

AICS-SEARHC merger delayed until April

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A planned-for merger between two regional healthcare providers has been put on hold for two months.

Alaska Island Community

Services was to merge with larger organization SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) on February 1, but the consolidation will have to wait until April 1. The merger was formally announced last October,

and heads of both organizations subsequently met with Wrangell officials in November and in January to explain the transition.

AICS executive Mark Walker has said the move was needed due to growth in the organization.

Since its founding in Wrangell in 1989, the organization has branched out into clinical, pharmaceutical and behavioral health care in six communities. AICS' most recent expansion came earlier last fall, when it announced it

would take on administration of the Juneau Front Street Community Health Center.

With the expansion of services came an increase in revenues, on average increasing by 25 percent annually over the 15-year period to 2010. Since then, returns have leveled out, and in 2014 and 2015 AICS began to lose revenue.

Headquartered in Juneau, SEARHC is a non-profit, tribal health consortium representing 18 Native communities in Southeast Alaska. Among its facilities are the Ethel Lund Medical Center in Juneau and Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka, and with 1,000 people on staff it is one of the largest employers in the region.

The proposed merger with AICS would extend the organization's reach to 24 communities, and as SEARHC's status as a tribal entity allows it greater reimbursement rates in both Medicare and Medicaid, the change would ostensibly boost the Wrangell-based service's revenue situation. Because of its size, SEARHC would also be able to negotiate better with Primera Blue Cross, the only company participating in

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Meet the future class of 2034-35

Charity Hommel of Alaskacherry Photography finds the right moment to capture a group picture of 11 infants born to local families since September 2015. The group photo will be a surprise 17 or 18 years in the making, when the tots-turned-teens are due to graduate high school.

Road paved for two new B&Bs, P&Z Okays hotel bid

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's Planning and Zoning Commission approved a pair of conditional use applications for prospective bed and breakfast establishments at last Thursday's evening meeting.

For one of these, Linda Nore and Steve Thomassen want to operate "Mount Dewey Extended Stay," a two-bedroom rental operated out of their home on Mt. Dewey Lane. They put in an application with the city on January 19 that would allow for the limited use, specifying no additional construction would be needed to make the transition.

The request drew a number of neighbors, who had concerns about streetside parking on the narrow, dead-end lane. Next-door neighbor Gene White felt the parking situation was already problematic, with multiple vehicles routinely on the property. When these end up parked on the roadside, during the winter White noted it poses a problem for the plows when they come by.

"When they moved in originally I was told they were going to make additional off-street parking for the family, which they haven't," he testified.

Two houses down, Frank Warfel Sr. echoed the sentiment, adding that he had no problem with adding a rental unit. Explaining his was one of the first on the road back in 1979, he noted the downhill curve from Third Street was a blind one, and echoed White's consideration of wintertime driving.

"I do have a real problem with the traffic and the parking up there," Warfel said. "It's a dead-end street."

Participating by phone, Nore contested the notion the property needed more parking.

"We currently only own three vehicles," she said, adding the driveway was suitable for four. Also on the phone, Thomassen said one of his children may park a truck on the street. He further SAID addition of the city's Mt. Dewey trailhead nearby for additional parking and traffic, prompting tut-tutting from the audience.

White came back to the lectern to explain this was not the case in the winter, and not the issue.

"As Frank has said, that corner can be a bear, especially in the winter time when it's slick," he said. He added snowplows end up pushing the bulk of fallen snow onto his yard when vehicles are parked on the roadside.

"We are not the only people that do that," said Nore. She noted the proposed rental wouldn't be "high volume," with perhaps a few people renting at any one time. "It's not any different than if we have another person living in our house with a vehicle."

One of the requirements for conditional use is that entrances and off-street parking be available without safety issues. In its recommendation to approve the application, the city proposed making it a requirement that a minimum of two parking spaces be dedicated off-

street on the property for the resident and the rental unit.

Living nearby, John Taylor testified to his support for the addition of another short-term B&B.

"Issues like this are no fun," he commented, drawing on 14 years of prior experience sitting on the zoning commission. Also operating a B&B, he estimated maybe only a quarter of the time his guests had a vehicle. With the closure and repurposing of the Sourdough Lodge this year and the Thunderbird Hotel several years ago, Taylor added the additional beds would be useful to the community.

"That's four more tourists that could come to our fair city," he said.

Commissioners Roland Howell and Duke Mitchell saw the parking issue as more of a police matter than their own, and voted in favor of the application with the city's recommendations. The item got a 4-0 vote.

Just up the hill on Third Street, owners of another single-family residential property were applying for a similar conditional use application. Karl and Dorothy Gladsjo want to operate a transient short-term rental in the lower floor of their two-story home. With the same conditions and for similar reasons as the prior item, the commissioners unanimously approved their application.

In other zoning business, commissioners approved an application from Southeast Properties, which operates the Stikine Inn and Restaurant, to purchase

from the city 5,450 square feet of submerged tidelands and 2,000 square feet of uplands to the north and west of the hotel's current property line. The bid is at nearly two-thirds of the assessed value, at \$64,507. Southeast Properties co-owner Bill Goodale explained the assessed value seemed too high for the investment, which he eventually envisions will see expansion of the hotel by 30 additional rooms and dockside sales space. The project could take between three and five years, and would double the hotel's capacity.

