

## Evergreen Elementary hosts awards ceremony

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

During their second-to-last day of school, on May 22, Evergreen Elementary School held an awards ceremony to recognize several of their students. All of the classes, from first to fifth grade, gathered in the school gym for the ceremony. Principal Virginia Tulley gave the first award of the day to student Kasey Whitaker for having perfect attendance all year.

"We only had one student

who's attended every single day," she said. "Give him a round of applause, I mean that is something."

After Whitaker's award, the teachers each took turns handing out awards to their students. There were many awards to go around, ranging from awards based on academic achievement to personal growth as students. For example, Madeline Gillen of Laurie Brown's class received a "neighborly" award for being so kind and helpful to fellow stu-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

**Micah Jessop, of Jenn Miller's third grade class, received a certificate for completing an accelerated math library of 59 skills over the course of the school year. Other award winners from Miller's class include Jenna Eastaugh, Amira Brevick, Lucas Stearns, and Tristen Schneider.**



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

**Fifth grade student Dayne Pritchett gave a speech during last week's award ceremony on the benefits of reading. He also presented this speech earlier in the week, as part of a public presentation by Laura Davies' class.**

dents. In Jenn Miller's classroom, Jenna Eastaugh was recognized for her improvements in reading, and Amira Brevick was awarded for being so motivated through the school year and student Micah Jessop received a certificate for his completion of an accelerated math course. Brian Merritt also awarded one of his students, Jackson Carney, for his bird identifying skills. Brody Knecht, of Laura Davies' fifth grade class, received a "grit, effort, and determination" award. Davies took the opportunity to say goodbye to the fifth grade class, who will attend Stikine Middle School next year.

"They came in boisterous and loud and energetic, and that's ex-

actly how they're leaving," she said. "But they have grown, and they have learned a lot, and they're ready for middle school."

Jenifer Gerald, librarian at the elementary school recognized several students who demonstrated exceptional reading comprehension, by getting perfect scores on tests they would take after reading a library book. In the second and third grade category, awards were given to DJ Clark, Jenna Eastaugh, and Chrysalis Balansag. In the fourth and fifth grade category, awards were given to Clara Edens, Jackson Carney, and Andre Siekawitch.

Awards were not the only purpose of the assembly, how-

ever. The teachers and students used the ceremony as an opportunity to say goodbye to their principal. Tulley turned in her letter of resignation in late April, for unspecified personal and medical reasons. Miller and several students brought gift bags and cards to say goodbye to Tulley.

"I have enjoyed being here with you this year, and as I think most of you know now that I am not returning, but I thank you for the experience I've had here," she said. "I've absolutely loved it. I'm going back with some great memories. I just want to thank you all for your support and everything that you have offered me."

## Local poet receives Rasmuson Fellowship

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

The Rasmuson Foundation was created in 1955 as an organization to support Alaskan arts and culture, health, and social services, among other things. They do this through a number of different ways, including offering financial support to Alaskans in the form of grants and fellowships. According to their website, since their founding the foundation has made \$400,000,000 charitable payments.

Earlier this month, the Rasmuson Foundation brought together several creative Alaskan artists for their 2019 Individual Artist Awards.

One winner of this award was local poet Vivian Faith Prescott.

"Their Individual Artists Award is one of the most prestigious and generous awards in Alaska," Prescott said in an email. "The grant is intended to support the time, reflection, immersion, or experimentation that benefit's the artist's work. I received the fellowship as a mature artist to focus my attention on writing poetry." This is not the first time Prescott has

been recognized by the Rasmuson Foundation. She first received an award from the foundation in 2015, which she said allowed her to spend a year in Wrangell and focus solely on her poetry. She produced a poetry manuscript titled "Old Woman with Berries in her Lap." It has received accolades in contests, she said, but has yet to find a publisher.

The Individual Artist Award offers \$18,000 to mid-career or mature artists to really sit down and focus on their work. Prescott said that she already has a plan for what she intends to do with her time, thanks to this award. She wants to use her poetry to look at ways climate change is changing the world of Southeast Alaska.

"I will focus on writing poetry as a 'climate witness,'" she said in an email. "I'm documenting my relation to the changing climate in Alaska and will inquire into what's happening to the glaciers in my backyard, the LeConte Glacier and Shakes Glacier and to our salmon through the lens of my indigenous Sámi values. I will complete a poetry manuscript of about 60 poems."

There were 36 Individual Artist Award winners this year. Prescott and her entourage travelled to Anchorage for the ceremony by ferry and RV. There were several differences in the ceremony from the last time she won the award, she said. In 2015, the ceremony was more akin to a graduation while this year it was more of a celebration with friends, family, and good food.

"I'd like to say a big giitu, thank you, to the Rasmuson Foundation for believing in me and for seeing the value in poetry," Prescott said. "It's wonderful to see a diverse group of artists this year receiving the award; LGBTQA, indigenous artists, women, and artists from smaller communities are well represented. If you're an artist or writer in rural Alaska I'd encourage you to apply for a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award ... I'd like to see more Wrangell artists and writers applying for the Rasmuson Individual Artist Awards. We have some great artists living and working here!"

Prescott added that she is more than happy to offer advice to any artists con-



Vivian Faith Prescott

sidering applying for the award, or to answer any questions. She can be reached via Facebook message or by email, at doctorviv@hotmail.com. Some of her work can be found online at [www.vivianfaith-prescott.com](http://www.vivianfaith-prescott.com).



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, May 30:** Timothy Garcia, Draven Golding. *Anniversary:* Walter Moorhead & Carol Ross, Rob & Dena McChargue. **Friday, May 31:** Rose Sundberg, Miles Brown, Michelle Beaghoff, Tristian Byford, William Shilts, Louise Shilts. **Saturday, June 1:** Glen Follow, Torin Schoonover, Hannah Castle, Marc Gunderson, Jack Pino, Jody Hammock, Deanne Cooper. **Sunday, June 2:** Willie Bloom, Spencer Ocean, Steve Thomassen, Jr., Janell Stutz. **Monday, June 3:** Yuri McCloskey, Matthew Covalt, Robyn Lane, Ryan Reeve, Gail Thomas, Mike Jabusch, Makena Hammer. *Anniversary:* Scott & Lorri Angerman. **Tuesday, June 4:** Doug McCloskey, Haley Vergilio, Maleah Wenzel, Kira Torvend. *Anniversary:* Bill & Janell Privett, Jim Sr. & Sue Nelson. **Wednesday, June 5:** Jim Holder, Randy Robinson, Jr., Eric Yancey, Mark Stevens, Payton Tailele. **Thursday, June 6:** Mick Young, Megan Scott, Chelsea Cleghon, Carter Cummings, Cari Hazelton, Deanne Cooper. *Anniversary:* Brent & Shannon Mickle, Jeremy & Dawn Welch.

