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Halloween decorations truly frightening experience in Wrangell



PHOTOS BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Above: Kay and Jeff Jabusch stand in front of their haunted garage on Oceanview Drive. The couple have decorated their place for nearly four decades, drawing anywhere from 160 to 180 trick-or-treaters. Though the garage — and all the decorations inside — burned down last Saturday, they still plan to hand out candy on Halloween. Below: Bill Privett normally waits until the day before Halloween to decorate his place, but hung a ghoulish pirate on his garage before putting up the rest of the festive décor.

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

A shark thrashes its victim; legs poke out the end of rolled-up carpet; a skeleton rides a giant spider; a haunted house catches fire.

Decorations are up around Wrangell to welcome the spookiest time of year, and for one couple their longtime decorating endeavors saw a truly frightening outcome.

Jeff and Kay Jabusch have dressed up their front yard on Oceanview Drive for nearly four decades.

"We started in the garage, went back about six feet, put bars there, and I dressed up as something, handing stuff through the bars," Jeff said. "We kept moving back in the garage every year till we were all the way back."

"We try to add something new every year," Kay added.

This year, the Jabusches began decorating their garage and front yard more than a week in advance of Halloween, with a giant inflatable spider that moves its head back and forth, warning signs ("No trespassing! We're tired of hiding the bodies"), bubbling cauldrons, snakes and a lot more.

Unfortunately, the Jabusches' garage and all their decorations burned to the ground Saturday morning. What's more, their Christmas decorations were kept in the garage. Nobody was hurt in the blaze.



Their efforts have drawn anywhere from 160 to 180 trick-or-treaters — parents and children — on Halloween, upping the game for their neighbors. "The guy over here ... used to curse us, 'Before you guys started all this, we only had to buy a couple little boxes of candy. Now we have to buy all this candy,'" Jeff said with a laugh.

Jeff Jabusch's childhood friend and neighbor

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Next summer's cruise ships could be closer to pre-pandemic numbers

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

After no cruise ship visitors in 2020 and this year's pandemic-anemic numbers in the hundreds, Wrangell next year could see ships with berths for close to 20,000 passengers pull into town.

In 2019, 21,540 passengers visited Wrangell, according to data compiled by Rain Coast Data for the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau.

Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska has released its 2022 calendar for the vessels it represents, mostly larger vessels sailing under a foreign flag. The passenger capacity of the vessels on that calendar scheduled for stops in Wrangell next summer totals almost 15,500.

That number doesn't include smaller operators such as Alaska Dream Cruises out of Sitka, and Seattle-based UnCruise Adventures, both of which run vessels that can accommodate fewer than 75 passengers each but which make multiple stops in town.

The list also does not include Washington, D.C.-based National Geographic Expeditions, which has Wrangell on its 2022 itinerary with the Sea Bird, also with fewer than 75 berths.

The bigger ships handled by Cruise Line Agencies include the 684-passenger Regatta, scheduled for one stop in Wrangell; the 450-passenger Odyssey, listed for eight stops in town; the 312-passenger Sea Breeze, with multiple stops; and the 294-passenger Silver Wind, scheduled for a September stop on a cruise from Nome to Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Small COVID outbreak in Wrangell; while large numbers persist statewide

By LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

While Wrangell experienced a small outbreak of community-spread cases over the weekend, Alaska continues to lead the nation in new COVID-19 cases per capita.

The state health department reported more than 2,400 new cases Friday through Monday, continuing Alaska's ranking at the top of cases per resident nationwide.

In Wrangell, the borough reported 10 new cases Saturday through Tuesday, a majority

of which were community spread and mostly linked to attendees at a memorial service Oct. 19.

The 10 cases came after a lull during the first 22 days of October, when Wrangell reported just two new infections.

Nicole Webster posted on the community Facebook page Sunday that she, her partner and two children had tested positive for COVID. They and other family members who also later tested positive had attended a memorial

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Teacher makes no bones about showing science to fourth graders

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Readin', writin' and skinnin'? What might raise eyebrows and turn stomachs in more metropolitan locations is just another day of teaching for Brian Merritt at Evergreen Elementary.

For 30 of his 33 years of teaching at the school, Merritt has given lessons in biology and anatomy by skinning deer and cleaning fish. It's a method that illustrates exactly what he's trying to relay to his fourth grade class.

"I started as a biology major and wanted to teach high school science. I didn't care for it over at the high school, so then I went and got my elementary credential," he said. "Well, I've always had a big flair for science, mainly animal behavior and that sort

of thing — I'm also a commercial fisherman on top of that — so I have access to all kinds of things from nature, basically."

Merritt, 57, has integrated his knowledge and hands-on experience with hunting and fishing into the various general education subjects he teaches. Along with pointing out the muscles, fat and organs of the animals he skins and quarters, Merritt uses stuffed trophies as models to familiarize kids with different kinds of wildlife.

"The best way for any kid to learn science and to really turn them on to science, is do some of those really cool things," he said. "We're studying the human body. We studied the first 28 bones; the skull, the pelvis, the femur ... Now we're going into anatomy. Well, the deer is a

wonderful model to show them the rib cage and the pelvis, the spinal cord, the ligaments and tendons, fat and all these things that are in the human body."

His room is lined with antlers, deer heads, a stuffed otter, raccoon, pheasant and others; all of which Merritt can use as teaching aids.

"A lot of (the trophies) have been given to me, and now I'm actually turning away," he said. "A lot of parents have been in my class and seen them and will say, 'Hey, do you want this hawk my son did?' 'Hey, do you want this one?' And now I'm telling them, 'Folks, thank you, but my classroom is stuffed. I just don't have any more room.'"

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PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Brian Merritt, a fourth grade teacher at Evergreen Elementary, is surrounded by the animals that he uses to teach biology to his students.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, Oct. 28: Frank Young Jr.

Friday, Oct. 29: Sadie O'Brien, Carolyn Ottesen, Stan Torvend.

Saturday, Oct. 30: Michael Christian, Eric Dilg, Dawsyn Jabush; Anniversary: Mark and Nola Walker.

Sunday, Oct. 31: "Mikey," River Guggenbickler; Anniversaries: Steve and Karin Nesbitt, Mick and Celly Young.

Monday, Nov. 1: Danica Barker, Amos Comstock, Liam Maddox, Karen Morse, Debi Prunella, Matthew S. Weber.

Tuesday, Nov. 2: Kyna DeBoer, Haig Demerjian, Ian Nelson; Anniversaries: Mike and Ida Howell, Don and Dana Van Slyke.

Wednesday, Nov. 3: Kitty Angerman, Arabella Lea Nore.

Thursday, Nov. 4: Deano Barker, Jessica Byrd, Edith Grover, Ayla Harris, Anny "Fyno" Newport, Olga Norris, Claire Rooney, Shelby Smith, Peyton Stolley; Anniversary: Jeff and Pam Wiedersphohn.

Senior Center Menu

Open for in-person dining.
Must be fully vaccinated.

Friday, Oct. 29

Chicken rice casserole, mixed veggies, cauliflower and broccoli toss

Monday, Nov. 1

Beef stroganoff, peas and carrots, spicy fruit cup, pasta

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Salmon loaf, baked sweet potatoes and apples, spinach salad, roll

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Sweet and sour pork, carrots, tossed salad, rice

Thursday, Nov. 4

Meatloaf, peas, creamy coleslaw, mashed potatoes

Please call the senior center at 907-874-2066 by 2 p.m. the day prior to reserve a seat at lunch at the center or to request delivery. The senior van also is available to transport seniors to medical appointments, reasonable errands such as collecting mail, getting prescriptions or other essential items.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM will hold a general meeting at 2 p.m. Friday at the museum. All members are encouraged to attend. For more information call 907-978-7717.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE is hosting a four-week caregiver education speaker series. The first one is on Navigating Senior Services, set for 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, via Zoom. The panel discussion will be led by senior service experts in Southeast. Tips and guidance for beginning and experienced caregivers will be provided. Free to attend; no registration required. Link to join: zoom.us/j/9918328338. Visit ccsak.org or email denise.darby@ccsjuneau.org to attend or for more information.

THE AMERICAN LEGION will host a Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 11 at the American Legion Hall. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Limited to 120 people, so if you are planning to attend you must have a ticket. If you are a veteran living in Wrangell and you didn't receive an invitation, please call Marilyn Mork at 907-470-0085 to get your ticket.

EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY'S second annual online book fair starts Friday and runs through Nov. 8. The school will receive 25% of all sales. Call for information at 907-874-2321 or visit the fundraising link to browse: www.childrensbookstore.com/welcome/evergreen-elementary-school/?ref=rlxvln5.

NOLAN CENTER THEATER presents "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," rated PG 13, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under age 12, for the action, adventure and sci-fi film that runs one hour and 37 minutes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION is offering pickleball, jiu jitsu, volleyball and Keep Moving adult activities. More information online at www.wrangellrec.com or call 907-874-2444.

WRANGELL SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for volunteers to help on a regular basis or on an as needed basis at all three schools. Wrangell High School 907-874-3395, Stikine Middle School 907-874-3393, Evergreen Elementary 907-874-2321.

Want more attendance at your meeting or event? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301. Or go to the Sentinel website, click on the Calendar tab, and submit your entry online.

Continuing Events

PARKS and RECREATION www.wrangellrec.com

Open swim is open by appointment, at reduced capacity. Locker rooms are available.

Arthritis class, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap swim, 6 - 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lap/tot swim, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., weekdays, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Open swim, 6 - 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 6:30 - 8 p.m. Friday; 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday

Water aerobics class, 10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Weight room available by appointment and at reduced capacity:

6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Saturday

AA Meetings: North Star Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

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

Nov. 3, 1921

The City Library was formally opened Monday night at the City Hall by the Library Board and the Civic Club, the women's organization which sponsored the library movement. A number of citizens attended the opening and inspected the books. Dr. R.J. Diven complimented the club representatives, including Mrs. Gearing, the chairman, and Mrs. Patterson, the secretary treasurer, for the work they had done in organizing the library, and Miss Helen Hofstad who, as librarian, had catalogued and arranged the books of which there are 802 on the shelves. T.C. Havens donated an airplane model which

has been hung in a conspicuous place where it may be studied by the older boys who wish to try airplane construction. A number of library cards were taken out Monday and it is hoped that the public will make use of the library privileges to the fullest extent. Any donations for the library, either books or money, may be given to Miss Hofstad.

