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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Rondoc the Magician amazes a younger audience with one of his effects, during a free show at the library performed on December 20. A Sitka physician by day, Dr. Myron Fribush has been practicing magic as a hobby for the past 40 years.

Traveling physician shares a bit of magic in library show

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Winter wasn't the only source of wonder in Wrangell last week, as residents crowded into the public library to watch a magic show.

Illuminating minds under the stage name of Rondoc, Dr. Myron Fribush commanded the southwestern corner of Irene Ingle Public Library the evening of December 20. Children crowded around in front, with as many adults watching from as far back as the main doors. There were 58 audience members in all.

Wearing a conical hat and Chinese gown, the visiting physician introduced himself before starting his assorted effects.

"I love to watch it and occasionally perform it," he explained. "I think magic creates awe and wonder in life. We need a little bit to add to our life, to add a whole other dimension to our living."

Fribush has had an interest in performing stage magic since 1976, when a friend introduced him to it at a trade meeting. In the years since he has made a habit of attending conventions, to meet other magicians and compare techniques.

"I go to two to three conventions a year. People will demonstrate magic of this sort, near range, or stage magic, or close-up magic, or comedy magic," he said.

Fribush belongs to two trade organizations, the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Society of American Magicians, and members will walk each other through the techniques and technologies involved in their art.

"It's incredible. I know a number of people who do shows every day, and they become truly outstanding because they're improving their routine over continual repetitions and they become extremely gifted at creating awe and wonder," he said. "David Copperfield is my personal favorite, because I like the way he'll weave a story around the trick. It adds another dimension to it."

When not performing magic, Fribush practices medicine in Sitka, where he has lived the past 14 years. When performing as Rondoc, he said most of his shows are done there in town, at the local library or community house.

His adopted stage name isn't as arcane as it sounds, he added, but rather a portmanteau.

"Ron is my nickname, and 'Doc' is how most people know me."

Rondoc occasionally takes his show on the road as well. In town as a locum tenens doctor at the clinic for the holidays, he took the opportunity to play to a new crowd. Much of magic is about perception, and he tried to impart the concept of illusion to his audience with his opening effects, using two colored shapes of misleadingly similar size to demonstrate.

He went on to entertain and befuddle with a series of acts involving rings, bottomless cups and a balloon he could put a needle through the length of without popping. The adults were often as mesmerized as the kids, with a particularly clever card trick getting some gasps.

"It's really fun," he commented. "It makes people realize what they think they see, or what they believe, they have more sides to the story than just their unitary belief."

His favorite trick involved controlling an ordinary soap bubble, seemingly directing it with only will. It's one he has enjoyed trying the past five years.

"It's not the most magical of all the effects that I do, but I think it's one of the most beautiful," Fribush admitted. "I feel awe and wonder doing it. So I do that one as much for me as for the audience."

The audience was likewise enamored with the effect, though perhaps the biggest rise from the front row came when one of his bubbles came to a rest on the carpet without bursting. The magician seemed about as surprised as the audience.

"That's not supposed to happen."

KSTK to transfer assets to CoastAlaska in sale

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The board of Wrangell's public radio station last month approved a deal which would transfer its ownership to a regional corporation.

Following a decision by its governing board to do so in November, Wrangell Radio Group (WRG) on December 11 filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to transfer its four channels to CoastAlaska in Juneau. Among the four would be KSTK, a

source for news and entertainment on the island since the non-commercial station was first built in 1977.

CoastAlaska is a nonprofit corporation which provides administrative support and engineering services, coordinates news reporting and raises funds for seven Southeast Alaska radio stations and a public television network. KSTK was already a founding CoastAlaska affiliate, with two seats on its governing board allotted to Wrangell. Wrangell Radio Group board di-

rector Angie Flickinger explained the network has over the years assisted the station with its bookkeeping and administrative functions.

The decision to transfer ownership was made out of financial necessity. Compared to other CoastAlaska-affiliated stations in Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan and Juneau, Wrangell's station has the smallest revenue share. Total support and revenue for the fiscal year that ended June 30 came to just under \$400,000 for the station, which is 74 percent of Pe-

tersburg station KFSK's and only 41 percent of Sitka's KCAW.

While its expenditures are likewise more modest, last year totaling \$383,400, the Wrangell station has been more heavily dependent on outside funding. Just over half of KSTK's funding last year came from operating grants through the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission and national Corporation for Public Broadcasting. A contribution from the state, amid ongoing spending deficits APBC grants have seen a reduction in recent years, drop-

ping by 30 percent between FY16 and FY17.

Meanwhile, Flickinger explained that recent changes to employment and revenue generation thresholds to CPB grants have threatened that source of revenue, which last year topped \$120,000.

"They changed the level of funding and it affected our whole budget," she said.

Reductions to grant sources have thus made the station's financial situation untenable, with

Continued on page 2

KSTK

Continued from page 1

slight gains in other revenue sources and cuts to expenditures unable to cover the difference. In terms of membership support the station received just over \$37,500 from local listeners last year, while underwriting from various businesses and organizations contributed another \$47,700. While its underwriting is slightly better than half that

brought in by KFSK, at \$85,000, Petersburg's membership contributions raise about three times as much at \$105,180.

