

Big expenditures outweigh revenues in new budget

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Assembly reviewed a first draft of its Fiscal Year 2018 budget Tuesday evening, during a workshop and public hearing session.

Finance director Lee Burgess presented the 43-page document, prefacing it with an overview of the city's financial situation and upcoming budgetary needs.

Burgess notes that this year's draft budget is not a balanced one, in terms of revenues versus expenditures. Some critical capital projects are anticipated, the largest being Shoemaker Bay Harbor's facilities replacement. More than \$6 million that will have to be raised from a combination of Harbor Department reserves and loans to match \$5 million that may be available through the state.

Another \$540,000 from sales tax funds are expected to go toward the resurfacing and improvement of Evergreen Avenue, a state Department of Transportation project that will require a nine-percent match on the city's part. \$567,000 is being proposed to replace critically deteriorated sections of the aging Public Safety and public pool buildings.

Further resources will be required to pay for roughing filter replacement at the water treatment plant, acquisition of a new excavator for the landfill, expansion of Wrangell's industrial park and possible acquisition of the former mill site at 6-Mile.

It should be possible to pay for these items in part because of years worth of in savings in reserve funds. General fund reserves increased by about \$610,000 since the end of FY15, more than offsetting a potential spending deficit of about \$457,000. Assuming no other significant alterations then, the draft budget projects reserve general funds to be at \$7.03 million by the end of next fiscal year, or June 30, 2018.

The current budget draft assumes no increases to property or sales tax rates, reductions of staff or expected wage step increases. However, Burgess noted that it would not be advisable to do a repeat performance in future years without increasing tax rates.

Presently, the city's property taxes and share of sales taxes support 61 percent of general fund revenues. While Wrangell

has one of the state's highest sales tax rates, it also has the highest percentage of property owners exempted by state law due to their age, thereby constricting that source of potential revenue. More than a third of Wrangell's public revenues come from other sources, be it federal or state contracts, contributions, rents or revenue shares.

Assembly member Mark Mitchell was loath to raise tax rates, especially as the Alaska Legislature continues to mull reintroduction of an income tax.

"It's obvious that wages and benefits are probably the bulk of our budget," he noted, looking over the draft. Mitchell questioned whether city departments could instead look into phasing out positions and consolidating to reduce costs. "We need our options open," he said.

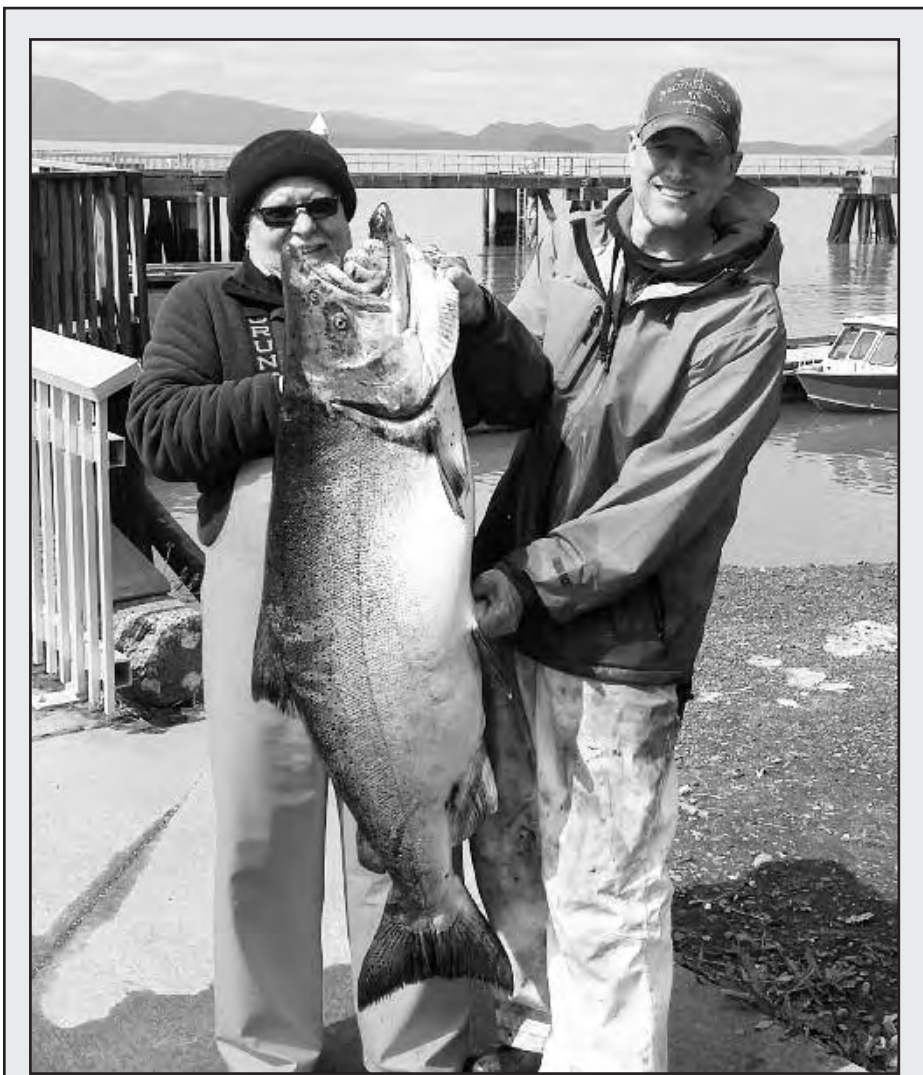
He asked several department heads present for the meeting their opinion on reductions.

"Right now I'm down three people, and another one looking at retiring in the fall," reported Police Chief Doug McCloskey. The department ideally needs seven officers on staff to cover its schedule without overtime or on-call hours, and is currently down to four.

Two new officers are expected to arrive in coming months, but McCloskey added that it takes time to catch recruits up to speed, depending on prior experience.

Speaking for his power department, Clay Hammer recommended no changes.

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DAN RUDY / WRANGELL SENTINEL

Washington resident Gary Smart gets help from Wrangell resident James Rowland to heft the 64-pound king salmon he caught off Found Island on May 24. The catch puts him at the top of the derby ladder, and is the biggest the competition has seen in over 30 years.

Big catch blows derby competition out of water

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The competition has really been stepped up in this year's King Salmon Derby.

A 64.1 pound fish was brought to the scales on May 24 by Gary Smart of Sequim, Washington. He and his wife were here visiting family friends for a few weeks, and he was on board the Rowland family's boat when the catch occurred.

James Rowland explained his party of four had been fishing south of Wrangell that morning, near Found Island. The trip was one of a series since the arrival of Smart and Rowland's uncle on May 20.

"We've been fishing every day," he said. "It was good. Man, every night we were like 'what time are we going to get up?'"