Oct. 25, 1946

Announcement was made this week by Howard Baltzo and George Sumption of their purchase, from William and Edna Sinclair, of the City Store, one of Wrangell's pioneer establishments. The City Store was founded in 1900 by the late Donald Sinclair who came to Alaska from Scotland in 1895, settling in Wrangell in 1897. Mr. Sinclair worked for the Duncan and McKinnon company merchants, and following the death of Duncan in 1899 the store closed. The following year Mr. Sinclair bought out the location and opened a store of his own, The City Store. The new management intends to continue the store along the same lines as the Sinclairs have operated it, at least for the present, carrying groceries, dry goods, furniture and hardware.

Oct. 29, 1971

A private consulting firm may be called in to help the city decide if it should purchase the Wrangell Wharf or build a new wharf facility. The city council voted Tuesday to ask three such firms to make preliminary proposals on how they would conduct such a study, and to provide cost estimates. City

Manager Kester Dotts was asked to notify suitable firms. The city has been studying the feasibility of purchasing the wharf, whose Seattle owners have indicated it will be razed soon for economic reasons. Two studies provided by the owners reportedly have pronounced the 350-foot wharf structurally sound. The wharf is the only public facility in Wrangell for handling tourships. Tourships made more than 60 visits to town during the past season.

Oct. 31, 1996

At the end of this week, the Wrangell Library will have new wiring and a computer server unit to allow local residents faster and more efficient access to the "information superhighway" - the Internet. Wrangell as a tourist and commercial site just got its own worldwide web address: www.wrangell.com (All small letters, please note.) Currently, "surfing the Net" is still a somewhat difficult proposition for local computer users. For several years, the library has offered free Internet access through the SLED system (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway.) But private users experience delays and bottlenecks when trying to dial out of Wrangell, primarily because of the 9600-baud limit on transmission lines -- considered archaic in today's fast-changing world. The new line out will have a speed of 28.8K or 56K. The library has dozens of reference works for those trying to get up to speed, including "Internet for Dummies," tutorial disks and Internet Yellow Pages.



Ferry Schedule November 10-December 17

Northbound

Friday, Dec. 10

Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Matanuska, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Matanuska, 10:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Nov. 10

Kennicott, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Kennicott, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Matanuska, 8 a.m.

All times listed are scheduled departure times.

Call the terminal at 874-2021 for information or call 874-3711 or 800-642-0066 for recorded information.

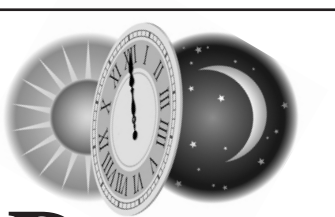


TIDES October 28-November 3

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Oct. 28	07:19	10.9	06:30	11.9	00:08	2.6	12:19	7.0
Oct. 29	08:44	11.5	08:13	11.9	01:20	3.0	01:50	6.9
Oct. 30	09:44	12.7	09:32	12.7	02:36	2.8	03:17	5.8
Oct. 31	10:30	14.1	10:32	13.9	03:42	2.1	04:21	4.0
Nov. 1	11:09	15.6	11:23	15.1	04:35	1.3	05:11	1.9
Nov. 2	11:45	17.0	05:21	0.7	05:54	-0.2
Nov. 3	00:09	16.1	12:21	18.2	06:02	0.1	06:35	-2.0



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Hours
Oct. 28	7:50a	5:15p	9:24h
Oct. 29	7:52a	5:12p	9:20h
Oct. 30	7:54a	5:10p	9:15h
Oct. 31	7:57a	5:08p	9:11h
Nov. 1	7:59a	5:06p	9:06h
Nov. 2	8:01a	5:03p	9:02h
Nov. 3	8:03a	5:01p	8:58h

Assembly approves resolution calling for protection of transboundary rivers

BY SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

The borough assembly acknowledged the life-giving watershed that feeds the Stikine River, which crosses the U.S.-Canada border, in approving a resolution to support efforts to protect Southeast Alaska's three transboundary waters from mining pollution.

The resolution references the ecosystem, Indigenous people, communities, residents and economies that depend on the health of the Stikine River.

The assembly on Tuesday approved a "Wrangellized" version of a resolution that was originally scheduled for consideration Sept. 28.

"The assembly further calls on federal officials to work with Canadian counterparts to immediately address the multitude of regulatory and oversight deficiencies of the mining industry identified by the B.C. provincial government; and to take meaningful steps to protect the transboundary waters from further catastrophic impacts," the resolution states.

It further states that the assembly "supports an immediate, temporary pause in permitting, development and expansion of Canadian mines along shared Alaska-B.C. salmon rivers until a binding international agreement on watershed protections ... is implemented."

Representatives from the

Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission and Salmon Beyond Borders had requested assembly action, along with support from other Southeast communities.

The assembly has passed three similar transboundary rivers' support resolutions in recent years.

The issue is British Columbia mining activities at the headwaters of the Taku, Stikine and Unuk Rivers.

"More than two-dozen inadequately regulated Canadian hard rock mines in Northwest B.C., most of which are large-scale and open-pit, are occurring in known acid-generating ore bodies ... producing massive tailings dams that have to store toxic waste forever, expansive waste rock storage facilities, the need for perpetual water treatment, roads, and other infrastructure, as well as threatening (both in the short term and on geological timescales) the productivity and ecological health of these watersheds," the resolution states.

Mines in the Stikine River watershed include the Johnny Mountain Mine, the SNIP Mine (in exploration), the proposed Schaft Creek Mine, the operational Red Chris Mine, and the proposed Galore Creek Mega-Mine.

The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 was intended to prevent and resolve disputes over the use of shared waters between the U.S. and Canada, and the resolu-

tion calls on all parties to use the treaty to solve the concerns over mining in the watersheds.

The health of the Stikine River is vital to Wrangell, the resolution states. "The Wrangell economy is heavily tied to several commercial fisheries with virtually every local business benefiting from commercial fishing related economic activity."

Four people signed in to speak at Tuesday's assembly meeting: Breanna Walker, campaign coordinator for Salmon Beyond Borders; Frederick Olsen Jr./ K'yuuhlgaansii ("place of one's own"), executive director of Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission; Jill Weitz, Salmon Beyond Borders director; and local artist Brenda Schwartz-Yeager.

"My lifestyle is tangled up with the Stikine River," Schwartz-Yeager said, saying it's a fragile ecosystem, and anyone else whose lifestyle reflected hers probably had a little bit of the Stikine River running through them.

"A lot of the folks who have spoken before me have spoken articulately on the tailings dam. They are massive. Unless you have seen it up close. ... It is incredible and scary that they are just upstream from us. These same mining companies have a pretty deplorable track record for taking responsibility for the messes they've made. We have a lot to lose and little to gain. They have little to lose and a lot to gain."

SEARHC confirms 100% compliance with employee vaccinations

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium reports 100% compliance with its policy requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for all employees and contractors.

"Very few have left employment due to the mandatory COVID-19 vaccine," Maegan Bosak, a senior SEARHC official in Sitka, said last week.

The health care provider operates in 19 Southeast communities. It has more than 1,500 employees, contractors and travelers, Bosak said, including more than 200 in Wrangell, where it operates the hospital, dental clinic, pharmacy and other services.

"SEARHC is committed to the health and safety of patients and staff. A policy has been implemented successfully across the consortium to vaccinate all staff against COVID-19," Bosak said.

The health care provider implemented the vaccination policy for all its operations at the start of the summer — one of the first in the state to make the decision.

The policy allows exceptions for staff who are pregnant or breastfeeding, have a history of anaphylaxis or allergy to the vaccine, or "persons whose sincere religious observances and practices related to life, purpose or death oppose vaccines. ... Documentation from a religious leader will be required."

In addition to Wrangell and Sitka, SEARHC operates in Haines, Klukwan, Skagway, Angoon, Gustavus, Juneau, Pelican, Hoonah, Kake, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Craig, Kasaan, Klawock, Hydaburg, Metlakatla and Thorne Bay.

"Vaccination has been the key element in slowing down the pandemic and offers the promise of aiding in ending the pandemic," Bosak said in an email when the policy went into effect.

In August, the PeaceHealth hospital system, which operates the Ketchikan Medical Center and facilities in Washington and Oregon, announced that all of its caregivers will be required to get vaccinated unless they provide proof of a medical exemption.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital announced a similar policy in August.

Of the more than 2,300 employees at the Ketchikan and Fairbanks hospitals, about 20 had left their jobs or were placed on leave as of last week for not following the vaccination poli-

cy, according to news reports.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp., which serves 58 rural communities with about 1,400 employees, and the Norton Sound Health Corp., based in Nome with about 500 employees serving 15 communities, also adopted mandatory vaccination policies this summer.

Providence Alaska, which operates the largest hospital in Anchorage and several clinics elsewhere in the state, joined the list in August, announcing that it will require staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or accept additional safety measures.

The two largest tribal health organizations in the state, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation, also require staff to be vaccinated or risk losing their jobs. The two Anchorage-based providers together employ more than 5,000 people.

Last week, Providence and the Alaska Native Medical Center reported more than 98% compliance with their vaccine requirements. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium operates the Native Medical Center, with about 3,000 employees. Its vaccine mandate went into effect Oct. 15.

Of fewer than 80 requests for exceptions, about half were granted, tribal consortium spokesperson Shirley Young told the Anchorage Daily News.

As of Oct. 19, the day after the vaccination policy took effect, Providence Alaska reported 99.3% of its approximately 4,600 systemwide employees had either been vaccinated or received a religious or medical exemption, hospital spokesperson Mikal Canfield told the newspaper.

A small number of employees resigned as a result of the policy, said Florian Borowski, director of human resources at Providence Alaska Medical Center.

Anchorage's third hospital, Alaska Regional, is not currently requiring its employees to get vaccinated.

Von Bargaen proudest of hospital effort as manager

BY SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

Lisa Von Bargaen is leaving after a little more than four years as borough manager, but that will not stop her from thinking about Wrangell.

For now, she needs to help take care of her mother in Valdez, easing the burden on her sister, she said.

