Wrangell, Alaska **January 31, 2019** 

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# Harbor Light begins renovations with \$15,000 grant

By CALEB VIERKANT Sentinel writer

Harbor Light Assembly of God, located across Zimovia Highway from Alaska Housing, began renovations to its downstairs portion of the church earlier this month. The renovations are thanks, in part, to a \$15,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation they received last October. Pastor Kem Haggard, with Harbor Light, said they received the Tier 1 grant from the foundation to help benefit the wider Wrangell community.

"They're [the Rasmuson Foundation] basic thing is they really want to enhance communities," said Haggard. "Several years ago, one of the things we talked about was we want to help out the community, we're here to serve the community, and that's been really our focus. So we got to looking at some of the different things, and some of the different organizations we've worked with."

Besides offering services like weddings and funerals, Haggard said that Harbor Light has opened up its facility to many different organizations. Some of the groups he listed include the Boy Scouts, Alaska Crossings, SEARHC, different homeschool groups, AAU basketball teams, the Forest Service, and the ministerial association. They wanted to demonstrate to the Rasmuson Foundation that their church benefited more people than just members of the church. This was a question they received from the foundation, Haggard said, about how "free" their services were. The church opens its doors to everyone, he said, with no catches. Nobody has to be a church member or agree to attend a service to use Harbor Light's building. He also said that in the last six months, the church had been in use 874 hours. Of that time, 624.5 hours were by outside organizations.

"One of my pet peeves from when I lived down south was you'd see these megachurches, any churches in particular, and they've got all this space and you'd see it filled maybe three times a week, and the rest of the time it sits empty," Haggard said. "Why do you have that space if it's just sitting empty?"

The church is looking to "spruce up" their downstairs area. They have several projects beginning to do so, under four general categories: Expansions, improvements, additions, and safety concerns. Some of the proj-



#### Harbor Light holds 20th Men's Dinner

Harbor Light Assembly of God held its 20th annual men's game dinner last Sunday evening, on Jan. 27. About 200 Wrangell men and boys attended the event, and were treated to a dinner of 300 pounds of ribs, 90 pounds of chicken, six Cajun fried turkeys, and numerous sides and desserts. People also got to enjoy door prizes, raffles, and plenty of hunting and fishing stories.

ects Haggard mentioned include adding railings to their handicap ramp, installing new lighting and carpeting, expanding the size of the downstairs area slightly, and getting a new ceiling. None of the grant money will be used to improve other areas of the church, such as the sanctuary. It is all for the downstairs facility and to help the community, he said.

He also mentioned that the \$15,000 grant will not cover the entire cost of the renovations, but it helps. He mentioned that the church recently received two sizable donations, one from a man in Texas and another from a Wrangell resident. He said he has been hearing from

some organizations Harbor Light has helped in the past wanting to chip in, as well.

"It's been nice hearing from some of the organizations that have used our facility that have said they want to help out," Haggard said. "For instance, Crossings has offered to come in and help us do some of the renova-

The Rasmuson Foundation is an Alaska organization seeking to make communities across the state better through grant programs and supporting nonprofits. In 2017, according to their website, they gave out \$20.5 million in grants to groups across Alaska.

# Workshop held on how to better support those going through grief

By CALEB VIERKANT Sentinel writer

Erin Matthes, health educator with SEARHC in Sitka, came up with the idea for a "grief and bereavement workshop" out of a desire to debunk myths about grief and help lessen stigmas attached to it. Her work, she said, focuses on education and support in the areas of aging, end of life, and grief and bereavement. She is also a licensed professional counselor, and recently earned her certification in Thanatology, or the study of death and bereavement. She said that over the last five or six years her work has really focused on the subject of grief.

She offered a workshop to Brave Heart Volunteers, an end of life support organization, in Sitka that went really well. She offered the workshop to the Wrangell hospice after speaking with local resident Alice Rooney, she said, but decided to open it up to the public. She added that the turnout for the Wrangell workshop was impressive, and she was happy to see so many



people from different walks of life coming together to learn how to support one another.

"It is really for anyone," Matthes said. "What I would love to see is, well, people who are grieving and who feel like they're not doing it correctly, somehow. I'd love to take that off their shoulders. That's one group I feel very strongly about. The other group would be providers, just supporting providers and being supportive to people who are grieving."

While the workshop covered

Lt [grief] is very unique, just as love is unique. Each person is going to have their own response to that and their own expression of that."

- Erin Matthes Health educator with **SEARHC** 

many different aspects of the grieving process, Matthes said there was a simple mantra for people wanting to help those who have lost a loved one: Be yourself, be open, be quiet, and be there. There are different ways to be supportive under each category of that mantra, she said. For example, "be yourself" means to not be scared of messing up or not knowing what to say. "Be open" means to try and avoid comparing losses, or to judge someone for reacting to grief differently than expected. "Be quiet" means to listen rather than to talk, and to not treat grief as a fixable problem instead of a difficult process. "Be there" simply means to be there for a grieving friend of family member by helping with chores, making food, or even just being a shoulder to cry on.