That Wednesday had already been a productive morning. Andrew Rowland had already reeled in a 41.9 pound king salmon, which was already six pounds heavier than the derby leader at the time. The party was about ready to head back to town to get it weighed in when they decided to do another pass or two.

"There was only one other boat down there, so it wasn't crowded," Rowland recalled. As luck would have it, they were making their last pass before Smart had a bite.

"We hooked up and it ran and ran and ran," Smart said of his fish. He knew it

Continued on page 3

New city manager due mid-July

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A new borough manager for Wrangell will be arriving in the middle of July.

Lisa Von Bargaen was selected from a pool of candidates by the City and Borough Assembly earlier in April, finally hired following several weeks of negotiations over terms. She has been the director for community and economic development in Valdez since 2001, and has worked for the city's Chamber of Commerce and its Convention and Visitors Bureau prior to that.

"I was born in Anchorage. My father was transferred to Valdez when I was eight," Von Bargaen explained. Graduating high school in Valdez, she received her undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

"I missed Alaska so much I moved back," she said, heading to Anchorage. She would eventually acquire her master's degree in project management from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2011.

Von Bargaen returned to Valdez, serving as tourism manager for the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau from 1998 to 2001. She also served concurrently as director of the community's Chamber of Commerce over the same period.

Once she was promoted to bureau director in 2001, in the years since Von Bargaen has been involved in a diverse range of projects, including the Valdez waterfront redevelopment a decade ago and an initiative to get the city's Economic Diversification Commission off the ground in 2014. The commission has since developed into its own city department.

In her present position for the past 16 years, Von Bargaen explained her move to Wrangell is an upward step in her administrative career. As with Wrangell's own economic development director position, many of the grant and project management roles of the position overlap with roles held by the city manager, and Von Bargaen explained she will be prepared for her new managerial duties as a result.

"I wanted to be a city administrator, and I feel like I have all the experience I need in the job that I have," she said. "It's just time for me to move on to the next phase of my career."

Before applying, Von Bargaen spoke with Wrangell counterpart and current interim manager Carol Rushmore about the position.

"We talked a little bit about the community and about the job, and what the opportunity would be. From there I just decided it would be a good thing to apply. It sounded like a good fit," Von Bargaen said.

Continued on page 8

Appeals panel sides with agency in Big Thorne project

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – A divided federal appeals court panel has ruled that the U.S. Forest Service “chose jobs over wolves” in approving a logging project in southeast Alaska but was within its authority to do so.

The decision is in response to lawsuits by conservation groups that challenged the Big Thorne project on Prince of

Wales Island and cited concerns about the impact on the Alexander Archipelago wolf. It upholds a lower court ruling.

The majority opinion from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel states that the Forest Service met its legal obligations.

It says the panel is unaware of any authority compelling the agency to set specific bench-

marks for protecting the viability of a species that is not clas-

sified as endangered or threatened.

The conservation groups are reviewing the decision.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

June 1: Michelle Thomassen, Hannah Castle, Marc Gunderson, Jack Pino, Morgan O’Keefe, Deanne Cooper, Jody Hammock. **June 2:** Karl Alterpeter, Willie Bloom, Spencer Ocean, Steve Thomassen Jr., Janell Stutz, *Anniverseray:* Jon and Terri Keso. **June 3:** Yuri McCloskey, Matthew Covalt, Robyn Lane, Ryan Reeves, Gail Thomas, Mike Jabusch, Mandy Keso, Makena Hammer. *Anniversary:* Scott and Lorri Angerman. **June 4:** Doug McClosky, Haley Vergilio, Maleah Wenzel, Kira Torvend. *Anniversary:* Jim Sr. and Sue Nelson, Bill and Janell Privett. **June 5:** Randy Robinson Jr., Mark Stevens, Payton Tailele, Eric Yancey. **June 6:** Mick Young, Megan Scott, Janice Dillon, Chelsea Cleghon, Carter Cummings, Cari Hazelton, Deanne Cooper. *Anniversary:* Brent and Shannon Mickle. **June 7:** Jacob Soeteber, Hunter Abbott, Kelly Tuttle, Sean Sebastian, Laura Gile, *Anniversary:* Natalya and Mike Jabusch. **June 8:** Jack Dyer, Shannon Smith, Stephanie Cartwright, Chase Robinson, Ronnie Graves, Chester Armstrong. *Anniversary:* James and Cinda Stough.

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

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, June 1

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.
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.

Monday, June 5

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

Tuesday, June 6

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.

Wednesday, June 7

Pioneers of Alaska Women’s Igloo #15: 6:00 pm, Last Meeting of the Summer.
Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne 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 gChurch 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.

Senior Center Menu

The Sentinel didn’t receive Senior Menu for this week 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 SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, June 1
Matanuska 2:30 a.m.
Sunday, June 2
Malaspina 4:45 a.m.
Sunday, June 4
Malaspina 5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6
Matanuska 7:45 p.m.
Thursday, June 8
Matanuska 11:30 p.m.

Southbound

Friday, June 7
Matanuska 6:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 9
Matanuska 6:15 p.m.
Monday, June 12
Matanuska 6:15 a.m.
Wednesday, June 14
Columbia 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 15
Matanuska 11:30 p.m.

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

TIDES TABLE June 1 - June 8

	High Tides		Low Tides				
	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time	Ft	Ft	
June 1:	6:49	7:58	14.6	0:37	4.2	1:05	1.1
June 2:	8:08	9:01	14.9	1:55	4.2	1:05	1.1
June 3:	9:22	9:56	15.5	3:12	3.5	3:15	2.6
June 4:	10:26	10:44	16.0	4:20	2.5	4:15	2.9
June 5:	11:22	11:28	16.5	5:15	1.4	5:07	2.9
June 6:	12:10	14.1	5:58	0.5	5:51	3.0
June 7:	0:07	12:54	14.4	6:36	-0.4	6:30	3.0
June 8:	0:44	1:34	14.6	7:10	-0.9	7:04	3.2

The Way We Were

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

June 14, 1917: The School Board has elected Miss Edith Carhart principal of the Wrangell public school for the coming term. Miss Carhart is not a stranger in Wrangell, having been principal of the school here during the term of 1909-10. She was re-elected but preferred to return to the States. She has had 17 years experience, and always been reelected wherever she has taught. Miss Tressa Curtin has been elected teacher of the primary department. Miss Curtin has had 11 years as a teacher, seven of which were spent in the Fobes School at Snohomish.

June 12, 1942: The following announcement is made by William T. Mahoney, U.S. Marshal, First Division: The United States Marshal has been requested by Gen. Buckner to assist the army officials in preventing the sale by firms or individuals of any photographs and photographic postcards showing views of cities and military objectives in the First Division. The public is also warned that anyone found in possession of a camera or binoculars within the military area or vicinity of any town or base in the First Division in the Territory of Alaska will be subject to arrest and may be excluded from the Territory of Alaska.