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

## Senior Center Menu

### Thursday, May 30

Fiesta Pork Chops, Cauliflower, Fruit Slaw, Sweet Potatoes

### Friday, May 31

Baked Fish, Brussel Sprouts, Pilot Bread, Carrot Raisin Salad

### Monday, June 3

BBQ Beef on a Bun, Oven Fried Potatoes, Tossed Salad

### Tuesday, June 4

Pork Chop Suey, Steamed Broccoli, Peach Salad, Rice

### Wednesday, June 5

Baked Salmon Casserole, Peas & Carrots, Tomato Aspic, WW Rolls

### Thursday, June 6

Herbed Lime Chicken, Mixed Veggies, Au Gratin Potatoes, Sunshine Salad

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## FERRY

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Saturday, June 1**  
Malaspina 8:15 a.m.  
**Sunday, June 2**  
Columbia 7:45 p.m.  
**Tuesday, June 4**  
Malaspina 4:00 p.m.  
**Saturday, June 8**  
Malaspina 1:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, June 9**  
Columbia 4:45 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Thursday, May 30**  
Malaspina 11:30 p.m.  
**Monday, June 3**  
Malaspina 5:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday, June 5**  
Columbia 8:00 a.m.  
**Thursday, June 6**  
Malaspina 9:30 p.m.  
**Monday, June 10**  
Malaspina 10:30 a.m.

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



## TIDES May 30 - June 6

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM Time	PM Time	AM Ft	PM Ft	AM Time	PM Time		
May 30	11:14	13.3	11:23	15.9	5:00	2.3	4:56	2.9
May 31	12:00	14.0	11:59	16.6	5:43	0.9	5:39	2.7
June 1	....	....	12:44	14.5	6:21	-0.4	6:18	2.6
June 2	12:35	17.2	1:25	14.9	6:58	-1.5	6:55	2.5
June 3	1:10	17.6	2:06	15.2	7:34	-2.3	7:32	2.6
June 4	1:46	17.8	2:47	15.2	8:12	-2.7	8:11	2.8
June 5	2:24	17.8	3:30	15.1	8:53	-2.8	8:53	3.1
June 6	3:06	17.5	4:15	14.8	9:36	-2.4	9:41	3.5

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

### Thursday, May 30

**Hospital Groundbreaking Ceremony:** AICS Medical Clinic, noon.  
**Diamond Club:** Nolan Center, 6 p.m. Celebrating and honoring 60+ years of marriage for Wrangell residents. For more information, call 874-2244.

### Friday, May 31

**Royalty Contest Kickoff:** Royalty pavilion, 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 5

**Parks & Rec Meeting:** City Hall, 5:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

### Thursday, June 6

**Port Commssion Meeting:** City Hall, 7 p.m.

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

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

## Continuing Events

### Pool:

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

### MEETINGS

### AA Meetings:

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

## The Way We Were

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

**May 29, 1919** Saturday night a cabin was searched by officers. The search was made by Ensign J.J. Hughes, Deputy U.S. Marshall H. J. Wallace and Ernest P. Walker of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Probably the most damaging find made by the officers was a single sheet of manuscript containing several verses of doggerel under the title, "The Bolsheviks Are Coming."

In the cabin were also found two bundles of pamphlets, which are supposed to have been in possession for the purpose of distribution. The pamphlets in the other bundle were entitled "The Soviets at Work," being a discussion of the problems faced by the Soviet government of Russia written by Nicolai Lenin, Premier of the Russian Soviet Republic. This pamphlet was printed by the Seattle Union Record Publishing Company.

**May 26, 1944** Brig. J. Gillingham, who has been here for five years as head of the Salvation Army in Alaska and British Columbia, was honored by the Chamber of Commerce at its regular luncheon meeting yesterday with presentation of a membership card appointing him "Ambassador of Good Will" from the Wrangell Chamber wherever he may go. With transfer of Salvation Army work in Alaska from Canadian jurisdiction to U.S., Mr. and Mrs. Gillingham are leaving soon for another assignment in Canada.

Salvation Army headquarters for the present will remain in Wrangell, he said, but changes may be made later.

**May 29, 1969** A benefit show will be held Tuesday night, June 3, at the 49th star Theatre entitled "Paper Lion" with proceeds

to help defray the cost of sending six teenagers to Boys and Girls State.

The comedy, in Technicolor, is based on George Plimpton's bestseller which recounts his experiences as a rookie quarterback with the Detroit Lions playing themselves and Alan Alda portrays Plimpton.

Fennimore said that the movie is probably the only one to literally star eight tons of talent.

**May 26, 1994** In the hope that action will pick up soon, contestants in the Wrangell King Salmon Derby are reminded that catch-and-release isn't supposed to be fatal to the fish.

If you hook a Chinook that is less than the legal minimum of 28 inches in length, or if you're going for the prizes and don't want to settle for a smaller fish, with the one-fish limit currently in place, there are a couple things an angler can do to limit fish mortality.

Mike Bethers, a fishery biologist with the Alaska State Department of Sport Fish and

Game's Division of Sport Fish recommends taking hold of the fish to be released by the tail and keeping them in water, rather than using nets. Never handle the gills or gill plates of a fish.

Unless the hook can be easily removed, Bethers opts for cutting the leader since the hook will likely be dislodged or rust out in a relatively short span of time.



## AVENGERS: ENDGAME

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Coming up:  
**The Hustle**

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
May 20	64	48
May 21	64	51
May 22	64	51
May 23	52	46
May 24	54	46
May 25	66	45
May 26	75	48
May 27	70	51

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 30	4:13 am	9:18 pm	17:05h
May 31	4:12 am	9:19 pm	17:07h
June 1	4:11 am	9:20 pm	17:09h
June 2	4:10 am	9:22 pm	17:12h
June 3	4:09 am	9:23 pm	17:14h
June 4	4:08 am	9:24 pm	17:16h
June 5	4:07 am	9:26 pm	17:19h
June 6	4:06 am	9:27 pm	17:21h



# Fifth graders give persuasive speeches at Nolan Center

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Sixteen students from Laura Davies' fifth grade class came together at the Nolan Center last Tuesday evening, May 21, to read persuasive speeches they had spent the past month working on. Communication and learning how to formulate and defend opinions is an important part of her classroom, Davies said in a previous interview.

