Annual Wainwright Jamboree moves to Facebook

It's open to everyone on the North Slope

Social distancing has pushed a lot of events online and Wainwright’s annual Jamboree is no exception. This year, anyone and everyone from the North Slope can come to the party, just by logging onto Facebook.

“I just wanted to do it to where all North Slope villages are participating this year, trying to find ways to have them look forward to looking at something on Facebook, rather than just reading about COVID-19,” said Wainwright resident and page admin Raymond Henry Nashookpuk.

“I thought it was a great way to bring our communities together and show each other’s talent.”

The village has come to be known for its annual Jamboree. For several years now, a small and dedicated group of organizers led by Nashookpuk has planned and hosted the gathering, typically held in July. They’re known locally as the Jamboree Committee and they’re also overseeing the virtual event.

In a typical year, they invite dance groups and visitors from neighboring villages and have had people fly in all the way from the Y-K Delta region just to participate.

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North Slope Borough to rent RavnAir facilities

Borough’s seizure deemed unlawful

TESS WILLIAMS
Anchorage Daily News

The North Slope Borough will rent out RavnAir Group facilities in Utqiagvik and Deadhorse as the airline proceeds with bankruptcy, according to a letter submitted Monday during bankruptcy proceedings.

The borough issued an emergency order earlier this month to commandeer the airline’s assets in order to maintain mail and cargo services after the company abruptly filed for bankruptcy. The state attorney general, however, deemed the seizure to be void under law.

When RavnAir Group filed for bankruptcy on April 5, it left communities scrambling to find an alternative carrier to deliver essential mail and cargo items, including medications and food supplies. The carrier employed 1,300 people and provided services to 115 communities throughout the state.

The company reported its passenger revenue dropped 90% during the COVID-19 pandemic. This revenue made up 54% of the company’s total revenue, according to bankruptcy filings. Ravn had roughly $90 million in debt when it ordered operations to cease.

In the North Slope Borough, Wright Air Service stepped in to deliver mail and cargo but needed to access Ravn-owned facilities where the mail is collected and processed. Before the company went bankrupt, debtors agreed to allow access to the facilities so that operations could continue. When official bankruptcy paperwork was filed on April 5, employees were ordered to lock the facilities because the property was no longer owned by Ravn but instead by creditors.

Borough Mayor Harry K.
Online challenge highlights the importance of names

It provides a chance for people to learn pronunciations

SHADY GROVE OLIVER
The Arctic Sounder

For the last month, videos have been popping up on social media, featuring people introducing themselves by their full names. The videos usually aren’t long or complex — just a few seconds, often less than a minute, but what they carry is both timeless and priceless.

“Our names connect us to those we’re named for,” said Ayyu Qassataq. “Our names carry a responsibility because we’ve only given this name and carry this name for the time that we’re here, so that carries a lot of responsibility.”

Qassataq is the person behind the name challenge that’s garnered a lot of participation both in Alaska and among indigenous people across the country and around the world.

While the challenge itself is rooted in intentionality, the idea for it came rather unexpectedly, she said.

“I was taking a shower and I was practicing the Native names of some of my loved ones, just saying it over and over again so I could do a better job of saying their names,” she said.

She started to wonder if she was practicing the names correctly or if she was just repeating haphazardly.

“And so I was thinking, shucks, I wish I had a recording of their name so that I could practice it,” she said.

At first, she thought she might reach out to a few individuals directly and ask them to send her a voice recording saying their own names. Soon, however, she realized she may have tapped into a deeper and more widespread need.

“As I was washing my hair and thinking about it, I was realizing, man, there are a lot of people who don’t know how to pronounce my name either. They look at it and they get intimidated and they assume they’re going to say it wrong,” she said. “So, I get a lot of people who ask me how to pronounce my name or just butcher it.”

She got out of the shower and almost immediately, sat down with her phone and recorded a short video. In it, she describes her thought process and ends by saying her name. She says her first name, Ayyu, and then lets her last name, Qassataq, roll off the tip of her tongue. She says it slowly enough that someone who wanted to practice it could watch her movements and imitate them.

She posted the initial video to Facebook and then shared it on Instagram and Twitter.

“When I checked back in on Twitter, it blew up,” she said, laughing.

In just a short time, her video had been viewed more than 5,000 times and responses were coming in from across the globe.

Some people recorded similar videos and posted them publicly, either as a comment beneath her post or by tagging her in it. Others shared videos through private messages, she said, if they were shy about posting online.

One of the people who posted a response video on Facebook was fellow Alaskan Tun’aq Blahy. “Growing up, I went by my calling name Tun because not a lot of people could say (my full name) where I grew up and that was the way I was raised and that’s how I love that name — I love Tun,” Blahy said. “But nothing can compare to being called (by my full name).”

In her video, she says her name several times and smiles as she shares it.

“I just applaud everyone that’s doing this work to take back their names and to continue to name their children and give their children Native first names because it ain’t easy, but we’re stronger together,” Blahy said in her video. “And the more we do this work and learn each other’s names, I think the more empowered we are.”

Qassataq echoed her words.

While the trend seems like many other Facebook challenges, it has also brought in more serious discussions that are needed.

