangell Medical Center (WMC) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) leadership, as well as Tribal and Public Health representatives, to discuss Borough Assembly allocations, testing initiatives, and available community resources.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga recapped a portion of the Monday, May 4, CBW Assembly special meeting where funding for the potential rental of a Trident Seafoods bunkhouse for use as an alternate isolation site for COVID-19 patients was approved. Trident recently an-

nounced that they would be closed to production for the 2020 season, with EMS Director Dorianne Sprehe working to secure the vacant property and layout initial planning for operations. The Assembly approved a budget of \$100,000 for the project and the expense would be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA or Wrangell's CARES Act allocation.

Von Barga stated that the Assembly would soon be presented a similar proposal to secure an alternative site for WMC Long Term Care, should surge plans be implemented.

Von Barga also spoke to the safe reopening of local business, including CBW resources such as the Reopen Wrangell Task Force. Formed to assist and interpret mandates and guidelines, the Task Force recently distributed their first newsletter to the community.

In addition, the Borough Mayor, Manager, and CBW staff, participated in a conference call with Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Com-

missioner Adam Crum to discuss small cruise ship travel to communities. Commissioner Crum indicated they want to work with municipalities to ensure safety of the ports and encouraged individual municipalities to reach out to the small cruise ship industry to find solutions.

This week, all WMC staff received a COVID-19 test as part of an initiative from SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) leadership. Testing took place in the off-site tent at WMC, with SEARHC Vice President and WMC Hospital Administrator Leatha Mercurieff and WMC Medical Director Dr. Lynn Prysunka the first to be swabbed.

"SEARHC leadership prioritized the testing of all hospital staff to ensure a safe environment for patients and employees," said Mercurieff. "COVID-19 tests remain available to all patients who meet the symptomatic guidelines. Additional testing initiatives will be introduced by SEARHC as testing supply numbers allow." Current symptoms qualifying patients for a test include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, diminished sense of smell/taste, fatigue, headache, rash, runny nose, and sore throat. Contact the AICS Clinic at 907.874.4700 to schedule a testing appointment.

Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) Tribal Administrator Esther Reese discussed tribal response to the pandemic, including the availability of educational and traditional resources. The Tribe is currently distributing books from the Baby Raven Reads program to youth in the community, along with cedar paddles to sand and paint while hunkering down. Reese also announced that WCA was working to create videos for proper mask usage and hygiene featuring Tlingit interpretation.

Public Health Nurse Erin Michael shared information on the 24/7 Alaska Responds Relief Line. The service provides free access to mental health experts for first responders and can be reached at 1.844.985.8275. Additional information can be found on the CBW COVID-19 resource page at wrangell.com/community/covid-19-resource-page or on the SEARHC COVID-19 web page at covid19.searhc.org.

Police report

May 4

Traffic Accident.
Summons Service.
Bike Complaint.

May 5

Parking Complaint/Disorderly Conduct.
Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.
Two Subpoena Services.

Traffic Stop/Verbal warning for expired plates.

May 6

Two Agency Assists: Airport.

May 7

Welfare Check.
Traffic Stop/Verbal warning for speed.
Suspicious Person.
Intoxicated Person/Petition to Revoke

Probation.

Agency Assist: Ambulance.

May 8

Disturbance.

Extra Patrol.

May 9

Two Agency Assists: Airport.

May 10

86'd Letter served.

Animal Complaint.

Harassment.

Two Suspicious Activity Reports.

During this reporting period there were a total of 14 Agency Assist calls to the airport, including those made on May 6 and May 9.

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SEARHC hospital staff receive COVID-19 tests

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) recently administered COVID-19 tests on all staff at Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center (MEMC) and Wrangell Medical Center (WMC). Both hospitals utilized Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) tents outside the respective facilities to safely conduct staff tests off-site.

SEARHC recently received additional COVID-19 testing supply kits from the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Along with the recent addition of rapid test kits throughout the Consortium, the influx of supplies allowed for testing MEMC and WMC staff. Previously, SEARHC introduced a volunteer testing program for all employees, with hopes to implement additional community testing initiatives as COVID-19 test quantities expand.

“Leadership identified the testing of all hospital staff as a necessity to ensure safety within our facilities,” said SEARHC Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elliot Bruhl. “MEMC and WMC have been conducting daily temperature checks and health screenings on all staff since March. By testing all hospital staff for COVID-19, we have an opportunity to potentially identify asymptomatic posi-

tive cases in our communities.”

COVID-19 tests remain available to all patients who meet the symptomatic guidelines, regardless of travel or exposure criteria. Current symptoms triggering a test include fever, chills/rigors, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, diarrhea, diminished sense of smell/taste, fatigue, headache, rash, runny nose, and sore throat.

