



Wrangell, Alaska  
March 14, 2019

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Lady Wolves take 1st regional championship in 25 years

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

After two intense games against the Petersburg Lady Vikings and Metlakatla Miss Chiefs, the Wrangell Lady Wolves claimed victory in the ASAA Region V championship.

This is the first time in 25 years that the Lady Wolves have taken first place in regionals, according to the Region V website. The last time the Lady Wolves won the regional tournament was in 1994, back when Wrangell was a 3A school. Coach Laurie Brown said that it was an amazing experience to take the regional title, but all the credit belongs to the girls on her team. She said their work ethic and skills on and off the court are exceptional.

Regionals were held in Sitka last week, and teams from all across Southeast Alaska competed.

Wrangell came into Regionals seeded in first place, so they earned a bye. Their first game took place on the second day of regionals, March 7, against the



COURTESY OF JENIFER GERALD

Having taken the Regional title, the Lady Wolves and their coaches got to cut down the net from one of the basketball hoops. Pictured here is the team with their trophies.

Lady Vikings. The game opened in Wrangell's favor, with the Lady Wolves taking a big lead in the first quarter. The second and

third quarter saw them expand this lead, despite the Lady Viking's best efforts. The score at the end of the third quarter

was 42 to 20, favoring Wrangell. The Lady Vikings did gain some momentum in the fourth quarter, but not enough to save the game. The final score was 49 to 34, a win for the Lady Wolves.

The next day's game was much closer. Wrangell went up against the Metlakatla Miss Chiefs. Metlakatla High School, as many Southeast Alaskans know, has a very strong basketball program. This was demonstrated last Friday as the Miss Chiefs took a strong lead against the Lady Wolves and held it for the entirety of the first half. Wrangell showed determination, however, and slowly began to catch up.

By the end of the third quarter, the tables had turned and Wrangell held a narrow lead of two points. After that, both teams stayed very close together in scoring. The game really came down to the last 20 seconds, where both teams were tied 39 to 39. Within the final moments of the game, however, Wrangell was able to make a

two-pointer and take the lead. Metlakatla had a few seconds left in the game to try and score, but failed to do so. The final score was 41 to 39, another win for Wrangell.

"It wasn't our best game we ever played, but the girls showed maturity and leadership," Brown said.

With the regional championship, the Lady Wolves will be seeded second in the state tournament in Anchorage from March 14 to 16. They will be going up against seventh seed Unalakleet in their first game.

They left Wrangell on the morning flight of Tuesday, March 12, with the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department giving them a ride through town to send them off. Brown commented on what a great community Wrangell is, and how much their support has meant to the team.

"We've had so much support throughout this season, and throughout these girls' whole lives," Brown said.



COURTESY OF THE KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

Coach Laurie Brown (left), Assistant Coach Katelyn Reeves (second from left) and members of the Wrangell Lady Wolves celebrate their win over Metlakatla last Friday at Regionals. This is the first Regional title the Lady Wolves have won in 25 years, according to the ASAA Region V website.

## Town hall meeting called over proposed state budget cuts

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Ever since Governor Mike Dunleavy announced his proposed budget, it has been a hot topic of debate across Southeast Alaska. The proposed budget does offer a full PFD to all Alaska residents, as well as supply "back pay" for PFDs that were smaller than usual, but it also makes some serious cuts to public education and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Many people in Wrangell have wondered how the proposed budget could affect the city. To discuss these concerns, a town hall meeting was held at the Nolan Center last Wed., March 6.

"I'm confident that the majority of us thought that cuts would be implemented

"I'm confident that the majority of us thought that cuts would be implemented over a period of time, allowing for citizens and local governments the opportunity to adapt"

- Mayor, Steve Prysunka

over a period of time, allowing for citizens and local governments the opportunity

to adapt," Mayor Steve Prysunka said in the meeting. "Governor Dunleavy is honoring his pledge to balance the budget and return the PFD payout to traditional levels, but he is unfortunately balancing the state's budget by robbing municipal budgets. He is proudly announcing that he is not going to have to devise any type of state revenue source while he is leading communities with no option but to either raise local taxes and fees, rob municipal reserve funds, or outright cut services to our citizens."

