

## Local boats rocked by harbor thefts

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Several Wrangell boat owners learned they had been burgled early Saturday morning.

Wrangell Police Department received a call concerning Heritage Harbor, where it appeared three boats moored there had been entered, one forcibly. Owners were contacted, and they confirmed a number of items were missing, including dive gear and a firearm.

"Sure enough, someone had liberated my possessions," commented Steve Prysunka, owner of the boat *Mollyann*. "They stole such an interesting variety of things."

In addition to his dive gear, he found the intruder had made off with his binoculars, a tool kit, a bottle of rum, food and assorted boat items.

"It got personal when I saw they took my dishes," Prysunka added. Interestingly, he noted some other expensive items like his onboard dive computer were left behind.

As of Monday, officers were making inquiries in an effort to locate the pilfered items.

"If anybody sees or hears anything, let us know," said Lieutenant Merlin Ehlers, coordinating the investigation.

People can report any leads they may have at the station, or can call 874-3304. Police are also looking for a Harley Davidson motorcycle, which was reported missing from a garage on Peninsula Avenue.

"We're not sure if that's related," Ehlers commented.

Continued on page 8



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A portion of the local fishing fleet and recreational vessels sit ready for the winter at Heritage Harbor on November 18. Early last weekend three boats were reported trespassed upon and burglarized by unknown parties, making off with diving gear, a firearm, and other items. The local police are currently investigating the incident.

## School board has uncomfortable discussion about sex

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Wrangell's Public School Board started in earnest a conversation on the nature and tone of sexual education for students at its Monday evening meeting.

The board reviewed on first reading a draft policy on family life and sex education, with changes made in light of House Bill 156 passed by the Alaska Legislature in June. It became law without Gov. Bill Walker's signature on October 26. The bill requires that those teaching on the subjects of sex health, reproduction, and human sexuality in public schools be credentialed and approved by individual districts' school boards. It also requires that all materials and curricula be approved by those boards and available for public review before implementation.

The high school is setting up a new curriculum for a semester-long health class under the tutelage of Jack Carney. The course will be aimed at incoming freshmen, with daily class periods going over the basics of health and personal wellness. This largely focuses on fitness and nutrition, but also has a sexual health component.

Part of the class will include a week-long presentation by Matt and Jenifer Gerald, who for the past decade have presented "Let's Talk Healthy Relationships," an Anchorage-based curriculum. The course is set up differently for specific age groups: sixth graders receiving a 55-minute talk on puberty, seventh and eighth grade students each receive about three hours' instruction over four days, and high school students each year receive just over four hours of instruction during a five-day timeframe.

The subject matter varies depending on the course, and runs through a number of risks and statistics about sexual activity, while emphasizing the benefits of abstinence. Much of the course also focuses on healthy relationships, cultural influences and personal boundaries.

"Each one is age-appropriate," Matt Gerald explained. "We don't just say 'don't have sex.' We talk about goals," in the context of how decisions impact life goals over time.

"Everything's activity-oriented," he went on. To elucidate, Jenifer Gerald walked audience members through the "Skittle exercise," where each person received a piece of the fruit-flavored candy. Those who picked green ones were to hold on to theirs, while the rest were encouraged to trade their candies with as many people in the room as possible within a given timeframe. After the trading had concluded, participants were asked to eat their Skittle, which by that time had been well-handled. Many ended up in the garbage.

"Why wouldn't you want to eat your Skittle?" Jenifer Gerald asked, likening each trade to a sexual encounter. Untraded, the green candies represented abstinence. "That's just one of the openers we try to do, to lighten the mood."

Parents, teachers and other community members were given some opportunity to weigh in on the subject. A couple expressed the opinion the Gerald's presentation put too much emphasis on abstinence, a criticism which was also directed at the school district's prospective policy wording. Parent Jacquie DeMontigny recommended dropping a sentence emphasizing that students be encouraged to remain abstinent "and to conceptualize sexual behavior in the ethical and moral context of marriage."

"It's a value-based curriculum," she noted. DeMontigny added she felt strongly

Continued on page 2

## Saxitoxin advisory remains for Shoemaker shellfish

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Latest samples of butter clams from Shoemaker Bay beaches show levels of saxitoxin have halved since this summer, when specimens were found to be a health hazard. The clams are still considered a health risk, albeit at a lower level.

Wrangell Cooperative Association's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) staff have been collecting samples of mussels and other bivalves from the beach on a weekly basis, which then get tested at a Sitka lab for several different toxins. In August the program reported elevated levels of saxitoxin, which causes paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), which can be fatal.

Saxitoxin is produced by Alexandrium, a variety of phytoplankton which can bloom in large enough numbers to taint nearby waters. Filter-feeders like clams and oysters end up ingesting and absorbing the toxins from the water, which can take months or even years to pass them.

IGAP technician Kim Wickman explained butter clams are affected a particularly long time, taking upward of two years sometimes to filter harmful toxins. Harmful to humans, that is. The clams themselves remain pleasantly unaffected by saxitoxin.

"We're not sure when they obtained these," she said of the clams' toxins.

In humans, saxitoxin causes paralysis by blocking sodium channels in neurons, preventing them from functioning normally. PSP begins with a numbness of the oral membranes, and severe cases can

include nausea, vomiting, neurological effects, respiratory failure and death.