"It [grief] is very unique, just as love is unique," said Matthes. "The relationship they had with the person who's died is unique to them. We talked a little bit about, in a small community, how so many of us are impacted by the same loss, and so that's going to look different even though people are grieving the same person. Each person is going to have their own response to that and their own expression of that."

The workshop also offered more practical tips on how to support someone who is grieving. These tips included leaving care packages, taking their pets

for a walk for them, remembering important dates like birthdays or anniversaries, and to simply spend time with the grieving person. The workshop also gave people the opportunity to explore their own relationship with grief, by asking questions about important people they had lost, what kind of support they had, and how family and religious backgrounds affected their grieving process.

"I think people who are grieving do, typically give those who are trying, the grace to mess up, and recognize that they are making an effort," said Matthes.

The workshop also provided attendees with online and literary resources to help them better understand grief and how to help others around them. Matthes also said that she is always available as a resource, and that she would love feedback on the workshop. She can reached ematthes@searhc.org or by phone at (907) 966-8720.

#### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

Thursday, January 31: Crystal Crayne, Justin Churchill, Selina Rilatos, Steve Beers, Quinton Davies, Justin Churchill, Lavonne Klinke, Jess Rugo. Friday, February 1: Scott Manson, Christy Good, Erica Smith. Anniversary: Gordon & Emily McCloskey. Saturday, February 2: Rhiannon Wenzel, Leslie Cummings, Maria Weeg, Kaylahni Weddel. Sunday, February 3: Aaron Angerman, Aaliyah Messmer, Lindsey Gross, Danika Smith, Bryan Allen. Monday, February 4: Charlotte Neff, Terry Carney, Collin Dando, Raymond Hayes, Cody Roberts. Tuesday, February 5: Nadra Angerman, Shannon Mickle. Wednesday, February 6: Walter Moorhead, Leah Taylor, Binky Maenhout, Tamra Claggett, Emmett Mickle, Natalya Jabusch. Thursday, February 7: Krystal Schultz, Lindsay Hannah, Paige Hoyt.

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

## Senior Center Menu

Thursday, January 31

French Dip, Peas & Carrots, Romaine Salad, Biscuits
Friday, February 1

Creole Pork Steaks, Brussels Sprouts, Tossed Salad, Baking Powder Biscuits

Monday, February 4

Beef & Vegetable Soup, Tomato & Cheese Sandwich, Sunshine Salad, Whole Wheat Bread

Tuesday, February 5

Sweet N' Sour Pork, Carrots, Tossed Salad, Rice

Wednesday, February 6

Vegetable Meatloaf, Green Beans, Romaine & Radish Salad, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy

Thursday, February 7

Baked Salmon, Peas, Tomato Aspic, Scalloped Potatoes

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

#### **FERRY**

#### **Departures**

#### **Northbound**

Sunday, February 3 Columbia 8:15 p.m. Sunday, February 10 Columbia 4:45 p.m. Sunday, February 17

Columbia 7:15 p.m. **Saturday, February 23** Malaspina 2:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 24 Columbia 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26 Malaspina 4:00 p.m.

#### Southbound

Wednesday, February 6
Columbia 6:45 a.m.
Wednesday, February 13
Columbia 5:45 a.m.
Wednesday, February 20
Columbia 6:15 a.m.
Monday, February 25
Malaspina 6:45 a.m.
Wednesday, February 27
Columbia 6:30 a.m.
Friday, March 1

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



## TIDES Jan. 31 - Feb. 7

Malaspina 8:15 a.m.

	High Tides			Low Tides				
	$\mathbf{AM}$		PM		AM		PM	
	<u>Time</u>	<u><b>Ft</b></u>	<u>Time</u>	<u><b>Ft</b></u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ft</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u><b>Ft</b></u>
January 31	9:42	15.6	10:48	13.1	3:17	4.9	4:30	0.7
February 1	10:34	16.0	11:37	13.8	4:22	4.6	5:18	-0.2
February 2	11:21	16.4			5:13	4.1	5:57	-0.8
February 3	12:19	14.4	12:02	16.7	5:53	3.7	6:30	-1.1
February 4	12:56	14.8	12:39	16.8	6:28	3.3	7:01	-1.2
February 5	1:29	15.1	1:13	16.7	7:01	3.0	7:29	-1.1
February 6	2:00	15.2	1:45	16.3	7:32	2.8	7:57	-0.8
February 7	2:29	15.2	2:16	15.8	8:03	2.7	8:25	-0.4

# Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Monday, February 4

**Work Session:** Evergreen Elementary School Gym, 6:30 p.m. Wrangell Public School Board will hold a work session to discuss the 2019 Legislative Priorities.

