

The Cordova Times

Prince William Sound’s oldest newspaper. Established in 1914. Tribally owned.

Friday, January 1, 2021

WWW.THECORDOVATIMES.COM

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The Cordova Times

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2020: CORDOVA ENDURES



A look back at the year in photos. Full photos, captions and credits on pages 9-12.

QUARANTINE DREAMS

Museum will host more local art shows

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH
zsmith@thecordovatimes.com

The coronavirus pandemic has meant fewer big art shows at Cordova Historical Museum. However, these scheduling gaps open up room for local art shows like “Quarantine Dreams,” showing at the museum gallery from Dec. 4-Jan. 30.

Upcoming local shows will include an exhibition coinciding with Shorebird Festival. Interested artists, including artists



See Page 3, **ART SHOW** Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
“Cruisin’ for a Bruisin’” by Karl Becker.

A look back at the most impactful, uplifting and unique moments of 2020

BY THE CORDOVA TIMES STAFF

It’s been anything but an ordinary year. A pandemic, national political unrest and an uncertain fishing season tested our patience, our flexibility and our optimism. These articles from throughout 2020 chart how Cordova endured adversity and emerged stronger as a result.

See Page 9, **CORDOVA ENDURES**

The Cordova Times
Native Village of Eyak
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Happy New Year!

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2021

Cordova Culture

AROUND TOWN

Hunt draw deadline, Race Across Alaska and Citizen of the Year nominations

BY THE CORDOVA TIMES STAFF

Application deadline

The 2021 Federal Subsistence Unit 6C moose hunt drawing application deadline is Jan. 15. Those who qualify as permanent residents of Unit 6A, 6B or 6C (Cordova) by September 1, 2021 may apply. Forms with full info are available on the door outside the Forest Service office at 612 2nd St. at the Cordova Ranger District.

Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge

Join others in a virtual race across Alaska. Run, walk, bike, indoor bike, cross country ski or swim 125 miles, 225 miles, 350 miles, 850 miles, or 2000 miles. Log as many miles as you can over the 3 months of winter. Participants can log miles, track progress, collect virtual badges, and see how they rank up to others on the leader board daily. Singles and groups welcome. The challenge started on Dec. 21 with registration open through Feb. 28 and concludes on March 20. For full details, to register or donate, visit runsignup.com/Race/Events/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge.

Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Iceworm Festival committee is accepting nominations for Citizen of the Year until Jan. 22. For more information and to submit a nomination, visit icewormfestival.com/citizenoftheyear.

Free local COVID testing

Cordova residents can receive a free COVID test Monday-Saturday at either the Cordova Community Medical Center or the Ilanka Community Health Center. CCMC offers tests 9-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the ambulance bay. Call 907-424-8000 with questions. ICHC offers drive-through and walk-up testing 2-3 p.m. on Monday and Friday and noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday downstairs across from St. George's Episcopal Church. Call 907-424-3622 to pre-register. Be sure to bring insurance paperwork so clinics can get reimbursed and help keep tests free.

Musical Instruments and Curriculum

Cordova 4H has musical instruments

See Page 4, AROUND TOWN



CORDOVA TELECOM COOPERATIVE

is a proud sponsor of
The Cordova Times
calendar of events.

View and submit events at:
[THECORDOVAITIMES.COM/EVENTS](https://thecordovaitimes.com/events)

I KNOW THAT FEEL BRO

A chat with Cordova's meme master

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH
zsmith@thecordovaitimes.com

For the past two months, an anonymously run Instagram account has posted memes poking fun at the conventions of Cordova life — from ordering takeout from The Powder House when you have perfectly good leftovers in the fridge, to the ongoing debate over police staffing. The Cordova Times sat down to chat with the “Cordova Memes” team to find out how Prince William Sound’s dankest memes are crafted.

Does Curdova Memes have a political perspective? Or are memes selected purely on the value of their lol-worthiness?

Memes are chosen solely for relatability and lol-ness. Sometimes local politics are funny and the memes have a flavor of that, but we’re not interested in creating political cartoons. We want to keep it to the fun “poking at” level, similar to joking with your friends.

What sort of response have you gotten from the public?

We’ve had a hugely positive response, and lots of folks submit their own ideas either as complete pieces or as concepts that we then put together for them. It feels great to make people smile and also to offer a platform for creativity.

What online content creators have influenced your approach?

Other similar niche accounts that are for a small community or very specific audience. Meme pages for schools or other Alaska meme accounts. The general foundation is that our town and lifestyle is unique, so the memes play off that common experience. We want the reaction to be like, “Haha so true!” or, “Oh gosh, I can relate.”

In your judgment, what meme best characterized 2020?

Phew, that’s a hard one... I’m gonna go with Running Away Balloon. Kinda felt the energy of the whole year, looking forward to anything positive and embracing small victories but still overshadowed by an intense and ever-present weight.

And what’s the most annoying, or played-out, meme going around right now?

Anything Baby Yoda.

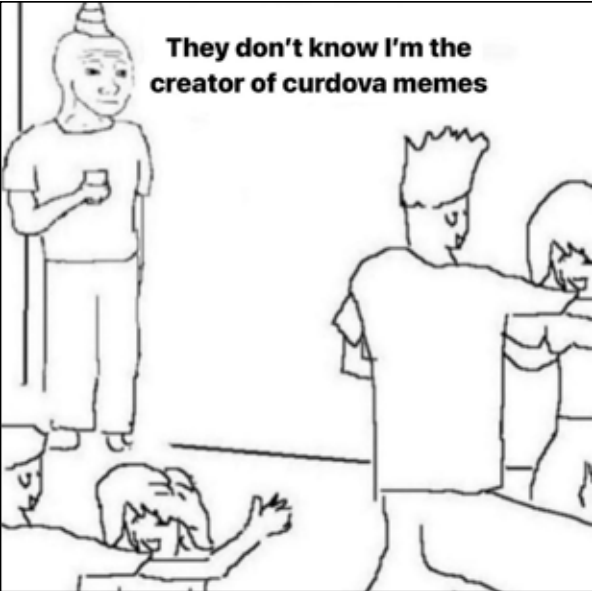
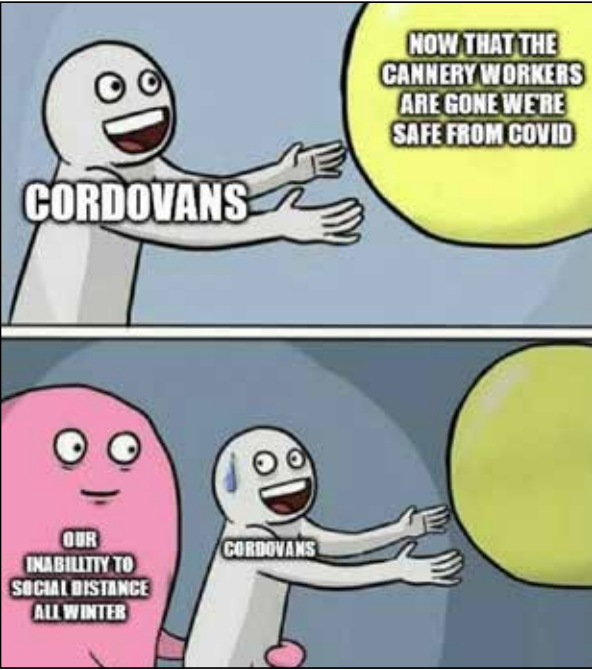
You’ve posted a few memes with 4chan-associated elements, like Wojak and Trad Girl, that are sometimes used in far edgier material than what’s seen on Curdova Memes. Are there any memes you’re per se opposed to posting? For instance, would you post a Pepe the Frog meme if it were funny enough?

I think we’d consider the Pepe and 4chan-style memes for sure. It just isn’t what people submit, and generally not what we happened to be inspired by. We scroll the explore page of Instagram for templates rather than other platforms.

What else does the public need to know about Curdova Memes?

We’re pretty amazed that people are so excited about the page, and happy to take submissions, but also hope everyone knows we aren’t constantly on here. Several people run the page, so sometimes messages get marked read or lost in the mix and we can’t always be 100% on top of all submissions (but we very much appreciate them!)

Curdova Memes can be found at
instagram.com/curdova.memes



What does it all meme?

Meme
An item, such as a captioned image, that is spread widely online through social media. The term was coined by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins in the 1976 book “The Selfish Gene,” which defined a meme as a “unit of cultural transmission” similar to a gene.

4chan
An online forum known for its often exceptionally vulgar and perverse sense of humor.

Wojak
Also known as “Feels Guy,” the illustrated character Wojak is a bald, white-skinned man often used to express feelings of wistfulness or melancholy. Images of Wojak were originally posted to the German imageboard Krautchan around 2010 before being popularized on 4chan.

Trad Girl
A Wojak variant depicting a woman wearing a floral sundress, symbolizing a traditional or conservative idea of femininity.

Pepe the Frog
An illustrated character used to depict a variety of ideas and scenarios, sometimes in conjunction with Wojak. Pepe originally appeared in the comic book “Boy’s Club” in 2005 before being appropriated by 4chan. Pepe is now sometimes associated with far-right politics and troll culture.



"Boxed Wine With Dominoes" by Toni Bocci.

ART SHOW

From Page 1

who haven't previously participated in art shows, are welcome to get in touch about making submissions to future shows, said Paula Payne, cultural program leader for the museum. Payne can be contacted at paula@cordovalibrary.org.

"Any title that we assign the show is just a jumping-off point," Payne said. "Like they say in 'Pirates of the Carribean,' it's just a guideline."

The Quarantine Dreams art show included around 55 artworks from local artists, as well as a collection of Zen rock art from the Rev. Kelly Weaverling, leader of the Pathless Way Zen Community. Seventy percent of the proceeds from artwork sold go to the artist, and 30% to the Cordova Historical Society, which maintains the museum gift store and gallery.

High-ticket items included a \$500 seascape painting by David Rosenthal. Payne contributed a series of paintings featuring bears wearing anti-coronavirus



Center, "Covid Brown Bear" by Paula Payne.

Photos by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times



"Listening Moose" by Mazie VanDenBroek.

masks, and artist Karl Becker submitted a series of lightly satirical watercolors. One of Becker's watercolors featured a version of Edward Hopper's painting "Nighthawks," reworked to include face masks.

"I hope everybody can find something

that they relate to here," Payne said. "That's why I like the show and why I like all the different artists here in Cordova. There's such a wide variety and I feel that there will, hopefully, be something for everybody to relate to and be inspired by."



Notice to the Public

For Cordova COVID – 19 related news, please visit COVID19.CITYOFCORDOVA.NET

We are **ALL** responsible for keeping our community healthy.

HANDS
Wash them often

ELBOW
Cough into it

FACE
Don't touch it

SPACE
Keep a safe 6 ft

HOME
Stay home if you can

MASKS
Wear them in public

424-2345 · CTCAK.NET

Happy New Year

& CONGRATS TO ALL OUR MOONLIGHT MADNESS PRIZE PACKAGE WINNERS!