Facing this, KSTK explored other options. At one point Flickinger said local radio board members had considered the possibility of partnership or consolidation with neighboring KFSK. However, acquisition by CoastAlaska struck them as a more at-

tractive proposition because it would ensure the station maintains a local presence.

"We chose this route because it made the most sense," said Flickinger. "It allows us to still exist."

Since CoastAlaska's incorporation in 1998, KSTK has been part of a compact with four other nonprofit corporations managing seven radio stations in all. Since

1999 members retained certain budgetary responsibilities, licenses and property, but transferred financial liabilities to CoastAlaska. Under the new arrangement Wrangell's station would formally become an asset of its network.

Under the terms of its sales agreement with CoastAlaska signed on December 8, WRG would receive \$10 for KSTK and its related assets. In its latest audit, the station has around \$726,000 in assets, which includes property and equipment, though minus depreciation that figure was assessed at \$155,500. The sale itself would only be finalized once consent to reassign its licenses was given by the FCC. An application to make the exchange was submitted on December 11, and a decision is ex-

pected after conclusion of a 30-day public comment period.

"That's what we're kind of navigating right now," said Flickinger.

As for the KSTK board's future, Flickinger said it would probably take on more of an advisory role rather than governance. For example, KSTK's manager would work directly under CoastAlaska rather than the station's board as currently done. But even in this reduced capacity, Wrangell's board would still try to maintain its two seats on the network board and head up local fundraising efforts.

Due to the holiday season, both the KSTK station manager and CoastAlaska executive director were unavailable to comment further on the operational details of the change.

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, Dec.28

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.

Wednesday, January 3

Wrangell Chess Club: Library conference room 7-9:00 p.m.

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., 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, 7 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.

The Way We Were is not available for this week.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, Dec. 30
Malaspina 3:30 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 7
Columbia 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 14
Columbia 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 21
Columbia 3:00 p.m.

Southbound

Friday, Dec. 29
Malaspina 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Columbia 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan.10
Columbia 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17
Columbia 6:45 a.m.

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



TIDES

Dec. 28 - Jan. 4

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Dec.28	8:20	15.4	9:07	12.8	1:32	3.0	2:40	1.7
Dec.29	9:15	16.6	10:09	13.9	2:37	3.0	3:43	0.0
Dec.30	9:54	16.7	10:33	14.7	3:22	2.1	4:13	0.0
Dec.31	10:57	18.8	11:57	15.9	4:37	2.2	5:28	-3.2
Jan. 1	11:46	19.4	5:30	1.8	6:17	-4.2
Jan. 2	12:47	16.5	12:34	19.8	6:19	1.5	7:02	-4.6
Jan. 3	1:35	16.9	1:22	19.6	7:07	1.4	7:48	-4.4
Jan. 4	2:22	16.9	2:10	18.9	7:56	1.5	8:34	-3.6

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, Dec. 28

Sweet and sour chicken, rice, brussels sprouts, spinach salad.

Friday, Dec. 29

Half Ham sandwich, potato salad, carrot pineapple salad, whole wheat roll.

Remainder of menu unavailable for this week.

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

POSTED FUEL PRICES

WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.86

Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.86

PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.79

Petersburg Motors: \$3.70

Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, December 26

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, Dec. 28: Nate Stearns, Per Nolan, **Friday, Dec. 29:** Gordon McCloskey, Emily Sterner, Christie Jamieson, D.J. McConachie, Kim Wickman, Michelle Gross, John Feller Jr., Al Brock, Kenny Golding, Jennifer Davies. **Saturday, Dec. 30:** Rhonda Robinson, Ella Simpson, Sophia Ely, Nicole Kagee, Duncan Scambler. **Anniversary:** Doug and Gail Thomas, Kelly and Dawn Davis, Todd and Elaine Torvend. **Sunday, Dec. 31:** Brad Angerman, Willie Bakeberg, Randy Easterly, Korben Young. **Anniversary:** Mark and Dee Galla, Jerry and Judy Bakeberg. **Monday, January 1:** Craig Johnson, Staci Dilg, Curtiz Kautz, Maka Harrison, Rich Petticrew, Carol Brady. **Tuesday, January 2:** Tucker Gillen, John Maxand, Jim Bailey, Justin Barker, Joan Benjamin, Kameron Stough, Earnest Harvey, Ryan Robinson, **Anniversary:** Dan and Twyla Nore. **Wednesday, January 3:** Devan Nore, Kyler Nore, Evelyn Hammock, Jacquie Dozier, Eliza Feudner, Wes Ingram, Makenna Harding, Archie Young. **Thursday, January 4:** Justin Rusaw, Travis Williams, **Anniversaries:** Butch & Jackie Wenderoth

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



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Dec. 18	36	32
Dec. 19	32	25
Dec. 20	32	28
Dec. 21	32	19
Dec. 22	24	18
Dec. 23	21	17
Dec. 24	21	16
Dec. 25	24	16



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Dec. 28	8:19 am	3:19 pm	7:00h
Dec. 29	8:19 am	3:20 pm	7:01h
Dec. 30	8:19 am	3:21 pm	7:02h
Dec. 31	8:19 am	3:22 pm	7:03h
Jan. 01	8:19 am	3:23 pm	7:04h
Jan. 02	8:19 am	3:25 pm	7:06h
Jan. 03	8:19 am	3:26 pm	7:07h
Jan. 04	8:18 am	3:27 pm	7:09h



Surfin' the Internet?
The Wrangell Sentinel is online!