“Yes, it’s light hearted, but really it’s elevating a practice in our community that has really a very emotional impact on us today. It serves as a source of pride, a source of connection,” said Qassataq.

It’s also underscored for her the differences in experience among people from various backgrounds.

“It’s just been really cool and it’s also elevated some other, I think, real conversations in our community recognizing that for some of our people, they weren’t raised with their name or they weren’t raised knowing their name or maybe they didn’t get a name until they were already old enough that they feel shy and unsure, even, about how to say their own names,” she said. “And it’s also elevating that there are a lot of people who, for various reasons, don’t have Native names. It elevates a very real hurt that’s in our community because for a lot of people who don’t have Native names, they really have a yearning to be connected to something.”

With traditional practices disrupted for generations through contact, “missionization,” boarding schools and more, some people have been removed from their older ways of being.

“This is kind of bringing that to light for a lot of people,” she said.

But it’s also brought to the surface the beauty of naming traditions and the respect that is given to our ancestors if people are willing to really pronounce someone’s name. When someone takes care with a name, it’s a way of caring for the person, too.

“Every video has just brought tears to my eyes,” she said. “It is a really beautiful, powerful thing to see. It’s a practice that’s really, really strong.”

Shady Grove Oliver can be reached at sgoliver@gmail.com.
Aid is starting to arrive for some Alaskans, but not all

Program to deliver stimulus checks has run into problems

ALEX DEMBARAN
Anchorage Daily News

Anchorage business owner John Schwartz is one of the lucky ones.

He applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the Payroll Protection Program, which gives federal loans to small businesses to cover payroll during the coronavirus shutdowns. The money will help Perfectionist Auto Sound and Security pay bills and keep employees aboard, even if business tightens this summer like he fears.

"I'm just thinking about maybe finding a way to give the employees that can take care of their families, because they're like a family to me," said Schwartz, who has stayed open as an essential business and runs part of his shop to manufacture face shields for health care workers.

He believes the loan application went smoothly because he applied on the program's launch date, April 3, had all his paperwork at the ready and chose Federal Credit Union, a small lender, instead of the big banks that were swamped with applications.

"It's a little bit easier, we understand each other, I think," said Schwartz, "if you have a mire of mind," said of the loan.

Not everyone has been so fortunate.

The government is handing out record amounts of money to combat the pandemic's economic fallout, which has tossed millions of Americans out of work in the last month, and tens of millions out of work in the last month, including more than 48,000 in Alaska. But the assistance has not come without problems.

The program to deliver $1,200 stimulus checks to most adult Americans starting this week has been plagued by problems, delaying full payment for millions of people.

Federal legislation last month mandated state jobless benefits with a $600 weekly allotment. But an estimated 35,000 self-employed Alaskans won't be able to apply for those benefits because the tax information isn't expected immediately.

And on Thursday, the Small Business Administration announced it had stopped taking applications for the new $350 billion Paycheck Protection Program loan and the Economic Injury Disaster loan after funds quickly dried up due to overwhelming demand.

Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan said Thursday the program's intention was to replenish the loan programs because families and businesses are victims of an economic crisis outside the government's control.

"What we need to do here is get to a spot very quickly where this is reauthorized for significant funding," Sullivan said.

But the Paycheck Protection Program loan through his lender, theic beauty shop Salon DaVinci in Anchorage, said she's a sole proprietor who, as of Thursday, one day after he raised the application window before the funds ran dry, she said, that's a week less than other small businesses.

"You effectively have a whole sector in your small businesses that weren't allowed to get into the early application process," she said.

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"I'm hopeful but I'm not going to hold my breath," she said in an interview. "I won't let it hold me back from restarting my business."
A chance to move toward cleaner living

If there’s one thing we’ve learned from the coronavirus pandemic, it is that the world is capable of dramatic, rapid change when the motivations are right. One of the great benefactors of the pandemic is the environment. While in Alaska, the changes brought on by worldwide stay-at-home orders are less obvious, in more densely populated areas it is dramatic. Chronically smoggy skies have cleared, traffic jams are nonexistent and waters are cleaner than they have been in decades in many cities. These changes may be fleeting, but as many recognize Earth Day this weekend, some see an unusual possibility that there is another way to live that has a lighter impact on our planet.

That said, as soon as we are told it is safe to return to business as usual, most of us will... Children will go back to school and music lessons, restaurants will open again and many of us will return to our offices and coffee dates. Planes will fly again, cars will return to the highways. But while we have this pause in our day-to-day routine, there are some painless things we can do to continue this positive trend toward our environment and after the pandemic shutdown has lifted.

1. Go clean up some trash. Springtime in Alaska is wonderful – the birds return, it’s nice enough to go out without four layers on and we can feel the warmth of the sun on our faces again. The only downside is that with spring breakup comes the solution of a winter’s worth of trash and debris. In the few weeks we have before green-up, we can see everything. While many communities have clean-up days and contests, you don’t have to wait for that. Just grab a couple sturdy trash bags and some gloves and head out there. Bring the kids. It’s an active way to teach them that they are the caretakers of the environment of their communities.

