



The Prospector

Sitka Pioneers' Home

October 2020

Vol.42 No.9



Resident Birthdays

George Porter	10-6
Ron VanGeystel	10-21
Sally Tambag	10-23
Joseph Griffin	10-27

Staff Birthdays

Skye Workman	10-21
Elvie Matalang	10-25
Marchelle Rodrigo	10-25



Scuttlebutt:



Grace Roller has resigned from her Nurse Manager position. She has a new job at the Public Health office. We will miss

her here, but wish her the best on her new career adventure.

Brenda Reynolds has retired. She has served the community of Sitka for many years as a CNA and we will miss her here at the Sitka Pioneer Home.



Nancy Ricketts' memoir Becoming Myself published

Daily Sitka Sentinel writer, Ariadne Will, published this article on July 30, 2020 (excerpt):

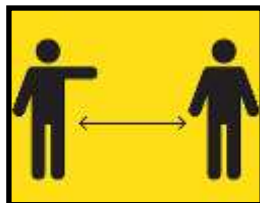
Nancy Ricketts has been writing for as long as she can remember. "I've been writing about my life all my life," Ricketts said in an interview. "I've been writing letters, I've been writing all sorts of writing because I love writing." Ricketts, now 95, is releasing a memoir, titled "Becoming Myself." It begins with Ricketts' own prehistory – her father's side came to the United States as Huguenots; her mother's parents immigrated from Croatia – and ends in 1974, right before Ricketts returned to Sitka, a place where she had lived a short time as a girl. A reception to celebrate the book's publication [was] held on the lawn of the Pioneer Home.

"This is a new experience for me," Ricketts said of her book's release. "Brand new. I have written before – a lot of historical stuff – but I have never written anything about myself." Speaking by phone from her comfortable room at the Pioneers Home, Ricketts said she's not sure how the public will react to her new book, but she hopes people will ask her questions. Her desire to receive questions goes back to her childhood practice of asking questions. "I had difficulty becoming understood when I was a young child," she said. "I was always wondering about things that people weren't supposed to think about, like where did we come from, and where did this start, and difficult questions of different kinds. I couldn't ask anybody about it so I just pondered about it." For a time, Ricketts would take these questions to her father, but that changed when her parents divorced in the 1930s. Her father was a pathfinding marine biologist and philosopher Ed Ricketts, who was immortalized by his friend John Steinbeck as Doc in his novel "Cannery Row." "I could have asked my dad but I didn't see him very often," she said. "I don't know what he would have said but I know he would have had an answer." It was these questions that pushed Nancy to return to school in her 30s, all the while raising eight children: her second husband brought six into the family when they married. Ricketts said her return to school provided her with an opportunity to keep writing – and to learn more about using language. "I started in (a beginning English) class and my teachers told me that I should be in a way advanced class by this time," she said. "But I stayed where I was because there were a lot of basic things that I just didn't know, and I was happy to learn them." Ricketts said she started writing "great guns" after her college English courses. "I'd always written letters." This letter-writing has come in handy while assembling her book "I went through many writings and I recalled some things every once in a while -- a little bit here, there," she said. "I make copies when I write letters to people. I make a copy of it and put it in my file so I can remember what I said and when I said it." The result is a 110-page volume that contains letters, stories, and a few photos of the many adventures that eventually brought her to Sitka, where she has remained these past 45 years. But Ricketts leaves those 45 years – years spent as a librarian, historian, archivist and educator – to history. This is where an audience's questions may begin. "There are questions out there waiting for all of us and we will never run out of them," Ricketts said. "It's an exciting thought."

Visitation Updates

Please keep checking your email for up-to-date information on visitation!

We are now allowing 2 visitors from the same household (minimum of 18 years old)



Nail Care (by appointment)

FaceTime Calls (by appointment)

Additional Porch Access (TBA)

NOTE: Group sizes are limited by social distancing.

Activity Questions? Contact: Skye Workman 747-2103

Skye.workman@alaska.gov



Gospel Music on 9/11

Bonnie Cottrell played the keyboard while Karen Lucus led a group in singing some old gospel hymns as well as a number of patriotic tunes. Never forget!

Gospel Music on 9/25

Bonnie and Karen led the group again, but this time we got to see some children from Terri's Learning Center. What a treat to have them join in! Thank you to all of the extra singers that day!



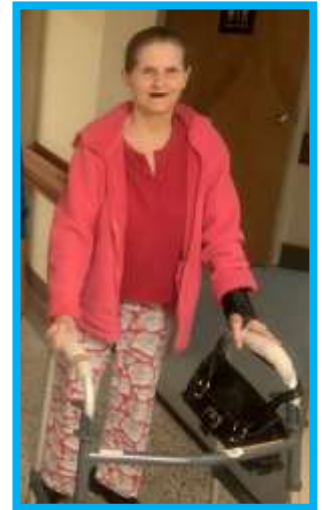
Mt. Edgecumbe Preschool Parade



Students from MEPS made a trip around the building with their instruments in a parade of music and happy smiles! Thank you for continuing to bring joy in new and creative ways!