June 9, 1967: A search and Rescue squad to coordinate air,

sea and land searches in cases of missing persons in the Wrangell area was formed here this week with C.V Henderson of the state Fish and Game Department appointed chairman. Other officials of the group are Bob Hillier, secretary, Ed Moraity, treasurer, Al Ritchie Jr., and Charles Traylor, board members. Outlining its program, a group statement said: “The two obvious ingredients of any search are manpower and money.” The manpower for this organization

will necessarily come from the community as will the funds. A fund raising drive will be held June 20, under the direction of the Wrangell Fire Department.

June 4, 1992: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced that 1992 salmon subsistence and personal use fishery permits were available beginning June 2. These permits are required to harvest salmon for subsistence and personal use purposes. Permits are available at the ADFG office.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
May 21:	55	53
May 22:	52	50
May 23:	51	48
May 24:	57	52
May 25:	59	54
May 26:	59	51
May 27:	63	52
May 28:	75	60



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
June 1:	4:20am	9:10pm	16:50h
June 2:	4:19am	9:12pm	16:53h
June 3:	4:17am	9:13pm	16:56h
June 4:	4:16am	9:15pm	16:59h
June 5:	4:15am	9:16pm	17:01h
June 6:	4:13am	9:18pm	17:05h
June 7:	4:11am	9:20pm	17:09h
June 8:	4:10am	9:22pm	17:12h

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Two charged in gas station theft, plead guilty

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Two young men were charged in connection with an early hour break-in at Alpine Mini Mart last week, which had resulted in the theft of some cigarettes.

Police had responded to an alarm call at the Zimovia Highway gas station on May 23, at about 3:30 a.m. Surveillance footage showed two persons in hats and hooded sweatshirts approaching the store's back entrance, opening an unlocked window and slipping inside. Using backpacks, the pair then absconded with what was reported to be 19 packs of Marlboro cigarettes. No other items had been removed, and no damage was done to the premises.

Two suspects were found and arrested soon afterward, with arraignment set for Tuesday. Craig resident Austin Tyrone Trudeau and Petersburg resident Logan C. Padgett, both 18, were charged.

Each was charged with Criminal Trespass 1 and Theft 4, Class A and B misdemeanors. Appearing in court Tuesday morning, both entered guilty pleas to the counts.

Trudeau was sentenced to serve 10 days with 10 suspended, with 16 hours of community work service to be completed within 60 days. A \$50 police training surcharge was levied, while a \$100 jail surcharge was suspended.

Magistrate Judge Chris Ellis ordered the same sentence for co-defendant Padgett. Both defendants shall also make restitution, an amount which at the moment has been left open but is expected to be resolved within the next 30 days. Both Padgett and Trudeau have been placed on probation until May 30, 2018.

Derby

Continued from page 1

was going to be big, and the salmon put up quite the fight. "Catching it was wonderful. It took a long time to get it in. Took about an hour to get it back to the boat where we could net it. Fought us and ran and it fought us."

The fish wasn't the only obstacle. During the reeling, the Rowlands had to shoo off sea lions and at one point were concerned by a passing whale.

"We got it in the net and it was all over, it was a wonderful experience," Smart concluded. A boat top builder of 40 years, he explained he has done quite a bit of fishing down in Washington. This was his first time fishing in Wrangell, and certainly the biggest salmon he had ever caught.

It was the largest the town had seen in a good while as well, at least during the annual derby. A 50-plus pound fish hasn't won the competition since 2009, and Smart's fish is the biggest since 1986, when Harry Sundburg brought in a 62.7 pounder. If Smart's catch isn't bested before June 11, it will have been the fourth largest in the derby's history. Found Island has historically been a winning spot, with four of the top 10 winners before this year coming from the area.

"We haven't had a fish that big in many, many years," said Cyni Crary, with the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce.

"We're going to get it mounted, I think," Smart said of his king's immediate future.

The dual catch put Smart and Rowland at the top of the ladder,



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TOM FORD

Shifting its weight around

The 330-ton marine lift at Wrangell's Marine Service Center raises its biggest vessel yet, Trident Seafood's tender F/V Entrance Point. Coming in at 349 tons, nearly all of its fuel, water and deck load had to be stripped down in order to get it strapped up and moved on April 22. The boat was up for steering work, and completed its sea trials last week. At 26 feet across, Entrance Point also maxed out the lift's width threshold, and at 108 feet was just short of being the longest lifted so far as well.

2017 King Salmon Derby Ladder (after fish weighed in: 5-29-17)				
	Name:	Weight:	Location:	Date:
1.	Gary Smart	64.1	Found Island	5-24-17
2.	Andrew Rowland	41.9	Found Island	5-24-17
3.	Greg Blair	39.5	The Mill	5-27-17
4.	Randy Easterly	35.7	Babbler	5-15-17
5.	James Rowland	35.4	Aarons Creek	5-27-17
6.	Brennon Eagle	34.6	Ferry Terminal	5-24-17
7.	Jack Kvale	33.9	Front of town	5-20-17
8.	Luella Knapp	32.8	Found Island	5-25-17
9.	Travis Bangs	32.0	Babbler	5-21-17
10.	Erik Gile	30.6	Babbler	5-22-17
\$500 WEEK 1 (May 13th - 19th) WINNER: Randy Easterly				
\$500 WEEK 2 (May 20th - 26th) WINNER: Gary Smart				
\$2500 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (May 27th - 29th): Greg Blair				

and landing the former the Week 2 prize of \$500, plus another \$500 for the first 60+ pound fish caught. If the standings hold up, he could be in line for the main prize of \$6,000 as well.

Heading into the derby's third week, Greg Blair was ahead after the weekend with a 39.5-pound salmon he caught off the Mill on Saturday. The fish puts him into third place overall, and has secured him the \$2,500 pot for the Memorial Day weekend.

Police report

Monday, May 22

Caller reported a reckless driver.
Concerned citizen: Caller spoke with officer.

Tuesday, May 23

Report of burglary.
Report of theft.
Civil issue.

Wednesday, May 24

MVA: Deer: Report that deer hit side of vehicle.
Parking in excess of posted limit.

Thursday, May 25

OTC: Received papers for several people that did not fill out paperwork for jury duty.
OTC: Paper service: Papers served.

Friday, May 26

Citation issued to Gerrit Jon Southland, age 34, for speeding.

Saturday, May 27

Disabled vehicle: Vehicle has been moved.
Hit and run reported. Both drivers brought in proof of insurance.
Gunshot reported around 5.5 mile Zimovia.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning given for equipment.

