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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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12 Pages

School safety big focus at monthly board meeting

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Safety was the watchword of last week's meeting of the Public School Board, with parents and staff alike weighing in on security at Wrangell's public schools.

The crux of their concern was an incident involving a high school student on February 12, in which the student was recorded by peers during class discussing the setting off of fireworks or explosives at the school, with the intention of getting expelled. Faculty and the school administration had been alerted to the conversation by concerned students afterward.

Superintendent Patrick Mayer reported the Wrangell Police Department had been notified immediately, and the matter investigated.

Chief Doug McCloskey confirmed that the department had been involved, but ultimately in an advisory capacity, as the incident had not warranted criminal proceedings. Contrary to rumors that have since circulated, McCloskey said no knives or other weapons had been found in the student's possession.

The matter was left to school administrators for disciplinary action, and Mayer noted the district had dealt with it in accordance with its policies. Due to privacy considerations for the students and staff who may be involved, he did not go into either the identity of the student or details of the incident.

During last Thursday meeting's Persons to be Heard segment, resident Andrew Hoyt had prepared a statement on behalf of Parent Advocates for Wrangell Students Safety (PAWSS), a group newly formed as a result of the incident. Hoyt conveyed the group's support for the Wrangell Teachers Association's recent requests to improve the district's safety policies and procedures; at past meetings, the association has been pushing for better locks and security protocols. PAWSS also commended the WTA for its collaboration with local law enforcement.

Hoyt suggested some recommendations could be taken further, such as extending policies related to deterring threats to school safety to include threats by any means, including knives and explosives. He also expressed disappointment that the explosives incident had not been mentioned in either the superintendent or secondary principal's reports to the school board, and that students' parents had not been notified of it afterward.

PAWSS also felt three days' in-school suspension for the student had been inadequate, and contended the other students who had



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Representatives of Canada's First Nations and Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission members take a group photo during a conference March 13 at the Tulip Conference Center in Washington. More than 30 participants discussed concerns with transboundary mining activities that would likely adversely affect the ecosystem shared by the two countries. Fourth from the right in the middle row, Wrangellite Tis Peterman participated as SEAITC coordinator.

Documentary highlights continued need for tighter mining oversight

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A free showing of a documentary highlighting the hazards of mining on transboundary rivers drew a pretty decent crowd Monday evening, with seats at the Nolan Center filling up fast.

Released last year, "Uprivers" is the first film made by Matthew Jackson, of Ketchikan. Jackson previously has spent time in Wrangell working with the Alaska Crossings program, and his presentation of the film is part of a broader tour of Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

Prior to showing his 30-minute work, Jackson explained the issue of Canadian mining and its impact on water quality on salmon-producing rivers in the region became a concern for him in the summer of 2014. Shortly thereafter, disaster struck at the Mt. Polley mine, a large open-pit concern on the Fraser River system. In August 2014 millions of cubic yards of toxic-tainted tailings were released when its earthen dam failed. Much of the slurry made its way into the adjoining river.

The issue struck close to home for Jackson, due to proposed projects upstream of Ketchikan's Unuk River.

"It was really sobering for me. I was really afraid for my home town," he said. The issue inspired him to do something to help, which manifested itself as an idea for a film.

As he learned more about the issue, Jackson found there were already people "on the front line" of the issue. He thought it more appropriate to make a film about their efforts instead, focusing on two women on either side of the border and their families.

His subjects were Carrie James, also of Ketchikan, and Jacinda Mack, who belongs to the Secwepemc and Nuxalk in British Columbia. Both women have become leading voices in the effort to control mining projects along shared river systems.

"I was fortunate to capture their story on camera," he said.

His film was three years in the making, highlighting the lives and activities of both women, and their deep ties to their rivers.

On film, Mack described the impact Mt. Polley had had on subsis-

tence users, who after the disaster were provided tinned salmon in lieu of fresh fish to catch. It was a paltry substitute.

"Salmon is more than protein on a plate," Mack explained.

Following the catching, cleaning and canning process of salmon by James' family, the film showed how subsistence is a way of life and a way for generations to bond.

Meeting other characters along the way, "Uprivers" charts both women's paths toward political involvement and their push for the establishment of an International Joint Commission to oversee and regulate transboundary mining activities along the American and Canadian border. Such bodies have been bilaterally formed to resolve issues along Canadian borders with Montana, Idaho, and the Great Lakes states.

In a question and answer session afterward, Jackson pointed out the IJC process had been making some progress before the firing of State Secretary Rex Tillerson earlier this month. With no one at the department's helm until a new appointment is made, the effort may have lost ground.

"We've hit a little speedbump. But we're not going to stop," said Jones, who accompanied Jackson for the viewing. Mack was absent, but had previously attended Wrangell's anniversary remembrance of Mt. Polley in 2015.

Beyond the film's scope, Jackson noted there were groups leading the charge on the effort to clean up Canadian mining. Salmon Beyond Borders and the recently-renamed Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (formerly United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group) have been active in seeking out legislative and gubernatorial support on the Alaska side of the issue, while reaching out to First Nations counterparts on the Canadian side.

In an unprecedented step, SEAITC met with indigenous Canadian counterparts earlier this month to coordinate a joint response to the issue. The meeting's participants say that mining companies must be held financially responsible for the safe design and operation of their concerns, and that large-scale operations should be avoided altogether in areas of sensitive habitat.

reported the incident were being actively discouraged from speaking up again in future. The group requests that the board hold an executive session to assess the incident and administrative response, with the hope that some measure

of closer collaboration between the board, PAWSS, students and staff could be held in future to prevent violence on Wrangell campuses.

A number of parents involved with the group were present, making the meeting standing room

only for some. Other parents and school faculty had opportunities to speak publicly to the matter as well. One, teacher Therese Pempek, said she felt the situation had been handled appropriately, and that due to privacy considerations

there would be a number of details the public would not be privy to. As such, she cautioned community members against engaging in spreading rumors.

"Find out the facts before you

Continued on page 12

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, March 29: Larry Taylor Jr., Beverly Angerman, Tamara Eastaugh, Paige Baremore. **Friday, March 30:** Gene Fennimore, Alan Westerlund, Bob Wickman, Kelyn Young, Christian Weber. **Saturday, March 31:** Janell Privett, Andrew Edgley, Dayne Pritchett. **Sunday, April 1:** Elissa DeBoer, Donald Covalt, Erin Hammock, Adrianna Stough. *Anniversary:* Dave and Arlene Wilson. **Monday, April 2:** Michael Hoyt, Carson Kautz, Mark Wooden, Edward Kalkins II. *Anniversary:* Stan and Ann Schnell. **Tuesday, April 3:** Camden Messmer, Steve Nesbitt, Raven Feller, Don Vergilio, Jim Nelson Jr., Abby Rifenburg. **Wednesday, April 4:** Tracy Churchill, Suzie Byford, Jeff Good, Eddie Rilatos III. *Anniversary:* Bruce and Christie Jamieson, Deed and Chris Gillen. **Thursday, April 5:** Lucas Messmer, Elias Decker, Daniel Powers, Bejay Powell, Katherine Byrd, Darren Shilts, Stephanie Cook.

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, March 29

Chicken chop suey, steamed rice, peach salad.

The rest of Senior Menu is not available for this week's edition.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations. Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Sunday, April 1
Columbia 2:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 8
Columbia 5:45 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11
Leconte 6:45 a.m.
Sunday, April 15
Columbia 8:45 p.m.