State Representative Dan Ortiz was present at the town hall meeting to give the audience some context on Alaska's financial situation, and to go into some detail on what the proposed budget means

for several state services. Adjusted for inflation and population growth, he said, Alaska's budget is the smallest it has been in almost 40 years. Despite this, the state government has been operating with a deficit for several years. As many people are aware, Alaska's economic fortunes are heavily tied to the oil industry. When the price of oil began to decline in 2014, Ortiz said, that hurt the state's revenues. Revenue is down to levels not seen since the 1990s, he said. The state had a large surplus of money thanks to a very good economic period from 2006-2013, he said, but those savings are all but depleted.

"We've burned through a lot of those



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, March 14:** Linda Nore, V. Alan Cummings, Alex Hammock, Vern Phillips, Leda Klein. **Friday, March 15:** James Campbell, Jessica Rooney, Lucy Simonek. **Saturday, March 16:** Billy Martinez, Linnea Brooks, Ira Sansom, Wanda Ingram, Paula Rak. *Anniversary:* Wes & Wanda Ingram, Dan & Paula Wickman. **Sunday, March 17:** Benjamin Paulsen, Tim Hunt, Silas Mork. *Anniversary:* Dennis & Charlotte Neff. **Monday, March 18:** Walter Maenhout, Jacoby Hunt. **Tuesday, March 19:** Ryan Soeteber, Deborah Glass, Presley Skye, Michelle Brock, Frank Warfel Jr., Patsy Barton. *Anniversary:* Gale & Deborah Glass. **Wednesday, March 20:** Ariel Haunschild, Jeannie Easterly, Joe Rugo, Becky Thomas. *Anniversary:* Matt & Edna Nore. **Thursday, March 21:** *Anniversary:* Vern & Nancy Cummings.

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

## Senior Center Menu

### Thursday, March 14

Chicken Tahitian, Steamed Zucchini, Honey-Mustard Coleslaw, Confetti Rice

### Friday, March 15

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Sunshine Salad, Rolls

### Monday, March 18

Country Fried Steak, Peas, Pineapple Salad, Mashed Potatoes

### Tuesday, March 19

Pork Noodle Soup, Ham Sandwich, Danish Salad

### Wednesday, March 20

Chicken Adobo, Oriental Vegetables, Honey Orange Salad, Rice

### Thursday, March 21

Pork Chops Baked with Apples, Green Beans, Pilaf

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## FERRY

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Friday, March 15**  
Malaspina 4:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 17**  
Columbia 7:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, March 19**  
Malaspina 8:45 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 23**  
Malaspina 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 24**  
Columbia 3:45 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Friday, March 15**  
Malaspina 12:15 a.m.  
**Monday, March 18**  
Malaspina 12:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday, March 20**  
Columbia 6:00 a.m.  
**Friday, March 22**  
Malaspina 7:15 a.m.  
**Monday, March 25**  
Malaspina 6:00 p.m.

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



## TIDES

### March 14 - March 21

#### High Tides

#### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
March 14	6:28	14.2	8:00	11.4	12:05	4.5	1:12	1.9
March 15	7:52	14.0	9:31	11.9	1:16	5.3	2:33	1.7
March 16	9:19	14.5	10:42	13.2	2:43	5.4	3:55	0.8
March 17	10:33	15.7	11:38	14.9	4:10	4.5	5:04	-0.5
March 18	11:34	17.1	---	---	5:19	2.9	5:59	-1.7
March 19	12:26	16.4	12:28	18.2	6:15	1.1	6:45	-2.6
March 20	1:09	17.7	1:18	18.9	7:03	-0.5	7:28	-2.9
March 21	1:50	18.7	2:05	19.0	7:47	-1.7	8:08	-2.6

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

### Thursday, March 14

**Community Meeting:** Nolan Center, 6:00 p.m. Friends of the Pat Creek Watershed. Informative meeting on local collaborative efforts to steward fish and wildlife habitat in our community's backyard watershed.

### Saturday, March 16

**Baby Raven Reads:** Wrangell Headstart, 10:00 a.m. - noon. Theme: Alphabet.

### Monday, March 18

**Wrangell Public School Board Meeting:** Evergreen Elementary School Gym, 6:30 p.m. Please enter through gym doors.

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.

### March 13, 1919

Capt. S. C. Barrington is having a new river boat built which, for efficiency will surpass anything that has gone up the Stikine. The design of the new boat was worked out by Capt. Chas. M. Binkley, who is in charge of the construction.