TONI BOCCI
JAMES DUNDAS
SARA TIEDEMAN
KIMBERLY MAGALLANES
& Grand Prize Winner
EVALYN ITLIONG
WHO TOOK HOME A \$1,000
LOCAL SHOPPING SPREE!

A HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN MOONLIGHT MADNESS 2020!
CTC AND CWC WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

AROUND TOWN

From Page 2

to loan and Dancing with the Spirit has a new virtual music curriculum. Go to dancingwiththespirit.org for more info. Call Kim Menster 907-253-5223 or Belle Mickelson at 907-424-5143 if you would like to borrow an instrument and tuner. Some Cordova 4H curriculum materials are also available.

Flu shots

Flu shots are available at both local clinics. Call CCMC at 907-424-8200 and ICHC at 907-424-3622 to schedule an appointment.

TEEN/YA Art

Ages 13 and up are welcome to participate in teen and young adult art from 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday in the Education Room at the Cordova Center. Email paula@cordovalibrary.org if you wish to attend. Drop-ins welcome.

Salvation Army Food Pantry

The Salvation Army continues to serve the community of Cordova through its Service Extension Ministry. A food pantry is located at 514 1st St. If you need food assistance and pantry is not open, please call Steve at 907-429-6262.

Pen Pal Program

Write to Cordova Hospital Residents with their Pen Pal Program. The address is Pen Pals for Residents Program, Cordova Community Medical Center, P.O. Box 160, Cordova, AK 99574.

Moms, Pops & Tots Storytime

Native Village of Eyak hosts story time each week at 4 p.m. Thursdays via Zoom. Register in advance to receive the Zoom invite where you and your child can listen to a story and then share your favorite story with the group. Contact Jessica at nvefamillies@eyak-nsn.gov or call 907-424-7738 for more info.

Health & Hope

Cordova Community Medical Center’s Sound Alternatives clinic offers a free online support group for friends and family of individuals with addiction. Meetings of the Help & Hope support group will be facilitated by licensed clinical social worker Ruby Vincent. The group will meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays via Zoom. Anyone wishing to join can obtain login info by calling 907-424-8300.

AA Group Meeting

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting at 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Due to possible changes, please call 907-244-9406 or 907-347-2286 for additional details on location and time.

Wellness and Recovery

Ilanka Community Wellness & Recovery Support Circle meetings are 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Masonic Lodge. If you or someone you know are interested in breaking free from alcohol or substance use or abuse, these free meetings can help you grow and develop skills to do so. Call John at

THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS



Photo by David Little/for The Cordova Times

Christmas time is a time of photos, and this masked mystery photo of a fleeting moment was taken during a recent snowy day near the Cordova Harbor breakwater.

Do you have a great photo of the area you’d like to see as the “Photo of the Week”? If so, share your photo with The Cordova Times! All photos should be 1MB or larger, high resolution digital files. Please submit original work and a caption including who, what, when, where and why the photo was taken. Also, please include where you live and your connection to Cordova.

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO: share@thecordovatimes.com

907-424-3622 for more information.

Cordova Public Library

Cordova Public Library is open by appointment and curbside delivery. Space is limited to allow proper social distancing and cleaning procedures. Closing between appointments for cleaning Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday noon-5 p.m. For appointments, please call 907-424-6667. Curbside delivery is available until 6 p.m. Please email requests to curbsidedelivery@cordovalibrary.org.

Free online books

The Cordova Public Library has a huge variety of books and audio books available in digital format through the Alaska Digital Library which can be accessed on any electronic device. Borrow, read & return books in digital format for free. Go to adl.overdrive.com and click “Sign in.” Select Cordova Public Library from drop-down list and enter your library card number. The PIN is 99574. Need help or your card number? Email librarian@cordovalibrary.org with your full name or send a message on Facebook at facebook.com/CordovaPublicLibrary.

CORDOVID tournament

If you have a Nintendo Switch and Mario Kart 8, a daily Mario Kart activity allows you

to socialize remotely. Learn how to join the Cordova Mario Kart CORDOVID tournament at 6:30 p.m. daily by visiting cdv.to/867a5 online. Tournament code: 1982-0695-3003. Don’t forget to join the voice chat during the race.

Skeet and trap

Join the Cordova Trap & Gun Club Sundays from 1-3 p.m. for skeet and trap at the Cordova Public Shooting Range out Sheridan Glacier Road. Cancellations may occur. For the most up-to-date information and announcements, follow their Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/CDVTrapGun or email CDVTrapGun@gmail.com.

Knit & Lit Book Club

Join others for book discussions, knitting and other handicrafts via Zoom at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Anna Hernandez at anna@cordovalibrary.org.

Pajama Read Along

The Cordova Public Library hosts a digital “read along” with Anna Hernandez starting at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays each week on Instagram @cordovapubliclibraryreads. Content is geared towards ages 10 and up. Email anna@cordovalibrary.org for more information.

Storytime for Little Ones

Cordova Public Library’s Storytime for Little Ones takes place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays each week. To participate, follow “cordovapubliclibraryreads” on Instagram. For more information, contact Anna Hernandez at anna@cordovalibrary.org.

Poetry Showcase

A reading of poetry composed by community members will take place via Zoom at 6 p.m. on the last Friday of each month. For more information, contact Jillian Gold jgold@cityofcordova.net.

Regular City Council meetings

Regular meetings are scheduled at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. The agenda is established on the Friday prior to each meeting date and posted at the post office, library, city hall lobby, the Cordova Center entrance bulletin board and on the city website at cityofcordova.net. Watch council meetings on YouTube at youtube.com/user/cathyrhs.

Visit our event calendar at thecordovatimes.com/events. Have an upcoming event? Fill out our online form at thecordovatimes.com/submit-your-event or email share@thecordovatimes.com.

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year!

We hope your 2021 is prosperous and blessed!

The crew at Cordova Outboard

OPEN Monday thru Saturday 8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Closed Sunday

907-424-3220 | 211 Breakwater Ave. | CordovaOutboard.com

Opinion

The Cordova Times

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Letters to the Editor

The Cordova Times welcomes letters to the editor up to 300 words and thank you letters up to 150 words. Submit letters by 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in the following Friday's newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published. All letters must include the writer's name and address and daytime phone number. Only the writer's name and city will be published. The Cordova Times reserves the right to edit letters for content, length, clarity, grammar, AP Style and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters must be relevant to The Cordova Times readership area and preference will be given to topics covered in recent editions of The Cordova Times. Submit letters to share@thecordovatimes.com.

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CORDOVA CHRONICLES

A New Year's resolution

Words of comfort and empathy will save us in 2021

BY DICK SHELLHORN

For The Cordova Times

Air travel from Cordova to points south invariably involves a stop at Seattle, with attendant hours spent in their constantly changing terminal.

One of my favorite places to pass time while waiting for connecting flights was a shop in the Main Concourse near C Gates that sold “Life is Good” T-shirts.

I have a couple of them that are now faded and stretched out of shape, my most treasured one being of a burnt-umber hue that features a pair of hiking boots along with the “Life is Good” logo. It has made many a trip to the top of the Ski Hill, in days that were good, indeed.

Alas, the store is no longer there.

Maybe that is a metaphor for 2020, which certainly won’t rank as one of the best in our lives.

There is sad irony in the fact that 20-20 is associated with perfect vision, for when we look back on the past year, it seems to be with anything but that.

The COVID-19 pandemic, plus an “infodemic” of news surrounding political conflict, has made it a year to forget.

Born just a month before D-Day, June 10, 1944, the unforgettable date of the Allied invasion of Europe to begin the end WWII, this has been the most confounding trip around the sun in my life.

Everyone in the country, including denizens of our isolated burg by the sea, has been impacted by disease and turmoil, revealing that even “The Friendly City” can



Photo and coffee cup courtesy of Gretchen Carpenter
With a warm westerly blowing, it doesn't take a T-shirt to see that life is good on a sunny day at the duck cabin.

be divided into camps that are anything but that.

Perhaps vaccines will be the external solution to COVID-19, but the nationwide divisiveness surrounding something as simple as a small piece of cloth reveals deeper issues that will likely continue to haunt us.

This time of “bubbles,” another term unique to this past year, has led to the re-discovery of favorite books, lined up on a back shelf, with pages folded over to mark what were deemed pearls of wisdom.

One of them is Abraham Vergese’s “Cutting for Stone,” a national bestseller about the lives of a surgeon and a son he abandoned at birth, who later rediscover each other through a chance encounter.

The now world-renowned surgeon is giving a brilliant analytical lecture to a packed hall of upcoming doctors at one of

the country’s most prestigious hospitals and to close the presentation, asks a simple question: “What treatment in an emergency is administered by ear?”

An uneasy silence settles over the auditorium, and he repeats the question. Averted eyes, squirming seats and still no response.

Finally, his son, who is an unbeknownst member of the audience and has spent years treating underprivileged patients in Ethiopia, raises his hand and answers, from a quote in one of his father’s books: “Words of comfort.”

We are living in an emergency.

Yes, vaccines are on the way.

Hopefully, they will end this pandemic.

But we need a treatment administered by ear for all the other things that ail us.

It is words — of comfort and empathy, as well as of reason, respect and truth — that will save us all.

And make wearing a ragged “Life is Good” T-shirt on a sunny hike up the Ski Hill feel right again.

Dick Shellhorn is a lifelong Cordovan. He has been writing sports stories for the Cordova Times for over 50 years. In his Cordova Chronicles features, he writes about the history and characters of this Alaska town. Alaska Press Club awarded Shellhorn first place for Best Humor column in 2016, and third place in 2017 and 2019. He also received second place for Best Editorial Commentary in 2019. Shellhorn has written two books about Alaska adventures: Time and Tide and Balls and Stripes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A new breed of Iceworm

Due to the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations from our local health care officials, the Cordova Iceworm Festival has made some changes to this year’s festival. Please keep in mind, these changes were not made lightly and are put in place to help keep our community safe.

The Festival will start Feb. 1 and run through Feb. 6. We hope to have an official schedule out after the first of the year. Some of the regular events, including but not limited to the Paper Airplane Contest, Variety Show and Food Fair have been officially cancelled. The Iceworm Festival Board and Committee will also not endorse any event(s) that do not abide by the CDC guidelines and/or city of Cordova mandates, for example, inside events where social distancing is not an option.

Events where participants will be outside and can abide by the guidelines and mandates, such as the Tail Hunt, are encouraged. The Parade will have a longer route this year, starting at the Ferry Terminal and driving through Main Street then down Chase Avenue and then up completing at the end of Lake Avenue. All entries will need to consist of floats that can maintain 10 miles per hour for the length of the parade.



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

The Iceworm marches down First Street, Feb. 1, 2020.

We are hopeful this allows the town to enjoy a safe and fun parade. Since traveling to the festival looks different this year, we will be posting more information on how to watch live streamed events such as the parade, Miss Iceworm Coronation, Citizen of the Year event and our Fireworks Extravaganza soon. And be on the lookout for details on The Treasure Chest Raffle!