The state sets a safety threshold of 80 micrograms for saxitoxin, while this summer samples at Shoemaker had shown a level of 212. Last week's sample came back at 104, an improvement but still worth taking under advisement.

Wrangell IGAP's alert was posted to the Sitka-based Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research website at [www.seator.org/data](http://www.seator.org/data). The site collects updated data from 28 different sites in 16 communities around Southeast, focused on saxitoxin, domoic acid and other harmful toxins to be found in shellfish. Findings at the program's laboratory are not certified, only precautionary.

The SEATOR program and its laboratory were established by Sitka Tribe of Alaska in order to give local shellfish harvesters a way to test clams and other shellfish important to subsistence. Previously the only lab in the state capable of such testing was in Anchorage, and catered primarily to commercial fisheries.

In 2013, the Southeast Alaska Tribal Toxins network was started to coordinate and share information between the region's tribal governments. Wrangell's IGAP began collaborating with SEATT in April, beginning with its monitoring at Shoemaker Bay. Wickman explained a second site near Pats Landing is also being established, as it is another popular place to collect shellfish. She is collecting baseline data at the moment, but the site should be ready for regular testing early next year.

# School

Continued from page 1

that the school should offer a more technically-rooted course alongside the values-based one.

Matt Gerald noted their presentation does touch on the topic of condoms and other contraceptives.

"We don't elaborate a ton on them," he explained. "The fact of the matter is they're not 100 percent."

He pointed to a Center for Disease Control statement which concluded abstinence was among "the most reliable ways to avoid transmission of STDs," along with long-term mutual monogamy with uninfected persons. On its site, the CDC adds the caveat that

"many infected persons may be unaware of their infection because STDs often are asymptomatic and unrecognized."

Gerald then likened condoms to seat belts, in that they can be protective to an extent, but not completely. Coincidentally, later on in the meeting during their annual insurance report, board members were informed Wrangell students were found to consistently travel on school district trips without the use of seat belts, which posed a liability in addition to the inherent safety risks.

Addressing a potentially imbalanced curriculum, one solution suggested was to have

a state Public Health Nurse deliver a comprehensive sexual education course, as has been done in past years. The option appeared to board members to be off the table, as budget cuts have led to the unstaffing of Wrangell's Public Health Center earlier this year.

Teacher Heather Howe, who presented past years' health education courses, pointed out the office is still functional, with staff from Petersburg and other neighboring communities continuing the PHC's local services.

"They're very willing to

work with us," Howe said.

Board president Georgianna Buhler commented that she had a problem with someone from another community, without the rapport with students a local might have, to come in and teach such a sensitive subject.

Some parents were against that idea entirely. Heidi Armstrong cited a negative experience one of her children had with the public nurse's presentation in the spring, which featured a practical display on proper condom usage. It had been an embarrassing incident

for the student, which Armstrong said had happened because she had not received notification of the class beforehand. Had she known, Armstrong said, permission would not have been given.

"Unfortunately, I never got the letter," she said.

The discussion eventually became heated, prompting the school board to move on to other topics. It passed the draft policy for first reading, which will appear again for a second and final reading – and further discussion – at the next meeting on December 19.

**The Way We Were**

In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.  
*No paper published*

**Senior Center Menu**

**Friday, November 25:** Taco salad, chips and salsa  
**Monday, November 28:** Clam chowder, tomatoes rockefeller, creamy slaw, whole wheat bread  
**Tuesday, November 29:** Sweet and sour pork, rice, mixed veggies, tossed salad  
**Wednesday, November 30:** Moose roast with gravy and mashed potatoes, green beans, garden salad

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

**FERRY SCHEDULE**

**Departures**

<u>Northbound</u>	<u>Southbound</u>
<b>Saturday, November 26</b> Matanuska 3:30 a.m.	<b>Friday, November 25</b> Matanuska 10:30 a.m.
<b>Sunday, November 27</b> Malaspina 6:45 p.m.	<b>Monday, November 28</b> Matanuska 7:15 a.m.
<b>Tuesday, November 29</b> Matanuska 8:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday, November 30</b> Malaspina 6:30 a.m.
<b>Saturday, December 3</b> Matanuska 1:30 a.m.	<b>Friday, December 2</b> Matanuska 9:15 a.m.
<b>Sunday, December 4</b> Malaspina 3:45 p.m.	<b>Monday, December 5</b> Matanuska 5:15 a.m.
<b>Tuesday, December 6</b> Matanuska 6:30 p.m.	<b>Wednesday, December 7</b> Malaspina 5:30 a.m.

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

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**Wednesday, November 23**

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** 6:30 p.m. Island of Faith Lutheran Church. Everyone is invited to attend this special time of Thanksgiving sponsored by the Ministerial Association. Refreshments available after the service and everyone is welcome.

**Thursday, November 24**

**SAIL Class:** 10 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.

**Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation:** 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Sunday, November 27**

**Sinspiration:** 6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church. Enjoy your favorite hymns, fellowship and refreshments. All are welcome.

**Monday, November 28**

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Tuesday, November 29**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults.

