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November 16, 2017

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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8 Pages

Utilities capabilities on Assembly radar as year nears end

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At last week's meeting of the City and Borough Assembly, a number of ongoing infrastructural needs made the agenda.

One item of interest was acquiring a new backup generator to support one of the city's recently upgraded sewer pump stations. The pump station on Case Avenue is one of two primary stations servicing Wrangell's waste that were upgraded last year.

In the event of a power failure, Public Works has requested permission to purchase a 175 Kilowatt backup generator capable of running the pump. Currently the department has one smaller generator that provides backup power to its other primary pump station.

In the event of an outage affecting both stations, however, Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad made the case that the Case Avenue location would need its own generator. Despite its close proximity to the municipal powerhouse, she explained it was not feasible to simply extend power across the street to the unit, partly because of safety requirements but also because of time considerations. Though Wrangell Municipal Light and Power can typically have its backup generators on in half an hour to an hour, under periods of heavy use the pump station could be overflowing with sewage within 30 minutes.

"That was considered when we did the redesign," Al-Haddad said. "It wasn't to code."

The need was first arrived at during a planned outage earlier this spring, and a search for a similarly powerful generator from among local contractors had found no substitutes. She recommended sole-source purchase of a Caterpillar C7.1 175kw generator from NC Power Systems in the amount of \$45,330. Normally such purchases would go through a bid process, but given her department's compatibility with Caterpillar systems and NC Power Systems' role as the company's regional distributor, she felt the circumstances warranted a noncompetitive purchase.

Assembly members questioned whether this was wise, with David Powell requesting cost estimates from other firms. While he did not have any qualms with requesting a specific brand, he was hopeful a bid process could yield a more competitive price.

"It'd like to see it go out to bid," he said. Fellow members agreed, unanimously voting down the proposal.

Al-Haddad estimated she could have a proposal put together within a week, and that bids could possibly be in time for the Assembly's next meeting early next month.

Right-of-way conflicts with the owners of one property are still holding up resurfacing work and improvements along Evergreen Avenue. City manager Lisa Von Barga reported staff was continuing to try to reach a conclusion.

Columbia collecting seawater data for acidification study

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

One of the state's public ferries will help collect data on ocean acidification during its regular route.

The news was announced last week by Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center at University of Alaska Southeast, which has partnered with the Alaska Marine Highway System, British Columbia's Hakai Institute, Alaska Ocean Observing System and other federal agencies on the project.

The vessel chosen for the data collection study is the M/V Columbia, which at 418 feet and a gross tonnage of 3,946 is the ferry system's largest. On its route between Bellingham, Washington and Southeast Alaska, a seawater monitoring system affixed to its hull

will measure seawater for temperature, dissolved oxygen content, salinity and its carbon dioxide levels. Once read, sensors link with onshore observatory stations connected through the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and other researchers.

These variables will help coastal researchers in the United States and Canada keep tabs on ocean acidification, a process driven by CO2 absorption by seawater. As the greenhouse gas is discharged by human activity into the atmosphere, roughly a quarter – or 7,000,000 tons each day – is sequestered in the planet's oceans. The increased CO2 content reacts with seawater to create carbonic acid, which in turn affects overall acidity.

This can be problematic for ma-

rine life, particularly shellfish. Increased acidity can make it harder for larvae to form shells quickly enough to survive into adulthood, and can cause added stress for those which do. This can have negative impacts on commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries, and shellfish farms in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia have already begun seeing the effects with declining seed production.

Getting a good read on the variables can be difficult, but the research partners explained the Alaskan ferry fits the bill quite well. Operating 11 months each year, it covers a round-trip route of 1,854 miles each week. As it travels the same route every week, the Columbia's monitoring system can contin-

Continued on page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER HOWE

Appreciating America's uniformed men and women

With Chuck Petticrew in front, a group of local veterans passes through a gauntlet of students at a special Veterans Day ceremony at Wrangell High School. Featuring delegations from various community groups and grades of students, appreciation was extended to the Wrangell men and women who have served in the Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard. Initially known as Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I, the 2017 celebration is the 99th since the holiday was established in 1919.

While the road is city-owned, the project is managed by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which is putting up the majority of its funding. Designs have been complete, with a copy of the latest documents available to review at City Hall. Once all right-of way conflicts have been resolved DOT will request authorization of the federally-sourced funds to move forward for the construction phase.

The oft-delayed project has been in a holding state since 2013. Spanning the road from the ferry terminal until 500 feet from the airport turnoff, the addition of a sidewalk up to Petroglyph Beach has also been included in the design. Drainage along the roadway would be improved and utility poles realigned, and the road would see additional signage, curbs, gutters and guard rails.

Another state-supported project was revisited at last

week's meeting, with an update on the Shoemaker Bay Harbor redesign provided by Von Barga. She and finance director Lee Burgess are reportedly in communication with the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority about bonding for the project, which could cost up to \$11.4 million. The state DOT would put up \$5 million of that, with the remainder to come from bonds and harbor reserves.

One new development with the project is deciding where to place material dredged from the harbor. In initial plans that problem had been overlooked.

"We are having to make some decisions on where to have the dredge material," Von Barga explained. Material disposed of at an uplands site would not need to be tested for contaminants as it would in wetland areas, and several such sites would be available. But given recent concerns by the public over land contamination related to the former Byford junkyard cleanup last year, she recommended conducting tests anyway.

Testing to state and federal standards could cost tens of thousands of dollars, she said, and could push a construction start date back to March. "I'm sort of asking for a tolerance level from the Assembly," Von Barga said.

Asked for direction, the Assembly seemed in agreement. Member Patty Gilbert would like to see a firmer cost estimate before reaching a decision, which Von Barga would bring before the council at next month's meeting.

Gilbert was also interested in learning what upgrades would be required by the municipal water treatment plant before next summer's elevated demand. While not posing any problems this year, in 2016 the aging plant had been unable to keep up with demand, disrupting seafood processing operations and triggering a local state of emergency.