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

## **Continuing Events**

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

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class: M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m. Water Aerobics: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Lap Swim: M-W-F 6:00-7:30 a.m. MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

TuTh 5:15-6:15 p.m. Sa 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

2 Lane Lap Swim: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Lap/Tot Swim: MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Swim Club: M-F 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Open Swim: M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weight Room: M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m. S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**MEETINGS** 

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

## The Way We Were

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

January 30, 1919

Captain Johnson, M. P. Olson and Verne Clark left Wrangell on October 29 on the gas boat Myrtle H. and since that time they have been at the mercy of the sea. Olson remained in charge of the boat, which is on the beach at Egg Island. These three men had a very thrilling experience and are fortunate indeed that they are today alive to tell the tale. They came outside to Baranof and lost their rudder between Cape Omaney and Whale Bay. After attempting to reach Cape Hinchinbrook, it was necessary to take shelter behind Egg Island. Here, ten days were spent, when high winds drove them on the beach. Johnson and Clark rowed to Hinchinbrook lighthouse, when the wind and sea swamped their skiff and they were compelled to walk to the lighthouse. There, they borrowed a dory and rowed to Johnson's point, where they met the Native mail carrier from Hinchinbrook, who brought them to Cordova.

#### February 4, 1944

Alaska's first Statehood dinner will be held in Wrangell next Monday evening at 7 p.m. with retiring Secretary of Alaska E. L. Bartlett as speaker of the evening to explain the arguments for and against the statehood proposal, it is announced by Mayor Fred G. Hanford and Leo McCormack of the local Statehood committee.

The dinner will be served at the Civic Center by the women of the Civic Club. Mr. Bartlett, who was through town this morning bound for Ketchikan, is one of the best informed men in the Territory on its functions due to his long residence in the Territory and his years of service in the Secretary's office. Later the committee plans to have other speakers so that this community can become well informed on the statehood subject.

January 30, 1969

City crews will pump salt

water into the city's water mains tomorrow.

The City Council made the decision Tuesday night as the community's water system continued to be plagued by freezeups and broken mains.

ups and broken mains.

Fresh water will be kept in the mains leading to the hospital and the elementary school. City officials said they would provide fresh drinking water for residents by truck. Water has been trucked to many residents during the past few weeks. The action was taken as the community went into its fourth week of a drought. Neighboring Petersburg has been out of water since the middle of last week. School supt. Ray Nims said he would keep classes going as long as possible.

February 3, 1994

A full slate of activities is on tap for this weekend's annual Tent City Days celebration. Things get under way today with the setting up of an art and craft fair at the Wrangell Museum this afternoon.

The youth basketball tournament involving all-star teams of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Wrangell and Petersburg begins today with the tip-off of the first game. Tonight's action will feature co-ed teams, according to Park and Recreation Director Ron Koch. Later this month, Wrangell's all-stars will travel to the Devil's Thumb Days celebration in Petersburg for a rematch.



# VICE

• Rated R • 2hr 12min Biography, Comedy, Drama

SHOWTIMES: Fri. Feb. 1 - Sun. Feb. 3 7PM NIGHTLY

SHOWING NEXT WEEKEND:

The Upside



Date	High	Low
Jan. 21	43	39
Jan. 22	43	35
Jan. 23	39	32
Jan. 24	45	39
Jan. 25	48	42
Jan. 26	48	39
Jan. 27	36	33
Jan. 28	37	30

# Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset 1	Daylight
Jan 31	7:46 am	4:17 pm	8:31h
Feb 01	7:45 am	4:19 pm	8:34h
Feb 02	7:43 am	4:21 pm	8:38h
Feb 03	7:41 am	4:24 pm	8:43h
Feb 04	7:39 am	4:26 pm	8:47h
Feb 05	7:37 am	4:28 pm	8:51h
Feb 06	7:35 am	4:30 pm	8:55h
Feb 07	7:33 am	4:32 pm	8:59h





# THRHA gives update on home renovations last week

By CALEB VIERKANT Sentinel writer

The Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) held a meeting in Wrangell last week, on Jan. 23, to give an update on a project they have been working on to reduce the cost of living for low-income tribal citizens. Thanks to an ICDBG grant they received in 2018, or Indian Community Development Block Grant, they are working to renovate 20 homes across Wrangell to make them more energy efficient. According to the presentation, about \$34,000 will be spent on each home.

