

## Fishermen volunteering at seafood processor

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Several local fishermen have been volunteering their time and energy, more so than usual, at Wrangell's sole operating seafood processor. With the decision by Trident Seafoods to not operate this summer, Sea Level Seafoods has been the only local option available for fishermen to process their catches. However, thanks to a number of factors brought on by COVID-19, Sea Level has been short-handed. This has led to a number of fishermen volunteering to help process crab, as well as catch them.

**"Processing, you know, is hard work. Packing crab is difficult. Wrangell people in general are really hard workers."**

*- Rocky Caldero*

for cleaning. Hiring during the pandemic, and getting workers into Wrangell to process crab and fish, has also been challenging. As crab season was ongoing, Caldero said their dock staff sent out the call to the fleet to ask for help. Over the previous weekend, and still ongoing at the time of writing, Caldero said they have had between 8 and 16 fishermen regularly volunteering at their facility to process crab. As of Tuesday, June 23, Caldero said they have processed approximately 72,000 lbs. of crab. It has been a great display of the community's work ethic, he said.

"Processing, you know, is hard work. Packing crab is difficult," Caldero said. "Wrangell people in general are really hard workers."

Caldero said that he is incredibly grateful for all the help that the fishermen are providing. He added that anybody looking for work is welcome at Sea Level Seafoods. They just need to show up to the plant



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON VILLARMA

(Left to right): Sam Armstrong, Mason Villarma, Dawson Miller, and Geoffrey Stokes helping process crab at Sea Level Seafoods. Villarma said that all the volunteers and workers at Sea Level were following proper safety precautions and wearing PPE, they only removed their face masks to take some pictures.

and they will help them get the paperwork sorted out. Caldero added that the fishermen are following all of the health and safety guidelines. Things at the plant have been a very positive environment with the processors working there. He is not

sure how long the fishermen will be volunteering, he added.

"It really depends on catch rates, that kind of thing," Caldero said. "We're really going to need them when salmon comes around."

"Uncommon times call for

uncommon measures," added volunteer Mason Villarma, in a text message to the Sentinel. "You won't find a more selfless, humble and hardworking group of men. Their steadfast effort shows the highest level of character."

## Questions on COVID-19 answered in online town hall

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

City officials organized an online town hall meeting last Thursday evening, June 18, to try and answer some community questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The town hall also saw some special guests from the state level take part in the Q&A session: Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anne Zink and Dr. Joseph McLaughlin. Representative Dan Ortiz also participated in the web conference.

As the doctors had a limited window of time to take part in the town hall meeting, city officials spent previous days before the town hall collecting questions from the public, which were then asked via Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen. Many of the questions revolved around COVID-19 testing and what the future of the pandemic might look like for Alaska and Wrangell.

Assembly Member Julie Decker asked, through Von Bargen, what the limitations of COVID-19 tests were, and why people could not completely rely on only test results to un-

derstand the virus and its spread. McLaughlin answered that there are various limitations, depending on which test is being used. The primary limitation of a PCR test, for example, is its sensitivity. Right now, the PCR is the gold-standard test, he said, but they do not know what proportion of patients who are infected that the test misses. However, he said that it is likely a small percentage, somewhere between two to five percent. Relying on positive results can also be a limitation of COVID-19 tests, he added. Fortunately, McLaughlin said, PCR tests have a high specificity so their results can be very trustworthy. Other types of COVID-19 tests have varying degrees of sensitivity and specificity, he said, which is why the state holds the PCR test up so highly.

"When we get a sample in the lab, we also see there can be a lot of problems with sample collection, as well as in transport," Zink added. "There's other ways the test might not be as sensitive, and it's also good to remember that with this virus, you see the highest viral shedding right before someone gets

symptoms and early on in their disease course. It goes down over time, so it also depends on the timing of it [the test]."

Another limitation of fighting COVID-19, Zink said, is that there is no good way to get a clinical diagnosis of the virus. Symptoms of COVID-19 match symptoms of a variety of other diseases, she said. That means the tests are really useful for confirming COVID-19, but it also means that the test only really shows whether or not a patient has the virus right at a certain point in time, when the test was taken.

Several questions revolved around the topic of "viral shedding." Viral shedding is when a virus is exiting the body, McLaughlin said, such as through respiratory secretions. It tends to peak shortly before or the day of someone showing symptoms of COVID-19. A COVID-19 patient will be at their most contagious when viral shedding is peaking.

Of course, not every COVID-19 patient shows symptoms. Asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 certainly happens, McLaughlin said, but they do

not currently know to what degree it occurs. An asymptomatic patient, someone who is infected but is not showing symptoms, is different from a "pre-symptomatic" patient. A pre-symptomatic patient is within a few days of showing symptoms of COVID-19. That time period is when viral shedding is at its highest, McLaughlin said.

"From a science perspective, about who's asymptomatic and who's pre-symptomatic, it's an interesting question," Zink said. "For the individual, on what that means and if I should get tested or not, or do I have COVID or not, I think it actually matters less because there's so much viral spread in the pre-symptomatic and mild disease category, and that's why I think we just really need to treat everyone like they've got COVID these days."

There was also a question of whether or not it was a good idea to get a flu shot during the COVID-19 pandemic. Flu symptoms are very similar to COVID-19, McLaughlin said, so they want to try and minimize the number of flu cases this year so

they can better identify and handle COVID-19 cases.

"The flu shot is highly, highly recommended," McLaughlin said. "It's recommended for everybody six months of age and older ... Flu is definitely something we do a lot of messaging around to promote the vaccine and respiratory hygiene, ways to prevent transmission of influenza. It is not required, but it is highly encouraged."

Ortiz also took the opportunity to ask a question. He wanted to know if school districts could expect any state guidance on reopening for the fall semester, with a current spike in cases throughout the state. Zink said that they have been working with Commissioner Michael Johnson, with the Department of Education and Early Development, and they sent out a three-phase outline of a reopening framework for schools to follow.

There were also questions from the public on whether or not school officials and parents would be notified if a positive case was found inside a school,

Continued on page 12



# Ketchikan warns virus spread possible after quarantine break

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) – A person who didn't follow quarantine procedures after arriving in Alaska has created the possibility of broad community spread of the coronavirus after going to social gatherings and public places in Ketchikan while awaiting results of a COVID-19 test that turned out positive, officials said.

The person arrived in Ketchikan Saturday and underwent testing for COVID-19. The state says anyone tested on arrival is to quarantine until they receive a negative test result. Under the state rules, one is not to leave a quarantine location except for medical emergencies or necessary medical care.

This person instead attended

social gatherings and went to public places Saturday, Sunday and Monday, events attended by many young people, families and residents, officials said. Officials did not say if the person was a resident or a visitor.

The person's positive test was received Tuesday, and the person is now in isolation and checked on daily by public health nurses.

"Because this individual did not quarantine after arrival to Ketchikan as directed, there is potential of a wide community spread of COVID-19," a statement from the city says. "The effects of the social gatherings are far-reaching and there has been a broad ripple effect to many citizens and organizations."

"I know many of you are angry, hurt, disappointed, and even scared about the impact this may have in our community. I am too, but we are prepared for this," Ketchikan Emergency Manager Abner Hoage said in video to the community Wednesday night.

He said there is testing and personal protection equipment available.

"While I don't support the actions of this individual, now is not the time to express words of anger toward someone who made a few bad choices, but rather the time to support them and others in our community who are impacted."

The Ketchikan Police Department is investigating the individual's actions for possible charges, and public health nurses are tracing contacts the individual had.

State health officials Thursday reported 12 new COVID-19 cases, bringing Alaska's total to 708 cases involving residents and 89 involving non-residents. Ketchikan has reported 24 cumulative positive cases. There have been 12 COVID-19-related deaths involving Alaskans.

City officials are advising anyone who attended gatherings in Ketchikan where social distancing wasn't followed or if

someone who recently traveled was in attendance to consider self-quarantining for 14 days and to get tested if symptoms like a cough, fever or difficulty breathing develop.

"We urge parents to question your teenagers about their social interactions and consider imposing a quarantine if you have reason to be concerned about a potential close or secondary contact to the positive case," officials said.