"I don't really want to leave Wrangell. I love it here," Von Bargaen said. "If I have an opportunity to do something here in town or Southeast, I would. I'm not giving up my condo right now unless it becomes absolutely necessary. So hopefully I'll have some type of a presence here."

Her last day as borough manager will be Friday. There are items on the borough's to-do list that are left unfinished, said Von Bargaen, who calls herself a perfectionist. She has prepared five or six pages ("irons in the fire") of projects she won't be able to see through to completion.

She said the new manager can call on her as a resource.

Her biggest accomplishment, she said, is the new hospital, which she worked toward from the start of her tenure here. The three-year effort included the borough getting out of the hospital business and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium taking over and building a new medical center.

Von Bargaen lived through something similar in Valdez, which transitioned to Providence Health running that community's medical center during her time as community and economic development director. She came to Wrangell after 21 years in Valdez, as chamber of commerce director, with the convention and visitors bureau, and in the community development job.

"When I came for my interview (in Wrangell), I asked about the status of the community hospital here, because I had lived through the tran-



PHOTO BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargaen's last day on the job will be Friday.

sition in Valdez," Von Bargaen said. "Valdez owned, and still owns, its community hospital, but it was managed by municipal hospital staff as a corporation of the municipality."

The city of Valdez decided to bring in Providence as the operator, and Von Bargaen said she witnessed the change, not only in health care, but also the economic engine that the hospital became in Valdez.

"It was clear Wrangell wanted to retain that community hospital standing," Von Bargaen recalled of her interview. Though she sensed the community "did not want to look at an operator," it became very clear that it was not a financially viable option for the borough to continue as the owner/operator.

Through a public process, the community came together and realized, in fairly short order, she said, that a change was needed to ensure the viability of critical access health care in the community.

The timeline began in March 2018, when the borough began the process and sought public input, and ran to February 2021, when the \$30.5 million Wrangell Medical Center opened its doors, owned and operated by SEARHC.

It would have been a feat for any municipality, but is an example of the nimbleness of

government that is possible in a small town like Wrangell, Von Bargaen said.

Another accomplishment, she said, was creating a capital facilities department in her first year, peeling off the duties from the public works department to diffuse the burden of maintenance of Wrangell's aging infrastructure, which she said led to more building maintenance getting done.

She has conference and travel plans after her time as borough manager ends, and would like to be in Valdez by Thanksgiving.

After that, she said, "I also need to make sure that I am remaining nimble in terms of what the next career move is. I don't know how long I'll be in one place."

Von Bargaen is planning to take the things she's learned in Wrangell and apply them to the next opportunity, whatever that may be.

Valdez had been her home for the vast majority of her life, she said, and she found a home in Wrangell, as well.

One of the first meetings she attended as borough manager was the Alaska Municipal League summer meeting in Haines in 2017. Everyone went around the room and spoke about the places they represented.

She recalled what she said, when it was her turn: "No roads, but all hearts lead to Wrangell."

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Tax Facebook, just like alcohol and tobacco

By LARRY PERSILY
Publisher

The nation responded to the harm caused by excessive alcohol consumption and instituted Prohibition in 1920. The idea was that people could not police themselves, the police could not protect people from the corruption and crime associated with alcohol, and the social problems would go away only if booze went away.

It didn't work, crime got worse and people figured out ways to get a drink. The nation brought back legal alcohol sales in 1933.

Since then, the federal government, state and local governments have taxed alcohol, heavily in some jurisdictions, to make it more expensive to drink too much, and in many cases to generate revenue to pay for treatment and social service programs and help cover the costs of law enforcement.

It's not a perfect system, but rather a compromise of what is achievable in society. If the public will not act responsibly and stop harmful behavior and the damage it does to families, children and communities, tax it and use the money in an attempt to at least repair some of that damage.

Yes, it means that responsible drinkers pay the tax too, but that's how organized society functions — everyone pitches in for the greater good.

It's similar with tobacco taxes that in some states help pay for stop-smoking programs.

So why not tax Facebook and other social media providers that have not learned — or cared enough — to manage their operations for the good of the community rather than to spread divisiveness in the interest of making a profit.

Yes, Facebook provides a free service for individuals and communities to share information. It's the other uses that hurt society, as the world saw with the Capitol riots on Jan. 6 and countless other times with irresponsible, angry, sometimes violent posts by people of all politi-

cal persuasions.

Yes, people have a right to free speech. But just as social media has amplified the reach of that speech to millions of people with the click of a button, so too has it encouraged, even promoted misleading and harmful speech.

And yes, everyone has a right to their opinion, and to share it with others, unless it threatens their neighbors or democracy. That's where free speech becomes a dangerous problem, and society has to protect itself.

So, rather than count on Facebook or government to become the free-speech judges of the world, why not tax social media and use the revenues for good things. It's not perfect, but nothing ever is.

I'm not thinking of a tax on individuals — it would be hard to collect pennies from each of millions of users. It would be easier to tax at the service provider level. And the tax should not be based on profits, since companies long ago figured out how to disguise profits to avoid taxes. The tax could be based on each social media company's total number of clicks or likes or whatever measure is the most representative of the platform's influence on society.

Tax Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and all the others, then let them figure out whether to take it out of their profits or charge for their service like a phone company. The money could go to school programs, child care services, substance abuse counseling and treatment, food banks, job training — most anything that improves lives and makes communities stronger.

Prohibition didn't work for alcohol and it will not work for social media. At least with a tax, society can get something out of Facebook and others to help their communities.

I admit this probably will never happen. But I can dream of the likes it might get.

EDITORIAL

Library doesn't slow down as it celebrates 100 years

Wrangell's public library is 100 years old this week and ready to turn the page for its next century.

The library's history includes several chapters, starting with 802 books on the shelves on opening night Oct. 31, 1921, about equal to the 821 residents counted in the 1920 census. It must have been a long wait for popular books back then.

Members of the Wrangell Civic Club led the movement to open a library. The town was just 18 years old and ready for a library, which shared the building at the site where the senior center is now located.

The books moved into new quarters a decade later, sharing space in the former school building that was located where the library gazebo is today. Then, after 40 years in the same place, the library moved one last time to its current quarters, which were built after the city borrowed \$157,000 in 1974 to help pay for construction.

In 1980, it was renamed the Irene Ingle Public Library in honor of the town's librarian, who had retired after 33 years. About a decade later, the building was expanded and renovated, and that brings readers to the latest chapter.

From the original 802 books, the library now has thousands of books, DVDs and music CDs, plus free computers with public access, printing services available, free Wi-Fi, an online library catalog, interlibrary loans of books from other libraries across the state, and access to the Alaska Digital Library collection of digital and audiobooks.

The library also offers toddler story time, a summer reading program and special events throughout the year — such as birthday cake from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28.

All this, and the library is open just 24 hours a week: Noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Certainly, money is tight and COVID-19 has cut into public hours. But maybe, as a birthday present, the borough assembly could look at adding enough money back to the budget to restore some of the library's lost hours for public use. It would be nice to start the next 100 years with a door that opens a little wider.

— Wrangell Sentinel

OPINION

Alaska can't live on oil money alone; we need an income tax

By REP. ADAM WOOL

Alaskans have been talking about the need to diversify our economy for decades, but it is diversified.

In the years after oil began flowing in 1977, the vast majority of Alaska's economy remained tied to oil. But in the past 20 years, the gross domestic product for the non-oil private sector has more than doubled, which is great news. At its heyday, oil revenue accounted for 90% of state government revenue, but today that number has dropped to about 25%.

Alaska's economy is more diversified, with a year-round tourism industry, a more prominent health care system, financial services, mining and fishing industries that continue to be significant contributors.

The problem isn't our economy, it's that we haven't diversified our sources of revenue.

Put plainly, all the increase in economic activity doesn't generate more revenue to the state treasury. The bulk of tax revenue still comes from the oil industry, even though production has been in decline since 1988 and the pipeline flow today is at a quarter of its peak.

Furthermore, the long-term prospects of oil are somewhere between status quo or declining in a global marketplace that appears to be moving away from

its reliance on fossil fuels. The oil industry should pay its fair share, but it's not realistic to expect them to pay for everything.

That takes us to our other major revenue source, the Permanent Fund, which has grown considerably over the years.

In 2018, a formula was put into law that limits the Legislature to spending each year about 5% of the fund's value, which is in line with other endowments worldwide. In the current fiscal year, that's about \$3.1 billion, which accounts for some 70% of the state's budget.

Yes, 2021 was a record year for Permanent Fund investment earnings, but the Callen Group, which advises the fund's trustees on financial forecasting, projects the average return over the next 10 years to be a much more modest 6.25% annually, including inflation. Let's not forget that in 2009 the fund lost \$6.9 billion and there nearly wasn't a PFD.

While the Permanent Fund grows in value, oil production could continue its decline, putting more pressure on new revenue to maintain our infrastructure, fund a capital budget, education and health care, pre-K and more.

Meanwhile, anyone who moves to Alaska and drives on the roads, uses the public safety, court system, public schools, etc., doesn't pay for those ser-

vices. If a software company opens a server farm or a renewable energy company builds a major facility, these businesses and their employees would actually cost the state money.

To truly modernize our economy, we need a way to bring in revenue from all parts of the economy, including our nonresident workers. A small and simple income tax will bring Alaska into alignment with its own growing economy. This would also allow us to tax all corporations, not just C corporations, which is our current law.

When Hilcorp, a closely held S Corp, bought BP's Alaska assets, all of BP's corporate taxes paid to the state disappeared, about \$30 million per year. The owner of Hilcorp pays state income taxes on his profits in New Mexico and Ohio, but not in Alaska. An income tax would change that.

It's time to revisit the 1980 decision to end our state income tax, so common in other states. Residents, non-residents and profitable businesses would contribute a modest amount each year to help keep Alaska a good place to live and raise a family. Our economy needs the stability and predictability.

Some say now isn't the time for an income tax, since oil prices are up and the stock mar-

ket did very well recently, but things change quickly.

Just look at the auto and oil industries. More people are plugging in their cars to charge them up. For a time last year, Tesla was worth more than ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell and BP combined.

The future is not oil and gas. The future is electric. Change is happening, and Alaska needs to change as well.

