

## Governor's Southeast visits hampered by bad weather

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Governor Mike Dunleavy's planned visits to two Southeast Alaska communities, Petersburg and Wrangell, have been cancelled due to bad weather. Cold temperatures plus snow and rain have made travel around the region difficult. The planned meetings, for Feb. 3 and 4 in Petersburg and Wrangell respectively, were to be part of a town hall series where the governor could receive input on the PFD, services valued, and other topics.

"I want to hear your thoughts, understand your concerns, and see your vision of what you want Alaska to be like for our children and grandchildren. Your input will be valuable in solving many of the issues our state is facing," Dunleavy said in a press release from Jan. 31.

Jeff Turner, deputy director of communications for the governor, confirmed that the trips were cancelled because of the weather. However, he said that they will be rescheduled in the near future.

## Plans for 2020 4th of July celebration discussed in community meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The Wrangell Chamber of Commerce and other city officials hosted a public meeting to discuss the upcoming 2020 Fourth of July celebration. Wrangell is well known for going all out with its week-long schedule of events for the Fourth, and a preliminary draft schedule shows that this will be the same this year. While there was low turnout for the meeting, there was a lot of information regarding some of the celebration's bigger events.

For one thing, the annual boat races will feature a brand new category this year. John Waddington said that they will be introducing "Sport C Powerboat" races this year. The category will be an exciting new addition to the other races, he said, and will also be a good way to get younger boaters into the races. While other races can sometimes be pre-determined by who enters a category with the

most horsepower, he said, this race will have contestants enter with essentially the same type of craft, a 12-foot-long tunnel boat. This race will go to whoever is the better behind the wheel of the craft, not to whoever has the biggest engine.

"There are blueprints for the boat down at the chamber of commerce, they also have a copy of them at the high school," Waddington said. "I think the supply list for them is less than \$1,000. You can look them up online, as well, and watch them as they race. It's the Dillon Class C Sport Tunnel."

Another of the highly anticipated events during Wrangell's Fourth celebration is the fireworks show. Last year's fireworks were cancelled due to drought conditions, as well as the city facing a water shortage. Wrangell residents may remember there was some controversy over plans to relocate the fireworks before they got cancelled, from their traditional spot at City



COURTESY OF THE WRANGELL SENIOR CENTER

## Dancing at the carving shed

Members of the Wrangell JOM dance program held a drumming class last Wednesday, at the carving shed on Front Street. The drumming classes are a weekly event, where group elders and children come together to learn native songs and dances. Wrangell's dancers will be leading the way in Celebration 2020 this June. Pictured here (right to left) are Lance Hays, Emma Frost, Alea Meissner and Cynthia Karras.

Dock, to the baseball fields at Volunteer Park. Weather permitting, the fireworks are scheduled to take place this year on July 3 at the park.

Lorne Cook, firefighter and a licensed pyrotechnician, explained the decision to relocate the fireworks.

"We have a fallout zone and an area we have to maintain while we're launching fireworks," Cook said. "There's got to be X amount of distance from

the crowd and we're no longer able to maintain that area there [City Dock] with the barge company being there, the Stikine's development ... We had to come up with a game plan to move the fireworks into a safe zone."

One of the other ideas briefly considered, and brought up during the meeting, was using a barge to launch fireworks out on the water. Cook explained that this idea would take a lot of work, would be expensive, and

would also put people on the barge at risk in case something went wrong with the fireworks. Stephanie Cook, with the chamber of commerce, added that she looked into hiring a private contractor to put on the fireworks show with a barge, but that would have cost between \$80-100,000. Moving the fireworks to Volunteer Park, in short, was the most cost effective and safest option they had worked out so far. Lorne Cook added that they would be working on details such as transportation options for seniors and the handicapped, as the Fourth of July grew closer.

During the meeting, Stephanie Cook also encouraged people to sign up for volunteer positions for the Fourth, and for the annual royalty contest. The contest helps pay for all of the celebration's events, she said, and is also a long-running tradition for Wrangell. The sooner people sign up to participate in that, she said, the better.

"We really need volunteers for everything, always," she said. "Never have enough volunteers for the Fourth of July, we can always put someone somewhere."

The chamber of commerce can be reached at (907) 874-3901.

## School hears community input on budget priorities, strategic plan

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

School officials held a community meeting Monday to learn more about what the public feels is important for the Wrangell School District. The district is currently undergoing its budgeting process for the new school year. The first draft of the FY 2021 budget has revenues set at about \$5.5 million and expenditures of slightly under \$6.3 million.

About 75 percent of the budget comes from the state of Alaska, according to Superintendent Debbie Lancaster. In a school board meeting on Jan. 20, it was reported that the state contribution to the budget is expected to be around \$4 million.

Of the entire budget, Lancaster said that about 70 percent is spent on "instruction expenses," meaning the money goes towards helping students learn and prepare for the future. The remaining 30 percent is for non-instruction expenses. For the current budget, she provided as an example, \$4.3 million in ex-

penses are projected for instruction, while an additional \$2 million is projected for non-instruction.

Lancaster said that they were not holding the meeting to discuss budget cuts, or which programs deserved funding more than other programs, this was just to get input on what priorities the community has. Lancaster went over some of the assumptions the district is making with the budget so far. The budget will be based on a student body of 316 kids, she said. Student enrollment has been slowly increasing the past few years, from a low of 269 in FY 2014, after years of general decline since FY 1995.

Among other assumptions, the district is anticipating the same local contribution from the City and Borough of Wrangell as last year. They are also expecting a little over \$300,000 in carryover to the next budget, and want to have one full-time counselor in both the elementary and secondary schools next year.

"Health [insurance] increases 10 percent," Lancaster added.

Continued on page 12

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, February 6:** Walter Moorhead, Binky Maenhout, Tamra Claggett, Natalya Jabusch. **Friday, February 7:** Krystal Schultz, Lindsay Hannah, Paige Hoyt. **Saturday, February 8:** Ethan Blatchley, *Anniversary:* Joel & Tis Peterman, Chris Blackburn. **Sunday, February 9:** Dan Roope, Bill Grover Jr.. **Monday, February 10:** Valarie Draper, S.R. Privett III, Jeff Barlow, Bridgette Andrews. **Tuesday, February 11:** Ashlyn Christian, Cody Eastaugh, Terry Gerrard, Lexi Prunella. **Wednesday, February 12:** Lacey Soeteber, Rooney Shafer, Victoria Ingram. **Thursday, February 13:** Robert Davidson, *Anniversary:* Michael & DeAnna Vil-larma.

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

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, February 6**  
Chicken and Cheese Sandwich, Soup,  
Cabbage/Fruit

**Friday, February 7**  
Salmon Burger, Potato Salad,  
Zucchini Salad

**Monday, February 10**  
Beef soup, Tomato/Cheese Sandwich,  
Sunshine Salad, Roll

**Tuesday, February 11**  
Sweet sour Pork, Carrots, Toss Salad, Rice  
**Wednesday, February 12**  
Vegetable Meat Loaf, Green Beans, Toss Salad,  
Mashed Potatoes

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

**Friday, February 14**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 21**  
Matanuska, 6:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 28**  
Matanuska, 4:15 p.m.  
**Friday, March 6**  
Matanuska 05:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 8**  
Matanuska 09:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 11**  
Matanuska 10:45 a.m.