Director of Tribal Services Desiree Jackson explained that the goal is to reduce utility costs of these homes from an estimated \$8,000 a year to somewhere between \$4,000 to \$4,500. They plan to do this by renovating the homes with better electrical work, plumbing, and other various repairs. This rehabbing project will not only help the homeowners save money, but it will also make staying in Wrangell more appealing and help the community as a whole.

Director of Administration Ken Southerland was present at the meeting, as well. He wanted to ensure everybody present that the THRHA took its work seriously, and that ethics and efficiency were their top priorities with this project. Procurements and awarding of contracts would be put online for public viewing, and the information would also be shared with the Wrangell Cooperative Association. A lot of attention was being devoted to keeping the whole process open and free of any conflicts of interest, he said.

So far, 14 homes have gone through the application process, according to Jackson. The plan is to approve the applications of the last six homes this February. The procurement process for electrical and plumbing work, and construction materials, is projected to begin in March. The actual work on these homes will take place from April to December. The ICDBG grant lasts for two years, so all of 2020 will be devoted to paperwork and checking on the 20 homes to ensure the work was all done properly.

# School district holds staff meeting to get input on future budget

By CALEB VIERKANT Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School District held a staff meeting in the high

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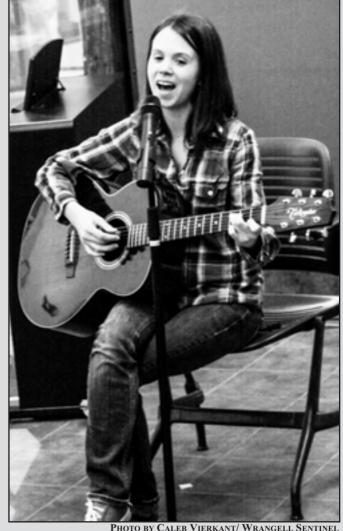


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school commons on Jan. 23. Budget season is beginning to loom, and the district is starting to put together a proposed budget for the next school year. Georgianna Buhler, business manager for the school district, said that they did not have any projections for what the budget would look like yet, but they are in the process of getting that information.

Staff and teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school were all invited to give input on what they felt the district's priorities should be in the near future, to help in that process.

"We're a team in every resaid Superintendent



#### Music at Riverflats poetry night

Katie Fitzgarrald performed at the Riverflats poetry night last Thursday evening. Riverflats is an event put on by Community Roots as an avenue for people to share their talents, be it music, poetry, or anything else.

Debbe Lancaster. "I'm going to be listening for what you want, what you like ... we're all ears."

David Macri, principal of the middle school and high school, said that he felt the district was doing okay, money-wise. His opinion, he said, was that the

district needed more flexibility and creativity, as well as additional training opportunities for staff. Professional development was something that several people at the meeting agreed

**Continued on page 4** 

# Police report =

January 21, 2019

Subpoena service.

Agency assist: Alarm.

#### January 22, 2019

Citation issued: Tracy Churchill, 46. Operating with expired registration and verbal warning for faulty equipment.

#### **Ianuary 23, 2019**

Citation issued: Mark Hamley, 41. Failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Three subpoenas served.

Vehicle unlock.

Courtesy transport.

MICS.

#### January 24, 2019

Two subpoenas served.

Agency assist: Alarm.

Parking complaint.

#### January 25, 2019

Unauthorized use of vehicle: Unfounded.

Parking complaint.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for failure to stop at stop sign. Traffic stop: Verbal warning for speed.

#### January 26, 2019

Agency assist: Sewer treatment.

Summons service.

MIPC: Kaydee Howell, 20. On charges of MIPC.

#### January 27, 2019

Arrested: Dylan Franks, 28. On charges of violating conditions of release and driving while license revoked, two counts.

Subpoena service.

Trespass.

Agency assist: Water department.

There were five ambulance calls and one dog complaint this



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# **School**

#### Continued from page 3

should be a priority. This was not even something the school had to spend a lot of money on. The suggestion was raised that staff could help train each other, depending on their area of expertise.

Lancaster, after the meeting concluded, mentioned that there was talk of reaching out to members of the community to help teach valuable skills to both staff and students.

Something else that teachers said would be a big help in the coming school year would be devoting resources to the training of more aides and substitute teachers. Even giving aides and substitute teachers a raise would be a big help. This could encourage more of them to stay with the school district long-term,

and would save people time on having to train new aides.