Service lines are open in all communities, with extra precautions taken to deliver care during the pandemic. Patients are encouraged to keep up with preventative care plans for chronic diseases, along with treatment for acute and urgent care. Contact your provider to discuss available appointment options, including telehealth. Vigorous decontamination and mandatory health screenings remain in place in all locations throughout the Consortium.

SEARHC urges all residents to continue practicing preventative measures for respiratory disease - including proper hand hygiene, covering of coughs and sneezes, frequent disinfection of surfaces, and receiving an influenza vaccination - and to adhere to local and state health mandates. For more information visit covid19.searhc.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEARHC

Dr. Lynn Prysunka, medical director for the Wrangell Medical Center, being tested for COVID-19 by Chief Nursing Officer Blake Forrester on May 4. The photo was taken by Sondra Forrester. According to SEARHC’s website 1,356 tests have been performed across the entire consortium as of May 8. According to a May 5 press release, a total of 155 tests have been completed in Wrangell. Seven tests are still pending results.

Reflections

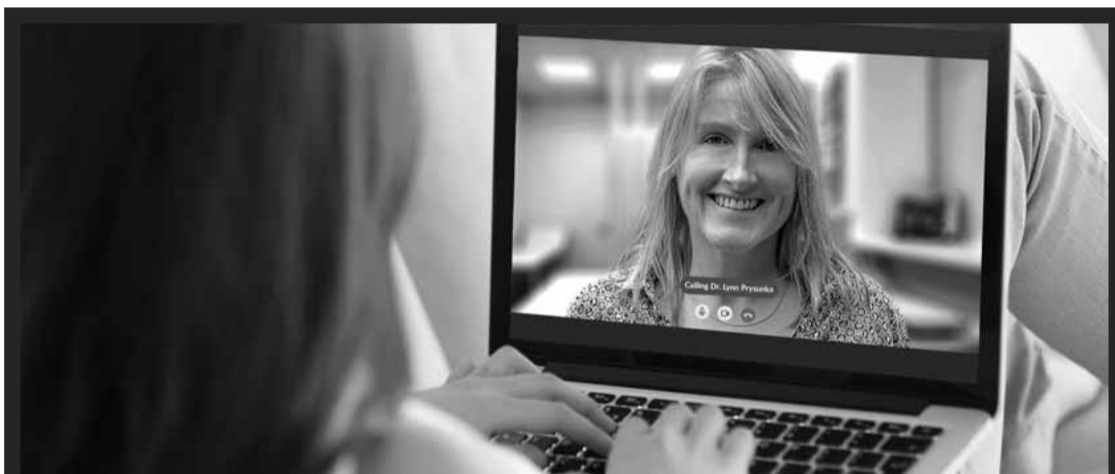
Wrangell is a city where boats are an essential part of life. Even if you don’t personally own one, your life is impacted by a boat. The barge, a ferry, cruise ships, they all have a way of impacting lives here in Wrangell.

One of the most important pieces of equipment on a boat is the anchor. It holds you tight through the storm. When you need to go ashore but the water is too shallow, the anchor holds your boat in place, so it doesn’t drift. In The Salvation Army Song Book (hymnal) we have a song that says, “Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the storm tides lift and the cables strain, will your anchor drift or firm remain?”

Jesus can hold us firm through anything that comes against us. It says in 2 Corinthian 4:16-18, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

In these challenging times I urge you to seek Jesus. Fix your eyes on Him. The song says, “We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while billows roll; Fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm in the savior’s love.” Know that we are praying for you.

**Jon Tollerud, Lieutenant,
The Salvation Army Wrangell Corps**



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Reopen Wrangell Task Force holds first in-person meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Reopen Wrangell Task Force met last Monday after-

noon to discuss ways the group can help local businesses make it through the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the first "in per-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Members of the Reopen Wrangell Task Force socially distancing during a meeting last Monday afternoon. Pictured here are Mya DeLong (right), Esther Ashton (left), and Stephanie Cook (background).

son" meeting of the task force, held out in the lawn by City Hall. Participants stayed socially distanced and wore face masks, while other members of the group participated via web conference.

During the meeting, Jamie

Roberts led a discussion about current state guidelines for reopening Alaska. The state announced "Phase 2" of reopening on May 8, allowing for further loosening of pandemic restrictions and reopening of more businesses. There are five phases

in total, according to the state COVID-19 website. Assuming the virus does not grow worse in Alaska, the reopening plan will be moved to further phases at regular intervals.

Phase 2 opens up further access to businesses that are already open, Roberts said. For example, restaurants can now allow in 50 percent of their seating capacity for sit-in dining instead of 25 percent. Face masks are no longer required for staff and patrons to wear either. The new wording says that face masks are strongly recommended. They are still required in personal care businesses such as salons, she clarified.

"We also saw the addition of other infrastructure being able to open," Roberts said. "So bars, museums, libraries, gyms, bingo halls, bowling alleys, and then another addition this weekend was youth sports and athletics."