Southbound

Thursday, March 29
Kennicott 2:15 a.m.
Wednesday, April 4
Columbia 5:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 11
Columbia 5:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 15
Leconte 1:30 p.m.

Arrival times may vary. Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 for recorded information.

TIDES

March 29 - April 5

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
March 29	0:10	16.5	12:19	17.5	6:08	1.0	6:33	-1.6
March 30	0:54	17.6	1:07	18.0	6:54	-0.4	7:14	-1.7
March 31	1:34	18.3	1:52	18.0	7:36	-1.2	7:51	-1.4
April 1	2:11	18.4	2:34	17.6	8:14	-1.6	8:26	-0.6
April 2	2:46	18.2	3:13	16.7	8:51	-1.4	9:00	0.5
April 3	3:20	17.5	3:52	15.6	9:28	-1.0	9:33	1.7
April 4	3:53	16.6	4:31	14.4	10:04	-0.2	10:07	2.9
April 5	4:26	15.5	5:13	13.1	10:44	0.8	10:44	4.1

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, March 29

SAIL Class: 10:00 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375. info call 874-3375.

Friday, March 30

Baby Raven Reads: Family Event: Alaska Native families with children up to age 5 are invited to join us for storytelling, songs, and other cultural and literacy activities. It will be at the Head Start 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 1

Community Easter Egg Hunt: City Park 1:00 p.m. for toddlers - 12 years of age. Prizes in each age group.

Continuing Events

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.

PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES: Mid-day closure: M-F 1:30-3:30 p.m. Closed Sunday

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class: M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Water Aerobics: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Lap Swim: M-W-F 6:00-7:30 a.m. MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. TuTh 5:15-6:15 p.m. Sa 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
2 Lane Lap Swim: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Lap/Tot Swim: MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Swim Club: M-F 3:15-5:15 p.m.
Open Swim: M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Weight Room: M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m. S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

AA Meetings: Smoked Fish Fri 8 p.m.; Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided.

Bridge Social: Fri. 1 p.m. at the Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3507.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK: Tues 10 a.m.-2p.m. For more information please call Major Michael Bates 874-3753

The Way We Were

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

March 21, 1918: The people of Petersburg do not share the opinion of the Ketchikan Miner that the people of Wrangell have the wrong notion in strenuously objecting to the importation of Austrian alien enemies to fish in Alaska this coming season. Last week there was a well attended mass, meeting in the Sons of Norway hall at Petersburg at which strong resolutions of protest against the proposed importation of Austrian alien enemy fishermen were passed. In addition to pointing out that it would be unpatriotic to bring them to Alaska where it would be impossible to keep close watch on them the resolutions further set forth that such alien enemy fishermen would have a demoralizing effect on the now harmonious conditions existing between fishermen and the canneries and would also be a constant menace to the safety and welfare of the district. Copies of the resolutions were sent to the Governor and the Delegate from Alaska at Washington. In addition to this several hundred copies of the resolutions have been distributed in Southeastern Alaska and Seattle.

March 26, 1943: The jobs of thousands of war workers in many parts of Alaska were frozen "stabilized" is the government word by an order of the Alaska area war manpower committee which became effective as of last Monday morning. Announcement of the job control plan was received here today. Workers in ten major divisions are affected: Fishing, fish processing, lumber, and logging, non-ferrous metal mining, coal mining, transportation, agriculture, and all agencies of the

U.S. government, including any contractor of the government. Other activities might be included later.

March 28, 1968: Officials of Northland Marine Lines Inc. of Seattle this week disclosed plans for barge service to Wrangell. Dave Effenberger, sales representative for the firm said barges will tie up at the Alaska Wood Products dock. The firm plans to have a barge visit Wrangell at three-week intervals. The first arrival is scheduled for April 15. First barge to tie up here will be ZB 103, a 40 by 175-foot barge. Effenberger said the barge would carry vans and loose stow material "any size, shape or form". He said southbound shipping is available as well as northbound. At present the firm is not set up to handle perishable goods, he said.

April 1, 1993: DNA tests conducted on parts of a decomposed leg found in the inner Harbor failed to positively identify them as belonging to Sebastian Morrow, who has been missing for over 1-1/2 years. Morrow, a seasonal cannery worker from Seattle, was last seen alive in Wrangell on Aug. 4, 1991. On May 8, 1992, a sneaker containing a badly decomposed foot and leg bone surfaced in the Inner Harbor. Although a search of the harbor was made by state police divers, no additional remains were discovered. Morrow's family said the sneaker matched the kind Sebastian wore, but that was not sufficient evidence to constitute a positive identification and the case stayed open as Wrangell's only active missing persons investigation.

Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Mar. 19	41	37
Mar. 20	44	32
Mar. 21	45	27
Mar. 22	48	41
Mar. 23	42	30
Mar. 24	39	26
Mar. 25	37	33
Mar. 26	37	33

Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar. 29	6:29 am	7:18 pm	12:49h
Mar. 30	6:27 am	7:20 pm	12:53h
Mar. 31	6:24 am	7:22 pm	12:58h
Apr. 01	6:21 am	7:24 pm	13:03h
Apr. 02	6:19 am	7:26 pm	13:07h
Apr. 03	6:16 am	7:28 pm	13:12h
Apr. 04	6:13 am	7:30 pm	13:17h
Apr. 05	6:11 am	7:32 pm	13:21h

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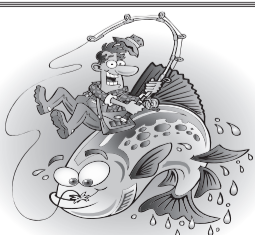
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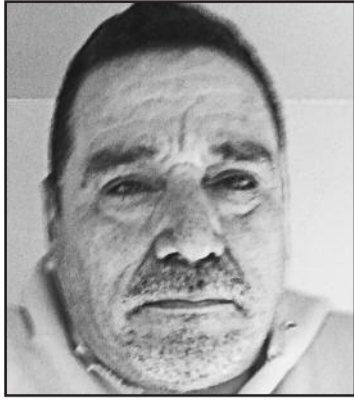
Two Petersburg residents charged after allegedly shipping meth to Petersburg

By **BEN MUIR**
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – Two Petersburg residents are facing controlled substance charges after they allegedly coordinated the shipment of methamphetamine from Mexico to Mitkof Island.

Carlos Sandoval, 53, and Helen Olson, 49, appeared before Petersburg Magistrate Judge Desiree Burrell for a felony first hearing on Wednesday afternoon. They were each charged with one count of second degree Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance.

According to court filings, police were told Sandoval had



Carlos Sandoval



Helen Olson

traveled to Mexico to obtain methamphetamine and would fly back to Petersburg from San Diego on March 15.

Police met Sandoval at the

airport in Juneau and searched him and his luggage but no drugs were found.

Sandoval had allegedly shipped 52 grams of meth sepa-

rately, addressing the package to Olson. A search warrant was obtained, the package was intercepted, and, after a canine alerted, officers seized the meth.

Drug enforcement officers then placed into the package a representative sample weighing 4.87 grams of methamphetamine, a GPS tracker and an alarm device designed to signal once opened.

Officers brought the package to Petersburg for delivery. On March 20, a person recognized as Olson picked up the package, with Sandoval waiting in a vehicle outside, court filings read.