Each of her students were tasked with creating a persuasive speech, on a topic of their choice, and give an in-class presentation. She also allowed the kids to volunteer to give public presentations, to the wider public, for extra credit. This was the first time her class



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Members of Laura Davies' fifth grade class gave a public presentation of persuasive speeches last week, on May 21. Pictured here (left to right, starting in the front row) is Katelyn Gillen, Brody Knecht, Boomchain Loucks, Tyra Meissner, Christina Johnson, Ben Houser, Devaun Campbell, Dayne Pritchett, Lee Balansag, Ian Maleski, Shelton Eklund, Laura Davies, Phebe Garcia, Paige Hoyt, Clara Edens, and Shaylin Nelson.

was giving a public presentation, she said. Wrangell School District's Technology Director Matt Gore said that the event also had the distinction of being the district's first ever off-site livestream. Before the speeches began, Davies asked the audience to be respectful of everyone speaking that night.

"You might not all agree with what they're persuading tonight, but that's the fun in it," she said. "They have to try to convince you of their point, and

that was the hard part for them to try to back up what they were saying with evidence, and stories, and facts. We worked on these for about three weeks, and we've been practicing them for a solid week."

Several of the students chose light hearted topics, such as Clara Edens on why one should get a dog, or Dayne Pritchett on why reading was important. They all gave good evidence for their beliefs, demonstrating the hard work they had put into their research. Edens said that dogs help their owners exercise more, and generally keep them in a better mood. Pritchett explained that reading was great mental exercise, and could expand the reader's vocabulary.

Other students chose much more mature topics for their persuasive speeches. Katelynn Gillen talked about the history

and importance of women's rights.

"Imagine a world without women's rights," Gillen said. "Think of the women in your family: Your mother, your daughter, or your sister. Wouldn't you want them to have equal rights?"

Phebe Garcia and Shailyn Nelson spoke about combating child abuse and animal abuse, respectively. Boomchain Loucks talked about banning plastic bags, and how it would help the environment, while Shelton Eklund gave a topical speech on the need to save the Alaska Marine Highway.

Two speeches, at the beginning of the evening, were pointed out by Davies to be rather opposing views. Lee Balansag gave a speech on why the school district should consider implementing VR Chat, a mul-

tiplayer virtual reality game, into its classrooms.

"First, it can help shy people come out of their shell," he said. "Second, it can help develop good digital citizenship. Last, it can be a good incentive."

Meanwhile, Ben Houser's speech was about the exact opposite of virtual reality: It was on the importance of getting outside and exercising. Besides the obvious perks of exercise, such as physical health, Houser pointed out other ways getting outside can be beneficial. It is good for one's mental health and social life, too.

"You might not be so angry, and stuff, and you can just spend time with your family and friends," he said.

At the end of the evening, Davies thanked everybody for coming out and listening to her students. A full list of the students and the topics of their persuasive speeches is as follows: Lee Balansag - VR Chat. Katelynn Gillen - Women's rights. Ben Houser - Get outside. Brody Knecht - Population control of marine mammals. Paige Hoyt - Be grateful. Boomchain Loucks - Ban plastic bags. Tyra Meissner - Music. Christina Johnson - Have good sportsmanship. Shailyn Nelson - Don't abuse animals. Tim Pearson - Improve hand-eye coordination. Dayne Pritchett - Reading. Shelton Eklund - Save the Alaska Marine Highway. Devaun Campbell - Say no to drugs. Ian Maleski - Learn first aid. Clara Edens - Get a dog. Phebe Garcia - Stop child abuse.

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## Police report

### May 20, 2019

Alarm.  
Road closure.  
Criminal mischief.  
Traffic-parking: Citation issued to George Stoican.  
Welfare check.

Traffic stop: Citations issued to George Stoican. Proof of insurance and driver's license violation.

### May 21, 2019

Two subpoenas.  
Agency assist.  
Indecent exposure: Report of woman urinating on City Hall's lawn, UTL.

Two summons services.

### May 22, 2019

Summons service.  
Traffic stop: Citations issued to Andrew Twyford, 19. Failure to provide proof of insurance and driving with a suspended license.

### May 23, 2019

Agency assist: AST.  
Citizen assist: Motor vehicle accident.

### May 24, 2019

Loud music.  
Criminal mischief.  
Agency assist: Search and rescue.

### May 25, 2019

Two subpoena services.  
Traffic complaint.  
Welfare check: Person was fine.

### May 26, 2019

Traffic: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Agency assist.

Traffic complaint.

Agency assist: AP&T.

Traffic: Complaint of speeding.

Theft: Under investigation.

DV assault: Under investigation.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for no headlights.

Civil matter.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for bright lights.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for no headlights.

Noise complaint.

### May 26, 2019

Criminal trespass.

Welfare check.

There were four ambulance calls and four dog complaints this week.

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# Kindergarten “class of 2031” celebrates graduation

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Walking onstage to Queen’s “We Will Rock You,” 27 Evergreen Elementary’s “rockstar” kindergarteners held a graduation ceremony of their own last Tuesday afternoon, May 21. The class of 2031, the year these kids will graduate from high school, is a fairly large group.

The kindergarteners showed off what they had learned through the year, such as their ABCs, the days of the week, and months of the year. Kindergarten teacher Mikki Angerman talked about some of the things the kids learned beyond reading, writing, and other school assignments.

“There are so many things that can’t be measured with a test,” she said. “They learned what it means to sit in a circle, walk in a line, hold a pencil, use scissors, zip up a coat ... They learned self control, determina-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Teacher Mikki Angerman (left) talking about Evergreen Elementary’s graduating kindergarteners. The “Class of 2031” consists of Hawkey Bosdell, Brooke Ostrander, Johnny Stone, Ava Lawrence, Natalie Beale, Mariah Carney, Clay Howe, Duncan Scambler, Maria Holder, Athena Hamley, Iran Guggenbickler, Kara Heller, Amy Byrd, Violet Allen, Korbin Lewis, Malachi Harrison, Piper Buness, Hayden Gillen, Griffey Angerman, Annika Gillen, Tegan Kuntz, Chandler Roane, Jonah Hurst, Timber Haslip, Ryleigh Franks, Sophie Andrews, and Verity Waddington.

the kids to watch.