Roberts reiterated for the task force that there are currently no quarantine requirements for intrastate travel. Out of state travelers are required to quarantine themselves for a two week period, but those traveling within Alaska do not have to do so. Intrastate travel is prohibited except for critical workforce or essential personal needs, she said. She also added that people can expect new updates regarding intrastate travel to come down from the state within the next week.

It was also announced in the meeting that the task force would be holding a Q&A session on Friday, May 15. Local businesses and the wider public are invited to come by the downtown pavilion, beginning at 1 p.m., to seek information on reopening plans, disinfectant protocols, mandate requirements, and business resources.

Other items covered in the meeting included discussion of a "mask cash" program to promote shopping locally, future surveys, putting out better signage for store windows, and other avenues of spreading information, including local media.

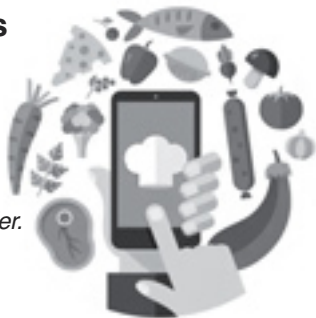
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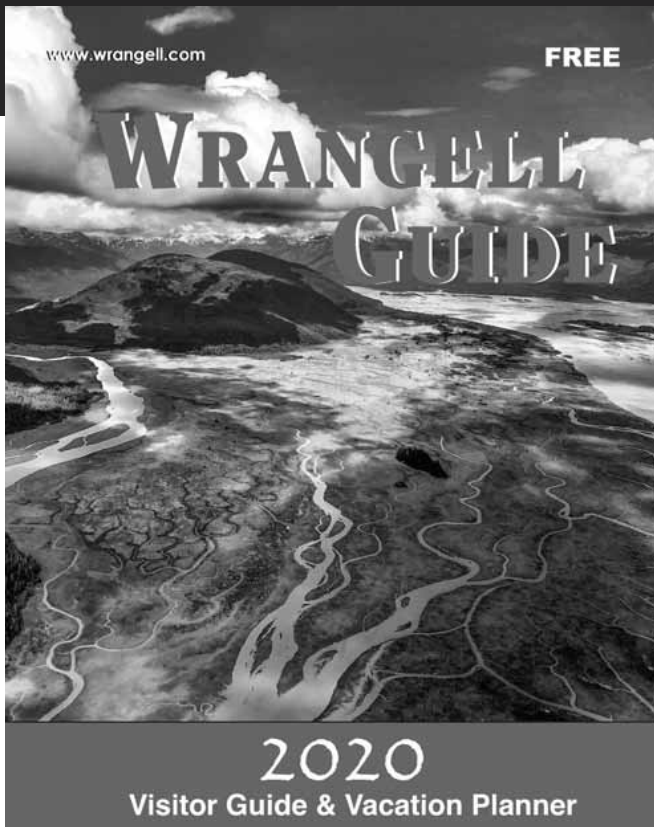


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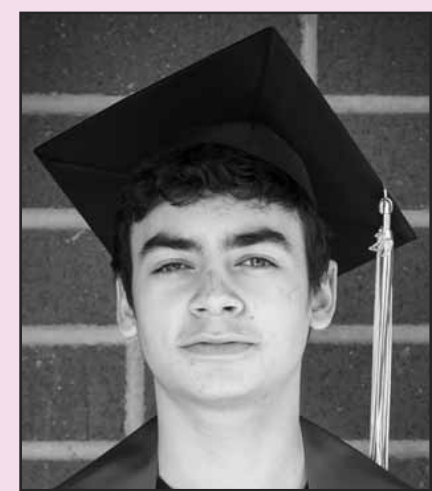
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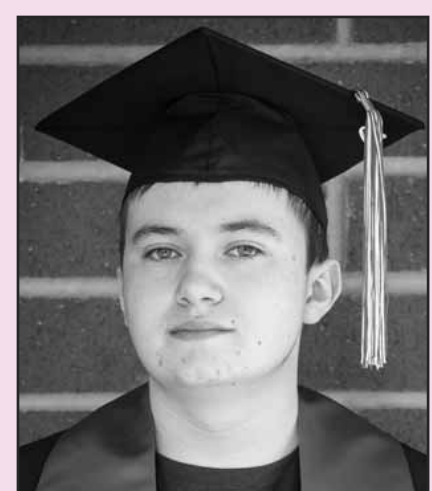
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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Alaska halibut gets battered by foreign imports; Salmon starts; Get Mugged

Sales of Alaska's most popular seafoods are being hit hard by markets upended by the coronavirus, but perhaps none is getting battered worse than halibut. Along with the big losses in the lucrative restaurant trade, Pacific halibut also is facing headwinds from increasing foreign imports.

Starting three years ago, sales of fresh Pacific halibut to established markets on the east coast were toppled by a flood of less expensive fish flowing in primarily from eastern Canada. Trade data show that for 2019 through February 2020, total Canadian halibut imports to the U.S. topped 15.3 million pounds for which the U.S. paid nearly \$107 million.