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

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** Lap Swim: M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 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. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:**

**AA Meetings:** Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

**NA Meeting:** Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

**Bridge Social:** F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.


**Salvation Army Food Bank:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information or questions please call Major Michael Bates at 874-3753.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

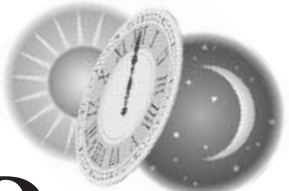
**Thursday, November 24:** Kyle Penney, Tilly Feudner, Dustin Phillips, Derek Fitzgerald, Maggie Fennimore, **Friday, November 25:** Bianca Smith, Shawn Curley, Neva Nolan, Shawn Howell, Bryan Ottesen, Janet Bunes, Darin Floyd, Joel Smalley, Clay Hammer, Terra Hoyt, **Anniversary:** Jim and Judy Taylor, **Saturday, November 26:** Leslie Richards, Alyssa Southland, **Anniversary:** Per and Neva Nolan, **Sunday, November 27:** Lovey Brock, Kerry Byford, Rhiannon Wiederspoohn, Gus Brock, Cinda Stough, **Anniversary:** Dennis and Carmen Pavlina, Jon Cornelius and Jenifer Davies, **Monday, November 28:** Kaden Comstock, Hailey Cook, Evi Fennimore, Judy Taylor, **Anniversary:** Iver and Diana Nore, John and Karen Morse, Scott and Becky Thomas, Levi and Kathy Dow, Paul and Victoria Southland, **Tuesday, November 29:** Shelton Eklund, Frank Grossardt, **Wednesday, November 30:** Ben Bowman, Barbara Neyman, Warren Edgley, Jr., Kogen Brown, **Thursday, December 1:** Ethan Gassaway, Nickole Bunes, Scott Angerman, Todd Petersen

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



## Wrangell Weather

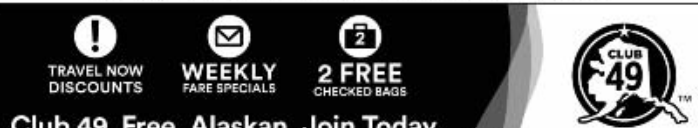
Date	High	Low
November 13	50	42
November 14	44	41
November 15	42	33
November 16	42	30
November 17	41	32
November 18	39	30
November 19	35	26
November 20	33	24



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Nov. 24	8:42a	4:27p	7:45h
Nov. 25	8:44a	4:25p	7:41h
Nov. 26	8:46a	4:24p	7:38h
Nov. 27	8:47a	4:23p	7:36h
Nov. 28	8:49a	4:22p	7:33h
Nov. 29	8:51a	4:21p	7:30h
Nov. 30	8:53a	4:20p	7:27h
Dec. 1	8:54a	4:19p	7:25h

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### November 24 - December 1

	High Tides				Low Tides			
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
November 24	9:23	15.4	9:53	13.5	2:50	2.8	3:50	2.3
November 25	10:07	16.1	10:42	14.0	3:45	2.8	4:35	1.1
November 26	10:47	16.6	11:26	14.5	4:30	2.7	5:13	0.1
November 27	11:23	16.9	-----	-----	5:08	2.6	5:46	-0.6
November 28	0:06	14.8	11:57	17.0	5:42	2.6	6:18	-1.1
November 29	0:43	14.9	12:29	17.0	6:14	2.8	6:48	-1.3
November 30	1:19	14.8	1:00	16.7	6:45	3.0	7:19	-1.3
December 1	1:53	14.6	1:30	16.3	7:17	3.4	7:50	-1.1



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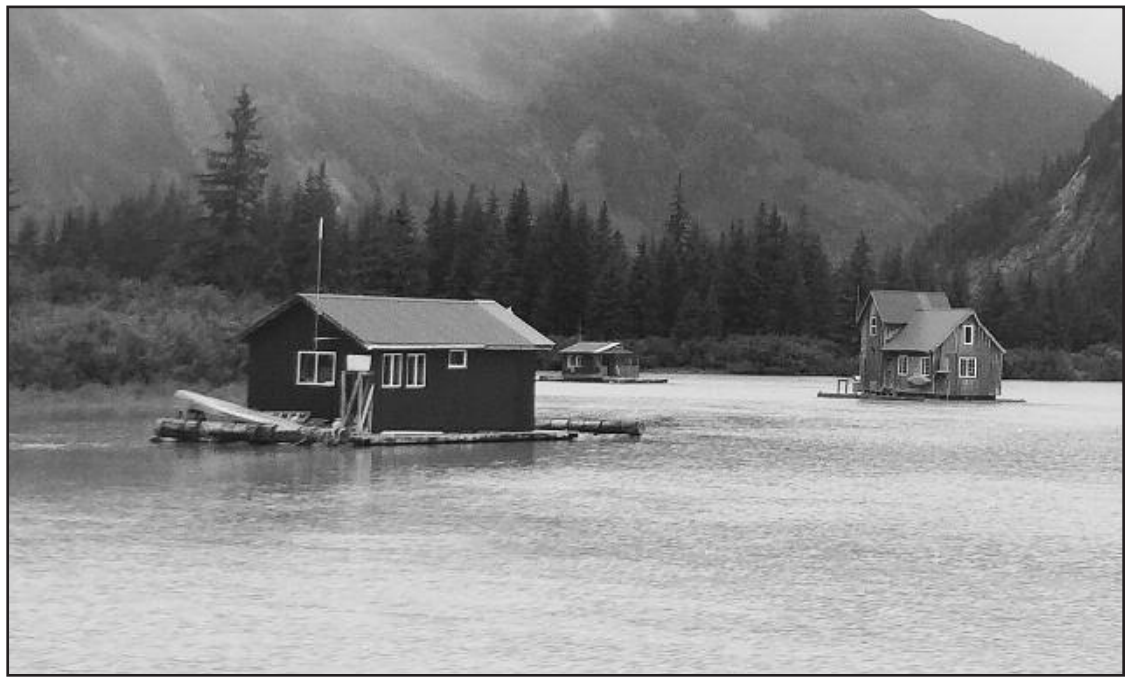


PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A trio of float houses sit serenely on the Stikine River in June. The vessels are among a group of 18 on the river which the Department of Natural Resources has targeted for unauthorized siting.