Consultants at Shannon & Wilson have recently completed a groundwater desktop study and have begun a study of the plant's two reservoirs. Von Barga said city staff is currently following up on their findings and is anticipating a final report, from which a long-term solution to the plant's problems may be found. Von Barga added that an interim solution may also be forthcoming, which will include cost estimates for residential and small commercial water metering – which could reduce overall demand by up to a third – and a water needs assessment.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, Nov. 16: Irene Buethe, Lorri Angerman, Hannah Armstrong, *Anniversary:* Jack and Terree Pino. **Friday, Nov. 17:** Kelsey McGee, Carol Snoddy, Talon Churchill, Laura Siggins, Cody Angerman. **Saturday, Nov. 18:** Jackie Dailey, Ann Phillips, *Anniversary:* Dave and Valeriy McCandless. **Sunday, Nov. 19:** David Joseph, Madison Robinson, Andrew Verteeg, Debra Larabee, Kimberly Cooper. **Monday, Nov. 20:** Kayla Gillen, Rodney Taylor, Clayton Smalley, Sue Ann Guggenbickler, Minnie Kalkins. *Anniversary:* Dick and Barbara Angerman, Tom and Glenda Gillen. **Tuesday, Nov. 21:** Kevin Stutz, James Shilts Jr., Michelle Villarma, Al Jahner, Trevor Miller, Sona Lewis, Mike Whelan, Kyler Angerman. **Wednesday, Nov. 22:** Jamie Early, Lynda Nore, Wyatt Thomassen, Asia Thomassen, *Anniversary:* Dave and Colleen Hought. **Thursday, Nov. 23:** Linda Bjorge, Earl Benitz, Caitlin Olson, Laura Davies, Arlene Wilson, Michael Morgan, Doug Thomas, Ron Schmohl, Sherina Meltzer.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, Nov. 16

Taco salad, re-fried beans, chips and salsa.

Friday, Nov. 17

Turkey pot pie, herb biscuit, romaine and radish salad.

Monday, Nov. 20

Half egg sandwich, split pea soup, apple salad.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Moos chop suey, rice, cauliflower tossed with tomatos.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Pineapple lemon chicken, confetti rice, mixed veggies, fruit slaw.

Thursday, Nov. 23

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, Nov. 18

Kennicott 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 19

Columbia 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Kennicott 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 25

Kennicott 6:30 a.m.

Southbound

Friday, Nov. 17

Kennicott 1:00 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 20

Kennicott 6:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Columbia 8:30 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 24

Kennicott 4:00 p.m.

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



TIDES Nov. 16 - Nov. 23

High Tides				Low Tides				
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
Nov.16	11:19	17.7	11:56	15.6	5:04	1.4	5:41	-1.0
Nov.17	11:55	17.8	5:41	1.6	6:15	-1.5
Nov.18	0:36	15.6	12:29	17.6	6:14	1.9	6:47	-1.6
Nov.19	1:13	15.4	1:01	17.1	6:46	2.4	7:18	-1.4
Nov.20	1:49	14.9	1:31	16.6	7:16	3.0	7:49	-1.0
Nov.21	2:24	14.4	2:01	15.9	7:47	3.6	8:22	-0.5
Nov.22	3:00	13.8	2:33	15.1	8:21	4.3	8:57	0.2
Nov.23	3:38	13.2	3:08	14.2	9:00	4.9	9:37	0.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, Nov. 16

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

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 a.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

Wrangell Fish and Game Committee will hold a meeting at Wrangell Fire Hall, at 7 p.m. The meeting agenda includes continuing the review of Shellfish Proposals to the Board of Fish. All are invited. *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.

The Way We Were

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

November 29, 1917: Several local mariners have called our attention to an error in our report of the Mariposa wreck. The Sentinel stated that the wreck occurred at a place that is out of the usual course of traffic. This is not true. Any large vessel leaving Wrangell northbound would pass very close to where the wreck occurred. It is only the smaller boats, such as the Humboldt, Jefferson, and City of Seattle that go through Wrangell Narrows. All vessels leaving Wrangell must go around Cape Decision and cannot avoid the perilous passage which the Mariposa and other vessels have been wrecked. This is another tremendous argument in favor of the Dry Straits project. With the Dry Straits channel open to traffic the traveling distance between Wrangell and Juneau would be considerably shortened, and the Dry Straits would be much safer for the larger boats than going around Cape Decision. The opening of Dry Straits would eliminate Wrangell Narrows as a passage.

November 27, 1942: A wind-storm of hurricane velocity for a few minutes struck Wrangell last Friday evening causing considerable damage. Half the roof was blown off the school building, other roofs were damaged, electric power and telephone lines went down and small damage to several other buildings was reported. A big spruce tree on the old Saarekofski property in the north end of town went down taking out all the wires on the lower street, just missing the Benny Lanting house and putting the entire north end in darkness. A tree also blew down on the Frank Churchill property adjoining. Considerable damage was reported to small buildings around the head of Shoemaker Bay. Lamps were in order until

the next day and those with electrical cooking equipment went without hot coffee the next morning.

November 24, 1967: City Councilmen have made a good decision in their choice for a new chief of police. William R. Kink, 33, is a professional lawman. We were a little surprised to find his name on the list of applicants for the job. Surprised because we had known him in California. Kink is the kind of a chief the city needs. He has a background in all phases of law enforcement, serving with two police departments and sheriff's force in California. He's been a lawman for 11 years. His training will be an asset to Wrangell. Councilmen should also be complimented for their decision to upgrade the department to a three-man force. Although it's still less than the community probably needs, it is a giant step from the two-man situation today.

November 19, 1992: A stop in Wrangell was hosted by Wrangell Little League to generate interest in the Mariners baseball in Alaska and to make the Mariners a team for all of the Pacific Northwest. The Mariners had already visited Anchorage, Juneau and Petersburg on the tour.