2. Spend responsibly. While not all of us can afford to donate to groups that do great things for the earth, especially now we make an impact with every dollar we spend. Each purchase is a chance to support a company that is creating goods in a sustainable way. Chances are good, these products may be a little more expensive than alternatives, but you can consider those extra costs donations to the planet that have a lasting impact by supporting businesses that make a big difference on a global scale.

Another great way to spend responsibly is to buy things locally. Many of our local companies have been able to do this by offering online sales. If you are feeling more ambitious, till up a little plot and plant some potatoes and carrots. Kale grows quickly and there’s a lot of potential by spending your money on local. It’s been said that the greatest environmental impact is to use less packaging. Pack your own lunch in your own container for work or school. If there’s someone in your community who bakes, grows vegetables, makes furniture or sells handheld items, consider buying from them when ever possible. It’s good for the local economy and the earth at the same time.

3. Make small changes There are a lot of little things we can all do to lessen our impact on the earth, and many of these can make a huge impact. By saving us money and making life a little easier. Switch to e-bills and get off direct mailing lists. You’ll save a ton of time sifting through those stacks of mail at home. Stop drinking bottled water and purchase a water filter pitcher instead if you are concerned about your local water. The quality will be much better. Avoid single serving packaging. Why buy a pack of six individual applesauce containers when you can buy one larger container and divide it up into single use serving containers? By reducing packaging not only uses a lot less energy to manufacture, it also ends up in the landfill.

4. Plant something We are not all going to grow gardens that look like the cover of a magazine, but most of us can put some earth in a pot and plant some salad greens. Grow a cherry tomato in your south window. Plant a few pots of herbs for cooking. If you are feeling more ambitious, till up a little plot and plant some potatoes and carrots. Kale grows quickly and there is a lot of potential by spending your money on local. It’s been said that the greatest environmental impact is to use less packaging. Pack your own lunch in your own container for work or school. If there’s someone in your community who bakes, grows vegetables, makes furniture or sells handheld items, consider buying from them when ever possible. It’s good for the local economy and the earth at the same time.

5. Go out and enjoy nature The best thing we can do for the earth is remember that it is something we care about. The best way to do that is to go out and appreciate it. We spend a lot of time inside in front of screens these days. Now that it is warming up, it’s time to go outside and appreciate how beautiful clear skies, rolling hills and blue oceans are. Then pledge to take care of the earth not just this week but all year. It’s worth the effort.
Native corporations benefit properly from CARES Act

T
e the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating many of the existing inequities that Native communities face. The virus spreads across the United States live with every day. From a higher share of individuals with health conditions categorized as risk factors, to a lack of public health and sanitation infrastructure in remote areas, many Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities are under a higher share and increasing threat from the coronavirus pandemic.

This crisis challenges mean that in this time of crisis, indigenous communities have more to gain by standing together than by standing apart. The relief funds authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act makes clear that “Indian tribe” references the term as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (the ISDEAA). The CARES Act extended the definition of the Alaska Native village or regional corporation.

Unfortunately, despite the crisis, no Tribal Congress has passed a resolution on how to define “Indian tribe” within the context of the CARES Act. The Congress of the Northern1 American Indians (NCAI) and some other tribal entities have taken action in the area that the CARES Act mandates financial assistance to Native corporations, instead asserting that ANCs are Tribal government, as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.” As Alaska Native corporations, our legal mandate under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act is to support our Alaska Native shareholders economically, culturally, and socially. We meet the legal standard of the CARES Act but also the mission of service to our Native shareholders and communities. We work collaboratively with health authorities because our tribal rights were bifurcated by the federal government as such that our tribes have sovereign status, while our ANCSA corporations own our Native lands. Together we represent the full set of interests of our Alaska Native people.

Due to the vital role of Native regional and village corporations in Alaska, their ability to receive relief funds will be critical to their ability to stay open to some of the most vulnerable regions in Alaska. More than 80% of communities in Alaska are served by Native corporations — or Alaska Native corporations, tribal health consortia and village corporations are often the largest employers in areas and also to minimal economic activity. Our form of organization may be different than that of tribes, but our goals are similar, and we have a long history of working productively together with tribes across the country to accomplish shared objectives. We should be working together to ensure a fair funding allocation formula as opposed to arguing about which communities should be included when Congress has already spoken clearly in that regard.

We are all united in our struggle to prevent this virus from having a disproportionate impact on our Native communities and families. Together we can ensure that relief funds are distributed where they are needed most and that no one is left behind.

For more information on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), go to https://ancsaregional.com.

The authors are the members of the ANCSA Regional Association’s board of directors. Aaron Schutt represents Denali; Gail Schubert represents Bering Straits Native Corporation; Sophie Minich represents Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; Jason Metrowin represents Sealaska Corporation; Michelle Anderson represents Atka, Incorporated; Rex Rock, Sr. represents Anchorage Area Native Corporation; Jason Metrowin represents Bristol Bay Native Corporation; Andrew Guy represents Galista Corporation; Sheri Burettia represents Chugach Area Native Corporation; Shalina Hagena represents Konig; Wayne Westlake represents7 ANCSA Regional Corporation; and Anthony Mallott represents Sealaska Corporation.