Chairing the commission in the absence of the president and vice-president, Apryl Hutchinson explained the lower price seemed acceptable because it incentivize the sale. In turn, the additional development would be of benefit to the community in the long run through additional revenue and opportunity to host larger-scale events.

"It will not reduce their property taxes, it will reduce the (cost of) sale of the property," she explained.

Commissioners agreed, mirroring a decision by the Port Commission on February 2 to recommend the sale. They voted 4-0 in favor of the proposal. Both commissions' decisions will be considered by the Borough Assembly when it decides on the bid.

"We appreciate it very much," Goodale told zoning commissioners after the meeting. "I think you'll be very happy with what you see being built down there."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, February 16: Deb Robinson, Nicole Francois, Winston Davies, **Friday, February 17:** Dennis Barlow Jr., Aubrey Travers, Samuel Armstrong, Erik Ottesen, *Anniversary:* Steve and Maria Beers, Frank and Pat Warfel, **Saturday, February 18:** Leanna Splinter, Jen Banks, Taylor Bean, Tyler Torvend, Marline Fain, **Sunday, February 19:** Lee Romane, Einar Haaseth, Marion Neyman, Bradley Neel, **Monday, February 20:** Johanna Joseph, Abree Powers, Mark Seimears, Melissa Wellons, Jim Wenderoth, Jodie Guggenbickler, Zach Lane, *Anniversary:* Kevin and Lisa O'Keefe, **Tuesday, February 21:** Paul Southland, Jennifer Weekley, Casey Crayne, Liz Bunes, Dale Maenhout, Ivan Fairbanks, Randy Kalkins, Rob Blake, Alexandra Kaer, Bridgett Bass, **Wednesday, February 22:** Candace Hunt, Cocoa Massin, Steve Angerman, Jim Maxand, Erika Bates, Sierra Wickman, **Thursday, February 23:** Anna Allen
 If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.

Senior Center Menu

Friday, February 17:

A-1 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, romaine and radish salad

Monday, February 20:

Closed Presidents Day

Tuesday, February 21:

Moose stroganoff noodles, Southwest veggie blend, Carrott raisin salad

Wednesday, February 22:

Pork chop suey rice, Broccoli and cauliflower blend, Danish salad

Thursday, February 23:

Cinnamon chicken with green pepper zucchini, tossed salad, hot roll

Friday, February 24:

Turkey pot pie, romaine and radish salad, hot roll

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Sunday, February 19

Malaspina 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21

Matanuska 10:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 25

Matanuska 5:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 26

Malaspina 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28

Matanuska 10:00 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, February 22

Malaspina 3:00 a.m.

Friday, February 24

Matanuska 11:30 a.m.

Monday, February 27

Matanuska 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 4

Matanuska 1:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 5

Malaspina 6:15 p.m.

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



TIDES TABLE

February 16 - February 23

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM	PM	AM	PM				
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Feb. 16	4:06	15.2	4:21	13.3	10:06	2.4	10:11	2.6
Feb. 17	4:44	14.4	5:11	12.0	10:53	3.0	10:53	3.8
Feb. 18	5:32	13.7	6:21	11.0	11:50	3.5	11:45	4.9
Feb. 19	6:35	13.2	7:48	10.7	12:59	3.8
Feb. 20	7:49	13.1	9:06	11.2	0:53	5.7	2:19	3.4
Feb. 21	8:57	13.7	10:07	12.1	2:14	5.9	3:33	2.5
Feb. 22	9:55	14.5	10:56	13.2	3:31	5.4	4:28	1.3
Feb. 23	10:44	15.4	11:37	14.3	4:29	4.4	5:11	0.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, February 16

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

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

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

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

Monday, February 20

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

Tuesday, February 21

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

Friday, February 24

Ayyam-i-Ha Party: 6 p.m. Stikine Fireview Room. Taco dinner, music and family fun. Everyone is welcome. Hosted by Wrangell Baha'is. RSVP: Kay Larson 907-209-9117.

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

Continuing Events

PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES: **Lap Swim:** M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m., F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m., S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

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

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

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

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

The Way We Were

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

February 15, 1917: Last Saturday and Sunday the town of Wrangell was host to a goodly delegation from Petersburg. The attraction at Wrangell was the basketball game between the teams of Wrangell and Petersburg. However, neither the Wrangell nor the Petersburg people regarded the game as more than an incident to the visit. The game was called at 8:30, George Northrope acting as referee. Both teams exhibited plenty of "pep" and some swift passes were made on both sides. The visiting team was defeated, their defeat being chiefly poor basket shooting. The game was a clean one, and the best of feeling prevailed throughout. Following the game there was a dance, excellent music being furnished by the Native Band.