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- Links around town
- Classifieds
- Contact the Sentinel

The entire news content of the Sentinel is now provided online!



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Courthouse repairs still awaiting mold test and grant application

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The borough and Alaska Court System are awaiting results of air quality testing at Wrangell's Public Safety Building before courthouse services can be resumed.

ACS shuttered the office space it rents there just before Thanksgiving, citing safety concerns for its staff. Long-term water damage and rot to exterior walls of the court offices had been revealed back in September when maintenance workers

opened up the drywall, following reports of a carpenter ant infestation. A judicial officer had to be relocated to another part of the office while the room was put under containment.

Housing most of the city's emergency response services, the building has had a history of such problems. Even before the ants, it was determined extensive refurbishment to the building's north wall would be needed, mirroring work which had been done on the southern side in 2008. Replacement of the roof and rotten siding had made the top of the city's capital projects list this summer at the estimated cost of \$549,633.

The ant infestation underscored the immediacy of the problem, and after a full exterior building envelope inspection consultant Jensen Yorba Lott issued a report with recommendations on September 22. It pointed out a number of problems with the building's seals and materials, which had to-

gether allowed for a number of leaks to undermine the facility's integrity.

During that inspection, Dahlberg Design was brought in as a subcontractor to assess indoor air quality at the building. The Juneau-based consultancy monitored carbon dioxide and particulate levels through much of the building, and moisture readings taken of interior materials. It concluded that conditions in the building were unsuitable for mold growth and that the facility's air quality was several orders of magnitude below federal regulatory thresholds.

Despite the findings, ACS decided it wanted to have a third party examine its courtroom offices' air quality, contracting Wasilla-area inspection company Advance Look. Dahlberg did not take samples for mold spores during its inspection, something Advance Look would do in addition to visual and moisture intrusion inspections. As a precaution the court shut down its Wrangell offices pending those results.

An inspector with the company assessed the Wrangell building during the first week of December, Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad explained. The city decided to contract Advance Look to examine the remainder of the building as well, providing data the courtroom results could be compared by. Al-Haddad said the results of that second run of testing is expected sometime

later this week.

In its report, Dahlberg Design explained it had not undertaken spore sampling because the presence of mold was of itself no cause for concern. Naturally occurring spores are sure to be found inside of any building, it wrote, due to the transfer of air in and out of doors. Determining the presence of moisture would be more important, as spores will not grow if conditions are too dry.

"Given the low level of moisture determined in the wall-board, along with the moderate amounts of organic growth, the environmental engineer's recommendation provides that indoor air quality is within the recommended ranges for a safe indoor environment," Al-Haddad said.

Since the closure of court offices, legal services have been picked up by neighboring courts in Petersburg and Ketchikan. A spokesman for the court system could not speak to personnel matters as a result of the temporary closure, but confirmed ACS will make a decision about whether to resume operations pending the latest test results.

The city is also interested in the results. Though ubiquitous, mold spores can affect people differently depending on their body's sensitivities.

"Our biggest concern right now is just the health of all the employees in the building," Al-Haddad said. "Hopefully these results will just be additional information to what Dahlberg pro-

vided."

Efforts to repair the roof and siding of Wrangell's Public Safety Building remains in its planning stages. Al-Haddad explained the scope of the project will depend on the city's success in securing Community Development Block Grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. If the project is selected for the grant, funds could only be used for part of the building relating to the Fire Department. The cost to repair those sections has been estimated at \$294,000, with Wrangell needing to come up with at least \$137,000 as a match. The remaining \$255,000 needed to repair the building would have to be covered by the city.

An application packet was sent out earlier this month, and Al-Haddad expected a response by early March at the latest.

"If CDBG grant funding is secured, we will move forward with soliciting competitive bids for construction of the entire building's exterior envelope rehabilitation," she said. "If CDBG funding is not secured, or if CDBG funding is secured at a monetary level lower than the City and Borough of Wrangell's request, the CBW would move forward with a phased project, pursuing rehabilitation of life and safety-related issues and the most critical exterior siding systems replacement needs that available funding allows."

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Visit SEARHC.org/nurse-line for more information or SEARHC.org/locations to find your clinic's direct phone number.

 | healthy is here.

Police report

Monday, December 18

Business alarm: Officer responded.

Agency Assist: Power out.

Found property: Key turned into PD.

Agency Assist: Power outage.

Tuesday, December 19

Citizen Assist: Unlock vehi-

cle.

Agency Assist: Safety hazard: verbal warning given for feeding birds.

Traffic: Verbal warning for light out on vehicle.

Citizen Assist: Unlocked vehicle.

Wednesday, December 20

Trespass warning.

Arrested on charges of Assault/DV: Caleb Miethe, 38.

Citizen report of DUI.

Thursday, December 21

Report of trespass.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for equipment.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for expired tags.

Friday, December 22

Citation issued to Livia Ney, 31, for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for expired license.

Dog with porcupine quills: Chief removed.

Suspicious phone call: Telemarketer.

Vacation request.

Fireworks: From boat parade.

Agency Assist: Chimney fire.

Trespass: Officer responded.

Saturday, December 23

Courtesy ride.