Teacher Drew Larrabe said that the district really needed to "save pennies on the dollar" and find small ways to cut costs that would add up in the long run. One suggestion was raised to have a central "copier room" in schools, instead of each classroom having its own printer. Another area to save money, according to Lancaster, would be in software costs. If only one teacher needed some software that cost \$1,500 a year to use, she gave as a hypothetical example, that was something the district probably didn't need to spend money on. Matt Gore, technology director for the district, said that he was sending out a survey to teachers about the technology and software they use



Teachers and staff of the Wrangell School District met in the high school commons last week to discuss the budget for the upcoming school year. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster said that they are looking for input from as many staff members as they can while they begin the process of putting a proposed budget together.

ally needed. This survey could

for their jobs, and what they re- help in that cost-cutting area, he

Before concluding the meeting, Lancaster said that there were some dates the staff would need to remember, to help in the budgeting process. Travel plans and the financial needs of each department need to be turned in by March 15. A list of school supplies needed is expected by April 1. The first draft of the budget, she added, will be presented to the school board on Feb. 18.

## Letter to the Editor

#### To the Editor:

I recently read the story of the new maintenance director, Josh Blatchly's, report to the (COF) School Board. This is the type of nonsense I expect from an unqualified, "just going to spend your money to justify my possession" type of person. Full disclosure, I was supposed to be in the running for this job, however, the (COF) didn't even attempt to interview me. With over three decades of construction, remodeling, and building schools, the (COF) just passed me

So these faulty doors open, close, and lock but need replacing because they are 30 years old? Really? For those of you that do not know, these doors are set in steel frames and are almost two inches thick, weighing almost 100 lbs each and are fire rated to two hours. If he is speaking of exterior doors they are similarly set in steel frames, but made of steel, hopefully insulated - unlike the new doors at the Legion. But these doors could have been exposed to ice melt salt over decades and the door, frame, and

threshold could be rusted away and need to be replaced. As far as roofs and brick and sidewalks, that is a regular thing and to be expected from time to time.

In closing, with the history of good-olboys placing family and friends in positions to spend lots of taxpayer monies, maybe reigning in the ridiculousness should be done by we the people. After all, the swamp is here as well as in Washington DC.

Kip Valvoda

#### To the Editor:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Wrangell Public Schools is partnering with the Association of Alaska School Boards to conduct the School Climate and Connectedness Survey, a statewide survey for students and staff. This survey measures their perceptions of each school's climate including the engagement of students and

The Student Survey will be given to students in grades 6-12 at WHS/SMS on January 31 or February 1, 2019. Students will complete the survey online at school.

The student survey will ask questions such as how students feel about school rules, their perceptions of how students treat each other, their relationships with staff, social and emotional skills, and observed risk behaviors of other students at school and school events.

All of these surveys are voluntary, anonymous, confidential, and do not ask questions about students' families or personal/private affairs.

More information on this survey is available at the WHS/SMS website. There is also a sample survey available for your review.

Results from this survey will be used to identify student and staff perceptions of school climate issues within our school. School staff will use the results to inform their efforts to ensure schools are safe, supportive, and caring places for all students.

Thank you for your cooperation in this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey.

> David M. Macri, Principal WHS/SMS



# **Obituary:**

# James Frederick King, 89

James Frederick King, 89, passed away in Marysville, Washington on January 28,

Jim was born on July 20, 1929 in Nipawin, Saskatchewan to Fred and Dorothy King. He was the youngest of four boys.

His engineering work started as a surveyor of roads in Saskatchewan and Alberta before moving to Idaho where he designed portions of the Interstate highway system. Jim moved to Marysville where he

started a surveying company and later worked dren Jeff, Quinn and Jacquelyn. at Alderwood Water District engineer.



**James Frederick King** 

After retiring he began a second career as a commercial fisherman, running a troller out of Sitka and Wrangell, Alaska and Bandon, Oregon before settling permanently in Wrangell. While in Bandon, he learned to fly and with his Cessna, he flew around the United States.

Jim was married to Joanne King and they had two children, Jeff King and Beckie King Martin (Bill). He is survived by his children and grandchil-

At his request, there will not be a service.



# welcomed

#### Policy for Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.

The Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 PM for Thursday publication. Letters are run on a space available basis.

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# Lady Wolves claim victory over Metlakatla



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Helen Decker (#11) looking for an open player to pass to during Friday's game against the Metlakatla Chiefs.

## By CALEB VIERKANT Sentinel writer

After two hard-fought games this past weekend, the Wrangell Lady Wolves walked away with another set of victories in what has been a successful season. The girl's basketball team remains undefeated in conference games, now 6-0 after this weekend. The Metlakatla Miss Chiefs played against Wrangell in the Lady Wolves' second set of home games this season.

Friday's game opened with Wrangell getting on the board first with a single point from a free throw. Both teams played a strong defensive game in the first quarter, and by the end the Lady Wolves held a narrow lead of nine points to the Miss Chiefs' eight.

Metlakatla pulled ahead in the second quarter, getting their score up to 24 versus Wrangell's 15. However, the Lady Wolves played hard and were able to reclaim the lead, narrowly, in the third quarter. The fourth quarter saw the Lady Wolves fighting hard to maintain their lead, despite the Miss Chiefs' best efforts to catch up. The final score was a win for Wrangell, 40 to 34.