“I just wanted to let you guys know I’m really proud of you,” he said in the video. “Mr. Nore will be home in probably around seven months, so the next time I see you guys you’ll be halfway through first grade. I miss you, and I can’t wait to get home and see you.”

As part of the graduation ceremony, awards were given out. Piper Buness, for example, received the “life of the party” award for her cheery personality and optimism. Verity Waddington was awarded the “writing wizard” certificate, and Chandler Roane was given the “computer whiz” award. Each kid received a certificate of some kind.

The kindergartners were not the only ones to receive recognition during the graduation ceremony. Angerman pointed out several teachers, school staff, and community members who were instrumental in keeping the kindergarten class running smoothly. At the end of the ceremony, the audience got to watch a video of the kindergarten class saying what they want to be when they grow up, ranging from doctors to archers.

“Are you all ready for first grade?” Angerman asked the class, to which they responded with an enthusiastic “Yeah!”

## Minor league Rays beat Sharks, lose to Bears

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

It was more of the same for the little league’s minor league division last week: The Sharks lost, the Bears won, and the Rays did both. The Rays faced off against the other two minor league teams last week, claiming a win and a loss.

The first game, between the Rays and the Sharks, took place on Tuesday, May 21. The Sharks have had a rough season, still chasing after their first win. While they made four runs during the game, and showed a lot of grit on the field, it was not enough to keep up with the Rays’ 10 points. Rays Coach Bella Crowley she was proud of the team’s performance.

“Our kids played really hard,” Crowley said. “They did very well, their bats were on fire. Their defense was done really well. Although the Sharks did play very well, too.”

The Rays went up against the undefeated Bears for their next game on Thursday, May 23. The Rays were able to make two early runs in the first inning, but were quickly overtaken by the Bears with five runs. The score stayed put at 5-2 for the next three innings as both teams displayed strong defensive games. In the fifth inning, the Rays were able to make another run, while the Bears made another three. The game was called in the sixth inning, with the Bears winning with a score of 8-3.

“We just played some good old fashioned Bears baseball,” said Bears Coach Hank Voltz.

The Rays are now 3-3 for the season, while the Bears remain undefeated at 6-0 and the Sharks are at 0-6. Next weekend, the four oldest players from each team will be combined into an “all star” team, and will travel to Petersburg to compete against their little league all star team.

tion, courage, perseverance, flexibility, curiosity, loyalty, peacefulness, respect, self-worth, empathy, and the power of words. They learned what it means to be a friend.”

Angerman was not the only teacher the graduating class got to hear from. Matt Nore, a kindergarten teacher who recently left on deployment to Kuwait with the National Guard in February, recorded a video for

## Letters to the Editor

### To the Editor:

Demand destruction is a phenomenon that is often referred to when oil prices rise high enough to harm the economy and reduce its ability to purchase fuel.

I have another example of demand destruction; getting rid of ferry service to Alaskan communities because the State budget has been mismanaged, which will result in a self inflicted wound to the economy.

These small towns have ferry docks, how much was spent to build these docking facilities? Should that investment be, in hindsight, a waste of resources?

People bought land from the State of Alaska, moved to these remote locations and built homes and businesses with the understanding that there was what amounts to public transportation and access. Will the state now fail to maintain the marine highway and let these people and their businesses suffer? This amounts to a harmful bait and switch over a budget squabble.

Yes, the ferry system is subsidized by public

monies, and likely always will be. But the ferry also provides an economic positive in Alaska which is not easily measured but is a feedback into the state coffers.

It seems silly to waste all of the long term investment and energy expended on the ferry system for a short term budget battle.

Denny Corbin  
Pelican, Alaska

### To the Editor:

Let’s stop servicing Prince Rupert if they want the presence of armed law enforcement while agents conduct inspections at the Prince Rupert ferry terminal when they want to charge a system already facing severe cuts

The Alaska Marine Highway System was put on notice March 15: Either ensure that there’s a “continuous law enforcement presence” during inspections, or shut down the port in 30 days. Alaska shouldn’t have to pay for a enforcement service that Canada wants. Just keep the ferries running from Bellingham and outlying communities.

Capt. Loretto Jones



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Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

207 North Nordic Dr. , PO Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

**POSTMASTER:** send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

### Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers ..... Ron & Anne Loesch  
News Editors..... Caleb Vierkant  
..... Brian Varela  
Front Office .....Tawney Flores  
Production ..... Ola Richards

The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email wrgsent@gmail.com; website: www.wrangellsentinel.com

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Single Copy.....\$1.50  
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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL  
Cubs player Cody Barnes (No. 38) pitching at last Wednesday's game.

# Wolverines take the lead

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wolverines, one of the two major league teams in Wrangell Little League, took the lead over the Cubs last Wednesday, May 22. The two teams have been trading wins back and forth over the season, but the Wolverines are now 4-3 while the Cubs trail at 3-4.

The game opened with the Wolverines making two runs, followed by another five in the second inning. The Cubs were unable to score in the first inning, but pulled out four runs in the second. The score stayed put at 7-4 for the third inning, both teams showing strong defensive games. However, after that the Wolverines were able to make three more runs through the remainder of the game, while the Cubs only made two more. The final score was 10-6, in favor of the Wolverines.

Another game was scheduled for Memorial Day, but this was cancelled the afternoon before the game. Major league games are played every Monday and Wednesday evening, starting at 6 p.m. The season will come to a close for the Cubs and Wolverines on June 12.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Kasey Whitaker (No. 25) running to second base. Whitaker made the first score of the May 22 game last week.

# Forest Service RAC discuss culture camp, other future projects

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The local Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), which covers the areas of Wrangell, Petersburg, and Kake, held a meeting last Saturday to discuss a variety of projects the Forest Service is considering in the near future. Among these projects is a Kaatsliitan culture camp.

The idea for the culture camp was brought before the RAC by Wrangell resident and Alaska

Native Virginia Oliver. The camp, she said, would be held in the summer where everybody could come together and learn sustainable harvesting practices, as well as native traditions and culture from several elders from the Wrangell, Kake, and Juneau areas. This would include learning how to fillet, brine, and dry fish, process seal meat, harvest vegetables, formline drawing, as well as Tlingit language classes, among other things. The camp would be held at Old Town, or Kaatsliitan, which was the old village site of the Wrangell clans. While the camp would be meant to pass down the history and knowledge of the Tlingit people, Oliver emphasized that this camp would be open to all adult members of the public who are interested.