Native corporations benefit properly from CARES Act

Not safe at home? You are not alone. Help is available.

On March 11, Gov. Mike Dunleavy declared a public health emergency to protect Alaskans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the country. The following week, a health mandate was issued requiring all Alaskans, except critical and essential workers, to remain at their place of residence and practice social distancing. This mandate, as well as the other health mandates, are vitally important and necessary to keep Alaskans safe from the virus.

Unfortunately, staying at home, sheltering in place and social distancing have unintended consequences, particularly where violence, control and abusive behaviors are happening. Homes where abuse and violence occur are not safe places during the COVID-19 pandemic. hat we know is more difficult to reach out for help during this challenging time, and to find safe ways to seek help, services are open and available. All 35 funded programs are working hard to find creative, safe and alternate ways to provide support while following the necessary health mandates.

Our message is clear: if you can safely reach out for help, please do. It is important for the programs to continue to provide 24/7 emergency safety and shelter services. While programs face challenges to provide shelter and safety, while also practicing social distancing in congregate living, they are open and committed to help victims become survivors. To compensate for reduced in-person service, emergency and advocacy programs are working with community partners to secure other safe shelter options, to include hotels, beds-and-breakfasts and identified safe homes. Their commitment is that everyone who needs shelter can find safe shelter. For the health and safety of staff and participants, programs are practicing safe social distancing, in accordance with Alaska’s health mandates, adapting services to use telephone, text, email and secure video opportunities when available.

Domestic and family violence programs throughout Alaska are showing their grit, determination and compassion for those in need of these critical, often life-saving services. The dedication of all our programs’ employees is humbling. I recognize and commend each and every one of them.

To anyone who faces violence in the home or sexual assault, remember, you are not alone. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic, sexual or any form of interpersonal violence or child abuse please reach out; safety, support and help is available.

Available resources include:

• For immediate response, call 911.
• Call Alaska 2-1-1 for assistance, referrals and resources.
• To reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline, call 800-799-SAFE (800-799-7233, text LOVEIS to 22522) or online chat at www.thehotline.org.
• Alaska’s CARLINE can be reached at 800-478-4444 or online at Re- portChildAbuse.alaska.gov.
• For a listing of local victim services 24/7 hotlines, go to https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVA/Services/VictimServices.
• It is important during these challenging times that we look out for one another: take time to call, text and check in with family, friends and neighbors to make sure they are doing OK while staying home.

We are all Alaskans and we are in this together — please know: You are not alone, help is available.

L. Diane Casto, MPA, has served as the executive director for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault since May 2017. Prior to CDVSA, Casto worked for the Department of Health and Social Services for 21 years working in Child Protective Services, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Behavioral Health and BH Medicaid Reform.

By L. DIANE CASTO

For the Arctic Sounder

By AARON SCHUTT, GAIL SCHUBERT, SOPHIE MINICH, THOMAS MACK, MICHAEL ANDERSON, JASON METROWIN, ANDREW GUY, SHERI BURETTIA, SHALINA HAGENA, WAYNE WESTLACE, AND ANTHONY MALLOTT

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For the Arctic Sounder

April 23, 2020

thearcticsounder.com
Alaska’s salmon catch projected to drop in 2020

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laska’s total salmon catch for 2020 is projected to be down $658 million from last year’s $2.7 billion haul of 207 million fish, the eighth largest on record that was valued at nearly $658 million at the docks.

In the Run Forecast and Harvest Projections and Review of the 2019 Season just released by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, sockeye sockers are calling for a harvest of just under 133 million salmon across Alaska. The decline is driven by a number of factors, and those that predominate include the number of commercial harvest permits, the number of salmon released by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development’s Alaska’s Run Forecasts and Harvest Projections and Review of the 2019 Season.

The report projects an overall 2020 catch of 120 million salmon, which is a drop of 100,000 from last year’s haul of 2.7 billion fish. A catch of 4.2 million coho salmon is projected, a drop of 36% from last year’s catch of 6.6 million fish. A catch of 3.3 million sockeye salmon is expected, a drop of 59% from last year’s catch of 8 million fish. A catch of 2.2 million chinook salmon is projected, a drop of 34% from last year’s catch of 3.3 million fish.

The report projects a total of 60 million salmon to be harvested in 2020, down from 70 million salmon from just over 60 million fish, down nearly 5%.

Here are the salmon har- vest forecasts and outlooks for most Alaska regions:

At Upper Cook Inlet a run of 1.3 million sockeye is expected to surge for a dismal 12 million fish, down from last season’s low of just over 60 million fish.

“Like many recent years, a potential source of uncertainty regarding the 2020 pink salmon return is the anomalously warm sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska in 2019,” the ADFG & report said.

For sockeye salmon, a harvest forecast of just over 48 million compares to 55.5 million reds taken in Alaska last year, a drop of 13.5%.

A run of nearly 50 million sockeys is expected to surge into Bristol Bay’s nine river systems, 6% higher than the 2018 10-year average. That should produce a catch of 37 million reds, down from nearly 42 million last year.