February 13, 1942: Mrs. Sarah E. Pritchett, former owner and publisher of The Wrangell Sentinel and for 22 years prominent in this community, was in Wrangell this week, arriving on the Princess Norah and returning to her home in Seattle on the return trip of the same boat. Mrs. Pritchett came up to wind up business affairs and dispose of property. She sold her Front Street home to Mr. and Mrs. William E. Byrd following the death of her husband, James Pritchett, ten years ago.

February 17, 1967: Robert Armstrong, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Armstrong, and Steve Urata, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Urata, have been selected as members of the U.S. high school band and chorus, Don Riach. Director of Band in Wrangell public schools, was

advised this week by First Chair of America, an honor recognition of bands, orchestras and choruses throughout the United States. The selection is made on basis of tape audition and the announcement said "The tape of these talented students was submitted to the Audition Committee of First Chair of America and was judged to be of the quality expected of outstanding high school musicians throughout the nation."

February 13, 1992: Wrangell's recycling program is gaining momentum with the arrival of bins and container vans at the solid waste landfill, but Solid Waste Committee member Volney Smith said public input and information are still crucial to getting the program going at full speed. Smith

said the committee would like the public's participation to help decide how it will work. Rather than take a wait and see attitude toward recycling, the city has begun collecting some recyclables.

POSTED FUEL PRICES

WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.49

Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.49

PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.56

Petersburg Motors: \$3.45

Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, February 14



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
February 5	35	28
February 6	33	26
February 7	30	21
February 8	24	15
February 9	23	10
February 10	35	17
February 11	41	33
February 12	44	39



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb. 16	7:13a	4:52p	9:39h
Feb. 17	7:11a	4:54p	9:43h
Feb. 18	7:09a	4:56p	9:47h
Feb. 19	7:06a	4:59p	9:53h
Feb. 20	7:04a	5:01p	9:57h
Feb. 21	7:02a	5:03p	10:01h
Feb. 22	6:59a	5:05p	10:06h
Feb. 23	6:57a	5:07p	10:10h

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Chamber of Commerce dinner recognizes community contributions

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At its 27th Annual Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce announced its honors list for 2017.

There were five nominees for this year's Wrangell Citizen of the Year: school board member and Wells Fargo Bank employee Aleisha Mollen; Sourdough Lodge proprietor Bruce Harding; Alaska Vistas operator Sylvia Ettefagh; Dr. Lynn Prysunka at Alaska Island Community Services; and Evergreen Elementary School secretary Renate Davies.

Of the candidates, Prysunka was awarded this year's honor, having served the community as a family practice physician for 20 years. Noted among her accomplishments were the challenging hours and

dedication needed, the commitment she had shown despite intermittent staffing shortages, and her service as medical director for the AICS clinic, the Wrangell Medical Center chief of staff, medical director for the local Emergency Medical Services, and the medical director of the Crossings Wilderness Program.

In her nomination letter it was noted: "Dr. Prysunka's schedule is always full as her services are in high demand. Patients value her expertise, professionalism, kindness, and patience. She often goes the extra mile for her patients as her goal is always the best possible medical outcome."

The Chamber's Business of the Year Award went to grocery store Bobs' IGA, for its role in supporting the local food bank, ministerial events, and local recycling efforts. Owned by Bob and Bobbie

Robbins, the business was lauded for its hiring and management practices as well.

"If there is a fundraiser going on, Bob will donate or share his space at the store to others. If someone is in need of essentials, Bob is there to help give a hand and donate," stated the store's nomination letter.

"We always appreciate this type of award, but there are plenty of other businesses that do a lot," Bob Robbins noted afterward. "We're just happy we have the resources to do what we do."

This year's Young Leaders awards went to high school seniors Reyn Hutten, Alex Angerman and Kaylauna Churchill. The award goes to local youth who have shown leadership, commitment to the community and intelligence and who are positive role models for their peers.

A special Community Appreciation Award was presented to Hannah's Place, a non-profit on Church Street dedicated to assisting local women in need. It provides a variety of services for women of all ages, including education with peer counseling, networking for resources and a wide variety of items helpful to pre- and post-natal care.

Held at the Nolan Center, despite awful icy road conditions, around 120 guests still made it out for the catered dinner, drinks and the premiere of six short promotional videos the City of Wrangell and the Chamber will use to attract visitors to the island. Final figures are still being put together, but a dessert auction and raffle for two round-trip tickets provided by Alaska Airlines were among the fundraising aspects of the dinner.

AICS-SEARHC

Continued from page 1

Alaska's health insurance marketplace.

Many of the intended benefits to the merger will be financial. Walker explained the organizations will need a couple of additional months to prepare for the transition.

"I think it was a combination of the holidays, being able to coordinate the finances," he said of the delay. Because of its varied set of services and the different state and federal agencies it deals with, Walker said the move proved to be more complicated than initially expected. "All of those create complexities between different agencies."

The merger announcement caused the Borough Assembly some concerns, particularly how the change would affect local employment, current arrange-

ments with Wrangell Medical Center, and tax arrangements with the city. AICS is currently Wrangell's largest single private employer, and provides various staff and services for the local medical center. In past meetings, assurances were given by Walker and SEARHC administrators that staffing would not be reduced, and that cooperation with WMC would continue as before.