Rep. Adam Wool has represented District 5 (West Fairbanks) in the Alaska House since his election in 2014.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resilience Fair a success, thank you to all participants

A steady stream of families came through the door at the BRAVE Resilience Fair on Oct. 16 at the Nolan Center. At least 125 people attended, with many informative conversations about scores of resources available to assist a wide range of needs and interests.

Spirits and energy levels were high, and children were fully engaged in challenges, games and opportunities designed with them in mind. The fair included 18 tables of information and services — including a table filled with good quality used clothing for children, all free.

The fair also included a mini-celebration for parents with babies born since September 2020, providing them with packets of information, gift certificates for groceries

and other goodies.

Schools Superintendent Bill Burr welcomed our newest citizens: The 13 families with new babies.

And more than \$450 in prizes were donated by a dozen local merchants.

Thank you to all who helped and participated: Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, Wrangell Schools Title I program, WISH, state public health, WAVE, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, St. Frances animal shelter, Hospice and Wrangell Burial, SEARHC, Arctic Chiropractic, Bahai's of Wrangell, Girl Scouts, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wrangell Library, Beverly Rivard, SERRC, Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Forest Service.

Kay Larson and BRAVE friends

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Merritt

Continued from page 1

When he's reading from a story like "Where the Red Fern Grows," and it mentions a raccoon, Merritt can point to the "masked bandit" in his room to show kids what the story is describing. It aids in students' understanding since there aren't any raccoons in Southeast.

Over the years, Merritt estimates that he's taken 500 students out shrimping, crabbing or hunting grouse. It's not part of the school curriculum, but it's a way to give kids an extra understanding of the nature

they're surrounded with.

"This is nothing to do with the school, and I tell parents that. This is something I do personally to show the kids a good time and maybe expose them to something they've never seen before, and then show them how shrimp are caught or how a wolf is trapped."

Merritt uses the animals to also teach about Indigenous tribes and how people have survived for thousands of years, just using what was available to them.

Students have been able to take his lessons with them

throughout life. Sarah Scambler, 35, was Merritt's student in the third grade in the early '90s.

"That's one of my most vivid memories of elementary school was having him hang the deer up by the basketball hoops and show us where everything was," Scambler said. "It was a cool experience."

Beyond that one lesson, she said it was Merritt's approach to teaching that helped her learn.

"He was really hands-on. I remember one lesson that's always stuck with me," she said. "He had us write out instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich exactly. I mean, every single detail. Then he made them exactly to our specifications."

If someone wrote "put the jam on the bread," Merritt would place the jar on the bread. It was a lesson that taught Scambler, now an assistant librarian at the public library, the value of clear communication. "He had a good way of keeping us engaged."

Merritt has no plans to retire



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MERRITT

In this photo from 1994, Brian Merritt cleans a fish to teach his students a lesson in biology. It's a method he's used for more than three decades.

anytime soon since he loves coming to work every day.

"I love elementary school. The kids love to learn, they're excit-

ed, they've got lots of energy," Merritt said. "And they're just easy to work with. And they're a lot of fun, too."

Cruise ships

Continued from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS

The 528-passenger Roald Amundsen, a hybrid energy cruise ship that went into service in 2019, sails under the Norwegian flag and is scheduled to sail into Wrangell next summer. The ship is powered by diesel fuel and electricity.

With the exception of the Regatta and the 230-passenger Hanseatic Inspiration, every vessel on the Cruise Line Agencies' calendar would be new to Wrangell next year.

Among those is a 2019-built electric hybrid, 528-berth capacity Roald Amundsen, from Hurtigruten Expeditions in Norway, scheduled for several calls to Wrangell.

While Wrangell does not receive the number and size of cruise ships that call on Ketchikan, Juneau or Skagway — some as large as 4,000 berths — the ships that come to town are critically important to charter businesses and retailers, said Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's economic development director and tourism coordinator. Passengers wander around town, spending money at the shops and on the charter tours.

And, she said, more ships may come in future years.

"I think the trend in the coming years will increase," Rushmore said. "There are new ships and bigger ships coming online. They will need smaller ports to go to, so they are looking for alternative sites."

The industry has told Southeast officials that 2022 could be a record year, with ships offering close to 1.5 million berths April into October.

Rushmore said Wrangell could be on the itineraries in future years, and has begun a conversation with Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska about the infrastructure accommodations Wrangell would need to make. "It could be challenging with the tides, the gangway, different things like that," she said.

Fred Angerman is Cruise Line Agencies' port manager in Wrangell. He takes care of the ships' needs when they come in, acting as a go-between between U.S. Customs and the ships, most of which are foreign-flagged vessels.

"Very seldom do we have a U.S.-flag operated vessel," Angerman said. "Customs needs a middle man; we take care of them."

The crew may need arrangements to get groceries, take a passenger to the hospital, or Angerman said, he may have to pick up a crew member flying in. "Sometimes not much happens, sometimes it's more than I can deal with."

Angerman said he has about 48 cruise ship stops on his calendar for 2022. Assuming, he said, that Wrangell goes back to normal.

"We all know what happened in 2020 — we had zero stops. And in 2021, we had one vessel stop three times," he said.

Angerman said he has to operate under the assumption that the 2022 schedule will go through, but it is always subject to change — even during pre-pandemic years. "We just don't know sometimes."

Angerman, who has been the local liaison for about 17 years, following in his late father's footsteps, said around March or April is when he'll get ramped up and begin meetings with longshoremen, and the port and harbor department.

He hasn't seen a schedule for 2023 yet, but there could be substantially more vessels. "There are a lot of cruise companies that don't want to give up their Alaska market."

And while some ships offer budget- or moderate-priced voyages to Alaska, others are at the higher end of the market. UnCruise Adventures is advertising seven-day and 14-day cruises between Juneau and Ketchikan, starting at \$4,495 and \$8,545, respectively. Wrangell is a stop on both voyages, with dates May through August.

Alaska Dream Cruises has Wrangell as a stop in May and July from Sitka to Ketchikan, ranging from \$5,195 for a nine-day voyage to \$8,450 for an eight-day "coastal discoveries and culture" tour.

National Geographic Expeditions offers Wrangell as a stop on its six-day, \$4,660 "Wild Alaska Escape: A Voyage from Juneau to Ketchikan," with dates from May to August.

Halloween

Continued from page 1

Bill Privett said he's been decorating since first moving in 35 years ago.

"Kay and Jeff have taken it to a whole new level," Privett said. "We do a pretty good job on our end. We've got a couple of fog machines. We have one, they have one, so when you put all that together with the decorations, it makes a pretty spooky environment. The kids love it."

He said parents love it as well since they have been coming over to the Oceanview neighborhood when they were kids.

Elsewhere in town, like an eerie beacon on a hill, KSTK radio has a couple skeletons peering down onto Church Street. Since the nonprofit station isn't holding its annual in-person fundraiser this year, staff decided to use the decorations for the office instead.

"We normally don't quite go this all out," said Cindy Sweat, station manager. "We thought, 'Let's just use it here.'"

Normally, just a handful of kids stop by KSTK for goodies during the chamber of commerce early trick or treating downtown, to be held 3 to 5



PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/WRANGELL SENTINEL

A skeleton in cowboy boots rides a giant spider in front of a house out on Evergreen Road.

p.m. Friday. "We don't get many kids up here. The families, they stay down on Front Street. I always encourage them to come up. I'm hoping this year we get more," Sweat said.

Outside of trick-or-treating on Halloween and the chamber of commerce event, Harbor Light Assembly of God will hold its Harvest Celebration-Lite, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday at 627 Zimo-

via Highway. The church will be giving out free gifts and food.

And the Jasbusches will still be giving out treats on Halloween.

"I told Kay I'd get one of our folding chairs, sit at the end of the driveway and hand out candy," Jeff said. "She said the folding chairs were in the garage. We still plan to be down there. It can all be redone. It's an inconvenience, but nobody got hurt."



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Mariners' Memorial holds fundraiser to complete work



PHOTOS BY SARAH ASLAM/WRANGELL SENTINEL

A memorial bench outside the pavilion at the Mariners' Memorial is dedicated to Ryan G. Miller by his wife. Miller died in a commercial fishing accident in Clarence Strait in 2005.

By SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A memorial dedicated to those who made their lives on the sea or perished at sea is in its final stages.

The Wrangell Mariners' Memorial at Heritage Harbor is in a last push for funds, said board member Jeff Jabusch, and is taking applications for commemorative plaques that will be installed at the site.

People who died at sea will have an anchor insignia on their marker, and people who made their lives on the sea but died on land will not, Jabusch said.

The memorial board is holding a fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, at the downtown pavilion. Board members will be available to discuss the project. Samples of the memorial markers will be on display at the fundraiser.

Juneau-based landscape architect and planning firm Corvus Design designed the memorial, which consists of a large, centralized lighthouse pavilion that acts as a shelter and focal point. The memorial includes a series of curved-plate steel walls that mimic the hull of a ship, with the name plaques affixed to the walls.

Designing the plaques will take some finesse, Jabusch said, because those walls are curved and the plaques will have to be curved to fit.

There will be a silent auction on locally donated items as well next Thursday. To donate to the auction, contact Jenn Miller-Yancey at 907-305-0926.

All proceeds support the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial project to complete signs, landscaping, bollard (post) installation, handicap parking, concrete finish work, cleanup and maintenance.

Groundbreaking for the memorial was held in December 2018, with work progressing as funds were available.

Jabusch estimates the nonprofit has spent, in cash, about \$300,000 on the effort, but estimates another \$150,000 of value through volunteers donating their labor and equipment for the concrete pours, Alaska Marine Lines donating freight to transport materials for the memorial, the people who stood with compasses and made sure the 800-pound granite compass inlaid in the concrete below the pavilion truly pointed north.

Jabusch said the empty circle inside one of the curved walls will contain the symbol of the Star of Bengal, a three-masted sailing vessel that went down on Sept. 20, 1908, at the beginning of its return trip from Fort Wrangell to San Francisco, after the ship struck rocks near the shore of Coronation Island, killing 110 of 138 people aboard.

As of 2015, the wreck of the Star of Bengal remains among the top five worst maritime disasters in Alaskan history, according to "Alaska Shipwrecks," by Warren Good.