National Assisted Living Week Celebrated
SPH put on a **SPIRIT WEEK** with themed dress up days!
We saw Sunshine, Pajamas, Wacky Hats, Aloha Spirit, and
Pioneer Pride displayed and embraced!



Thank you!!

Thank you to the in-house barbers who have been filling in since the shut down.



Spirit week was made fun by the participants who really got into it! Extra thanks to Shari Carroll, Marievic Ramil, and Kathy Ingallinara for your enthusiasm!



Thank you Brave Heart Volunteers for lending us some Kindles for additional options of connection to the world and other entertainment! We are getting familiar with them and enjoying the new technology.

Thank you to all of the donors for the preserves display and raffle! The contents of the display were handed out to 13 happy winners! The items donated ranged from a variety of jams and jellies to jarred salmon, locally made salves, apple butter, rhubarb butter and kelp pickles! Thanks again!

Daily Sitka Sentinel received a Letter to the Editor recently from our own cartoonist Galen Insteness. Galen thanked the Sentinel for continuing to put out a paper through the pandemic as well as appreciation to our in-house paper delivery gal, Fredi Young. She is so kind to take that on and keep it up so faithfully.

The Snusgood Brothers

by Galen Insteness





RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT, HOPE AND CARE FOR STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES AT THE 6 MONTH POINT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A resolution of support, hope, and care for the staff and residents of the Alaska Pioneer Homes by the Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board

To the residents and staff of the Alaska Pioneer Homes, we resolve that

WHEREAS, there are six statewide Pioneer Homes operated by the Department of Health and Social Services to the benefit of long time Alaska residents desiring the quality of life offered in assisted living; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Homes have served Alaska's pioneers since the first opening of the Sitka Pioneer Home in 1913 to the interest and benefit of many of the great pioneers of the first half of the 20th century including homesteaders, miners, bush pilots, and the fathers and mothers who turned Alaska into the great state it is today; and

WHEREAS, the 627 staff of the Alaska Pioneer Homes provide for the quality of life deserving of the 438 residents as well as the health and well-being of each resident; and

WHEREAS, since closing to visitors in March 2020 because of concerns for COVID-19 and the risk to the elderly, the Alaska Pioneer Homes have strived to protect the residents and maintain a quality of life and family contact during these trying times; and

WHEREAS, each home administrator has managed access to their Pioneer Home over the last six (6) months based on their local communities' rate of infection; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an insidious disease vector that found its way into the Anchorage, Fairbanks and Palmer Veterans Pioneer Homes to infect 15 residents and 11 staff, leading to prompt response and isolation in protection of others during this continued pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the staff is taking every step possible to protect the residents and their peers in thorough cleaning of the property and monitoring the health and well-being of the residents and peers during this period of isolation and infection control; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to require special effort and due diligence by the staff, in addition to managing and supporting the concerns of the residents;



We, the Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board, express our support, care and hope to all in and associated with the Alaska Pioneer Homes and look to a bright future when COVID-19 is behind us and life for all can return to the warm and welcoming environment offered by the six (6) Alaska Pioneer Homes.

Approved by the Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board on September 11, 2020

Handwritten signature of Bob Pawlowski in black ink.

Bob Pawlowski

Chair, Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
				1 AM Visits 11:15am Piano Music Neighborhood Movie & Popcorn PM Mail / Newspaper	2 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise PM Mail / Newspaper	3

4 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Piano Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	5 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise The Weekly "What's up?" 1:30 Dash of Delicious PM Mail / Newspaper	6 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Gospel Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	7 AM Visits 1:30pm Front Porch 2:00pm Blessing of the Pets (Porch) PM Mail / Newspaper	8 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Old Favorites PM Mail / Newspaper	9	10
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11 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Piano Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	12 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise The Weekly "What's up?" 1:30 Dash of Delicious PM Mail / Newspaper	13 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Gospel Music 1:00pm Resident Mtg 1:30pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	14 AM Visits Neighborhood Movie & Popcorn PM Mail / Newspaper	15 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Old Favorites 1:30pm Front Porch PM Mail / Newspaper	16	17
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18 Happy Alaska Day! 	19 Alaska Day (Observed)	20 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise The Weekly "What's up?" 1:30 TBA PM Mail / Newspaper	21 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Gospel Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	22 AM Visits Neighborhood Movie & Popcorn PM Mail / Newspaper	23 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Old Favorites 1:30pm Front Porch PM Mail / Newspaper	24
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25 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Piano Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	26 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise The Weekly "What's up?" 1:30 Dash of Delicious PM Mail / Newspaper	27 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Gospel Music 1:00pm Bingo PM Mail / Newspaper	28 AM Visits Neighborhood Movie & Popcorn PM Mail / Newspaper	29 AM Visits 11:00am Exercise 11:15am Old Favorites 1:30pm Costume Parade PM Mail / Newspaper	30	31
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Please contact the Activities Department if you would like a copy of our calendar!

Note: Activities are subject to change