SEARHC CEO Charles Clement also committed the organization to continuing land and revenue arrangements with the city. The property for the AICS primary clinic on Wood Street had also been provided by the city for

a symbolic price of \$1 in 2010, with the intention of eventually building a new building for Wrangell Medical Center on the adjacent property. AICS presently provides between \$60,000 and \$70,000 each year in property taxes for it and other properties.

Assembly members were on board with the transfer of the statutory warranty deed to SEARHC in the event the merger was finalized, but only after a workshop was held in January to hammer out details. SEARHC agreed to allow one member of the Borough Assembly a permanent seat on its new advisory council, which will supplant

AICS' present corporate board. The council would also retain Walker, and is intended to amplify local input and forward concerns for continuing care to SEARHC administrators.

The two organizations also intend to oversee establishment of a community foundation using a portion of AICS' financial reserves, which will help support

programs and services dedicated to improving the health of Wrangell's residents. An initial endowment could range between \$1,000,000 and \$2,500,000 initially, with 10 percent of the Wrangell clinic's net profits cycled into the foundation.

For the story, SEARHC deferred to Walker for explanation of the merger's delay.

Legislative call-in at LIO office

Everyone is welcome to an Open House at the Legislative Information Office Thursday, February 23rd, from 4 - 6 pm. Come see what the office has to offer and enjoy light refreshments. Also available will be an informal teleconference with Representative Dan Ortiz from 5 - 6 pm. This is your opportunity to let him know your opinions on the State budget, the Permanent Fund Dividend or any other concerns you may have.

The LIO is located at the top of the stairs in the Kadin Building. Call 874-3013 for more information.

Police report

Monday, February 6

Agency Assist.

Tuesday, February 7

Agency Assist: AICS Ex parte order.

Animal Complaint.

Agency Assist: Evergreen Elementary School.

Citizen Assist: Unlocked Vehicle.

Traffic Stop: Verbal warning given for driving habits.

Learning how to drive.

Wednesday, February 8

Agency Assist: Wellness check and all was fine.

Thursday, February 9

Agency Assist: Fire Alarm.

Disturbance: Person left the area.

Agency Assist: WMC.

Friday, February 10

MVA: Everyone was fine and very little damage done to vehicle.

Saturday, February 11

Agency Assist: PW slick roads.

Sunday, February 12

Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for faulty headlight.

Agency Assist.

Report of Theft.

Citizen Assist: Vehicle unlocked.

Agency Assist: FD.

There were two ambulance calls and one dog complaint during this week.

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Library setup to make archiving a snap

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A new archiving station has been acquired by the local library, allowing the public access to digital scanning services free of charge.

Irene Ingle Public Library was able to purchase its Knowledge Imaging Center largely through use of a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Librarian Margaret Villarma explained the versatile system makes digital archiving very simple, and is easy on original materials. Documents are placed open, facing upward, and a digital scanner overhead takes a picture.

The station's software automatically separates and collates individual pages, which can then be reorganized and edited using an easy-to-read touchscreen. The software also automatically adjusts for the natural curvature of bound books, meaning they don't need to be pressed down upon to be readable.

"One of the things that's nice about it is you can put a book on it without crushing the spine," Villarma said. As a result, the station becomes an ideal way to copy fragile documents, such as a scrapbook or antique newspapers.

Users can also alter settings



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Sarah Scambler uses a local newspaper to demonstrate how Irene Ingle Public Library's new digital archival station works.

using the touchscreen, adjusting color, lighting and several levels of resolution before converting it into a transferrable file. Images can be converted into a variety of formats, including rich text, audio files, JPG, PNG and PDF files. These can then be saved directly to a USB thumb-drive, conveyed by file transfer protocol, or else emailed back to the user.

Villarma said the KIC system had first come to the library's attention two years ago at a state conference. A grant application was put together and submitted

to IMLS last summer. IMLS grants have in the past supported other resources for Wrangell's library, from new computers and printers to its microfilm reader, and new shelving.

The library in September received a grant of \$4,500 for the KIC, the remaining cost for which was picked up by the Friends of the Library, which supplied \$718. Run by community members, the Friends raises money to support library programs and projects such as this through fundraisers and raffles, like the annual Alaska Airlines

ticket raffle.

"That's just one of the things we use the money for, things like that," said Villarma.

The imaging system was ordered and arrived in November, and was set up in a room next to the library's conference room, just past the restrooms. The assembly and installation were pretty straightforward, and took only a phone call with the company to set up.

"It took a bit of time to get it formatted," explained Sarah Scambler, library assistant. "It wasn't difficult."

The system has also been hooked up to a printer, so hard copies can be made directly at the station, subject to the library's printing rates.

In all, Villarma felt the acquisition would be of benefit to the community, particularly for those needing to scan copies for research or wanting to preserve family photo collections. She was also in contact with the Wrangell Museum, which may also find it useful for its own archival work.

"We got it for the public to use," Scambler explained.