The two drove around Petersburg for about an hour before returning to 31 Towne Trailer Court near the corner of 4th Street and Kiseno Street. When the package alarm device signaled, officers forced entry into the residence. Olson told police she intended to sell the drugs to finance a new start for them.

In a spare room, officers found a hidden scale and five baggies with substance that tested positive for methamphetamine.

The Petersburg Police Department released a statement on Wednesday that said a total of 500 dose units of meth were found, worth an estimated \$50,000.

Petersburg police were assisted in the investigation by the Juneau Police Department and federal agencies, according to the release.

Olson was released Wednesday on her own recognizance with conditions that, among others, she not leave Petersburg and maintain contact with her pre-trial officer and attorney. Bail was set at \$500 for Sandoval with the same conditions if he is released. There will be a preliminary hearing on Friday, April 6 at 10 a.m.

On Wednesday, Petersburg Chief of Police Kelly Swihart said this case is not related to search warrants issued last week that led to the seizure of items consistent with the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine.

“Not related that we are aware of,” Swihart said in an email.

Charges likely to come after police seize items consistent with meth lab

By **BEN MUIR**
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – Police seized items from a residence in Petersburg last week that are consistent with the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine, according to a release from the department.

Last Thursday and Friday, Petersburg officers served multiple search warrants at a residence on Cornelius Road, and “another location,” according to the release.

Officers seized glassware, listed chemicals, materials used to package controlled substances for distribution and other suspicious substances, which will be submitted for official identifica-

tion.

The suspects have been identified and the investigation is ongoing. The department said no further information will be released at this time. Chief of Police Kelly Swihart said charges are likely to be filed.

“We’re still gathering and sorting information,” Swihart said on Monday. “If we have to wait for crime lab results it could be weeks or months.”

Swihart said this investigation, and the case involving two Petersburg residents who were arrested on charges of allegedly shipping meth to Petersburg are “not related that we are aware of.”

Police report

Monday, March 19

- Agency assist.
- Agency assist: OCS.
- Citizen assist: Vehicle unlocked.
- Civil issue.
- Domestic.

Tuesday, March 20

- Agency assist: Bank alarm.
- Verbal dispute.
- Verbal dispute.
- Verbal dispute.
- Welfare check requested.
- Agency assist: Alarm.

Wednesday, March 21

- Hazardous play: Caller reported kids playing by the side of the road.
- Noise complaint: Officer responded, music turned down.

Thursday, March 22

- Agency assist: Elementary school.
- Vandalism: Caller reported someone broke the

flowerpots in front of the Elks Lodge.

Agency assist: Middle school.

Micaelah Larsen, 20, arrested on charges of: Driving without a license, vehicle theft in the first degree, assault in the third degree, failure to stop at the direction of a peace officer, assault in the fourth degree.

Friday, March 23

- 20 day ex parte served.
- Agency assist: DOT
- Traffic stop: Citation issued to Barbara Ercolin, 62: Speeding.
- Subpoena service
- Subpoena service

Saturday, March 24

Parking complaint: Vehicles parking blocking Cow Alley.

Subpoena service

Sunday, March 25

Citizen assist.

Trooper report

March 7

Wildlife Troopers from Klawock, Petersburg and Wrangell concluded an investigation which began in December 2017. Investigation determined Jonathan McGraw Jr., 43, from Naukati; Keith Wagner, 52, from Naukati; and Curtis Looper, 27, from Naukati, were commercially harvesting sea cucumbers from closed waters including from the sea cucumber preserve in Whale Pass. McGraw’s boat the F/V Bottom Time, a 19-foot aluminum work skiff, his dive gear, and 1,263 pounds of sea cucumbers were seized on December 19. McGraw was charged with seven counts of Commercial Fishing Closed Waters, seven counts of Illegal Possession, six counts Falsifying Fish Tickets, one count of Violating Conditions of Release, one count of Fail to Display Vessel Identification, and one count of Employing an Unlicensed Crewmember. Wagner and Looper were charged with one count each of Commercial Fishing Closed Waters and Illegal Possession. Looper was additionally charged with one count of No Crewmember License. In all, McGraw is suspected of unlawfully harvesting sea cucumbers on seven occasions totaling 7,506 pounds of sea cucumbers, valued at a total of \$35,288.

March 14

Alaska Wildlife Troopers from the Wrangell and Petersburg posts located personal use shrimp gear belonging to Heather Miethe, 47, from Wrangell. Investigation determined Miethe was operating more than the allowed 10 shrimp pots. Miethe was issued a summons in the Wrangell District Court for Over Limit Personal Use Shrimp Gear.

March 17

Alaska Wildlife Troopers’ Wrangell Post issued Mike Kilpatrick, 65, a citation for Improper Buoy Markings on Personal Use Shrimp Gear.

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City staff undergoing ALICE response training

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Residents and city employees sat in on some crisis response training sessions last week, outlining proactive responses to conflict.

James Nelson, now working as an officer with Wrangell's Forest Service office, led the courses at the Nolan Center March 15 and 16. He used to serve on the Wrangell Police Department, a position he had first taken in 2008. With scheduling in the works since last fall, his presentations last week were being done on behalf of the city, primarily for the benefit of its departmental staff.

The crisis response framework Nelson was presenting is not new to Wrangell, having previously led similar sessions with school staff in 2014. It goes by the acronym ALICE: or Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. The hands-on approach was developed by law enforcement veteran Greg Crane of the ALICE Training Institute in the wake of the Columbine shooting in 1999.

An ALICE-certified instructor, Nelson characterized the approach as one preferred by law enforcement, not only for schools but for all potential targets of gun violence. ALICE takes a more "proactive" tack than the prevalent lockdown method. In the event of a violent intrusion, Nelson explained, lockdown guidelines essentially have bystanders react by drawing blinds and dousing lights, shutting and locking doors, finding a remote side of the room and remaining there quietly until help arrives.

To the instructor, this is a misguided way to react to a crisis. Nelson cited as an average a police response time of five to seven minutes over a 25-year history of mass shootings. Using the shootings at Columbine and Virginia Tech in 2007 as examples, he noted the shooters had anticipated their targets would remain in place. In both cases, he suggested remaining in

place had led to more deaths rather than reducing them.

"If somebody does come into that room, it makes really soft targets," he said.

Mass shootings can happen anywhere, Nelson explained, but many public places – schools, hospitals and libraries, for example – are designed to be welcoming and accessible, making them poor places to wait out an emergency.

What makes ALICE different is it creates time and distance between a person and an assailant, and emphasizes dissemination of information about an unfolding incident to others, either in the building or to law enforcement outside.

The "L" in the acronym, Nelson noted lockdown may still be the best option in a shooting event, but that having information about the situation will help people make an informed decision in a time of crisis. In that situation where staying put remains best, creating barricades with furniture and using locks to buy time can make a lot of difference.

Countering includes taking an aggressive or distracting pose with shooters, anything to distract an assailant or make it more difficult to concentrate on aiming – even "swarming," subduing and disarming one.

"You guys are the first responders, whether you want to be or not," said Nelson.

The "E" in the acronym, evacuation includes evasion and escape from the scene where possible.

Nelson's two-hour class included an interactive component, where members of the audience could help demonstrate armed intrusion and possible response scenarios for bystanders. This included pelting the "gunman" with anything handy, in this instance tennis balls, and how to most effectively grapple a shooter's firing arm.

Another aspect of the presentation was how to survive law en-

forcement responding to a crisis, who may not be able to easily distinguish friend from foe upon arriving at the scene. Nelson emphasized making oneself look non-threatening and following instructions to the letter.