The new boat will be somewhat larger than the Hazel B III. One of the reasons for building the new boat is to provide a safeguard against interruption of service should anything happen to the Hazel B III. Another reason is that there will be times when a boat with greater carrying capacity than the Hazel B III will be required. Telegraph Creek, which is the head of navigation on the Stikine is 162 miles northeast of Wrangell. The new boat will easily make the voyage in 24 hours.

### March 17, 1944

Statehood is something that needs careful study before undertaking. Attorney General Henry Roden, Democratic candidate for Delegate to Congress, told a political rally held last night in the Fire hall at which he and Joe Green, Democratic candidate for Territorial Senate seat, spoke.

Roden said he wasn't against statehood, but said he wanted to know where the money was coming from to support it. He said there was much talk about untaxed industry in the Territory but he wanted to know what they were and how much could be raised before venturing into statehood. On statehood, Green said it depended largely on what kind of statehood bill is padded in Congress. It should and must give Alaska control of all its resources such as fish, fur, oil, coal, minerals,

etc., if the Territory is to have full statehood stature, he said.

### March 13, 1969

The City Council met Wednesday due to the mayor being out of town, meeting time notice being given two hours before the meeting.

Presentation of construction plans for a new Alaska Airlines terminal was made by Bruce Neilson, indicating a two-phase construction plan with cost in excess of \$55,000 to result in steel structure with ultimate facility of 4,200 square feet. Construction is to begin on the first phase in 60 days, with space available for use Sept. 1 and capacity of 65 people.

### March 17, 1994

Wrangell is known for its unique blend of people who weave together many cultural

traditions, and on Saturday, March 26, you will be able to share in a celebration of that heritage with music, food, dance displays and archeological activities that promise a good time for all. The newly completed Catholic Parish Hall, with its fully accessible facilities, is the site of activities for this second annual Heritage Celebration.

Throughout the day, historic displays will be provided. Gordon and Lorraine Bunes will display their handcrafted wooden bowls and assorted historical memorabilia dating back to the late 19th century, and the Shady Ladies will have a display focusing on the same era. Ira Merrill will display primitive-style pottery, Faye Kohrt will demonstrate how to make baskets, and George Benson will show how to build a violin.

## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Mar. 04	36	21
Mar. 05	39	23
Mar. 06	37	23
Mar. 07	39	25
Mar. 08	39	26
Mar. 09	39	33
Mar. 10	39	34
Mar. 11	42	35

## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Mar 14	7:09 am	6:47 pm	11:38h
Mar 15	7:06 am	6:49 pm	11:43h
Mar 16	7:03 am	6:51 pm	11:48h
Mar 17	7:01 am	6:53 pm	11:52h
Mar 18	6:58 am	6:56 pm	11:58h
Mar 19	6:56 am	6:58 pm	12:02h
Mar 20	6:53 am	7:00 pm	12:07h
Mar 21	6:50 am	7:02 pm	12:12h



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# Vote on noise ordinance postponed after assembly meeting

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly came together for their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday evening, March 12. The meeting drew an unusually large crowd, as well, as the assembly was scheduled to vote on a proposed noise ordinance after its second reading that night.

Basically, the ordinance that came before the assembly stated that it would be illegal for someone to create noise above the level of 90 decibels between the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays. During all other hours, the noise level was lowered to 50 decibels. The proposed ordinance did also contain several exemptions from this rule, including personal boat maintenance as well as the "normal" operation of various power tools.

Twelve members of the public came before the assembly to speak on the ordinance. The majority were opposed to it. A

common point made by several members of the public was that this ordinance was being made only because of two feuding neighbors: Scott Eastaugh and Haig Demerjian. Several people said that the city should not be brought into an argument between two people, that this ordinance would only drive a wedge in the community. Wrangell resident Dale Parkinson said that it was disturbing that one person could come before the assembly with a chip on his shoulder about a neighbor, and get a law passed that directly targeted them.

Eastaugh spoke at the meeting and contended that Demerjian knew that he worked on a lot of motor vehicles on his property, such as cars, boats, and snowmobiles, well before they became neighbors. Since then, the police have been called on Eastaugh over the amount of noise he was making. Eastaugh said that he has never done anything to be spiteful, and has tried to be a good neighbor, but that this ordinance was nothing but a

vendetta and would cause more problems in the whole community.