Saturday's game went a little more smoothly, at least scorewise, for Wrangell. The Miss Chiefs got on the board first, but the Lady Wolves were able to overtake them shortly thereafter. They were able to hold the lead the entire game, though Metlakatla did come close to tying at a few points throughout the third and fourth quarters.

It was an intense game, and also foul-heavy. In the second half of the game, Wrangell's team made nine fouls, and Metlakatla made 10. Coach Laurie Brown said while the team did get a lot of fouls, they had a solid enough bench that it did not affect performance to sub new players in. At the end of the

fourth quarter, the Lady Wolves secured another victory with a score of 52 to 43.

"Friday night we had a really rough start," said Brown. "Saturday night we came out a lot smoother, more confident."

The Lady Wolves will face off against Petersburg during their homecoming games this weekend. Brown said she is very confident in her team's ability to play against them. They will play against Craig the weekend after, on Feb. 8 and 9. After that, the Lady Wolves and the Chiefs will meet again, on Metlakatla's court this time, on Feb. 15 and 16.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Skyler Lofftus (#23) works to get past Metlakatla's defense during Friday's basketball game.

# Wrangell Wolves fall to Metlakatla Chiefs

By Caleb Vierkant Sentinel writer

Wrangell Wolves Coach Cody Angerman said he knew going against Metlakatla would be a challenge. They were last year's 2A state champions, and have a very strong team this year. After last weekend's losses against the Metlakatla Chiefs, it proved to be a challenge Wrangell fell just short of meeting. Both games were tense and hard-fought, but the Wolves are now 3-3 in conference play.

On Friday the game opened with an impressive three-pointer by the Wolves. They held a lead in the first quarter until the three-minute mark, where the Chiefs rallied and tied the score. The Wolves, however, were able to pull ahead again in the last 30 seconds. The second quarter saw a lot of back-and-forth between the two teams. Metlakatla pulled ahead, only for Wrangell to tie the game and pull ahead. Wrangell maintained a narrow lead until the final minute of the third quarter, when the Chiefs tied the game at 40 to 40. The fourth quarter saw the Chiefs pull ahead slowly, despite the Wolves' attempts to catch up. The final score was 46 to 51, a loss for the Wolves.

Saturday's game saw much of the same. The Wolves held a narrow lead in the first quarter. During the second quarter both teams fought for the lead, taking it and losing it in turn. Unlike Friday, however, the Chiefs were able to take the lead and hold it firmly by the end of the first half. The second half of the game saw Wrangell trying, but failing to get any momentum on their side. It was another loss for the Wolves, 44 to 60.

"You almost learn more out of losses than you do winning," said Angerman. "There's no shame in losing to Metlakatla ... I'm always proud of the team's performance."

The Wolves will have the chance to prove themselves against the Chiefs mid-February, when they will travel to Metlakatla. Before that, though, they will face off against Petersburg during homecoming this weekend, and Craig the weekend after that.

"It's going to be a good weekend, I think," said Angerman about homecoming. "There will be some pretty intense games."

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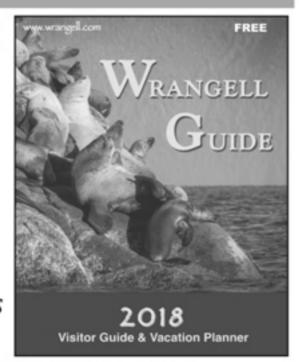
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\*The Alaska Marine Highway is a division of the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities. AMHS currently operates 9 vessels, with 2 under construction and 1 in the final design phase. AMHS employs approximately 1,000 employees system-wide. Employees live in 44 different Alaska communities, with 82% of those employees residing in the Southeast Region.

# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

# U.S demand for wild salmon continues to increase

Heading into the 2019 salmon season markets are looking good as global demand exceeds supply.

That's due in part to constraints on the world's biggest producers of farmed Atlantic salmon – Norway and Chile. While farmed production continues to tick upwards, growth in both countries is limited as to the maximum amount of fish regulations permit them to have in the water.

Chile also is still recovering from a deadly virus that wiped out millions of fish in 2016, and Norway is battling pervasive sea lice issues. All told, the days appear to be over when both countries could count on double digit increases in production to meet setbacks in supply.

"Now it appears the salmon farmers don't have any rabbits left in the hat. They are still increasing production but not to the extent in percentage terms that it used to be," said Andy Wink, a fisheries economist and director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association.

Couple that with expanding salmon demand and current market conditions create a larger niche for wild salmon, Wink said, not only in the U.S. but also in China.