Because of close or secondary contact to the infected person, a public utility office will be closed for at least two weeks and many city department heads and employees are self-quarantining and working from home.

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.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, June 25:** Melvin Gadd, Scott Curley. *Anniversary:* Brent & Dawn Mill, Robbie & Liz Rooney. **Friday, June 26:** Erika Jabusch, K.C. Anderson, Olson Anderson, Scott Gile. *Anniversary:* Dan & Carlene Nore, Craig & Margaret Villarma. **Saturday, June 27:** Harry Sundberg, Trey Torvend. **Sunday, June 28:** Penny Allen, Allison Rolf, Rip Draper, Ginny Helgeson, Laura Meyerhoff, Robbie Rooney, Kendall Kaer, Landen Gillen, David Powell. **Monday, June 29:** Jim Tuttle, Lucas Shilts, Janice Kalkins, Amber Sumner. *Anniversary:* Scott & Tamara Eastaugh. **Tuesday, June 30:** Verda Villarma, Trixie Bennett. *Anniversary:* Jim & Penny Early. **Wednesday, July 1:** Emily Mason, Lauren Helgeson, Susan Neff. **Tuesday, July 2:** Charlie Kirschner, Jaci Maddox. *Anniversary:* Jeff & Dawn Angerman, Curt & Jonna Kautz, Andre & Caity Shafer.

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, June 26

Beef Burritos, Black Beans, Fruit Slaw and Rice

### Monday, June 29

Ham & Bean Soup, Cottage Cheese with Tomato, Corn Bread.

### Tuesday, June 30

Tuna & Noodles, Spinach, Honey Mustard Slaw.

Wednesday and Thursday menus unavailable.

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

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

## FERRY

### Northbound

#### Sunday, July 5

Matanuska, 8:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, July 12

Matanuska, 2:15 p.m.

#### Sunday, July 19

Matanuska, 7:15 p.m.

#### Sunday, July 26

Matanuska, 1:15 p.m.

### Southbound

#### Wednesday, July 8

Matanuska, 9:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday, July 15

Matanuska, 3:15 a.m.

#### Wednesday, July 22

Matanuska, 8:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday, July 29

Matanuska, 5:15 a.m.

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



## TIDES June 25 - July 2

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
June 25	03:54	16.1	05:05	14.5	10:24	-1.3	10:38	4.0
June 26	04:44	15.3	05:55	14.7	11:12	-0.7	11:39	3.8
June 27	05:43	14.4	06:51	15.0	...	...	12:05	0.2
June 28	06:56	13.5	07:52	15.5	00:46	3.4	01:02	1.1
June 29	08:17	13.0	08:52	16.2	01:59	2.6	02:04	1.9
June 30	09:34	13.2	09:50	17.0	03:11	1.4	03:09	2.5
July 01	10:43	13.7	10:44	17.7	04:20	0.1	04:14	2.9
July 02	11:45	14.3	11:36	18.3	05:21	-1.3	05:15	2.9

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**Jury duty for June & July:** no trials for the month of June. You will be receiving notices in the mail in the next few weeks. **Everyone doing business at the Wrangell Court** are required to wear a mask unless under 2 years of age or exempted for medical reasons. This is effective until further notice. All hearings are being conducted telephonically until further notice. Contact the court for the call-in number at (907) 874-2311.

## Continuing Events

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

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

### June 24, 1920

We would call attention to the rare musical treat promised by the Ladies' Guild at St. Phillips Gymnasium in presenting Mrs. John T. Towers. Mrs. Towers who is spending the summer in Alaska, is from the Boston Conservatory of Music, and has a wide reputation both in Eastern circles and on the Pacific Coast as a vocalist and pianist. The entire proceeds of the concert will be used in replacing the walk in front of the Episcopal Church.

### June 22, 1945

W. B. Duwe, veteran pilot, has come north to join the Wrangell-Petersburg Air Service and will be stationed on the Wrangell end of the line when facilities are completed here, it is announced by Tony Schwamm, general manager of the service. Veteran of 15 years in the air, Duwe was a patrol pilot for the Washington State Bureau of Fisheries for eight years and during the recent war years was a test pilot with Boeing, taking the kinks out of B-17's and other aircraft.

### June 25, 1970

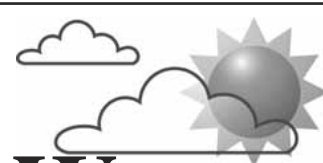
Work is under way on an Alaska Airlines terminal building at the airport. Crews were putting up steel framework for the 2,100-square-foot structure which will house ticket offices, a

passenger waiting room, restrooms and freight-handling spaces. Art Nelson, Alaska Airlines station manager at Wrangell, said the building should be ready for occupancy in two months. The airline has maintained offices in a trailer at the airport for more than a year. Previously Alaska Airlines occupied offices in downtown Wrangell. The airline currently services 40 to 50 passengers a day. The building is being constructed by Alaska Metal Builders of Anchorage, which will retain possession of the structure and lease it to the airline, the manager explained. Following construction of the building shell here, expected in about 10 days, the work crews

will move on to Petersburg where a like terminal is going up.

### June 22, 1995

Drivers build your cars! It's time to start working on cars for the annual soap box derby (non-sanctioned), held in conjunction with Wrangell's Fourth of July celebration. "We have no particular restrictions on design, other than weight," said Rob Armstrong, event chairman. Maximum weight for vehicle and driver is 200 pounds, he said. "Helmets are required, he added as another restriction. For drivers 8 to 14, the competition is a companion event to the pinewood derby for younger enthusiasts.



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
June 15	55	48
June 16	57	51
June 17	65	50
June 18	61	53
June 19	58	52
June 20	56	48
June 21	56	48
June 22	58	50



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jun 25	4:03a	9:38p	17:35h
Jun 26	4:03a	9:38p	17:35h
Jun 27	4:04a	9:38p	17:34h
Jun 28	4:04a	9:38p	17:34h
Jun 29	4:05a	9:37p	17:32h
Jun 30	4:06a	9:37p	17:31h
Jul 01	4:07a	9:36p	17:29h
Jul 02	4:07a	9:36p	17:29h



# Eight total COVID cases in Wrangell

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The number of COVID-19 cases in Wrangell has increased since last week's edition of the Wrangell Sentinel. As of Tuesday, June 23, there are eight total cases of the virus in town.

The fourth case was announced on Wednesday, June 17. According to a joint press release from the city and SEARHC, the patient was an unnamed traveller. He was identified through the airport testing program and is currently in quarantine.

"So far, the State's airport testing program has proven to

be effective," Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said in the press release. "With Alaska reopening, the testing schedule and quarantine protocols must be adhered to by all travelers to reduce the chance of community spread."

Case number five was announced a few days later on the evening of Friday, June 19. This was a non-resident individual, identified through a routine testing program. Though the individual was unnamed, it was later announced that he was a worker at Sea Level Seafoods. The processing company released a statement shortly after the initial announcement.

"Following the protocols set forth in our Alaska COVID-19 response plan that was filed with the state and the city, this worker tested negative prior to traveling to Alaska, tested negative a second time within 48 hours of arrival in Wrangell, and was tested for a third time

## Police report

<p><b>June 15</b> Fireworks Time limit parking Agency assist: Ferry Terminal</p> <p><b>June 16</b> Fireworks complaint Arrested; Anthony Guggenbickler, 23, on charges of Assault 3</p> <p><b>June 17</b> Subpoena service Citizen assist Welfare check</p> <p><b>June 18</b> EDP: Citizen assist Catering permit Parking complaint</p> <p><b>June 19</b> Subpoena service Agency assist: Fire Department</p>	<p><b>June 20</b> Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department Paper service: Subpoena Paper service: Subpoena</p> <p><b>June 21</b> Noise complaint Agency assist: Alarm Agency assist: Harbor Department Civil issue Welfare check Assault unfounded Civil standby Traffic stop: Citation issued to Danielle Roher, 30, for driving without a valid license.</p> <p>There were two ambulance calls and 13 airport assist calls during this reporting period.</p>
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midway through his modified quarantine period," the statement reads. "The third test produced a positive result for COVID-19 despite the individual reporting no symptoms. The worker is currently isolating pending a fourth test on Monday."