#### Southbound

**Monday, February 10**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 17**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 24**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, March 2**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, March 8**  
Matanuska 07:15 a.m.  
**Tuesday, March 10**  
Matanuska 07:45 p.m.

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



## TIDES February 6-February 13

	High Tides		Low Tides		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
February 6	10:24	16.0	11:35	14.0	04:05	4.9	05:02	-0.8
February 7	11:13	17.1	.....	.....	04:59	3.9	05:46	-2.1
February 8	00:18	15.1	12:00	18.1	05:47	2.8	06:27	-3.1
February 9	00:58	16.1	12:44	18.7	06:31	1.8	07:06	-3.6
February 10	01:36	16.9	01:29	18.9	07:14	0.9	07:46	-3.5
February 11	02:15	17.4	02:14	18.5	07:59	0.3	08:26	-2.9
February 12	02:54	17.6	03:00	17.5	08:46	0.0	09:07	-1.8
February 13	03:35	17.5	03:50	16.1	09:36	0.2	09:51	-0.3

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Saturday, February 8

Stikine Stitchers Quilt Club Meeting: 1:00 pm at Episcopal Church, Parish Hall

Monday, February 17

Hospice of Wrangell Annual Meeting: 12pm at the Hall of the Catholic Church. Open to all, lunch provided

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301.

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** Mid-day closure: Monday-Friday 1:30-3:30 p.m. Closed Sunday

**Pool:**

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

### MEETINGS

**AA Meetings:**

North Star Group Meeting, St. Philip's Church. Tuesday: 7 p.m., Thursday: 8 p.m., Friday: 8 p.m.

## The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

### February 5, 1920

A.L. Brown, a prominent West Coast merchant, is in Wrangell this week on a business trip. Mr. Brown says the people of the West Coast are looking forward to the fishing season of 1920 being even more successful than that of the past year. He says Craig is growing rapidly and that in order to keep in the band wagon he will soon begin the building of an addition to his store.

### February 2, 1945

At the risk of revealing important military information, it must be stated that according to the old legend Wrangell is due for six more weeks of winter, but if it is no more severe than the past six weeks, there is nothing to be alarmed about. Usually reliable sources said today that the month just past is the first January in many a year during which not a flake of snow fell in Wrangell, also that, although the Stikine blew some it did not bring on freezing weather. When questioned about the groundhog theory our informant said "to heck with that story, it's just an old wives tale."

### February 5, 1970

The Presbyterian ministers of Metlakatla and Wrangell will exchange pulpits this Sunday. The Rev. Robert Frye of Metlakatla will be the guest here for the morning service at 11 a.m. and a family potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. Rev. Frye has been pastor of the Metlakatla Presbyterian Church for two and a half years. He also served a one-year seminary internship at Hydaburg. A movie entitled "If the Salt has lost its Savor" will be shown at the potluck dinner. Friends and visitors, as well as members, are welcome to the two services. The reason for the exchange, announced Rev. John Rogers, local Presbyterian minister, is for ministers and churches of Southeast Alaska to become better acquainted with each other.

### February 2, 1995

Wrangellites are invited to attend the Americanism Luncheon noon Friday at the American Legion Building. The luncheon is part of the 40th annual Southeast District Convention held Friday through

Sunday by the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Douglas A. Vig, sergeant-at-arms for Department of Alaska American Legion from Ketchikan, will be speaking on the need to protect

our flag from physical desecration. He hopes that members of other civic and fraternal organizations will attend and will support the drive to pass a flag protection amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

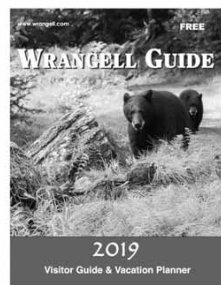
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Email: wrgsent@gmail.com

907-874-2301

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Jan. 20	34	29
Jan. 21	37	28
Jan. 22	42	37
Jan. 23	44	37
Jan. 24	43	34
Jan. 25	46	34
Jan. 26	48	40
Jan. 27	40	34

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb. 06	7:35a	4:30p	8:55h
Feb. 07	7:33a	4:32p	8:59h
Feb. 08	7:31a	4:35p	9:04h
Feb. 09	7:29a	4:37p	9:08h
Feb. 10	7:27a	4:39p	9:12h
Feb. 11	7:24a	4:41p	9:17h
Feb. 12	7:22a	4:43p	9:21h
Feb. 13	7:20a	4:45p	9:25h



# Assembly reviews mid-year financial report, approves legislative priorities

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*  
During their last meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, the Wrangell Borough Assembly got to take a look at their financial situation from the past six months. The current budget, for FY 2020, was adopted last June.

As of Dec. 31, 2019, total revenue for Wrangell's general fund has been about \$3.5 million, and about \$2.7 million in expenditures. The general fund is currently sitting at a profit of \$869,251. However, for the entire financial year the general fund is expected to bring in a little less than \$6 million, but expenditures will be around \$7.4 million, meaning the general fund will have a \$1.4 million deficit at the end of FY 2020. The Parks and Recreation Department is doing better than expected, according to the mid-year report, adding \$139,507 to their balance. They are budgeted to

end the year with \$122,000. The Wrangell Sentinel reported back in June that total revenues for the borough were set at \$16.62 million, with expenses of \$20.12 million and an expected reserve of roughly \$27 million. Borough officials went into this financial year expecting deficits in several categories.

The borough is beginning its budgeting process for the new financial year, and is considering adopting a two-year budget this time around. They approved a budget calendar during the meeting. Budget submittals are expected from city departments by mid-February, with a draft budget put together by March 23. Formal adoption of the next budget is scheduled for May 26.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved their list of state and federal legislative priorities for 2020. Federal priorities include rehabilitation or



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Salvation Army rummage sale

The Salvation Army held a rummage sale last week, offering items ranging from old electronics, to Christmas decorations, to dishes and other kitchenware, and much more. Lt. Jon Tollerud said that the sale was meant to be a fundraiser for the Salvation Army's variety of local assistance programs, such as their food pantry.



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replacement of the reservoir dam, continuance of SRS and PILT payments, and sustainable management of sea otter populations. State priorities include the reinstatement of several state jobs to Wrangell, such as an OCS worker, a pub-

lic health nurse, and magistrate. The assembly also voiced their opposition to a proposed closure of Wrangell's Fish and Game office in their state priorities.

Other items covered in the meeting included a first read-

ing of a resolution creating an investment committee, approval to dispose of surplus city property, and the transfer of \$7,700 from the general fund reserves to the fire department, for the purchase of a dispatch radio console.