## State issues letters to unauthorized float house users along the Stikine River

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

A number of Petersburg and Wrangell residents have been receiving letters from the state, informing them their float houses anchored along the Stikine River need to be permitted or moved.

Since the late 1970s, the placement of float houses and temporary cabins along the river have made it convenient for locals making use of the river basin, be it for subsistence fishing, hunting, trapping, work or recreational purposes. While a number are there on a seasonal basis, this year some 18 have been identified as being situated year-round, and the Department of Natural Resources last month began issuing letters to

their owners informing them these were unauthorized.

The primary reason for the sudden interest in the river's float houses follows the recent resolution of a longstanding jurisdictional dispute between DNR and the United States Forest Service, which manages the Tongass National Forest the Stikine is a part of. It began in 2005, when the state filed an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which would apply to lands underlying the Stikine River and its interconnecting sloughs. As the river runs through the Tongass, USFS filed an

Continued on page 4

Midnight Madness  
**BAZAAR**

Friday, Dec. 2nd

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## Court report

### November 14

A judgment was made in the State of Alaska v. Sea Level Seafoods LLC at First District Court in Wrangell. The defendant pleaded guilty to one strict liability violation of Reports: Transporting Requirements, a first offense. Judge Kevin Miller imposed a \$10,000 fine, with \$8,000 suspended, and a \$10 police training surcharge, and placed the company on probation for one year.

Geoffrey Aaron Stokes, 28, appeared before First District Magistrate Judge Chris Ellis on the charges of Vehicle Theft 1 and Driving Under the Influence - Alcohol or Controlled Substance, both Class A misdemeanors. The defendant pleaded guilty to both counts, and an additional count of driving without a license was dismissed. Stokes was ordered to serve 11 months with 8 months and 27 days suspended, and to pay \$2,225 in fines and surcharges, with \$600 suspended. He was ordered to complete a treatment program, will have driving privileges revoked for 90 days, and will have to install an ignition interlock device for six months after regaining those privileges. Stokes was placed on probation for one year.

### November 17

Gary A. Hamley, 35, appeared before First District Court Judge

Kevin Miller on the charges of Reckless Driving and Driving While License Cancelled/Suspended/Revoked/Limited. The defendant pleaded guilty to both counts, and was committed to serve 90 days with 87 suspended. Hamley was also

ordered to pay \$2,200 in fines and surcharges, with \$1,100 suspended. He was ordered to complete a treatment program and 80 hours of community work service, will lose driving privileges for 90 days, and has been placed on probation for one year.

## Police report

### Monday, November 14

Found Item.

Agency Assist: FD: Fire alarm.

### Tuesday, November 15

Parking: Parking citation issued to Randy Churchill, Jr., 32, for unlawful parking at airport.

### Wednesday, November 16

Report of Criminal Mischief.

### Thursday, November 17

Fire alarm going off: Fire Department notified. False Alarm.

### Friday, November 18

Nothing to Report.

### Saturday, November 19

Agency Assist: FD: Chimney fire.

Report of Theft.

Agency Assist: Report of burning plastic, turns out it was wet wood.

Report of Theft.

Agency Assist: Electrical person reported fuse blown on power pole.

Report of Theft.

### Sunday, November 20

Agency Assist: FD: Chimney fire.

There was one dog complaint and three ambulance calls during this week.



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# Stikine River

Continued from page 3

objection to that in 2007, arguing that portion of the river had been reserved to federal jurisdiction when Alaska achieved statehood.

Eventually, in a letter to the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska office sent on March 9, USFS regional head Beth Pendleton withdrew its objection in part, though the service maintained its objection where sloughs were concerned. With jurisdiction thus clearly defined, the state this year proceeded to look into current use along the river.

"When it was being contested it didn't make sense to address it then," explained Rob Edwardson, Southeast regional manager for DNR's Division of Mining Land and Water.

"The issue itself is that certain types of use require authorization to use state land. Long-term use of state land requires an authorization from this department. And these facilities do not have that authorization," he said.

A total of 18 letters have been issued so far, informing owners their floating facility is not authorized to be situated on state-owned tidal and submerged lands.

"There may be as many as 24," said Edwardson. "There's a lot that we don't know about because we haven't surveyed the river ourselves. There have been site visits by this office, but it's been quite awhile."

The number of letters corresponds with those identified as year-round fixtures in a 2015

inventory taken by the USFS Wrangell Ranger District. The report did not identify ownership of the vessels, so DNR worked with a combination of local law enforcement and other agencies to make those determinations.

"We get the information from people who've been there. Any number of different places," Edwardson explained.

The DNR's letters were not issued at the same time, and not all facility owners have yet been contacted.

"I have not received one yet," said Dave Powell, a Wrangell resident.