At Naknek River the basin, the outlook for sockeye fisheries in most other Alaska regions is fairly bleak.

At U.S. Fish and Wildlife, decisions on the same principles,” Berkowitz said.

Given the size of the state, it’s likely there will be different responses in different communities from villages to regional hubs to “what we call cities,” Berkowitz said. “We need to recognize there is going to be a range of openings based on the vastness of Alaska.”

The state started opening certain sectors this month. Religious services were allowed on Easter Sunday and for Passover, but only through livestream or drive-in services. Dunleavy last week announced a loosening of a prior mandate ordering elective medical procedures be canceled or postponed.

State officials are allowing commercial fishing seasons to begin next month with protocols in place to protect small communities from thousands of out-of-state workers.

The state is deploying rapid test kits, outreach, and medical services ahead of the season, according to Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam C. Crum.

During the run, inspections will continue, he said, trusted people will continue to practice state recommendations: wear masks when out of the house, whether you’re shopping or working at a job; use social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from non-family members); and hand washing and wiping down surfaces.

The governor several times Monday evening said he had enough info from Alaskans to do the right thing.

“We never went down the road of chasing people down, or the state never went down the road of threatening people,” Dunleavy said. “Because it’s not in our nature. It’s not who we are.”

Reporters Alison Walker and Patrick Williams contributed to this report.

BUSINESSES
FROM PAGE 2

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YOUR
HERE

FISH FACTOR
Laine Welch

Nearly every Alaska fisherman knows this year’s stock assessments are tight-lipped about where they’re at and what they’re doing. So it would be nice to take this time when it’s important to weigh in and let people know where we’re at and what we can help us,” he said, adding that everyone of Alaska’s diverse fishing fleets has valuable ideas to offer.

If we’ve learned anything during this COVID crisis,” Fick said, “we look at who’s essential and often we’re not talking about a spokesperson for any particular group, we’re talking about the people who actually do the work and move the fish and move the boxes around.”

The short, mostly multiple choice survey asks fishermen their primary business concern; what strategies they will use to reduce COVID impacts; how emergency funds can best be applied for Alaska fishermen, and how policy makers from local levels to Congress can assist.

There are a lot of good ideas out there, Fick said. “Maybe there’s great free market opportunities or ways to change how we do things to stay relevant. Maybe it’s just some small policy or procedural changes,” he said. “These aren’t just small business owners and frontline workers but they also are voters and deserve to be heard.”

Deadline for the fishermen’s survey is May 1. Find it at www.almonstate.org.

Quantine Cuisine

Until recently, Americans ate more than 60% of their seafood favorites at restaurants. But COVID-19 has changed all that.

“I think we’re in unprecedented times when everyone is at home and they’re finding themselves having to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner not just for themselves, but also for their family. And a lot of people are not used to having to prepare three meals a day every day,” said Emily Metz, a strategy consultant with Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers, the marketing arm of the Alaskan industry.

“So what we really needed to do as an industry was figure out how to help consumers that are facing these challenges with some new recipes and some new inspiration for their COVID cooking.”

GAPP has partnered with famous Seattle Chef in the Hat™® and restaurateur Thierry Rautureau along with a video blogger to show families how easy it is to take their culinary skills up a notch by combining frozen fish sticks, pollock fillets or surimi blends with basic pantry items.

The big shift to eating fish at home, Metz said, can be a boost to the seafood industry.

“Obviously, in this whole crisis there is a bright spot in retail in that more people are cooking at home because they’re frankly forced to, and they’re looking for ways to introduce new proteins to their diet,” Metz said. “It’s a great time for wild Alaska pollock to be out there and to remind people that seafood is an amazingly healthy protein.”

Along with making America’s home cooks more fish savvy, Metz said GAPP also is planning on ways to help its restaurant and food service partners recover rapidly from the COVID crisis.

Find links to GAPP’s Quarantine Cuisine recipes at www.alaskapollock.org, on Facebook and at #quarantinecuisine on Twitter.
**ALASKA SCIENCE FORUM**

**Life of Riley the wolf reaches its end**

**BY NED ROZELL**
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Riley, the wolf, has died. She lived in the wild until almost the age of 11, which biologists call a remarkable feat. Wolves are lucky to live to 10.

The female wolf, former leader of the once-mighty Riley Creek pack in Denali National Park, was due to be darted by a group of biologists who were fitted with a satellite collar. The biologist who her and fitted her with a satellite collar when park biologists darted her was born. The next summer, she gave birth to five pups in the northwest and south. When the den was discovered, biologists found the dominant Grant Creek female dead, along with another female. Both dead wolves were missing a front leg, leading Klauder to say that the life of a wolf is “very Game of Thrones.”

The Riley Creek pack was up to 14 animals. And, led by Riley, they were fierce. The Riley Creek pack scapped with wolves from the Grant Creek pack, which hunt neighboring lands to the west and south. When the decisive battle ended, biologists found the dominant Grant Creek female dead, along with another female. Both dead wolves were missing a front leg, leading Klauder to say that the life of a wolf is “very Game of Thrones.”