"We never get any time [for the adults] because we're always supervising, maybe you guys do understand that, we never get the time to learn how to put the seaweed up or get the time to learn from the people that we bring in," Oliver said. "When we were doing all the things we were doing, we were taking care of children."

Tory Houser, with the Forest Service, added that the proposal was still being workshopped, but that so far it was meeting all RAC guidelines for projects, especially in the areas of resource stewardship. In the proposal, Oliver is seeking \$8,200 in Title II funds to get the camp set up and to pay for travel for guest speakers and transportation to Old Town. The committee thanked Oliver for her time and, after a brief discussion, decided to more formally consider the proposal in their next meeting in August.

Another project discussed by the committee was to seek a new design for a better structure along the Blind River rapids, in Petersburg. The plan was for the Petersburg portion of the RAC to spend \$5,000 to research and find a design, be it a larger cabin, or a pavilion, or something similar. This was approved by the committee quickly.

Other projects approved by the committee include improvements to the boat ramp at the Blind Slough picnic area, in Petersburg, and trail survey and design for Kunk Lake.

Several other projects were deemed not quite ready for approval yet and were delayed until August, such as trail survey and designs for Rainbow Falls and STEM support for Evergreen

Elementary School, among other things.

Bob Dalrymple also took the opportunity to speak to the committee during this meeting. Dalrymple retired from the Forest Service in January, and a large celebration in his honor was held in Wrangell last March. He came by the meeting to say goodbye and to wish them all luck.

"I hadn't had an opportunity

to say goodbye to you guys, which is a regret of mine, I had hoped to do that, but now I have the chance," he said. "It was probably one of the highlights of my career, working with the RACs the last nine years."

The next RAC meeting will take place on August 14, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Wrangell Ranger District at (907) 874-2323.

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## Golf roundup

The Totem Bar & Liquor held a best-ball tournament last weekend at Muskeg Meadows Golf Course. There were 21 participants in Saturday's game, May 25.

First place went to a team consisting of Rocky Littleton, Marva Reid, Rodney Littleton, and Ken Madsen, with a net score of 20 and team handicap of 14. Second place went to a team consisting of Brett Woodbury, Frank Roppel, and Eric Kading with a net score of 21. Third place went to a team consisting of Aaron Angerman, Aaron Powell, Cody Angerman, and Drew Eyon with a net score of 21. Keene Kohrt had the straightest drive of the day, at 3.5 inches, while Jim Brooks was closest to the pin at 17 feet, 9 inches.

Sunday's game had 18 participants. First place went to Rocky Littleton, Marva Reid, Rodney Littleton, and Ken Madsen with a net score of 21 and a team handicap of 14. Second place went to Brett Woodbury, Frank Roppel, Eric Kading, and Ed Klein with a net score of 21 and team handicap of 13. Faye Kohrt had the straightest drive of the day at 8 feet, 7 inches.

The Stikine Sportsmen will be hosting a tournament on Friday, May 31. The following Saturday and Sunday will be the Gregg Scheff memorial tournament.

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# Sport fishing for King Salmon opens in hatchery areas near Petersburg And Wrangell

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced May 23, sport fishing regulations for Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon in areas near Petersburg and Wrangell.

## Wrangell Narrows/Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area

Described as that portion of Wrangell Narrows south of 56° 46' N. latitude (Martinsens's dock) and north and east of the northern tip of Woewodski Island and includes the freshwaters of Blind Slough upstream of a line between Blind Point and Anchor Point. The following regulations will be in effect beginning Saturday, June 1 through Wednesday, July 31, 2019. There is a bag and possession limit (residents and nonresidents) of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and two king salmon less than 28 inches in length. King salmon caught by nonresidents in this area do not count toward the nonresident annual limit.

## Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area

Described as the waters of Anita Bay south and west of a line from Anita point to 56° 14.26' N. latitude, 132° 23.92' W. longitude. Anita Bay will be open to the sport fishery beginning June 1. The Southeast Alaska regional king salmon bag, possession, and annual limits will apply in Anita Bay.

## City Creek Release Site

Described as the marine waters adjacent to City Creek between a marker on the Mitkof Island shore, at 56° 47.83' N. lat., 132° 51.57' W. long. to 56° 48.30' N. lat., 132° 51.50' W. long. to 56° 49.77' N. lat., 132° 55.78' W. long. (navigation buoy) and back to the



MAP COURTESY OF ADFG

Mitkof Island shore at Hungry Point (56° 49.36' N. lat., 132° 56.38' W. long.) and includes the freshwaters of City Creek (see attached map). The following regulations will be in effect beginning Saturday, June 15 through Sunday, July 14, 2019. There is a bag and possession limit (residents and nonresidents) of one king salmon any size. Nonresident annual limits continue to apply in this area.

Anglers are reminded that when in possession of king salmon less than 28 inches in length they should not then fish in another location where possessing a king salmon under 28 inches is illegal. For further information concerning this announcement please contact Petersburg/Wrangell Area Management Biologist, Patrick Fowler at (907) 772-5231.



# Classified/Legals

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## JOBS

**ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (AHFC) WRANGELL**, is hiring a Temporary Summer Student Aide. Pay is \$12.00 hr. The temporary student hire program provides job opportunities to youth ages 16-22. Students perform or assist in performing a broad range of unskilled grounds keeping, apartment/building maintenance or office work. Must be at least 16 years old and a continuing student. Must provide proof of student status. Obtain a job

description and online application at [www.ahfc.us](http://www.ahfc.us). An AHFC application must be submitted for each position (a resume may be attached). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Public Housing Residents are encouraged to apply. AHFC is an equal opportunity employer..... 6x5-30b109

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

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## Housing Available Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Wrangell Public Housing

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is currently accepting applications for smoke-free quality 2-br (\$700+elec.) and 3-br (\$800+elec.) units at Etolin Heights.

1. Subsidized rent for families who meet low and very-low federal income guidelines.
2. Units are also available with no income restrictions or limitations.
3. Applications can be found at the following locations:
  - b. Online at [https://www.ahfc.us/application/files/5415/2770/7773/WrangellPH\\_060118.pdf](https://www.ahfc.us/application/files/5415/2770/7773/WrangellPH_060118.pdf) Scroll through the pages.
  - c. The Wrangell housing office is located at 730 Zimovia Hwy #A2.

See AHFC's website at <https://www.ahfc.us/publichousing> for complete instructions, eligibility requirements, and application submission details. Applicants with questions may call the Wrangell housing office at 907-874-3018 or send an email to [gwood@ahfc.us](mailto:gwood@ahfc.us).