POSTED FUEL PRICES

WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.80

Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.80

PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.69

Petersburg Motors: \$3.62

Unleaded gas prices posted
Tuesday, November 14



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Nov.06	43	34
Nov.07	43	37
Nov.08	39	28
Nov.09	35	27
Nov.10	39	30
Nov.11	42	33
Nov.12	41	35
Nov.13	42	34



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Nov.16	7:24 am	3:40 pm	8:16h
Nov.17	7:26 am	3:38 pm	8:12h
Nov.18	7:28 am	3:37 pm	8:09h
Nov.19	7:30 am	3:35 pm	8:05h
Nov.20	7:32 am	3:34 pm	8:02h
Nov.21	7:34 am	3:32 pm	7:58h
Nov.22	7:36 am	3:31 pm	7:55h
Nov.23	7:38 am	3:29 pm	7:51h

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Wrangell BoF AC to recommend limits on crab pots and shrimp catch

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Advisory Committee (AC) to the Board of Fish reviewed shellfish proposals for the coming 2017-18 year last week, focusing primarily on several shrimp and crab measures.

Made up of various sport, commercial and subsistence users, locally-formed advisory

committees each year put together proposals for changes to fish and game management policies, and have the opportunity to review and weigh in on proposals from other committees. Their comments are then considered by the two boards when the different proposal sets are considered each year.

For the upcoming year the Board of Fish is due to review proposals for shellfish and finfish policies in Southeast and Yakutat between January 11 and 23, meeting in Sitka. Comments on those policies are due ahead of the meeting, by December 28 at the latest.

Considering shellfish last Thursday, Wrangell's committee was unanimously in favor of Proposal 54, which would reduce the maximum number of Dungeness crab pots per vessel used in the commercial harvest from 300 pots to 240.

On the Wrangell AC, fisherman Brennon Eagle thought the move to reduce pots has been overdue. In light of predation and other strains upon local popula-

tions, it was his opinion there is too much gear already on the ground. Even with the 20-percent reduction in pots Eagle suspected the same amount of crab as before would still be caught by Alaskan crabbers.

And as permits are issued on a percentage basis, all permit holders would be affected proportionately. The committee agreed, voting 14-0 in support of the proposal. Proposal 55 it objected to, having the opposite effect from the preceding measure. That proposal would see the number of allowable Dungeness pots increase to 400.

Committee members were unanimously opposed to Proposal 56, which would close waters at 12-mile Arm to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab. The Hollis Community Council proposed the measure because it felt the increase in predation by sea otters had left the crab population in a reduced state. It argued the limited closure would allow a sustainable biomass for personal-use fishermen, which would supplement the island's economy.

On the Wrangell committee, Otto Florschutz voiced his objection to the measure on the basis it would create a private or selective district.

"If there's enough for sportfish to harvest, there's enough for everybody to harvest," agreed Chris Guggenbickler, the committee's recently re-elected chair.

A proposal for opening an ex-

ploratory red king crab commercial fishery was likewise opposed by the group. Proposal 63 would allow the harvest in selected areas during years when estimated thresholds for legal males fell below the 200,000-pound minimum. Given the stock's fragility in Southeast, Guggenbickler thought exploratory harvests did not make much sense.

"It's pretty few and far between," he said. "I don't think it's that viable a thing in Southeast."

Not included in the upcoming proposal packet but still to be considered, Proposal 235 would repeal the Southeast Alaska management plan for Dungeness crab, adopting instead fixed-length summer and fall seasons. Put forward by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the proposal notes the current plan is based on harvest levels observed during the late 1990s, and posits that increased predation and other changes to the population in the years since warrants a change of approach. The Southeast fishery is the only in the state so managed, and having a fixed season would put it in line with other areas.

To give Wrangell AC members additional time to review the proposal and consider its possible impacts, Guggenbickler proposed revisiting the proposal at their next meeting, set for November 21 at the Fire Hall at 7 p.m.

Moving to the topic of shrimp, Wrangell's AC approved an

amended version of Proposal 76, which would establish imposing a minimum mesh size requirement for sport pots in Southeast Alaska. The first of their two amendments would expand that to include subsistence and personal-use fishermen.

"The escapement of small shrimp is something that has been proven to be beneficial for the resource," commented Eagle, who proposed the change. The proposal echoes this, suggesting the move would reverse a declining trend in shrimp stocks, which has led to several closures to areas in the region.

The other amendment put forward by the committee would limit personal use, which admittedly was an issue not addressed by the original proposal.

"I think it's something that needs to be on there," said Guggenbickler.

After some discussion the committee concluded use could reasonably be limited to one five-gallon bucket of shrimp per licensed person, per day. Utility buckets are ubiquitous among area boats, and enforcement of the catch would be easier than verifying the number of pots people are using. The group did not expect the amendment to gain any traction with the Board of Fish, but its inclusion would perhaps start a broader debate.

"It's just getting it on the table and opening discussion," Guggenbickler said.

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Police report

Monday, Nov. 6

Report of shoplifting.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Controlled Burn.

911 Misdial.

Hit and Run: Officer responded.

Gunshots: Sounded like fireworks. UTL.

Civil Issue.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Agency Assist.

Citizen report DUI: Unfounded.

Agency Assist: Harbor.

Thursday, Nov. 9

Agency Assist: Search and Rescue.

Friday, Nov. 10

Control burn.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Icy roads.

Icy roads.

Chimney fire: 911 : Report of fire, 2nd caller said it's under control.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Traffic Stop: Citations issued to Valerie Nakamura for revoked license, no insurance.

MVA: Caller talking to officer regarding vehicle damage.

Dog Bite: Report of person getting bitten.

Injured Porcupine: Officer responded.

Court report

November 7

Franklin M. Hayward, 28, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Leanna Nash for the first-offense count of a closed season violation of the Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan, a non-criminal violation. Pleading guilty to the charge, the defendant was fined \$1,500 and ordered to pay an additional \$10 surcharge for police training.

Tristan W. Schwelm appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Leanna Nash for the first-offense count of a closed waters violation of the Southeast Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan, a non-criminal violation. Pleading guilty to the charge, the defendant was fined \$1,500 and ordered to pay an additional \$10 surcharge for police training.

Tasha M. McColloch, 32, ap-

peared before First District Court Judicial officer Lanna Nash on the charge of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, a Class A misdemeanor. The defendant pleaded guilty and was ordered to serve 30 days with 27 suspended, and to pay \$1,741 in fines, surcharges and cost of imprisonment with \$100 suspended. McColloch was ordered to seek evaluation and treatment, and after driving privileges are restored after 90 days will be required to use an ignition interlock device for six months. She has been placed on probation for one year.