Riley’s peak continued in the summer of 2017, when the wolf was 8, silver-haired and gave birth to five surviving pups. The pack was up to 17 wolves. (Wolf packs vary in number from two to 20, with an average of eight.)

The next winter, Riley’s mate died on state land bordering the Stampede Trail. The last location from the male black wolf’s collar was along a known tranline. After that wolf’s disappearance, the pack started to dwindle. By February 2018, the Riley Creek pack was down to seven or fewer.

In March 2018, Borg recaptured Riley and fitted her with a new collar. She weighed Riley in at a weight of 107 pounds, about 20 pounds lighter than in 2017. Her leg was broken. Riley had bone spurs and severe arthritis. She had paint on her legs from her many litters of pups.

Later in her life, starting about the time I saw her in spring 2019, Riley had started hanging out with two or three wolves in what the biologists still call the Riley Creek Pack. The Denali scientists recently collared two of them, both males.

“We don’t know if any of them are related to her, although we are in the early stages of a new genetic study, so someday we might know,” Klauder said. “But whether they are related or not, it’s likely that they benefited from her detailed knowledge of her territory.”

The biologists had an unusual opportunity with Riley, a wolf they knew since birth and one they saw often. Reading the necropsy report gave them even more appreciation for the silver wolf, said Borg, the Denali wolf biologist.

“While people who saw her, like you, limping along the road, might have felt a pang of pity for her, even though her injuries were severe, they proved that she was a resilient and tough wolf until the very end.”

Since the late 1970s, the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Geophysical Institute has provided this column free in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute.

**Answers to page 10 puzzles**

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**Citigroup backs away from Arctic oil investment**

**ALEX DEMARBAN**
Anchorage Daily News

Citigroup Inc. is the latest major bank to say it will not invest in oil and gas projects in the Arctic, where the heart of Alaska’s oil industry operates.

“Citi has not previously provided and will not provide project-related financing for oil and gas exploration and production in the Arctic Circle,” the bank said in its environmental and social policy framework for 2020.

Wells Fargo & Co., Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Swiss bank UBS in recent months also have disclosed that they are pulling back on investments for Arctic oil projects.

In January, BlackRock, the world’s largest asset manager, announced it would phase out fossil fuel investments. Citigroup’s policy comes as the oil industry is buffeted by rapidly falling oil prices and as Alaska companies trim or kill projects.

“Citigroup’s policy could threaten future projects, particularly for small oil companies with limited assets and options for generating cash,” said Alistair Campbell, an oil analyst who monitors the industry. "The sustainability goal is also one of the key criteria that the oil and gas industry will have to meet.

Citigroup backs away from Arctic oil investment
Pandemic shortages underscore need for food security

There is something deeply unsettling about seeing empty shelves in the supermarket. On an intellectual level, we know that this is just panic buying, and that the efficient container ships operated by Tote Maritime and Matson, as well as the barge operators, will work overtime to restock. We should be okay on basics like flour, pasta and toilet paper, and our own Gov. Mike Dunleavy is honest in saying this will be enough fresh produce for the summer. The division also has consumer education initiatives underway on skills we may have forgotten, like planting home gardens and canning vegetables for the winter, she says.

Meanwhile, any solution we have to supply the public with home food — food-growing states seek to exploit niches in local markets where growers can withstand competition from imported Lower 48 food. In Bethel, Meyer Farms supplies the local market and ships produce to villages in the region (the Ravn shut-down may be affecting that, however). The Bethel region actually has superb soils and Tim Meyers thinks villages could easily duplicate what he has done in Bethel.

There are, in fact, many small greenhouse operations in villages throughout Alaska, many of them operated by local tribal organizations with a goal of encouraging local food sustainability. Interior Alaska has long supported local farms. There are just a few, but the farmers who are left are pretty skilled. In the Delta area, the state’s Delta Barley Project of the 1970s is often derided as a model of disastrous state planning but ironical the experiment actually worked. It didn’t quite turn out the way Gov. Jay Hammond originally envisioned it, but after a troubled start, farmers there learned how to make it work, and there are profitable farms operating in the Delta area raising not only barley but also cattle.

But how do we do all this? Obviously, if the state-funded projects have their problems and in any event the state doesn’t have any money. Keyes thinks simple jowboning by Alaska leaders, encouraging the public to buy local — a sort of ramped-up Alaska Grown promotion — would help. Cutting through the red tape so local institutions like schools (when they reopen) and prisons can buy more local food would also help, and not just agricultural products but locally-harvested seafood as well. Increasing food self-sufficiency is complicated, but we used to do it.

State Sen. Click Bishop, R-Fairbanks, is a gold miner who remembers those times. Alaska used to be more than 50% self-sufficient in food supply, Bishop says. Now we’re at 5%, even less. But if we did it before, maybe we can do it again. Tim Bradner is copublisher of the Alaska Economic Report and Alaska Legislative Digest.
Thank you for joining us on April 23, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. in Utqiagvik.

CIP

April 23, 2020

For additional information, contact Project Manager Racheal Satoruk at satoruk@nwabor.org. Questions are to be emailed to the UMIAQ Project Manager Travis Holmes at travis.holmes@alaska.gov.