"It is taking over the eastern seaboard and also is being trucked from Boston to major middle American markets such as Chicago and Denver. It's very hard to sell Alaska halibut to these traditional markets now. The Canadian product is cheaper and is available nearly year round," said a marketer with over 30 year's experience in selling halibut from Southeast Alaska, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"All of a sudden, an important market that paid a good price for fresh halibut has disappeared," he said. "Rule of thumb is generally, sell fresh make a profit, freeze halibut lose money."

Earlier this year, fresh farmed Atlantic halibut was spotted for sale at \$9.99 a pound at a Costco near Seattle.

Total global production of farmed halibut is only 4.4 million pounds, of which 3.5 million comes from three farms in Norway. (The remainder is from Scotland, Canada and Iceland.) From 2019 through February 2020, the U.S. bought nearly 2 million pounds of wild caught and farmed halibut from Norway for \$10.5 million.

Alaska's losses in fresh sales are combined with huge hits in the west coast frozen market. That's due to another newcomer: increasing imports of halibut caught by Russians and processed in China.

"Halibut is not consumed by Asians nor Russians so they target the U.S. The Russian halibut is mostly fished longline, dressed collar and tail off and frozen in blocks at sea. They off load in Busan and auction it to processors for making into fillets," he said. The fish then goes to the U.S. and Canada for resale at prices that undercut all others.

"I have been calling end users and distributors trying to find placement for our Alaska product in the frozen fillet form. But the Russian product has taken over," he wrote in an email. "I visited a customer in Vancouver and he showed me some Russian/Chinese skinless halibut fillets he had bought in the low \$6's. Alaskan fillets, for reference, needed to be in the \$13's to

recoup costs. He mentioned that most of his customers have switched to the less expensive imported. I spent weeks calling fish and chip shops that have always used Alaskan and they prefer not to cut in house but use the imported twice frozen fillets," he said, adding that Canada is where most of Alaska's larger frozen halibut (60+) has gone over the last few decades."

Other market watchers agree that the appearance of Russian halibut is a new twist to conventional market trends.

"We started seeing increased Russian production about a year and a half ago when it started to pop up in the data," said Garret Evridge, a fisheries economist with the McDowell Group. "We were wondering where that volume was going, but given the difficult nature of trade data, we didn't have a firm grasp. Now we see that some of that harvest is making its way into the U.S. It is a relatively new development,"

The Russian/Chinese fish also makes an end run around trade tariffs of up to 25% imposed two years ago by the Trump Administration.

"A lot of the product used to come in through Seattle, but since the USA imposed the duties for Chinese processed halibut coming into this country, a lot comes into Vancouver, thereby avoiding the duty," said the marketer.

The volume coming in from Russia has been tricky to track once it enters the "black box of China," said Evridge who added - "Then our data really falls apart. But we understand that Russian Pacific halibut entering China can make its way to the US through a variety of ways."

And the Russian imports are increasing.

"In 2019, we saw about two million pounds of frozen Russian caught halibut imported into the U.S. The year prior it was 140,000 pounds. Through the first two months of 2020, we've imported about 420,000 pounds, so it's trending higher. For a relatively low volume fishery and for U.S. markets two million pounds is pretty substantial," Evridge said.

Trade data show that the U.S. paid nearly \$6.7 million for two million pounds of Russian caught halibut from 2019 through January 2020.

The foreign fish also get the benefit of more favorable exchange rates.

"The Russian ruble has weakened against the U.S. dollar by about 14%. If I'm a U.S. buyer, there's a 14% discount. The ruble is also weak against the Chinese Yuan, so if I'm a Chinese buyer, bringing that product in is relatively affordable. That's another thing that that we struggle with," he explained.

Tariffs of up to 25% are in place for most seafood both coming and going to China, and Russia has not purchased a pound of U.S. seafood since 2014.

Meanwhile, Alaskans have 17 million pounds of halibut to catch this year and landings so far are down 60%. With deflated markets and dock prices in the \$3-\$4 range, there's not much motivation to go fishing.

Salmon starts! Alaska's salmon season officially kicks off on May 14 at Copper River near Cordova with the arrival of kings and sockeyes. Other salmon fisheries will quickly follow.

Alaska's total 2020 salmon catch is projected at just under 133 million fish, a 36 percent drop from the 208 million fish taken in 2019.

The state's largest herring fishery at Togiak in Bristol Bay opened on May 3. Icicle is the only buyer for a haul of nearly 39,000 tons of herring caught for their roe.

Kodiak's roe herring fishery is still underway with catches topping 1,500 tons. The price was reported at \$300 per ton.

A small, one day a week herring fishery is underway at Upper Cook Inlet through May 31. The UCI's 200 ton smelt fishery runs from May 1 through June.