## Police report

**Jan. 27**  
Citizen Assist.  
Paper Service: Domestic Violence Order.

**Jan. 28**  
Vacation check.  
Traffic: Disabled Vehicle.  
Fire Alarm Testing.  
Agency Assist: Department of Transportation.  
Citizen Assist.  
Illegal Dumping.  
86'd Letter.  
Injured Bird.  
Agency Assist: Line Crew.  
Agency Assist: Court.  
Dog Complaint.

**Jan. 29**  
Agency Assist: High School.  
Found Property.  
Extra Patrols.  
Agency Assist.  
Warrant Arrest: Invalid.  
Traffic Stop.

**Jan. 30**  
Security Check: Emotionally Disturbed

Person.  
Agency Assist: Injured Eagle.  
Driving Complaint.  
Abandoned Vehicles.  
Citizen Assist: Elderly Dog.

**Jan. 31**  
Intoxicated Person.  
Summons Service.  
Stalking.  
Noise Complaint.  
Emotionally Disturbed/Intoxicated Person.

**Feb. 1**  
Furnishing Alcohol.  
Motor Vehicle Accident.  
Title 47: Talar Jean Byrd, age 23.  
Agency Assist: Public Works.  
Extra Patrol.  
Agency Assist: Public Works.  
Motor Vehicle Accident.

**Feb. 2**  
Dog Complaint.

During this reporting period, there were 7 subpoenas served and 2 EMT calls.

## SEARHC & The City & Borough of Wrangell

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**Motivational Speaker Nick Hanson**  
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**Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:00pm**  
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# Dan's Dispatch- Standing up for Alaska's Pioneers

By Representative  
Dan Ortiz

Last year, I cosponsored and voted for House Bill 96, which reverses massive rate increases at the Pioneer Homes. This bipartisan legislation passed the House 35-4 and now is being considered

by the Senate. If the Senate passes HB 96, we can reverse the devastating rate increases and provide critical financial stability both for residents and our Pioneer Home system.

Lowering and stabilizing Pioneer Home rates is a win-win for residents and for the

system's fiscal stability. We heard testimony from non-partisan Legislative Finance budget experts that massive rate increases actually could reduce revenue. Here's why: Massive rate increases make the Pioneer Homes far more expensive than alternative care, whether that's in-home care or an assisted living facility. Prior to the Dunleavy administration's huge rate increases, more than half of Pioneer Home residents were "self-pay" and paid the department's rates. Already, the large rate increases have reduced the number of private payers and increased the number who are on "payment assistance," or state subsidies.

Alaska has the fastest growing population of seniors of any state in the U.S. Because of our small population size and vast geography, we don't have the same private sector long-term care options that exist in the Lower 48. There are very few (and in some places, zero) alternatives to the Pioneer Homes for seniors who need complex dementia care in Alaska.

Our aging population is part of our maturation as a

state. It's a good thing that more and more Alaska families are multigenerational, with parents who retire and live in the same community with their children and grandchildren. We should support Alaska families who want to stay together in this great state.

We must keep our commitment to the Pioneers who built this state.

## Obituary: Robert R. Armstrong, 68

Most obituaries began with death but this talks about how Robert R. Armstrong lived: A man known for his quick wit, steadfast sayings and dedication to work.

Whether building a rock wall with the excavator or solving complex heating, plumbing or electrical issues there wasn't anything Rob couldn't fix.

He could tell you stories of building hydroelectric projects in Southeast Alaska, he worked on nearly all of them.

A skilled carpenter and master cement mason, his trowel finished dams at Swan lake, Tyee, Crystal Lake, Green Lake, Blue Lake, Burnett Inlet Hatchery and numerous other civil service projects in Southeast Alaska.

One of his greatest strengths was making do with what you have, instilled at a young age; he had early memories of straightening rusty nails for future projects.

His father Robert "Curly" Armstrong was a master builder and carried the frugal spirit passing it on to future generations. The apartment complex "Curlyville" carries his nickname given due to his curly hair and enthusiastic attitude.

His mother Annie Armstrong was known for her gardening, frugal attitude and strong demeanor.

On February 6, 1951 Robert Armstrong was born in Wrangell. As a boy he helped out the family rental business, long lined for halibut out of a skiff and enjoyed the freedoms of small-town Alaska life.

He graduated from Wrangell High School in 1969 and studied architecture at Whitworth College skills which he used his entire life, building models of houses, drafting designs for cabins, rentals and all things house related.

Wrangell was always his home base, traveling all over Alaska to work on construction projects he enjoyed the serenity of sunsets the "magic moment" as he would call it; is, a moment of silence, as the sun dips behind the horizon. In his later years, he would sit on the back porch, sip a beverage, while watching the magic moment of a Stikine River sunset.

Known for his generosity, Rob's kindness was cherished by all of his friends and family. He was also a wealth of knowledge having earned a degree in Paralegal studies in 1992. He worked on legislation to protect parental rights and was an advocate for individual freedoms.

He is survived by: Robbie Armstrong, Alicia Armstrong, Amber Armstrong, Harmony Armstrong; his many grandchildren, adopted children and widow Denice Armstrong.

He passed away peacefully on January 26, 2020 after suffering a major stroke while working.

Rob did not want to have a funeral; a celebration of life will be held in June 2020.

In lieu of donations share a good story and a toast to a good man.



Robert R. Armstrong

## Death Notice

Harriet Ann Bangs died on January 18, 2020 after a short illness. Her Celebration of Life service will be held in Wrangell, Alaska this coming spring. Details will be announced at a later date.



## Bad Boys For Life

Rated R, 2hr 4min  
Action, Comedy, Crime

Showtimes:  
Fri. Feb. 07 - Sun. Feb. 09  
@ 7pm

Next week:  
NO MOVIE

Celebration of Life for  
**John L. Maxand**  
Saturday, Feb. 15, 1:00 pm  
at the Elks Lodge  
Buffet to follow  
in the Elks Nolan Room



## Hometown Healthy Visiting Specialist Schedule

In addition to our outstanding local specialty Orthopedics, General Surgery, and Obstetrics & Gynecology teams, PeaceHealth is pleased to host specialty clinics in Ketchikan for your convenience. Get your expert specialty care close to home, call for your appointment today.

Feb 24-27	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Thorson	907-228-7649
March 2-6	Urology Clinic - Dr. Schoenrock	907-225-7346
March 3-4	Oncology - Dr. Raish	907-228-8101
March 10-13	G.I. Clinic - Dr. Woods	907-228-8101
March 12-13	Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Beglin	888-739-2700
March 23-26	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Thorson	907-228-7649
April 7-9	Oncology - Dr. Raish	907-228-8101
April 13-16	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Morison	907-228-7649
April 13-17	Urology Clinic - Dr. Schoenrock	907-225-7346



PeaceHealth  
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[peacehealth.org/visitingcalendar](http://peacehealth.org/visitingcalendar)

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# Compensation study shows city wages fall short

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held a work session before their regular meeting, on Jan. 28, to review the preliminary

results of a compensation study by JB Reward Systems. Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga explained that the study compared the salaries of public employees in Wrangell to those of similar municipalities, to see how they stacked up and whether or not Wrangell is a competitive location for potential hires.