Operations at Sea Level Seafoods were temporarily suspended as they conducted a

cleaning of their facility, and according to their statement they are cooperating with the health department and are conducting contact tracing.

A sixth confirmed case of COVID-19 was announced on Sunday, June 21. Again, this was a non-resident traveler who arrived via Alaska Airlines, from out of state. According to a news release from the

city, this person was instructed to quarantine themselves while they were awaiting test results.

Cases seven and eight were confirmed at the same time, in a press release on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 23. These two individuals are not residents of Wrangell, according to the city's press release, and were found to have COVID-19 during a routine testing program. Public Health officials are investigating the cases to determine a source and conduct contact tracing. Both individuals have been notified and are in isolation, according to the press release.

According to the city, two of these eight cases are considered recovered. Only six are considered still active.

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## Trooper report

On June 6, 2020, Wrangell AWT was on patrol at Sandy Beach, near Woronofski Island, when they observed two subsistence Dungeness crab pots belonging to Edward Kalkins, age 63, of Wrangell. Both pots had insufficient biodegradable escape mechanisms. The pots were seized and brought back to Wrangell. On June 10, 2020, Kalkins was issued a citation for no bio with bail set at \$120 in the Wrangell Court.

## Having trouble paying your rent or mortgage due to COVID-19?

You may be eligible for up to \$1,200 in financial assistance.

Financial assistance from the CARES Act is available to help pay your rent or mortgage.

**Application deadline is June 26, 2020.**

Visit [www.AlaskaHousingRelief.org](http://www.AlaskaHousingRelief.org) or call or text "RELIEF" to (833) 440-0420 to learn more and see if you are eligible.





# Assembly holds final budget workshop

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held one of their last budget work sessions last Wednesday evening, June 17, to finalize next year's budget for the city. For FY 2021, Wrangell is looking at revenues of \$4.48 million in the general fund, but expenses of \$4.78 million. Much of the discussion in this workshop revolved around the general fund, and how to handle its deficit. The workshop lasted for about three and a half hours. In the end, the assembly directed city administration to move forward with the budget in spite of the deficit.

According to the agenda packet for the evening, the budget gap was originally around \$1.2 million dollars. However, the city worked to shrink this down to about \$800,000. Wrangell also anticipates being able to cover some payroll expenses from CARES Act funding, which brought the deficit down even further. Department heads were asked to take another look at their sections of the budget to see what could be further cut. The most recent deficit that the assembly was facing, in this meeting, was \$224,353. In addition to cuts and transfers of funds, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargen said in the meeting that they believe they can get even more salary reimbursement from CARES Act funding.

"What became apparent is even though in this year's budget we had an \$800,000 deficit, because last year's general fund budget was approved with a deficit, we had to bridge that gap as well," she said. "So it ended up being a \$1.2 million deficit ... We were able to increase what we believe the offset from COVID for wages for FY 21, from July 1 to December 31, to about \$640,000."

One area of proposed cuts that received a lot of discussion was in the public works department. This department was looking at further expense reductions of \$90,103. Most of this would come from the retirement of a maintenance technician, whose wages are between about \$65,000 and \$87,000. According to the agenda packet, leaving this position unfilled will impact snow removal, water distribution, and sewer collection system repairs. This also leaves the department with only one individual properly certified to install and repair water and sewer mains. Rolland Howell, public works director, was not

happy about these reductions.

"I think this is a very bad decision, actually," he said. "I wasn't consulted on this until yesterday ... Public Works is a support department. We support and help every single other department in the city. Every single department. We fix water, sewer, streets, storm drains, we assist the sewer department with all their maintenance of all their pump stations, which there's 41 pump stations in our system."

If something happens to the water or sewer systems, Howell said, and the other qualified employee happens to be out of town, the city would not be able to fix the issue. He also said that it takes several years for someone to get the proper qualifications. If the other properly licensed employee leaves, he said, Wrangell would need to find another qualified person to work under, otherwise they would not be able to touch their system.

Assembly members were divided on leaving this position unfilled. Assembly Member Julie Decker agreed that this was an important position, and they shouldn't leave it empty. Mayor Steve Prysunka said that this was not an issue for the current budget, as the other qualified employee was not due for retirement yet. However, he also said that this pointed out an issue of the city needing to better train up employees to get higher certifications, and he asked Von Bargen to look into ways they could improve in that area. Assembly Member David Powell felt that Howell was overselling the seriousness of the situation.

"We had a strike a while back, and we had somebody come in and everything worked just like it was before," he said. "I know it's going to cost a little more money, but losing a Level I, a Level II, it'll happen. We're not just going to shut down the city water and sewer because we lose a guy. I'm not in favor of losing this guy, but I am not going to be pushed into a scare tactic either."

The fire department was proposing to reduce expenses by \$21,505. Most of this, according to the agenda packet, came from \$17,000 for air compressor block equipment. This was equipment the fire department has been looking to purchase for some time, Von Bargen said. Fire Chief Tim Bunnus explained that the compressor provides air for their self contained breathing units (SCBAs),



## Sentinel requires readership

by RON LOESCH  
Publisher

In the past 4 consecutive years this newspaper has been recognized by the Alaska Press Club for its quality writing and overall excellence. But award winning stories mean nothing if they aren't read.

Subscribers are the lifeblood of a community newspaper. Without readers, our work is for naught.

Despite the prolific numbers of social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, the Sentinel enables community discussions. Letters to the Editor were the first and most commonly used community discussion forums to exist. They are still in use

today.

Elected officials at the state and national level use these pages to keep their constituents informed. The Sentinel covers community meetings of the assembly, planning and zoning commission and the school board so the public can stay abreast of the actions and deliberations of each body. You won't find coverage of these bodies on Twitter or Facebook.

Subscriptions to this publication are necessary and appreciated. We want our newspaper to be read far and wide. It should be in the homes, businesses and waiting areas throughout the town.

Call today for subscription information — 874-2301.

"Any person that don't read at least one well-written country newspaper is not truly informed."

- Will Rogers

which is important for firefighters working in smoke-filled areas. The compressor the fire department currently has is about 12 to 14 years old, he said. Mayor Steve Prysunka added that other city departments have made use of the equipment in the past, too. With all of this in mind, Von Bargen said she would like to

add the cost for the new compressor equipment back into the budget.

In light of the current financial situation, Bunnus added he would like to cut about \$4,000 out of his department's budget

for Fourth of July fireworks, as that money could be used elsewhere in other community service organizations.

Capital facilities was another area of discussion for the as-

Continued on page 5

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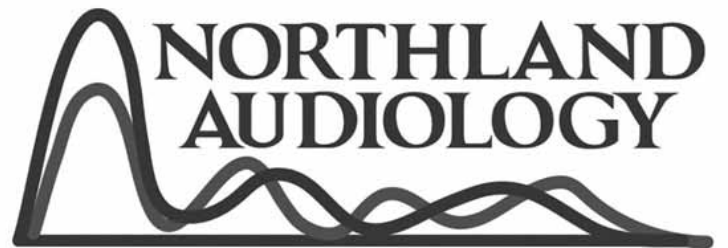
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Robert Marsh  
Nilsen

October 21, 1932 –  
June 19, 2020

Bob Nilsen passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his wife and loving family.

Services will be held at the Lighthouse Assembly of God in Petersburg, Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.