Demerjian, who spoke at the meeting via telephone, did not comment about Eastaugh or the work he did in his shop. He voiced support for the ordinance, but cautioned that some of the exemptions needed to be clarified better. For example, he said that the assembly needed to clarify what constituted "normal" operation of power tools.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga interrupted the public comments briefly to explain to the audience that this ordinance was not brought up because of any reported feud between neighbors. The city had been working on updating their nuisance codes overall for quite some time. The Planning and Zoning Commission had honed in on the noise ordinance, specifically, as that ordinance already existed in the borough's codes. It may have become connected to outside events in people's minds, she said, but this was not directly targeted for or against anybody in Wrangell.

Another common argument against the ordinance was the decibel level that was set. Parkinson and another town resident brought decibel readers into the meeting with them, and showed the assembly that the meeting itself was hovering between 70 and 80 decibels by itself. Power tools, boat maintenance, even opening a garage

door would easily be outside the permitted noise level. Assembly Member David Powell pointed out that, according to research he had done, the average person spoke at a level of 60 decibels. He spoke at a higher level of 75 to 80 decibels, he admitted, getting some laughter from the public, but the average speaking volume was 60.

After some discussion, it was agreed by most of the assembly that this ordinance was not yet ready to be adopted. Assembly Member Patty Gilbert suggested that the word "personal" be struck from the proposed exemption on personal boat maintenance, so as to avoid accidentally banning people from working on fishing or charter vessels on their own property. She also proposed that maintenance be included in the allowed exemptions under the use of motor vehicles. Powell had some suggestions, as well. Mainly, he proposed that the hours and decibel levels be changed. His suggestion was that the ordinance read noises above 95 decibels were prohibited from the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. All other hours would have the decibel level lowered to 60. After some further discussion it was agreed to postpone the vote on the ordinance while these sug-

gestions were given further consideration.

Wrangell's ongoing power issues were also briefly discussed in the meeting. Thanks to the communities of Wrangell and Petersburg switching to diesel power, the daily draft of Tyee Lake is reportedly at 1/10 of a foot per day. Swan Lake, which typically supplies hydropower to Ketchikan, is also slowly beginning to refill. Von Barga added that the project to purchase two diesel generators from Nome was moving along smoothly, but was ongoing. Mayor Steve Prysunka added that the Southeast Alaska Power Agency has agreed to pay back Wrangell for its use of diesel generators up to April 1, at which time the SEAPA board will revisit the discussion of how to pay back the communities for this power crisis and how to ensure it never happens again.

The board also approved of supplemental compensation for the borough manager during this meeting, and approved of a list of 2019 federal legislative priorities. Before concluding the meeting, they broke into a brief executive session to discuss the borough's response to litigation brought forward by Wrangell resident Kipha Valvoda, who contends that several former and present borough officials have been discriminatory and have played favorites when hiring people.

## Ortiz meet and greet

State Representative Dan Ortiz made a stop in Wrangell last week to discuss the proposed budget cuts by Governor Mike Dunleavy. He was present at a town hall meeting on how the cuts could affect Wrangell last Wednesday. He also stopped at the Stikine Inn Thursday morning for an informal meet and greet.

## Police report

March 4, 2019

Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.  
Subpoena served.

March 5, 2019

Illegal parking: Citation issued to Elizabeth Johnson, 18. Parking by fire hydrant.  
Three paper services.  
Extra patrol.  
Missing dog.  
Agency assist: Water dept.

March 6, 2019

Four subpoena services.  
Citizen assist.  
Courtesy transport.  
Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.

March 7, 2019

Traffic stop: Citation issued to Roderick Ryll, 51. Failure to stop.  
Agency assist: AST.  
Traffic complaint: Speeder.  
Subpoena service.

March 8, 2019

Found dog.  
Lost dog.  
Officer requested.  
Young boy ran out in front of vehicle.  
Courtesy transport.  
Traffic stop.  
Bar check.

March 9, 2019

Agency assist: PW.  
Paper service: 6 Subpoenas served.  
Two welfare checks.

March 10, 2019

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for failure to use turn signals.  
Courtesy transport.  
Subpoena served.  
Citizen assist.

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

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# Town invited to Adult Prom at the end of the month

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Music, dancing, celebration, awkward photographs, there is a lot that goes into a prom that makes the evening special. For most people, going to prom ends after graduating from high school. In Wrangell, however, the party just keeps going. Wrangelites over the age of 21 are invited to the second annual "adult prom" at the end of the month.