Dungeness crab opened around Kodiak on May 1.

Southeast Alaska's longest ongoing fishery - beam trawling for pink and sidestripe shrimp - opened on May 1 with a catch quota of nearly 1.8 million

pounds. A pot shrimp fishery opens on May 15 with a 32,000 pound quota.

A ling cod fishery is underway and Southeast divers are still going down for giant geoduck clams.

Trollers will be out on the water this month targeting hatchery kings in several regions.

At Prince William Sound a second opener for big spot shrimp was set to wrap up on May 9. The total catch by 60 boats will come in at just over 68,000 pounds.

Just over 2 million pounds of halibut has been landed since the mid-March opener.

Sablefish catches at just over 5 million pounds also are down.

Continued on page 9

Developing Financial Projections for Your Business

WHAT TO EXPECT
Financial projections are not only perfect for businesses who are seeking loans or evaluating the validity of a new business idea, but they are also perfect for those existing businesses wanting to ask the important "what if" questions before making any financial decisions.

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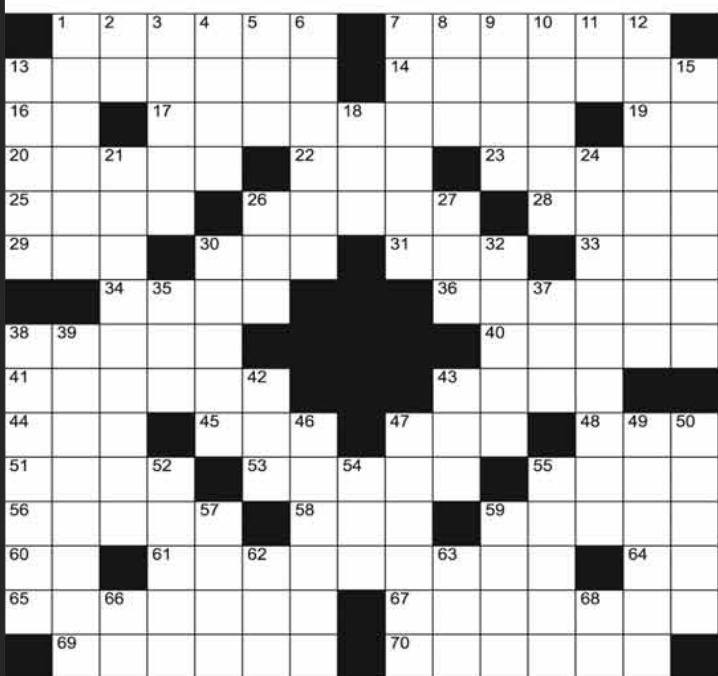
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Comics



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Seed part
- 7. Productive
- 13. Popular cocktail
- 14. Sausages
- 16. Western state
- 17. Natural desires
- 19. Defunct British automaker
- 20. Early media tycoon
- 22. Move from one place to another
- 23. Letter of Semitic abjads
- 25. Female birds
- 26. Umbrella brand
- 28. Delinquent
- 29. Tax collector
- 30. Cooking tool
- 31. Female sibling
- 33. Flat-topped hat
- 34. Angolan currency
- 36. Boardwalk candy
- 38. European nation
- 40. Leaflike part of palm
- 41. Removed with solvent
- 43. Uttered words
- 44. Unfashionable person
- 45. Disappointed
- 47. Controversial device in soccer
- 48. 007's creator
- 51. Pain
- 53. UCLA mascot
- 55. Razorbill
- 56. Turkic people
- 58. Mimic
- 59. Crime involving fire
- 60. And, Latin
- 61. A saponaceous quality
- 64. Dorm employee
- 65. Estate lands
- 67. States
- 69. They slow you down
- 70. Gets up

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One or the other
- 2. Doc
- 3. Songs have them
- 4. Record of payment (abbr.)
- 5. Speak endlessly
- 6. American state
- 7. Digressions
- 8. Tell on
- 9. Brews
- 10. Belongs to the bottom layer
- 11. American cigarette brand
- 12. Legal voting age in US
- 13. Dish
- 15. Expelled air from the nose
- 18. Body art
- 21. Fierce, destructive act
- 24. Bear bright yellow flowers
- 26. Japanese delicacy
- 27. Get off your feet
- 30. Male organs in some invertebrates
- 32. __, so good
- 35. Cleverness
- 37. Protest yacht
- 38. Anesthetized
- 39. Mollified
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 46. Some windows have them
- 47. National capital
- 49. Squirrels like them
- 50. Grandmothers
- 52. Painter's tool
- 54. News organization
- 55. __ and thesis: musical term
- 57. Famed activist Parks
- 59. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. A number or amount not specified
- 63. Body part
- 66. Of I
- 68. Old English

Fish Factor

Continued from page 8

The Bering Sea snow crab fishery is wrapping up with a 30.6 million pound catch. Final prices won't be settled until July.