Others spoken to for this article have expressed a wariness of the state's intentions, and have preferred to wait and see how it responds to this situation.

Float owners are given the option to apply for authorization within 30 days of issuance of the letters, which requires a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee. As of late last week, Edwardson was not aware if any permit applications having been received. If the letters go unanswered by December 4, they warn float owners of potential legal action, the costs for which they may be held responsible.

"There are different paths from there," he said. "One is to negotiate with the unauthorized user to terminate the unauthorized use. That could mean their departure from there or, if it could be authorized, we could authorize that after the fact."

The likelihood of receiving permission varies on the indi-

vidual circumstances, with all land use decisions guided by the Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan.

"There are a lot of different factors that go into whether or not we grant an authorization, but one of the main controlling factors is the area plan," Edwardson explained. Within his office's purview, seasonal and year-round use for floating facilities has been authorized. "It depends on the area. It depends on the proposed use."

Adopted in 2000, under the area plan floating facilities generally would not be authorized when adjacent to designated wilderness, such as the Stikine-LeConte area. They may be authorized in wilderness and other ecologically sensitive areas "if it is determined that the permitting of a floating facility is in the best interest of the state," and conforms to applicable management guidelines and standards.

If getting authorization for long-term placement is not possible, shorter-term placements are possible under current rules. Under area plan guidelines, non-commercial floating facilities only require an authorization to be on state land if moored or anchored in one location for a period of 14 days or more. Moving the floating facility at least two miles starts a new 14-day period. Commercial floating facilities always require authorization before occupying state tidelands.

"It'll be a major pain in the ass to move these things

around," one Wrangell float owner commented. Because of the ongoing issue, he asked not to be named in this article.

Former float house owner Gary Allen Sr. pointed out the decision could hamper activities during the month-long moose season in September and October, when a number of hunters head upriver whenever they can. Families also have through years of use established hunting grounds and fishing spots, which the required mobility would make difficult to maintain.

Another problem users noted is that the structures themselves also tend to be cumbersome to maneuver, and river levels coupled with weather conditions can make repositioning floats a tricky business.

"The river level is really

dynamic, and fluctuates a lot," said Brenda Schwartz-Yeager, a Wrangell outfitter who travels the Stikine often.

Like other float house users, she said her family's facility is primarily used for their subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping, but also doubles as an emergency shelter for people on the river. Schwartz-Yeager also pointed out that there are a limited number of places suitable to safely anchor a float.

"It will change things a lot for us, because we've had use of that float house for around ten years," she commented.

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Friday, Dec. 2nd

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Tree Lighting - 6pm

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## Reflections

### Thanks...

1. Thessalonians 5:18 says "In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all." The dictionary states...

Thankful ADJECTIVE pleased and relieved: synonyms: grateful · appreciative · filled with gratitude · expressing gratitude and relief:

As in... "an earnest and thankful prayer"

We should be giving thanks for all things and in all circumstances all of the time. This time of year we even have a holiday to remind us to be thankful.

I believe that as a nation we need to be reminded of being thankful and giving thanks. I also believe that this cannot be done until each one of us focuses on being thankful.

Before writing this I asked my daycare children what they were thankful for. The answers ran the full gamut, thankful for parents, dogs, God, home, thankful that they could be an alien

for Halloween.

A couple of years ago our college age son brought it to our attention about Thanksgiving that it is JUST A MEAL. And he is right. It is just a meal. Not a competition for biggest feast, or best decorated. It is just a meal. "In all things give thanks..." Thankful to have; food, family, time of rest, friends, freedom, to be able to share, thankful we have the sense of smell, sight, taste which makes it all better. Thankful to have memories of Thanksgivings past as I remember those whose memories have been taken away by Alzheimer's.

This year, whether alone or in a crowd, with a frozen pot pie or the biggest feast you have ever seen...first and foremost...be thankful, "for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning all of us.

**Nettie Covalt, CRE**

**First Presbyterian Church of Wrangell**

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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

207 North Nordic Dr. · PO Box 930 · Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone 907-772-9393 · Fax 907-772-4871

**POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

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### Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1

Local.....\$42

Other Alaska.....\$57

2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$67

First Class.....\$96

The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com); website: [www.wrangellsentinel.com](http://www.wrangellsentinel.com)

# Fish Factor

by Laine Welch

Alaska's university system is ramping up programs to train the next generations of fishery and ocean specialists - and plenty of jobs await.

Since 1987, the College of Fisheries and Ocean Science (CFOS) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has offered undergraduate and graduate degrees in Fisheries Science, complete with paid internships to help prepare them for positions in the state's largest industry.

"It's a degree path preparing students for what I call fish

squeezers - they're going to go to work for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, or NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or some other type of agency where they're going to be primarily out doing field work, traditional fish biologist types," said Trent Sutton, a Professor of Fisheries Biology and Associate Dean of Academics.

Due to student interest, the college broadened the fisheries degree this fall to include ocean sciences, and opened more oceanography and marine biology classes to undergraduate students. The new degree combo program attracted 53 students, Sutton said.

The college also is a center for ocean acidification studies, which is a big student draw.

"You hear all the concerns regarding climate change and marine mammals and fisheries and sea ice - all of those garner interest from students because there are job opportunities down the road to deal with these issues," Sutton explained.