Sunday, May 28

Traffic complaint.
Agency Assist : FD: Possible fire reported under washing machine.
Citizen Assist: Officer assisted in securing a residence.
Parking Complaint.

There were four dog complaints this week.

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Dan's Dispatch

By Representative
Dan Ortiz

Southeast Alaska's beautiful scenery, abundant recreation facilities and pristine wilderness make us proud to call this land our home. We know our lands need regular beach clean-ups, invasive species must be pulled, and trails should be maintained for maximum safety and enjoyment. We also know our vast public lands are a prime resource for wilderness skills training, seasonal employment, and youth education. The Alaska Forest Fund is a potential opportunity for providing jobs, skills training, and improved maintenance of our public lands. Individuals, busi-



Dan Ortiz

nesses, or associations can donate to a forest project and see their donation matched, or exceeded, by the U.S. Forest Service. Some Southeast

Alaskan donors have already directed their funds to purchase kayaks for a youth skill training and employment program in Angoon, enabling teens to use their summer well, learning outdoor skills and completing a myriad of projects that benefit us all. Others have donated to maintain a well-loved trail system, or to provide necessary supplies for invasive species clean-up on the islands surrounding their home. You can be part of the effort to ensure our public lands and recreation facilities remain in the best condition possible. To coordinate with the Alaska Forest Fund on a project, or to make a donation, contact Patrick

Shannon, Director of the National Forest Fund's Pacific Northwest Program, at pshannon@nationalforests.org

Death Notice

Edward George Kuntz passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2017. Services will be held at Harbor Light, Friday, June 2, at 3 p.m. Full obituary to follow.

B.P.O. ELKS #1595

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wed.
www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com
Exalted Ruler Jack Pino
Visiting Elks always welcome

Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents

There will be no movie this weekend, our next film will be Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2 the weekend of June 9-11

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

Tickets:
\$5 for 12 & under,
\$7 for 13 & up

Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop

Letter to the Editor

In My Opinion

I am the art teacher for Wrangell Middle and High School, and I'm very proud of that position. As an art teacher I try to get my students to see things differently; I encourage them to see outside the box. I want them to see themselves as artists and to learn to be creative. Not everyone can see their own potential. They have to learn how. I think we used to teach that here in Wrangell. I think our school district is changing and not for the benefit of the students. I see a pattern in this district of people leaving Wrangell (Elementary, Middle and High School) in the last three years because they could not work with the current administration. It is a pattern that is continuing. People within the system are afraid to speak out and people outside the system don't realize what is going on. This is affecting our students. We currently have 45 students in Wrangell that are homeschooled; that's another school.

hoping someone else will be a better fit. What if we did that to our students? Are we doing that to our students? Are we modeling how to criticize and find fault rather than practicing a positive growth mindset? Students learn what they see.

We need to take a close look at what kind of district we want to be and decide whether or not our students really do come first. I have spoken out at many board meetings over the last three years and hoped for positive change and more responsive communication. I am not being critical just to hear myself talk. I believe that without information and opinions from staff, parents, and students the board can't make collaborative decisions to govern our school.

This is real. This is happening and is going to continue to happen. We are losing effective and committed employees because of an unhealthy climate. I feel there is a lack of trust in the upper administration that is felt throughout the district.

Students deserve a positive and safe environment where they can flourish. They are learning less and being measured more. School can and should be transformative.

We need to start listening to our students, our kids. We are encouraging them to continue their education after leaving Wrangell and hoping that their postsecondary experience is better than their current one. Parents, Grandparents, Teachers, Principals, School Board members and District Administrators need to allow the real stakeholders the students, the opportunity to get a quality education and guide their own future.

Put students first. Is Wrangell School District's vision statement vital or just nice words for a poster? Are we fostering and encouraging all students to achieve their potential in an increasingly global society? Now is the time to ask. Now is the time to act. Get involved.

Anne Luetkemeyer

In 2014-2015:

We lost our new MS/HS Principal he lasted one year. We lost our Information Technology Coordinator after 15 years. We lost our HS Secretary.

In 2015-2016:

We lost another new MS/HS Principal he lasted one year. We lost our Counselor/Test Coordinator. We lost our Assistant Technology Coordinator. We lost our Speech Therapist for the hearing impaired.

In 2016-2017 this year

We lost our MS Secretary. We lost our Elementary Counselor. We lost our UAS Technology Program Coordinator. We are losing our Activities Director and our HS Counselor. We are losing our Elementary School Principal. We have lost at least 8 Paraprofessionals from both the MS/HS and the Elementary.

That's 21 positions in three years.

Instead of encouraging, training and supporting people we are getting rid of them and

Estate Sale

ENGDAL RESIDENCE 311 MISSION ST.

- Yard tools
- Men's clothing
- Women's clothing
- Kitchen Items
- Furniture
- Teacher items
- Household goods

Friday, June 2 & Saturday, June 3
11:00am-6:00pm

RETIRED TEACHER'S POTLUCK



July 5, 2017
1-4 p.m.
Shoemaker Park
Open to all

POLICY FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

The Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 PM for Thursday publication.

Letters are run on a space available basis.

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Wrangell officer retires after 20 years

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A patrol officer will be hanging up his hat and badge this week, after two decades of public service.

Officer Terrell Courson officially finished with Wrangell Police Department yesterday.

"I wanted to be a cop when I was a kid," he explained. His father had been a firefighter, but had dissuaded his son from pursuing a career in either that field or police work. "Eventually I went into the military."

Courson served in the Navy for six years, primarily working as an aircraft technician aboard the *U.S.S. America*. His first policing experience came during the latter half of his tour. The aircraft carrier was in dry dock undergoing repairs, and Courson was temporarily placed on duty with the master at arms, providing installation and vessel security.

"The master at arms loved me," he recalled, being encouraged to go into it full time. "I spent a whole year as a Navy cop, then I got out."

This was in 1989, and afterward he did odd jobs for two years around Florida.

"Then I started working for my home department," said Courson. He joined the Winter Haven Police Department, serving as a patrol officer for a little over five years.

While there Courson met his future wife, Juanita, while she worked police dispatch. After marrying, the two eventually headed to a new setting in Alaska. He explained what had drawn him most was the state's pension system at the time, with retirement options after 20 years.

Courson began his first shift in Wrangell March 10, 1997. The police chief at the time, James Hasenohrl, met him at the airport. Courson recalled being told: "You've got your gun. Strap on, you're working."

Acclimating to the state's laws and justice structure took time, but Courson said he appreciated some of the differences from his last post.

"You serve the public here more than you do down south, in a lot of ways," he commented. "You're a peace officer here. Down south you're a police officer."