Lucy Robinson, with the Parks and Recreation department, and Caitlin Cardinell, with Alaska Waters, have been working to help organize the prom. Dawn Angerman and the Wrangell Elks Lodge have been helping as well, they added. The prom is more than just a reason to get out and have some fun, they said, it is also a fundraiser for the high school class of 2021. Last year they raised about \$1,200 and that money goes towards the high school class's

prom and other school events. "We thought it would be a fun way for adults to get out and dance," Robinson said. "As the years have gone by there's no formal dance in Wrangell any longer. There used to be formal dances, with the Purple Bubble Ball and some different things, but there's not really a formal dance opportunity." "Formal" does not mean tuxedos and frilly dresses are required for the adult prom, however. This year's prom is jungle themed, and Cardinell said that people can get as formal or as ridiculous as they want.

The idea for an adult prom got started several years ago, Robinson said, with a prom-themed birthday party at Rayme's Bar. It was such a fun evening that the idea of an adult prom stuck with her. Then the idea came up that they could use the prom to support her son's high school class, and like that



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Wrangell residents 21-years-old and up are invited to this year's Adult Prom, to be held March 30 upstairs at the Elks Lodge. Proceeds raised by the prom go to benefit the Wrangell High School Class of 2021.**

the first adult prom was born. "I also feel like adults work really hard to raise money for kids in the community, like the

classes," she said. "You always see the adults at the bake sales and at the concession stands, just grinding away at all the stuff. I know they enjoy it, but it's also very tedious. So I thought, you know, how fun would it be if we had a great night and came together ... so we can dance for a great cause versus sitting in a concession stand or down at a bake sale?"

They added that there will be a wide variety of music that all ages of people can enjoy, span-

ning from the 1950s to the present. There will be a bar as well as non-alcoholic drinks, plenty of door prizes, contests, and photo opportunities. The prom will be held at the Elks Lodge, upstairs, on March 30. The doors open at 9 p.m. and the party will wind down around 11:30 p.m.

"We'll be posting more and more updates, and sharing as much as we can through social media and word of mouth to spread the word," Cardinell said.



ILLUSTRATION BY TAWNEY FLORES

## WCA IGAP's third e-waste event coming soon

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Old televisions, spare power cords, laptop batteries, VCRs, broken keyboards, almost any home is likely to have clutter like this taking up space. What makes this kind of clutter different from the rest, however, is how it can harm the environment if not disposed of properly.

According to Kim Wickman, with the Wrangell Cooperative Association's IGAP office, a lot of electronic items have products and chemicals in them that could be harmful to the soil they're dumped in or any water they leak into. Beyond that, electronics can take up lots of space in a landfill and add toxins to said landfill.

With that in mind, the IGAP office is organizing their third annual "e-waste" event to help Wrangell properly dispose of their electronic junk.

On March 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wrangell residents can stop by the carving shed on Front Street to drop off old or broken electronics that are no longer needed.

Wickman said that they are accepting almost all kinds of electronics. However, she did ask that people not bring any vacuum cleaners, as those are bulky and take up too much space.

The IGAP department has partnered with Total Reclaim, a Washington State company that handles electronic waste. According to Total Reclaim's website, they have recycled over 500 million pounds of electronics. To cover shipping costs and taxes, Wickman said that they will be asking for a suggested \$5 fee for people who drop off their electronics.

"This is our third e-waste event," she said. "One of the biggest pushes we want people to understand, though, is this year could possibly be the last for a year or so. We have not budgeted for next year to do an e-waste event, so anything that is hiding in closets and cupboards needs to come to us now."

Last year, Wickman said, they were able to fill 19 pallets with e-waste. They were also assisted by tech program students from Wrangell High School. The e-waste event is a good opportunity to declutter and help recycle, she said.

She added that it is also a good opportunity for commercial entities to get rid of e-waste. For them, however, she asks that they call ahead before March 23 to make arrangements on passing off their electronics. The IGAP department can be reached at (907) 874-4304.



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# Alaska Crossings gearing up for new season

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Alaska Crossings has been a part of the Wrangell community since its inception in the early

2000s. The behavioral health program is designed to help troubled teens from all over the state. From April to December, according to Program Manager Jerrie

Dee Harvey, Crossings attempts to help rehabilitate the teens via outdoor expeditions. By taking them on camping expeditions in the great outdoors, she said, they are attempting to teach them confidence, social skills, teamwork, stress management, and conflict resolution, among other important skills.