"Demand for salmon in China is growing in a big way," he explained. "News reports say they expect farmed salmon consumption in China to go from 90,000 metric tons (198 million pounds) this past year to around 250,000mt (550 million pounds) by 2025. There's a lot of opportunity for all wild salmon."

Market watchers are awaiting the last four months of sales data, but all salmon species have been selling well and holdover inventories are not expected heading into the coming season.

"We saw strong pricing on the wholesale side and volumes moved at a quick clip," Wink said. "As far as sockeye goes, people I've been in touch with anecdotally say things are moving nicely even though prices are up."

Another good sign is that the value of the dollar has held steady.

"For the past year the dollar has been going sideways in terms of its strength," Wink explained. "If it moves a lot, that will have a huge impact on fish prices, but for the time being we haven't seen a lot of change."

Demand continues to increase in the U.S. where Wink said more appreciation has grown for wild salmon in general. He pointed to Costco as a new market channel, which rolled out a national sockeye salmon program last year.

That really gave sockeyes a boost, and Wink said it was clearly shown in Bristol Bay's branding promotion that has grown from a small pilot program in a handful of stores in Boulder, Colorado in 2016 to 1,000 stores across the country and growing.



"When we approach a retailer they are generally very receptive and excited to work with us," he said. "They know their customers want wild salmon, they want to know where it comes from and that connection with the producer, and that it's a quality product. Whether it's from Bristol Bay or other places in Alaska, there's great demand for that in the U.S."

Wink said the decades of hard work by Alaska's salmon industry is really starting to pay off.

"A lot of great work has been done to develop the quality of the pack, push new products and new markets are opening up," he said. "Even though they've taken years to cultivate, we're seeing a lot of those investments bear fruit now."

Fish fears - A lack of knowledge about seafood is the biggest hurdle to increasing sales and U.S. consumption. That's the main take away from one of the industry's most popular events - the Global Seafood Market Conference held this month in California.

Results of a first ever Power of Seafood Survey of over 2,000 Americans by the Food Marketing Institute yielded some surprises about why Americans aren't buying more seafood and revealed hurdles that prevent them from buying more.

A recap of the FMI survey by SeafoodSource found that only 56 percent of Americans eat seafood twice a month – a far cry from the twice a week recommendation by the US government. Just one in five adults said they meet that weekly threshold.

Freshness and flavor have a major impact on seafood purchases, the survey revealed, but most shoppers said they feel "turned off" by their lack of knowledge. Nearly half of consumers said there is not enough information about how to judge quality and freshness,

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#### **Fatal house fire on Saturday**

KAKE — At 5:52 a.m. Saturday Alaska State Troopers received a report of a structure fire on Silver Spike Road in Kake. The owner of the residence, Loren Jackson, 39 of Kake, was unaccounted for. The Kake Fire Department extinguished the fire but the structure sustained major damage. On Sunday at about 1:30 p.m., AST and a Department of Public Safety Deputy Fire Marshal arrived in Kake to process the scene.

Authorities recovered the body of Loren Jackson Jr., who lived in the home, on Sunday afternoon.

The remains will be transported to the State Medical Examiner's office in Anchorage for autopsy and positive identification. Next of kin has been notified.

and 42 percent said they wanted more information about different species of fish and shellfish.

Guy Pizzuti, seafood manager for the Publix supermarket chain, called consumers' worries over evaluating freshness a "failure of the industry."

Just 29 percent of the respondents said they feel very knowledgeable about how to buy seafood; only 28 percent said they felt confident in how to prepare or season it.

Buyers from major grocery chains said they can't focus on the appeal of raw seafood; instead, they must stimulate consumers to believe they can easily cook it at home.

Pizzuti added that for decades the industry has been talking about teaching consumers how to prepare seafood and it still hasn't been figured out.

Dave Wier of the Meijer chain added that the industry is "too busy telling customers what boat caught the fish instead of how to cook it." He said they've taken their eye off what consumers really want and that the industry is "terrible at this and must improve quickly."

The survey found that the average seafood eater spends more on food in weekly shopping than non-eaters, and frequent seafood eaters spend even more - showing it to be a small but lucrative demographic group.

Funds for saving lives -Saving lives and reducing injuries is the goal of fishing safety grants available to nonprofit groups, municipalities, academics and businesses involved in the fishing and maritime industries.

The Fishing Safety Research Grant Program was funded in 2010 as part of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, and the money is finally available.

"These are moneys that came to the Coast Guard first and we are partnering with them to administer these important safety training and research grants. This is the first time that these funds have been available," said Jennifer Lincoln, co-director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Maritime

Center for Safety and Health Studies.

The grants will provide up to 75 percent of the costs and range from \$250,000-\$650,000 per grant over two years.

Academics and nonprofits already involved in research and training are likely applicants, but communities and businesses also are encouraged.