"Basically, our three fundamental goals would be to have a structure that was competitive enough that we could attract the kind of skills we want to attract, and one that also has mechanisms over time and as you develop skills to be able to retain good people," said Vance Jacob-

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Freedom to Peaceably Assemble - Freedom to Petition the Government



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## More snow

Wrangell got some more snow this week, along with cold rain and strong winds. Pictured here is Reid Street the morning of Jan. 31 covered with a fresh layer of snow.

son, presenting the draft compensation study. "If there is that possibility to have any sort of exceptional rewards for employees, it would be compatible with doing that kind of thing."

The main "competitors" that Wrangell is facing in hiring new people, according to the presentation, are varied. Local public services and employers, for example, can draw people away from interest in city employment. Wrangell also has to consider how their compensation stacks up against other municipalities in the region and across Alaska, such as Petersburg, Ketchikan, Haines, and even farther-off cities like Valdez and Kodiak.

The results of this preliminary study show that public employee wages in Wrangell are close, but below average. Wrangell salaries fall in the 43rd percentile, Jacobson said, while the goal is the 50th percentile, or the median of salary ranges in the region.

"The 50th is the median," he said. "That means that half the employers have higher salary ranges, and half have lower salary ranges. So your competitive standing overall meant that 55 to 60 percent of the employers now have higher ranges and 40 to 45 percent of the employers have lower. There's been a little bit of fallback in turns of competitiveness."

Wrangell pays its city employees on a 13-step scale, from the minimum wage offered for a position to the maximum. Jobs are also divided among 35 different "grades," indicating higher minimum and maximum salary ranges. Provided with the compensation study was a draft salary schedule, with proposed wage changes to make Wrangell jobs more appealing. Jacobson gave an example of a proposed

change. The job of dispatcher/corrections specialist has moved up from Grade 14 to Grade 16. The preliminary compensation study also recommended, among other things, that a separate salary grid be created for electrical utility jobs, as utilities have their own market dynamics unique to other city jobs. Altering the wage scale will be an ongoing discussion, borough officials said, and nothing

is set in stone yet. This subject will be covered in several future workshops and meetings.

"Again, I just want to make sure everybody sees on here this says 'draft,' specifically for the members of the press that are in the audience that are looking at this," Von Barga said. "This is absolutely not a final version and should not be used for anything that goes to print."

## Cold weather causes sprinkler leak in public safety building

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The evening of Saturday, Jan. 18, a pipe in the public safety building's sprinkler system broke and caused some flooding.

Amber Al-Haddad, capital facilities director, explained that the building, which houses Wrangell's court, police department, fire department, and other entities, has two sprinkler systems: A wet system and a dry system. Somehow, she said that water got into the dry sprinkler system and froze during the cold weather Wrangell experienced this past month. This broke one of the pipes and caused water to pour out. A relatively small area on the second floor of the building was affected, Al-Haddad said. Water got into a janitor's closet, an archive room, and partially into the customs/border patrol office.

Fortunately, she said that no equipment, archives, or personal property were damaged. The leak was stopped and the dampened walls and ceiling tiles were removed and dried out. Al-Haddad said that there was some concern about there being mold or other microbes in the air because of the walls and ceiling tiles being moved, but they have brought in an air monitoring company to make sure everything is ok. Once that is confirmed, and some replacement parts come into town, she said they will get right to repairs.

The leak was brought up in the borough assembly meeting last Tuesday. Mayor Steve Prysunka commended several firefighters for voluntarily coming to the public safety building to help with the cleanup after the discharge was stopped.

"I want to thank them for being there when this community needs them," he said. "This is all voluntary. Nobody's paid to do this, and I just really appreciate the effort."

# Final decision on faulty SEAPA cable by March

By BRIAN VARELA  
*Sentinel writer*

Southeast Alaska Power Agency conducted a survey on a damaged cable running between Woronkofski and Vank islands and the board will make a final decision on whether to repair the cable or replace it by March's board meeting.

"We could have up to 20 more years," said Bob Lynn, Petersburg's voting member on the SEAPA board. "We don't know, but the risk is very high on that old cable."

Lynn gave the Petersburg Borough Assembly an update on the project at an assembly meeting Monday, but data from the survey hasn't been turned over to the SEAPA board and staff.

The damaged cable is one of four submarine cables that connects the terminals between Woronkofski and Vank islands to provide Petersburg with power. Three of the cables are needed to transfer power, while the fourth is a backup cable. A fault occurred in the damaged cable on Sept. 29 and

caused a power outage in town.

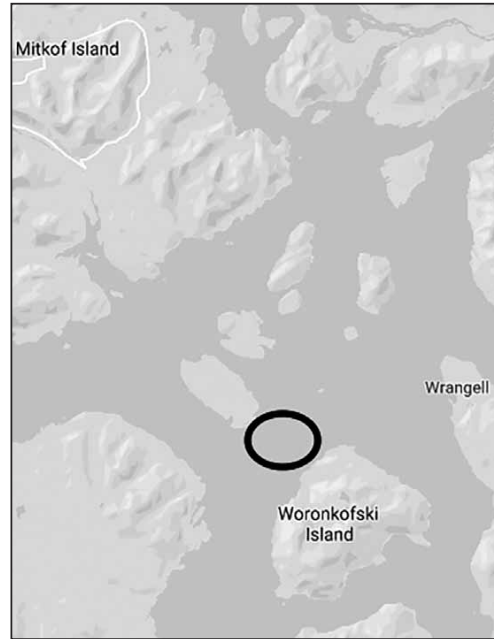
Assembly Member Taylor Norhiem asked if SEAPA could cut out the damaged part of the cable and splice in a new piece. Lynn said that a portion of the cable is buried underneath a layer of soil. If the cable is buried deeper than three feet, then the cable could be further damaged when it is pulled out of the water to be repaired. The survey will identify how deep the cable is buried.

Additionally, Lynn said there's only one company that is capable of splicing the cable and it is based out of Japan. Lynn estimated that the mobilization cost to be between \$1 million and \$2 million.

"If you're going to pay the mobilization cost, then we might as well lay a new cable," said Lynn.

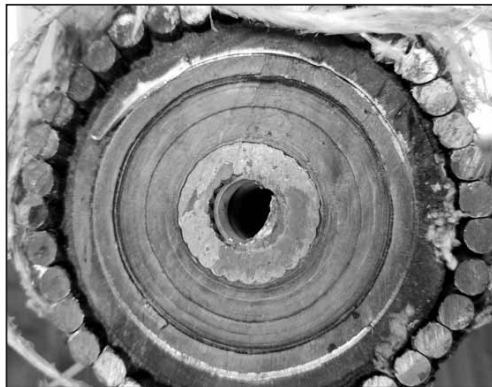
The new cable would have all three phases running through it, so only one cable is needed, instead of three, to transfer power, said Lynn. The new cable also could easily be spliced into the two terminals. The current cables would continue to be used, while the new cable acts as a backup, but the cables wouldn't be compatible with each other.