"A lot of these kids have struggles at home or at school, in their communities, same as any kids in our town struggle," Harvey said. "The purpose of it is to work on life skills. We're a rehabilitative program, so we work on life skills that will help them do better in those areas. We just happen to be able to do it in an amazing, beautiful environment, and put them in situations that they are practicing those skills."

The teens get to practice these life skills in a number of ways, she said. Simply putting two kids in a canoe and getting them to paddle in the same direction is a lesson all by itself, she gave as an example. Of course, they are not sent out alone into the wilderness. Crossings hires numerous guides to lead the expeditions. Groups are usually divided into nine kids and three Crossings staff. The guides, who first arrived in Wrangell at the beginning of the month, come from all over the country, and even from Canada. These are people who love the outdoors, and also love to help kids in need, Harvey said. This program allows them to combine these two passions.

"This is the highest return rate we've historically had," Harvey said. "We have about 52 guides, 32 of them are returns. Of the 19 new staff, or 20 new staff, that we hired, we had over 100 appli-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

**Alaska Crossings Guides Alex Riordan (front) and Daniel Gelpi (left). Riordan, Gelpi, and all of the other Crossings guides practiced their canoeing skills last week at Reliance Harbor.**

cants for."

Much of the month of March is spent training the guides before the kids show up in April. The training covers practical things for a camping trip, like how to steer a canoe or bear safety, to more complex things like first aid, conflict prevention, behavioral management, and even training on cultural differences and the types of backgrounds the kids will be coming from. The point of all the training is really aimed at making sure the guides are as prepared as they can be to help the kids they are leading on these trips.

"We know we can keep them safe in the woods, but what are

we doing here?" Harvey said. "The whole purpose is we have kids who are struggling, how do we get something out of the activities? We're not getting paid to canoe, but the life skills and activities provide an opportunity to build skills that are going to help them long-term when they return home."

The first trip will begin in early April, and the program will wrap up by mid-December. Harvey said that Crossings could not do its job without the tremendous support it receives from the Wrangell community. They are fortunate, she said, that they can continue to grow and help Alaskan youths in need.



COURTESY OF THE DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

**Craig Panthers player Wayland Patten (No. 35) is tied up by Wrangell Wolves players Jean-Luc Lewis (No. 15) and Jacob Hammer (No. 44) during the regional championships held in Sitka last week.**

## Wolves' season ends with hard fight at Regionals

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Wolves have come to the end of their season after a difficult series of games in Sitka, at the regional tournament. Teams from all over Southeast Alaska came to compete. Wrangell was seeded third going into Regionals, behind Petersburg in second and Metlakatla in first. After three games, however, Wrangell was knocked out of the running for the state championship.

"Whenever you lose it's never going the way you want," said Coach Cody Angerman. "It doesn't make me any less proud of my guys. They fought hard all year to be there."

The Wolves went up against the Petersburg Vikings in their first Regional game, on March 6. It was a very close game for most of the night. The Vikings held the lead for the first half of the game, but only by a narrow margin. The Wolves fought hard in the second half, however, and pulled into the lead by the end of the third quarter with a score of 26 to 28. However, Petersburg was as equally determined in this game, and caught back up in the fourth quarter. The end of the game was drawn out and, at times, very tense. However, the Wolves lost the game with a final score of 42 to 38. Wrangell was out of the running for first seed at State. However, the runner up position was still open to them.

The second game took place on Thurs., March 7, against the Craig Panthers. The Wolves and Panthers stayed fairly close together in points in the first quarter, with Wrangell leading at 13 to Craig's 11. However, by the second quarter things were clearly in Wrangell's favor. The final score was 39 to 73, a win for the Wolves.

The third game, however, did not go in Wrangell's favor at all. What would be their final game of the season, on March 8, was against the Haines Glacier Bears. Angerman said that they had played against Haines several times through the season. He said that his team was familiar with how they played, but that winning against them was never a sure thing.

"They came ready to play, ready to roll," he said. "I think we just had an off day."

The Glacier Bears had a strong lead against the Wolves by the end of the first half, 36 to 19. Wrangell tried to close the gap, but could not catch up with Haines. The final score was a second, and final loss for Wrangell at 69 to 35.

Angerman reiterated that he was very proud of his team. Regionals was not where he wanted the season to end, he said, but he was happy with all the hard work the team had put in through the year. Next season holds a lot of work for the Wolves, he added. Several key players are seniors and will not be returning next year, he said, but there are quite a few promising players coming in as freshmen. For now, he said everyone is just taking some time off to be with their families, but basketball is still there in the back of his mind.