"Do exactly what they say," he said.

Nelson has already led ALICE instruction with staff at Wrangell Medical Center, and will be revisiting the curriculum with school staff and faculty on Friday. Eventually he hopes to be able to instruct students as well.

"I've had opposition," he admitted, primarily from parents who prefer the school district's lockdown response plan.

Nelson has been an advocate for having the ALICE program in schools for some years, leading a staff training in the spring of 2014. When Wrangell Public School District reviewed its site crisis plan later that August, it had adopted a lockdown-related response plan to intrusion or active shooter scenarios. Nelson reappeared at a school board meeting in April 2015 to criticize that response plan, reiterating his recommendation of ALICE.

Nearly three years later, he was confident ALICE would finally become policy, with the school board revisiting the district's security policies.

"I feel pretty confident saying that this program will be implemented in the schools," said Nelson.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

For distraction's sake, Lorne Cook gets bombarded with balls while simulating a mass shooting during last Thursday's ALICE training at the Nolan Center. Arranged on behalf of the city, the two-hour program sought to introduce participants to more evasive strategies during a violent intrusion.

Good Friday Service

12 p.m., Friday, March 30, at the Presbyterian Church
Service will include presentation of "The Other Carpenter".
Broth and Bread served afterward in fellowship area.
Everyone is welcome.

Community Easter Sunday Service

8:00 a.m., Sunday, April 1st at the City Park

Join us by a warm fire, in Celebration of the risen Christ. Following the service, all are invited to a Continental Breakfast available downstairs, at the Harbor Light Assembly of God Church.
*Sponsored by Wrangell Ministerial Association
Everyone is welcome.*

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Words cannot express the gratitude we have for our fellow Wrangellites pooling together resources in our time of need. From organizing the bake sale, making personal donations, to the owners of J&W's donating an entire day of proceeds. There aren't words that convey the amount of thanks we have. To each and everyone of you. THANK YOU for all that you have done, it truly means so much. Thank you for once again showing us the true meaning of "Community". Thank you Krissy for taking such good care of us, we love you. With all our humble gratitude,

Jim and Betty Smith

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 March 24-25
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Tickets: \$5 for 12 & under, \$7 for 13 & up
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Take a letter: SEARHC-hospital partnership to be explored further

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The Borough Assembly in a special meeting last week adopted a letter outlining its intent to potentially partner up with Southeast Alaska Rural Health Consortium on Wrangell's hospital.

Held on March 22, the early evening meeting covered some of the pros and cons of third party partnership for managing Wrangell Medical Center. The hospital is public asset owned and managed by the borough,

one of only a handful in the state still run independently of a larger healthcare service.

WMC has been "hemorrhaging money," assembly members have been informed by city and hospital staff alike over the past several months. On the revenue side of things, current reimbursement rates for the largely federally-recompensed center fail to match cost of care, while the number of procedures this fiscal year have been falling short of budget. WMC has already drawn on half of its \$500,000 emergency account set up by the city in 2016 in order to meet continued operational costs.

Nearly half a century old, the hospital's physical facilities are also in need of replacement. The city has explored concepts for a new building and equipment to meet future medical needs, but estimates produced in November expected costs for a new building to range between \$90 million and \$115 million over a 30-year span, depending on interest rates and design. Meanwhile, Wrangell lacks the finances needed to cover either the debt involved or even current operational expenses.

"It is potentially one system failure away from closure," warned Lisa Von Bargaen, Wrangell's city manager.

Since acquiring Wrangell-based clinic Alaska Island Community Services earlier last year, SEARHC has emerged as the likeliest candidate for partnership on the hospital's future. AICS and WMC already enjoyed close ties in staffing and services before the acquisition, commitments SEARHC has since reconfirmed.

In its special meeting last week, the assembly considered seven reasons favoring some level of partnership with SEARHC. It is already established in Wrangell, a presence it has expressed an interest in expanding. The provider has demonstrated a willingness to provide financial resources needed to build a new hospital, including paying for an architect to study the project's feasibility.

The organizational status of SEARHC is another positive, providing it with a higher rate for reimbursement through Medicare and Medicaid. The hospital already saves money by contracting its physicians through AICS, and SEARHC fa-

cilities purchase about a third of WMC's services in terms of annual revenue. Meanwhile, designing a shared campus for a new hospital in tandem with the AICS clinic would reduce the footprint and cost of a new facility.

With the support of WMC's governing board, the city assembly earlier this year approved a professional services agreement with legal consultants Dorsey & Whitney LLP to help guide the partner seeking process. On March 13 it also approved creation of a steering committee with the hospital board's inclusion to facilitate that.

On its end, SEARHC requested that the borough enter into a largely non-binding letter of intent, setting the parameters under which their joint solution will be explored. Either party would be free to disengage for the process for whatever reason. The only two binding conditions are that both parties only negotiate with each other during the duration of this process, and a confidentiality agreement.

The draft letter before the assembly last week was a version agreed to by SEARHC, after input was given by both parties. Before coming to a decision, members met in a 75-minute executive session where they discussed potential issues with their legal counsel.

Of primary concern to them during their deliberations was the potential impact on the community's jobs, should closer ties with SEARHC produce labor redundancies. In the version of the letter they would adopt, members agreed to add a provision stressing the preservation or enhancement of healthcare employment in Wrangell as the partnership process is explored further.

Sitting in on the public portion of the meeting were residents and a number of employees at the hospital. A letter in favor of the agreement signed by 45 staffers was submitted by Jessica Rooney, while five other members of the audience entered comment on the proposal.

Hospital custodian Jim Holder warned the facility is at risk for sewage and fire system problems, while wheelchairs do not fit into hospital restrooms. Ann Cramer also added comment, suggesting a partnership with larger provider SEARHC could open up opportunities for education and additional medical services.

Assembly members moved in favor of adopting the amended letter. City manager Lisa Von Bargaen was as of Tuesday drafting their suggested language into a final copy, to be submitted to SEARHC. If approved there, it would return to Wrangell for Von Bargaen's signature, borough clerk Kim Lane explained.



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Petersburg library totem pole to be installed in mid-May

By BEN MUIR
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – The library in Petersburg is about a month away from unveiling its 20-foot storyteller totem pole.

The Petersburg Public Library is adding a roughly \$40,000 red cedar totem pole called the “Storytellers Pole,” carved by Tommy Joseph, a Tlingit carver from Sitka.

Joseph had an idea about 11 years ago to build a totem pole that caters to children and the storytellers they grow up with.

He pitched the idea to the Petersburg library about four years ago, and it stuck, but the library had to wait for it to be funded. With help from the Rasmuson Foundation, Petersburg Community Foundation and individual donors, the library is ready to install the pole.

From top to bottom, the pole has animals etched in the cedar. They all associate with children’s books and include a bear, rabbit, goose and raven. The hope is they will be broad enough for children to relate them to whichever character they have grown up with, Joseph said.

“I posted an image yesterday and somebody had written ‘I hope Disney doesn’t come down on you,’” said Joseph, who ensured the characters won’t be exact replicas of Disney characters. “It’s not Winnie the Pooh on there, but if you want it to be Winnie the Pooh, guess what, it’s Winnie the Pooh.”

Joseph, who stopped counting 12 years ago after he had carved about 30 other totem poles, said there’s a few characters on the pole he is saving for when it’s unveiled, which is scheduled mid-way through May.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMMY JOSEPH

Tommy Joseph’s son, Jack, with the totem pole recently.