Agency Assist: Fire department dispatched.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for equipment.

Traffic stop: Warning given for failure to stop.

Citizen Assist: Intoxicated person.

Sunday, December 24

DUI: Unfounded.

Citizen Report: DUI.

Traffic complaint: Vehicle partially in roadway.

There were two ambulance and three dog complaints in this reporting week.

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Draft action plans released for 2018 Chinook fisheries

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Action plans for the emergency management of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaskan rivers have been drafted ahead of next month's Board of Fisheries meeting in Sitka.

The board, which reviews regulatory oversight of fisheries across the state, planned to meet on January 11 to discuss shellfish and finfish proposals for the coming year. But added to its plate will be a trio of action plans drawn up by the Department of Fish and Game designating king salmon populations in several rivers as stocks of concern.

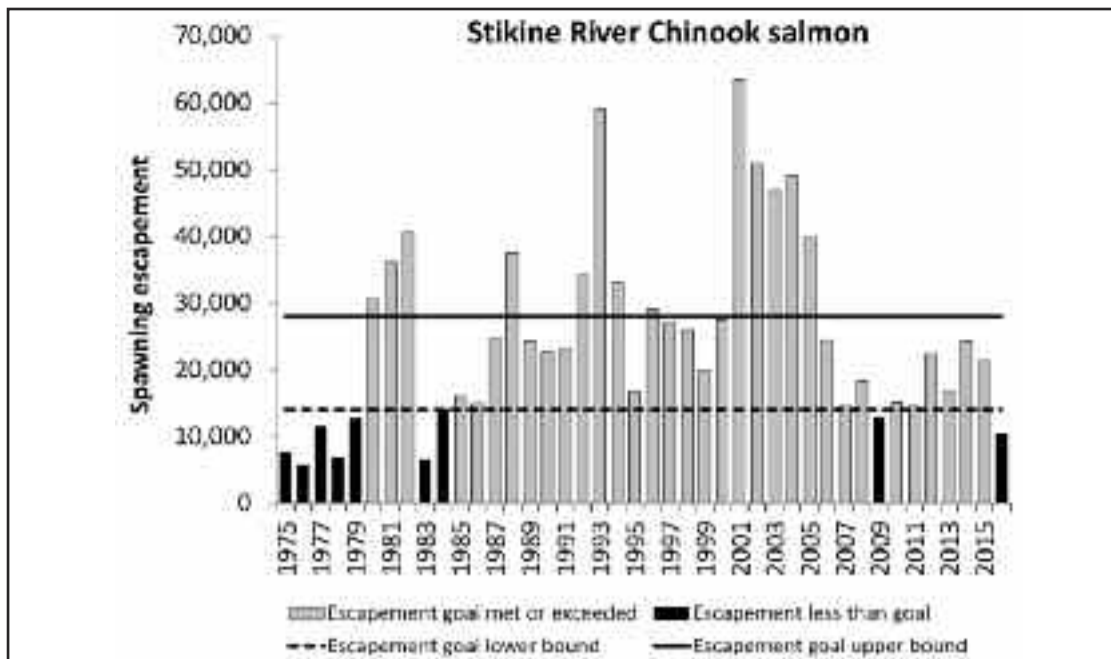
A stock of concern designation is set after a species demonstrates "a chronic inability to meet historical abundance thresholds," as was seen with king salmon stocks this year. With the exception of the Situk River, ADFG has historically low projections for Chinook in the Chilkat, Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers for 2018. Looking back at a

10-year average, stocks in all four are expected to be but a fraction in comparison. On the Stikine, a king salmon forecast of 6,900 was projected, far short of the 24,550 fish average.

The projections come short of lower escapement goal thresholds as well, in all cases falling short of the rivers' preliminary escapement values for 2017 too, which also came under goal.

Based on these findings, in October ADFG recommended to Fisheries that the Unuk, King Salmon and Chilkat rivers' king salmon stocks be designated concern status. Departmental policy does not dictate the same response for the fisheries on the Stikine, Taku and Situk, but ADFG will be recommending "very conservative fishery management in the near term," according to a press release it put out Friday. Management actions to conserve those stocks will also be considered during next month's meeting in Sitka.

Each action plan begins with an



SUBMITTED GRAPHIC ADF&G

This table released by the Department of Fish and Game last Thursday compares forecasts for Chinook salmon runs next year to the 10-year average and preliminary escapement values for this year. With the exception of the Situk River, Southeast Alaska's major salmon rivers have failed to meet lower thresholds for escapement, potentially prompting special management actions for next year.

Chinook Stock	2018 Run Forecast	Avg Run (07-16)	2017 Escapement ^a	Escapement Goal Range	
				Lower	Upper
Situk	730	660	1,187	450	1,050
Chilkat	1,030	2,830	1,231	1,750	3,500
Taku	4,700	28,700	7,000	19,000	38,000
Stikine	6,900	24,550	10,000	14,000	28,000
Unuk	865	3,780	1,203	1,800	3,800
King Salmon ^b	n/a	n/a	85	120	240

SUBMITTED GRAPHIC ADF&G

This graph shows odd-year King salmon escapement rates along the Stikine River over the past 42 years. The recent failure to meet goal is a rare one for the river, which has largely been productive since the mid-1980s.