It is estimated to cost \$6.3 million to purchase a new cable and replace the faulty submarine cable, according to Lynn.



GOOGLE MAPS SCREENSHOT

The faulty submarine cable is located between Woronkofski and Vank island.



COURTESY OF BOB LYNN

The submarine cables have several casings and a layer of paper rolled up under 40 pounds of pressure that is filled with fluid. The center of the cable is also filled with fluid to dissipate heat.

## Study: Substance misuse cost Alaska about \$3.5 billion

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Substance misuse in Alaska has cost the state about \$3.5 billion in 2018 in resulting health care, productivity loss, criminal justice, traffic accidents and other services, a yearlong study said.

The McDowell Group, contracted by the state Mental Health Trust Authority, found that \$2.4 billion was related to alcohol abuse and \$1.1 billion was related to drug abuse, Juneau Empire reported Friday.

Health officials define substance misuse as the use of illegal drugs or inappropriate use of alcohol or prescription drugs.

"We see the impact of substance misuse every hour of every day in our ER," said Bradley Grigg, the chief behavioral health officer at Bartlett Regional Hospital. "The cost is enormous. From alcohol to opiates to methamphetamine to other substances, we are seeing the effects of substance misuse in every part of our hospital."

Alaska residents consumed 14 million gallons of beer, 2.4 million gallons of wine, and 1.8 million gallons of liquor during the one-year survey

period, the study said.

About 22,000 residents who reported using illegal drugs in the previous year were also surveyed. Of those surveyed, 14,000 reported using cocaine, 5,000 reported using methamphetamine and 3,000 reported using heroin, the study said. Marijuana was not part of the survey because it is legal in state.

"The majority of calls we go on are related to drugs and alcohol," Juneau Police Lt. Krag Campbell said.

Drug and alcohol can lead to interactions with law enforcement and emergency services, and driving while impaired can lead to arrests and crashes, which each have associated costs, Campbell said.

Health care costs was the highest associated cost for substance misuse at \$1.3 billion, the study said.

"Substance misuse treatment is a really big piece of what we do and who we are," Grigg said about the hospital. "We recognize the need and the need is overwhelming."



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# Lady Wolves dominate Lady Panthers



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Maddy Harding (No. 10) in last week's home games against Craig. The Lady Wolves claimed two victories over the Lady Panthers.

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The Wrangell Lady Wolves and Craig Lady Panthers faced off this past weekend in a set of home games at Wrangell High School. The games were intense, with both teams clearly giving it their best efforts. Fortunately for Wrangell, the Lady Wolves managed to continue their recent winning streak.

The first game on Friday began with Wrangell taking a lead of 16-10. The Lady Panthers rallied in the second quarter, pulling ahead by a single point, 26-27.

Coach Laurie Brown said that Craig was finding weaknesses in their man-to-man defense however, once the Lady Wolves switched to a zone defense, Brown said they came back strong and pulled ahead again. Craig did their best to catch up but thanks to a strong defense by the Lady wolves they only managed to make a few more baskets. The final score was 60-39, a win for Wrangell.

Saturday's game, on Feb. 1,

once again opened with the Lady Wolves taking the lead. The score at the end of the first quarter was 13-5. Wrangell managed to maintain their lead the entire game, while both teams had a high-scoring game. The final score of the evening was 62-44, another win for the Lady Wolves.

"The girls did a really good

job," Brown said.

The Lady Wolves will be traveling to Craig to play against the Lady Panthers again this weekend. Brown said that it is going to be a challenge, with Craig having a home-court advantage and being extra hungry for some wins, but she feels confident in her team.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Emma Martinsen (No. 23) preparing to run the ball down the court during last weekend's games against the Craig Lady Panthers.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kaylyn Easterly (No. 44) recovering the ball and taking it down-court.



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## Wolves add two more wins against Craig Panthers

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The Wrangell Wolves continue to go undefeated against the Craig Panthers this year, after their most recent games this past week. It has been a difficult season for the Wolves, who have faced tough opponents and several hard-fought losses. Their only previous win, this season, was also against Craig High School during the Clarke Cochrane Tournament back in December.

During their first game on Friday, Jan. 31, the Wolves managed to stay ahead of the Panthers by a few baskets. The final score was 57-46 in favor of Wrangell. Saturday night's game, on Feb. 1, was heavily in favor of Wrangell. With a final score of 60-39, Wrangell claimed their third win of the season.

Coach Cody Angerman said he was incredi-

bly proud of his team. They played hard this past weekend, and he is happy to see the results. They have been practicing hard, he said, with an emphasis on their defensive game, and the results are starting to show. Having a strong defense makes the rest of the game come together much better, he said, and creates more opportunities for the team to pull ahead.

"Before we were just kind of swinging the ball around, just waiting for something to open up," he said.

The Wolves will be playing against Craig again this week in a set of home games on Feb. 7 and 8. Angerman said that he does not like to go into games expecting a win or a loss, but he is confident in the Wolves' abilities.

"I think we don't really need to change anything," he said. "Just tie up some loose ends and we'll be good."

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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Commercial fishing industry is largest private sector employer in Alaska

Alaska gets a good return on investment from its commercial fisheries.

And surprise! Commercial fisheries expertise also sustains Alaska's subsistence and most of the personal use fisheries.

"This is probably not well-known," said Sam Rabung, director of the commercial fisheries division for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, at a presentation last week to the House Fisheries Committee.

"Data collected by our division is shared across all divisions within the department as much as possible," he explained to lawmakers. "We also share the cost of projects and facilities with other divisions. We work as a team. So that investment also carries over to other user groups."

Rabung pointed out that the commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska, putting almost 60,000 people to work annually.

"It contributes about \$172 million directly in taxes, fees and self-assessments to state, local and federal governments, and contributes an annual average of about \$5.6 billion in economic output to the Alaska economy," he added.

Of the \$172 million in taxes, 43% (\$73 million) goes to state coffers, 30% (\$51 million) to local governments; 23% (\$40 million) funds salmon hatchery management, and 5% (\$8 million) goes to the federal government.

Rabung pointed out that the division's main charge is sustaining the revenue-generating fisheries long into the future - and that takes good science.

"Most of our budget is used on research, which is another word for assessment tools," he told the committee. "We assess the stocks to see if there is a harvestable surplus. If we can't do that work, we can't open a fishery and say we're managing sustainably and we revert to being more conservative. We may have less openings or lower guideline harvest levels or in some cases, we might just close the fisheries altogether. We set the bar very high as far as sustainability."

Louise Stutes (R-Kodiak), fisheries committee chair, stressed that few state investments return as much to the state operating budget.

"When the budget for ADF&G is cut, that directly affects the resulting revenue to the state by affecting the ability to fully prosecute the fisheries that might be involved in the budget reductions," Stutes said. "My goal in this hearing was to make it clear that Alaska's commercial fisheries do indeed pay their own way. Investments in our commercial fisheries lead

directly to fishing opportunities for Alaskans, great returns to the general fund, and produce benefits in spades for our state economy. We should be looking at targeted increases to the department's budget."