Working in a larger department in Florida had been quite different from his work environment later

in Wrangell, Courson explained. Tasks and duties were more specialized there, for one. "You have a homicide, you call a detective out to investigate, because you have to stay on patrol."

In contrast, rural officers in Alaska have to be more broadly cross-trained, having to serve whatever function is necessary at the moment.

"You are your own resource here," he said. As such, on patrol Wrangell officers have to be prepared to respond to a variety of emergencies, sometimes with limited support. To make up for this, officers get training in a number of different specializations.

"They realize the need," he said of WPD. I've been sent to training. Either you go out or they bring the trainers here," he said.

Courson had put in for retirement due to ongoing health concerns, after several years ago learning he had suffered a heart attack. As his family has a history of heart disease, the revelation was something which weighed on his decision.

"My grandfather worked for the Post Office, and he died six months after he retired. My father was a fireman, and he died two years after he retired. Both from heart attacks," he said. "So imagine I'm having chest pains, I thought it was heartburn."

Reaching his 20 years, he put in for his retirement for the end of this month, but recently learned that his heart had since improved.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Retiring police officer Terry Courson wraps up 20 years of service to the Wrangell community Wednesday. He will continue living in the community, though spending a bit more time traveling and helping out at the firing range.

"They did tell me it would heal up, which it did," he said. Courson considered reversing course, but the ball was already in motion.

The loss of Courson will put additional strain on WPD. Since last year, it has lost three of its officers, and has been having to cover shifts with on-call or overtime. With Courson's retirement, Wrangell's police force is down

to four officers, including the chief.

Speaking last week, Chief Doug McCloskey explained that after a recruitment drive two additional officers are expected to arrive later this summer, but the department will still be an officer short of its ideal. With seven on staff, it can cover Wrangell 24/7 without having to schedule on-call or overtime hours.

POSTED FUEL PRICES	
WRANGELL	
L N M:	\$3.65
Alpine Mini Mart:	\$3.65
PETERSBURG	
SE Island Fuel:	\$3.65
Petersburg Motors:	\$3.55
Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, May 30	

Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HCO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

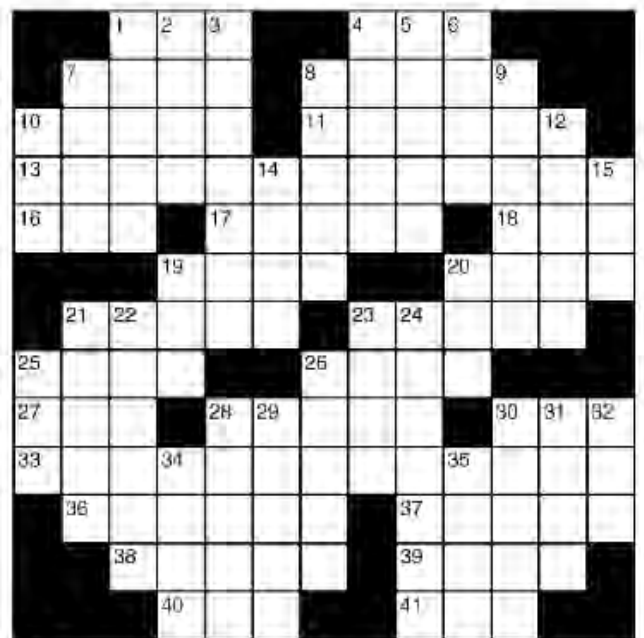
by Dave T. Phipps



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Space
- 4 Recipe meas.
- 7 Lass
- 8 Luster
- 10 Calcutta's land
- 11 High, wispy cloud
- 13 Orphan Annie's benefactor
- 16 Really messy place
- 17 Frogs' hangouts
- 18 Whopper
- 19 Crooked
- 20 Witnessed
- 21 Representative
- 23 Dervish
- 25 "Two and a Half Men" role
- 26 Oodles
- 27 Cacophony
- 28 Colorado tribe
- 30 Churn
- 33 Spider's cousin
- 36 Certain winner
- 37 Assessed
- 38 Tittles
- 39 Iowa State's home



- 40 Scepter
- 41 Scratch

- 8 Meager
- 9 Centers

- 10 Egos' counterparts
- 12 Downhill athlete
- 14 Refuse to
- 15 D.C. fig.
- 19 Stiller or Affleck
- 20 Firmament
- 21 Rap sheet entry
- 22 Best Picture of 1982
- 23 Bambi, for one

- 24 28-Down, to Tokyo
- 25 Toss in
- 26 Io and Ganymede, e.g.
- 28 Japanese city
- 29 Homeric epic
- 30 Heavenly gate keeper St. —
- 31 Census stats
- 32 1960s hallucinogen
- 34 Entrance
- 35 Dalai —

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Puzzle answers on page 6

Travelers build and ride canoe down Stikine

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A pair of French travelers made their way down the Stikine River to Wrangell from Telegraph Creek using a home-made dugout.

Both in their early twenties, friends Theophile Bouton and Karl Panchout have spent the past year exploring the Northwest, and their 11-day trip down the transboundary river was just one of a series of adventures.

This part of the story begins in the Yukon, which Panchout hitch-hiked across Canada to reach from Quebec about 11 months ago. "I met a friend of my uncle there," he explained. Bouton joined him there two months later.

"We are both from the same part of France," said Panchout, friends from the Centre-Val de Loire region, about two hours' journey from Paris.

While in the Yukon the two met a fellow countryman in the province, who has lived in Canada eight years and now owns a place in Telegraph Creek. He needed help maintaining the property, so Bouton and Panchout came to assist.

"We stayed one month there," Panchout recalled. He and Bouton then headed to the Arctic for four months to experience life in a Native camp. Afterward they returned to Telegraph Creek, and got the idea to travel the Stikine River.

They wanted to build their own canoe or dugout for the trip, something neither had ever built or even used before. As their

friend is a woodworker by profession, he was able to help with materials and expertise.

"I had the idea to do that and he said, 'Yes, why not?'" said Panchout. "He got a big spruce that was already on the ground. He worked the chainsaw, and we were the helpers."

The vessel took a week to prepare, ending up in a simple design that would fit the two French travelers and their gear. Bouton explained they did not have an itinerary in mind, or even a map. The two knew they would be following the river to its terminus, then would head from there to nearby Wrangell.

From Telegraph Creek, the Stikine courses its way about 160 miles to the Inner Channel waters. The river's high volume and various side-sloughs can make paddle travel difficult, even dangerous.

They set out, but soon found themselves in a bit of trouble. A crack in the front of the dugout was allowing water inside, which made the craft front-heavy.

"The first rapid we passed, the canoe flipped," Bouton said.

Fortunately for them, their friend had been following along in another boat to see whether the canoe was seaworthy. Travelers, gear and canoe were collected and moved to shore, and a patch of spruce tar applied to the crack.