ADFG thinks Chinook numbers in Taku may be overestimated

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game said it has been overestimating how many Chinook and sockeye salmon make it up the Taku River.

Department officials said the statistical bias is being corrected by new state-of-the-art studies, the Juneau Empire reported Sunday.

The department said it had been overestimating the salmon numbers by 30 to 40 percent. The estimates were conducted using a decades-old “mark-recapture” system.

Department coordinator Ed Jones said seal predation and the old system have caused much of the problem.

The department uses a series of buckets, called a fish wheel, to scoop salmon from the river and deposit them in a holding tank. The Canyon Island fish wheel has been in the same place since the 1950s, only, “It used to be wooden, now it’s aluminum,” Jones said.

The wheel turns 24 hours a day while in operation during the summer months. The problem, Jones said, is that staying in the holding tank can cause fish to become lethargic when released later on. Biologists refer to it as a “sulk rate” and it leaves fish open to predation.

Jones said there’s a big herd of seals that sit down river of Canyon Island, preying on the “sulking” fish.

Seals would pick off a small amount of these fish naturally, Jones said, which means they might not be overestimating by quite as much as radio telemetry studies suggest. He estimated the amount of stunned fish lost to seals to actually be around 30 percent.

The department said that the discrepancy doesn’t mean either of the stocks are any worse off than they have been, but fishers are concerned the bias could impact ongoing negotiations with Canada over who has the right to harvest sockeye since both countries fish on the river.

Alaska February jobs down 2,300 from 2017

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – State labor officials say Alaska lost about 2,300 jobs in February compared to the same month last year.

Total employment fell an estimated 0.7 percent in February from February 2017.

Employment in oil and gas jobs declined 6.8 percent through the loss of 700 jobs.

Retail was down 2.3 percent with the loss of 800 jobs. Construction fell 0.8 percent, representing a loss

of 100 jobs, a smaller loss than in recent months. All three sectors of government lost jobs.

The manufacturing sector and the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector both gained 100 jobs. Health care added 1,000 jobs since February 2017 for a 2.7 percent increase.

Alaska’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent in February. The comparable national rate was 4.1 percent.

Juneau school officials consider teaching climate change

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Juneau school officials are considering adopting national science education standards that include teaching middle and high school students about climate change.

Alaska’s Energy Desk reports the Juneau School District is borrowing some core ideas from the Next Generation Science Standards, which include providing students with an understanding of the relationship between human activity and the Earth.

District Director of Teaching and Learning Ted Wilson says how the subject is taught in classrooms is up to the teachers. He says it should be taught as one stream of thought and students can form their own opinions on the matter.

Climate change is included in the state’s science education standards. The Alaska Department of Education says it’s largely up to the school districts to decide how the topic is taught.

Call for Proposals to Change Federal Subsistence Fish and Shellfish Regulations Deadline: April 23, 2018

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting proposals through April 23, 2018 to change Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands for the 2019-2021 regulatory years, as well as proposals on customary and traditional use and nonrural determinations.

The right regulations aren’t created without your input!

Submit proposals by any of the following methods:

- By mail or hand delivery
Federal Subsistence Board,
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
- Through any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Coordinator. Contact information by region may be found here: www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions
- On the Web at www.regulations.gov and search for **FWS-R7-SM-2017-0096**.

You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email subsistence@fws.gov with your questions.



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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

At start of halibut opener March 24 federal fishery managers announced commercial catches for Alaska will be down 10 percent

Pacific halibut catches for 2018 won't decline as severely as initially feared, but the fishery faces headwinds from several directions.

Federal fishery managers announced just a few days before the March 24 start of the halibut opener that commercial catches for Alaska will be down 10 percent for a total of 17.5 million pounds.

The industry was on tenterhooks awaiting the catch information, which typically is announced by the International Pacific Halibut Commission in late January. However, representatives from the U.S. and Canada could not agree on how to apportion the halibut catches in fishing regions that stretch from the west coast and British Columbia to the Bering Sea.

"The Canadians felt there was justification in the survey and commercial fishery data that, in concert with a long-held position that the IPHC's apportionment scheme was not accurate, supported a higher catch limit. They were also opposed to the slow pace the U.S. has taken in reducing its bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea," said Peggy Parker of seafoodnews.com.

The impasse put the decision in the laps of federal managers at NOAA Fisheries in Washington, D.C. who were pushed to the wire to get the halibut catch limits and regulations on the rule books in time for the fishery start.

Adding to the halibut drama are reports of hefty holdovers of fish in freezers, and competition again from Atlantic halibut from eastern Canada.

Prices for Alaska halibut are typically very high for the season's first deliveries and then decrease after a few weeks. Last year they started out topping \$7 per pound to fishermen at major ports. Prices remained in the \$5-\$6 range for the duration of the eight-month fishery, prompting a push back from buyers who complained of "price fatigue" and switched their sourcing to less expensive Atlantic fish.

How that scenario plays out this year remains to be seen, but the combination of fish inventories and availability from elsewhere will likely provide a downward push on Alaska halibut prices.

Here is a breakdown of Alaska commercial halibut catches in millions of pounds by region:

Area 2C/Southeast: 3.57m, down 15.2 percent
Area 3A/Central Gulf: 7.35m, down 5 percent
Area 3B/Western Gulf: 2.62m, down 16.6 percent

Area 4B/Aleutian Islands: 1.05m, down 7.9 percent

Area 4CDE/Bering Sea: 1.58m, down 7.1 percent

Trump tariffs – Seafood is Alaska's largest export by far, usually totaling over \$3 billion annually. Of that, \$300 million is exported to over 100 countries, with China being the top customer.

It's too soon to tell how Trump's nearly \$60 billion in tariffs with China will affect Alaska's seafood sales, but it will likely result in some backlash. Tariffs are taxes on imports that make them more expensive to consumers.

"In general, access to international markets is a huge deal for Alaska and anything that restricts trade is generally a negative for the seafood industry," said Garrett Evridge, a seafood analyst for the McDowell Group. "Often when the U.S. goes down this road, other countries will reciprocate with the same industry. If China reciprocates with tariffs, that will raise the cost of all seafood products in those markets."

Evridge pointed to Trump's pull-out last year of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would have been the world's largest trade agreement with 11 countries covering 40 percent of the global economy.

Alaska seafood was set to net a big benefit from the TPP with lowered or zeroed out tariffs on seafood.

Currently, the tariffs across the partnership countries range from 3.5 to 11 percent.

For Alaska pollock roe and surimi, for example, 4.2 percent tariffs going into Japan would have immediately gone to zero, said Ron Rogness of American Seafoods Company.

Tariffs on Alaska sockeye salmon – now at 3.5% - also would have been zeroed out. For other salmon species, the import tax would have been gradually reduced and eventually eliminated.

The tariffs on king and snow crab, herring roe and frozen cod also would have ended immediately upon TPP passage.

In another trade imbalance, the U.S. continues to import millions of dollars in seafood from Russia, even though that country placed a continuing embargo on purchasing seafood and other goods from the U.S. in 2013. Russian purchases of Alaska seafood totaled at least 20 million pounds of mostly pink salmon roe and pollock surimi annually, valued at \$60 million, according to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Insti-

tute.

Through June of 2017, the U.S. imported 36 million pounds of seafood from Russia valued at nearly \$267 million.