And as always, catches for cod, pollock, flounders and much more are ongoing in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

Get mugged - Mug Updates tell Alaska fishermen how to navigate the strict COVID-19 mandates in place for salmon season. The updates are provided by the Alaska Fishermen's Network, an arm of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council.

"The purpose is to help you dip your toe in and give you a roadmap for some information to prepare for this upcoming salmon season and for fisheries that are currently ongoing," said Jamie O'Connor, Network director and a longtime Bristol Bay fisherman.

COVID puts the kibosh on parties in the boatyard, the Mug Updates advise, and include simple suggestions like using paper dishware and changing up your galley game with gloves and masks for making meals.

"Basics of sanitation and hygiene are huge,"

O'Connor stressed. "I think when people are putting together their grubstake, whether they're putting in a barge order for their summer in the community or they're going fishing, it's important that they flag some of these little things to put in their shopping cart. It can make a world of difference."

From what she's hearing, O'Connor said fishermen "are committed to doing things as safely as possible."

"I'm also hearing a real concern for our supply chain, and people are very aware of the important role we play as food producers," she added.

"Keeping informed is vital right now," she said, "and we're doing our best to make that as understandable and digestible as possible. We're also helping people work through the decision process about whether they are able to fish this season or sit this one out."

The Mug Updates tell it straight about salmon fishing during the COVID pandemic: Play by the rules or everyone gets sent home.

Find the Updates at www.akyoungfishermen.org and on Facebook.

Alaska school board postpones decision on banned books

PALMER, Alaska (AP) - An Alaska school board postponed a vote over rescinding a ban on selected English course books after taking public testimony on the issue that attracted national attention when a Grammy-winning rock group pledged to purchase the banned books for students.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District board heard three hours of testimony Wednesday on a proposal to rescind last month's vote to remove five American literature classics from high school English elective courses.

The board is scheduled to vote on the proposal May 20.

The list of books includes F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," Joseph Heller's "Catch-22," Maya Angelou's "I

Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," and Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried."

Members of the band Portugal. The Man stepped into the controversy in their Alaska hometown by offering to buy copies of the books for students and families.

At least 80 people registered to submit testimony by phone rather than in person Wednesday because of health restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

The majority favored rescinding the board's decision to ban the novels from reading lists.

The board also removed The New York Times' The Learning Network as a teaching resource, although journalism

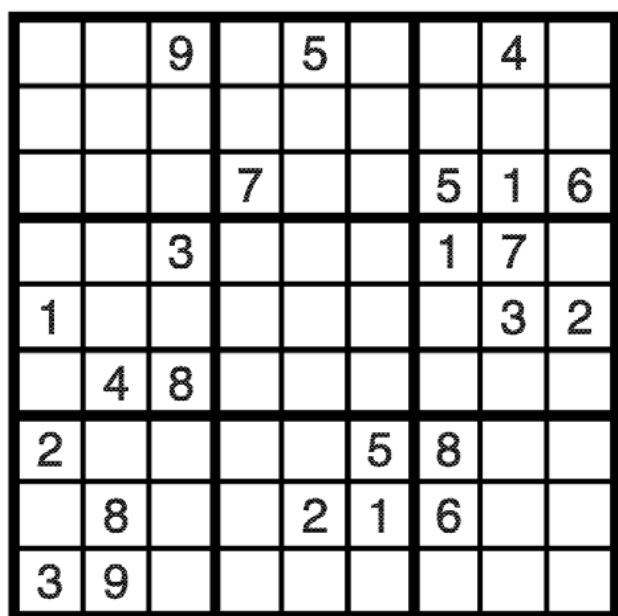
students are permitted to use the newspaper.

"This was placed back on the agenda because of the difficulties we're having with COVID, the inability for the community to speak, and also in light of the previous vote, information has been brought forth that needs to be considered in this option," school board President Tom Bergey said during the meeting.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The vast majority of people recover.



SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the May 21 edition

Classified/Legals

JOBS
WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 School Year for the position of: Technology Director/Network Administrator. The Technology Director/Network Administrator is responsible for managing the District's information technology infrastructure and applications, technical support team, and providing IT services for staff members and students. The Technology Director is responsible for the Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN), as well as all attached workstations and peripherals. The Technology Director is responsible for all firewalls, business applications and support thereof. The Technology Director reports current project status, offers IT solutions and makes recommendations on all IT projects to the Superintendent and Technology Committee. The Technology Director approves all purchases at the division level, obtaining final approval from the Superintendent. This position has independent judgment and decision-making authority. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. Position open until filled. It is Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.....1x5-14b172

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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.

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.

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, Alaska
Revised - STANDING WORK SESSION -
PUBLIC NOTICE
 (by teleconference which is allowed by Resolution No. 03-20-1520)

The Borough Assembly and Select Borough Staff will be holding a standing Work Session, each Thursday, by teleconference, beginning Thursday, May 14, 2020.