The station is available to book at the library's front desk during regular hours, similar to signing up for time on its computers or its conference room.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Hospice of Wrangell awards Kim Covalt, Tammy Davidson, David McQueen, Nancy McQueen, Ron "Butch" Merritt, and Cori Robinson "Hospice Hearts" for their wonderful help with our 2016 activities. Wrangell First Presbyterian Church, Alaska Island Community

Services, and Wrangell Medical Center for are part of our support network. We look forward to continuing the Community Loan Closet, Dove Tree Ceremony, Christmas Tree Lane, and direct services in the year ahead.

Alice Rooney,
Hospice of Wrangell

Obituary: Russell T. Patrick, 85

Born May 20, 1931 in Madras, Oregon, Russell T. Patrick, 85, passed away February 5, 2017. Russ graduated from Madras High School in 1951. He married Barbara Lee Shambroich on November 3, 1956 at the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle.

Russ spent many years working in lumber mills in both Oregon and Alaska. After moving to Washington State in 1979 he worked 18 years both on the road and in the shop doing tire repair. After "retiring" from Les Schwab he spent 12 years working in the deli department at Top Foods. He



Russell T. Patrick

was a member of the Lion's Club both in Wrangell, Alaska and Woodinville, Washington. He was

also a member of the Elks Club in Wrangell.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Barbara, his children Cindy Johnson (Rick), Heidi Noon (Phil), Tim Patrick (Jaynea) and Holly Patrick. His grandchildren include Chad, Crystal, Corey, Justin, Kimberlee and Heather. He was also the great-grandpa of five, soon to be six.

Services were held at Rose Hill Church in Kirkland, Washington on February 12, 2017. In lieu of flowers make donations to Evergreen Health Hospice Care Center in Kirkland.

WRANGELL LITTLE LEAGUE

is looking for coaches and volunteers.

Wed., Feb. 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

Elementary School room 101

Contact Kassee Emens

at kasseememens@gmail.com

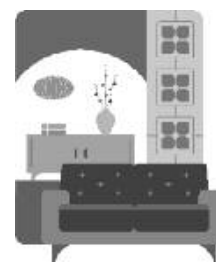
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Birding festival wins award for mindfulness

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's springtime birding festival was acknowledged for its mindfulness and dedication to conservation.

The Stikine River Birding Festival received the 2017 Mindful Birding Award from the Mindful Birding Project, which promotes ethical birding and conservation efforts nation-

wide. The award comes with a \$500 grant, which was applied for by the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We wrote in and explained how we met their criteria," said Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's economic director.

Mindful Birding had first contacted the Wrangell Ranger District of the United States Forest Service about the festival, which it puts on each year with the CVB. Following that conversation, USFS interpreter Corree Delabruue and biologist Joe Delabruue put together a list of ethical birding guidelines for festival goers, which Rushmore then submitted to the conservationist organization.

Wrangell's was one of three festivals highlighted by the award this year, which also include the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival held in Homer, and the Wings Over Water Pacific Northwest Birding Festival in Blaine, Washington. Slated for April 27-30, this year's Stikine River Birding Festival will be the 20th annual, and an extended weekend of education, recreation and art have been planned.

In the past the festival has been supported by Recreation Advisory Committee grant funding through USFS, which was unavailable last year. An appeal to area businesses helped get the birding festival off the ground, though a number of its outdoor activities were ultimately hampered by rough weather.

"We had a great response from our local businesses," said Rushmore. Event organizers may try for a small push this year, but she explained the Mindful Birding grant will help cover costs, which includes booking speakers and allotting space for activities. Mostly though, the event is put on through the efforts of volunteers.

Tentatively, this year's festival has scheduled two guest speakers, including Juneau photographer Bob Armstrong, author of the "Guide to the Birds of Alaska" and other books. He will be discussing his nature videos, emphasizing unobtrusive observation such as setting up a GoPro camera to record species without interference.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

USFS wildlife technician Gwen Baluss tweezes a tick from a Lincoln sparrow caught in April 2015 for demonstrative purposes during the 18th Stikine River Birding Festival. The delicate sparrow was caught using a drift net near Heritage Harbor, an activity scheduled for last year's festival that was unable to take place due to heavy wind and rain.

"It kind of fit the theme that's taking shape for this year's festival," Delabruue explained.

The principal ethic behind bird watching is to not have an impact on the birds being watched. To that end, the festival's presentations will emphasize observation from a distance, outdoor photography and bird habits. Festival goers can also learn about spring foraging, see bird banding as done by biologists, and help clean up marine debris from area shores – habitat to many of the island's avians.

Special jetboat tours will also be scheduled – weather permitting – for the Stikine River through the weekend. Art contests, music, short films and the annual Ducks Unlimited banquet are also on the agenda for this year's festival.

In a press release connected to the award, Mindful Birding explained Wrangell's festival "has demonstrated a commit-

ment to ethical bird watching behavior by adopting and adhering to a code of birding ethics marked by clarity, specificity, and restraint. The festival distributes its code of ethics to field trip leaders and attendees to provide guidance on how birders can achieve safe and gratifying bird watching experiences without altering the ability of birds to behave naturally. Additionally, the event publishes its ethics online for a wide distribution."