"They could partner with a training organization to offer training for fishermen in their area," Lincoln explained. "There also are small business grants that include things like developing new technologies for industry. It's those types of ideas that I would potentially expect from municipalities or businesses."

Different fishing fleets have different hazards and proposals can be targeted to what works best for a particular fishery, gear group or region.

"A group of fishermen might want to focus on fatigue related issues," Lincoln said. "Other ideas could include improving a piece of deck equipment that is particular to a fleet. Catcher processors or the head and gut fleet might want to focus on ergonomic issues and improved processes on their vessels."

Lincoln said ideas continue to evolve on improving safety equipment such as life jackets and she expects some grants will target vessel stability training. Another potential opportunity, she said is exploring hearing protections for fishermen.

February 21 is the deadline to apply in two categories: safety research and training. The "opportunity numbers" are RFA-OH-19-004 and RFA-OH-19-005.

Top fish spot - Sam Rabung has been named as the state's Director of Commercial Fisheries. He first joined the department as a fisheries technician in 1983, and since 2015 has been serving as chief for the division's statewide Aquaculture, Planning, and Permitting section. He also has overseen hatchery operations around the state and is vice chair of the Governor's Mariculture Task Force. He will be based in Juneau.

# New Shoemaker floats to be installed starting next week

By Caleb Vierkant Sentinel writer

The project to renovate Shoemaker Bay Harbor, which has been ongoing since last September, is about to enter a new stage in renovation.

The project, a joint venture by Tamico Inc. and Rock-N-Road Construction of Petersburg, is aiming to update the harbor's old infrastructure and allow for bigger boats to dock. According to Wrangell Harbor Master Greg Meissner, new floats for the harbor will be coming into town on next Tuesday's barge.

Jim Martinsen, with Tamico, said that they are expecting to receive three or four floats each week, starting on Feb. 5. They hope to install the floats into the harbor within the same week they receive them, he said, and aim to have the harbor "look like a harbor" again within the next few months. He said that construction is somewhat behind schedule, but is still on track to complete the project sometime this summer. The delay, he said, was because of events beyond their control.

"We're slightly behind because of the float manufacturer," Martinsen said. "And he's behind because of a steel manufacturer."

Renovations are somewhere between a quarter to a third complete, he added. Shoemaker Bay Harbor was originally built in 1977, with a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. The City and Borough of Wrangell is paying approximately \$8.3 million for renovations, Martinsen said.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Renovations to Shoemaker Bay Harbor, begun last September, are still ongoing. Jim Martinsen, with Tamico Inc., said that work has fallen slightly behind schedule, but everything is still on track to be completed by this summer.

# New Sport and Commercial Fisheries Directors named at ADF&G

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang recently announced two director-level appointments as he continues to fill key leadership roles at ADF&G. Lang has named Dave Rutz Director of the Division of Sport Fish. Sam Rabung has been appointed the Director of Commercial Fisheries.

Rutz and Rabung have long, distinguished careers at the department and bring a wealth of experience to their new roles.

"Dave Rutz and Sam Rabung come to these positions with outstanding qualifications," said Vincent-Lang. "Both have years of knowledge and experience in Alaska's fisheries. They have held increasingly complex and diverse positions in the department and have deep connections around the state. I am pleased that they have agreed to serve."

Rutz has worked in fisheries research and management for nearly 40 years. He spent much of his career at the department's Division of Sport Fish as an area management biologist in the Northern and Western Cook Inlet Management area. He has also led the department's Alexander Creek Invasive Northern Pike Removal and Restoration project and worked around the state in various research and management roles. He graduated with a B.S., Wildlife Fisheries Emphasis, St. Cloud State in Minnesota in

"I'm honored to be appointed and look forward to working with sport fisheries staff and department leadership to carry out the department's mission to protect and enhance fisheries resources for the benefit of all Alaskans," said Rutz.

Prior to accepting his new role, Rabung has been serving as section chief for the Division of Commercial Fisheries Statewide Aquaculture, Planning, and Permitting, a position he held since 2015. He has also worked in a variety of positions overseeing hatchery operations around the state. He first joined the department as a fisheries technician in 1983.

Rabung graduated with honors in 1987 from Sheldon Jackson College with a B.S., in Aquatic Resources, Fisheries Science and Aquaculture Emphasis. A lifelong Alaskan, he attended A.J. Dimond High

School in Anchorage, where he graduated in 1982. He serves as a voting member on all Regional Planning Teams statewide and as vice chair of the Governor's

Mariculture Task Force.

"I look forward to serving the people of the state in this new role," said Rabung. "ADFG is a unique and well-respected science agency, and the Division has a very strong team of dedicated and talented professionals. This is an opportunity to work closely with others across the department to ensure we are contributing to the Alaska economy and putting fish on the plates of Alaskans."

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