According to NOAA Fisheries trade data, so far this year imports to the U.S. from Russia total nearly 4.2 million pounds valued at more than \$23.5 million.

That includes 185,000 pounds of frozen sockeye salmon valued at nearly \$700,000; over 375,000 pounds of red king crab valued at more than \$6.6 million and nearly 1.3 million pounds of snow crab worth \$4.3 million.

Interestingly, the data show the U.S. imported 142,000 pounds of "Alaska" pollock filets, valued at over \$87,000.

Salmon vs. Goliath - Last week nearly 42,000 signatures were verified by the state Division of Elections from all 40 Alaska voting districts to put the "Yes for Salmon" question before Alaska voters, surpassing the minimum number of signatures required in every district.

The ballot initiative aims to require state agencies to update Alaska's salmon habitat protection laws for the first time since statehood in 1959.

But the measure has some hurdles to cross before it goes to the voters.

First, an April 26th hearing before the Alaska Supreme Court will decide if the initiative is constitutional.

"We are extremely confident that the court is going to side with us and move this to a vote of the people," said Ryan Schryver, director of the Stand for Salmon campaign.

A legislative fix (HB-199, the Wild Salmon Legacy Act) also is before Alaska lawmakers.

"We are not putting all our eggs in the legislative basket," Schryver added. "Juneau has not proven to be an effective place for policy change to happen so we are going to continue to pursue the ballot initiative option."

The ballot measure has garnered strong support because it "gives Alaska voters a voice," said Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, an initiative backer who is a former state fisheries biologist and now director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"It's not the lobbyists going down to Juneau who are crafting and changing this legislation. It's the voters who are deciding," she added.

If it passes the court, and if the legislature ends its session on time, the issue could be decided by the August primary.

By law, 120 days must pass

between a session adjournment and the ballot box. If the session is extended by one week or more, it will move the vote to the November general election.

Deep pocketed opponents are pulling out all stops to oppose updating the habitat laws claiming they are sufficient as they stand. The group Stand for Alaska claims on its website that the salmon initiative would "overhaul regulations affecting any type of project and poses a threat to the Alaska way of life."

"The opponents are mostly huge corporate entities and Outside mining interests that are willing to say and do anything to try and confuse Alaskans about this initiative," Ryan asserted.

"The one thing I try to point out to people who are saying that this is going to shut down all development, or that this is going to make it so you can't put a dock by your cabin at the lake, is that there is language in the initiative that says it has to have *significant and adverse impacts to salmon habitat* for it to qualify for a major permitting process," said Stephanie Quinn-Davidson.

"I feel that folks are missing that. It is not anti-development, but ballot supporters want it done in a responsible way," she said.

Quinn-Davidson believes Alaska is at a crossroads.

"Wild salmon has disappeared throughout the world - in Norway, the east coast and Pacific Northwest. Do we want to go down that path, or do we want to ensure that our salmon are around for future generations?"

As the ballot initiative backers prepare for a mega media blitz by opponents, Schryver said the grassroots group will continue to take its message on the road.

"We know that they are going to be spending millions of dollars trying to confuse people about what this initiative does," said Schryver. "We are pushing back with Alaskans talking to Alaskans about how we need to act now and stand up for this amazing resource"

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Literacy program encourages reading and culture

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Head Start program will be opening its doors to families Friday evening as part of a recent educational collaboration between Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Tlingit and Haida Central Council (CCTHITA).

The Baby Raven Reads program uses a combination of storytelling, songs and interactive activities to promote literacy and school readiness for Alaska Native families with children ages five years and under. At first started for the Juneau area as a pilot program in 2014, for its second three-year grant Baby Raven Reads has been extended to nine other communities in Southeast Alaska.

Wrangell has been included in this round of programming, which is coordinated through CCTHITA's Head Start program. Each year over the grant's life, each community is scheduled to see nine such literacy events. Held at the Head Start building across from Evergreen Elementary School from 6 to 8 p.m., tomorrow's event will be the second so far hosted locally.

This session's theme will be on colors, with an accompanying book by writer

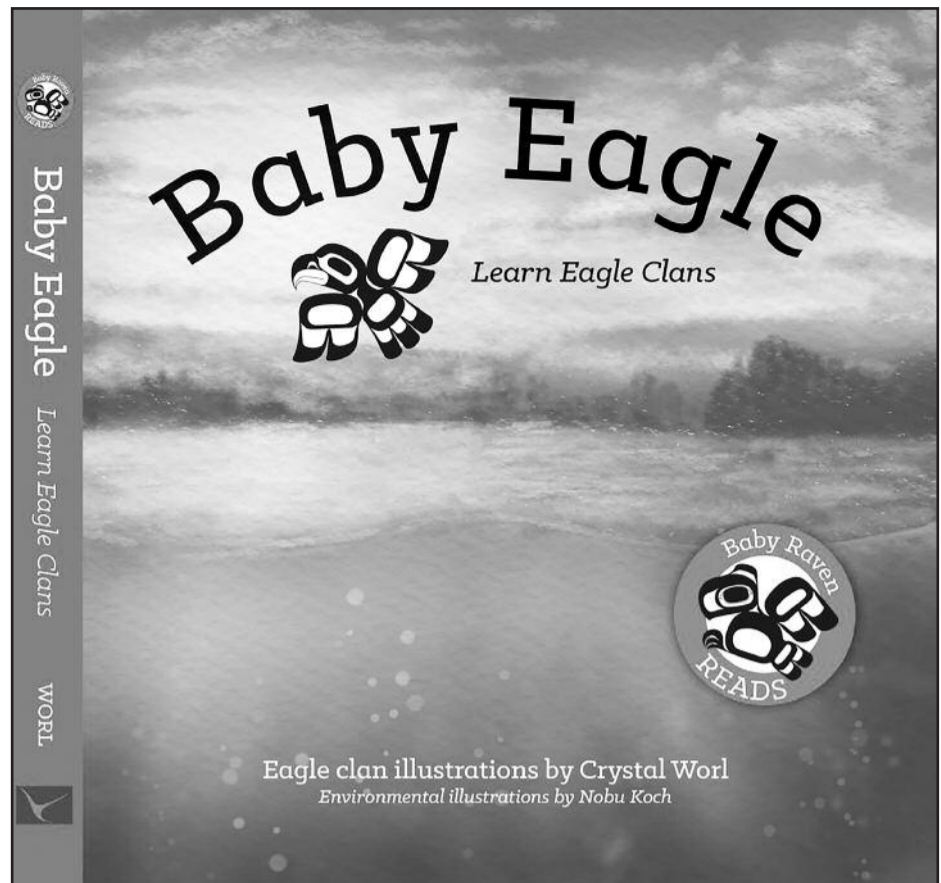
Yarrow Vaara and artist David Lang demonstrating how Tlingit words for colors are based on referential comparisons to nature. The book and related activities will be an introduction to the concept and the vocabulary.

One result of the program's first round was the development and publication of 19 such children's books over several years. Two of the stories released last year are "Baby Raven" and "Baby Eagle," which teach new readers the English and Tlingit words for different clan crests within the two moieties. Other stories are similarly rooted in the environment and cultures native to the region, including the Haida and Tsimshian.

"It's been a mix of original stories and adaptations of existing stories," explained Katrina Hotch program manager for Baby Raven Reads.