AHFC complies with all Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity nondiscrimination laws.

**Published: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13 and 20, 2019**

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ANNOUNCEMENT HARBOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Wrangell Harbor Department will accept applications for the position of **Administrative Assistant** through June 5, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits, and is part of the IBEW collective bargaining agreement.

This position provides comprehensive administrative and accounting support to the Harbor Department. The Harbor Administrative Assistant plays a critical role in serving as one of the Harbor Department's primary interfaces with the public.

Applicant must be able to maintain records, process forms, and operate a personal computer with standard and customized software applications. Requires strong math skills and a general understanding of accounting principles to keep track of accounts, perform banking, and handle other transactions. Must be able to deal with a wide range of people, including situations in which individuals may be upset. Must be able to perform a variety of tasks with accuracy under the pressure of time-sensitive deadlines.

A High School Diploma or GED and office-related experience is required. A background knowledge of waterfront activities and vessels is desirable. Must have a valid Alaska driver's license or the ability to obtain one.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email to [amollen@wrangell.com](mailto:amollen@wrangell.com). Pay for this position starts at \$20.26 per hour DOE.

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

Lisa Von Bargaen  
Borough Manager

**Publish: May 30, 2019**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc., (SSRAA), is soliciting bids from interested parties to conduct rearing operations for the spring of 2020 season at its McLean Arm rearing site located in southern Southeast Alaska. Bids will be accepted until June 1, 2019 at 4:00 pm. For more information go to [www.ssraa.org](http://www.ssraa.org) or call 225-9605.

**Published: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2019**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc., (SSRAA), is soliciting bids from interested parties to conduct transport operations for the spring of 2020 season to tender live fry from SSRAA hatcheries to SSRAA remote release sites located in southern Southeast Alaska. Bids will be accepted until June 1, 2019 at 4:00 pm. For more information go to [www.ssraa.org](http://www.ssraa.org) or call 225-9605.

**Published: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2019**

## Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Trust Land Office

### Notice under 11 AAC 99.050 of General Permit and Inconsistency Determination of Generally Allowed Uses on Trust Land TLO Project # 2019-171

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of AS 38.05.801 and 11 AAC 99, the Executive Director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (TLO) has determined that it is in the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries to deem the application of Generally Allowed Uses under 11 AAC 96.020(a)(1)(D) - (G); 11 AAC 96.020(a)(2); 11 AAC 96.020(a)(3)(D)-(G); 11 AAC 96.020(a)(4)(A), (C), & (D); and 11 AAC 96.020(a)(5)(E) inconsistent with Trust management principles. The basis for this determination is explained in a written best interest decision prepared by the Executive Director pursuant to 11 AAC 99.040.

This decision applies to all Trust land located in Alaska.

Persons who believe that the written decision should be altered because it is not in the best interests of the Trust or its beneficiaries, or because the decision is inconsistent with Trust management principles set out in 11 AAC 99.020, or any other provision of 11 AAC 99, must provide written comments on or before **4:30 PM, June 24, 2019. Comments should be submitted to the TLO at 2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99503, or by fax (907) 269-8905 or email [mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov).** Following the comment deadline, the Executive Director will consider timely comments that question the decision on the basis of the best interest of the Alaska Mental Health Trust and its beneficiaries or inconsistency with 11 AAC 99, and the best interest decision may be changed in response to such written comments or other information. Commenting parties will be provided a copy of the final best interest decision after the end of the notice period.

To be eligible to file for reconsideration of the best interest decision, or to file a subsequent appeal to the Superior Court, a person must have submitted written comments during the notice period. Eligible persons will have twenty (20) calendar days after published notice of or receipt of the final written decision to request that the Executive Director reconsider the decision under 11 AAC 99.060(b).

Copies of the written decision are available at the Trust Land Office, or at <https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/trust-land-office/>. If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Alaska Mental Health Trust is prepared to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Trust Land Office at (907) 269-8658 for assistance. Requests for assistance must be received at least 96 hours prior to the comment deadline in order to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

The Executive Director of the TLO reserves the right to waive technical defects in this notice or to amend, postpone, or vacate the best interest decision.

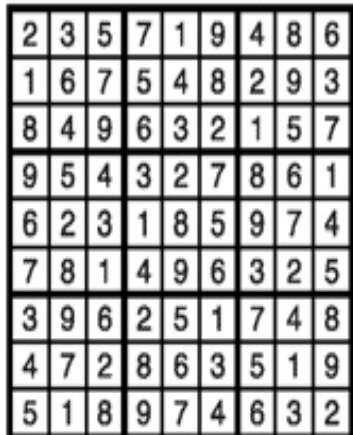
**Date:** 5/20/19

**Wyn Menefee  
Executive Director**

**Published: May 30, 2019**

## Puzzle

### answers from May 23 Edition





# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

## Salmon catches remain near all-time highs

Salmon abundance in the North Pacific has declined slightly over the past decade, but salmon catches remain near all-time highs.

For nearly 30 years the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) has summarized abundances and catches of salmon as reported by its five member countries - Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the U.S. The Commission tracks all salmon species caught in the North Pacific, Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, and also provides the venue for coordinating research and enforcement activities.

For 2018, the total salmon catch topped one million metric tons, or more than 651 million fish, the highest catch ever for an even-numbered year. That's nearly 200 million more salmon than were caught in 2017.

Russia led all other nations for salmon catches in 2018, taking 63 percent (676,200mt). The U.S. ranked second for salmon catches at 27 percent at nearly 287,000mt, with Alaska taking all but 8,700mt of the total U.S. catch. The other three nations all were in single digits for salmon catches.

Pink salmon made up 55 percent of the North Pacific catches by weight, followed by chums at 26 percent and sockeyes at 16 percent. Cohos comprised just two percent of the total salmon catch and Chinook was less than one percent.

Hatchery releases from the five countries have been fairly stable since 1993 at about five billion fish released annually.

The U.S. accounted for 44 percent of total hatchery salmon releases last year, mostly coming from Alaska. That was followed by Japan at 34 percent, Russia at

17 percent and five percent of hatchery releases were from Canada.

Chum salmon made up 59 percent of all hatchery releases with pink salmon at 29 percent. Chinook salmon made up five percent, sockeyes at four percent and coho salmon at two percent of hatchery releases.

The commission said variability in annual North Pacific salmon catches has been more pronounced during the past decade, primarily due to unpredictable pinks.