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# District holding Smart Start meetings to discuss safe reopening

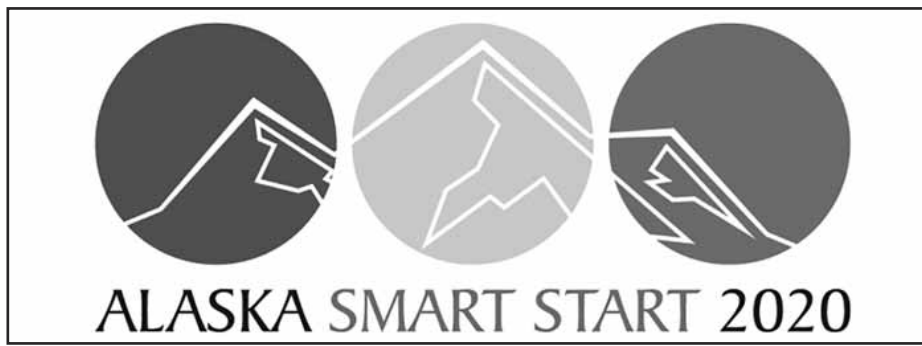
By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell School District staff, school board members, and parents have been holding weekly meetings to discuss the safe reopening of Wrangell schools, under the new Smart Start outline provided by the state.

The group held their second meeting Wednesday, June 17, to try and look at some of the bigger questions surrounding getting kids back into school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster explained, back in a May 18 school board meeting, that Smart Start is meant to be a framework for how districts can plan to operate in the next school year. One of the big topics of discussion in this meeting was what constituted low, medium, and high risk to the Wrangell School District.

During the meeting, participants looked at a draft plan outlining low, medium, and high risk for the Craig City School District. This plan will declare a red/high risk scenario if there have been 10 active COVID-19 cases confirmed on Prince of Wales Island within a 14 day period. In response, the schools will be closed. A yellow/medium risk scenario will be if there are five active cases within a two week period, with all other cases being classified as recovered. The Craig school district will transition to a green/low risk scenario if there are no new COVID-19 cases announced within 14 days, and all cases are recovered.

Teacher, and newly appointed second-



SCREENSHOT

A logo for Alaska Smart Start 2020, a framework for school districts to figure out how to safely open and operate in the upcoming school year.

ary school principal, Bob Davis said he would like to follow Craig's model, but determine Wrangell-specific numbers that better fit the Wrangell community. Penny Allen suggested that Wrangell consider 20 active COVID-19 cases, rather than 10, to be their "high risk" scenario. Meanwhile, low risk would simply mean having no cases. Medium risk, she said, should be how the school operates as normally as possible, with proper precautions in place. Other participants said they would prefer to have some scientific research to back up whatever number they pick.

Community member Kristy Woodbury said she had a few concerns with Craig's plan. Their plan refers to cases in the community, but not cases within the school. She and other participants felt that any case within the school district should require the school in question to close for sanitation and public safety. Staff member

Josh Blatchley said that he and his crew could give any of the schools a deep cleaning in approximately 48 hours.

Moving on from discussing risk levels, many participants in the meeting expressed a variety of concerns they had with the upcoming meeting. Lisa Brooks added that she had concerns that a student with COVID-19 posed a risk to any siblings they had, too. Another concern participants brought up was the limited number of substitute employees the district could call on in case of an emergency, especially if some of them were unwilling to risk catching COVID-19.

Another concern some parents and school staff discussed was how socially distancing at school, versus distance learning online, might impact both students and the district. Some parents may choose to just homeschool their kids, rather than send them to school where they will have to socially distance and

take other preventative measures. This discussion of low, medium, and high risk, as it turned out, was a moot point.

Lancaster announced in a followup email after the meeting, on Monday, June 22, that Dr. Anne Zink recently announced that the Department of Health and Social Services would help determine Wrangell's community risk level.

Also in her followup email, Lancaster said that according to feedback she received she will try to have two or three talking points prepared for the next meeting, to help keep things focused. They will temporarily be putting an idea of creating subgroups to handle Smart Start on hold, too.

"Please know that the original and continued purpose of this series of meetings is to collect information and suggestions from a variety of stakeholders to be used in formulating our district plan later this summer," Lancaster wrote. "Some recent feedback indicated that a few committee members were feeling overwhelmed at trying to make all of the necessary decisions in the next few weeks. That is not the purpose of the meetings. Please do not stress about all of this. Our trained staff will be integrating your thoughts and ideas into a plan that is best for the health and education of all of our students."

The next Smart Start meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, at 3 p.m. The plan was to try and meet both in-person, in the elementary school gym, and online.

## Budget

Continued from page 4

sembly. This department is looking to shrink their budget by \$28,200, but also add \$5,000 in costs for facility maintenance. The capital facilities department is aiming to save money, at about \$7,000 annually, by moving into the same facility as the electrical department. The assembly spent some time debating whether or not the move was a good idea currently, and when it would be best to put the department's current building on the market. After some discussion, they de-

ecided that it would be best to relocate the department and move ahead with selling or leasing the existing property as soon as possible, to bring in more revenue.

The administration department has proposed additional cuts of \$26,195. Von Barga said that some of this was coming in the form of a pay cut for herself, so she could keep some money aside for travel purposes. The clerk/assembly budget has expense reductions of \$19,865, largely from cut travel and material and supplies. The finance

department is further reducing costs by about \$3,840.

The Wrangell Police Department is making additional cuts of \$25,000, in capital equipment and boat expenses. However, they are adding \$6,000 in expenses for four new bullet proof vests and Tasers. There are no changes to expenses in the corrections budget.

There was also a \$10,000 expense for heating system piping replacement cut from expenses for the Public Safety Building. Funds for street maintenance was cut by a further \$34,000, from a variety of supplies and materials. Garage allocations were reduced by \$7,000.

\$50,000 for a columbarium for the cemetery was also cut.

During the workshop, the assembly also discussed potential budget reductions in the areas of community service donations. The assembly largely agreed that they did not want to cut this budget, which covers donations to radio station KSTK, the chamber of commerce, and the senior center. They also considered reducing health insurance coverage, but Powell said he was not comfortable with doing that to city employees if they were still going to keep the community service organization budget. They also considered various avenues of bringing in more revenue, such as pursuing bad debt and online sales taxes. In the end, the assembly felt that city administration had done their best with what they were given, and they felt comfortable with moving forward.

"I'm hearing, I think, and someone can throw their blue hand up if they disagree, but I think folks are expressing a comfort with running a deficit budget," Prysunka said. "So I think you can plan to that."



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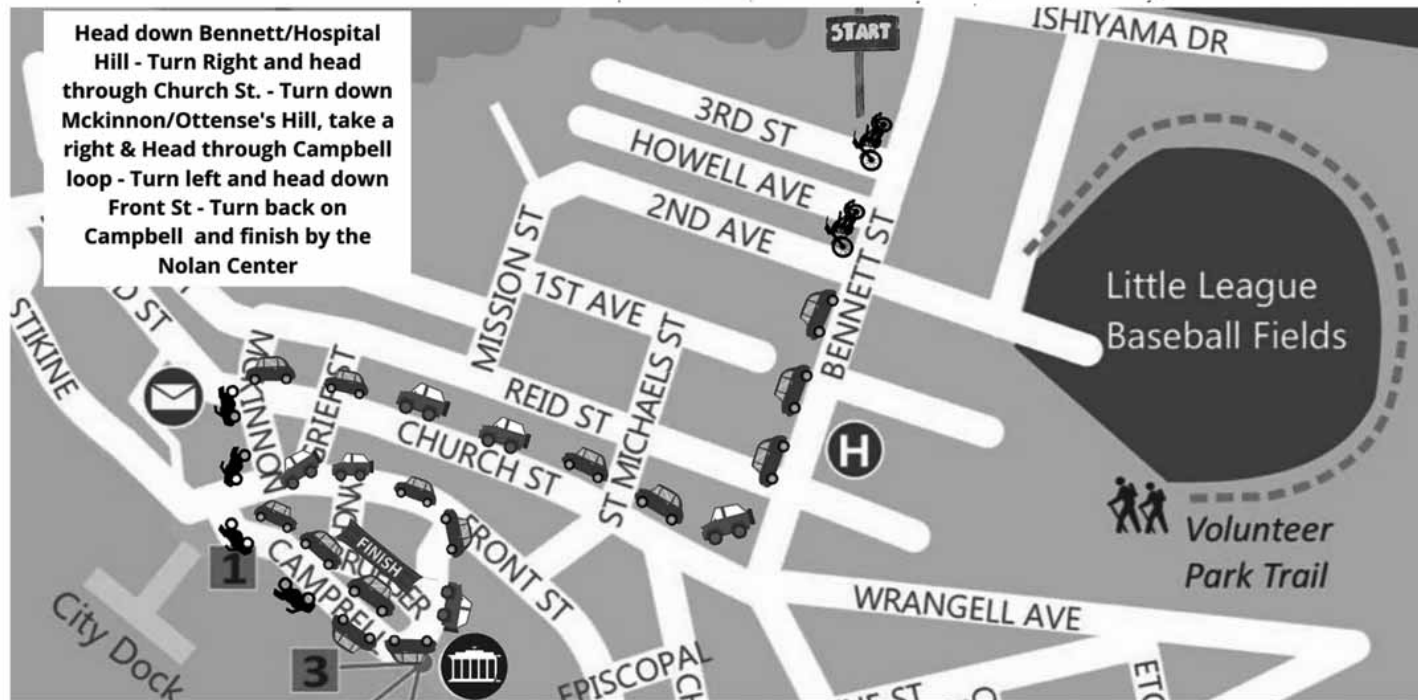
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# Resignation, budget amendments, other projects covered in assembly meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening, June 23. While the adoption of the FY 2021 budget was the primary topic of discussion, and is covered in another article, there were several other important items covered in the meeting. One such item was the resignation of Assembly Member Mya DeLong.