"You mix spruce gum, ashes and grease," Panchout explained. "They used to use bear grease, but we didn't have any." Instead the two used cooking oil for the mixture. Applying it evenly to the crack and allowing it to set took time, so the second day was spent making repairs to their craft.

While they worked, Bouton



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTY GARDNER

Karl Panchout and Theo Bouton conclude an 11-day journey down the Stikine River in a home-made canoe on May 24.

said they also attached a plastic visor to the canoe's front to reduce water from splashing in.

"The boat is heavy," he said. "So the first wave is okay, but the second one comes under the waves."

The pair continued on their own from there, minding assorted obstacles and hazards along the way posed by woodpiles, rapids, branches and the like. The canoe was not especially maneuverable, so Bouton and Panchout would have to spot and react to these well in advance. After one day of particularly hard rain, the two had to navigate around a number of floating logs.

Still, they had no further trouble, making some new friends in the process. The pair came across the Alaska Department of Fish and Game tagging station at the border, and stayed there two days. They learned about the research team's work, and got some helpful directions as well. The ADFG researchers also loaned the travelers an emer-

gency radio, which was returned to the local office when they eventually arrived.

"They are really nice, extremely nice people," Bouton said.

The two continued on to the tubs at Chief Shakes Hot Springs, and made their way bit by bit down river. They kept a leisurely pace; of the 11 days they spent on their journey, only seven were spent paddling.

Panchout said the crossing from the river's mouth over to Wrangell was uneventful, with the water only mildly choppy.

"We had a little bit of water inside, but we had enough time to go across," he said. The two pulled into Reliance Harbor the afternoon of May 25. Mission accomplished, Bouton and Panchout are next exploring ways to continue southward. They have a friend in Petersburg, and may head up that way this week.

As for their canoe, its future will take a different path.

"There's two solutions," said Panchout. "We are still open to

exchange it, if somebody is interested," for materials or use for their future travels. "Or we have a place to leave it and our friend from Telegraph will come down and take it, and give it to the Tahltan community there."

The pair has miles more to go on their journey, hoping to spend the summer along the U.S. West Coast. They will make their way into Mexico, traveling through there to Central America. Ultimately they will be trying to meet up with a friend in Panama in December.

Bouton explained the meandering trip is more of an educational experience than a vacation. "We are here to travel, and to discover the culture and the life," he said.

"We are kind of students now. We are learning about everything, every time," said Panchout. "When you're doing hitch hiking, it's like university every day." Every interaction is a new lesson, another opportunity to learn a skill and exchange a story, he explained. "It's the perfect method for learning."

Classified/Legals

BOATS AND MARINE IFQ'S AND FISHING PER-

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is hereby given that the regular board meeting of the Wrangell Medical Center Board of Directors shall be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Nolan Center Classroom, Wrangell, Alaska. Separate notice for the regular Board of Directors meeting shall not be required.
Kris Reed
Board Secretary
Wrangell Medical Center
Publish: June 1, 2017

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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	P		T	S	P							
G	I	R	L	S	H	E	E	N					
I	N	D	I	A	C	I	R	R	U	S			
D	A	D	D	Y	W	A	R	B	U	C	K	S	
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Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

NOAA's coastal research programs and the Sea Grant program would be slashed

The 2018 budget unveiled on May 23 by the Trump Administration is bad news for anything that swims in or near U.S. waters.

At a glance: the Trump budget will cut \$1.5 billion from the U.S. Commerce Department, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) taking the hardest hit.

The NOAA budget for its National Marine Fisheries Service operations, research and facilities would be slashed by about \$43 million. It would eliminate NOAA's coastal research programs and the Sea Grant program. The Trump dump also includes pulling the budget from NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Program and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which targets recovery of West Coast and Alaska salmon runs.

Funding for management and enforcement of U.S. catch share programs, such as halibut, sablefish and Bering Sea crab, would be cut by \$5 million. The budgets for Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants, the Chesapeake Bay project, the Great Lakes Restoration Project and the National Estuary Program also would be eliminated. Another \$193 billion would be cut over 10 years from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that is used by over 42 million needy Americans to supplement food purchases and often includes government-purchased seafood. Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, told McClatchy News that the Trump administra-

tion "looked at the budget process through the eyes of the people who were actually paying the bills."

Next up, pollock patties - A freezer van is portside again at Dillingham, this time filled with frozen Alaska pollock patties. It's the third fish van to tie up at Dillingham in the past year from SeaShare a nonprofit that brings seafood destined for needy families throughout the region.

"We've distributed about 200,000 pounds of seafood to needy Alaskans over the past year, but it's very hard to reach some of the western Alaska communities because of transportation coordination and it gets really expensive," said Jim Harmon, director of the nonprofit group. "Last year we purchased a freezer container and filled it with frozen seafood in Seattle and shipped it north on an AML barge to Dillingham and installed it at the port there."

SeaShare is the only non-profit in the U.S. dedicated to bringing seafood to food banks. Since 1994 when it began as a "bycatch to food banks" effort, the group has donated over 210 million servings of seafood and provided the logistical framework to get it to needy Americans across the nation.

At remote places like Dillingham, Harmon said a true partnership helps pull it off.

"The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation was the champion that helped pull this together," Harmon said. "They issued a grant to pay for the labor that the Bristol Bay Native Association needed to coordinate the downstream distribution for

us. Peter Pan came through with a van load of sockeye and Chinook salmon and Ocean Beauty has made donations. It's community helping community."

"SeaShare's seafood will feed many low-income families. Currently, we are feeding roughly 272 households in 15 communities in the Bristol Bay region," said Barbara Nunn, Food Bank Manager at BBNA.

The first two Dillingham shipments included salmon; the van tied up now holds 7,000 pounds of lightly breaded, four-ounce portions of frozen Alaska pollock.

"Pollock is the biggest fish in the world that nobody knows about. It's not something we normally send to Alaska," Harmon explained, "but the At-Sea Processors Association donates 250,000 pounds of whitefish blocks every year and Trident converted them into breaded portions."

Bethel is the next Western Alaska seafood hub that SeaShare is eyeing for hunger relief.

"A lot of these coastal communities have fisheries, and they ship all the fish out. Then they import expensive food that, if it's frozen, has to be air freighted out there which is very expensive," Harmon said. "If we can help with a distribution framework by putting a freezer there and use surface freight rather than air, we can ship larger quantities and let them distribute it to outlying communities."

Have some herring!- Reintroducing mild-tasting, nutrient-packed herring to American menus is the goal of Seattle restaurateurs during next month's Northwest Herring

Week. The event, which began with just eight chefs three summers ago, has nearly doubled last year's participation.