Each year, plaques with the names of those who died will be unveiled at the beginning of the season during Wrangell's blessing of the fleet at the Mariners' Memorial, said Jabusch.

Assembly takes no action on school request to waive COVID isolation of traveling students

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The borough assembly on Tuesday discussed — but took no action — on Wrangell's COVID-19 testing and isolation policy as it affects unvaccinated students who travel out of town for sports and activities. The school district had requested a waiver of the policy.

The district currently allows unvaccinated students who travel for games or other activities to return to school and practice without isolating until their test results come back, so long as the students follow the school district's weekly testing protocols and mitigation plan.

The school district on Oct. 15 wrote the borough, asking for a waiver from the borough's testing requirements, which say unvaccinated travelers must isolate until two COVID-19 tests come back negative. The requirement "would prohibit our students from attending

or participating in in-person school, events or practice during this isolation time," the district wrote.

The district explained it already requires all students to be tested before and after traveling.

The schools will continue to require a minimum of weekly COVID-19 testing "for all students and coaches/chaperones participating in extracurricular activities. There may be allowances for fully vaccinated students and coaches/chaperones," based on federal guidance, Schools Superintendent Burr wrote in his letter.

Borough officials advised against making an exception for the schools, though they also pointed out there is no penalty for non-compliance if individuals do not isolate while waiting for test results.

The assembly directed that the issue be brought up again at its Nov. 9 meeting.

COVID cases

Continued from page 1

service for Webster's uncle, Mel Borge, on Oct. 19 at the Assembly of God Church.

"I'm posting on here in hopes that anyone that had contact with us over the last week or so will get tested to help stop the spread," Webster wrote.

"None of us knew we were sick," she said in an interview on Monday. "I don't recall being around anyone sick. ... We thought it was a cold."

Webster, 30, described herself as a "homebody" of late, not going out much — she is pregnant with twins, and is scheduled to travel to Anchorage to give birth the second week of November.

Neither she nor her partner, Justin Churchill, are vaccinated, Webster said, explaining that she did not feel comfortable getting the shot while pregnant — but that she will consider getting vaccinated after the twins are born.

But she cautioned on Monday, "Even people who are vaccinated can get it," advising residents to get tested to help ensure no one spreads the virus. "Nobody wants the guilt" of infecting others, she said.

Webster believes she had COVID-19 before family gathered for the memorial service, though she did not know it. After her mom's cousin, who had traveled to Wrangell from Anchorage for the service, tested positive for the coronavirus, Webster went to the Wrangell Medical Center to get tested, too.

Her sister, mother and father, all from Willow, north of Anchorage, also tested positive, she said, as did a couple of relatives in Wrangell who were at the service.

Many of the 15 to 20 people who attended the service had not tested positive as of Monday.

In an effort to inform the community, Webster's Facebook posting continued: "Places that we had exposure to include The Stikine, The Marine, City Market, IGA, Alpine Mini Mart, both hardware stores," in addition to the church.

Her children attended the chamber of commerce's Pumpkin Patch activities on

Saturday, before the family learned of the first case and got tested.

The chamber of commerce posted on Facebook that it considered the Pumpkin Patch low risk, "because the event was outdoors," but cautioned people to "please keep an eye out for any symptoms in your households."

"We are all feeling pretty good," Webster said as the family continued their recovery on Monday. Her children are 5 and 7 years old.

It's not yet clear if the state has peaked in this latest surge, which has resulted in more than 25,000 cases in the past 30 days, said Jared Kosin, president and CEO of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association.

The case count in the past 30 days represents almost 20% of all the COVID-19 infections reported in Alaska since the tally started 20 months ago.

"It's not letting up and I think that's the hardest part with this," Kosin said. "It's not like you can see hope on the horizon, you know we're going to see a rapid decline and get through it. It just seems to come and go, and when it comes it hits really hard."

Hospitalizations have been at record highs, with 234 patients across Alaska as of Tuesday.

The death total related to COVID-19 was at 714 as of Tuesday, according to state health officials, counting residents and non-residents.

Among the hardest-hit areas is the Kenai Peninsula, where the hospital in Soldotna has reported 30 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began in March 2020 — more than one-third of those this month.

"It's the deadliest month we've had," Bruce Richards, external affairs director at Central Peninsula Hospital, told the Peninsula Clarion newspaper.

In addition to record-breaking deaths, the facility had 31 hospitalized COVID patients Monday morning — 28 of them unvaccinated. "This is the most COVID patients the hospital has ever seen in a single day," Richards said.



Early Trick or Treating

Friday 10/29/2021 from 3-5 p.m.

List of Participating Businesses

56° North	Magnolia Beauty Bar	Stikine River Gifts and Apparel
Angerman's Inc.	Michelle's	The Bay Company
AP&T	Taste of Asia	TFCU
Arctic Chiropractic	NAPA Auto Parts	TSA on Front Street
ArrowHead - AML	Ottesen's	Wells Fargo
Baked for Breakfast	Parks and Rec - swimming pool	Wrangell Sentinel
City Market	Stikine Drug	Wrangell Chamber of Commerce
Crossings	Silver Liningz	Wrangell IGA
First Bank	Stikine Inn	Zak's
Groundswell		
KSTK		

DUE TO A RECENT INCREASE IN CASES, HERE IS A REMINDER OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU:

FREE MASKS – email travel@wrangell.com

FREE SYMPTOMATIC TESTING – call the Wrangell Medical Center weekdays at 907-874-7000 to make an appointment

FREE CLOSE CONTACT TESTING – call the Wrangell Medical Center weekdays at 907-874-7000 to make an appointment

FREE ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING – no appointment needed. Available Mon – Sat noon to 4pm at the SEARHC testing trailer in the clinic parking lot.

IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD, PLEASE:

- stay home if you are sick
- get tested if you experience ANY symptoms
- reduce gathering sizes
- wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible
- wear a mask as required on all public transportation
- wear a mask as required in all City facilities
- follow the travel testing requirements in Ordinance 1012 (includes testing requirements before arrival or upon arrival)

WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER: 907-874-7000

WRANGELL EOC: 907-874-2684; travel@wrangell.com

WRANGELL COVID INFO: www.wrangellcovid19.org

PETERSBURG PUBLIC HEALTH: 907-772-4611

Communities vary their spending of \$10 million cruise line gift

BY LARRY PERSILY
Sentinel reporter

The six Alaska communities that shared in a \$10 million pandemic-relief gift from Norwegian Cruise Line have found various ways to spend the money — or save it for later.

Seward committed much of its share to help provide child care services.

Skagway set aside nearly half-a-million dollars to pay out as cash to residents this winter.

The cruise line in May announced it would donate \$10 million to communities that had been on the company's itineraries and suffered economically with the loss of cruise ship travelers last year and again this summer.

The money was designated for Juneau (\$2 million), Ketchikan (\$2 million), Sitka (\$1 million), Skagway (\$2 million), Hoonah (\$2 million) and Seward (\$1 million).

"We don't know of anywhere really in the world that's been more affected economically by the pandemic. Especially cities like Skagway and Hoonah, which are almost completely dependent upon cruise revenue as a source of income," Howard Sherman, Norwegian's executive vice president, said in announcing the gifts.

Wrangell has not been on the cruise line's itineraries to Southeast. Norwegian's Alaska ships can accommodate up to 4,000 passengers.

"We are giving that money to the elected representatives of those cities to disperse through their existing pandemic relief programs that they have set up,"

Sherman said in May. There will be "no strings attached" to the donations, he said.

The city of Seward this summer decided to use its \$1 million to purchase or lease a building for community-based child care services and to expand city utilities to serve a larger area.

Skagway set aside almost \$500,000 to pay weekly cash assistance to unemployed residents this winter, though the borough assembly has not settled on a distribution plan. Assembly members at their Oct. 21 meeting discussed the program, including whether the money would go to self-employed residents who might not qualify for traditional unemployment benefits.

The assembly is looking to start handing out the money in December and continuing the aid in January and February.

Small businesses will receive \$1.2 million of Skagway's money, distributed through the community's economic development corporation. The maximum grant is set at \$40,000, and businesses registered outside of Skagway are not eligible for the funds.

Skagway's economy is heavily dependent on cruise ship visitors, which numbered 1 million a year before the pandemic wiped out the 2020 season and dropped 2021 to a fraction of a normal summer.

The assembly also has allocated funds for the community food bank, a utility assistance program and to the tribal government.

The city of Ketchikan is leaving its \$2 million untouched until it has a better picture of how federal pandemic relief aid has

patched holes in the economy and municipal budget, and how much longer the COVID-19 pandemic hurts the economy.

The city council will decide on use of the money after a public process, which will include an appropriations ordinance and vote by council members, explained Diane Bixby, executive assistant to the city manager.

The Sitka assembly solicited ideas from the public on spending the community's \$1 million, and reached a consensus to put the funds toward improvements to Lincoln Street, the main thoroughfare in downtown.

The community could receive as many as 480,000 cruise ship visitors in 2022, more than double the number in 2019, said Melissa Henshaw, public and government relations director for Sitka. The planning commission is looking at options for how to accommodate so many people along Lincoln Street, she said. "That is ongoing," Henshaw said of the planning process.

Hoonah lost 60% to 70% of its sales tax revenues the past two years due to the lack of cruise ship visitors, and used its \$2 million Norwegian gift to plug that gap in the city's general fund budget, Dennis Gray Jr., city administrator, said Monday.

The Juneau city-borough assembly in June turned down the \$2 million gift from Norwegian Cruise Line. Not because members didn't want the community to get the money, but rather because the company has purchased a downtown waterfront lot to build a new dock and sev-

eral assembly members believed it would present a conflict to accept the money when they will be making decisions on the cruise line's development project.

In lieu of giving the money to the municipal government, Norwegian Cruise Line donated \$1 million of the community's share to the Juneau Community Foundation, which disbursed the funds as grants to 15 nonprofit efforts.

"In preparation for receiving these funds, the foundation focused on high-priority basic social services — food insecurity, homelessness, and mental and physical health," the community foundation said in a prepared statement on Saturday.

"Conversations were held with local agencies to determine Juneau's high-priority needs, with a focus on those areas where need has increased due to COVID."