Editorial

KFSK should broadcast signal to Wrangell

by Ron Loesch, Publisher

Lack of support from KSTK public radio listeners and businesses in Wrangell may bring ownership changes to the station. A public notice published in last week's Wrangell Sentinel foreshadows the transfer of radio station assets to CoastAlaska in Juneau. CoastAlaska provides administrative support and other services for seven Southeast public radio stations including KSTK.

Reductions in grant revenue and local donations, has made the station's financial situation untenable.

We're not convinced that moving the station's operations to CoastAlaska is going to improve the station's outlook.

We think a better option is to have Petersburg's KFSK signal broadcast in both communities. Both stations already re-broadcast news stories from each community on a regular basis and there are topics of broad common interest to both boroughs including news from SEAPA, the U.S. Forest Service, commercial fishing and fish processing, the Alaska Marine Highway System and all matters involving the Stikine River.

It would make sense for a couple of KSTK employees to draw their paychecks from KFSK and have the current Petersburg manager oversee those employees, thus avoiding the need for duplicate management positions.

Public radio is big business in Wrangell and Petersburg. Both stations operated on revenue sources of just under a million dollars in FY 2016. That is a lot of money considering the Petersburg/Wrangell market combined cannot support a privately owned radio station.

KSTK reports assets of about \$726,000, many of which may be needed to get KFSK's signal to Wrangell.

Consolidated operations would bring efficiencies to both stations and ensure continued broadcasts to both communities. Most importantly, it would show state and federal funding sources that the stations are seeking alternative ways to save money during tight fiscal times.

Public radio cannot maintain stations in each small Alaskan community, but with today's technology it's possible to transmit programming to a wider audience that can include Wrangell and other neighboring communities.

overview of the resource, past management actions and possible courses to take to preserve Chinook stocks. Aside from a status quo approach, one of the options put forward for the commercial fisheries involves a combination of shaping and closures, closing the winter troll and limiting retention for king salmon. Additional limitations on personal use and sport-fishing are also explored.

The Board of Fisheries will consider these proposals and weigh the different options, offering either concurrence or direction on how to preserve the region's Chinook stock.

"We expect a fair bit of input on it from the public," Fisheries executive director Glenn Haight expected.

In addition to these action plans, the board will look at 153 different proposals relating to finfish and shellfish management in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. A full copy of the 2017-18 fisheries proposal book and meeting materials are available online at the ADFG website, at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meeting-info&date=01-11-2018&meeting=sitka>.

The public comment deadline for inclusion in the meeting's work materials ends at 5 p.m. today, though the board will still be receptive to comments through the

end of next month's meeting. Commenters are asked to limit their submissions to 10 single-sided or five double-sided pages.

In addition to submitting written public comments, the public is invited to give oral testimony during the meeting. Shellfish proposals begins review January 11, with finfish starting January 15. Any person intending to testify must sign up at the meeting site at the Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka by 2 p.m. at the sessions' start.

All portions of the meeting will be open to the public and a live audio stream is intended to be available on the Board of Fisheries website at <http://www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov>. Copies of advanced meeting materials, including the agenda and roadmap, are available from boards support section, either by calling 465-4110 or visiting www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meeting-info.

NEW YEAR WEEK'S SCHEDULES

Monday, Jan. 1,
Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 2,
Open 10 am - 5 pm

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Aging of the fleet prompts recommendations for deckhand apprenticeships; \$142,000 grant awarded to get more boots on deck statewide

The clamor of “take me fishing” is taking on new meaning in Alaska.

Prospects for a deckhand apprenticeship program just got a big lift from a \$142,000 national grant awarded to the Sitka-based Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association (ALFA), and the group plans to get more boots on deck statewide.

Deckhand apprenticeships are recommended as one way to attract younger entrants into an industry where the average fisherman’s age in Alaska is over 50.

ALFA has been crafting a local deckhand training program since 2015, and the grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be used to develop curricula and protocols for skippers and crew statewide, said ALFA outreach coordinator Alyssa Russell.

Salmon troller Eric Jordan gets the credit for inspiring the program, Russell said, adding that he has taken out 25 greenhorns so far for short term crew jobs on his F/V *I Gotta*.

“Finding crew with some experience, who loves fishing in Alaska, is so critical to the future of our individual businesses in the industry as a whole,” Jordan said. “This program gives them the taste of it. Deckhands know they like it, and skippers can recommend them for future employment. It is a win-win for everyone.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCENT BALANSAG

Lights floating in the darkness

Conditions were just right for the return of Wrangell’s Christmas Boat Parade last Friday. Though crisp out on the water, a light breeze and calm seas made for easy going for the nine vessels that took part. Cheerily decorated and spouting fireworks, the vessels made their way to Petroglyph Beach before making a jaunt south along Zimovia Highway.

ALFA took Jordan’s model and developed it into a more formal ALFA program, and “tried to rope in other skippers and deckhands,” Russell said. “We want to give skippers the tools they need to mentor someone. For instance, safety procedures, crew contracts, and basic checklists of protocol for someone who has never been on a boat before.”

Jordan said he has been inspired by the enthusiasm of budding fishermen is his many “experiential trolling” trips.

He shared a quote from one: “Crewing was a dream come true. I had never been commercial fishing before; I had never even killed a fish. The days were filled with learning and fun. I learned how fishing works, the lifestyle about salmon and a lot more.”