"I think we're going to cut it off at 60," said Bruce Schactler, food aid director for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, an event sponsor. "I believe there are eight different James Beard Award winners taking part with their restaurants. So it's turning out to be quite the high profile thing. That's good when you're trying to recreate a market," he added.

Herring Week also has spread beyond Seattle to restaurants in outlying regions this year.

"We've been able to add more people over on the Bellevue side and as far north as Woodinville," Schactler said.

Five thousand pounds of herring fillets are being donated to the restaurants by North Pacific Seafoods from the recent fishery at Togiak.

Alaska's total herring catches top 30,000 tons each year and are

valued primarily for the roe from the female fish. The herring also is used as bait, but much of it, especially the males, is turned into fish meal. Globally, herring catches can top four million tons and the fish is a meal staple in other countries.

A McDowell study showed that Norwegian fishermen can fetch over \$1.40 a pound for herring. Last year in Alaska the average price of bait fish to fishermen was 18 cents a pound and just one penny a pound for roe herring.

Herring Week gives diners the opportunity to experience herring in a wide array of high end dishes.

"Everything from fritters to pickled and cured to grilled and everything in between," Schactler said, adding that the annual event could soon expand on the west coast and to Chicago and beyond.

Northwest Herring Week runs from June 19 to the 25th. Learn more and see a lineup of herring dishes at www.nwherringweek.com

Southeast commercial Dungeness crab fishery announced

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced that the 2017/2018 commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Southeastern Alaska will be opening as scheduled at 8 a.m. on June 15.

Dungeness crab fishermen must register their vessels and applicable gear with the department. The holder of a valid 2017 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit for Southeastern Alaska Dungeness crab must be onboard the vessel during fishing operations and the permit holder's name must be listed on the vessel registration.

Buoy tags must be purchased prior to fishing, costing \$1.25 each. Buoy tags purchased for the 2016/2017 season are still valid for the 2017/2018 season, but Dungeness crab fishermen must register their vessels with the department prior to fishing the 2017/2018 season. To obtain replacement tags, fishermen must report the unique number of the lost tag on a 'Tag Replacement Affidavit'. These forms are available at all area offices along with replacement buoy tags.

Tenders must also register with ADFG prior to taking Dungeness crab onboard and may not have any applicable gear onboard or be used to harvest them. After the season is closed, all Dungeness crab pots must be removed from the water, except that pots may be stored on the grounds with all pot doors secured fully open and all bait and bait containers removed for no more than seven days after the fishery's regionwide closure in Registration Area A, or for no more than 72 hours after a partial area closure. Reporting of lost pots, or pots left in a closed area in fishing condition, should be directed to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) offices in

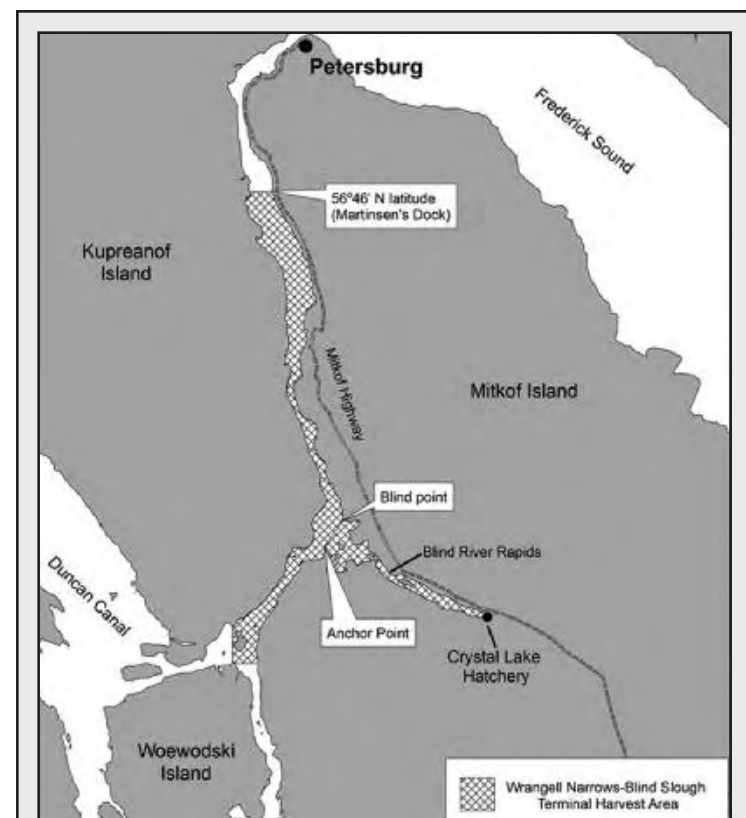
Juneau or Ketchikan.

The department will use catch and effort information from the first week of fishing to predict total season harvest and will compare that prediction to regulatory thresholds described in the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan to determine season length. Fishermen should expect a news release by June 29 informing the fleet of the regionwide season length. The department will be conducting dockside sampling in all major ports and aerial surveys on the grounds to determine fleet distribution.

Fishermen are reminded that this is the third season with closed areas in Port Frederick near Hoonah and Favorite Bay near Angoon. District 16 will be open to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab during the 2017/2018 fishing season. Permit holders intending to fish in District 16 are asked to contact Joe Stratman at 772-5238 or Adam Messmer at 465-4853 at the start of fishing operations.

The Yakutat Area Dungeness crab fishery will remain closed. Waters of Glacier Bay are closed by federal regulation to commercial Dungeness crab fishing. Fishermen may contact the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve at 697-2230 for more information. Closed waters within 3,000 feet of the Annette Island Reserve will be addressed in a separate news release issued in September prior to the start of the fall/winter fishing season.

For additional information and maps, consult the department's full fishery announcement at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main.



King salmon limits for Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough announced

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish announced the bag and possession limit of king salmon in the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough terminal harvest area, effective June 1 through July 31.

Under the regulations, king salmon bag and possession limits for residents and nonresidents will be two fish for those 28 inches or greater, and two fish less than 28 inches in length. Additionally, king salmon caught by nonresident anglers in the terminal harvest area do not count toward their 2017 nonresident annual limit.

In 2017, 2,500 king salmon from the Crystal Lake hatchery are expected to return to the terminal harvest area. Returns of this size are expected to provide for hatchery broodstock needs while allowing sport fishing opportunity. In accordance with the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 33.381), the department is directed to establish the above bag and possession limits when the projected return of king salmon to the terminal harvest area is at least 2,000 fish but less than 4,000 fish.

Anglers are reminded that snagging is not legal in the fresh waters of Blind Slough. When fishing upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point any fish hooked elsewhere than in the mouth must be released immediately. Bait may be used from June 1 - November 15 in the freshwaters of Blind Slough.

For further information contact Petersburg/Wrangell Area Management Biologist, Patrick Fowler at 772-5231.