DeLong submitted her letter of resignation on June 8, but it was only formally accepted by the assembly in this meeting. According to her letter of resignation, DeLong has served as a member of the assembly since October of 2018. She was part of many projects she feels proud of, she wrote, such as bringing a SEARHC hospital to Wrangell, helping with economic development, and welcoming a new police chief to the city, among other things. However, she felt the need to resign over struggles to effect change at the assembly level.

"During my time of service, I slowly came to the realization that positive change is a difficult thing to implement in a culture resistant to transformation and determined to cling to that which is comfortable," she wrote. "We are a small community being forced to deal with national and global issues, whether it is related to a pandemic or police brutality and racism. We are a community of diversity and we are only stronger by coming together during difficult times."

DeLong also expressed her love for the Wrangell community in her letter, and made assurances that she would still try to be an advocate for critical is-

sues as a resident of Wrangell.

Assembly Member Julie Decker expressed her regret at losing DeLong. The assembly accepted DeLong's resignation, and advised the clerk to begin advertising to fill the unexpired term, which according to the agenda packet runs until October 2020.

Multiple budget amendments were made during the meeting, as well, to the current budget of FY 2020. The assembly accepted a donation of \$1,025 into the general fund to assist with digitizing Wrangell newspapers. They also amended the CARES Act Grant Fund by accepting a \$20,557.84 public safety grant. This will be used to cover the police department's costs for PPE, vehicle transportation costs, and UV light to disinfect the jail. Lastly, the assembly transferred \$29,414 from harbor fund reserves to the CIP fund for the Shoemaker Bay replacement project. While renovations to Shoemaker Bay are largely complete, this money will be used for parking lot improvements and replacement of the boarding float.

The assembly also approved funding for various projects. They accepted funding requests from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Economic Development Committee for marketing assistance and business assistance projects, in the amounts of \$146,516 and \$515,000 respectively. They approved a professional services agreement for reservoir bypass engineering design with Shannon & Wilson, in the amount of \$210,063. There was another agreement with R&M Engineering, in the amount of \$154,775, for land development survey

services that was also approved.

Several members of the community also took the opportunity to speak. Joan Sargent, of Island of Faith Lutheran Church, provided an invocation at the start of the meeting.

Wrangell resident Eli Michael

also took the opportunity to call on the Wrangell Police Department to release a statement of action on the topics of excessive force, police brutality, racial profiling, and encouraging social justice. As a member of the LGBTQ community, Michael







said he has stories from several friends who have experienced excessive force and profiling from police officers. It is a countrywide issue, he said, with many members of his and other marginalized communities being

Continued on page 7

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# CVB puts finishing touches on marketing plan

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Wednesday afternoon, June 17, to finish up a proposed marketing plan to bring before the borough assembly. In the time of COVID-19, the bureau was hoping to receive funding from the

city to address the impacts the pandemic has had on the visitor industry. According to their list of proposals, provided by Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore, the CVB is seeking a total of \$146,516 for various projects.

First of all, the CVB would like to fund a new travel planner

for Wrangell, at the cost of \$18,000. This planner would also come with inserts regarding the latest information on COVID-19, they discussed in the meeting. There was an issue of businesses not being able to afford advertising in the travel planner, as revenues are down for many tourism-related businesses right

now. The CVB planned to resolve this by offering a free display ad at 1/4 size. Larger advertisements would be charged for, according to the project document, but at a discount. Design and printing of this new travel planner, and an online version, could potentially be covered by CARES Act fund-

ing if ad money does not cover the full cost.

One of the more expensive projects the bureau added to their list was a push to increase online advertising, estimated at a cost of \$36,000. This plan would see more advertising for Wrangell's visitor industry through Facebook ad space, banner space online, and the purchase of Google Adwords.

Branding was another, more wide, topic of discussion in the meeting. The CVB decided to seek \$25,000 to support a community-wide branding effort for Wrangell. Other projects the bureau wished to pursue include targeting yacht travelers at a cost of \$10,000, a "Wrangell Cares" plan with the chamber of commerce for \$5,000, and purchasing software for managing social media and graphics at \$516.

After their meeting, lasting a little less than an hour, the bureau voted to finalize their plan and present it to the borough assembly at their next meeting.

## Assembly

Continued from page 6

targeted and harassed. With recent national attention on the topic of police brutality and profiling, Michael said he wanted to see Wrangell become part of the conversation.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said that the city was originally planning to hold a work session with the police department on the topic of the local law enforcement paradigm. However, this had been cancelled because it was decided a work session was not the proper place for the conversation. Instead, after some discussion amongst the assembly, a community meeting was tentatively scheduled for the evening of June 29.

Another member of the public, Duane King, came before the assembly on the topic of permanent registration tags for vehicles. This is an option that Wrangell can opt into, he said, and many other communities across Alaska have chosen to do so. For an additional cost of \$25, on top of normal fees, King said members of the public can permanently register their vehicles if they are eight years or older. He wanted to ask the assembly to consider opting into this program. Mayor Steve Prysunka said that this was something they would look into.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved the annual tidelands five-year reassessments. They also renewed their health insurance and property and liability insurance plans for 2020-2021. Health insurance premiums are decreasing by 2.5 percent, Von Barga said, but property and liability insurance is increasing by about 25 percent. This increase is because of a number of factors, including impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling property markets, and rising liability rates across the state due to "significant claims for employment practices and child sex abuse."

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# Assembly adopts budget for FY 2021

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

After multiple workshops, rewrites, and edits, the borough assembly met Tuesday evening to finally adopt a budget for FY 2021. This budget, overall, barely breaks even between revenues and expenses. However, despite recent concerns of a deficit in their general fund, the budget brought before the assembly this night actually had a general fund surplus.

The general fund now has revenues of about \$4.95 million, and expenses of roughly \$4.91 million. After transfers, Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga said the general fund would have a surplus of \$436,637. In their last workshop, last week, the assembly was facing a general fund deficit of about \$224,000.

There are two major changes to the revenue of the general fund, according to the meeting's agenda packet. City administration learned last Thursday that wages and benefits for dispatch staff could potentially be reimbursed through the CARES Act, raising the amount of offset wages in the budget from \$640,000 to \$890,000. Secondly, according to the packet, it was recently discovered that \$460,000 in PILT payment money had not been included in the general fund. These helped increase revenues.

Meanwhile, multiple cuts in expenses have also been put in place, but some have been reinstated. Travel costs have been removed across multiple departments in the general fund. Money for air compressor block equipment for the fire department was reinstated, however. A salary cut in

the administration department was also reinstated.