The CFOS also is the only school in the nation to offer a bachelor of arts degree in fisheries for students interested in seafood sciences and technology, and marine policy. Another focus of the B.A. track is in rural and community development where students can get the degree at "A student in Bethel or Dillingham can stay home and take 100 percent of their courses either through video conferences or online or by some other distance delivery technology. They can get a degree that is tied to fisheries and it will help them have a good career and become leaders in

their communities," Sutton said.

Starting next fall, CFOS plans to offer the degree programs in partnership with the University at Southeast Alaska (UAS), and eventually to the Anchorage campus and other regions.

A shorter career track for fisheries technologists also is offered through UAS/Sitka to train students for jobs as fishery observers, surveyors, culturists and hatchery technicians. Fish tech certification and associates degree courses are offered remotely, with classes fully loaded onto iPads and no internet is required. There is a dire shortage of fish techs in Alaska and that trend is expected to continue for at least a decade, according to university data.

In fact, good careers await fisheries and ocean science grads in Alaska, as state agencies are steadily losing workers to retirement - 20 percent from ADF&G alone over the next few years, and a similar amount from federal fisheries agencies.

Of the nearly 700 graduates the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences has produced over 30 years, nearly half have gone on to careers at ADF&G and NOAA Fisheries, Sutton said.

"These students are not only staying in the state," he said, "but they are working for the agencies that are making the management and policy decisions that impact our fisheries and marine resources."

**Bait bites** - Baits are critical to most fishermen's catches and it can be a scramble to find ample supplies that change with the times.

"Things change over the

years. We always try to find what is the new best thing and try and stay ahead of the curve," said Justin Hackley, vice president of sales and marketing for International Marine Industries of Newport, Rhode Island, a global bait provider for over 30 years.

Alaska is one of Hackley's biggest customers and bait favorites have shifted due to changing weather patterns and cyclical availabilities of the fish. For decades it was east coast herring that kept Alaska fleets out fishing - until a better fish surfaced.

"It was herring for halibut or black cod longlining, or for crab or pot cod until a cheaper alternative came around - Pacific sardines caught off the coast of Astoria. That fish had fat content at 18 percent, way higher than you can get out of east coast herring," Hackley said.

But the Pacific sardine fishery closed three years ago, and Hackley scrambled to find another bait replacement. It took some convincing, but last year Kodiak fishermen and processors agreed to bite.

"Pacific saury is the new up and coming bait that last year we got them to take, and it's been quite successful," he said.

Saury will be soaking in Tyler O'Brien's pots when he sets out on the 58-foot Odin's Eye for cod in January. At \$1.00 a pound (up from 50 cents last year), he estimates the bait cost will be \$4,500 for each three-day fishing trip.

Fishermen use different baits depending on the fishery, and often mix up their own blends from scraps to save money, O'Brien said.

"For crab we'll catch and use fresh herring or cod and salmon roe. In the fall, we'll get pink salmon discards from processors for halibut bait. We try and follow the seasonal tastes of the fish," he explained.

Pacific saury already is feeling pressure from increasing demand, Hackley said, and bait prices for short supplies of squid have increased to \$1.35 a pound at Dutch Harbor, up from 85-90 cents a year ago.

A newer bait alternative gaining traction in Alaska is pollock.

"I used to sell a lot of longline herring to halibut guys and everyone seems to want pollock now," he said.

So why aren't Alaska fisheries using local species as bait? In the case of herring (65 cents a pound) for halibut, at least, Hackley said size matters.

"These longliners want a certain size. Typically, herring from Sitka is too small and the Dutch Harbor herring is too big. But it is good for the pot guys," he said.

Hackley credits Alaska for its sustainable management practices and believes he'll have a good customer long into the future.

"As long as people are out there fishing and pots and hooks are going in the water," Hackley said, "I'll be there throwing frozen bait at 'em."

**Fish watch** - The total salmon harvest for the 2016 season came in at 112 million fish, based on preliminary numbers from the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. The value to fishermen of \$406 million is the lowest since 2002.

The 2017 catch of sockeye salmon at Bristol Bay is pegged at 27.5 million; that compares to a harvest of 37.3 million reds this year.

State managers predict Upper Cook Inlet fishermen will see a much lower commercial harvest of just 1.7 million sockeye salmon next summer, one million fish below the 20-year average.

The forecast for pink salmon in Southeast Alaska is for a "strong" catch in the 43 million range; that compares to just 18 million pinks taken in the region this summer.

The halibut industry will soon get a glimpse of next year's potential catches when the International Pacific Halibut Commission meets Nov. 29-30 in Seattle. The IPHC also will take up 13 requests for management changes to the fishery, including whether it will be legal to catch halibut with pots in 2017. The fishery will reopen in March.

The state Board of Fisheries meets in Homer November 30-December 3. The focus is on commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries in Lower Cook Inlet.

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Monday, November 21st

## PLEASE ANSWER THE CALL!

You may be selected at random to participate in our 2016 Southeast Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, a.k.a. BRFSS.

Participation is **100% confidential** and provides valuable information for SEARHC to enhance our health programs.



Calls will take place in December 2016 and January 2017.

So, when "BRFSS" calls, **please answer.**

**What you have to say is important.**

If you have questions, please contact Kathy O'Gara at (907) 966-8736 or kathyo@searhc.org

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Borough Assembly and the Wrangell Medical Center Board will hold a Work Session in the Borough Assembly Chambers on **Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss the following topic:

*Wrangell Medical Center's plans for the future and a new hospital.*

The public is welcome to attend.