The Weekly Work Session will be held on Thursday's at 5:30 p.m. until further notice, to for the following purpose:

Borough Manager & Borough Assembly to Provide Updates and Direction, related to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Although there will be a quorum of the Borough Assembly present via Zoom, there will be no action taken.

This Work Session will be broadcast on KSTK.

The public is encouraged to listen in. If you would like to submit a comment to the Borough Manager or the Assembly, please email that comment to the Borough Clerk: clerk@wrangell.com

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk
 City & Borough of Wrangell
Published: May 14, 2020

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is seeking 1 Road and Trail Maintenance Laborer.

Complete job description and application available on the WCA Facebook page or outside at the WCA Office @ 1002 Zimovia Highway. Contact Bill Willard or Lizzy Romane at 874-3077 with questions. Closing date: May 26 at 1 p.m.
Published: May 14, 2020

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
 ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION
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 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. 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.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
 Borough Manager
Publish: May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

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- 2** Are you being clear? Complete, concise information will encourage a quick response from readers.

6 Have you covered all of your bases? Make sure you are providing sufficient information about the merchandise or service you are offering, including the price! Does the reader know what you are selling, why they should buy it and how they can contact you for more information?
- 3** Can the reader reach you? Be sure to include your telephone number or address. If necessary, list a preferred time to have potential buyers contact you.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

Economic Development Committee brainstorm ways to meet community needs

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Economic Development Committee met last Wednesday, May 6, to hold a brainstorming session on how to best meet the needs of the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. There are several groups trying to help the community and share information, Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said, such as the Convention and Visitor Bureau, the Reopen Wrangell Task Force, and the Emergency Operations Command. In Rushmore's mind, she said, the biggest problem facing Wrangell is the lack of financial capacity for people to pay bills.

"Do we need to do a survey, or some other means for actually determining what the real issue is, or do you go with the fact that it's going to be financial assistance that most people need?" Rushmore said. "The idea, for you all, is to look broadly at the community, not just at businesses."

Committee Member Julie Decker suggested that they look into the feasibility of sales tax relief or refunds for utility

bills. Those are things the city already has systems in place to handle, she said, and would be relatively easy to implement. Decker also brought up the ideas of rent assistance or local grants, but in her opinion people would be better served with timeliness and efficiency. As the city already has systems in place for some potential aid programs, they should consider those options first.

Committee Member Bob Dalrymple also had some suggestions. Wrangell really needs to focus on getting increased COVID-19 testing, he said.

"Anything that we would either try to advocate for or maybe even pay for would be testing for the town," he said. "I think that's key for visitors coming in, for people that might or might not know. Without testing we're back to the lockdown and paralysis that we get to."

Dalrymple said he hopes that the city also has some sort of medical evacuation agreement to transport positive COVID-19 patients off the island for care elsewhere. This is something that the city and the Wrangell Medical Center have been discussing, Decker said. More immediately, Dalrymple proposed that community needs could be met by making sure the food available in Wrangell is healthy, and with a program offering financial assistance or discounts for getting work done in the boat

yard, or with docking fees.

The brainstorming session went on for some time. The

economic development committee decided to try and meet on a weekly basis to keep

brainstorming and start putting together recommendations for the borough assembly.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Going nuts for warmer weather

A squirrel attempts to blend in with a tree trunk along the Volunteer Park trail, after being startled by Wrangell Sentinel dog Sky. Red Squirrels, like this one, can be found in forests across most of the state. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, red squirrels are active all year but may remain in their nests during cold or inclement weather. Now that spring has arrived, and warmer weather with it, all kinds of animals are becoming more active.

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Alaska fisheries to get \$50M in federal aid amid pandemic

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Alaska will receive \$50 million in federal coronavirus aid for fisheries, the U.S. Department of Commerce has announced, about half what state officials had expected.

Alaska is home to large stocks of pollock, an inexpensive fish used in fast-food sandwiches and fish sticks, and landed 58% of the nation's seafood by volume in 2018, officials said.

Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy and his administration expected the state to receive about \$100 million, or one-third of the \$300 million allocated to fisheries in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act because of the state's contributions to the in-

dustry, Anchorage Daily News reported Friday.

State officials even requested in advance that the state Legislature budget and audit committee give it authority to accept the expected federal aid. It has not yet been granted authority.

The state Department of Fish and Game would be responsible for funding distribution to commercial, subsistence and sport fishermen affected by the pandemic if the \$50 million is approved.

The administration is in the process of reviewing the allocation, said Jeff Turner, the governor's deputy communications director.

Despite Alaska's expectations, the amount

ties with Washington state for the most money given to any state.

"We're pleased this crucial industry to our state is going receive necessary relief to help keep them afloat, and we will be focused on securing additional resources for fisheries in the next coronavirus bill," Alaska's congressional delegation said in a joint statement.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The vast majority of people recover.