Half of that \$1 million went to United Human Services, which is building a nonprofit center in Juneau to house eight social service organizations.

The cruise line gave \$800,000 to the Juneau Economic Development Council and Juneau Chamber of Commerce, which are working up a plan to use the money to benefit local businesses.

The company distributed the balance of Juneau's \$2 million to the Sealaska Heritage Institute's arts park downtown (\$100,000), for renovations at Centennial Hall (\$50,000), and renovations at the historic Catholic church downtown (\$50,000), according to news reports from Juneau radio station KINY.

Medical loan closet moves around, but is always there



PHOTOS BY SARAH ASLAM/
WRANGELL SENTINEL

Walking boots of various sizes are among the items available from the medical equipment loan closet, located at the former Wrangell hospital.

BY SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A medical equipment loan closet in Wrangell offers items free of charge for anyone who needs assistance on a short-term basis.

Alice Rooney, a retired social worker, volunteers with Hospice of Wrangell, also known as Harriet's Helpers. She has been helping run the closet which stocks wheelchairs, walkers, braces, bedpans, hospital beds, grabbers, commodes and other items.

The loan closet is located in a corner of the former Wrangell

Medical Center next to Evergreen Elementary School on Bennett Street.

It's moved a few times in the 45 years she's been involved with the service, Rooney said.

Someone recently went to one of the former sites — now Bishop Rowe Apartments — thinking it was still there. Bishop Rowe was the hospital before the one next to the school opened more than 50 years ago.

The loan closet has been at the airport. It's been at a former Presbyterian church.

The important thing is, it's still around.

"It's been a long-term community project," Rooney said. "When I started 45 years ago, the health nurse started keeping a few things in her closet. The hospice took it over a few years ago."

Rooney said the medical equipment loan closet gets quite a lot of use. She'd been covering a couple of days for Don McConachie Sr., who runs the service, and said she got four calls in that time. They receive an average of 12 calls a month.

And McConachie said, it's quite nice that Wrangell can offer the service.

"A lot of these things that we have in that closet have been donated by people in the community who have bought them in the past, or after a family



Alice Rooney volunteers with Hospice of Wrangell and helps run a medical equipment loan closet that stocks wheelchairs, walkers, braces, hospital beds and more, all available free of charge for anyone who needs equipment on a short-term basis.

member passes on," he said.

McConachie said he's been on the hospice board, but recently took over the facility from his predecessor who stepped down. "We all take our turn to do what we can for the community. It's a very satisfying thing to do," he said.

Anyone who needs to borrow equipment can call McConachie at 907-305-0063 or Rooney at 907-305-0007.

Wrangell submits wish list for Forest Service funding

BY SARAH ASLAM
Sentinel reporter

A federal effort to help Southeast diversify its economy includes \$25 million to be shared across the entire region — and Wrangell has weighed in with its requests.

The U.S. Forest Service launched the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy over the summer to help promote "a diverse economy, enhanced community resilience, and conserved natural resources."

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 18, the agency sought input from communities and tribes for projects that could fulfill that strategy. Participants submitted 240 project proposals to spend the \$25 million, according to the Forest Service website.

The borough and the Wrangell Cooperative Association both submitted lists.

The Forest Service will submit its funding recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture by Nov. 19, Erica Keene, media relations specialist at the agency's Alaska office said in an email last week.

The borough's wish list included projects such as the water treatment plant replacement, barge ramp replacement, upgrades to the swimming pool and recreation facility, a Zimovia Highway alternate route, water main replacements, wastewater treatment plant improvements, Petroglyph Beach State Historic Park

Continued on page 10

NORTHLAND
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& Hearing Services

HEARING CLINICS

November 29th & 30th/ Dec. dates TBA
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Change of Plans

Harvest Celebration - Lite

Where? Harbor Light Assembly of God

When? October 31, 2021

Time? 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

While trick-or-treating, please stop
by Harbor Light Assembly of God for
free gifts, hot dogs, and popcorn!

Police report

Monday, Oct. 18
Subpoena service.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning given.

Tuesday, Oct. 19
Agency assist: Search and Rescue.

Wednesday, Oct. 20
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Traffic stop.
Agency assist: State troopers.
Traffic stop.

Thursday, Oct. 21
Found property.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Agency assist: Ambulance.
Agency assist: Breath test.
Civil complaint: Harassment.

Subpoena service.
Subpoena service.
Agency assist: Hoonah Police Department.
Violation of conditions of release: Arrest.
Subpoena service.

Friday, Oct. 22
Vanalitm: Unfounded.
Motor vehicle accident.
Agency assist: Ambulance requested.

Saturday, Oct. 23
Hit-and-run under investigation.
Agency assist: Garage fire.

Sunday, Oct. 24
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.
Parking citation issued.

CLASSIFIED/LEGALS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS
Wrangell Public Schools is accepting applications for multiple positions. All positions are open until filled.

Business manager: A 12-month position with benefits paid on the exempt employee salary schedule. Responsibilities include oversight of the school budget using a uniform chart of accounts coding, maintaining financial records, conducting all banking, payroll, accounts payable, annual audit preparation and advising the superintendent in all matters that are financially relevant for the district. Degree in business and/or five years experience in school business management preferred.

Temporary migrant program paraprofessional: This is a temporary instructional aide position working with students, 5.75 hours per day in small groups and one-on-one in the Migrant Education Program at Evergreen Elementary School. This position is paid on Column B of the classified salary schedule. Associate's degree is preferred.

Long-term substitute elementary teacher (Grades K-5 Title I/Art/SEL): This position is an-

anticipated to begin on Jan. 3 and run through Feb. 25, 2022. An Alaska Type A teaching certificate with the appropriate endorsements is required. This position is paid on the teacher salary schedule.

Temporary accounting clerk: This is a temporary position working in the business office, assisting with transition until a business manager is hired. This position is paid on Column E of the classified salary schedule. Accounting experience is preferred.

For a complete job description(s) and salary schedule(s), contact the district office at 907-874-2347. It is the Wrangell Public School District's policy

to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

WANTED
Girl Scout Troop 26 is seeking donations or building materials to build new aluminum recycling bins at Wrangell IGA and City Market to earn their community service badge. Call 907-204-0737 or email zippylizzie86@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE
Remote property, Thoms Place subdivision, South Wrangell Island. 1.88 acres, waterfront. Call 907-321-3240.

FREE
Recycled newspapers. Stop by the Sentinel to pick some up.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking Letters of Interest to fill the upcoming vacancies to the SEAPA Board of Directors, which consist of:

Two (2) voting members and two (2) alternate members for Wrangell.

These vacancies are one-year terms from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

Please turn your Letter of Interest into the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, on or before 4 p.m., Wednesday, November 3, 2021.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-874-2381, or email: rmarshall@wrangell.com.

Appointments will be made at the regular Borough Assembly meeting on November 9, 2021.

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

Publish Oct. 28, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Wrangell Coordinated Transportation Group will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, October 28, at 4 p.m. via Zoom. All public, private, nonprofit and human service transportation providers, interested senior citizens, individuals with disabilities and other members of the general public are invited to attend, participate and provide comment on Wrangell's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

To join the meeting, click on the following Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81659135149?pwd=aGdIME12SWV-UdDIXSWtxVzUvMk1Fdz09> and enter the Meeting ID: 816 5913 5149. Then enter the passcode: transport

During the meeting, participants will identify local transportation services as well as gaps in services for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Members of the group will also prioritize proposed Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) grant proposals based on the transportation needs of Wrangell. For those seeking DOT funding for this cycle, attendance at this meeting is essential. For a copy of the plan prior to the meeting please follow this link:

<https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/transit/pub/CoorPlan-Wrangell.pdf>

For further information, please contact April Huber at 907-463-6174 or April.Huber@ccsjuneau.org

Publish Oct. 21 and 28, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting and election on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Wrangell Fire Hall and via Zoom web conference. All are welcome to attend.

Agenda items will include the following items: elections, Board of Fish proposals, updates, other business as needed.

To join the meeting from a computer or phone, use the following Zoom link or phone number, and enter the meeting ID. Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87191393011> Phone: 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 871 9139 3011

Advisory committees are local groups that meet to discuss fishing and wildlife issues and to provide recommendations to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game. All meetings are open to the public. Advisory committees are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues. Their purpose includes: 1) developing regulatory proposals, 2) evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board, 3) providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat, 4) advising the appropriate regional council on resources, and 5) consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies.

If you are a person who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in any of these public meetings, please contact Henry at 907-465-6097 no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting, to make any necessary arrangements.

Publish Oct. 28 and Nov 4, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

Airport Greeter (COVID Testing) – Temporary FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Wrangell Fire Department will accept applications for the temporary position of Airport Greeter (COVID Testing). This position is open until filled. This is a part-time position open for the period of time the City and Borough of Wrangell has in place local COVID travel testing mandates.

This position provides the public local COVID mandate and testing information/instructions, vaccination administration locations, and resources for inbound travelers. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and hold a current, valid Alaska Driver's License as well as a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to rmarshall@wrangell.com. Pay for this position starts at \$15.09 per hour DOE.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Lisa Von Bargaen
Wrangell Borough Manager

Publish Oct. 28, 2021

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF JOB OPENING: Borough Manager

The island life in Southeast, Alaska is raw, exotic, serene and has a profound sense of community – it is home.

The City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, is looking to hire a dynamic, motivated individual to be our Borough Manager. Our island home is surrounded by towering peaks, the pristine waters of the Inside Passage, and the largest temperate rain forest in the world.

If you have ever dreamed of an Alaska experience, this may be the opportunity for you. Wrangell's rich culture is a unique blend best characterized by its Tlingit heritage and its blue-collar roots as a logging and fishing community. We pride ourselves in being a hard-working and resilient community that reflects the best in authentic Alaska values.

Wrangell operates under an Assembly-Manager form of government. The Assembly and community expect you to chart the path forward toward new opportunities and growth. Come join us as we continue our journey.

Preference is given to candidates who hold a degree from an accredited four-year college or university, with a master's degree in public administration or business administration. A combination of related education and/or municipal experience may be considered.

For a complete job description, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-874-2381 or email: clerk@wrangell.com or visit the Borough website: <http://www.wrangell.com/jobs>.