More broadly, the entire budget for the City and Borough of Wrangell is going to barely break even, according to this budget. Approved revenues, in a summary of funds in the agenda packet, are estimated at a little less than \$15.6 million. Expenses are estimated at a little less than \$16.1 million. However, Von Barga clarified after the assembly meeting that there are several fund transfers that need to be considered, that count towards revenue. For example, she said that \$280,000 is being pulled out of the city's permanent fund and placed into the general fund. There is another transfer of \$397,750 from the "Sales Tax - Schools/Health/Sanitation" fund, as well. Lastly, Von Barga said that this budget had a transfer of \$112,214 out of the Secure Rural Schools fund that would count towards revenue. In all, with these transfers considered, Von Barga said revenues for FY 2021 made up the difference. Counting these transfers, revenues can be estimated at a little less than \$16.4 million.

Assembly Member David Powell, during the meeting, said he was uncomfortable with the budget. The numbers had changed quite a bit since the last time he looked at it, he said, and he had asked for further information on some items but he never received any. One such item, the actual costs for operating the armory building, Von Barga presented during the meeting. Not counting the cost of fuel, for which the city has not had to purchase for the building at this time, utility costs for the



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Good weekend for golf

Kalkins and Glacier Larsen at Sunday's tournament, June 21, sponsored by the Elks Lodge. The first place team was Spenser Stavee, James Brenner, Jason Garringer with a net score of 21. The second place team was Keene Khort, Faye Khort, Joe Delebrue, and Tori Hauser with a net score of 23. Guy Kalkins won the straightest drive with 2".

building were just over \$1,700, she said.

A report on bad debt was also included in the packet, she said, which had been requested by Assembly Member Patty Gilbert.


Assembly Member Julie Decker added that she was unhappy with the budget, as well, but it was a rough year for Wrangell. Things were bleak, she said, and could possibly be bleaker next year. They would have to work hard

to try and improve things as time goes on. Assembly Member Anne Morrison added that this budget would have to be reviewed and amended as the fiscal year goes on, and some numbers changed.

Mayor Steve Prysunka reiterated a point he has made through several budget workshops, that he does not want to raise any local rates to make the budget work. It would not be fair to ask Wrangell residents to pay

more in a time like this, he said, when many people are stretched for money. He also said that he would want regular reports regarding this budget, preferably on a monthly basis. Assembly Member Patty Gilbert added she would like to see some reports on accounts receivable, as well.

After some discussion, the assembly voted to adopt the FY 2021 budget. Powell was the only dissenting vote.

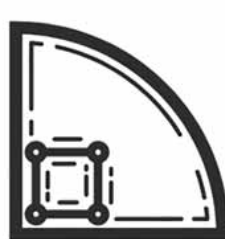



Wrangell, AK

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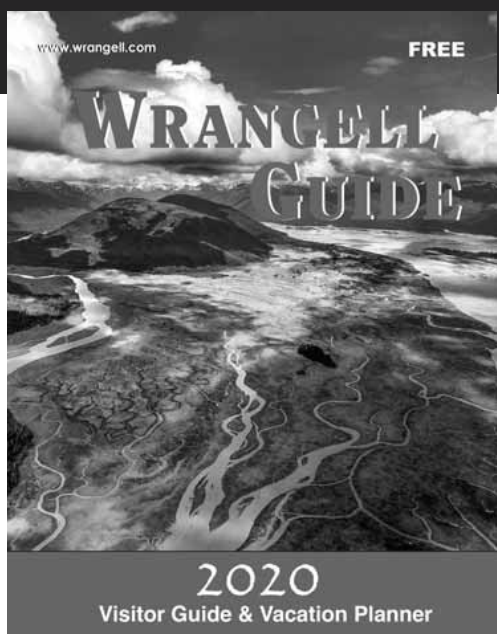
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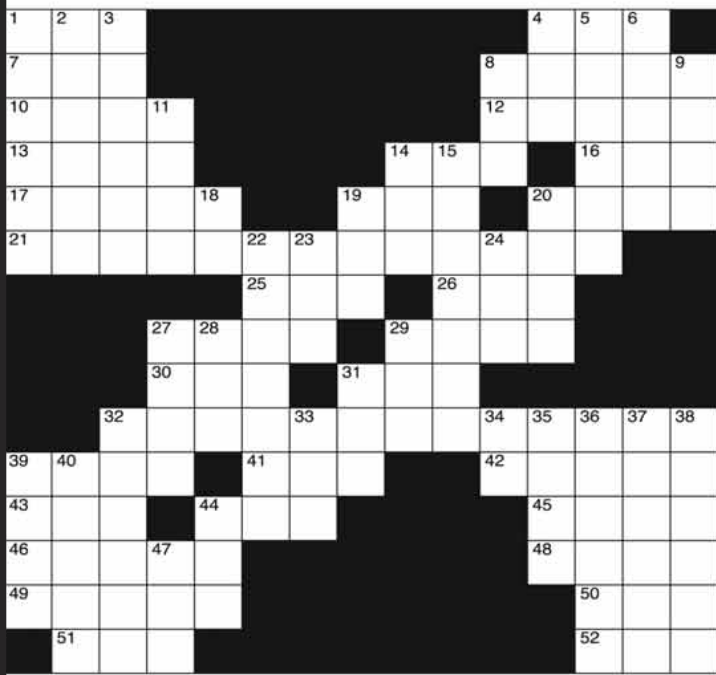
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# Comics



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Protects from weather
- 4. Superhigh frequency
- 7. Southern constellation
- 8. Swines
- 10. Self-righteously moralistic person
- 12. United Arab Emirates city
- 13. Surinam toad
- 14. Sign language
- 16. Tattoo (slang)
- 17. Makes level
- 19. Sun up in New York
- 20. It must be scratched
- 21. Where people live
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Buddy
- 27. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- 29. Shrek is one
- 30. Egyptian unit of weight
- 31. Fiddler crabs
- 32. Carroll O'Connor's TV wife
- 39. No longer having life
- 41. Former OSS
- 42. A way to emit sound
- 43. Mandela's party
- 44. Adult female chicken
- 45. U. of Miami's mascot
- 46. Southeastern Chinese people
- 48. Casino game
- 49. Amos Alonzo \_\_\_, US football coach
- 50. Joint connecting two pipes at right angles
- 51. Will Ferrell film
- 52. River in NE Scotland

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Occur
- 2. Show up
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Former French coin
- 5. Some are bad
- 6. Monetary unit
- 8. Package (abbr.)
- 9. Indian religious person
- 11. Crew
- 14. Antidiuretic hormone
- 15. Makeshift
- 18. Baseball box score stat
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Not moving
- 22. Even distribution of weight
- 23. Clumsy person
- 24. Paddle
- 27. Worked the soil
- 28. Alias
- 29. Plant cultivated in Peru
- 31. Side-blotched lizards genus
- 32. Wild dog
- 33. Immoral act
- 34. Pound
- 35. Manning and Lilly are two
- 36. Put on the shelf for now
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Dashes
- 40. Related on the mother's side
- 44. Witch
- 47. Kilogram force (abbr.)

# Wrangell Emergency Operations Center seeks increased testing

Members of Wrangell's Unified Command reconvened on June 17, through teleconference to consolidate the community response. Talks were largely focused on recent efforts by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to implement community testing and changing the culture surrounding positive cases.

EOC Manager Dorianne Sprehe filled the group in on discussions which would allow the EOC to provide relief to the SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium's (SEARHC) COVID testing efforts. Sprehe stated that EOC was in the "rough draft" stages of planning for community testing. Concerns about reimbursement from the State needed to be addressed and paperwork finalized, but the EOC was excited with the forward movement.

"The EOC is looking to provide comprehensive testing in the community, starting with our vulnerable populations - Wrangell Senior Apartment residents and employees, Wrangell Senior Center employees, and grocery store employees," said Sprehe. "The EOC is coordinating these efforts with the State of Alaska to complete a contract, which in turn will help provide relief

to our local healthcare providers."

Jamie Roberts, EOC staff member, announced a push by the EOC to create a new culture for positive cases, changing what it means to be confirmed COVID positive or in quarantine. Roberts stated that they are looking at ways to provide wrap-around services, including working with the Chamber of Commerce to potentially implement a care package program for persons and families in quarantine.