A website for this year's festival is currently being updated, along with a schedule of events once that is finalized. The site is at www.stikinebirding.org.

Mindful Birding is a charitable project of the Morrissey Family Foundation, headquartered in San Luis Obispo, California. Additional contributors to the project include Klamath Bird Observatory and various individuals who have helped craft a more refined structure for the project.

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Enrichment in Faith- All are welcome, 10:00 a.m.
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Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.
874-3047 or 874-4480

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Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

The Salvation Army
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.,
874-3753

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Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,
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874-3976 or 3778

Wrangell Community Church of God
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964

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Craig	3	6	10	10	29

Close games in Craig losses

After a pair of hard-fought home games against Metlakatla over the weekend and a Monday 28-35 loss at Craig on February 6 (reported in last week's Sentinel), the Wrangell Lady Wolves finished their stay on Prince of Wales Island with another close game. Tied at the half, the Lady Panthers were able to regroup, bounding ahead enough in the third period for a 29-23 win over Wrangell.

The girls host their final home game of the season this weekend against Haines, before heading to Petersburg March 3 and 4.

Fish Factor

by Laine Welch

Shellfish, sea cucumbers, geoduck clams, seaweeds and biofuels are crops envisioned by a group of Alaskans who are crafting a framework for a statewide mariculture industry expansion.

An 11-member task force created last February by Governor Walker has wasted no time advancing its mission to put a comprehensive report on Walker's desk by next March. The group, which has been meeting regularly, also has attracted wide interest from Alaskans who want to serve on advisory committees as the plan takes shape.

The advisory committees include research and development, the environment, regulatory issues, investment and infrastructure, workforce development, and public education and marketing.

"I get several calls a week from inter-

ested parties who want to participate," said Barbara Blake the Governor's point person on the task force. "People are charged up for this. It's a new concept that allows our communities to engage in a way that allows them to maintain their residence in our rural coastal regions. Everyone participating is really committed to developing something that will be beneficial for the entire state."

Senator Lisa Murkowski also has gotten onboard with the hiring of Charlotte Regula-White, a marine biologist who will be the Senator's mariculture point person.

Globally, shellfish and sea weeds add up to multi-billion dollar sustainable industries and in Alaska, much of the necessary infrastructure is already in place from the seafood industry and

hatchery programs. Task force member Julie Decker, executive director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, believes mariculture could become a \$1 billion industry for the state in less than 30 years.

At a February 17 public meeting in Juneau, the Task Force will advance its report, and also get an update on a U.S. Department of Energy grant program that moves mariculture into the macroalgal biofuel sector.

"It not only contributes to small operations in our coastal communities, there also are huge benefits by it being a green industry and cleaning our oceans," said Blake. "There are not any down sides to it. We just need to keep engaging the public so they will see this is something that will potentially benefit all Alaskans."

Interested? Call 1-800-315-6338/Access code 29660 to participate

in the Feb. 17 mariculture task force meeting starting at 8 am. Sign up to receive ongoing information by email at the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game home page.

Fish finesse – One of the year's biggest fish gatherings occurs in two weeks when the state Board of Fisheries meets to sort out Upper Cook Inlet issues with often fractious groups of salmon users.

The fish board sets policy and catch limits for the state's subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use fisheries, and will consider 174 proposals at the upcoming meeting in Anchorage.

The event will attract a huge audience and many are unfamiliar with the process, said board executive director Glenn Haight. To that end, an informal, one-hour lunch meeting on the first day

Continued on page 7

Classified/Legals

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color, national origin, sex or disability.....1x2-16b272

WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following position for the 2016-2017 school year: Middle School Volleyball Assistant Coach. For a complete job description and application,

please contact the district office at 874-2347. Position 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.....1x2-16b60

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 104 C-1 Lynch St from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon.- Fri. Deadline for comments: February 20, 2017 at 1 p.m. Call Bill Willard at 874-3077 for more info.

Publish: February 9 and 16, 2017

City and Borough of Wrangell Notice to the Public Public Survey

The City and Borough of Wrangell will be conducting a community wide survey during February and March to gather information essential for grant funding under the State Community Development Block Grant program. The Borough must provide the State with current estimates of population and income data within the Wrangell Borough.

Resident participants are selected at random and will be contacted by phone or in person. **Please help us with determining if the Borough is eligible by participating in the survey if contacted.** All information is kept confidential. Please direct any questions about the survey to Carol Rushmore at 874-2381.

Jeff Jabusch
Borough Manager

Publish: February 16, 23 and March 2, 2017

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Notice to Senior Citizens and Disabled Veterans

SENIOR CITIZEN & DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS will be accepted at Wrangell City Hall - P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, **until 5:00p.m. March 1, 2017.** A drop box is available after hours. Applications mailed must be postmarked by March 1, 2017. These forms are also available on our website: <http://www.wrangell.com>.