The Iceworm Festival Board and

Committee would like to thank Cordova for being diligent and patient with all the changes we have faced this year. We are thankful to live in a community where people band together in times such as these. Cordova, we are “Still Shining Bright!”

Ria Beedle, on behalf of Baby Iceworm and the Iceworm Committee



We want to hear from you at The Cordova Times

Send letters to the editor up to 300 words to share@thecordovatimes.com



The Cordova Conversation

NEWS & NOTICES FROM CITY HALL

Cordova Regular Election – March 2, 2021

Polling place: Cordova Center Community Room A • **Voting hours:** 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

NOTICE OF OFFICES TO BE FILLED

To elect:
Seat DOne (1) City Council Member for One (1) Regular, Three (3) Year Term
Seat EOne (1) City Council Member for One (1) Regular, Three (3) Year Term

To elect:
Two (2) School Board Membersfor Two (2) Regular, Three (3) Year Terms

To elect:
Two (2) CCMC Authority Board Membersfor Two (2) Regular, Three (3) Year Terms
One (1) CCMC Authority Board Memberfor One (1), One (1) Year Term



To declare candidacy: Any qualified voter who meets the residency and age requirements of the elective office must file, not earlier than the date of first posting of this notice (Friday December 18, 2020) and at least by 30 days before the election (Monday February 1, 2021), with the city clerk, a sworn declaration of candidacy using the declaration of candidacy

form that applies to the office for which he or she is a candidate in order for the voter's name to appear on the ballot as a candidate for that elective office.

Residency requirements: Mayor, City Council, and School Board: One year immediately preceding the election. CCMC Authority Board of Directors: One year immediately preceding the election and able to meet the requirements in Cordova Municipal Code 15.20.010.

Voter registration: Voter registration applications may be obtained at City Hall or you may register online at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/> . To be qualified to vote in a regular or special city election, a voter must be: A) Qualified to vote in state elections and registered to vote in state elections at a residence address within the city limits of Cordova at least thirty days (Sunday January 31, 2021) immediately preceding the municipal election; B) A resident of the city for thirty days (Sunday January 31, 2021) immediately preceding the municipal election; and C) Not disqualified under Article V of the Alaska Constitution.

For further information, contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofcordova.net or 424-6248.

#GetVaccinated
#ReturnToNormalcy
#2021

Happy New Year



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(907) 424-6200
CITYOFCORDOVA.NET

PANDEMIC

2 new virus cases are of uncertain origin

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH
zsmith@thecordovatimes.com

Gov. Mike Dunleavy has proposed to reorganize the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services into two separate agencies to streamline and improve delivery of critical services.

Under an executive order drafted by the state Department of Law, DHSS would split into two departments: The Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Health.

The first would include the Division of Juvenile Justice, Office of Children's Services, Alaska Psychiatric Institute and Alaska Pioneer Homes. The second

would include the Divisions of Senior & Disabilities Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Public Assistance and Health Care Services. Each department would have a division for finance and management services. Reorganization would not reduce current programs or services, according to the governor's office.

"By reorganizing the department everyone involved will benefit in many areas internally and externally including focused care, increased responsiveness and overall workflow," DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum said.

The proposed reorganization would involve minimal additional costs, since all of the units and programs involved

already exist under the larger state agency, according to the governor's office.

Questions regarding the proposed reorganization may be sent to dhssreorg@alaska.gov.

The Alaska Constitution grants the governor the power to make such organizational changes to the executive branch by use of an executive order.

The governor's office said the executive order establishing the two specific branch departments would be submitted to the upcoming regular session of the 32nd Legislature in January. Legislators have 60 days to disapprove that executive order or it will become law effective July 1.

Cordova reported one new case of the novel coronavirus Monday, Dec. 28 and two new cases Tuesday, Dec. 29. The two Dec. 29 cases are believed to be related to one another, though their origin of transmission remains unknown, officials said.

Although a limited distribution of coronavirus vaccines has begun at Cordova Community Medical Center and at Ilanka Community Health Center, city officials said that there are still months to go before it becomes possible to safely ease social distancing rules. In a statement, the Cordova Medical Response Team strongly urged community members to refrain from nonessential travel, and to keep their social bubbles small during the holiday season.

Of the 61 local cases identified so far, three are believed to be currently active. Forty-six cases have been Cordova residents and 15 have been non-residents. Three cases have required hospitalization, according to data published by Ilanka Community Health Center. One Cordova resident who was infected with the novel coronavirus died Nov. 18.

Coronavirus testing is available at ICHC, Mondays and Fridays from 2-3 p.m., and Saturdays from noon-1 p.m.; and at CCMC, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-9:30 a.m.

Alaska virus death toll reaches 201

Infections of the novel coronavirus in Alaska have reached 46,092, including 217 new cases, as the state's death toll from the worldwide pandemic rose to 201, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reported on Tuesday, Dec. 29.

The total includes three new cases in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area/Copper River Basin.

The death of an Anchorage man in his 50s pushed that resident death toll to 200. A single nonresident has died to date of the virus, according to DHSS.

To date 44,581 Alaskans and 1,5011

nonresidents have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

There have been a total of 1,004 hospitalizations. According to the DHSS dashboard there are 74 people currently hospitalized who are confirmed to be COVID positive, plus nine additional patients whose conditions are under investigation. Ten of these patients are on ventilators.

New resident cases of the virus on the DHSS data dashboard as of Dec. 29 included:

- Anchorage, 64,
- Eagle River, 33,
- Wasilla, 28,
- Fairbanks, 23,

- Palmer, 13,
- Kodiak, 8,
- North Pole, 6,
- Dillingham Census Area, 4,
- Bethel, Ketchikan, Soldotna, Valdez-Cordova Census Area/Copper River Basic, 3,
- Bethel Census Area, Chugiak, Delta Junction, Kenai Peninsula Borough North, 2,
- Big Lake, Craig, Dillingham, Kenai, Nome Census Area, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Seward, Sitka, Tok and Utqiagvik. 1.

See Page 8, **COVID CASES**

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET TESTED

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**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

ALASKA BENEFITS

\$900B omnibus appropriations package benefits state

BY THE CORDOVA TIMES STAFF

There’s something for everyone in the \$900 billion, 12-bill federal appropriations package that became law on Dec. 27, from fisheries and transportation to public safety and a number of Native and rural programs nationwide, including Alaska.

The appropriations package invests in every sector of America, and will create economic opportunities for Alaskans, strengthen national defense and military infrastructure, support Alaska’s fisheries and invest in transportation, said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska.

In Prince William Sound specifically, the package provides funds for a site-specific landslide hazard assessment and long-term monitoring strategy, along with enhanced

earthquake monitoring capabilities and upgrading volcano monitoring equipment.

Highlights of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Bill include micro-grants for the Food security Program created by Murkowski in the 2018 Farm Bill, to help support Alaskans’ ability to grow their own food.

Murkowski secured language in the bill requiring urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reestablish the Wild Caught Working Group under the National Organic Standards Board to consider developing organic certification standards for wild seafood.

Other provisions in that bill providing millions of dollars for rural electric and telephone infrastructure, distance learning, telemedicine and broadband grants,

plus rural water and wastewater disposal programs.

“The legislation includes funds for a number of Alaska Native and rural programs, including the crisis of missing, trafficked and murdered indigenous woman, as well as provisions to protect Alaska’s land and people,” she said.

Also included are funding initiatives to increase America’s presence in the Arctic, full funding for the payment in lieu of taxes program for local governments whose area includes federal lands not subject to state or local taxes, public schools, and search and rescue operations.

The Alaska Native Education Equity Program got an increase of \$500,000 for a total of \$36.5 million for a program designed to meet unique educational needs

of Alaska Native students, plus an estimated \$2.5 million in support of Native American and Alaska Native Language Immersion Schools and Programs grants, which were added by Murkowski within the Every Student Succeeds Act. The senator noted that it has been determined that schools where indigenous language is the primary language of instruction have a strong, positive effect on Alaska Native students.

Transportation, housing and urban development items in the omnibus package included more money for essential air service, tribal housing block grants and \$38 million for a competitive grant program that could help fund maintenance and improvements of Alaska’s ferry system through construction of ferry boats, acquiring right-of-way and ferry terminal facilities.

COVID CASES

From Page 7

Seven new nonresident cases include four in Anchorage and three others whose location was not disclosed.

Thirty-five resident cases and one

nonresident case were added to the dashboard through data certification

Alaska’s current statewide alert level, based on the average daily case rate over 14 days per 100,000 is high at 40.34 cases per 100,000. All regions except one in Alaska are in high alert status with widespread community transmission occurring, DHSS

officials said.

A total of 1,259,845 tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Alaska to date, including 22,059 tests in the previous seven days. The average percentage of daily positive tests for the previous seven days is 4.56 percent.

Statewide updates are provided daily by

state health officials Alaska’s COVID-19 dashboard at covid19.alaska.gov.

The DHSS daily report reflects data from midnight to 11:59 p.m., which is posted at noon daily on the Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub. Updates on the impact of COVID-19 are posted daily at coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com.

ILANKA

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For local COVID-19 information, please visit the following sites:

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COVID19.CITYOFCORDOVA.NET

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2020: CORDOVA ENDURES



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

The U.S. Forest Service and Prince William Sound Science Center led residents on an educational excursion to Sheridan Glacier, an ice worm habitat. Forest Service Developed Recreation Program Coordinator Erin Cole and Trails Coordinator Bobby Scribner unexpectedly encountered one of the elusive creatures at the glacier while planning an Iceworm Festival hike. (Jan. 25, 2020)

JANUARY

No ferry to PWS until May 20 - Jan. 21

The Alaska Marine Highway System announced that ferry service to Prince William Sound could resume May 20, days after Cordova’s first fishing opener. Mobilized by city and business leaders, Cordovans contacted the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities en masse to make it clear that more consistent and timely ferry service was necessary for the success of the fishery.

FEBRUARY

In search of the elusive ice worm - Feb. 2

Cordova’s Iceworm Festival included a rare appearance by the slippery beast itself, spotted by U.S. Forest Service staff on the ice of Sheridan Glacier. During the festival, the Forest Service and Prince William Sound Science Center collaborated to take residents on educational hikes to the frozen habitat of the ice worm.

Ferry rally livestreams to audience of thousands - Feb. 15

Five months into a ferry service gap, residents held a protest at Cordova’s AMHS terminal that caught the attention of a curious online public. The protest, part of an Alaska-wide event to demand better-funded ferry service, included a who’s who of civic, business and spiritual leaders.

“I run a transportation service,” City Councilman Ken Jones said. “I can tell you that private enterprise will never be able to replace the ferry.”

At last, Dick Groff receives 2019 lifetime achievement award - Feb. 22

When Dick Groff was selected for a prestigious lifetime achievement award

in February 2019, other members of the Cordova Hunter Information and Training Program waited for the perfect moment to present it to him. That moment arrived 12 months later, when Groff was honored for his work teaching firearm safety and survival skills in a local program which he co-founded.