Another nine books will be produced as part of the program, three per year through 2020. For the first batch, Hotch said a committee reviewed story proposals submitted last November and will be selecting new artists and writers to collaborate on their development.

Wrangell Head Start instructor Sandy Churchill explained the literacy



SEALASKA PUBLICATION

Published by Sealaska Heritage Institute, "Baby Eagle" is an illustrated book aimed at teaching youngsters about the different clans of the Tlingit Eagle moiety. It was one of 19 educational reads produced during the Baby Raven Reads program's first three-year grant cycle.

program fits in well with her classwork, which has been teaching Tlingit vocabulary and cultural to preschoolers for years.

Hotch said Head Start was an ideal partner for her program, as both aim to improve literacy skills and prepare

young children for grade school. Baby Raven Reads tries to improve early literacy skills by translating cultural strengths into home literacy practices, and provides support services and resources to preschool educators.

Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



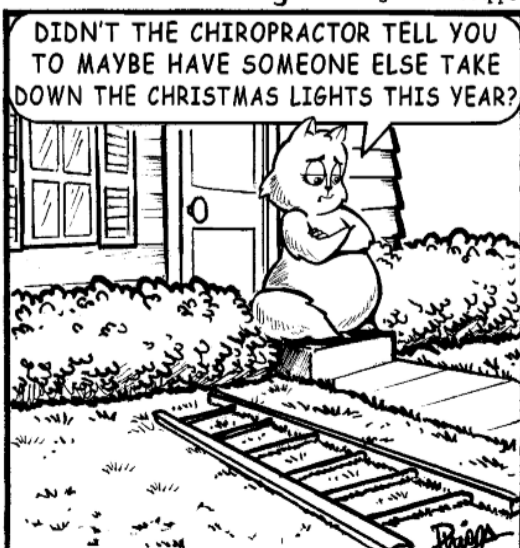
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Old clothes
- 5 Chantilly, for one
- 9 Wicked
- 12 Persian Gulf nation
- 13 History chapters
- 14 Wish otherwise
- 15 Options list
- 16 Shopping area
- 17 Raw rock
- 18 Long story
- 19 Japanese sash
- 20 Trade
- 21 Operate
- 23 Barrister's abbr.
- 25 Tools for duels
- 28 Poinsettia family
- 32 Downright
- 33 Wouldn't shut up
- 34 Trojan War hero
- 36 Siesta cover
- 37 Whatever amount
- 38 Victory sign
- 39 Put something over on
- 42 Shelter
- 44 Arp's style
- 48 Likely

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- 49 Elliptical
- 50 Physical
- 51 Dog's doc
- 52 Rapid
- 53 Choir voice
- 54 Tokyo's old name
- 55 Start the pot
- 56 Welsh emblem
- 5 Slot machine losers
- 6 Spirited horse
- 7 Tooth decay
- 8 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 9 Forehead
- 10 Emanation
- 11 Profound
- 20 Roosevelt program
- 22 City-related
- 24 Binge
- 25 Health resort
- 26 Hearty brew
- 27 Burger holder
- 29 Genetic abbr.
- 30 Red-staters' org.
- 31 Away from WSW
- 35 Forest-related
- 36 Slim and trim
- 39 Most popular, for short
- 40 Pundit's column
- 41 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 43 Sunrise site
- 45 Wheelbase terminus
- 46 Birth certificate info
- 47 Uncontrolled
- 49 Son-gun link

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska
PUBLIC NOTICE
Vacancy on the Port Commission**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting *letters of interest* from citizens who wish to serve on the Port Commission.

The unexpired term of appointment is until
October 2018

Any interested person is eligible to apply. Letters of interest should be submitted to:

Mayor David L. Jack
PO Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

or you can email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com on or before **March 27, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.**

Information on the powers and duties of Port Commissioner are contained in Wrangell Municipal Code, Chapter 14.03. A copy of the code chapter can be obtained at the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com

The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Kim Lane, MMC
Borough Clerk

Publish: March 22 and March 29, 2018

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT Wrangell; In the Matter of the Estate of RUBY ETHEL TAYLOR; Case No. 1WR-18-03 PR. Notice is hereby given that G. Yvonne Powers has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the deceased 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 G. Yvonne Powers, P.O. Box 464, Spirit Lake ID 83869, or be filed with the Clerk of Court, P.O. Box 869, Wrangell, AK 99929.

Published: March 22, 29 and April 5, 2018

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
WRANGELL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SEASONAL JOB POSTING**

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department will accept applications for the position of **Park Maintenance II** until April 6th at 5:00 p.m. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid Alaska Driver's License and have knowledge of power tools and be familiar with grounds maintenance and repairs.

Duties include both skilled and semi-skilled work in landscape, mowing, weed-eating, grounds maintenance, repairs and construction of parks, playgrounds, ball fields and cemeteries. Pay range \$11.79/hr. - \$14.95/hr.

Applications and full job descriptions may be obtained at and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: March 22 and 29, 2018

BOATS AND MARINE

IFQ'S AND FISHING PERMITS, Alaskan Quota and Permits LLC, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

ALASKA SOUTHEAST HAND TROLL PERMIT, For sale and ready to transfer \$10,600 firm. Contact James Benson. 907-225-3576.....tfn2-22b17

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2 BEDROOM APARTMENT, for rent has washer dryer hookup, unfurnished. Call 907-305-

0619.....tfn1-25b13

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FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Fax number 874-2303.....t

Legal Notice

K&E Alaska, Inc. is requesting sub-bids from qualified and certified DBE's, MBE's and WBE's for work on the **Wrangell, Alaska Evergreen Avenue Improvements and Pedestrian Access project**. K&E Alaska, Inc. will consider pricing for all required scopes of work.

Project Owner: State of Alaska- Department of Transportation

Project Name: Wrangell, Alaska Evergreen Avenue Improvements and Pedestrian Access project

Sub-bids are due no later than Wednesday, April 4th by noon.

For information on the availability of plans and specifications and K&E Alaska's policy concerning assistance to subcontractors in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, and/or insurance, please contact our office.

**K&E Alaska, Inc.
102 Burkhart St.
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-3838**

Published: March 29, 2018

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the **2018 Assessment Rolls** for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, as of January 1, 2018, have been completed. The Borough Assembly shall sit as a **Board of Equalization on Monday, May 7, 2018, 5:30 p.m., Wrangell Assembly Chambers**, and continue each day thereafter until its scheduled business is completed.

NOTICE OF APPEAL (with respect to any alleged error in the valuation, overcharge, or omission of the assessor) **SHALL BE FILED WITH THE BOARD WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE ASSESSOR'S NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT WAS GIVEN TO THE PERSON APPEALING. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL SHALL BE IN WRITING, SPECIFYING THE GROUNDS FOR APPEAL. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL FOR FILING APPEALS OR ON OUR WEBSITE www.wrangell.com.**

IT IS THE TAXPAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL OF:

1. Properties not included in assessment notices
2. Change of ownership of property not shown on assessment notices.

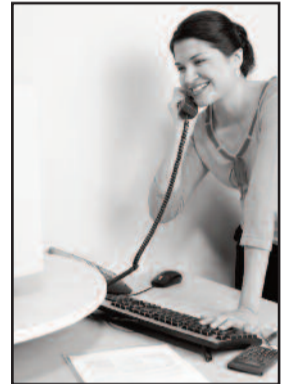
NOTICE OF APPEALS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 16, 2018.