November 8

Micaelah J. Larsen, 19, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Leanna Nash on the charge of Harassment 2 - Likely to Provoke Violence, a Class B misdemeanor. The de-

fendant pleaded guilty to the offense, and as part of the plea agreement had charges of Criminal Trespass 1 and Resisting Arrest dismissed by prosecution. In a separate case, Larsen pleaded guilty to Unlawful Contact 1, a Class A misdemeanor. A charge of Violate Condition of Release was dismissed by the prosecution, as were two separate charges of Unlawful Contact 1 and one of Criminal Mischief 4. Larsen was ordered to serve 10 days with 10 days suspended, pay restitution as determined by the court, schedule and complete a substance abuse evaluation and recommended treatment, and pay \$300 in fines and surcharges with \$200 suspended. Additionally, Larsen was ordered to write a letter of apology to arresting officer Sgt. Bruce Smith. She has been placed on probation for one year.

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Lots of pins in Petersburg wrestling meet last weekend

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Wolves wrestlers had a good tournament in Petersburg over the weekend, edging out the home team for pins in a two-day tournament.

"It was good," said coach Jeff Rooney. "We ran a couple of different styles," he explained, with a scramble format followed by a round robin on November 10. The following day, round-robin match-ups were followed by a bracketed format.

In a mixed face-off on Friday, JD Barratt wrestled his way to the top of his 113 weight bracket. In a round-robin he won all three matches, ending two in pins after about a minute and a half and the third by technical fall.

Freshman Chase Kincaid finished the meet in second place for the 120 class, winning two of his three matches. After being pinned in 3:15 by Metlakatla wrestler Laura Ekada, Kincaid won over her classmate Jared Alirkar by 7-5 decision. He won the third round by 13-1 majority decision over Klawock senior Yajaira Ponce.

In the 145B bracket, sophomore Hannah Brown placed third in a round robin. Sitka student Reilly Holden won their first match by 14-0 majority decision, and classmate Wayne Young won the next by technical fall in 5:05.

Ian Jenson finished the 152-pound bracket in second place, winning two of three matches. In the second, he won over Thunder Mountain's Jacob Ferster by pin in 38 seconds, before finishing behind Klawock

senior James Heppe in a 7-2 decision.

Junior student Dillon Rooney finished in second place in his round-robin, winning by fall over Petersburg's Brandon Ware in 3:48, and losing in a close 4-5 decision to Thunder Mountain's Derek Mason.

Competing the following day, Barratt finished his second round-robin with three wins, with pins ending in 24, 28 and 36 seconds. In the finals bracket, he went on to beat Craig's Matthew Colbert by fall in 1:34, and in the final round won over Petersburg's Jolyn Toyomura in 2:37.

Kincaid also had a good Saturday, winning two of three rounds in the round-robin. Ekada again came out on top of the bracket, her pin over Kincaid in 2:42 securing a first-place finish.

Rooney explained that for time's sake, not every bracket had both a round-robin and bracket component on Saturday.

The 145 did, and Brown competed in two round-robin matches. The first ended in a technical fall for Holden, with Heppe winning the next by pin in 36 seconds. In the finals bracket she placed sixth overall in a face-off with Young, who won by fall in 19 seconds.

Also seeing both round-robin and bracket play, in the 152 Jenson won two matches in the former and finished third overall in the latter. After Heppe won by 10-2 majority decision in the finals' opening, Jenson competed with Ware for third place in the consolation bracket, finishing with a pin in 1:46.

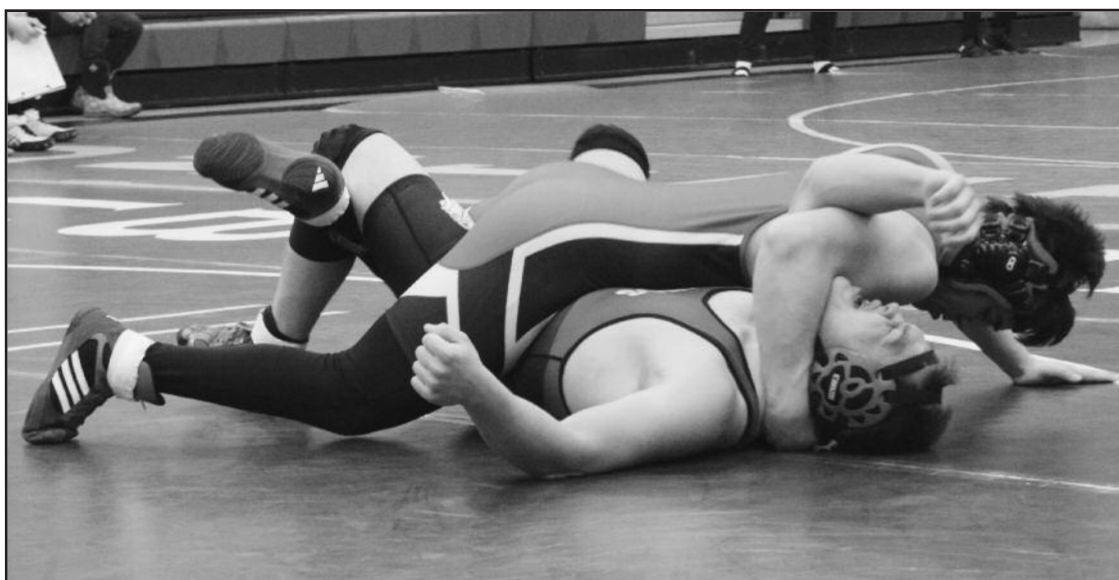


PHOTO BY BEN MUIR

On top, Wrangell's Dillon Rooney catches Vikings senior Brandon Ware in a pin on November 10, during a round-robin match in Petersburg.

Hunter Wiederspohn also finished third in the 160 weight bracket. In the preceding round-robin, the sophomore won one of his two matches. In the bracket, after being pinned by Sitka's Kyler Sumauang in 1:02 he won over Petersburg's Koren Sperl by forfeiture in the final.