First-time **Senior Citizen** applicants will be required to provide proof of age in the form of a Birth Certificate or US Passport. You must be 65 years old or older as of January 1, 2017 to qualify.

First-time **Disabled Veteran** applicants will be required to provide proof of 50% or more disability.

THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DOES NOT PLACE A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY.

Lee Burgess
Finance Director
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2017

Public Notice

Wrangell Cooperative Association Transportation (WCAT) is updating its Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The draft LRTP is available for questions and comments at the WCAT office at 104 C-1 Lynch St from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri. Deadline for comments: February 20, 2017 at 1 p.m. Call Bill Willard at 874-3077 for more info.

Publish: February 9 and 16, 2017

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA AT WRANGELL

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Joan Kay Rohm)
Person Who Died (Decedent))
Date of Birth: 1/29/1939)
) CASE NO. 1WR-17-02PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed MIKE KILPATRICK as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Date: 01/24/2017 Mike Kilpatrick,
PO Box 2026, Wrangell, AK 99929

Publish: February 2, 9 and 16, 2017

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska NOTICE INVITING BIDS Waterfront Armor Rock - City Dock

Notice is hereby given that the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska will receive sealed bids for the construction of the **Waterfront Armor Rock - City Dock** project. WORK consists of all activities necessary to construct the armor rock improvements as shown in the contract documents. The WORK generally includes mobilization, site clearing, rock excavation and placement, storm drain and electrical conduit installation. A mandatory, on-site, pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the Wrangell City Dock.

Sealed bids will be received by the City and Borough of Wrangell, Post Office Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or located at the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, until 2:00 PM prevailing time on February 23, 2017 and publicly opened and read at that time.

The Contract Documents are available in electronic format and can be downloaded from the City and Borough of Wrangell website (www.wrangell.com) under the Bids and RFP's section. Downloading Contract Documents from the City and Borough of Wrangell's website requires registration with the Borough Clerk to be placed on the Plan Holders List and to ensure receipt of subsequent Addenda. Failure to register may adversely affect your proposal. It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure that they have received all Addenda affecting this Solicitation. To be registered, contact the Borough Clerk at 907-874-2381 or at clerk@wrangell.com.

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

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

Publish: February 2, 9 and 16, 2017

Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

will run people through the ropes.

"We'll walk through the Board of Fish process, the terms, how it moves from staff reports to public testimony to committees and deliberations," Haight said. "We'll tell them how to provide more effective testimony, how to speak to board members and make a strong impact, and just make them more familiar with it all."

When you have three minutes to make your case in public testimony, you need to make an impression.

"It's important to plan that out," Haight added. "And if you're going to come back and participate in any of the committees, that is the time to save your really detailed discussions. It's a valuable opportunity for the board to hear from as many people as possible."

The Board of Fisheries meets February 23 - March 8 at the Anchorage Sheraton. The meetings are live streamed on the web.

Vacuum invaders – Warming Alaska waters are luring all kinds of unusual creatures – and some of the smallest can be the biggest trouble-makers.

In the eastern Gulf of Alaska, for example, tiny filter feeders called salps are appearing in large numbers. The gelatinous, jet propelled tubes can asexually bud off clones at a rapid rate. They then form long feeding chains that graze on the phytoplankton and rob it of the microscopic crustaceans, larvae and nutrients so important to small fish.

"Just the fact that they are here is different

from the usual," said Wesley Strasburger, chief survey scientist for the eastern Gulf of Alaska, based at the NOAA Auke Bay lab in Juneau.

Salp blooms were first spotted in the eastern waters about five years ago and made a big increase in 2015, based on samples taken in tiny, mesh surface trawl surveys that extended from 100 miles out to 200 miles for the first time. Strasburger said the salps also made up a big part of many small fish diets.

"Juvenile pink salmon, chums, sockeye, juvenile rockfishes and juvenile sablefishes were all eating these salps. That is not typical, and their regular diets seem to have been at least in part, displaced by these salps."

"They are not an energetically dense diet," Strasburger added. "The trade-off is that there are a lot of them."

Researchers have a seven-year time series comprising 10 categories of zooplankton, he said, and by rough counts salps were in many cases the largest biomass in the lot.

A partnering plankton vacuum bloom called gymnosome also is appearing in eastern Gulf waters.

"They were very abundant and ubiquitous this year," Strasburger said. "So not only do we have these salps filtering all the primary productivity out of the waters; we also have gymnosomes doing the same thing."

Strasburger said researchers will be closely watching the impacts of the tiny invaders.

"They are squarely on our radar," he said. "We're just now trying to figure out how often this happens, when it happens, and what effects it has on the ecosystem."



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A real pane to weather

Contractors measure a window needing replacement at a Lynch Street storefront, after high winds dislodged a hanging sign between Monday night and early Tuesday morning. The National Weather Service out of Juneau reported gusts neared but had not topped 60 miles per hour during the wind storm, which was accompanied by a fair amount of rain. The low pressure system hit the Panhandle's islands over the weekend, and temperatures actually warmed Wrangell thermometers through Monday evening, hitting a high of 55 degrees. Once the storm passed Tuesday morning, temps steadily dropped again to a daytime high of 46 degrees.