Lee Burgess
Finance Director

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Published: March 22, 29, April 5, and April 12, 2018

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Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

R	A	G	S	L	A	C	E	B	A	D	
I	R	A	Q	E	R	A	S	R	U	E	
M	E	N	U	M	A	R	T	O	R	E	
S	A	G	A	O	B	I	S	W	A	P	
			R	U	N	E	S	Q			
S	A	B	E	R	S	S	P	U	R	G	E
P	L	U	M	B		R	A	N	O	N	
A	E	N	E	A	S	S	E	R	A	P	E
			A	N	Y	V	E	E			
F	O	O	L	L	E	E	D	A	D	A	
A	P	T	O	V	A	L	E	X	A	M	
V	E	T	F	A	S	T	A	L	T	O	
E	D	O	A	N	T	E	L	E	E	K	

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Meter position rewrite grounded by assembly

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Revisiting an issue held over from its March 13 meeting, the City and Borough Assembly on Tuesday dug back into redefining job descriptions for a unionized electrical position.

Being proposed is a modification to the groundman/meter reading position with Wrangell Municipal Light and Power. On the wage table, the entry-level position is among the lowest grades among staff included in the collective bargaining agreement.

Consulting with former electrical superintendent Clay Hammer before his recent departure, city manager Lisa Von Barga was proposing that the position's description be amended to clarify additional duties picked up informally by the position over the years. With this, a wage grade increase would accompany the revision.

Bearing in mind the additional certifications an employee in the position is expected to acquire, Von Barga additionally recommended creating distinct Technician I and II levels. The second tech level would have a correspondingly elevated pay scale. Von Barga reported the scale she recommended was based on Hammer's research of comparable positions with other municipalities.

Recalibrating positions outside of union negotiations is not unheard of. After the retirement of Public Works' mechanic lead position in December the assembly approved an amendment to it upgrading its position on the wage and grade table.

Favorable implications of the change here that were suggested would be an allowance for position advancement by creating the second level. Meanwhile, upgrading the wage scale for both levels would better reflect the work's comparable value.

During its previous foray into

the item, assembly members were by and large uncomfortable making changes outside of the collective bargaining agreement process. The latest three-year agreement was arrived at last summer only after resolving a lengthy, contentious disagreement between the city and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local, involving both court action and a week-long strike at various junctures. When it was concluded, union staffers ended up with an upwardly adjusted wage table and some concessions on health care copay.

Asked by Von Barga to speak to the matter as Hammer's temporary stand-in, line foreman Mark Armstrong fielded several questions assembly members had raised at the previous meeting.

"It isn't that the job will change. It has changed," Armstrong explained. While not usual, the collective bargaining agreement does allow for modifications if there is agreement on both sides. A shop steward, he attested their IBEW local had already signed off on the proposed changes.

"I'm not here to represent the union," Armstrong clarified, reminding the assembly he was here by invitation.

The added level would reflect the certifications gained after four years of meter school, he added.

If left unrectified, he suggested the current occupant of the groundman position was within his rights not to carry out duties not outlined in his job description. Those tasks would still get done, but by linemen and at a higher cost to the city.

"We're not saying the work isn't going to be done, but there is concern it isn't going to be done by the person in this position," Von Barga said.

Recalling the prior negotiations, assembly member Stephen Prysunka said the city's negotiators had attempted to clarify the groundman position's duties dur-

ing CBA negotiations.

"I know this was discussed with Mr. Armstrong in a meeting," he said, participating over the phone. "We attempted to get this cleaned up with the union. We attempted to get this done. And they chose not to get this done."

Working outside of the CBA, Prysunka added, could ultimately end up hurting the city's bargaining position when it came time to renegotiate a new agreement.

"I am going to say that I agree with councilman Prysunka," added member David Powell. "The job's going to get done no matter what... We already pay them to do this job." It was his preference that the issue be dealt with under collective bargaining.

Assembly member Julie Decker appreciated that changes could be made to the CBA if both parties agreed. However, she felt

both sides were still "licking wounds" from their tense negotiations. While at face value the request seemed reasonable, she felt it begged questioning why it wasn't dealt with during negotiations.

Pressed with questions, Armstrong reiterated that he was at the meeting not as a union steward but as the superintendent's stand-in. "I've been asked not to speak about that by the city manager. This was not supposed to be a union thing," he told assembly members. "I did, however, provide information to the city manager about why the union did what they did."

Von Barga explained she had not felt it an appropriate setting to revisit what had been said during negotiations, and cautioned the assembly that similar recalibrations could be forthcoming, particularly

as the city considers reconfiguring its departmental organization.

"I will tell you there are other things already being looked at," she said. "A three-year time period is a very long time to wait."

"If the assembly does not approve this, I would like clear direction for other positions," Von Barga concluded.

Powell clarified that, while he disagreed with her in this instance, he was not prepared to tell Von Barga categorically how to do her job. "I'm just saying, 'On this one, I'm going to disagree with you.'"

After some further discussion assembly members at last conceded they would be willing to consider a "cleaned up" revision of the groundman position's description, but not a two-tier readjustment. Von Barga agreed she would have something prepared for their next meeting on April 10.

School

Continued from page 1

say something," she commented.

That said, Pempek felt the school system could do with at least one clinical counselor on staff. The grant for such a counseling position servicing both campuses is due to conclude at the end of the school year, but it is uncertain whether that will be retained afterward.

Also speaking to the incident, teacher Anne Luetkemeyer thought the PAWSS group and parental interest was "excellent," and was encouraged by the group's desire to work more closely with the schools.

"This is how the school board meeting should be," she said. "People should be involved." Luetkemeyer was also hopeful more parents would take up their concerns with the school district in a similarly direct manner. She echoed Pempek's concern about rumors, noting grievances aired on social media platforms like Facebook had a tendency to blow themselves out of proportion and were not constructive.

After the meeting, board president Georgianna Buhler confirmed she would like to look at the schools' weapons and crisis response policies as a board, recommending a separate work session be held to address those. Already scheduled, faculty will be partaking in a threat response workshop (see ALICE story) later this week.

Safety was not the only topic broached at last week's school meeting. Parent and swim coach Jamie Roberts brought forward a proposal to start up a high school swim team. Wrangell Swim Club is currently the only platform for youth interested in the sport, going through the middle school level. The club was only started in 2012, and is now in its second season of competitive participation.

Roberts explained a group of her older swimmers will be headed to high school next year, and suggested the addition of swimming to the school's extracurricular activities would allow them to continue honing their skills. Parent Diane O'Brien added to this, saying her youngest daughter was an avid participant in the program. Continuing to develop the program would not only encourage better swimmers among residents, but would also build up the pool of potential lifeguards at the public swimming facilities.

Thursday's meeting was also preceded by student activity highlights. The elementary school's new student council introduced itself to the board and brought members up to speed on its initiatives. The kids have been working hard to bring back "red day," the school's weekly spirit day, and had recently raised \$125 for leukemia treatment through a piggy-bank fundraiser.

The high school's student government had recently met with school administration and the board to convey their concerns. The most widely-stressed problem among the student body is a lack of parking, representatives reported. Other suggestions included adding more nutritional alternatives to the school lunch program, and the addition of advance placement and college credit earning courses, which could give Wrangell graduates a leg up when seeking out scholarship opportunities.

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- Shorten the amount of time you let the water run to warm up before you shower.
- Check for household leaks. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water each day!
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads.
- Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30% less water and 40%-50% less energy.
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Published: March 29, 2018