The junior Rooney won his two matches in Saturday's round-robin, and went on to take second place in the bracket. After winning by fall in 3:20 over Thunder Mountain's Camden Erickson, he was bested for first by Thunder Mountains junior Derek Mason by 5-0 decision.

"They did very well, a lot of

good wrestling," Coach Rooney said afterward. With their season drawing to a close within the next month, the team has been showing good progress. "We learned quite a bit."

The team's performance was hampered by a couple of injuries, and in order to recuperate

Rooney said the team will forgo this upcoming weekend scheduled in Klawock. That should allow the team to recharge over the Thanksgiving break as well, in time for its next meet in Sitka on December 1. After that, Region V is scheduled the next weekend in Ketchikan.

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR MUSIC STUDENTS!
Robyn Booker, Laura Helgeson and Jing O'Brien were selected to attend Honor Festival. Robyn Booker was chosen to represent Wrangell Public Schools at the State Honor Music Festival!

Wrangell Sanitation Department GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE for the Thanksgiving holiday week

• Garbage normally scheduled for pick-up on Thursday, November 23rd will be collected the previous day, on Wednesday, November 22nd.

• Garbage normally scheduled for pick-up on Friday, November 24th, will be collected the following Monday, November 27th.

Because two trucks may be running on these altered collection days, garbage may be collected earlier than normal. **Please ensure that your trash cans are on the roadside by 8:00 a.m.**

PUBLIC WORKS AND THE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY WILL BE CLOSED ON **THURSDAY, NOV 23RD AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH.**



Published: November 16 and 23, 2017

HOLIDAY BAZAARS

HOSTED BY:
WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AT THE STIKINE INN

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3 PM - LATE 10 AM - 6 PM

JOLLY SHOPPING BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DEC. 23RD
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Close games in volleyball home matches last weekend

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's volleyball program had some close games over the weekend during its one home meet of the season.

The high school team hosted neighboring rivals Petersburg last Friday and Saturday. The girls followed up from Metlakatla the previous weekend, where it maintained its third-place seeding after a closely-contested round-robin. Wrangell won its games versus the hosts, Haines, and Skagway by default. Craig won after a drawn out five-match game and Klawock pulled a third win in a four-match series. Petersburg came away undefeated, a clear frontrunner among the region's teams.

Wrangell very nearly broke its streak on Friday. The first match was a protracted battle, ending at last in a 30-28 Petersburg win. The Lady Wolves followed up with a win of its own, 25-23, and took the lead after winning the third match 27-25. Petersburg was able to rebound with a 25-21 win in the fourth match, and in a shortened tiebreaker match finished ahead with a 15-13 win.

Saturday's game began similarly, this time with Wrangell taking the first victory 25-21. The team maintained a lead until the two teams tied at 20. A couple of misplaced serves and a foot past the net secured its win. In extended time, Petersburg

eked out a win in the follow-up match 26-24, before handily winning the next two matches, 25-16 and 25-15.

The weekend was a successful one for Wrangell's junior varsity girls, with the squad winning its games both evenings. On Saturday the girls bested the Petersburg JV in three matches, with Bethany Comstock taking the winning point during a 25-10 in the second.

"We were glad that they could play in front of their parents," coach Jessica Whitaker commented afterward. The girls have grown together as a team over the season, as demonstrated by their wins over the weekend.

Because the game was being played at home, time was taken to recognize the team's outgoing senior classmen. Half of the team will be graduating this year, and Whitaker took time to highlight the six girls' achievements and future plans. Graduating will be Kayla Hay, Krissy Lockabey, Erin Galla, Kiara Meissner, Bethany Comstock and Anna Allen.

"It's sad to always see them go, but I'm excited to see what next their life will bring," said Whitaker.

The Lady Wolves head next to Region V, departing for Petersburg later today. They are first up against Haines, and the region's top two teams will be headed to State in Anchorage on November 30.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Wrangell senior and outside hitter Kayla Hay returns a volley during Saturday's home game against Petersburg. The Lady Wolves won their first match of the evening but after a close loss, the next in extra time, finished behind the yet-undefeated team. The two head to the Lady Vikings' home turf this weekend for Region V play.

Alaska Senate adjourns after passing crime bill

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Senate set aside constitutional concerns and approved a crime bill Friday, but it sidestepped taxes when ending the special legislative session.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska warned lawmakers that a provision of the crime bill, passed by the House this week, would make presumptive sentence ranges for first-time Class C and Class B felonies the same.

The group said this would violate due process requirements. The ACLU of Alaska said the concept of graduated offenses is to ensure

more serious crimes are sentenced more harshly. Class C felonies are a lesser class of felony.

The organization warned of legal action if the provision were adopted.

The bill, SB54, was prompted by public outcry over crime and intended to address concerns that arose from a criminal justice overhaul passed by lawmakers last year.

The Senate passed its own version of SB54 earlier this year but on Friday voted narrowly to adopt the House version, which Senate President Pete Kelly said was

tougher on crime.

Kelly, a Fairbanks Republican, said if senators want to be tougher on crime they are "almost duty bound" to vote to accept the House version.

There may be a constitutional issue, "but it doesn't take the whole bill out," he said. "It only takes that section and puts it in question. We may win or we may lose in a court fight on that."

Sen. John Coghill, who earlier this week said he would recommend a conference committee on the bill, voted to support the House version.

Gov. Bill Walker, who was in China this week, said in a statement sent to media Friday night that the crime bill returns "meaningful tools" to law enforcement and judges. "However, our work on criminal justice is not yet over, and SB 54 as amended contains some issues that must be further addressed by the Legislature," the statement said.

House Speaker Bryce Edgmon called the Senate's actions "an abdication of their responsibilities."

"They allowed a constitutionally flawed bill to be sent to the governor and they worsened the

ongoing recession and fiscal crisis by refusing to even consider a new revenue proposal," he said in a statement.

Edgmon, a Dillingham Democrat, told reporters the potential legal issues with the bill came to light after the House passed it and could have been fixed in a matter of days by working with senators.

He said a decision on next steps had not been made. The House could continue to meet but could not force the Senate to do any more, he said.

During the special session, which began Oct. 23, the Republican-led Senate showed little interest in the other issue on the agenda — a wage tax proposed by the governor to help address a multibillion-dollar state budget deficit that has persisted amid low oil prices.