## Four Grants Awarded by The Walker Foundation

The Walker Foundation is pleased to have provided nearly \$50,000 in funding to four Wrangell organizations that support health related projects in 2018. The board selected Community Roots, City of Wrangell Parks and Recreations, City of Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department, and Southeast Beasts as recipients. Congratulations to all!









# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

## Sales this year are off by more than 20 percent, big hit from China expected

So how's that trade war with China going?

Up until last July, when the Trump Administration slapped a 25 percent tax on nearly all U.S. seafood imports from China, that country was Alaska's biggest trading partner for seven years running. In 2017, China bought 54 percent of Alaska's fish and shellfish products, valued at \$800 million.

That tax volley was followed by a retaliatory 10 percent tariff from China in September that included U.S. exports. U.S. tariffs against \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports were set to increase to 25 percent on March 1 but that deadline was extended by 60 days in late February as trade negotiations continue.

All the tariff tit for tat has taken a big bite out of Alaska's seafood market share and sales continue to sink. The new taxes have tamped down Alaska seafood sales to China by one fifth through 2018, said Jeremy Woodrow, acting director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

In a presentation this month to the Alaska House Fisheries Committee, Woodrow said "sales so far this year are off by more than 20 percent and we expect to take a big hit from China this year."

Woodrow said a survey of Alaska processors and industry stakeholders revealed that "65 percent reported they had immediately lost sales from the in-

crease of these tariffs, 50 percent reported delays in their sales, and 36 percent reported they lost customers in China. Another 21 percent said they had unanticipated costs because of the trade conflict."

He added that the taxes have caused inventories to pile up in freezers as Alaska seafood sellers seek markets to fill the China shortfall. Sales inroads are being made in other countries like Spain and Brazil, Woodrow said, but the loss of China would leave a lasting hurt.

Meanwhile, state general fund dollars have been zeroed out for ASMI's budget by the Dunleavy Administration and its travel budget slashed by more than half to \$158,000.

**Other trade impacts** - A new report by economists from Columbia, Princeton, and the New York Federal Reserve explores the impacts of the Trump Administrations trade policy on prices and pocketbooks.

In the short term, it says the U.S. has experienced substantial price increases, large changes to supply chain networks, a drop in the availability of imported varieties, and complete passthrough of the tariffs to domestic consumers.

While the long-run effects are still to be seen, the economists said, "we also see similar patterns for foreign countries who have retaliated against the U.S., which indicates that the

trade war reduces real income for the global economy as well."

**Seaweed to the rescue** - "They are coming to take our cows away!" yelled critics of the proposed Green New Deal that's cropped up in Congress. The deal calls for major investments in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure to help the U.S. transform to a more earth friendly economy.

The GND is making farmers uneasy because fingers are pointing at cows as big polluters from the methane gas they pass. Most of the gas is actually belched from the cow's mouth and not released from the back end. Cow burps account for 26 percent of the nation's total methane emissions according to the EPA.

Seaweed can help put the brakes on all those burps.

Researchers in Australia started investigating after a dairy farmer noticed cows that grazed on washed-up seaweed along the shore were healthier and more productive than those in the field.

Another study five years ago confirmed those results and 20 different kinds of seaweed were tested in cow feeds. Overall, they reduced methane production by up to 50 percent but required high doses of seaweed, almost 20 percent by sample weight.

Enter Asparagopsis, a red seaweed found throughout the Pacific.

The Queensland researchers found that adding less than two percent of that particular seaweed to a cow's diet reduced its methane output by up to 99 percent!

The cows have good taste - asparagopsis is one of the most popular seaweed ingredients in Hawaiian cuisine and used traditionally in poke.

The problem now is producing enough of the methane suppressor. Wild harvesting is not sustainable, the researchers said, and it will take financial and industry backers to cultivate production to an industrial scale.

Meanwhile, that dairy farmer has sold his farm and is selling kelp and rockweed infused livestock feed full-time with a Prince Edward Island company called North Atlantic

Organics.

**Fish gals on the job** - Women at work in the seafood industry is the focus of an international video competition that's now open for entries. The scope includes all segments of the industry - fishing on boats, fish farming, processing, selling, managing, research, monitoring, teaching and any related services.

It's the second round for the contest that was launched last year by the Paris-based group Women in the Seafood Industry.

"Women are very numerous in the industry, but not very visible," said Marie Christine Montfort, WSI president and co-founder.