Please send a cover letter, detailed resume and references to: City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, or fax: (907) 874-2304 or email: clerk@wrangell.com.

This position will be open until filled.

Publish Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2021



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to provide all labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment, manufactured articles, transportation, and services, including all fuel, power, water, and communications necessary to replace 11 existing helicopter landing pads (helipads) with new owner-supplied aluminum helipads along the Tyee-Wrangell electrical transmission line, Cleveland Peninsula, in Bradfield Canal near Wrangell, Alaska in central Southeast Alaska.

Bids are due November 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. A complete set of the bid documents with additional details will be posted on SEAPA's website at www.seapahydro.org/rfp.php as of 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 29, 2021 or interested respondents may call the SEAPA office as of that date at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

Sports Roundup

Volleyball team wins 5 out of 6 matches

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

The Wrangell High School volleyball team traveled to Metlakatla last weekend for six matches. They won all but one match during three days of play.

In best-three-out-of-five match sets, the Lady Wolves played against Petersburg, Craig, Metlakatla, Haines, Skagway and Klawock, which was the only team to defeat them.

Thursday's match against Petersburg resulted in Wrangell winning three sets in a row, 28-26, 25-16 and 25-19.

Friday's matches were against Skagway, Metlakatla and Haines. Wrangell took all three matches against Metlakatla, 25-19, 25-12 and 25-11. Scores for the other two matches were unavailable as of Tuesday.

The team played against Craig and Klawock on Saturday. Wrangell beat Craig in three out of four sets, 25-18, 21-25, 25-15 and 25-9. They fell to Klawock in the final match (the scores were not available Tuesday).

"The girls played very well overall. We had a couple of players playing in different positions than they normally do and they stepped up," said head coach Alyssa Allen. "They passed the ball well, for the most part, which made it so we were able to set up our offense, which was key for the success we had this weekend."

Allen said a few of the players stood out in their performances. "Emma Martinsen did a nice job running the offense. Kiara Harrison and Kendra Meissner both had a good weekend hitting the ball, and on

defense. Aubrey Wynne did a really nice job serving the ball for us," she said.

The team travels to Petersburg on Nov. 5.

Other sports action

The wrestling team didn't travel to Petersburg last weekend due to bad weather. Instead, the grapplers stayed home.

"We hosted an inter-quad scramble and had about 13 matches here at home," said assistant coach Jack Carney.

The wrestlers are scheduled to travel to Haines this weekend.

The swimming team will be headed to regionals in Ketchikan this weekend. Head coach Jamie Roberts hopes her team does well enough to move on to state in Juneau Nov. 5-6.

Wrangell sends two musicians to Honors Fest

By MARC LUTZ
Sentinel editor

Imagine performing in a band or choir but not being able to practice with the other performers on the stage. That's how students from Southeast high schools have to approach Honors Fest.

Each year, high schoolers from across the region audition for the event, and this year two students from Wrangell were scheduled to perform on Tuesday with 73 other musicians in Ketchikan.

The event was supposed to be held at Wrangell High School last year. Normally, about 120 students perform during Honors Fest (60 in choir and 60 in the band). It was canceled because of COVID-19 and was rescheduled for this year in Wrangell. Music teacher Tasha Morse said due to the smaller size of the school, it couldn't accommodate a large influx of people and keep everyone socially distanced, so it was moved to Ketchikan.

"We come together collectively, all the schools in Southeast, in Region 5, and we build the best band and best choir and some years the best orchestra that we can from auditions we've received from each school," Morse said. "Honors Fest is more of a collaborative effort to make music together, and there's really no competition aspect. The biggest part as far as competition is concerned is making an audition and being selected."

Since the size of Wrangell's band varies from year to year, part of the appeal of Honors Fest is having more musicians to play with.

"Our band is really small and there's not much diversity with the instruments, so it's so much fun to have all the different instruments and really full sound," said junior Paige Baggen, who plays clarinet and traveled to Ketchikan.



From left: Music teacher Tasha Morse last week rehearsed the singing part with freshman Ander Edens and the clarinet part with junior Paige Baggen, in preparation for the high school Southeast Honors Fest performance held in Ketchikan on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY MARC LUTZ/
WRANGELL SENTINEL

Freshman Ander Edens, who was set to sing first bass in the Honors Fest choir, said he enjoys performing with other students who "share the same values" and are on the same wavelength.

Edens normally plays saxophone but decided to sing this year. "In my family, there's more of a history of singing than band instrument playing," he said. "It's more of a nod to the past."

Morse worked with both students to help them learn and hone their parts before the Ketchikan performance.

"We've been meeting after school two or three times a week singing and playing and listening to recordings," she said. "It's hard being the only person singing in the choir and only having one person playing in the band because you can't have a normal rehearsal."

Morse said there would typically be three or four kids and rehearsals would be "standard." Recordings help to fill the void. "I think they're doing great being faced with all that."

There are eight students enrolled in Wrangell's band class this year, up one from last year. "We don't have any seniors this year, so it's a building year," she said. "That's the struggle of being in a small school. It ebbs and flows. There are years that I've had bands of 22 kids, and then there's years that I've had bands of five. You take what you can get and you just build the best band with what you have."

Even though there were far less music students at Honors Fest this year, it was still bigger than what Baggen and Edens are used to playing with.

"It's still five times bigger than our band," Baggen said.

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EARLIER DEADLINE
For Veterans Day

WRANGELL SENTINEL

All ads and letters must be submitted to the Sentinel by **FRIDAY, NOV. 5 at 5 PM** for publishing on **Wednesday, Nov. 10**

Former Don Young campaign chair files against incumbent

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Seeking a 26th term in the U.S. House, Alaska Rep. Don Young will face a Republican challenger in 2022 with strong name recognition in the state.

Nicholas Begich III has filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission to challenge Young's hold on the state's sole seat in the U.S. House.

Young is only the fourth person to hold the seat since statehood and won it in a special election a year after Begich's grandfather, Rep. Nick Begich, was declared dead after his plane went missing while flying to Juneau in 1972.

But unlike his grandfather and uncles former U.S. Sen. Mark Begich and current state Sen. Tom Begich, all Democrats, Nicholas Begich III is a Republican.

"I think what I've been hearing from Alaskans is they're ready to look forward, into the future," the 44-year-old Begich told Alaska public radio last week.

Begich also has close ties to Young, whose campaign didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. Young announced his reelection campaign and

filed candidacy papers in April.

Begich served as a chairman of Young's campaign in 2020, when he defeated independent Alyse Galvin.

Begich has hired Truman Reed to be his campaign manager. Reed was Young's campaign manager in 2020 and has worked in Young's congressional office.

Young, 88, is the longest serving Republican in the U.S. House and the last remaining member to have served during the President Richard Nixon era.

Begich lives in Chugiak and is executive director of a software development company. His grandmother, Pegge Begich, lost twice to Young in the 1980s. She ran as a Democrat.

A voter initiative passed last year calls for a single primary ballot, with the top four vote-getters advancing to the general election regardless of their party. Ranked-choice voting would be used for the general election.

Funding

Continued from page 8

improvements, Mt. Dewey Trail extension - including a link to Petroglyph Beach - other trail improvements.

The list also included Meyers Chuck dock replacement, Inner Harbor design and construc-

tion, sidewalk improvements, a Fools Inlet road-accessible public recreation cabin, Kyle Angerman Park improvements, a shelter for the Chugach Ranger boat on display at the museum, Wrangell Island outhouse replacements, permanent anchors for the floats at Anan Wildlife

Observatory, wild blueberry management, and marine access boat/floatplane float and ramp replacements at Roosevelt Harbor, Anita Bay, Earl West Cove, Pats Landing and Saint John Harbor.

The Sentinel was unable to obtain the WCA's list.

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Judging next month in annual seafood competition

Pollock protein noodles, southern-style Alaska wild wings, candied salmon ice cream, fish oils for pets, fish and chips meal kits and finfish earrings are just a small sample of past winners of Alaska's biggest seafood competition — the Alaska Symphony of Seafood — which has showcased and promoted new, market-ready products since 1993.

The annual event draws from Alaska's largest and smallest seafood companies, whose products are all judged blind by an expert panel.

Eighteen entries are in the running for the 2021 contest, the first leg of which takes place next month at Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle. They will compete in several categories: retail and food service, salmon and whitefish, Beyond the Plate, and new to the lineup is a Bristol Bay Choice award given to the best new sockeye product.

Products made from Alaska seaweeds also are making their way into the annual lineup, said Riley Smith, deputy director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation which hosts the event.

"We have Alaska barbecue sauce from Barnacle Foods of Juneau with kelp in it. They won the grand prize two years ago for their Bullwhip Kelp Hot Sauce. Premium Aquatics and Seagrove Kelp also entered their ribbon kelp," Smith said.

The Beyond the Plate category features edible and non-edible marine products, and attracted five entries: AlaSkin Dog Treats, two gourmet salts from Prince William Sound Salt Co., salmon oils and Deep Blue Sea Bath Soak by Waterbody

of Wrangell.

The judging takes place Nov. 17 and seafood fans can experience them all at a bash at Seattle's Bell Harbor Conference Center that evening.

The first place winners and a Seattle People's Choice award will be announced at Pacific Marine Expo's center stage on Nov. 19.

The grand prize winner and second and third place awards are kept under wraps until the event moves to Juneau in February. Following that, top winners get a free trip and booth space at the big Seafood Expo North America in Boston in March where their products will compete nationally.

"That's a really big deal," said Keith Singleton, president of the value-added division of Alaskan Leader Seafoods, which won a grand prize for its Alaska cod with lemon herb butter and a first place for its Cod Crunchies pet treats.

"The exposure we got from the Symphony, we used that in all of our marketing. We're fishermen and for us as a company that's pretty new at this it was pretty impressive that we won. And we definitely have picked up a lot of new accounts," Singleton said. "Anybody who wants to compete in the Symphony, I strongly encourage them. It's a lot of fun and it really gets your name out there. It's really helped us for sure."

No end to trade troubles

Ongoing tariffs and trade imbalances continue to take big bites out of seafood revenues, with no end in sight.

An investigation by Undercurrent

News reveals that the trade war with China which began three years ago by then-President Donald Trump over concerns about intellectual property theft has cost the U.S. nearly \$704 million in seafood import tariff revenues between September 2018 and August 2021, and no relief is forthcoming from the Biden administration.