"That care may come in the form of food support, activities, or video gift cards," said Roberts. "The EOC wants to turn this designation from being viewed as a punishment to a message about doing good for your community, because that's what they're doing in limiting close contact. We want community members to feel safe to come out and say they're COVID positive so that individuals who may have come into contact can immediately quarantine. This would be an effective way to prevent the spread."

Closing the meeting, AICS Clinic Manager Carly Allen informed the team of an uptick in testing throughout the community in the wake of confirmed cases, but that general appointments with providers

were in less demand. Providers remain available for primary care and preventative treatment appointments, including visits conducted via telehealth. The alternate testing site continues to conduct off-site COVID-19 testing, with Clinic staff taking extra precautions to provide a safe, decontaminated facility. Patients should follow signage to access the temporary entrance due to renovations to the main entrance and registration area.

COVID-19 testing is available in Wrangell to all patients who meet current symptomatic criteria. Call the SEARHC COVID-19 Hotline at 907.966.8799 to schedule an appointment.

Patients with chronic illnesses, or considered high-risk, should contact their provider immediately if they show symptoms. Low-risk patients should self-isolate should they become sick. Continued adherence to virus preventive practices, as well as State and local health mandates, is highly recommended.

Visit [covid19.alaska.gov](https://covid19.alaska.gov), [wrangellcovid19.org](https://wrangellcovid19.org), and [covid19.searhc.org](https://covid19.searhc.org) for the latest coronavirus information, or contact the Wrangell COVID Hotline at 907.874.2684.

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Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the July 2 edition



# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Fishermen still waiting on relief payments from cod crash

Unexpected upheavals stemming from the coronavirus have slowed the process of getting relief payments into the hands of fishermen and communities hurt by the 2018 Gulf of Alaska cod crash.

In late February, the Secretary of Commerce cut loose \$24,416,440 for affected stakeholders. Then in late March, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang proposed a written timeline for developing a distribution plan and also called for input from communities and fishing groups.

A draft of the initial plan was intended to compile stakeholder comments in April, be revised in May, and go out for a second round of public input in June and July. But that timeframe was derailed a bit by Covid.

Now, the state is "aiming" to get the draft distribution plan out for the first round of stakeholder and public comments by the end of June, according to Rick Green, assistant to the ADF&G commissioner.

There will be a month for comments, Green said, and after resulting revisions the plan will be sent out for more feedback, likely in late August. Then it will be reviewed, finalized and sent to NOAA Fisheries for approval, hopefully in Sep-

tember.

ADF&G will work with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to get the distribution done as quickly as possible, he added.

The disaster funds will assist fishing communities affected by the cod crash by going to fishermen, subsistence users, shore-side businesses and infrastructure. Money also can be used for research activities to help improve the fishing ecosystem and environment.

**Pink salmon funds, finally** - Hopefully, the process for cod losses will move more quickly than they payout for the 2016 pink salmon failure in which over \$56 million in federal relief funds finally made it to fishermen, processors and communities in just the past few months.

It includes Kodiak, Prince William Sound, Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, South Alaska Peninsula, Southeast Alaska, and Yakutat.

Congress ok'd the money in 2017, but the authorization sat on bureaucrats' desks in DC for over two years. Then it was discovered that the ways in which the payouts to pink salmon fishermen were calculated was badly flawed, stalling the process even further.

Salmon permit holders, who split the biggest share at nearly \$32 million, were finally able to apply last October to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission which administers the funds.

There were 1,318 permit holders who applied and 905 received payments, according to Karla Bush, ADF&G Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager.

Funds allocated to permit holders were calculated based on the loss of pink salmon exvessel (dockside) value for each management area as compared to its five even year fishery average value. The disaster funds were distributed based on an area's fishery value equal to 70.56% of the respective five even year average dockside value.

That resulted in minimum payments of \$139,200 for 464 permit holders in Southeast Alaska, \$22,800 for 76 from Yakutat, \$7,800 for 26 Lower Cook Inlet salmon permit holders, \$97,500 for 325 at Prince William Sound, \$71,400 for 238 Kodiak fishermen, \$31,500 for 105 recipients at the South Alaska Peninsula and \$18,900 for 63 salmon permit holders at Chignik.

Of the 2,233 crew members who applied for disaster funds 1,554 were eligible for payouts.

According to a PSMFC fact sheet, payments to crew were deducted from a permit holder's loss based on crew shares. For example, if a permit holder had a loss of \$25,000, a crew member listed as earning a 10% share would be eligible for a payment of \$2,500.

A total of 38 Alaska salmon processors applied for the funds and 30 were eligible, Bush said. They split nearly \$18 million in relief funds, of which 15% of each processor's total were deducted and distributed equally to eligible processing workers.

In addition, \$2.4 million was earmarked for Alaska municipalities affected by the pink crash and nearly \$4 million for pink salmon research.

Of that, \$450,000 went to Kodiak's Kitoi Bay Hatchery for its Saltwater Marking Sampling project. The Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring Survey was set to get \$680,000 to help with pink salmon forecasting. And \$2.5 million went to the Alaska Hatchery Research Project that since 2010 has studied interactions of hatchery and wild salmon in Prince William Sound and Southeast.

U.S. regions that face fisheries disasters will no longer endure the years of await-

Continued on page 11

## Classified/Legals

### JOBS

**SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST Regional Aquaculture Association** has an opening for a Lead Maintenance Technician at the Neets Bay Hatchery. Neets Bay Hatchery is a large, remote, 3 species salmon hatchery located 30 miles North of Ketchikan. Starting pay is \$21.41/hour and requires living on site in furnished housing. Visit [www.ssraa.org/employment](http://www.ssraa.org/employment) for full job description and employment application. For more information contact Justin Rose [neetsbay@ssraa.org](mailto:neetsbay@ssraa.org) or 206-462-5725.....3x6-25b74

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### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF WRANGELL

In the Matter of the Estate of: )  
)  
Annette Mable Younce, )  
Deceased. ) Case No: 1WR-18-00001PR

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVIEN that Joe Wayne Younce has been appointed the personal representative for the above entitled estate. Pursuant to Alaska Statute, Title 13.16.450 all creditors are hereby notified to present their claims within four (4) months after the first date of publication of this notice or be forever barred. Said claims must be submitted to Joe Wayne Younce, P.O. Box 2035 Wrangell, Alaska 99929.

Dated: 06/01/2020

Joe Wayne Younce  
Personal Representative

Published: June 18, 25 and July 2, 2020

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that due to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and its social distancing guidelines, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Regular Board Meeting electronically on June 30, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. AKDT. In addition to the Notice published last week, during SEAPA's meeting, the Board may enter into an executive session to discuss the bid results of SEAPA's Submarine Cable Replacement Project. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.  
**Published: June 25, 2020**



## Puzzle answers from June 18 Edition

N	O	H		P	A	W	N	S		P	O	E	M	S
A	M	A		A	G	A	N	A		A	R	R	A	U
A	A	R		T	E	D	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S
C	H	A	I	R	S			L	I	M	O	S		
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S	I	S	O	N		A	C		E	D	E	N		
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T	O	L	U	S		E	A	S	E	S		N	O	R
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5	4	3	8	6	1	2	9	7
8	7	1	2	4	9	5	3	6
6	9	2	5	3	7	1	4	8
2	3	4	1	9	8	7	6	5
7	1	6	4	5	2	3	8	9
9	5	8	6	7	3	4	2	1
4	8	9	3	1	5	6	7	2
1	6	7	9	2	4	8	5	3
3	2	5	7	8	6	9	1	4



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# Community shows support for Lewis Family

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

After suffering a stroke while on vacation, the community has joined to show their support for Wrangellite Dani Lewis and her family.

Lewis and her family recently traveled to Florida for a

family vacation with her father, according to a GoFundMe page organized by Brittani Robbins. While there, she was cleaning her sister's oven when there was a short, and she was electrocuted. This triggered a massive stroke, according to the page.

"She has made very slow progress, and if she wakes up she will have months of rehabilitation before she can return to Alaska," the page reads. "Dani's only insurance is Alaska Medicaid, so while the emergency room is covered, nothing following is likely to

be covered."