“Whether it’s firearm safety or just not freezing to death, he wants to empower [kids] to enjoy the outdoors,” HIT Program Instructor Charlotte Westing said.

Pizzeria owner serves up oven-fired raps - Feb. 23

Let it not be said that Cordova produces only fish, or that Harborside produces only pizza — in 2020, Harborside Pizza owner Brian Wildrick released his first music video. Recording under the name “BWild907,” Wildrick collaborated with New York-based producer RJ Pasin to record “What’s For Dinner,” a rap single about the challenges of entrepreneurship.

“I’m not just rapping about pizza, necessarily, but about the work that it took to start a business, being an entrepreneur and doing what you love and the importance of family,” Wildrick said. “I didn’t have kids to put them through daycare and nighttime and never see them. This is a family business, so I want to make it about my family.”

MARCH

Narrow culverts have cut salmon off from habitat - March 7

Cordovans going out the road drive over dozens of culverts, hardly knowing they’re there. For the Forest Service, however, culverts have become a major concern, as narrow passages have cut salmon off from miles of spawning areas. The Forest Service, working in partnership with the Copper River Watershed Project and other community groups, identified 13 “problem” culverts to be removed, or replaced with spacious new culverts that mimic natural streambeds.



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

A fishing vessel exits Cordova Harbor during the 2020 fishery opener. Contrary to predictions, the 2020 fishery delivered one of the weakest yields in years, falling to less than half of the recent 10-year average. (May 12, 2020)



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

One of Cordova Post Office’s entry doors was damaged in a windstorm and subsequently propped closed using a trash can. Following pressure from the city, the U.S. Postal Service hired local contractors to repair the door, and plans to undertake more extensive repairs around the beginning of 2021. (Oct. 7, 2020)



Ken Jones was unseated from Cordova City Council by Cathy Sherman in the March 11 Cordova Regular Election. A conservative gadfly, Jones was the only city council member willing to defend a plan that would have required most tax increases to be ratified by public vote. Jones’s council seat was the only seat contested in the election. “I mean, of course I’m disappointed, but at least Cordovans got a choice,” Jones said. “I wish Sherman and the rest of the council best of luck with the tough decisions.” (Feb. 19, 2020)

Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

2020: CORDOVA ENDURES



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

While conspiracy theories and outraged protests spread across some parts of the U.S. on election night, Cordova succeeded in conducting a smooth and orderly local vote. Updated technology allowed ballots to be tallied rapidly. “I think Alaska has a great process,” said Diana Rubio, the state’s elections chairperson for Cordova. “They dot every I and cross every T... There’s none of these hanging chads!” (Nov. 3, 2020)



Courtesy photo

A DC-4 aircraft landing at Cape Yakataga left the runway, damaging its nose and losing part of its landing gear.



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

From left, Pastor Mike Glover and Mandy Glover reach out to Andrew Broders, who appeared as a lone counter-protester at a Black Lives Matter march. (June 7, 2020)



Photo courtesy of Penny Lynn Johnson

Cali Sjostedt rides high in a parade in support of President Donald Trump. As voting day approached, over 68 vehicles gathered for a rally through town in support of Trump’s reelection. (Oct. 31, 2020)

Cordova farewells a champion of education - March 13

After 36 years as a Mt. Eccles Elementary School staff member, Principal Gayle Groff announced her retirement. Groff’s unique contributions included increasing the school’s emphasis on social and emotional learning, and scrapping the traditional A-B-C-D-F grading system. “I want to leave while I still love what I do,” Groff said. “I would like to leave when people still say, ‘Aww,’ instead of, ‘Wow, I’m glad she finally figured that one out!’” Groff was replaced by Stephanie Milner, whose previous professional experience included teaching English with the Abu Dhabi Education Council in the United Arab Emirates.

When the congregation can’t congregate - March 28

As the threat of the novel coronavirus became more apparent, religious organizations took different responses. For Pastor Mike Glover of Cordova Community Baptist Church, it became an opportunity to practice delivering a sermon convincingly via iPhone. “Two weeks ago, I would have said, ‘How in the world can I preach to an empty room?’” Glover remarked. “This can be an opportunity to learn, to try new things, to figure out some stuff, if you’re willing to be flexible.”

APRIL

It’s no business as usual for fishing industry - April 4

As anxiety increased over the possibility of a coronavirus outbreak caused by out-of-town fishery workers, processors implemented strict protocols to keep their employees from communicating the virus to one another or to the public at large. Throughout the summer, workers at some Cordova plants would be required to wear masks at most times, avoid congregating with other workers and refrain from leaving the grounds of the plant. “We are moving forward with a positive attitude [but] nobody is in La La Land,” said Norm Van Vactor, president and CEO for the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.

Students and teachers adjust to a semester without classrooms - April 17

A move to online-only learning left students bored, annoyed and lonely. However, lockdown-induced isolation also had its upsides. When students were asked to begin reading a book, several blazed through the entire book in a matter of days, Mt. Eccles teacher Krysta Williams said. As it became clear that school closures would last for months, educators cooked up substitutes for graduation ceremonies and other long-awaited moments of the student experience. “My heart goes out to people who are trying to work at home, teach their kids at home and try to manage their entire household, at the same time,” outgoing Mt. Eccles Principal Gayle Groff said.

Cordova introduces plan to keep COVID-19 at bay - April 24

With the opening of Cordova’s salmon fishery less than a month away, the city unveiled a series of protocols designed to avert a possible coronavirus outbreak. This included requiring fishermen quarantining on their vessels to fly a “Yellow Jack” flag, historically used to signal quarantine. Hand-cleaning stations were also installed at the entrances to Cordova Harbor. “The clock is ticking, but we are putting new safeguards in place every day to protect the citizens and the fishing fleet,” said Mayor Clay Koplin.

MAY

Reluctant Fisherman Inn offers quarantine with room service - May 1

Preparing for the long-heralded opening of the Copper River fishery, the Reluctant Fisherman Inn offered rooms at 50% cost to new arrivals undergoing



An art installation including 545 candles was intended to represent the loss of life during the pandemic (Oct. 23, 2020)

a mandatory 14-day self-isolation. The inn also offered room-service delivery of meals in plastic bags, along with regular wellness checks and other measures to help make two weeks’ quarantine as comfy as possible. “I’m going to prepare for the worst and hope for the best,” Reluctant Fisherman co-owner Sylvia Lange said. “Whether we have a business this time next year, we shall see.”

Cordova reports first coronavirus case - May 6

Copper River opener begins with caution - May 15

After much ado, the Copper River fishery began during the second week of May. At the time, there was little consensus as to whether the fishery risked triggering a major coronavirus outbreak in the community. Meanwhile, a small group of federal, state and Tribal health officials visited Cordova to determine what additional resources were needed to help keep the virus at bay. “We felt this trip was important so our federal partners could see firsthand the unique challenges these communities are facing and hear directly from them about their concerns,” said Alaska Director of Public Health Heidi Hedberg.

CHS brings pomp and circumstance online - May 23

A YouTube broadcast allowed graduating Cordova Jr./Sr. High School students to cross the stage and receive their diplomas in front of their friends and family. Graduates paraded down First Street, leaning from car windows and sunroofs to wave to the public. Meanwhile, school district officials worked to iron out plans for a projected August reopening of classrooms.

JUNE

Cordovans march peacefully against police violence - June 6

Despite having been announced mere hours beforehand, a march in support of the Black Lives Matter movement drew 60 people. Liberals and libertarians alike joined the protest which aimed to draw attention to the problem of excessive police violence in the U.S. “Once again, Cordova is a shining example of how



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
ent 545 children who were separated from their parents after they crossed the U.S.-Mexico border.

things should be done,” said Police Chief Mike Hicks. “These are the kind of efforts that will lead to change, not senseless rioting and looting as we have seen in so many other parts of the country.”

Black Lives Matter protests double in size - June 13

A week after Cordova’s first BLM march came the second — larger, louder and better organized. The rally’s 127 participants were joined by a single counterprotestor: fisherman Andrew Broders, who hoisted a sign reading “Blue Lives Matter,” referencing a movement that has worked to extend hate crime protections to police officers. Despite some initial apprehension, Broders was treated courteously by most passersby, he said.

Butterfly hunting — underwater? - June 21

Cordova Harbor experienced unexpected swarms of “sea butterflies,” tiny, translucent snails that flap around underwater, using their feet as wings. Researchers said they were uncertain why the unusual, though harmless, creatures were appearing in such numbers. “They’re interesting little critters,” scientist Caitlin McKinstry said.

JULY

Windssocks give boost to struggling business - July 8

As the economic torpor created by lockdown intensified, some businesses diversified their inventory to grab the attention of potential customers. For Sue’s Knives & More, this meant stocking windssocks decorated with designs inspired by Alaska Native art and U.S. Coast Guard heraldry. The popular items brought some much-welcome business to a store that had served only a handful in customers for the previous three months. “The cannery workers — I understand why they’ve got ’em quarantined, but I truly hope that they get to a point where they let them out, because I’m not positive I’ll make it

without them,” owner Sue Ervin said.

Cordova reports 10th coronavirus case - July 10

CDV Mex Food turns a profit while stepping up social distancing - July 18

For the CDV Mex food truck, coronavirus meant setting up an online storefront and redesigning their ordering process so that no more than two customers would arrive to pick up their orders in a single 15-minute period. Even with society at large at a near-standstill, CDV Mex Food was able to move over 50 plates of tacos, burritos, ceviche or sushi on a typical day. While the business moved online, the truck itself took up residence in the vacant lot formerly occupied by the Cordova Hotel and Bar — a space with more than ample room for social distancing.

At Cordova Gear, personal shopper service courtesy of COVID - July 20

Cordova Gear found another solution by offering customers personal shopper service from 6 feet away. Owner Natasha Casciano manned the door, fetching items from inside the store for customers to consider purchasing. Though business was diminished overall, demand for bicycle repairs remained strong during lockdown, Casciano said. “Nobody knows what’s going to happen tomorrow or the next day or the next year, so we have to find a way to continue to do what we do,” Casciano said.

AUGUST

Origami artist sells off stock of paper flowers - Aug. 10

Since 2016, Ella Fish has folded flowers: origami lilies, daffodils and tulips. In 2020, Fish decided to sell off her stock of paper

blossoms to fund the purchase of a new camera. With most traditional local bazaars canceled or postponed, Fish used Facebook to find buyers for her crafts.

Cordova crowdfunds last-minute adoption - Aug. 14

Most families have nine months’ warning that a new baby is coming. Not so for Bryan and Bree Mills, who received an unexpected message notifying them that the birth mother of their 2-year-old adopted daughter had given birth to a second girl who was also available for adoption. A hot-dog sale and a comedy show had helped cover the expense of the Millses’ first adoption. However, with lockdowns in place, traditional fundraising methods were off-limits. Finally, with the help of a fundraising auction on Facebook and a GoFundMe crowdfunding page, the Millses rapidly received the necessary funds for their second adoption. “I truly believe that I wouldn’t have two out of three of my daughters if it weren’t for Cordova,” Bree Mills said. “That is a debt of gratitude that I can never repay.”