The public comment period for this application begins on April 24, 2020, and ends on May 26, 2020. Requests for additional information and comments regarding this application may be sent in writing to Kimberly Maher, Department of Environmental Conservation, SPAR/PPRP, 610 University Ave, Anchorage, AK 99519-6433, phone 907-451-2124 (phone), 907-451-2362 (toll free), or kimberly.maher@alaska.gov. The public comment period for this application begins on April 24, 2020, and ends on May 26, 2020. Requests for additional information and comments regarding this application may be sent in writing to Kimberly Maher, Department of Environmental Conservation, at the above address prior to May 26, 2020. Department of Environmental Conservation.

Deadline for bid submittal is on or before May 12, 2020. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2020, at the Borough of North Slope CIPM Conference Room.

For additional information, contact Project Manager Racheal Satoruk at satoruk@nwabor.org.

EIS, to review and comment, or to participate in one of the public meetings scheduled for the following 1 year:

• Thursday, April 23, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (online)
• Monday, April 27, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (online)
• Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (online)

The public can attend by calling 1-800-324-3010.

For additional information, contact Project Manager Racheal Satoruk at satoruk@nwabor.org.

North Slope Borough is seeking sealed bids for Construction services for the Barrow 21 Singles Above Ground Water & Sewer Connections, Utqiagvik, Alaska.

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS
6. Eurek!
9. Schools of thought
13. Sound of artillery
14. Car nut
15. Without illumination
16. Nosey one
17. Kind of trip?
18. Lasso loop
19. *Little Women’s mom
21. *Tracee Ellis Ross on TV
23. ____ o’ shanter
24. Quitter’s word
25. Like a fiddle?
26. Like Charles Dickens’ Tim
30. Quarantine state
35. *Egyptian goddess of fertility
37. Insane, in Spain
39. Mother or daughter, in Italy
40. *Biblical Rebecca’s son
41. Online reviews
43. Research facil.
44. Fisherman’s decoys
46. Daytime entertainment
47. Furniture wood
48. End of the road, pl.
50. Blatant promotion
52. Swedish shag rug
53. Yours and mine
55. Little squirt
57. *Mother’s mom
61. *She fought for Mother’s Day, then against it
64. In advance
65. *Bambi’s mom
67. Fancy tie
69. Less than fernier
70. I have
71. “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous” host
72. Fairies

DOWN
1. Kitchen meas.
2. Stay out of its way!
3. Pelvic parts
4. Tennis great Chris
5. Particular arrangement
6. Away from wind
7. “Mother’s favorite gift?”
8. Ancient marketplace
9. Part of a scheme
10. No neatnik
11. Sushi restaurant soup
12. One-pot meal
15. Like the States
20. “One of the Gilmore girls
22. Hill dweller
24. One-eyed giants
25. *She played Forrest Gump’s mother
26. May edition, e.g.
27. “Take it back!”
29. Denials
31. Nike’s “Just ____ ___”
32. Private
33. “I have
34. *Mother in Kraków
35. Particular arrangement
36. *Greek goddess of fertility
37. Bald eagle’s nest
38. October birthstone
39. Like the States
40. *Biblical Rebecca’s son
41. Online reviews
42. Plural of sputum
43. Research facil.
44. Fisherman’s decoys
45. Rundown
46. Daytime entertainment
47. Furniture wood
48. End of the road, pl.
49. Bottom line
50. Where you’ll find AM
51. Kind of ungulate, pl.
52. Swedish shag rug
53. Yours and mine
54. Where you’ll find AM
55. Little squirt
56. Living room centerpiece?
57. *Mother’s favorite gift?
58. *Greek goddess of fertility
59. Bald eagle’s nest
60. *Mums’ mums
61. Opposite of cheer
63. Puppet precursor, possibly
66. *Female gametes
68. CaFe alternative

THEME: MOTHER’S DAY

SUDOKU

TUNDRA  |  By Chad Carpenter

DUDE, EITHER THAT’S ON WRONG OR YOUR DOG IS BACKWARD.

THE CHILDREN ALL GROWN AND GONE, THE OLD WOMAN TRIES TO SELL OUT

I KNOW IT DOESN’T SEEM LIKE MUCH, BUT I’M AFRAID THE HELL HAS FALLEN OUT OF THE SHOE MARKET.

I’M REALLY MORE OF A CARICATURE ARTIST.

FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES, SEE PAGE 7.
Oil prices plunged Monday, and for the first time ever, the cost of a barrel of oil in the Lower 48 fell below zero.

"At the very least, this should be a wake-up call that the pipeline might have to shut down at some time," said economist Ed King.

That doomsday scenario isn't close, he said, but "if oil stays in the $20s for months and months, you might start seeing some conversations about when this is going to shut down." Companies are already cutting spending on new drilling, reminiscent of the situation Alaska faced in 2014, when a plunge in prices led to widespread layoffs. In that case, a statewide recession followed.

Supply and no demand
Oil demand has fallen sharply amid the coronavirus pandemic, but production remains high, even after an agreement among several nations to cut supply. And on Monday, the price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil hit negative $37.65.