A particularly low pink salmon catch in 2018 (71,300mt) resulted in the lowest total North American catches of salmon in 40 years.

**Nature bites Norway** - Global salmon markets are getting shuffled by a massive algae bloom that has suffocated over eight million farmed salmon in Norway with no end in sight. Norway is the world's largest farmed salmon producer and its supply numbers can set the mark for fish prices around the world.

The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries estimated the salmon loss so far at over 25.5 million pounds of Atlantic salmon valued at more than \$82 million. That would still amount to less than 1 percent of the industry's output last year, when Norway produced nearly 1.3 million metric tons (nearly 3 billion pounds) of salmon, according to the New York Times. (That compares to Alaska's catch of over 605 million pounds of salmon.)

"The algae has a chemical composition that affects the membranes of the cells in the gills and they are destroyed, so the fish actually dies due to lack of oxygen," said Lars-Johan Naustvoll, a biologist at Norway's Institute of Marine Re-

search.

Though the algae bloom is a natural event, fish growers said it is rare for it to be so concentrated and so lethal. Salmon farms are especially at risk since the salmon held captive in large net pens can't swim away from it. Most blame an off kilter climate and warming oceans for the killer algae event.

**More salmon challenges** - The makers of genetically modified (GM) salmon are embracing the "Frankenfish" name, saying it's much like the Frankenstein monster in the book written by Mary Shelley in 1817.

Undercurrent News reports that Sylvia Wulf, CEO of AquaBounty Technologies, said: "It was the uneducated mob that didn't understand the benefits of the science that killed Frankenstein. Let's applaud the Frankenfish, because it's designed to solve real-world global challenges."

Wulf was speaking at a Recirculating Aquaculture System Technology conference last week in Washington, D.C.

In March, the Food and Drug Administration removed a three-year-old import alert that prevented AquaBounty from importing eggs from a Panama facility for grow out and sale in the U.S. With that regulatory barrier gone, the company is now gearing up to go to market.

A first batch of eggs is on its way to a growing facility in Indiana with a goal of sending thousands of 8 to 11 pound, genetically tweaked Atlantic salmon to supermarkets next fall. The fish is altered to grow three times faster than normal salmon.

AquaBounty tested its fish in Canada in 2017 and 2018 and each time it sold out within a few days, the company said. The fish were not labeled as genetically modified, as Canada does not have a labeling requirement.

By law, U.S. companies have until 2020 to begin labeling foods that contain 80 percent or more genetically engineered materials with a mandatory compliance date of Jan. 1, 2022.

But it will fall to customers to find out on their own, as labels may be a symbol, a digital link, text message, phone number or web site.

AquaBounty called the labeling requirement "good news" saying that the market will be awash in so many bioengineered products, customers won't focus on their fish.

Nearly 2 million Americans opposed the FDA's approval of Frankenfish and 60 major grocery chains pledged not to sell it, including Safeway, Kroger, Target and Whole Foods.

In a touch of irony, Wulf said AquaBounty plans to expand sales to China and South America, but has no plans to pitch Frankenfish to Europe because of "their anti-genetically modified leanings."

**Seafood minus the sea** - Wild fish, farmed fish, Frankenfish - get ready for seafood grown directly from cells - with no head, tail, bones or blood.

National Public Radio calls it "fish without the swimming and breathing part. It's seafood without the sea."

In fact, it is whole fillets grown from a needle biopsy's worth of muscle cells from a single fish. The cells are cultivated and fed a blend of liquid vitamins, amino acids and sugars. The resulting fillets can be sold fresh or frozen or made into various seafood dishes.

A San Diego based company called BlueNalu is pioneering the cellular aquaculture as one of six companies focused on growing cell-based seafood. Finless Foods, for example, is focused on blue fin tuna; a company called Wild Type is working on salmon. All are likely five to 10 years away from having actual product on the market.

The companies point out cell-growing uses no genetic tweaking, nor does it introduce anything new that doesn't already exist in nature. They claim they're not looking to replace wild or farm-raised seafood, and instead offer a third alternative.

But the fledgling industry is poking at some tender industry spots: illegal and overfishing, climate impacts, bycatch and food waste. They note that cell-grown seafood is free from antibiotics and pesticides used in fish farms, potential ocean contaminants and micro particles of plastics.

Referring to the more than 3.2 billion people globally who de-

pend on seafood for at least part of their protein, a BlueNalu spokesman said "Catch, grow or make it, I'm not even sure we'll be able to meet demand."

**AK fish keeps Seattle afloat** - If not for Alaska's fisheries, the Port of Seattle would be a shadow of what it is today.

An economic report released this month reveals that Seattle is home port to about 300 fishing vessels and all but 74 make their living in Alaska. The Seattle-based boats harvest Alaska pollock, Bering Sea crab, flounders, salmon and many other high value species, and they vary in size from huge catcher-processors with 150 crew to small seiners and trawlers.

In 2017, vessels that moored at one of Seattle's three terminals and operated in the Alaska fisheries generated gross earnings of more than \$455 million, nearly half of the total gross earnings from those fisheries. Boats fishing in Puget Sound and other Washington areas earned \$26.6 million at the Seattle docks.

An estimated 7,200 jobs were directly associated with commercial fishing at the Port of Seattle in 2017. Of those jobs, 5,100 were on fishing vessels, and all but 200 operated in Alaska fisheries.

Additional revenues to the port came from various support services, staff and on-shore port tenants, including seafood processing and cold storage facilities.

Factoring in all segments of commercial fishing at the Port of Seattle, fishing activities generated more than \$671 million in business output in 2017. It also produced over \$13 million in state of Washington taxes.

Between 2011 and 2017, Port of Seattle customers harvested between 800,000 and 1.3 million metric tons of seafood from the North Pacific fisheries. Harvested tonnage increased by more than 500 percent over this period, or approximately 23 percent per year, based on a compound annual growth rate.

Factoring in indirect and induced impacts, the total statewide economic impact of commercial fishing operations to the Port of Seattle accounted for 11,300 jobs, \$543 million in labor income and over \$1.4 billion in business output in 2017.



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## Fish habitat restoration to occur at Wrangell's Pat Creek

Pat Creek Watershed is located on Wrangell Island in Southeast Alaska, about 12 miles south of the community of Wrangell. It supports Coho, Pink, Chum, and Sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden char, and cutthroat trout, and is an important recreational fishing area for locals. The valley bottom, including most of the riparian area, was logged in the 1960's and '70's. This has resulted in stretches of over-widened stream nearly devoid of large woody debris that is important for fish habitat.