Face coverings not required on state-run Alaska ferries

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) -

Alaska's state-run ferry system is not requiring that passengers and crew wear face coverings in response to COVID-19

concerns, with a spokesperson saying rider numbers are low and social distancing on board is "easily attainable."

CoastAlaska reported the Alaska Marine Highway System said it puts the health and safety of employees and passengers first. Cloth masks are available for crew members but not mandated, the system said.

State transportation department spokesperson Meadow Bailey said rider numbers are "very low, and social distancing is easily attainable for employees and passengers." Two ferries currently are operating.

The system said it's taken steps aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, including turning away passengers with flu-like symptoms.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Assembly makes amendments to budget, rescinds local emergency orders

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening, May 12, to adopt some amendments to the FY 2020 budget. The city recently received both its Secure Rural Schools funding, as well as a grant for COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

The SRS money came in on April 28, according to the meeting's agenda packet, in the amount of \$883,646.51. The SRS is a federal program that assists municipalities that have federal lands that cannot be taxed, allowing them to recoup some of the funding that is "lost" by having federal land. The SRS money is designed to go towards supporting school districts and local road systems. For FY

2020, according to the agenda packet, these recently received funds will be kept in reserve for future appropriations. The assembly approved this item.

Another amendment to the budget came in the form of a grant from the state of Alaska. The Designated Legislative Grant is for \$35,348, which is coming out of the state's commercial passenger vessel tax. The money, according to the agenda packet, must be spent on COVID-19 mitigation efforts related to the cruise industry. Some examples of how the money could be spent include dock security and screening staff, a screening tent at the port, infrared scanning thermometers, or hiring additional staff for more

robust cleaning of public restrooms. Grant funds that are not used in FY 2020 will roll over into FY 2021, the agenda packet reads, as the money is going into the transient tax fund. The assembly also approved this item.

On the topic of budgets, Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga reported that work was ongoing on the FY 2021 budget. As things stood right now, with revenue losses from the pandemic and assuming no capital facilities projects for the upcoming year, the city was looking at a deficit in the general fund of \$500,000. More information regarding this would be coming before the assembly soon, she said.

The assembly also adopted a new resolution that rescinds

two previous emergency orders issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency Orders 3-17-20 and 3-22-20 were both outdated and no longer in line with current state mandates. The orders, passed back in March, were meant to close local restaurants and bars to sit-in service and to issue a shelter in place order to the wider public. In place of these local orders, the new resolution rescinding them puts in place a set of recommendations for community

safety. The public is asked to continue social distancing, wearing face masks, and staying home if one is feeling ill. The resolution also asks everybody to be respectful to each other through this trying time.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved of a revised budget calendar for FY 2021, adopted a resolution in support of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Flexibility Act, and held an executive session regarding the collective bargaining process.

Alaska campers fight wildfire until emergency crews arrive

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Firefighters were able to contain an Alaska wildfire that was initially fought by campers who first spotted the blaze, the U.S. Forest Service said.

Several groups were camping at Boy Scout Beach in Juneau when some of them saw the fire Saturday morning, KTOO-FM reported.

"We just noticed some smoke, and it was kind of high up in the grass," said Blaine Scharen, who was camping with his wife and extended family.

The fire appeared to be growing out of control when Scharen and his brother-in-law went to the next campsite to check the situation.

"And at that point there was a ring of fire maybe 30 feet across," Scharen said.

They warned their children to keep clear, and Scharen's wife joined their efforts to contain the fire with buckets of water and other items. The group also began digging a trench with their hands to prevent the fire from spreading.

"Then it started to get a bit bigger," Scharen said. "And then some of the trees, the spruce trees started lighting up. So we're smacking spruce trees, using the buckets to try and pat stuff out. Everybody's feet and boots were half-

melted, and buckets and tubs were all melted."

Capital City Fire/Rescue, the emergency service for the City and Borough of Juneau, began receiving calls about the brush fire around 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

The reports were forwarded to the federal forest service, which handles all of the wild land firefighting in the area.

Firefighters responded to the remote beach with a helicopter and a boat, but they took more than an hour to arrive, said Rob Berney, a Juneau-area fire supervisor for the forest service.

The agency had to ground the helicopter for a time because of a drone flying in the area, Berney said.

"That's the last thing a pilot needs when he's up there trying to do the job. Worrying about a drone and where that's at," Berney said.

Berney could not immediately pinpoint an exact cause of the fire. But he said it was undoubtedly caused by people in the area.

No one was injured, although Scharen said hair was singed off his legs.

"Everybody kind of rallied together," Scharen said. "Definitely kept it from being a lot worse than it would have been if nobody was out there."



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Freshman Prince

Devlyn Campbell, named Freshman Prince in this year's Prom Court, poses for a photo with his little brother Grif-fey Angerman.

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