Missionaries strive to spread faith without hugs, handshakes - Aug. 21

When a pair of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints missionaries arrived in Cordova, they were forced to find a way to connect to the community while keeping their distance. “COVID is a very strange and different time,” Elder Jacob Moeller said. “We always shake hands because we’re a family, we’re brothers and sisters of God, so that’s something very hard for missionaries.” Moeller and his mission partner used Facebook and Zoom to reach out to the community, offering spiritual guidance as well as Japanese lessons and services like shoveling snow off driveways.

SEPTEMBER

Rep. Don Young visits - Sept. 4

When Rep. Don Young, the longest-serving Republican member of the House, visited Cordova, he had few words of consolation. At a meet-and-greet, the flamboyant and energetic 87-year-old told constituents that the federal government could not be counted on to fix Alaska’s ailing ferry system. Campaigning for re-election, Young said of his opponent Alyse Galvin, “If you wanna start over, go ahead. You’re welcome to it.” Young later defeated Galvin, winning a 25th term and proving that Alaskans didn’t yet “wanna start over.”

‘Trump’s Death Clock’ defaced - Sept. 6

Though it lacked hands or a face, Jean DeBruler’s clock certainly rang an alarm: “Trump’s Death Clock,” a sign DeBruler maintained on Lake Avenue, purported to tally the number of coronavirus deaths attributable to inaction by President Donald Trump. Four months after going up, DeBruler’s sign was vandalized to read “Trump 2020.” “We got somebody’s attention!” DeBruler quipped. The vandalized sign was subsequently revised to read “Trump lies,” and accompanied by a large banner endorsing presidential candidate Joe Biden. Following Trump’s defeat in the Nov. 3 general election, the sign was removed.



Photo courtesy of Morgan Saiget
Cordova resident Morgan Saiget was surprised to encounter a black bear on her porch.



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Rear Adm. Matthew T. Bell leads a ceremony recognizing Cordova’s inclusion as a Coast Guard City. Although the city was awarded the designation in September 2019, a formal ceremony was delayed when visiting VIPs’ travel plans were stymied, first by severe weather and then by the coronavirus pandemic. (Oct. 9, 2020)



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Detail from “101 Happy Little Accidents, Give or Take a Few Hundred” by Chris Willis. During November, a traveling exhibit of Bob Ross-inspired quilt artwork visited Alaska for the first time. Ross, a painter whose work drew heavily on rustic Alaska landscapes, rose to fame as the host of PBS’s “The Joy of Painting.” (Nov. 17, 2020)



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Mt. Eccles Elementary School teacher Stefanie Tschappat and student Steven Pallas. After months of online-only instruction, students were more than ready to get back to classrooms on Sept. 7. “It’s just hard to learn on video calls,” second grader Lorelai Botz said. (Sept. 24, 2020)

2020: CORDOVA ENDURES



Perfect timing. (Oct. 12, 2020) Photo courtesy of Crystal Moenaert



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Registered nurse Olivia Moreno administers an injection of Pfizer-BioNTech’s coronavirus vaccine to Cordova Community Medical Center Chief Nursing Officer Kelly Kedzierski. On Dec. 16, three health care workers at CCMC became the first Cordovans vaccinated against the virus. (Dec. 16, 2020)

DECEMBER

Local start-up turns saltwater into disinfectant - Sept. 18

Faced with shortages of bleach and other cleaning agents, Alaska Safe began manufacturing its own hand sanitizer out of saltwater. Using electrolysis, saltwater can be used to produce hypochlorous acid, a solution of which kills pathogens without irritating users’ eyes or damaging their clothes.

“What amazes us every day is that we can make something so important and useful out of simple and abundant ingredients: water, salt and electricity,” Alaska Safe co-owner Bootslyn Roemhildt said.

Cordovans call for tougher drug policing - Sept. 19

Prompted in part by Cordova’s Black Lives Matter protests, the city of Cordova conducted a two-week public opinion survey on policing. Its findings were informative, though hardly shocking: many residents were concerned that the three-person department was understaffed. Other respondents complained that brazen drug dealing went unpunished. The survey results helped inform a series of public conversations involving interim Police Chief Nate Taylor, and were used to support calls for additional police officers even as the city mulled wide-ranging budget cuts.

“I appreciate the dedication of our officers,” wrote one survey respondent. “I see them on patrol and wonder, how do they do it?”

OCTOBER

Students cheer return to classrooms - Oct. 3

Perhaps the biggest surprise of 2020: a school full of children demanding to put down their electronic devices and go to school. When in-person teaching resumed Sept. 7, students were excited simply to sit face-to-face with their peers. Classes reopened with a host of new rules: wear your mask, don’t use the water fountain, keep 6 feet distance on the playground. Even with these new protocols, it was something of a return to normal.

“We just need to show that we were able to get through it,” high school senior Andrea Vargas said. “Although it would have been easier if we’d grown up a decade ago, we

have to learn to accept that it is what we have to deal with.”

Cordova delivers historically low census response - Oct. 24

During a census effort hampered by technological problems and inconsistent messaging by the Census Bureau, Cordova turned in its weakest response in at least 30 years. Census data is used to redraw electoral districts and to determine funding for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs and other services. With a final response rate of 49.4%, Cordova fell well below the national response rate of 67%.

“Will that low response rate impact us?” City Manager Helen Howarth said. “Yes, but we will have to wait to see in what ways.”

Candles represent migrant children separated from parents - Oct. 28, 2020

An art installation of 545 candles lit up Cordova Harbor’s breakwater on Oct. 23. Each candle represented a child separated from his or her parents after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Most of the parents were deported to Central American nations, and their children placed with sponsors in the U.S. Images of the visually striking art installation were picked up by the Spanish-language TV network Telemundo.

“I want [the public] to give some thought as to what it would be like if their children were taken from them, and what they would be willing to do to prevent that,” said artist Karl Becker, who organized the installation.

NOVEMBER

Cordova’s Trump supporters rally for re-election - Nov. 3

An event organized entirely offline drew over 68 vehicles which paraded down First Street in support of the re-election of President Donald Trump. Commercial fisherman Mark Irving said that, although using social media may have helped the event draw larger numbers, online backlash might have undercut its exuberant tone.

During a year with few mass gatherings, Cordova’s Trump parade was by far its largest rally in support of a particular candidate.

“[Trump] went from a lavish lifestyle free from the worries of the world to an extremely stressful job where people, literally, issue death threats on a daily basis,” said William Deaton, leader of the Republican Party’s Cordova Precinct. “Regardless of how people feel about his tweets or the vulgarity of some of his language, he is the defender of Western civilization. He is the bodyguard of freedom.”

As winter sets in, one farmer moves indoors - Nov. 15

Growing lettuce underneath a foot of snow is a small challenge for Cordova ingenuity, as Kristy Andrew proved by setting up an entirely self-contained hydroponic farm in a shipping container in her backyard. Through an online subscription service, Andrew’s business, Kale’n Thyme, offers residents access to fresh produce year-round. Kale’n Thyme later contributed 120 heads of lettuce to Cordova’s Salvation Army food pantry for Christmas.

Cordova reports 50th coronavirus case - Nov. 23

Bob Ross exhibit visits Alaska for first time - Nov. 23

Bob Ross, who rose to fame as the host of PBS’s “The Joy of Painting,” painted landscapes heavily inspired by rural Alaska. In November, for the first time, a traveling exhibit of Bob Ross-inspired quilt artwork was shown in the state that inspired Ross’s paintings. Ross’s simple optimism offered an antidote to the bleak mood that prevailed throughout much of the year, organizers said.

“Bob Ross is enjoying a renaissance right now,” said Paula Payne, president of Cordova Arts and Pageants. “He’s coming back into fashion, I think because his message is so upbeat and positive and inspiring ... It’s the perfect exhibit to have during COVID.”

EVOSTC draft resolution to expand oil spill boundary aid draws support - Dec. 4

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is considering redefining the parameters of its mission so that EVOS funds may be used for restorations outside the zone directly impacted by the 1989 disaster. If passed, the resolution would make funds available to address damage to mobile fish and wildlife populations whose ranges overlap with the spill area.

“Sacrificing our last wild salmon strongholds left on Earth must not be allowed,” wrote Skye Steritz, a Cordova resident who supported expanding the boundary. “The Bering River ecosystem is a vast, contiguous wilderness — an immense wildlife corridor.”

Forest Service officer Andy Morse honored - Dec. 10

Andy Morse, a Forest Service law enforcement officer whose beat encompasses 2.9 million acres, was named the Cordova Ranger District’s officer of the year and nominated for a Regional Forester Award. Morse’s accomplishments included rescuing the victims of a life-threatening rafting accident.

“Andy’s actions were lifesaving and above and beyond the call of duty,” wrote Dave Zastrow, public services staff officer for the Cordova Ranger District. “Through these actions he exhibited the bravery, valor and heroism at the heart of the Forest Service and the law enforcement profession.”

COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Cordova - Dec. 16

On the evening of Dec. 16, three CCMC health care workers became the first Cordovans to receive shots of Pfizer-BioNTech’s coronavirus vaccine. In a peculiar turn of events, arrival of the vaccine was delayed by hours after a bomb threat was called in to Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Registered nurse Kathleen Kroll, who was first to receive the vaccine, said that being immunized gave her a greater sense of security.

“It protects me, because I’m exposed to everybody that comes in,” Kroll said. “But it also protects everybody I work with... I’m protecting patients as well as myself.”

Fisheries



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FISH FACTOR

Commercial fisheries get a breather in proposed FY2022 budget

BY LAINE WELCH
For The Cordova Times

As Alaska faces its toughest budget squeeze ever, the state's commercial fisheries are set to get a bit of a breather. But it is due more to fund swapping than lawmakers' largess.

For the commercial fisheries division, the largest within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the preliminary FY2022 budget released by Gov. Mike Dunleavy reflects a slight increase to \$72.8 million, compared to nearly \$68 million last year.

"I think we did really well this year," said Sam Rabung, commercial fisheries division director, in late December at a United Fishermen of Alaska webinar. "Where we're at right now, the Legislature actually restored many of the cuts that we sustained in FY20 and the governor didn't veto all of them, so we got some funds back in FY21."

"In a nutshell, we are being reduced \$783,500 in general funds, but to offset that, we are being granted \$855,000 in increased authority for using what we call GFP, our general fund program receipts from commercial crew licenses," he added. "We've been collecting more revenue from crew licenses every year than we have authority to use. It's kind of like creating a piggy bank and it keeps building and that money rolls forward. We're going to be able to utilize those funds now in lieu of general funds. So, it's pretty much a wash."

Rabung agreed with Rep. Dan Ortiz, I-Ketchikan, that the commercial fish budget still includes big reductions that were made in prior years.