"I am deeply saddened that the Senate has decided to again ignore Alaska's fiscal crisis," Walker's statement read. "We need a complete fiscal plan to support prosecutors and police, and to pay for some of the policy decisions made in this amended version of SB 54."

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Wrangell Swim Club marks one year of competition

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's youth swim team started its second competitive year at Petersburg's November Rain meet last weekend, hosted by the Viking Swim Club.

The annual event was last year Wrangell Swim Club's very first to field in competition, and its participants have since taken part in several more around the state in the year since.

"It's not too big, it's not too far from home, and the meet only lasts six or seven hours a day. It's a nice beginning swim meet," explained Wrangell coach Jamie Roberts.

This year the team was able to send 18 of its swimmers, joining 77 others from Petersburg, Craig, Juneau and Ketchikan.

"It is also an open meet," explained Bruce McQueen, who coaches WSC with Roberts. "So any swimmer registered with USA Swimming can swim any event in their age group. That makes it a great first meet for new swimmers, and Petersburg does a great job making everybody welcome."

Of the Wrangell swimmers, the weekend's meet was the first competitive one for six of its members. Thirteen of the group finished with fast enough times to qualify for the Southeast Championship meet in Ketchikan next month.

"Southeast Champs is essentially 'regionals' for age group swimming, and it requires qualifying times to participate," McQueen explained. Next month's meet will include a bonus, allowing each qualifying swimmer to swim an additional event under 200 yards.

During the meet there were a number of strong placements. Nikolai Siekawitch scored 137 points overall, including first place in the boys 11-12 200-yard individual medley, 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, 50- and 100-yard freestyle and 100 yard backstroke. Jack Roberts scored 86 points overall, including a first place finish in the 50-yard butterfly.

Renee Roberts was the team's high scorer, with 161 points overall. She took first place in the girls 100-yard freestyle. Alisha Armstrong scored 108 points overall in the meet, including a second-place finish in the group's 50-yard backstroke.

The meet was also a place for new swimmers to shine. Stella Bunes was the youngest Wrangell competitor in November Rain. She scored 3 points overall and shaved over 22 seconds from her best 50-yard freestyle time.

Siblings Reese and Ryley Corn only joined Wrangell Swim Club in September, and were new to the sport. Reese scored 2 points and completed the 100-yard freestyle in 16th place. Ryley scored 57 points and



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANIA CORN

Wrangell Swim Club gathers together at Petersburg's annual "November Rain" swim meet last weekend. Of the team's 42 members, 18 were able to attend the nearby meet. They include Alisha Armstrong, Jimmy Baggen, Paige Baggen, Stella Bunes, Reese Corn, Ryley Corn, Trinity Glaser, Carter Hammer, Daniel Harrison, Ben Houser, Christina Johnson, Sean McDonald, Sophie O'Brien, Jack Roberts, Renee Roberts, Andrei Siekawitch, Nikolai Siekawitch and Rhiannon Wenzel.

completed a continuous 500-yard freestyle swim 47 seconds faster than her seeded time.

"They did really well," said Roberts. "It was fun. We had a good time on the pool deck and we had a good time back at the church, kind of team-building, team bonding with dinners together, playing chess and hide-and-seek."

Over the past year the fledgling program has swelled to 42 kids. "Our youngest is

five, our oldest is 14," Roberts explained.

The team's 10-month practice season includes two open meets sanctioned by USA Swimming and several local inter-squad meets. Swimmers achieving qualifying times at these meets can also plan to attend three other championship meets around the state. WSC also trains swimmers to participate in the Special Olympics summer games in June.

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City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE

At their Regular Borough Assembly meeting held on October 10, 2017, the Borough Assembly approved canceling the upcoming Regular Assembly meetings on November 14th and November 28th and holding only one Regular Assembly meeting in November, on **Tuesday, November 7, 2017.**

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

Published: November 2, 9 and 16, 2017

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL In-House and Public Announcement ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION RECREATION COORDINATOR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for a Recreation Coordinator to join the Borough's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Recreation Coordinator assists and supports all functions of the Parks and Recreation Department, with primary duties including facilitating activities of recreation programs, program development for youth and adults, program promotions and participant recruitment, supervising aquatics activities and lifeguard staff, swim lesson instruction and supervision, daily income reconciliation, weekly cash deposits, attendance tracking, reservation management and participation in policy and procedure updates. The position requires the knowledge and ability to plan, implement and evaluate recreation programming for all ages. The Recreation Coordinator also acts as the evening shift supervisor for the Recreation Facility and Swimming Pool, which necessitates a general knowledge of national lifeguard standards, best practices, and facility operations.

The position will appeal to a candidate who thrives in a fast-paced, collaborative, and team-centered work environment and enjoys interacting with community members, families, and children. The successful candidate will have experience that demonstrates strong organizational skills with an ability to navigate and/or to learn common programs such as; Microsoft Excel, Outlook, Word, Adobe Acrobat and the departments Recreation Management software. The position also requires strong customer service skills and abilities including during times of high workflow. An aptitude for solving programs autonomously and efficiently will serve as an asset to the successful candidate.

Preferred education and experience include a high school diploma or equivalent, ability to gain a Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor certification upon hire and two years of recreation programming management or a position closely aligned with the duties, responsibilities and skills required. This position may serve as the Acting Parks and Recreation Director in Directors absence.

This is a permanent 30 hour a week position with full benefits, paid hourly (overtime-eligible) at Grade 12 ranging from \$17.73 to \$24.63 per hour. Some overtime may be authorized and/or required. The full job description and employment application can be found online at www.wrangell.com/jobs.

To be considered, submit a cover letter, resume, and completed employment application via e-mail to clerk@wrangell.com, or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, AK 99929. **Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Wrangell Borough Manager

Published: November 16 and 23, 2017

LEGAL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

ORDINANCE NO. 935

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 3.05 OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, ASSEMBLY – RULES OF PROCEDURE

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

Publish: November 16, 2017

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.

Publish: November 16, 2017

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Fewer men and women went out fishing in Alaska last year

Fewer men and women went out fishing in Alaska last year, in a familiar cycle that reflects the vagaries of Mother Nature.