**Targeted reductions** - The commercial fisheries division operates on a nearly \$67 million budget, of which \$36 million comes from state general funds. Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget for FY2021 calls for a nearly \$1 million reduction.

Here are targeted programs across the state at this early stage in the budget process, provided by United Fishermen of Alaska.

Crab lovers in Southeast Alaska could go without if funding (-\$315.6) is eliminated for tracking the region's red king crab population.

"A lot of people don't recognize that those stock assessments help evaluate if the personal use fishery can open. So without that assessment, there will be no personal use fisheries for red king crab in Southeast Alaska," said Frances Leach, UFA executive director.

Leach said nearly 3,700 red king crab personal use permits are issued in Southeast every year. Only two commercial king crab fisheries have occurred in 10 years.

"The commercial fisheries division pays for a lot more than commercial fisheries," Leach said. "We pay for research for personal use and sports. And it's something to be noted for sure."

Cuts also are on deck for stock assessments for Southeast urchin and sea cucumber fisheries (-\$19.9) which will likely reduce fishing time.

"Currently dive fishermen are paying a good percentage of that assessment. And now Fish and Game is cutting their portion and looking elsewhere for the funding," Leach said.

The Wrangle ADF&G office will be closed and one position will be relocated to Petersburg; the other will be eliminated (-\$66.2).

In the central region, suppression projects for pike that are eating tiny salmon in the Susitna and Yenta Rivers also are set for elimination. (-\$47.2)

"The Division of Commercial Fisheries is attempting to get Sport Fisheries to take over this project," the UFA breakdown said.

At Kodiak, management of the Frazer Lake fish pass for sockeye salmon would be reduced. (-\$23.2)

Research on Bering Sea salmon would be cut (-\$299.6) and funding would instead rely on grants or the federal

government.

Aquaculture planning and permitting projects would be reduced and a full time biologist position lost in Juneau (\$159.0) This comes at a time when mariculture of seaweeds and shellfish in Alaska is taking off and new growers are waiting up to two years to get permits in hand.

**Fishing for science** - Halibut boats are wanted to help with the annual stock surveys from Oregon to the far reaches of the Bering Sea. The International Pacific Halibut Commission charters between 10 and 14 longline vessels each year to take aboard up to 30 scientists from late May through August.

"The whole coast is broken up into 28 charter regions and vessels can bid on any number of those regions that they'd like to fish for us," said Steve Keith, IPHC assistant director. "We supply the bait and the ice, they supply the vessel and crew, and we usually send out two to four of our own set line survey specialists to do the fish sampling and accounting and all the record keeping for our purposes," adding that many of the boats and biologists participate year after year.

"They love it," Keith said.

## Statewide Deer Season Hunt Reports Due

The Sitka black-tailed deer hunting season is closed in Alaska. All hunters who obtained deer harvest tickets, even those who did not hunt or harvest a deer, must return completed hunt reports to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If you haven't submitted your hunt report, do so immediately. Hunt reports may be submitted by mail, in person at a Fish and Game office, or online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>.

"Sometimes they'll be in Canada, sometimes in Southeast or way out in the Aleutians. They get to see a lot of the North Pacific."

The charter is just like a regular four to five day fishing trip, Keith said, but the boats use standard techniques and protocols within a set grid of stations so that data are comparable from year to year.

Our survey is one of the most extensive in the world, actually," Keith said. "We have a time series now that goes back more than 20 years and it's the primary index of abundance that we use as we're doing our stock assessment each year."

"We appreciate the experience of the skippers and crews that come to us," Keith added. "It's, you know, the fishing community contributing to the science directly and to the management of the halibut resource."

Halibut charter vessels typically get a 10% share of the fish sales.

Bids must be emailed (pdf) to the IPHC Secretariat at [secretariat@iphc.int](mailto:secretariat@iphc.int) by February 15. Questions? Call 206.634.1838.

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## Wrangell Medical Center Awarded Grant

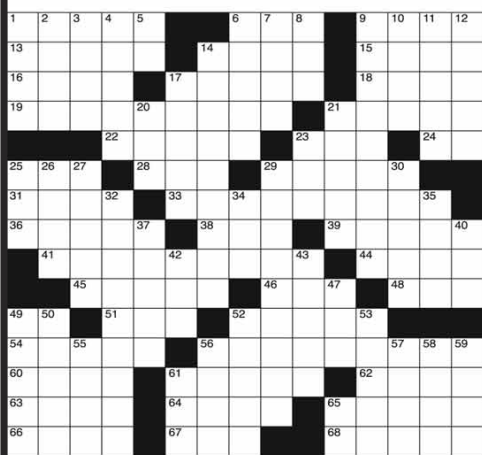
The Walker Foundation is pleased to announce the Wrangell Medical Center construction project as its 2019 grant recipient.

The Foundation looks to annually award causes that improve community health and is excited to support a project that aims to ensure continued primary, emergent, acute and long-term care services in Wrangell for decades to come.

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# Comics



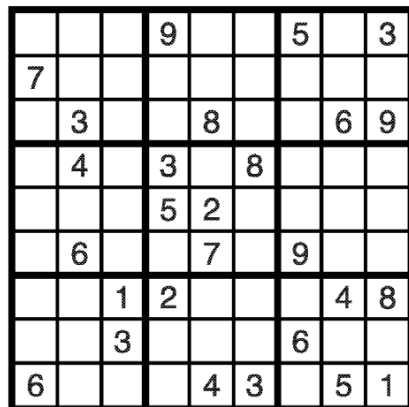
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints' signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David \_\_, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette
- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. \_\_ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov't lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. "The African Queen" writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness

# SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the February 13 edition

# Groups give notice they will sue to protect beluga whales

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - Two environmental groups gave formal notice Friday that they will sue to protect endangered Alaska beluga whales from problems caused by oil and gas operations.

The announcement came three days after a federal agency said the population of white whales is declining faster than previously thought.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Cook Inlet-keeper said they will sue the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for violating the Endangered Species Act by not protecting Cook Inlet belugas. The formal 60-day notice is required before the agency can be sued.

The groups contend that the agency's authorization for a petroleum company, Hilcorp Alaska LLC, to "take" marine mammals incidental to its oil and gas operations in Cook Inlet is harming whales.

The definition of "take" includes harassment or any sort of harm. The agency should not allow any take of Cook Inlet belugas until it can en-

sure their recovery, the groups said.

"The tragic decline of these lovely little whales spotlights the risk of allowing oil exploration in their habitat," said Julie Teel Simmonds, a Center for Biological Diversity attorney.

Seismic blasting used in petroleum exploration can reach 250 decibels and be heard for miles, the groups said. It can cause hearing loss in marine mammals, disturb feeding and breeding, interrupt whales' communications and reduce their ability to catch fish, according to the notice.

NOAA Fisheries spokeswoman Julie Speegle said by email the agency does not comment on pending litigation. A Hilcorp spokesman had no immediate comment.