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

**Publish: November 24, 2016**

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

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

The unexpired term of appointment is until October 2017

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](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com) on or before **November 29, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.**

Information on the powers and duties of the Borough Assembly are contained in Wrangell Municipal Code, Chapter 3.04. 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](http://www.wrangell.com)

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

**Published: November 17 and 24, 2016**

**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
Vacancy on the Wrangell Medical Center Board**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting *letters of interest* from citizens who wish to serve on the Board of Directors for the Wrangell Medical Center.

The unexpired term of appointment is unexpired until October 2019.

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](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com) on or before **Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.**

Information on the powers and duties of the Wrangell Medical Center Board are contained in the Board of Directors' Bylaws. A copy of which can be obtained by contacting the Borough Clerk at 205 Brueger Street or email to [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com).

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

Kim Lane, MMC  
Borough Clerk

**Published: November 17 and 24, 2016**

**City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
NOTICE INVITING BIDS -  
WRANGELL DOCK LIGHTING**

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **WRANGELL DOCK LIGHTING** project.

The WORK consists of all activities necessary to construct the Wrangell Dock Lighting, as shown in the contract documents. The Work is comprised of a Base Bid and an Additive Alternate A. The Engineer's estimate for the Base Bid is \$250,000 - \$260,000 and the estimate for the Additive Alternate A is \$30,000 - \$40,000.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format only and are available for downloading from the City and Borough of Wrangell website ([www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com)) under the Bids and RFP's section. The full solicitation is listed on the website. To be registered on the Plan Holder's List, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com)

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 10:00 AM prevailing time on November 28, 2016 and publicly opened and read at that time.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality in a Bid, or to make award as it best serves the interests of the OWNER.

OWNER: The City and Borough of Wrangell  
Jeff Jabusch, Borough Manager

**Published: November 10, 17 and 23, 2016**



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

## Queing up the cornucopia

In assembly line fashion, Korovin Ellis, Harley Bates, Eva and Damon Roher, and Bonnie and Don Roher prepare to distribute holiday meal ingredients to local families. Put on each year by the Wrangell Ministerial Association, the food drive served up meals for 262 individuals, including 89 children, or 79 households in all. The packages included full Thanksgiving fare, with a turkey, dressing, potatoes, vegetables, dessert and all the trimmings – about \$4,712 worth in all. In addition to a \$1,000 grant, the remainder came from small gifts and donations. Any items left over will go toward the Salvation Army food bank, in preparation for its annual Christmas dinner drive.

## Classified/Legals

**BOATS AND MARINE** Permits, 907-772-4000, 1-888-IFQ'S AND FISHING PER- 347-4437.....tfn1-3b15  
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**City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
PUBLIC NOTICE**  
At their Regular Borough Assembly meeting held on October 8, 2016, the Assembly voted to reschedule the upcoming Regular Assembly meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016 to Tuesday, November 29, 2016. The rescheduling of this meeting is due to a lack of a quorum.  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
**Published: November 17 and 24, 2016**

**THANK YOU**  
I WANT TO SEND OUT a Great Big Thank You to Jeff Angerman for donating his store window to promote our local artists. You're the best. Thanks. Terree Pino.....1x11-24b14

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** who helped save my skin. Alaskan Sunshine has never felt better. Shawn Curley.....1x11-24p

**WRANGELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER NOTICE**  
Wrangell Municipal Light and Power would like to remind everyone that an electrical permit is required before doing any electrical work within the City and Borough of Wrangell.  
Wrangell Municipal Code 15.12.040 states that no electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premise, public or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any such existing facilities without first securing a permit from the office of the electrical superintendent.  
WML&P would also like to remind everyone that per Alaska Statute all wiring must be done by a licensed contractor working under a valid administrator's license. Minor exceptions are allowed for persons working on their own residence provided that residence is owned by and the primary occupancy of the person doing the work and no commercial enterprise is being conducted on the premise.  
Anyone having questions is encouraged to contact Wrangell Municipal Light and Power at 907-874-3602.  
**Published: November 24, 2016**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF  
ALASKA AT WRANGELL**  
In the Matter of the Estate of: )  
)  
BRANDON R PETERSON )  
Person Who Died (Decedent) )  
Date of Birth: 08/16/1977 ) Case No. 1WR-16-20 PR  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
You are notified that the court appointed Judith Peterson as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated: Nov. 8, 2016 Judith Peterson  
P.O. Box 124, Channing, MI, 49815  
**Published: November 17, 24 and December 1, 2016**

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# 2017 summer schedule released for Alaska ferry system

The Alaska Marine Highway System announced its schedule for the coming summer was ready.

The finalized schedule essentially remained the same as a proposal put forward earlier this fall, with an overall 10-week service reduction to operations from the previous summer, down to around 325 operating weeks overall.

"We're pretty much going forward with what was put out," explained Jeremy Woodrow, AMHS public information officer.

The schedule is based on expected fund-

ing levels for the 2018 fiscal year, and reflects input collected from the public during October's public comment period.