A report released this month called ‘Turning the Tide’ highlights the ‘graying of the fleet’ and recommends ways that a new generation of Alaska fishermen can enter the industry. The user-friendly study was compiled by Paula Cullenberg of Alaska Sea Grant, Rachel Donkersloot with

Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and Courtney Carothers, Jesse Coleman, and Danielle Ringer of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Fishery values - Alaska’s halibut and sablefish fisheries produced a combined value of \$208 million this year, a 10 percent increase. At the same time, the value of Bering Sea fisheries crab tanked.

The data come from the tallies of Alaska fishermen who hold catch shares of halibut, sablefish and Bering Sea crab. They each pay an annual fee to the federal government to cover management and enforcement costs for the fisheries.

The fee, which is capped at 3 percent, is based on dock prices through September and averaged across the state. For halibut and sablefish, a payback at 2.2 percent yielded \$4.7 million for coverage costs.

“Enforcement costs for those fisheries went down by 44 percent from last year,” said Carl Greene, cost recovery coordinator for

NOAA Fisheries in Juneau. He said bills recently went out to 1,894 quota share holders, down 74 from 2016.

It was sablefish, not halibut, that bumped up the value of the combined fisheries.

“The total fishery value for halibut at \$111.5 million was relatively flat year over year, while sablefish increased 24 percent going from \$78 million to \$97 million,” Greene explained. “That resulted from an 11 percent increase in pounds landed and a 12 percent increase in average sablefish prices.”

Prices to fishermen for halibut decreased by 35-cents this year, while sablefish dock prices increased by 50-cents. “The halibut prices decreased to \$6.32 per pound and sablefish increased to average \$4.84 per pound,” Greene said. Federal managers don’t track dock prices for Bering Sea crab, only the total value of the fishery, which took a steep drop. The value for the 2016/17 season totaled \$188 million, a decrease of \$40 million from the previous year.

The fee for crab catches paid by 18 quota share holders remained flat at 1.6 percent and yielded \$3 million for enforcement costs.

For just the second year, groups of big Bering Sea trawlers that fish for flounders, pollock and other whitefish, including vessels owned by CDQ groups, are pitching in for fishery coverage costs. Their fee of roughly one percent yielded just over \$2 million.

Fish watch – It’s holiday time, but many Alaska fishermen are still out on the water and more openers are coming on line. Catch forecasts for 2018 also are trickling in almost daily from state and federal fishery managers.

Trawlers are still able to fish for flounders, mackerel, perch and other whitefish, and cod is open to longline, jig and pot gears through December 31. Then, the very next day, on January 1, a cod season will reopen in both the Gulf and Bering Sea.

In Southeast Alaska, divers are still going down for giant geoduck clams and sea cucumbers. Salmon trollers got the good news that the winter Chinook fishery will remain open until further notice. A downturn in king salmon has managers using extra caution with catches. A closing date for the fishery, which typically can run through April, will be set at the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting in Sitka.

Also in Southeast: the 2018 forecast for the Sitka Sound herring fishery is 11,128 tons, down from 14,649 tons this year. The Sitka herring fishery usually kicks off in March.

At the state’s largest herring fishery at Togiak, the 2018 catch is pegged at 24,042 tons, up slightly from this year.

Bering Sea crabbers will be back out on the water in January targeting snow crab and Tanners.

Alaska’s largest fishery, pollock, will open January 20 in the Gulf and Bering Sea, including at Prince William Sound, which has a 7.1 million pound catch quota.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries meets January 11-23 in Sitka. The board will consider 153 proposals regarding Southeast and Yakutat fish and shellfish issues for commercial, subsistence, sport and personal users.

Catch limits for the 2018 Pacific halibut fishery will be announced by the International Pacific Halibut Commission at its Jan. 22-26 meeting in Portland, Ore.

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Wrangell Sanitation Department

GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Garbage normally scheduled for pick-up on **Monday, January 1st**, will be collected the following day, on **January 2nd**.



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 January 1st, 2018.

Public Works wishes everyone in Wrangell a happy New Year!

Fuel price notices to end

With the next edition, the Wrangell Sentinel and the Petersburg Pilot will discontinue the Posted Fuel Notice that has been published since October 2015.

Fuel prices were more volatile then and the price fluctuation was of more interest to the public.

The retail price is clearly market driven and both Wrangell and Petersburg have competing vendors in each community. It's obvious that the size of the market and the distance from the refinery will continue to influence the prices consumers pay at the pump in both towns.

Absent new information, we see no need to continue the weekly notices.

Classified/Legals

BOATS AND MARINE

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

FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM HOUSE, in town near high school. Available in November. Call 907-305-0619..... tfn10-19b13

SERVICES

THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfnhd

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

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ADVERTISEMENT Temporary Mechanic's Assistant Public Works Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell (CBW) Public Works Department will accept applications for the position of Temporary Mechanic's Assistant through January 2, 2018.