Cook Inlet stretches 180 miles (290 kilometers) from Anchorage to the Gulf of Alaska. Cook Inlet petroleum supplies energy for Alaska's largest city and other communities.

All five U.S. beluga whale populations are in Alaska. The

Cook Inlet whale numbers dwindled steadily through the 1980s and early '90s and they were declared endangered in 2008. NOAA Fisheries in January 2017 released a recovery plan when the population estimate was about 340 whales.

A biennial survey released Tuesday, using data collected in summer 2018, estimated there are 250 to 317 whales, with a median estimate of 279. The reasons for the decline of the population remain unknown, the report said.

The federal agency relied on higher beluga whale numbers last year when it approved rules allowing Hilcorp to harm belugas and other marine mammals as it expands offshore oil and gas operations in Cook Inlet, Simmonds said.

"If we're going to save these belugas, the Trump administration must cancel permission for the oil industry to use seismic blasting and pile driving in Cook Inlet," Simmonds said. "These animals are hanging on by a thread, and we can't let them be hurt even more."

# ACLU urges Alaskans to contact governor for immigration help

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska has encouraged residents with immigration problems to contact Gov. Mike Dunleavy after he asked the president to aid his attorney general's family with their immigration documents.

Dunleavy sent an official letter to President Donald Trump in December requesting aid for Attorney General Kevin Clarkson, who is seeking documents so his Colombian wife and stepson can live in the United States, Anchorage Daily News reported Friday.

The governor's letter served as a cover for a personal letter Clarkson wrote to Trump asking for his help, officials said.

Clarkson has struggled to get the required federal approval for years for his wife, Johanna Ferrer Zarache de Clarkson, and her 6-year-old son.

It is unclear if anything came of the request. "Thousands of families are living in the same state" of uncertainty as Clarkson, the ACLU said. In a previous interview with the Daily News,

Clarkson said the governor would have offered similar help to any Alaska resident who asked.

"The ACLU of Alaska agrees with AG Clarkson: Elected officials and public servants should assist Alaskans. But our government servants should help everyone, not only when it affects the lives of those in positions of power," the group said in a statement.

In response, the ACLU has created an online form where people can send an email to the governor and attorney general to discuss any problems they may have while negotiating federal immigration policies, officials said.

The information on the form is private to everyone but the governor and attorney general, ACLU spokeswoman Megan Edge said.

"Thank you for being willing to elevate Alaska's immigration issues directly to the Office of the President. I eagerly await your response and assistance," the online form said.

The attorney general and the governor's office did not respond to requests for comment.

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# Classified/Legals

### Public Notice

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is updating its Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). The draft TTIP is available for questions and comments at the WCAT office at 1002 Zimovia Highway from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Mon – Fri. Deadline for comments: February 14, 2020 at 1 p.m. Call Bill Willard or Lizzy Romane at 874-3077 for more info.

**Published: February 6, 2020**

### 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. 973 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 14.03.040, REGULAR MEETINGS, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE**

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

**Publish: February 6, 2020**

### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska WORK SESSION - PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly will be holding a Work Session on **Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** for the following item:

#### Borough Goals

Although there will be a quorum of the Borough Assembly present, there will be no action taken.

*The Regular Borough Assembly meeting will follow the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.*

The public is welcome to attend.

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

**Publish: February 6, 2020**

### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE Public Hearing

During the Regular Borough Assembly meeting on **February 11, 2020 (beginning at 6:00 p.m.)**, there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

a. **ORDINANCE No 974 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, CREATING CHAPTER 3.15 "INVESTMENT COMMITTEE" (second reading)**

**The Public is encouraged to attend.**

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

**Publish: February 6, 2020**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL

In the Matter of the Estate of: )  
)  
Salvatore Bruno, )  
Deceased. ) CASE NO. 1WR-20-05PR

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pete Bruno has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims should be submitted to the above titled court, Box 869, Wrangell, AK 99929, with a copy to the personal representative, Pete Bruno, c/o Michael P. Heiser, 300 Mill Street, Suite 20, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Dated: 09/23/2019

Pete Bruno  
Personal Representative

**Published: February 6, 13 and 20, 2020**

### JOBS

**OFFICE HELP WANTED:** The Wrangell Sentinel is looking for a computer savvy, customer friendly worker. Must be able to lift 25 pounds and have own car. DOE. Please stop in the Sentinel office to fill out a job application or email resume to [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com). tfn11-21dh

### WRANGELL PUBLIC

**SCHOOLS** is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2019-2020 school year: Middle School Assistant Volleyball Coach: This is an extracurricular position beginning February 18, 2020 coaching middle school students in the fundamentals of volleyball. Substitute

Employees: These are on-call positions working as a temporary custodian, secretary, teacher or paraprofessional during absences of regular staff members. For a complete job description, salary schedule and information, please contact the district office at 874-2347. Positions: Open Until Filled. It is Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability... 1x2-6b101

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The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide material, equipment, machinery, tools, labor, transportation and other means to clear, trim, and cut trees and brush that have the ability to grow to a height that would compromise SEAPA's Swan-Tyee Intertie transmission line located along the northeast side of the Neets Bay area, which is located approximately 40 miles north of Ketchikan, Alaska. The Neets Bay area is accessible by floatplane, helicopter and boat. Bids are due March 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. AKDT. A complete set of the bid documents with additional details will be posted on SEAPA's website by 8 a.m. AKST on Friday, February 7, 2020 at: <https://www.seapahydro.org/rfp.php> or interested respondents may call the SEAPA office after the posting time and date at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

**Published: February 6, 2020**



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide material, equipment, machinery, tools, labor, transportation and other means to clear, trim, and cut trees and brush that have the ability to grow to a height that would compromise SEAPA's transmission line near the community of Petersburg on Mitkof Island in Southeast Alaska. The transmission line to be brushed is located approximately 5.5 miles south of Petersburg and is accessible by motor vehicle or foot depending on the segment of the line. Bids are due March 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. AKST. For a complete set of the bid documents with additional details, please navigate to: <https://www.seapahydro.org/rfp.php> or interested respondents may call the SEAPA office at (907) 228-2281 for a copy.

**Published: February 6, 2020**



### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA PUBLIC NOTICE

The City & Borough of Wrangell is seeking *Letters of Interest* to fill the vacancy on the newly formed **Investment Committee**.

The expiration of this appointment will expire October 2020.

Please turn your Letter of Interest into the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, **on or before 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 7, 2020.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-874-2381, or email: [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com)

Appointments will be made at the Regular Assembly meeting on February 11, 2020.

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### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The meetings shall be held at 6:00 p.m., in the Assembly Chambers, City Hall, Wrangell. If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular council meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.

If a work session is scheduled preceding the regular assembly meeting, publication shall be made on the website and posted at city hall and the post office that the regular assembly meeting shall begin at 7:00 p.m.

Kim Lane, Borough Clerk  
City of Wrangell, Alaska

**Published: February 6, 2020**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH

The fossil of *Gunakadeit joseeae*, which was found in Southeast Alaska. About two thirds of the tail had already eroded away when the fossil was discovered.