"We've reduced our budget by around 45 percent of operational funding in the last six years or so. We were cut pretty harshly for several years, and now it's kind of flattened out," Rabung said. "I think what's apparent is there's not much left that has zero impact on commercial fisheries. So, when you talk about cutting the budget to the bone, we're at the bone and our hope now

See Page 17, FISH FACTOR

MORE OLD GILLNETS NEEDED

CRWP hopes to recycle more fish nets this spring

BY MARGARET BAUMAN
mbauman@thecordovaitimes.com

More snow is in the forecast for Cordova this week, but that's not stopping the Copper River Watershed Project from looking forward to spring and the odds of shipping out a container load of old commercial gillnets for recycling in Portugal. They would be made into raw plastic for new products.

Right now, CRWP has six bales of worn-out gillnet, cleaned and stripped of any extraneous seaweed and more, each weighing at least 600 to 800 pounds a bale, says Shae Bowman, operations manager. The bales are tightly compacted, thanks to a \$48,000 baler purchased by CRWP this past year, with funds from the Rasmuson Foundation. The container, an in-kind donation from the Native Village of Eyak, will be used to ship the nets to Net Your Problem in Seattle, where founder Nicole Baker, a University of Washington fisheries researcher, will ship them on to a new recycler in Portugal.

As the demand for recycled products grow, Baker and others are working with commercial fishermen to keep old gillnets out of landfills, to give them new life in new products. NYP has already shipped some 12,000 pounds of gillnets from Southern California to recycling centers to be made into new products ranging from Sunglasses, kayaks, socks and bathing suits to 3D printer filament.

Baker is now promoting fish net recycling from California and the Pacific Northwest to America's biggest fishing port, New Bedford, MA. NYP also announced a partnership with Waterhaul, a producer of designer sunglasses, to promote their sunglasses made from recycled fish gear plastic.

Collecting the drift gill nets in California was done with support of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife the Ocean



Photo Courtesy of Net Your Problem

Sara Aubrey, business and program development manager for NYP in San Diego CA, with old gill net ready to ship out to recyclers.

Protection Council and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

"Opening people's minds up to new possibilities is so empowering, and that's just what we've done here, taking old fishing net 'garbage' and giving it a chance at a whole new life," said Sara Aubrey, business and program development manager for NYP in San Diego CA.

Bowman had plans early in 2020 to encourage more commercial fishermen to clean discarded gillnets, stripping them of all organic materials before bringing them in to donate, when the global pandemic of the novel coronavirus began spreading through Alaska. Now she's hoping to get the

container filled with bales of old nets and shipped out this spring.

CRWP is also working with Grundens to recycle nets into product that can be used in Grundens' new net-sourced line of products.

Cleaning the nets involves spreading them out to dry, and a lot of seaweed and stuff. "If you dry it out most of the organic material will fall out itself," she said. "It's really not that hard. The program will run so smoothly if people will just take the extra hour to clean them up," she said.

Further information about the program is at copperriver.org/programs/recycling/fishing-web-recycling

MARITIME CREDENTIALS

Coast Guard offers extension on credentials

BY THE CORDOVA TIME STAFF

Coast Guard officials have announced an extension of merchant marine credential endorsements, medical certificates and course approvals to meet challenges caused by the global novel coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, the Coast Guard advised that due to these changes there may be a backlog in the processing of credentials and course approvals, especially near the end of the extension dates. Mariners and training providers are encouraged to fulfill the requirements and submit applications as early as possible in order to avoid a lapse in their credential or training approval. Under the Coast Guard's current statutory

authority, the expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials may be extended for no more than one year.

Merchant mariner credentials that expire between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 have now been extended until the earlier of Oct. 31, 2021 or one year after the initial expiration date of the credential.

Merchant mariner credentials with STCW endorsements that expire between March 1, 2020 and June 20, 2021 are extended to the earlier of Oct. 31, 2021 or one year after the initial expiration date of the credential.

STCW is an acronym for the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.

Medical certificates likewise are being

extended for up to one year from their date of expiration. Medical certificates that expire between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are extended to the earlier of Oct. 31, 2021 or one year after the initial expiration date.

Pilot annual physical exams require that pilots undergo an annual physical exam each year while holding a credential, but Coast Guard officials said they do not intend to enforce this requirement given the pandemic and its impacts on healthcare providers. This posture will apply until Oct. 31, 2021, respective of when the medical certificate expires, they said.

Additional guidance on these extensions and other administrative measures will be posted at uscg.mil/nmc.

Cordova Tide Tables

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT
01/01	Fri	03:06 AM 11.46 H	08:25 AM 4.12 L	2:17 PM 13.93 H	9:05 PM -1.44 L			
01/02	Sat	03:43 AM 11.48 H	09:09 AM 4.03 L	2:56 PM 13.46 H	9:45 PM -1.11 L			
01/03	Sun	04:22 AM 11.49 H	09:57 AM 3.92 L	3:39 PM 12.68 H	10:27 PM -0.52 L			
01/04	Mon	05:06 AM 11.55 H	10:49 AM 3.78 L	4:32 PM 11.63 H	11:12 PM 0.32 L			
01/05	Tue	05:56 AM 11.72 H	11:48 AM 3.56 L	5:42 PM 10.51 H				
01/06	Wed	12:00 AM 1.37 L	06:51 AM 12.06 H	12:55 PM 3.15 L	7:10 PM 9.70 H			
01/07	Thu	12:54 AM 2.49 L	07:48 AM 12.56 H	2:10 PM 2.44 L	8:36 PM 9.49 H			

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FEDERAL FISHERIES

NPFMC prepares for February meeting

BY THE CORDOVA TIMES STAFF

Federal fisheries managers preparing for virtual meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council have released the agenda for the session, to be held Feb. 5 and Feb. 8-12, and are welcoming written comments through Jan 29.

The February session, normally held in Seattle, will be online only due to health and safety precautions necessary as the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to spread. Major items up for final action during the meeting include Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Pacific cod pot catcher processor license limitation program endorsements and standardized bycatch reporting methodology.

The complete agency and other meeting details are at meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1844. Written comments are being accepted at this website too.

All sessions of the council's advisory panel, scientific and statistical committee, as well as the council session itself will be held on Adobe Connection. Anyone intending to give oral testimony must be connected by phone, ideally by connecting audio in Adobe Connect.

REGISTRATION CONTINUES

AMSS keeps going green

BY MARGARET BAUMAN
[mbaum@thecordovatimes.com](mailto:mbauman@thecordovatimes.com)

For the past two years the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, the annual late January event in Anchorage that attracts seafood harvesters, processors and scientists from all over the world, has been going greener, with detailed conference events posted online.

This year's event, set for Jan. 26-28, will be the first time the gathering has gone totally virtual, as a health and safety precaution in the midst of a novel coronavirus pandemic. Billed as the state's premier marine research conference, AMSS provides a forum for researchers to present their work on a variety of studies related to marine ecosystems and fisheries in the Arctic Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska.

Research topics may range from ocean physics, fishes and invertebrates, seabirds and marine mammals to local traditional knowledge. For the 2021 symposium, the North Pacific Research Board, based in Anchorage and a leading sponsor, has received over 200 abstracts, almost half of which were oral presentations.

Spokespersons for the NPRB say they were overwhelmed by the response from

the scientific community and appreciate the continuing interest of contributors in showcasing important research occurring off of Alaska shores. The overall agenda for the 2021 is still being finalized, including names of keynote speakers.

Due to the interactive nature of the January event, the symposium for 2021 will be opening afternoon sessions to panel discussions, with time to be reserved all three afternoons of the conference for one or two panel discussions. The goals of these panels will be to provide different perspectives on tough questions and better describe how Alaska marine science relates to the bigger picture.

Potential topics for this year's panels include coastal resiliency, ocean noise, marine debris in a changing Arctic, perspectives on changing Bering Sea ecosystem, socioeconomic costs and opportunities of shifting fish and marine mammal populations in Alaskan waters, the future of Arctic research in and around local communities post-COVID and the economics of climate change as they relate to fisheries, subsistence, tourism and shipping.

Registration for the 2021 gathering is free and may be completed at alaskamarinescience.org/2021agenda.

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THE COPPER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT BOARD AND STAFF SEND OUR WARMEST HOLIDAY GREETINGS THIS SEASON AS 2020 COMES TO A CLOSE.

As we all look to the turning of a new year cast in the glow of positive change for a life beyond COVID-19, I hope each one of you reading this feels the appreciation and gratitude we have for our wonderful CRWP members. The CRWP survived a challenging year thanks to our wonderful donors and supporters and that support is what will carry us through the potential challenging year ahead.

Personally, I'm not holding back this year enjoying those Christmas cookies and generous helpings of traditional holiday meals. I hope that you all enjoy those traditions we can safely celebrate and know that the CRWP is standing behind you for our watershed, salmon and natural resources that help sustain us all year round.

– HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT THE COPPER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT!

The Cordova Times

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How do I submit a letter to the editor, thank you letter or guest commentary?

- The Cordova Times welcomes:
- Letters to the editor up to 300 words.
 - Thank you letters up to 150 words.
 - Fact-based guest commentaries up to 750 words.

Email: share@thecordovatimes.com
Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in Friday's newspaper
Subject line: Please put "letter to the editor" or "commentary" in the subject line

The fine print: Meeting the deadline is no guarantee it will be published. Please include the writer's name and address and daytime phone number. Only the writer's name and city will be published. Please include your connection to Cordova and the subject matter. The Cordova Times reserves the right to edit letters for content, length, clarity, grammar, AP Style and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters must be relevant to The Cordova Times readership area and preference will be given to topics covered in recent editions of The Cordova Times.

How do I submit a pic for 'This Week in Photos'?

Do you have a great photo of the area you'd like to see in "This Week in Photos"? If so, share your photo with The Cordova Times! All photos should be 1MB or larger, high resolution digital files. Please submit original work and a caption including who, what, when, where and why the photo was taken. Also, please include where you live and your connection to Cordova.

Email: share@thecordovatimes.com
Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in Friday's newspaper
Subject line: Please put "This Week in Photos" in the subject line.

How do I place an obituary?

Obituaries and funeral notices for Cordova residents run at no cost as a service to the Cordova community. Send up to 500 words and a photo 1MB or larger. Please include the full name, birth date, death date and who to contact with questions.

Email: share@thecordovatimes.com
Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in Friday's newspaper
Subject line: Please put "Obituary" in the subject line.

How do I share a life announcement?

Please share photos and notices of births, graduations, weddings, and landmark anniversaries and birthdays for those in the Cordova community with our readers.

Email: share@thecordovatimes.com
Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday for consideration in Friday's newspaper
Subject line: Please put "Life announcement" in the subject line.

How do I submit a press release or news tip?

Press releases and news tips may be submitted to share@thecordovatimes.com.

How do I support the newspaper?

If you enjoy reading The Cordova Times, the best way you can support the newspaper is by subscribing. Email subscriptions@thecordovatimes.com or visit thecordovatimes.com/subscribe. If you already receive the paper you can also gift mail subscriptions to anywhere USPS delivers. Paid advertising also helps the newspaper continue to report the news important to the Cordova community.