In terms of products going to China, seafood is Alaska's top export by far. Before the tariff tangle, China was the largest purchaser at 54%, valued at \$1.3 billion a year.

That value has since dropped by nearly half a billion dollars, according to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. At the same time, tariffs on Alaska seafood exported to China have reached 37% to 42%.

At the same time, the trade imbalance between the U.S. and Russia is heading into its eighth year.

Russia stopped purchasing any foods from the U.S. over criticism of its illegal land-grab of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Since then, not a single pound of seafood has gone to Russia while imports to the U.S. from that country have increased by 173%.

"Russia has open access to our markets with no restrictions. I just don't understand the fairness of this," Mark Palmer, president and CEO of OBI Seafoods, said in a webinar. "We will compete against anyone, but if they're not going to give us access to their market, they shouldn't have unfettered access to ours."

Yet the surge of Russian seafood into the U.S. continues. So far this year, the

U.S. has purchased over 19 million pounds of Russian red king crab valued at more than \$378 million; nearly 26 million pounds of snow crab valued at over \$294 million, and more than eight million pounds of cod for \$21.5 million.

Catch share crunch

Quota shares of Alaska halibut are in high demand but good luck finding any.

Dock prices that have remained in the mid-\$6 and \$7 per pound range and even topped \$8 have kept a lid on any harvest quota sales at the major fishing regions of Southeast, the Central Gulf and Western Gulf.

"It is incredibly tight. There is virtually no 3A (Central Gulf) on the market right now," said Maddie Lightsey, at Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer. "Recent sales for mid-size blocks were maybe \$42 a pound but good luck finding one. You could have \$44 a pound ready to go and good luck. It's a really, really tight market right now."

Some encouraging signs from the annual summer survey also are fueling interest in halibut shares, Lightsey added.

The biggest demand for halibut shares is from the halibut charter sector, which Lightsey called "insatiable."

"Central Gulf six-angler permits have been selling for \$110,000, which I believe is quite a bit higher than ever before," she said. "I think a lot of people had really good seasons, tourism was back and there are people with cash in hand ready to quite literally buy any 3A charter permit they can get their hands on. And the same goes for Southeast."

No action expected as Legislature nears end of fourth special session

By BECKY BOHRER
The Associated Press

The Alaska Legislature is in special session but it's quiet at the Capitol, where many legislative offices have been dark, floor sessions in some cases have lasted seconds and little progress has been made toward resolving the state's fiscal issues.

Since the session started Oct. 4 in Juneau, House committees have had five meetings on fiscal-related topics, all in Anchorage; the Senate has had no such hearings.

"I don't think it's making a lot of sense to be here doing what we're doing right now. If we're not going to do anything, gavel out," said Palmer Republican Rep. DeLena Johnson one of four House members present last week for a so-called technical floor session held to satisfy a meeting requirement but at which no business is taken up.

Outside of the first day, there has been one regular floor session. That was in the House and after bill introductions, much of the time was spent on speeches, some memorializing people who died recently, others on topics like COVID-19 vaccines.

There has been interest in finding a long-term solution to a yearly, divisive fight over what size dividend to pay residents from the state's Permanent Fund. A legislative working group recommended a constitutional guarantee of a dividend as part of a package with elements including new revenue, budget reductions and a revised spending limit.

The recommendations weren't binding, and there are different ideas among legislators about the various components.

There was little enthusiasm for this special session, the fourth of the year, which came weeks after the third one ended. Alaska has a citizen Legislature, meaning some lawmakers have other jobs.

House Speaker Louise Stutes, who leads a bipartisan coalition, had asked Gov. Mike Dunleavy to cancel this special session, citing COVID-19 and cost concerns and calling it unnecessary for lawmakers to continue work on fiscal measures.

Dunleavy, a Republican, said it wasn't a mistake to forge ahead, even as some legislators said members need a break or have other obligations

as regular and special sessions have consumed much of the year and yielded no answers forward on the dividend and a fiscal plan.

Dunleavy, who like most legislators faces reelection next year, said lawmakers have plenty of options before them and need to hear and bring bills up for votes.

"They can say they're tired, they're old, they're sleepy, they're hungry. They can say all that stuff. But in the end, they either did it or they didn't," he said.

Dunleavy said he will not call another special session this year.

Dunleavy has advocated splitting annual draws from the Permanent Fund 50/50 between dividends and government, but that creates a large budget deficit which the governor has proposed to cover temporarily by withdrawing more money from the Permanent Fund.

While Dunleavy said the administration has responded to legislators' questions, some lawmakers said they would like to see Dunleavy more engaged and clearer on what elements he would support as part of a plan.

Senate President Peter Micciche, a Soldotna Republican, said Alaskans "don't care about a show on the floor. They care about results." This special session "had no potential to deliver the results," he said.

Micciche said the Senate is divided and his job is to try to move senators to "more common ground" to be positioned to act on bills during the next regular session, starting in January.

He said this special session was "irresponsible" and "would have been much more wasteful had we not just sent people home."

The clock on this special session expires next Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, an Anchorage Democrat who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, said she expects conversations to continue once this special session ends but that her committee may set things aside until the regular session begins in January.

Legislators need a break, and the pandemic has brought added stress, she said. They need to "go back to real life for a little while," get reconnected to constituents and "get rested up to go back and do the hard work of governing in the 2022 regular legislative session," she said.

Federal judge denies release for Capitol rioter arrested in Alaska

ANCHORAGE (AP) — An Alabama man living in Alaska whom a judge alleged was "leading the charge" during the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol was denied release Oct. 21 in an Alaska courtroom while his case proceeds.

Christian Matthew Manley waived his right to preliminary hearing and asked that he be immediately transferred to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the jurisdiction prosecuting those charged in the riot.

Manley faces several charges, including assaulting or resisting officers using a dangerous weapon; civil disorder; exhibiting disorderly conduct and demonstrating in a Capitol building; and engaging in physical violence and disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building.

Manley, 26, was soft spoken and polite, calling U.S. Magistrate Judge Matthew McCrary Scoble "sir" during his detention hearing in U.S. District Court. He wore a yellow prison outfit and was shackled at the feet. He has lived in Alaska since August.

The government claimed videos show Manley in a tunnel, trying to breach the Capitol. The video showed him wearing a tactical jacket twice using pepper spray on officers, then using those empty cans as projectiles. The video shows him throwing a metal rod at police protecting the building, prosecutors said.

At one point, he exits the tunnel and allegedly waves for more of the crowd to join the protesters in attempting to breach the building.

The videos from both protesters and from Capitol security then show him making his way to the front of the mob inside the

tunnel to get inside the building. The government alleges Manley reached the front, using his body trying to force open the last door to the Capitol while law enforcement tried to hold back the rioters.

"He was leading the charge, so to speak," the judge said.

Manley was not an innocent bystander or a member of the crowd that didn't enter the building, Scoble said before detaining Manley. "He came to fight," the judge said.

His federal public defender, Samuel Eilers, unsuccessfully argued for conditional release, saying Manley didn't own guns, didn't post about the riots on social media and didn't have a substance abuse problem.

Among the factors in the judge's decision to detain him was that breaching the Capitol by itself was a threat to society, and Manley could be a flight risk since he didn't have any close ties to Anchorage.

Manley served with the Marines for four years but received a less-than-honorable discharge, the judge said.

Two months ago, Manley moved to Alaska where he maintains an apartment. He is a commercial fisherman and was arrested by the FBI at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

FBI Special Agent Marissa Taggart said she was tipped off by the agent working on the case that Manley would arrive, and she arrested him without incident on the plane.

An informant told the FBI they met Manley who he had allegedly told them he attended the riot, according to a statement filed by a special agent investigating the case.

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Alaskans vaccinated before Sept. 2 can enter to win anytime before Oct. 30

You can enter for a chance to win if you:

- Are an Alaska resident
 - Are age 12 or older
 - Received a first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at any time before or during the sweepstakes period
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If you do not have access to the internet or require language or other assistance, call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline for assistance. Callers must ask that they be entered into the Give AK a Shot Sweepstakes, provide the required entry information, and provide the required acknowledgements and consents.

Call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline at 1-907-646-3322 or toll-free 1-833-4-VAXLINE (1-833-482-9546) Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Sat/Sun: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Week 6 Winners



Leo Roehl
Dillingham (Adult)

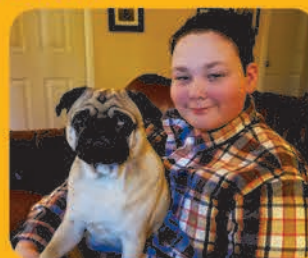


Katelyn Behymer
Anchorage (Youth)

Week 5 Winners

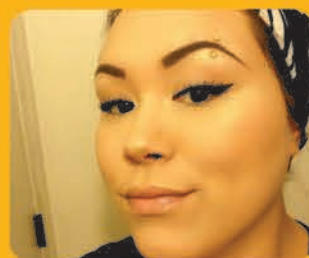


J.R. Gilliland
Anchorage (Adult)



Finn Peterson
Anchorage (Youth)

Week 4 Winners

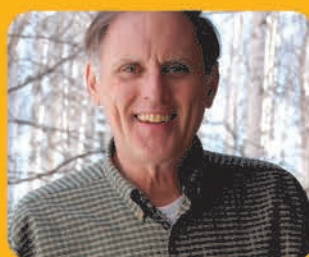


Amber Shanagin
Anchorage (Adult)



Wyatt Otness
Fairbanks (Youth)

Week 3 Winners

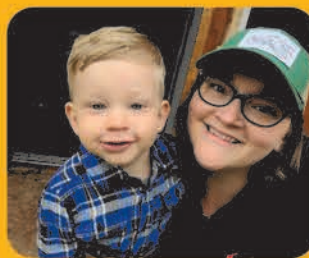


Jim Durkee
Fairbanks (Adult)



Elia Samuelson
Bethel (Youth)

Week 2 Winners



Ashley Pack
Palmer (Adult)



Mollie Witt
Anchorage (Youth)

Week 1 Winners



Carin Kircher
Valdez (Adult)



Ethan Benton
Kodiak (Youth)