From May 20 to July 15, large woody debris will be added to a 1 kilometer section of stream to increase habitat complexity and stabilize the stream banks. The project will take place east (upstream) of Pats Lake. An abandoned logging road will also be breached to allow the channel to naturally migrate across the floodplain. The Division of Forestry has already completed a portion of the project, decommissioning an abandoned road and

removing five man made barriers to fish passage, opening up new habitat for fish.

"Our goal for this project is to improve habitat for salmon and trout that are important to the community and to the watershed as a whole," said Angie Flickinger, the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition's Wrangell based coordinator. "Thanks should go to the many partners that have played a role in this project: Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, AK Division of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, AK Department of Fish and Game, and US Forest Service."

The public should be aware that there will be possible traffic delays east of Pat Lake on the Pat Lake Road (FR 6259) during the construction period, May 23rd-July 15th. Heavy machinery will be operating in and around Pat Creek to restore and enhance fish habitat for salmon and trout.

More information can be found at: [www.alaskawatershedcoalition.org](http://www.alaskawatershedcoalition.org)



# Borough assembly forms water management strategy

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly held a long meeting last Tuesday evening, May 28. The meeting covered a wide variety of topics, from the city's water management strategy to budget matters.

First there was a workshop on the water management strategy. Wrangell and other communities faced a power crisis recently due to low water levels at Tyee and Swan Lake. Wrangell briefly went on a water watch in early March, as the reservoirs dropped to low levels. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that the majority of Southeast Alaska is currently facing drought conditions.

There were various proposed amendments to Wrangell's water management strategy. The water watch has three stages, one to three, that the city can declare depending on how low water levels become. The water department recommended that a stage one water watch be declared "when the Upper Reservoir stops overflowing across the spillway," according to the workshop's agenda packet. The water department also recommended that the public not be allowed to water landscaped areas, clean sidewalks or decks, or wash motor vehicles during this stage of the water watch.

Stage two would be declared "when a Stage I level exists and the average production levels have increased to a sustained 720,000 gallons per day." In re-

sponse, it is recommended that the public follow all stage one guidelines, and will also be required to fix or turn off any pipes that are damaged or leaking.

Stage three would be recommended "when it becomes necessary to clean three filters a week, or when maintaining or recovering storage tank levels becomes problematic or impossible." There are no proposed amendments to what is already in place. All outdoor use of water is prohibited, and any customer found with a leaking or damaged water line will have their service disconnected. The industrial and commercial use of water shall also be reduced by an amount set by the borough assembly, depending on the severity of the water shortage. A town hall meeting to discuss water conservation is being scheduled for June 12.

The assembly also planned to formally approve of the Wrangell School District's 2020 budget, which the school board adopted early this month. As a part of this final approval, the assembly also had to consider the borough's contribution to the school. They were considering giving the school district about \$1.36 million, in Secure Rural Schools funding and a local contribution from sales taxes. This caused a bit of a debate amongst the assembly. Prysunka said that for several weeks he has been asking the district to provide the assembly monthly "actuals," to see how much money departments in



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Softball fundraising

The Wrangell Softball Team held a large fundraising event last Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The entire team and coaching staff took over the parking lot of Volunteer Park to host a bake sale, rummage sale, and car wash. The town came out in a large show of support for the team, as well. Within the first hour, the team was reportedly halfway to their \$500 goal. According to Coach Bella Crowley, the fundraiser exceeded expectations by bringing in over \$700 for the team to use.

the district typically spend. He suggested that the assembly lower the proposed local contribution. The school could come to them and ask for money on a case-by-case basis if more funds were needed.

Other members of the assembly voiced their agreement with Prysunka, and their disappointment with the district for not getting the actuals to them on time. Assembly Member David Powell suggested that the item be tabled to see if the information could be gathered before a vote was ab-

solutely necessary. Eventually, the assembly voted to table the item for an emergency meeting, which is scheduled for May 31 at 5:15 p.m.. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster, present at the meeting, apologized for the frustration and said that she would do her best to get the requested information to them.

The assembly also held a public hearing on their 2020 budget. For this new financial year, Wrangell is expecting a total of roughly \$20.1 million in expenditures, as opposed to

\$16.6 million in revenue. This deficit will be covered by the borough's reserves. According to the agenda packet, Wrangell has \$5.9 million in unrestricted reserves, and another \$21.4 million reserved that are restricted by charter, ordinance, resolutions, or vote by the public. The public hearing was short, as there were no questions from the public save for a definition between "restricted" and "unrestricted" reserves. The assembly will be voting to adopt the budget at a later date.

## SECON beginning work on Bennett Street, Airport Road

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Southeast Alaska construction company SECON has returned to Wrangell to do some road work. They were working in Wrangell last summer to renovate Evergreen Avenue, which runs from the ferry terminal past Petroglyph Beach, before transitioning into the Airport Road. These renovations included resurfacing the entire street and constructing a sidewalk along the road. This year, according to Project Manager Ralph Vigilante, SECON will be doing some extensive work on the other side of the airport loop, on Bennett Street and Airport Road itself.


"We're glad to be back in Wrangell," Vigilante said. "It was a good season last year, we're hoping for another good season this year."


The largest part of the job, according to Vigilante, will be on Bennett Street. This road runs from Zimovia Highway, past the Wrangell Medical Center and Evergreen Elementary School, before transitioning into Airport Road. SECON will be doing a complete rehab of this street from Zimovia to Second Avenue, beginning this week. This includes putting down new asphalt on the road, installing new storm drains, and repairing sidewalks, among other things. SECON sent out a notice via the City and Borough of Wrangell informing everybody that no parking will be allowed along Bennett Street beginning May 29. The street will also be narrowed to single-lane traffic from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday. In a Facebook post on Tuesday, May 28, they also reminded the public that fines for speeding will be doubled on Bennett Street during construction.

"Please pay attention to construction signs and keep an eye out for flaggers, crew, and pedestrians while traveling through the construction corridor," the post read.

SECON will also be doing renovation work along Airport Road, from Second Avenue to the Evergreen tie-in. This work is less extensive than that on Bennett Street, just a "general mill and overlay" as Vigilante said. Work crews will be removing the top layer of asphalt on the road and replacing it with a newer surface.

The contract for all this work is valued at \$4.2 million, according to Vigilante. He said that the final completion date for the contract is set in November, but he said that they are aiming to have the work done by mid-August. For questions, SECON can be reached at (907) 780-5145.





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