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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT CORDOVA

In the Matter of the Estate of:
MARJORIE JANE ALLEN,
Deceased.
Case No. 3CO-20-2 PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed GLENORA MAE SESSOMS as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the personal representative of the estate in care of GLENORA MAE SESSOMS, P.O. Box 773, Cordova, Alaska 99574 or filed with the court.

DATED this 18th day of December, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Public Advisory Committee will meet Friday, January 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will be held via teleconference and (optional) Zoom video conferencing platform. Participation access is available at www.evostc.state.ak.us/events. Topics for discussion are the draft Resolutions A-D and the public comments received. For more information call: 907.278.8012 or 800.478.7745 or on the web at www.evostc.state.ak.us/events. If you have a disability and need special accommodations to participate, please contact the EVOSTC office at the above contact numbers or send an email to linda.kilbourne@alaska.gov or cherri.womac@alaska.gov no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A hectic period begins to wind down. Take time to draw some deep breaths and relax before getting into your next project. A long-absent family member makes contact.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to move forward with a new challenge that suddenly dropped in your lap. But you'd be wise to take this one step at a time to allow new developments to come through.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're almost ready to make a commitment. A lingering doubt or two, however, should be resolved before you move ahead. An associate could provide important answers.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Caution is still the watchword as you move closer toward a decision about a new situation. If you act too fast, you might miss some vital warning signs. Go slowly and stay alert.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your new goal looks promising, and your golden touch does much to enhance its prospects for success. In your private life, Cupid does his best to make your new relationship special.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That impatient side of yours is looking to goad you into moving before you're ready to take that big step. Stay calm and cool. Let things fall into place before you act.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Travel and career are strong in your aspect. Perhaps your job will take you to someplace

exotic. Or you might be setting up meetings with potential clients or employers. Whatever it is, good luck.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Partnerships — personal or professional — which began before the new year take on new importance. They also reveal some previously hidden risks. So be warned.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your associates are firmly on your side, and that persistent problem that has caused you to delay some activities should soon be resolved to your satisfaction.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Favorable changes continue to dominate, and you should be responding positively as they emerge. Someone wants to become more involved in what you're doing.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A friend wants to share a secret that could answer some questions you've wondered about for a long time. Meanwhile, travel aspects continue to be strong.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Stay on your new course despite so-called well-meaning efforts to discourage you. Rely on your deep sense of self-awareness to guide you to do what's right for you.
YOU BORN THIS WEEK: You have the capacity to meet challenges that others might find overwhelming, and turn them into successful ventures.
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Take a Break

Amber Waves



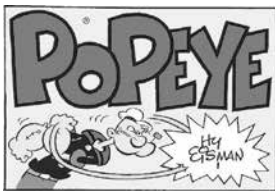
Out on a Limb



R.F.D.



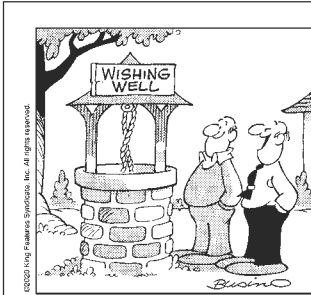
The Spats



Just Like Cats & Dogs



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Iceberg

CLEARGI

Advocate

WAYLER

Rant

READIT

Naught

HINTNOG

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 "— Lang Syne"
5 Steed stopper
9 Plead
12 Dandling site
13 Reactions to pyrotechnics
14 Preceding
15 Mid-month date
16 Automaker Ransom Eli —
17 Have a bug
18 Small winning margin
19 Go blue?
20 Air for a pair
21 "How I Met Your Mother" net
23 Census stat
25 Off-course
28 Auction, often
32 Use crib notes
33 Rechargeable battery
34 Grow canines
36 Tourist attractions
- 37 Moray or conger
38 Coop occupant
39 Witty one
42 Clay, now
44 "Super-food" berry
48 Tramcar contents
49 Teeny bit
50 So
51 Meadow
52 Expression
53 Deserve
54 Spigot
55 Whirlpool
56 "Phooey!"
- DOWN**
1 Related
2 Loosen
3 Dregs
4 Treated with irreverence
5 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl
6 Sacred
7 "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
8 Donkey
9 Suitor
10 One of HOMES
11 Money
20 Like some drivers or hitters
22 Wash
24 Aladdin's ally
25 Performance
26 The girl
27 Shirt shape
29 Interlaken interjection
30 Long. crosser
31 Mag. staffers
35 Very happy
36 Vibrate abnormally
39 Filly's brother
40 Vicinity
41 Harvest
43 Byron or Tennyson
45 Burn somewhat
46 Atmosphere
47 "— It Romantic?"
49 Chowd down

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12										14		
15						16				17		
18						19				20		
			21	22			23	24				
25	26	27					28			29	30	31
32								33				
34					35		36					
			37				38					
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Canadian province British Columbia?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which university or college has sports teams with the nickname "Golden Gophers"?
3. MEASUREMENTS: How many cups equal 1 quart?
4. TELEVISION: What was the name of the mansion in the TV series "Dark Shadows"?
5. ANATOMY: What are the tissues that hold bones together?
6. SCIENCE: What is the study of plants called?
7. MOVIES: What are the main food groups, according to Buddy in the movie "Elf"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the scientific adjective used to describe fish?
9. CURRENCY: What is the basic currency of Haiti?
10. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with the invention of vaccines?

Answers

1. Victoria
2. University of Minnesota
3. Four
4. Collinwood
5. Ligaments
6. Botany
7. Candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup
8. Piscine
9. Gourde
10. Edward Jenner

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: N equals U

HB PGN XGUD MV M XHZEGX

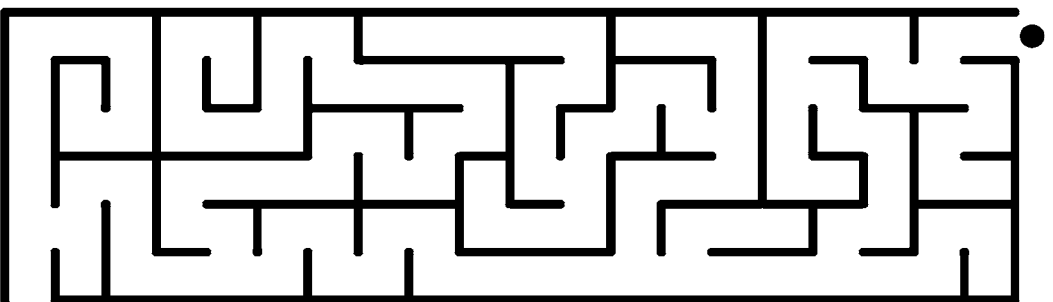
XMVQFU, H YNFVV PGN'E BHZE

PGNUVFOB GZ LQF GNLVHEF

OGGDHYZ HZ.

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Kids' Maze



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7				6			9
	1		8				2
		2			7	4	1
4				7		2	
	8				3		9
		5	2			8	
6				9		3	
	7				1		5
	5	9	3				8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

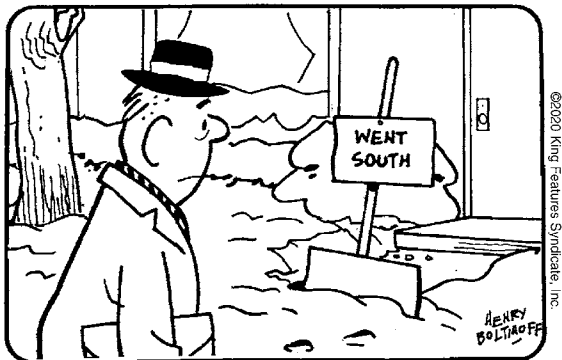
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign on shovel is different. 2. Window on door is missing. 3. Doorknob is added. 4. Man's hat is different. 5. Tree trunk is wider. 6. Man's nose is shorter.

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FISH FACTOR

From Page 13

is that we'll be able to stay status quo and tread water and keep things where we can continue to manage for sustained yield."

There appears to be a shift over the last two years, Rabung said, and the Dunleavy administration now recognizes that "commercial fishing more than pays its own way."

"The revenue that comes into the general fund from commercial fishing activity is considerably more than the commercial fisheries division draws back out to fund our operations," he said. "That was not apparent to this administration and many others in the past when they came in, but they get it now."

"I think the next layer of that message is that not only does commercial fishing pay for its own self. It also pays for management of subsistence fisheries although we generate no revenue from those fisheries," Rabung explained. "We also manage personal use fisheries in the state. Ironically, in order to participate in a personal use fishery, you have to buy a sport fishing license. So, the sport fish division gets the revenue from that, although commercial fishing does the assessment and management for it. Commercial fishing as an industry supports an awful lot of other activities and may not get the credit they deserve for it. And for some reason, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission is also parked under our budget even though we have no involvement and we're totally separate. In my opinion, they should be a whole separate entity." (The CFEC issues permits and vessel licenses in both limited and unlimited fisheries and

provides due process hearings and appeals.)

The commfish division, which employs about 650 people across the state, also permits and oversees Alaska's non-profit salmon hatcheries, the aquatic shellfish and seaweed farming programs and operates three laboratories that track fish genetics, pathology and ages of fish species.

The division manages some fisheries in federal waters under authority delegated by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. And because fish are migratory and cross jurisdictional boundaries, staff also are involved in the research and policy making activities of the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Joint Canadian/US Yukon River Panel and several other interstate and international fisheries bodies.

Holiday fish boosts

Along with the passage of the Young Fishermen's Development Act in December, a \$900 billion COVID relief package also was passed by lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and if/when it is signed by President Donald Trump, \$300 million is earmarked to assist the fishing industry. Seafood also was finally declared as an eligible use for USDA food purchases for its many feeding programs; additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) also was included.

The Save our Seas Act 2.0 was passed which builds on actions signed into law in 2018 to address marine debris problems. The bipartisan law, spearheaded by Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, is regarded as the most comprehensive ocean cleanup legislation ever to pass Congress, and calls for global engagement to prevent plastic pollution.

Save Our Seas will strengthen the U.S. response with a Marine Debris Foundation

and a "genius prize" for innovation and new research. It also aims to enhance global engagement by formalizing U.S. policy on international cooperation and improving U.S. infrastructure to prevent marine debris through new studies of waste management and mitigation.

The bill also proposes many efforts to improve U.S. waste management systems, particularly recycling infrastructure. For example, it creates a loan program for states to support trash wheel and litter trap technologies.

Sen. Dan Sullivan said in a statement that he already is looking to a third bill that would focus on how China processes U.S. recyclables.

Finally, Democrats in Congress provided a first peek at the Magnuson-Stevens Act legislation they plan to introduce early next year. The MSA provides the 'rules of the road' for U.S. fishery management and conservation.

The reauthorized bill would maintain the eight regional fishery councils but require members to receive training on climate change and consider climate science in deliberations.