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Political winds could be plus for SEAPA

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

In its first meeting of the new year, the governing board for Southeast Alaska Power Agency looked ahead to political reshufflings at the state and federal levels.

Meeting in Petersburg February 8, members of the board learned from SEAPA executive officer Trey Acteson a change in administrations at the federal level could be useful to the agency's future operations.

For example, only two commissioners sitting on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — which licenses hydropower projects — remain in place since the swearing in of President Donald Trump last month, with three open seats to be filled. A freeze on several pending environmental regulatory changes could also potentially shift direction for the Environmental Protection Agency from its priorities under the administration of former President Barack Obama.

"It is still very early in the transition, so we can expect to see further initiatives affecting the power industry," Acteson reported.

One of these areas he would like to see is revival of a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and others regarding hydroelectric power and geothermal energy, among other things. Proposed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Senate Bill 2012 died in chamber during the last session. The amendment would have authorized a stay of the hydroelectric license for Mahoney Lake in Ketchikan, giving SEAPA 10 more years to consider the project.

"I have engaged our D.C. legislative counsel and we are securing meetings with the Alaska federal delegation to discuss finding another appropriate vehicle to advance our amendment," he said.

Acteson has also met recently with the deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, to discuss ongoing issues between it and SEAPA, such as the state reclamation fund and transmission line surveying requirements. Discussions are ongoing.

SEAPA will remain supportive of efforts to reinstate the Tongass exemption to the 2001 Roadless Rule, which Acteson explained has increased overall cost to

development and maintenance of energy projects across the region. Administered by the Forest Service, it establishes prohibitions on road construction and timber harvesting on about 58,500,000 acres of inventoried, "roadless" areas on National Forest System lands.

On the state side, Acteson was encouraged by the filing of SB39 and HB80 in the Alaska Legislature this session. Each would allow local governments to create a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program, which could allow building owners to finance qualifying energy efficiency and clean energy improvements through a voluntary assessment on their property tax bill. The measures have support from the Fairbanks area due to its encouraging natural gas heating and appliances, but could benefit other municipalities seeking to control energy demands by encouraging similar efficiencies.

The SEAPA board considered and approved purchase of a spare set of flashboards and kickers to keep onsite at the Swan Lake dam. During last year's dam expansion project, 78 feet of

flashboards and a vertical control gate were added. In all, the spillway is 105 feet across at the crest and 14 feet deep, while the new water path will be 23 feet across for the vertical gate. The flashboards are designed to collapse to protect the dam's integrity during extremely large flood events, or else when the vertical gate is unable to sufficiently pass flows.

Should that occur, having a spare set of flashboards and kickers would allow for speedy reinstallation and water retention. The materials could also be used to repair or replace damaged or degraded panels over time, and Acteson reported the "anticipated cost is approximately the average amount of the anticipated annual savings of the additional storage capacity." The cost for fabrication, delivery and storage was bid at \$544,000.

Reporting on sales for the preceding months, a particularly chilly December led to higher than expected power sales between the Ketchikan,

Petersburg and Wrangell boroughs, putting SEAPA ahead of budget for the fiscal year so far. Cumulatively, the rise in usage brought totals for the latter half of 2016 to 92,403 megawatt-hours, or 7.8 percent higher than expected. Of this, 18,547 mWh were used by Wrangell, about 20 percent of the total demand. Petersburg drew 22,777 mWh during that six-month stretch, or 24.6 percent.

In financial terms, sales in December came in nearly \$286,000 over budget. Total power purchase revenues from July through the end of December 2016 were \$6,283,000, also 7.8 higher than budgeted. Administrative and operating expenses over the same time were considerably lower than expected, at \$2,651,539 against \$3,234,499 budgeted. That difference was primarily attributed to temporary deferment of transmission and plant maintenance during construction at Swan Lake.

Lawmaker proposes hiking \$5 studded-tire tax to \$75

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A state lawmaker wants to spike Alaska's studded-tire tax from \$5 to \$75.

Sen. Cathy Giessel's bill is aimed at raising money to repair rutted roads damaged by studded tires, reported KTVA-TV.

Giessel called the tax hike a "public safety user fee."

"There are states in northern climates that do ban studded tires, but this is not a ban," she said. "It is a user fee to help to restore the damage that's caused from the studded tires."

The higher tax would add \$300 to the cost of four studded tires compared with the current \$20.

"While the state is facing these budget cutbacks, my concern is that the Department of Transportation have adequate funds to repair the damage that is being done to the roads by the studded tires," Giessel said. "We no longer can rely on oil industry money to take up the repair of the roads, and so we need to step up and cover that cost by the users."

Giessel, who sent the bill to two committees, said she plans to do more research before requesting a hearing.

Dan Williams of American Tire and Auto said \$300 plus the cost of tires will be a tough sell to customers.

He and Giessel agree that winter tires without studs are almost

as effective. "Traction is just off the charts if you go with the newer models of things that are coming out," Williams said.

The \$5 tax has been in place since 2004.



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