Golf and auction raise \$35K for clinic charity

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A combination golf tournament and auction dinner raised just over \$35,000 for the hospital's charitable arm last weekend.

"It went really well," commented Kris Reed, with Wrangell Medical Center. This year there were about 140 booked spots at Saturday's evening tables, with the auction and dinner held at the Nolan Center's main hall. "We had almost a full house at dinner."

Running 10 years strong now, proceeds from the annual event go toward the WMC Foundation. It supports various efforts, notably its cancer care fund and scholarships. This year the Foundation has also begun setting aside funds for a future construction account, to benefit development of a proposed new hospital facility.

Coupled with the Brian Gilbert Memorial Golf Tournament held earlier in the day, the fundraiser surpassed what it raised in 2016, which had come just short of \$30,000. Big earners this year in the auction were a pair of travel packages, with destinations in Mexico and California's Napa Valley. Systemwide airline tickets were also a four-digit draw.

"The Alaska Airlines tickets were a favorite," said Reed.

An assortment of quilts, outdoor equipment, boxes of fish, football tickets and other contributed items garnered various amounts from dinner-goers. "We had a rifle that went for \$1,300," Reed said. After the main auction, a "paddle raise" was held allowing audience members the opportunity to pledge additional sums in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$1,000.

The Murkowski family Waterfall Foundation

contributed the largest block of funds this year, with \$10,000 going toward WMCF.

Funds are sometimes directed specifically toward one of WMCF's three initiatives. For instance, proceeds from one of the pistols that were auctioned went directly to the scholarship fund, while the Waterfall contribution went toward cancer care travel grants.

"Beyond that, it goes into the general fund and gets used however it's needed at the time," Reed explained.

Much went into planning and putting on the dinner and auction, with WMCF president Patty Gilbert and other board members joined by hospital staff and other volunteers. Help came from all corners, with four youths even assisting by working as spotters during the auction.

"There's always so many people who help out behind the scenes," said Reed.

The Brian Gilbert Memorial Golf Tournament drew a good crowd as well, with 22 golfers taking part in Saturday's nine-hole match. After an additional, tie-breaker hole, Faye and Keene Kohrt, Riley Little, and Eric Kading won the tournament with a score of 19. Just behind them were Kathleen and Wayne Harding, and Nate Johnson.

Six teams played in all, with third through fifth places also having to square off in a round-robin tie breaker. An evening "warm-up" was also played the previous evening, drawing 14 golfers.

Between the tournament and the dinner, turnout ended up making the weekend fundraiser one of its better evenings.

"It was such a beautiful weekend, and we really appreciate people spent the time with us," said Reed.

Assembly

Continued from page 1

Burgess noted there were other efficiencies staff were looking at, such as allowing people to pay their utility bills either automatically or manually online. Because of the ease and reward perks of using cards, many utility users make a monthly trip to City Hall to pay their bill, which diverts staff attention.

"Staff processes like 700 transactions a month like that," said Burgess. "There's a cost to having your staff wait after one person after another."

Hammer imagined that having an auto-pay system in place could cut disconnections for delinquent accounts by 50 percent. That could in turn save his staff time from having to disconnect and reconnect utilities.

Assembly member Stephen Prysunka took the idea a step further, suggesting that savings may eventually be found in automating actual staff positions. With regular cost and wage step increases to keep up with, he did not see how the city could otherwise hold off on raising tax rates indefinitely.

With a few other comments

from Assembly members, but no input received either verbally or in writing from the public, the budget draft met with approval. With additional adjustments expected, Burgess explained a final draft should be put before them again at the body's June 13 meeting.

Among its non-budgetary items Tuesday, the Assembly approved on first reading a draft ordinance updating Chapter 15 of the Municipal Code, relating to water shortage response and a process for installing water meters on users' utility hookups. Another ordinance amending the fine schedule to suit those changes was also proposed.

One member of the public spoke out against the item, specifically regarding water meters. "I'm against it," said Bernie Massin. He felt the city would be charging residents and businesses more to use less

water, without generating any additional water.

In past meetings, Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad and Burgess have proposed changes to water rates that better reflect production costs. Higher volume users currently pay significantly less per gallon than more moderate water users, the way the rates are currently set up. Use of meters and a tightening of the schedule was a suggested solution, which would also have the effect of reining in waste. Burgess had explained a readjusted rate structure could also boost utility revenues, which in turn would help replenish reserves for needed upgrades and maintenance.

Assembly members largely voted in favor of the proposed ordinance draft, with Mitchell voting against. Both ordinances are due back for a second and final reading at the June 13 meeting.

Manager

Continued from page 1

She had been one of the two candidates chosen for an on-site interview, arriving the second week of April to meet with members of the Assembly and wider community.

Her first impression of Wrangell was a positive one. "Everybody was so friendly and welcoming, and that's what I'm looking for," she recalled. "It's funny, when I told people - friends and colleagues - I was interviewing for the job in Wrangell, people started coming out of the woodwork with stories about Wrangell. ... It seems like everybody has a Wrangell story that I never knew about before until I mentioned it, and all of them have been exceedingly positive."

Due to other work responsibilities, Von Bargaen was only able to spend a couple of days in the community, much of that tied up with meetings and interviews.

"I didn't spend as much time as I would have liked," she said, adding, "I think I have a pretty good introductory understanding of the community."

Von Bargaen has also gotten a crash-course in some of the upcoming challenges the community faces, notably summertime production problems with its water treatment plant, but also an assortment of infrastructural needs and capital projects that need financing. There are parallels to be drawn with her experience in Valdez, but only to an extent.

"I have a lot of initial ideas churning in my head, given the information I have. I think it's extremely important to get a handle on the community. I need to have much more in-depth conversations with people who have far more experience in Wrangell than I do now," she explained. "That's something I don't want to do, is come in and say, 'We need to try this,' and 'we need to try that.'"

Von Bargaen admits that will take some time, but looks forward to the new opportunity. "There is a lot of time that has to be spent to get to know Wrangell really, and to understand how things need to evolve in the community, and how I can be a part of that equation."

Prior to her transition to Wrangell, Von Bargaen will be headed to a three-week program for public executives at Harvard University, in Massachusetts. "It's an intensive course for peers around the nation and internationally," she said. "This was something that was in play before I applied for the job in Wrangell."

While there she will meet and learn alongside other public administrators, about leadership issues, budgetary management and other such skills. Von Bargaen said she will also have an opportunity to make new peer contacts, professionals she can turn to for advice or counsel in the future.

"I'm extremely excited to have this opportunity to meet and talk about issues that I'm going to be dealing with directly now," she said.

She will complete the course June 23, returning to Valdez. She starts work in Wrangell July 17, but will be in town the preceding week to transition.

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