A focus on commercial fishing in the November Alaska Economic Trends by the State Department of Labor shows that the number of boots on deck fell by five percent in 2016 to about 7,860 harvesters, driven by the huge shortfall in pink salmon returns and big declines in crab quotas.

Fishing for salmon, which accounts for the majority of Alaska's fishing jobs, fell by 6.4 percent statewide in 2016, a loss of 323 workers.

The only Alaska region to

show gains in fishing jobs last year was Southcentral, which includes the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet fisheries, as well as fishing boats out of Homer, Seward and Kenai. All of the region's fisheries added jobs in 2016, even salmon, scoring the state's second-highest total employment at 1,661 harvesters.

Southeast Alaska had the state's largest slice of fishing jobs in 2016 at 29 percent, or 2,275 fishermen. But that reflects a decline for the third straight year. The Panhandle's harvesting employment dipped 0.8 percent in 2015 and then 2.3 percent in 2016, declining by 53 jobs.

Fishing jobs at Kodiak fell by

8.5 percent in 2016, erasing the job gains of the few prior years. That reflected a poor salmon season, where fishing jobs dropped 14 percent, combined with slight drops in fishing for pollock, cod and other whitefish.

Bristol Bay, where fishing jobs rely almost entirely on salmon, took the hardest hit last year. The 1,276 permits fished reflect a loss of 133 fishing jobs, or 9.5 percent.

For Alaska crabbers, fishing jobs were down by nearly 19 percent to 464 persons, a loss of 107 fishermen and the lowest level since 2009. That was due to lower crab numbers and a called off Tanner crab fishery in the Bering Sea. The crab cuts cost the Aleutians and Pribilof Islands more than 122 fishing jobs in 2016, a 7.8 percent decline.

Looking ahead, state economics said reports of record catches and a 67 percent higher payday for Alaska salmon fishermen this year suggests a resurgence in harvesting jobs for 2017, while other catches, such as cod, appear weaker.

New products compete! Fourteen new Alaska seafood products will be showcased and judged this week at Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle. The products are competing in the annual Alaska Symphony of Seafood, hosted for 25 years by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

In the foodservice category, the entries are Smoked Black Cod dip by Saltwood Smokehouse in Seward, Hot and Spicy Wild Alaska Pollock Fish Sandwich by Trident Seafoods and Alaska Sockeye Salmon Bites by Orca Bay Seafoods.

Saltwood's dip also is entered in the retail category, along with Kelp Campfire Salsa by Barnacle Foods of Juneau, Smoked Sockeye Trio by Trapper's Creek Smoking Co., Wild Alaska Skillet Cuts by Trident, Jack Link's Salmon Jerky by Link Snacks of Minnesota and Alaska Flounder Parmesan with Marinara by Orca Bay.

The Beyond the Egg category, intended to introduce more roe products, attracted one entry – Trident's Barako Style Wild Alaska Pollock Roe, meaning in a squeezable tube.

Beyond the Plate entries highlight the many items that can be made from fish byproducts. Cod Crunchies Pet Treats by Alaskan Leader Seafoods is competing against three crab shell-based en-

tries from Tidal Vision LLC of Juneau: High Tide, a plant immune booster, Game Meat Protector, a spray that prevents spoilage and repels insects, and Crystal Clarity, a 1% Chitosan Fining Agent for beers, wines and other beverages.

Fish watch - The eight-month Pacific halibut season ended on November 7, with Alaska longliners taking 96 percent of their 17.6 million pound catch limit. Kodiak led all ports for halibut landings topping 3 million pounds, followed by Seward and Homer.

The industry will get a first glimpse of next year's potential catches at the International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting Nov. 28-29 month in Seattle, and final numbers will be announced in January.

The Alaska pollock fishery called it a wrap on November 1 with a catch topping three billion pounds. The pollock harvest is pegged at that amount for 2018. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will announce catch limits for pollock, cod, flounders and myriad other fish species under its purview during its Dec. 4-12 meeting in Anchorage.

The state Board of Fisheries meets Dec 1-5 in Valdez to take up commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries at Prince William Sound and the Upper Copper and Susitna River regions. A one hour training session on "How to Navigate the Board Process" is set for Dec. 1 during the noon break.

Frances Leach of Juneau will take the helm at United Fishermen of Alaska, the nation's largest commercial fishing trade association. Leach currently works in the commercial fisheries division at the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

"Having grown up in a commercial fishing family in a coastal community (Ketchikan), I understand the importance of commercial fishing to Alaska's economy and cultural heritage. The commercial fishing industry faces many challenges at the state and federal level, and I look forward to addressing these challenges as UFA's Executive Director," Leach said in a press release.

UFA represents 34 member organizations from fisheries across Alaska and its offshore waters. Leach will begin her new job at UFA on January 5.

Got gas? "Not since the

campfire scene in Mel Brooks's film Blazing Saddles has the world been exposed to flatulence on such an epic scale."

So reads the recent headline in The Times UK announcing that, unlike cowboys eating gassy beans, in this case it is shellfish that are producing vast amounts of methane.

Researchers off the coast of Sweden showed that underwater flatulence by mussels, oysters and clams produced one-tenth of greenhouse gases released in that part of the Baltic Sea, equivalent to 20,000 cattle. The Stockholm University scientists said they believe the shellfish are farting more robustly due to increased digestion of agricultural fertilizers in coastal waters.

On a more helpful note, fish farts also are giving researchers and managers clues to fish distributions.

ScienceShots, a publication from the American Association of the Advancement of Science, reports that a University of South Florida team picked up barely audible, cricket-like noises using a robot glider that sampled ocean sounds in Tampa Bay.

The sounds lasted throughout a day and night, and were most likely from massive schools of menhaden and herring releasing gas from their swim bladders.

NOAA estimates that of the 30,000 or so fish species in the world oceans, fewer than 1,000 have been recorded.

The tiny cusk eel, for example, can sound like a jackhammer. A drum fish protecting its nest makes a mix of thumping and fog horn sounds. And for years the mating calls of cod fish have wreaked havoc for the Norwegian navy, because the love sounds are similar to enemy submarines.