This position is for an immediate temporary 40-hour per week hire, with work lasting approximately six weeks. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and have knowledge of light vehicle maintenance. For a complete list of duties and responsibilities a job application may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929. Rate of pay depends on experience and will be based on the CBW Temporary Wage Scale.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Published: December 21 and 28, 2017

FOR SALE

Diesel Engines & Jet Outdrives



Twin 6-cyl Yanmar 6LP high rev diesel engines coupled with 241 Hamilton Jets with turbo impellers. Under 1600 hours. Cruises at 30 knots at 3500 RPM in current Bentz passenger vessel. Fuel burn: 15 gal. per hour.

Equipment new: \$91,000.

Selling for ~~\$59,000~~ **\$54,000.**

Contact Ron at
(907) 772-9393 or 518-1180

Legal Notice of Opportunity to Comment

SSRAA Burnett Inlet Hatchery Residence Project

The Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) Burnett Inlet Hatchery (BIH) Residence. The BIH is located approximately 25 miles south-southwest of Wrangell, Alaska on Etolin Island within the Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District. The project would authorize SSRAA to construct and maintain a new building and relocate a segment of boardwalk foot trail on National Forest System lands. The Responsible Official for this project is: M. Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, Federal Building 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99835, 907-225-3101 (phone).

The EA and FONSI are available on-line at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50261>. The EA and FONSI are also available for review at the Wrangell Ranger District. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: David Rak, Lands, Special Uses, Minerals, Recreation, and Wilderness Forester, Wrangell Ranger District, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929, 907-874-2323, email drak@fs.fed.us.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in the Ketchikan Daily News, the newspaper of record for the Forest Supervisor. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, email, fax, or in person to: David Rak, Lands, Special Uses, Minerals, Recreation, and Wilderness Forester, Wrangell Ranger District, P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, AK 99929, 907-874-2323 (phone), 907-874-7595 (fax), or at comments-alaska-tongass-wrangell@fs.fed.us.

Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Published: December 28, 2017

Public Notice

Wrangell Museum has been in the process of cleaning up its paperwork and ownership on items held in the collection: Please be advised that the Museum will acquire ownership of the following items if a valid claim is not received by the museum within 45 days of the last publication of this notice. All items are "Found in collection" All items have been in the museum's documented possession since prior to 1993. A list of the items is as follows: FIC #'s .112 wood mop bucket, .113 tiny glass bottle, .114 & .115 Wee Shrimp Alaskan can, .116 & .117 wood floats, .118 net shuttle, .119 Geode Quartz, .120 Boy scout, garnet ledge sign, .121 Yakutat Toy paddle, .122 Alaska Beaded coin purse, .123 Legging, beaded, .124 ski poles, .125 beaded book mark, .126 Beaded pouch, Rock Samples.127 & .128 molybdenite, .129 Staurolite, .130 calcite, .131 to .135 Pyrite, .136 Cinnabar, .137 & .138 Calcite, .139 lead sulfide, .140 Beryl Crystal, .141 Zinc sulfide, .142 malachite, .143 Asbestos, .144 Staurolite, .145 fossil coral, .146 copper, .147 wood snow ski's, .148 wood duck, .149 halibut hook, .150 Electric griddle, .151 metal wire rack, .152 cast iron pan, .153 boat paddle with red paint, .154 canoe paddle plain, .155 canoe paddle tapered, .156 & .171 US flags condition poor, .157 Gray rock, .158 painting (snow scene by Barrister), .159 painting mountain/lake, .160 & .161 Burroughs manual calculating machines (Fair), .162 wood dining chair, .163 Cummins paper perforating machine, .164 & .165 Mimeograph machines, .166 cast iron lamp part, .167 Flag of Russia, .168 wood float, .169 Flag Alaska Centennial, .170 derby hat, .171 fishing float, .172 Stone tool, .173 harpoon point, .174 cedar hat, .175, .176 & .177 gun flints, .178 Smith manual typewriter, .179 Underwood manual typewriter, .180 Allen manual adding machine, .181 Metal bucket with holes from bear, .182, .183 & .184 sash weights, .185 1950 basketball schedule, .168 & .201 nylon basketball nets, .187 1970 basketball, .188 Linen dresser scarf, .189 painting of Ferry dock, .190 metal loop handle, .191 barrel cart dolly with BABL on side, .192 Barrel dolly, .193 Charcoal portrait, .194 X-ray viewer, .195 Senungatul water color, .196 metal Alaska communication sign, .197 sketch of Harry Ukas, .198 folding wood box (poor), .199 & .200 boat Navigation lights, .202 child's native kuspuk (new), painting (man in boat), .204 Charcoal portrait of man, .206 model fish smoking scene, .210 wood roller, .211 print (copy) drawing of chief shakes V, .212 shady lady dress, .213 Anvil model, .214 US flag (fair), .215 totem model, .216 Saucer, .217 Cup, .220 paddle Tlingit design, .221 Kuspuk, .222 Totem model, .223 iron tongs, .224 boat sign (Hazel B), .225 1980 trophy (man with torch), .226 wall hanging (lime green with totemic image), .227 linen arm chair cover, .228 small Cig dispenser, .230 wooden coffee table, .231 Burrough's cash register, .232 Replica of small Copper shield, wooden plaque with killer whale from Met. .234 Pen & Ink of Ft. Wrangell brewing co. Contact: Terri Henson, Museum Director, PO Box 1050, Wrangell AK 99929. 907-874-3770 for more information or to make claim of ownership. Claims must be supported by documentation or proof of ownership.