The negative price doesn't mean free oil. It's a measure of demand, and few, if any, barrels were sold at negative prices, said John Coleman of oil-analysts firm Wood Mackenzie during a Monday webinar.

But what it does mean is that companies have a lot of oil and no place to put it.

"When prices are at this very extreme level ... what that's telling you is the market has tons of physical crude looking for a place to go and nowhere for it to go," said George Pearkes, global macro strategist for Bespoke Investment Group, a New York firm.

"What people are doing right now is saying, 'I don't want to take delivery of the oil,'" Pearkes said.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety is warning about counterfeit pills with the synthetic opioid fentanyl, designed to look like oxycodone.

Authorities warn of counterfeit pills disguised as oxycodone, laced with fentanyl, in Alaska

Among pills analyzed at the State Crime Detection Laboratory, preliminary results indicated that fentanyl was the primary ingredient, public safety officials say. No oxycodone was observed during the testing as of Friday.

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration issued a warning about the counterfeit pills, which the agency described as being manufactured by Mexican drug cartels.

Fentanyl's lethal dose is estimated at just 2 milligrams, so breathing effects can occur at a much lower dose than a usual medical dose, officials say.

The pills should not be handled without gloves.

In addition, that price requires oil companies to cut spending in order to make a profit, said economist Roger Marks.

Lower spending by oil companies means they invest less in finding and developing new oil fields, which means less production in the long term, leading to worse state budget problems later on.

Alaska's principal budget reserve is almost exhausted. Lawmakers next year will be required to significantly cut spending, raise taxes or unsustainably spend from the Alaska Permanent Fund.

Wider effects on Alaska's economy

Neal Fried, an economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, said the low oil prices could cause significant harm to the economy if they continue for too long.

The last oil price downturn that began in 2014 led the industry to cut about 5,000 jobs, or about one-third of the workforce, over three years. The industry was recovering when prices began falling this year.

King said many of those layoffs happened in the "support" sector, rather than among actual oil production workers. He suspects that with companies cutting back on new development, it will happen again.

"We probably have already started losing jobs in that sector and probably will for a while, because the industry reacts quickly," Fried said. "How low it will go, I don't know. And I don't think anyone knows because we don't know how long this lasts."

Oil companies ConocoPhilips and Oil Search in recent weeks have announced $470 million in spending reductions. And plunging oil prices have state regulators raising questions about Hilcorp's financial capability as it seeks to buy BP Alaska's assets for $5.6 billion.

Oil isn't the only problem for the state's economy at the moment, given that the tourism industry and fishing could be hard hit in the virus-shuttered economy, Fried said.

"I'm worried," he said.
“The first day we usually start off with a potluck. We ask everyone to bring their favorite dish, whatever Inupiaq (food) or something from the store — whatever they think people will want to eat,” said Nashookpuk.

Then, they do singspiration, talent contests and other activities for people of all ages.

“All the afternoons after that until the last day, we have games,” he said. “And then in the evenings, we’ll have fis-kimo dancing or whoever we invite will perform.”

The Wainwright Jamboree has welcomed groups from King Island, Point Hope and Utqiagvik, among others.

“Not all the villages have come yet, but most of them,” he said. “We had a Yup’ik dance group come up and that was really fun. We just try to invite (and) try to bring people to our community, so our community could have something to look forward to each year.”

This year’s Jamboree was already facing some challenges with renovations planned at King Island School, where it’s usually held. Coronavirus and the need to physically distance to stay safe sealed the deal on postponing the in-person event this summer.

“Everyone’s just worried about not wanting their village to get this COVID-19. I think it’s important that we try to focus for positive, just making sure that our people are safe, our people are enjoying life,” he said. “[We are] just trying to keep our community engaged in a safe way, just so our people could enjoy and not just focus on that virus that’s going around.”

So, he came up with the idea of holding a virtual Jamboree instead. While it’s taken some adjustments to make it work online, the new platform does come with some benefits of its own.

People don’t need to buy plane tickets and they can attend any time of the day or night. There’s no cost to join in the fun and it’s going to last longer than the physical event usually does.

Nashookpuk said the physical Jamboree is typically funded by the borough, corporations, the city and through community contributions. Now, Nashookpuk said he’s welcoming any and all donations that can go toward paying out cash prizes for the various online contests.

For example, there’s a singing contest for kids, adults and duets this week. Since it was announced, submissions have been pouring in from all across the Slope.

While the Wainwright-based committee is represented in the event logo, they’ve opted to go with a more inclusive name for the group as a whole: the 2020 North Slope Wide Jamboree. The slogan for the page is “coming together strengthening our communities.”

“I knew I would get a really good response and I’m really glad that a lot of North Slope people are inviting their North Slope friends,” said Nashookpuk. “I have people on there from different places asking about it.”

He gets questions about why he started the group and is dedicating so much time and effort to seeing it through.

“I just tell them I’m always wanting to find ways to keep communication within our region, to keep active, even if it’s a different way online,” he said.

Find the group by searching for “2020 North Slope Wide Jamboree” or visit www.facebook.com/groups/263484071720930. Shady Grove Oliver can be reached at sgarcite@gmail.com.