Researchers believe that tuning into the underwater soundscape can offer more clues to where sea creatures are and what they are doing.



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Wrangell to hold second SEAPA seat on 2018 board

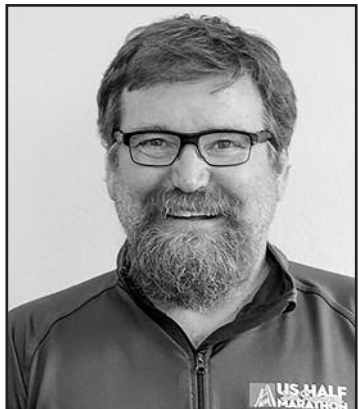
By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's mayor chose the community's new voting and alternate member on next year's Southeast Alaska Power Agency board.

Based in Ketchikan, the regional power provider services that community, Wrangell and Petersburg. The three member utilities pool production from their hydroelectric facilities and collectively purchase power from the agency through 25-year power sales agreements, with the current agreement extending through 2034.

Decisions guiding the agency is overseen by a governing board consisting of five voting directors, appointed annually by the three communities' mayors, with each seat having an alternate. The largest of the three, Ketchikan permanently maintains two seats on the board, with Petersburg and Wrangell allotted one apiece. For sake of balance, the fifth seat rotates between the three communities each year, meaning Wrangell last held two board seats in 2014.

Mayor David Jack reached his decision during last week's Borough Assembly meeting. Representing Wrangell on the board since his initial appoint-



Stephen Prysunka



Clay Hammer

ment in 2014, Assembly member Stephen Prysunka was again selected to sit with SEAPA as a voting member. Wrangell's current alternate member, Municipal Light and Power superintendent Clay Hammer, was also appointed to sit as a full voting member for next year's board.

Jack had three further names to consider for the two alternate seats, selecting Kim Lane and Lee Burgess, the city's clerk and finance director, respectively.

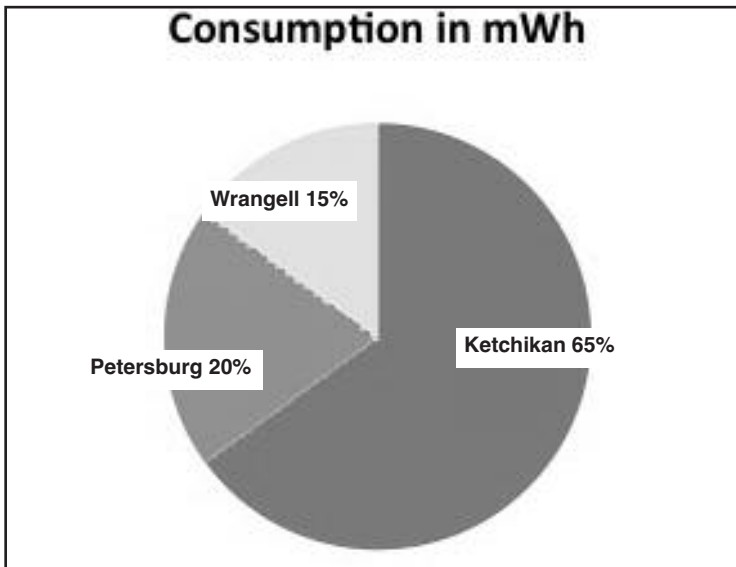
"I think it's good to have the staff involved in what's out there too," Jack reasoned.

The current board, which sits three members from Ketchikan and one from Petersburg, is due to meet for its final meeting on December 13 in Petersburg. Who the other members of next

year's board will be is yet to be announced, and will likely be made public at next month's meeting.

New membership will convene for its first meeting in Ketchikan next year, likely in early February.

At its last meeting in Ketchikan this September, the board learned that power sales for SEAPA had set an all-time high during the 2017 fiscal year, at 186,768 Megawatt hours. While a boon to the agency, it was noted that sales can swing significantly from year to year, one of the reasons it issues an annual rebate to constituent communities. At its previous meeting the board had approved a rebate to member utilities for the 2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$2.7 million, pending



SEAPA ILLUSTRATION

A chart breaks down total power sales between Southeast Alaska Power Agency's constituent members. With 70 percent of the population, Ketchikan's usage is correspondingly higher than either Petersburg or Wrangell.

the results of its annual audit. The rebate gets divided between communities as a proportion of its total usage, which for

Wrangell is roughly 15 percent. It was expected the local utility would receive just over \$606,000 back.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD BRENNER

Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center director Allison Bidlack and researcher Wiley Evans of the Hakai Institute prepare a monitoring unit onboard the M/V Columbia, which began collecting data late last month for a regional ocean acidification study. The information it gathers will be used to fill in a data gap along the Northwest coast as the ferry travels between Skagway and Washington.

Columbia

Continued from page 1

uously track these different indicators, how they vary from one place to the next and by season. From this, researchers hope to be able to determine what is driving the acidification process.

"There's no manipulation of the seawater, these are all direct measurements that don't involve changes in the seawater character in any way," said Wiley Evans, an oceanographer with the Hakai Institute. "Ocean acidification is a moving target. It's the trajectory of our coastal waters being forced by increasing atmospheric CO2 content, and in order to capture that we need to make measurements over a long period of time."

The Columbia's route between Skagway and Bellingham is the continent's longest ferry run, and its 11-month schedule will allow for a nearly complete data set. It also runs during the yearly spring bloom, which can shed some light on how ocean acidification affects phytoplankton and

other marine life.

The monitoring system was designed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, which has been collecting acidification data in the open ocean since 2000. NOAA researcher Geoff Lebon explained that the Columbia collection will be unique in that it will include seasonal changes, ocean currents, high rainfall, river inputs and glacial melt along an extended stretch of coastline. The study will likely endure for years, with the data being used alongside other sources.

"The data will be available, probably not for another year or so," explained Allison Bidlack, ACRC director.

This particular project began collecting data two weeks ago, with the monitor installed last spring during Columbia's last layup. A website set up through AOOS will likely put the information out to the public, potentially before Fall 2018.

NOV. 17TH - 19TH

HARVEST FEST SHOPPING

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