Published: December 21 and 28, 2017 and January 4 and 11, 2018

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Introducing the WHS 2017-2018 Wolves Basketball Teams



Wolves



The 2017 - 2018 Wrangell Wolves:
 from left to right:
 Graham Gablehouse: Assistant coach,
 #33 Kellan Eagle, #20 Stone Guggenbickler,
 #10 Jacob Hammer. #12 Riley Blatchley,
 #32 Caleb Groshong, #24 Tymon Teat,
 #22 Brian Schwartz, #34 Trevor Miller,
 Head coach: Cody Angerman; Max Voltz,
 Not pictured: Ian Jensen, Brett Abrahamsom

Lady Wolves

The 2017-2018 Wrangell Lady Wolves:
 From left to right:
 Head Coach: Laurie Brown,
 Assistant Coach: Katelyn Reeves,
 #24 Aaliyah Messmer, # 30 Tasha Massin,
 #25 Kaylyn Easterly, # 32 Abby Gerald,
 #11 Helen Decker, #23 Anna Allen,
 #10 Maddy Harding, #2 Krissy Lockabey,
 #12 Elizabeth Armstrong,
 #5 Madison Blackburn, #1 Julia Miethe,
 #14 Abby Arstrong, # 15 Skyler Larrabee.
 Team Managers: Erin Galla & Ashley Allen
 Not pictured: Hannah Brown.



2017-2018 Schedule

December 28 - 30:	@Ketchikan	February 7 - 8:	Craig
January 5 - 6:	@Petersburg	February 16 - 17:	Metlakatla
January 12 - 13:	@Craig	February 23 - 24:	@Haines
January 19 - 20:	Haines	March 2 - 3:	Petersburg
January 26 - 27:	@Metlakatla	March 7 - 8; Region V:	@ Ketchikan

Best of luck to the Wrangell Wolves from the following businesses:

AP&T	Johnson's Building Supply	The Bay Company
Angerman's	Ottesen's True Value	Tongass Federal Credit Union
Buness Brothers	Sentry Marine & Hardware	Michelle's Taste of Asia
Bobs' IGA	Sunrise Aviation	Wrangell Elks Lodge #1595
Breakaway Adventures	Stikine Drug Store	Wrangell Medical Center
City Market	Stough Family Trust	Wrangell Sentinel
First Bank-Member FDIC	Tyee Travel	

Hospital cash at 20-day mark; architect to be sought

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Medical Center passed its annual financial audit without complaint, though its cash flow situation is still not in the best of health.

Financial officer Doran Hammett ran down the numbers for members of the hospital's governing board during their monthly meeting December 20. Revenues for the past five months still are lagging behind expectation, around eight percent below budget. Expenses have also been lower than expected, by about six percent, but the hospital is nonetheless running at around a \$224,460 loss for the 2018 fiscal year.

The year began on July 1 with just over \$838,600 in reserve, enough to run the hospital for 28 days. In the time since, accounts receivable have increased by around \$160,000 while other expenses in inventory and equipment have had to be offset by the borrowing of \$250,000 from the borough through a zero-interest emergency line of credit it had set up in the summer of 2015.

While the WMC is a public asset, historically its assets have been maintained independently from the city's finances. Maintaining revenue flow has in recent years proven difficult, and while the creation of a municipal

line of credit was one way to alleviate the hospital's financial fragility, transfer of its billing services in 2015 to Alabama-based service TruBridge had been another.

The firm's ability to collect on outstanding bills initially helped bring WMC's total accounts receivable down from a high point of \$4.2 million in 2014, but coding errors on the hospital's end this year contributed another financial dilemma. By October cash reserves had dropped down to just over \$311,000 in only a matter of months, prompting administrators to approach the Borough Assembly with its credit request.

By last week's meeting Hammett reported the hospital had around \$554,000 in cash reserves, or just under 20 days' worth of operating funds. While billable services have slowed somewhat, he did have good news to report concerning WMC's FY16 and FY17 audit. Independent auditor BDO USA reported no instances of non-compliance with the Wrangell hospital's bookkeeping, and did not identify any "material weaknesses" in its statements.

"You have clean financial statements, according to them," Hammett said.

Looking ahead, WMC chief executive Robert Rang informed

board members the Assembly had approved an agreement with Southeast Alaska Rural Health Consortium to cooperatively contract an architect to design a new hospital facility. Wrangell's current hospital campus is in need of replacement, Rang has explained, both to meet more modern code requirements and to improve its compensatory flow from Medicare and Medicaid through depreciation of assets.

Costs on a draft concept for a facility presented in November came back higher than the hospital had hoped for, and over three decades could run between \$90 million and \$115 million. Given its revenue situation and

limited resources on the part of the borough, last month members of the WMC board and Assembly concluded a partner such as SEARHC would be needed to make any such investment feasible.

As SEARHC earlier this year acquired clinical provider Alaska Island Community Services, representatives expressed its interest in exploring a partnership with the local hospital, with which it already does considerable business.

Ahead of its decision, a letter recommending hiring a consultant in cooperation with a partner had been submitted to the Assembly by the Wrangell Medical Center governing board in No-

vember. Under the subsequent non-binding agreement, SEARHC would help cover architectural costs while the direction of the project would be toward developing a connected campus arrangement with the AICS clinic on Wood Street.

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