As of Tuesday morning, June 23, the GoFundMe page has raised \$1,965. Those interested in making a donation can find the page under "Dani's Medical Expenses" at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com).

J&W's, Wrangell's burger restaurant, also hosted a special fundraiser day for the Lewis family on Monday, June 22. Josh Young, with J&W's, said that they raised just over \$2,800.

Monetary donations are not the only way that Wrangell has tried to show support for the Lewis family. Wrangellite Aleisha Mollen has organized a meal train to keep the family fed upon their return to Wrangell. Mollen said, in a brief interview with the Sen-

tinel, that Lewis was still in the hospital in Florida.

"Kyle and the girls are coming home on Wednesday, though, because he needs to get back to work," she wrote in a June 21 Facebook post. "One of the ways we can be a help at the moment is to fix meals for them so that he has one less thing to worry about."

The meal train is organized to run from June 25 to the end of July. As of June 23, meals have been organized through July 16. More information about this can be found at [www.mealtrain.com/trains/klwd60](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/klwd60).

The Sentinel attempted to reach out to Kyle Lewis, but he could not be reached for comment as of press time.

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 10

ing funds if Congress passes a bipartisan bill introduced in January called the Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act (Fishery FUNDD Act) that would improve the federal process and set a strict timeline for payout of funds.

**Signs of salmon trouble** - The total abundance of Pacific salmon in the North Pacific remains near all-time highs but there are some troubling signs.

Harvests have slowly declined over the past decade - and last year showed especially low catches of some salmon species.

That's based on annual data from the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) which for nearly 30 years has summarized abundances and catches of salmon as reported by its five member countries - Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the U.S. It tracks all salmon species caught in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, and also coordinates research and enforcement.

The latest NPAFC findings show that the total 2019 salmon catch was 563.3 million fish, down from 651 million in 2018.

The declines were driven by several factors: Japan had its lowest chum catches since 1970 (55.9 thousand metric tons). In Canada, catches of chum, sockeye and pink salmon were the lowest since 1925 (2,973 metric tons). Even worse, for Washington, Oregon and California, catches of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon were the worst on record (4,965 metric tons).

In terms of who caught the most salmon, Russia took 51% of the total (499.2 thousand metric tons), followed by the U.S. at 42% (406.9 thousand metric tons), nearly all of which came from Alaska (401.9 thousand metric tons), mostly pinks and sockeye salmon followed by chums.

Japan was a distant third at 6% (59.5 thousand metric tons), with Canada claiming just 1% of the salmon catch (2.9 thousand metric tons) and Korea at just 130 metric tons.

Pink salmon made up 54% of the North Pacific catch by weight, followed by chum (24%) and sockeye salmon (19%). Coho comprised 2%, while Chinook salmon, was less than 1% of the total catch.

Last year also saw record salmon hatchery releases into the North Pacific.

While releases from the five nations have held at roughly 5 billion fish since 1993, they reached 5.5 billion in 2019 due to increased output from Asian hatchery.

Hatchery releases were primarily chum (3,469 million, 63%) and pink salmon (1,357 million, 25%), followed by sockeye (341 million, 6%), Chinook (241 million, 4%), and coho salmon (82 million, 2%),a

The NPAFC added that "interannual variability in the total catch in North America has been more pronounced during the last decade than in previous decades, primarily because of variability in pink salmon catches."

## Trident Seafoods employee tests positive for COVID-19

PETERSBURG - An employee with Trident Seafoods has tested positive for COVID-19 on the individual's tenth day of quarantine after arriving to the community, according to a press release from the Petersburg Emergency Operations Center.

All Trident Seafoods employees that travel to Petersburg are tested for the virus prior to arriving in town and are quarantined in a bunkhouse upon arrival, according to the press release. The workers are then tested again on the tenth day of a 14 day quarantine.

The individual's roommate was also tested on the tenth day of their 14 day quarantine, but tested negative for COVID-19, according to the press release. Both the individual that tested positive for the virus and the roommate have been isolated and will be in quarantine until released by the Department of Epidemiology.

Trident Seafood has a COVID-19 mitigation plan in place, which detects the presence of COVID-19 at an early stage to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

## Alaska child care providers to receive \$10.5M in virus funds

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Alaska's government has announced that child care providers will receive an additional \$10.5 million from the state's portion of federal coronavirus relief funds.

State Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum said in a statement that the department and Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy directed the additional funding to businesses providing child care, The Anchorage Daily News reported Saturday.

"We found that the funding available to this sector was not coming fast enough," Crum said.

Child care is critical to the economy because it allows parents to return to work, said Stephanie Berglund, CEO of thread, which provides a child care resource and referral network.

The programs need government assistance to survive the financial impact of the pandemic and "to provide strong child care infrastructure when this is all over," Berglund said.

The state previously told licensed child care providers to expect more federal relief money than they eventually received.

The state's Division of Pub-

lic Assistance announced enough funding would be available to cover revenue losses among providers for March, April and May. But the funds only covered March payments with \$6.5 million in federal funds and another \$2.6 million in state money.

About half of Alaska's child care providers temporarily shut their doors in March, while others operated with severe reductions, Berglund said.

About 69% are now open, but some have closed permanently, including at least five in Anchorage. Many of those remaining open operate at 30% to 50% capacity, Berglund said.

Regardless of capacity the revenue loss among providers continues as fewer families are sending children to care facilities because of health risks or an inability to afford the cost, Berglund said.

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



## Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Program

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# Covid 19 Q&A

Continued from page 1

and why the state was not putting out a generic reopening plan, instead of letting schools organize their own reopening. The doctors said those questions would be better directed to DEED and Johnson, but Zink said they are working with the education department on a communication tool to make sure students and parents are informed, while also protecting the individual patient's privacy. They may not necessarily notify the school directly, she said, unless the patient had been in the school or there was some other exposure to the school.

City officials also took the opportunity to answer some more local questions during the on-line town hall. Von Bargaen said, for example, that the city was looking into Memorandums of Understandings with other businesses to help cover the cost of employee testing, similar to what they did with Sea Level Seafoods. No concrete plans have been made yet, though.

She also clarified that the alternate isolation site, the Sourdough Lodge, is available for use by positive COVID-19 patients who need to isolate from others. It is available for travelers without a home of their own, or fishermen, or even locals who want to isolate away from their family members.

In other news, Von Bargaen said that Wrangell has received about \$3.8 million dollars in CARES Act funding. A significant amount of that is going to be used to cover costs of staff time during this pandemic, she said, who have been repurposed for COVID-related work. There are a number of ways this money is being allocated, she added, such as \$400,000 for community support programs, \$60,000 for the Sourdough Lodge lease, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer, a new ambulance, and improvements to school and city facilities, among others. Right now, she said approximately \$2.5 million has been allocated but not much has been spent.

There was also a question about a lack of followup information regarding Wrangell's COVID-19 cases. Wrangell residents heard a lot when the city's COVID-19 cases were first announced, Von Bargaen said, but information regarding followup testing and the number of close contacts being tested has not been forthcoming.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Juneteenth solidarity walk

Despite rainy weather, about 30 people gathered together last Friday evening to march in recognition of Juneteenth which is a holiday that originated in Texas. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger made the announcement from the city of Galveston that all slaves were free. With recent current events surrounding race relations and police brutality in America, the holiday has received nationwide recognition.

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.

Public Health Nurse Erin Michael agreed that this was an area of improvement for her department to work on. Each new positive case is an opportunity for Public Health to improve their communications with other state and local entities, she said.

Ortiz also had news that the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is going to be making more funding for small business relief available.

"The way they're going to do that, it's my understanding that prior to this new ruling, if you will, people who have received any form of federal funding, let's say PPP funding for example, they could not qualify to apply for any of this \$290 million in small business relief," he said. "However, after yesterday's meeting, people who have received \$5,000 or less can now apply for part of that \$290 million. Also, there's the option if you have received PPP funds greater than \$5,000, but that you returned those funds, you can also then apply for [part of] the \$290 million."

A recording of the town hall meeting can be found online, on the City and Borough of Wrangell's Facebook page.

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