Undercurrent News reports the bill also seeks to improve disaster relief programs, create a working waterfront grant program and increase support for seafood marketing, including re-establishing the National Seafood Council. It also would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NOAA to work together to increase seafood industry participation in the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Fish bone broth is a superfood

Fish byproducts are rapidly growing in popularity and broths made from bones and other fish parts are becoming a rage among health enthusiasts all over the world.

Bone broths are loaded with vital nutrients like calcium, iodine, and minerals and have been found to help support thyroid health. Its natural electrolytes boost muscle repair after workouts, but a top benefit is the benefits derived from collagen.

"Collagen is good for your skin, your hair



Photo courtesy of Alaska Broth Company

and bones. Some people claim that it restores gut health. Broth is a nutrient dense food that isn't common in the standard American diet anymore," said Randy Hartnell, founder and president of Vital Choice, a web-based seafood company.

He said fish broth was common in our ancestral diet and is coming back due to trends favoring more healthy eating.

"It's sort of following the Paleo nutrition rage which has really been growing in recent years. We have seen many bone broth companies, but fish broths are not common yet so we are pleased to be able to offer it our customers," Hartnell said.

A handful of Alaska companies also are on the fish broth bandwagon. Rich Clarke, owner of Alaska Black Cod, makes his stock out of leftover sablefish carcasses. Ed's Kasilof Seafoods features a halibut bone broth that was a winner at an Alaska Symphony of Seafoods competition. And Alaska Broth Company founder David Chessik hopes that one day his blend will be known as "Alaska's Coffee."

Randy Hartnell pointed out another benefit to the growing popularity of fish broth — the reduction of fish waste.

"The bones, carcasses and skins have always just been discarded," he said. "This is a way to use some of those byproducts in a way that creates something that is so unique and healthy from sustainable fish from Alaska. It is another valuable aspect of this wonderful product."

Laine Welch of Kodiak has been covering news of Alaska's seafood industry for print and broadcast since 1991. Visit her website at alaskafishradio.com.



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WILLOW PROJECT

Inupiat entity, conservationists, challenge NPR-A project

ConocoPhillips: Project could bring jobs, plus revenue to federal, state, local governments

BY MARGARET BAUMAN
mbauman@thecordovatimes.com

An Inupiat entity and five allied conservation groups are hoping for a U.S District Court judge to rule by Feb. 1 in favor of a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order to halt winter road construction and gravel mining on Conoco Phillips’ Willow project.

“We’ve asked for a decision by Feb. 1 because ConocoPhillips wants to start building the road on Feb. 2,” said Bridget Psarianos, staff attorney with Trustees for Alaska.

Psarianos said Judge Sharon Gleason told Trustees she would try to get them a decision by Feb. 1.

Psarianos is the lead attorney for Trustees in the litigation naming the federal Bureau of Land Management as the defendant and ConocoPhillips Alaska as intervenor-defendant.

According to Siqiniq Maupin, executive director of Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic, there are major concerns over ConocoPhillips’ plans for the Willow project, a plan that includes a central processing facility, an airport, a camp, five new drilling pads, a gravel pit, roads and a pipeline connecting them within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Joining Sovereign Inupiat as plaintiffs in the litigation are Alaska Wilderness League, Defenders of Wildlife, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

ConocoPhillips maintains the Willow master development plan, which was approved by the Trump administration in October, is consistent with competitive oil and gas leasing in the NPR-A authorized by

Congress in 1980.

“ConocoPhillips has held oil and gas leases in the NPR-A since the first lease sale in 1999,” said Connor Dunn, asset manager for the proposed Willow project, in a statement issued by the oil company back on Sept. 9, 2019. “We have been carefully and responsibly developing our leasehold within the NPR-A. Our first drill site in NPR-A, CDS, began production in 2015.”

According to ConocoPhillips the project could produce in excess of 100,000 barrels of oil a day, create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs and contribute substantial revenue to federal, state and local entities.

Maupin sees the situation differently, citing rising health issues, the dismantling of traditional practices and food sources because of oil extraction and industrialization on the Arctic Slope.

“We have experienced the silencing and paternalism of public agencies that are supposed to listen to us fully, to understand and take into consideration our concerns, and to protect the health and well-being of all of us, not just the profit interests of corporations,” she said. “We need the exploitation of the Arctic to stop and the prioritization of our health and well-being to begin again.”

“BLM’s analysis of the Willow master development plan is deeply flawed and does not fully account for the tremendous harm this project would cause to globally significant wildlife habitat and culturally irreplaceable areas,” said David Krause, assistant state director for The Wilderness Society “We will not silently stand by as BLM rubber-stamps destructive, carbon-polluting projects that harm public lands and local communities.”



Happy New Year

May 2021 bring blessings to you and your family



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THE CUE MARK



Sheila Vand in “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night.”

A biting feminist satire

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH
zsmith@thecordovatimes.com

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

“A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” (NR)

Dir. Ana Lily Amirpour. 101 minutes.
★★★★☆

Unassuming young Arash (Arash Marandi) is terrorized by Saeed (Dominic Rains), a brutal pimp to whom Arash’s father owes money. For Arash, salvation comes in the form of a hijab-wearing female vampire (Sheila Vand) who feeds on the blood of misogynists.

Shot in lustrous black-and-white, “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” takes obsessive attention to detail in laying out its nightmarish urban fantasy world. The film has been billed as a “vampire Western,” though, aside from a score copying — sorry, “influenced by” — Ennio Morricone, this sleek, elegant movie is more vampire than Western. A vampire must be invited into a house to enter, but it turns out this isn’t very tricky to manage if you’re an attractive young vampiress and your preferred victims are too-self-assured men. Saeed, who first swaggers into frame in a tracksuit and gold chains, is an especially delightful specimen of machismo: the very definition of “asking

for it,” in the context of a feminist vampire movie.

“A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” is set in Iran but shot in California, presumably because its female-on-male vigilantism, and the inclusion of a minor cross-dressing character, would have invited interference if shot on location. For all its gloss, “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” does sometimes lapse from deliberate and enigmatic to merely slow. The film’s climax is marred by several tediously lengthy shots of characters sitting motionless, and other signs of film-student self-indulgence. Still, “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” is a unique creation, well worth viewing for anyone who’s enjoyed other revisionist vampire tales like “Let the Right One In” or “Only Lovers Left Alive.”

“A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” is available to stream from Amazon Prime, Google Play, iTunes, Mubi, Vudu and YouTube.

- Top 10 Streaming
- 1. Soul (PG)
 - 2. Skylines (R)
 - 3. Breach (R)
 - 4. The Sound of Metal (R)
 - 5. Ammonite (NR)
 - 6. Train to Busan Presents: Peninsula (NR)
 - 7. The Nest (R)
 - 8. Iron Mask (NR)
 - 9. The Informer (R)
 - 10. That Good Night (NR)

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All NVE offices will be closed for the holiday Jan. 1

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LAW & ORDER: DEC. 18-24

The following incidents were reported to the Cordova Police Department between Dec. 18-24. Any charges reported in these press releases are merely accusations and the defendant and/or defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Friday, Dec. 18

9:30 a.m. Individual came to the station for fingerprinting. 10:13 a.m. An officer transported an inmate to CCMC for a medical checkup. 12:48 p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 4:06 p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 11:57 p.m. A caller reported an intoxicated pedestrian. An officer patrolled the area and was unable to locate the individual. An officer completed an after-hours security check for the 13-mile airport.

Saturday, Dec. 19

10:06 a.m. The streets department reported several vehicles parked in the right of way and snow dump areas. An officer responded and was able to contact the owners to move the vehicles.

Sunday, Dec. 20

2:48 a.m. A caller requested an ambulance for his brother who was having a seizure, an officer and the ambulance responded, and the patient was transported to the hospital. 4:40 a.m. A caller reported their car was stuck on the road, an officer responded and rendered assistance. 11:30 a.m. A caller requested an officer to assist with a domestic dispute. 7:10 p.m. An officer contacted an individual sleeping in the post office, the officer contacted Cordova Family Resource Center and the individual was provided a room for the night.

Monday, Dec. 21

An officer completed an after-hours security check for the 13-mile airport. 9:12 a.m. A caller reported a vehicle parked in a city snow dump, an officer was notified and is looking into it. 9:50 a.m. A caller requested a welfare check on an individual who hadn't been seen in a few days. The individual was found to be deceased in their residence. A search for next of kin is ongoing. 12:52 p.m. A caller reported someone trespassing on private property. An officer responded and found the individual not on private property. An investigation is ongoing.

Tuesday, Dec. 22

An officer completed an after-hours security check for the 13-mile airport. 1:22

p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 1:37 p.m. An individual came to the station to pick up their property. 3:59 p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 5:40 p.m. A caller reported receiving multiple harassing phone calls, an officer responded and spoke with the complainant. 10:25 p.m. A caller reported having trouble breathing and requested an ambulance, an officer and the ambulance responded and transported the patient to CCMC.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

An officer completed an after-hours security check for the 13-mile airport. 11:17 a.m. An officer returned to a scene for follow up on a previous incident. 11:53 a.m. A caller reported cars had been parked with their doors open for 2 days, an officer responded, contacted the property owner, and determined everything was OK. 3:39 p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 21:32 A caller reported having a heart issue and requested an ambulance. An officer and the ambulance responded and transported the patient to the hospital.

Thursday, Dec. 24

12:08 a.m. A caller reported hearing a possible fight on Second Street, an officer patrolled the area and found nothing to indicate a fight had taken place. 12:24 p.m. An officer provided security for the 13-mile airport. 1:08 p.m. An officer met with an individual for follow up on a previous incident. 13:51 a.m. The hospital requested an ambulance for patient transport to the 13-mile airport, the ambulance responded and conducted the transport. 3:20 p.m. A caller reported a motor vehicle accident on the Copper River Highway. An officer responded and found the vehicle occupants to be OK. 7:37 p.m. A caller requested an ambulance for drug overdoses. Officers and the ambulance responded. One patient was taken to the hospital and the other was taken to the 13-mile airport for a medevac. An investigation is ongoing. 10:18 p.m. A caller requested an officer for help with an out-of-control intoxicated individual, an officer responded, and the individual was taken into protective custody.

DMV Hours

From 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday unless otherwise posted. Closed for lunch 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Credit Card payments accepted for dog licenses, ATV/snow machine registrations and citations at DMV.

The Cordova Times
THECORDOVATIMES.COM

WEEKEND WEATHER REPORT

New Year's Day: A 30 percent chance of snow after 9am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32.

Friday Night: A chance of snow before 3am, then a chance of snow showers after 3am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Saturday: A chance of snow showers before 9am, then a chance of snow after 9am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33.

Saturday Night: Snow likely, mainly after 3am. Cloudy, with a low around 26.

Sunday: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 36.

Sunday Night: Rain and snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 30.

The Weekend Weather Report is brought to you by XOAK. Made in Cordova. Inspired by nature. **Now accepting Cordova Cash Cards! @LOVEXOAK