Service to Wrangell remains the same as before. For the month of May through the 24th, a total of six stops are planned for each week by the Matanuska and Columbia. Southbound journeys headed as far as Prince Rupert, Canada, will make stops Monday afternoons and midday on Fridays. Heading as far south as Bellingham, Washington, the Columbia will pass through on Wednesday mornings. Northward and Skagway-bound, the two

ferries will make stops Wednesday mornings, Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

For the rest of the summer after May 24, Wrangell will continue to be serviced by the Columbia and Matanuska with the same frequency. Southbound, the Matanuska stops on Thursdays just before noon and on Sunday afternoons, with northbound stops Tuesday mornings and Friday nights. The Columbia makes its stops Wednesday mornings, returning for the northward leg of its route Sunday afternoons.

Along with the release of its new sched-

ule, the rollout of AMHS' newest fare adjustments will be implemented. These start on May 1, 2017, and are intended to level similar-distanced fares across the system. Particulars on the changes and the new schedule are available at [FerryAlaska.com](http://FerryAlaska.com)

In other AMHS news, Woodward confirmed the Kennicott will continue to service Wrangell Sundays and Wednesdays through December into January. The Malaspina had been scheduled to take over its route, but will remain out of service longer than expected due to discovered maintenance needs.

## Happy Thanksgiving



*We're counting our blessings this Thanksgiving, and we couldn't have asked for a better bunch of neighbors than you! Have a wonderful holiday and please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your most generous support this past year.*

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*Sentry Hardware & Marine*

*Sitka Vision Clinic*

*Stikine Drug*

*Stikine Inn*

*Stikine Sportsmen's Assoc.*

*Tongass Federal Credit Union*

*Tyee Travel*

*Wrangell Medical Center*

*Wrangell Sentinel*

# Girls JV wins three in weekend volleyball play

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell high school finished off its regular volleyball season exchanging venues with Petersburg over the weekend.

On Friday the girls headed to Petersburg for three best-of-five games, the first two played by both schools' junior varsity squads. Wrangell's JV won both best-of matches, bringing their last weekend of the season to a good end.

"They were able to improve throughout the season," commented coach Jessica Whitaker. In particular, she noted the team's improvements in serving and passing, and overall cohesion as a unit.

Division leader Petersburg won its varsity sets Friday evening, and both teams headed to Wrangell for a second day of match-ups. Wrangell's JV continued its winning streak from the previous day with its early



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Teammates mob Graciela Cano for hugs on Saturday, before the varsity volleyball match against Petersburg. Along with fellow seniors Alex Angerman, Makena Hammer and Alyssa Martin, it would be the last home game for Cano.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

It's anyone's ball as Helen Decker scrambles with two Petersburg attackers Saturday evening.

game Saturday, winning three of four sets.

Petersburg's JV was able to turn things around in the following match, pulling ahead for a 25-20 win in the first set after a tie-up at 18. The second set was even more closely contested, about tied up from 16 points on through to the end, when Petersburg was able to pull a 28-26 win over Wrangell. The visiting team ran away with it in the third set, finishing game four with a win.

"I think that the girls played really well," said Whitaker.

Before the start of the varsity game, the team took time to recognize four of its outgoing class of seniors. Alex Angerman, Makena Hammer, Graciela Cano and Alyssa Martin all were presented flowers, gifts, and hugs by their teammates during what was their last home game for the year.

In her remarks, Whitaker noted several were among the last she had coached during her time with Stikine Middle School's volleyball program. Parents were invited down to

share in the moment as well, making for a touching evening.

"It was great to be able to involve the community, and get to see them all excited heading into regionals," the coach commented afterward.

Wrangell's varsity players will be headed into Region V with an additional loss to Petersburg from Saturday, after starting off the match with a closely played first set.

Whitaker noted junior Kayla Hay and freshman Kaylyn Easterly performed well during the evening, effectively passing balls from the back zone and keeping up a good energy.

On this year's arrangement with Petersburg, where both communities trade off hosting games during their two scheduled weekends, Whitaker thought it was worth repeating next season.

"I think it worked really well for both of our teams," she commented. The players seemed better rested, and the exchange gave parents in both towns the option to see their girls' progress over the course of the

season.

The girls head next to Region V in Craig on December 2, after seeding the fourth spot during the 2A North tournament in Skagway on November 12 and 13. State will be held in Anchorage December 8 to 10.

## Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents

There will be no movie this weekend, our next film will be the weekend of December 2-4

'Like' us on Facebook for the most up to date info!

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Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop  
Movie info: [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

## Boats

Continued from page 1

Heritage is one of three full-service harbor basins managed by the Harbor Department, and serves both commercial and recreational craft. Harbor staff pay periodic visits to the facilities for maintenance, safety and security purposes, and while noting thefts on this scale are unusual, harbormaster Greg Meissner acknowledged personal items do find themselves missing from boats and docksides.

The Port Commission took a look at security issues in October 2015, after a number of thefts were reported at the boatyard, including a 30-gallon compressed air fire extinguisher owned by the department. The installation of cameras at the yard was discussed, but for budgetary reasons not pursued.

At the time, Meissner had explained there would also be logistical difficulties to overcome as well with having closed-circuit cameras at the Shoemaker Bay and Heritage harbors. But with the recent intrusions, he noted the idea could find itself on the commission's agenda in the near future.

"Cameras might come up again in conversation," Meissner commented.

Though not entirely a sure-fire dissuasion for a committed intruder, one way to prevent most casual thefts is to make sure equipment is properly secured and entryways to boats locked up.

"We've lived here over 20 years and it's really the first time we've had anything stolen," said Prysunka.

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