## New thalattosaur species discovered near Kake

Scientists at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have identified a new species of thalattosaur, a marine reptile that lived more than 200 million years ago.

The new species, *Gunakadeit joseeae*, is the most complete thalattosaur ever found in North America and has given paleontologists

new insights about the thalattosaurs' family tree, according to a paper published recently in the journal *Scientific Reports*. Scientists found the fossil near Keku Island near the village of Kake in 2011.

Thalattosaurs were marine reptiles that lived more than 200 million years ago, during

the mid to late Triassic Period, when their distant relatives — dinosaurs — were first emerging. They grew to lengths of up to 3-4 meters and lived in equatorial oceans worldwide until they died out near the end of the Triassic period.

The fossil was located in rocks in the intertidal zone.

Which is normally underwater all but a few days a year. In Southeast Alaska, when extreme low tides hit, people head to the beaches to explore which is what Jim Baichtal, a geologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Tongass National Forest, was doing on May 18, 2011, when low tides of -3.7 feet were predicted.

He and Gene Primaky headed out to the Keku Islands near the village of Kake to look for fossils. Primaky saw something odd on a rocky outcrop and called over Baichtal. "Hey Jim! What is this?" Baichtal immediately recognized it as a fossilized intact skeleton. He snapped a photo with his phone and sent it to Patrick Druckenmiller, the paper's lead author and director and earth sciences curator at the University of Alaska Museum of the North.

A month later, the tides were forecast to be almost that low. It was the last chance they would have to remove the fossil during daylight hours for nearly a year. The team had just four hours each day to work before the tide came in and submerged the fossil.

"We rock-sawed like crazy and managed to pull it out, but just barely," Druckenmiller said. "The water was lapping at the edge of the site."

Once the sample was back at the UA Museum of the North, a fossil preparation

specialist worked in two-week stints over the course of several years to get the fossil cleaned up and ready for study.

When they saw the fossil's skull, they could tell right away that it was something new because of its extremely pointed snout, which was likely an adaptation for the shallow marine environment where it lived.

"It was probably poking its pointy schnoz into cracks and crevices in coral reefs and feeding on soft-bodied critters," Druckenmiller said. Its specialization may have been what ultimately led to its extinction. "We think these animals were highly specialized to feed in the shallow water environments, but when the sea levels dropped and food sources changed, they had nowhere to go."

Once the fossil was identified as a new species it was named to honor the local culture and history by elders in Kake and representatives of Sealaska Corp. who agreed the Tlingit name "*Gunakadeit*" would be appropriate. *Gunakadeit* is a sea monster of Tlingit legend that brings good fortune to those who see it. The second part of the new animal's name, *joseeae*, recognizes Primaky's mother, Josée Michelle DeWaelheyns.



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## Mechanical issues interrupt southeast Alaska ferry schedule

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) – Mechanical issues will keep the Alaska state ferry *Matanuska* out of service until Feb. 7, according to the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The *Matanuska* is the only mainline state ferry presently operating in southeast Alaska, the Ketchikan Daily News reported. Its next scheduled sailing is an 11 a.m. Feb. 7 northbound departure from Ketchikan to Wrangell.

The *Matanuska* outage affects ferry service between southeast Alaska and Bellingham, Washington. The most recent northbound sailing from Washington departed Bellingham on Jan. 23. The next scheduled southbound sailing from Ketchikan to Bellingham is at 3 p.m. Feb. 10, according to the marine highway schedule on Wednesday.

Mechanical issues on the *Matanuska* popped up last week in Bellingham. The 408-foot (124-meter) ferry was delayed 23 hours because of a leak in one of the main engine's reduction-gear cooling units.

After departing Bellingham on Jan. 23, the *Matanuska* sailed north. On Sunday, ferry officials announced that the ferry was going to stay in Juneau for necessary engine repairs rather than continuing to Haines and Skagway.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Superintendent Debbe Lancaster explaining some of the district's budget assumptions during a community meeting over the budget process and the schools' strategic plan.

## School

Continued from page 1

"We don't know, that's what our insurance company told us, we don't know ... A property insurance increase, I haven't heard that as a complete and final word yet, so that's even another unknown."

The public also got a chance to look at the district's strategic plan. This is a document that was put together to outline Wrangell's overarching goals over five years. The current strategic plan covers the years 2018 to 2023, outlining five goals and a series of strategies to meet them: Student learning, stakeholder satisfaction, employee development, administrative support systems, and fiscal responsibility.

Around the room the meeting was held in, at Evergreen Elementary School, Lancaster had sheets of the strategic plan taped to the wall. She asked that everyone look at the strategic plan and the budget assumptions she had outlined, and write down their priorities on sticky notes, and stick them to the walls next to the part of the strategic plan they most corresponded with. The budget and the strategic plan go together hand-in-hand, Lancaster said. The strategic plan outlines the goals the district is striving for, which means it plays an important role in their budgeting process. That was why they wanted to know which parts of the strategic plan the community was most interested in.

"I want you to go to the various parts of the strategic plan and I want you to make suggestions, demands, requests, that sort of thing," Lancaster said, explaining the reasoning behind

the sticky notes. "Some people don't feel like speaking up in public, and some people will say something that inspires an accolade of following comments and pretty soon we're only talking about one thing, and people don't get to share their voice."

The sticky notes left by community members held a variety of different priorities. Some asked for extra help for students falling behind in their studies, while others requested extra options be provided for gifted students who were excelling. One sticky note also suggested that the district provide a workshop for the student body, so they could learn about the budgeting process, how activities get funded, and how student handbooks get made. Another sticky note proposed the schools reach out to the community for their expertise, providing students with potential internships, work experience, and other educational opportunities. Yet another note asked that the district create a position for a homeschool coordinator and a homeschooling program within the district.

The student body was not the only focus of concern from the public. There were plenty of sticky notes regarding teachers and school staff, as well. Some of the suggestions included increased Skype or online training opportunities for staff and more team building exercises. The public also wants increased transparency and involvement in the budgeting process.

A second draft of the budget is scheduled to go before the school board on Feb. 17. The deadline for a final draft to be submitted for state approval is May 29.

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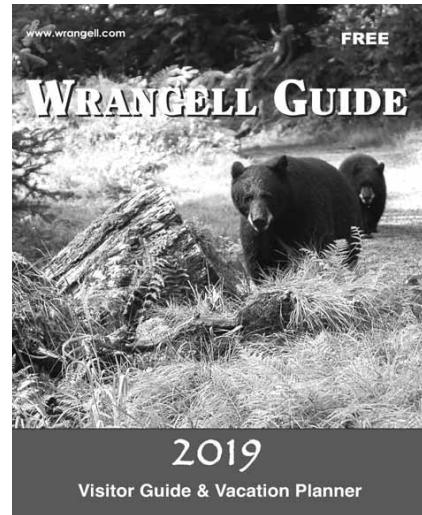
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