Studies show that one in two workers in the seafood industry is a woman, but most are over-represented in low skilled, low paying positions. Montfort said women account for less than 10 percent of company directors and just 1 percent of CEOs.

A WSI international survey last year revealed that 61 per-

cent of women reported perceptions of gender inequality in the seafood industry compared to 48 percent of men.

Raising awareness of gender biases is the first step towards making positive changes, Montfort said. And that is what the film contest is all about.

Last year's winner showcased women who mend nets for a living in Vigo, Spain. Second place went to a film about California women who formed a clam farming cooperative. Tied for third place were films about female fishing mentors in Newfoundland and women in India who started food trucks to sell their husbands' catches.

One entry from Alaska called *Copper River* featured veteran Cordova fisherman, Thea Thomas.

Individuals and groups are invited to contribute videos of up to four minutes showing women at work in the industry. Winners receive 1000 euros along with two 500 euro prizes. Deadline to enter is August 2. Learn more at [womeninseafood.com/](http://womeninseafood.com/)

## Wrangell Medical Center's Long-term Care Center repeats top-ranking score for quality measures

For the second straight month, Wrangell Medical Center's (WMC) Long-Term Care sits atop the state rankings for nursing home quality, based on an average of 11 quality measures used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). With scores of 4.49 and 3.37 in December 2018 and January 2019, respectively, WMC scored below the CMS national target of 6.0 and well below the state composite scores of 8.5 in December 8.42 in January, besting the 17 other qualified nursing homes in Alaska.

"We have a great team at WMC," said WMC Administrator Robert Rang. "Our long-term care staff is striving to consistently exceed quality measures for the benefit of our residents."

The measures are collected by Mountain-Pacific Quality Health (MPQH), which is a nonprofit corporation under the direction of CMS.

Last year, WMC was one of only five nursing homes in the state to be recognized with the Quality Achievement Award by MPQH. WMC also received the Most Improved "Gold Pan" award for having the highest reduction in its overall composite score and was the only long-term care facility in the state to take home multiple Gold Pans in 2018.



**Dr. Wayne Hagerman**  
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**The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for an Operator/Electrician.** Compensation is defined in IBEW Local 1547 Collective Bargaining Agreement + excellent benefits. Exciting and challenging position offers exposure to a wide variety of new projects and O&M of existing hydro generation and transmission infrastructure. Base location is the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Facility, located approximately 22 air miles or 27 water miles from Ketchikan, Alaska. Standard work schedule is 8 days on and 6 days off. Position requires residency on site in employer-provided housing during each tour of duty. The position performs typical operations and maintenance duties associated with hydroelectric power generation and transmission facilities and will require travel in fixed wing and rotary aircraft or by boat in inclement weather. Qualifications for the position include a High School Diploma, valid Alaska driver's license and a State of Alaska Department of Labor Certificate of Fitness in Electrical Field. Position is open until filled. A general job description and electronic application process are available online at: <http://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>.

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# Town hall

Continued from page 1

savings monies, about \$14 billion in savings over the last six years or so," Ortiz said.

Ortiz also showed the audience a graph comparing the funds several budget items would receive in the proposed FY2020 budget, compared to the current FY2019 budget. The PFD fund currently sits at approximately \$1 billion. The proposed 2020 budget would hike the fund up to just under \$2 billion. This increase in funding would help ensure Alaskans receive a full PFD payment of about \$3,000 a person, as well as help with the governor's campaign promise of back pay. PFD payments equal about 37 percent of the total budget, Ortiz said, and is \$900 million higher than the next largest item.

That next largest item is K-12 education, which is seeing some major cuts in the proposed budget in the amount of about \$300 million. This would decrease education funding from roughly \$1.3 billion to \$1 billion. Adding in proposed funding cuts to the University of Alaska, the total proposed cuts increase to \$524 million. Other proposed cuts include \$578 million in funds diverted to municipalities and \$336 million to health and social services.

The Alaska Marine Highway System is also facing some hard cuts to the tune of \$64 million. The state-operated ferry system, which services communities all over coastal Alaska, has already faced budget cuts in previous years. The marine highway has dealt with high operating costs and high ticket prices for quite some time, as well. These proposed cuts, however, could be the proverbial final nail in the coffin.

"They say that they're going to, under his [Dunleavy's] proposal, the marine highway system will shut down at the end of September," Ortiz said. "We will no longer have a marine highway system if the governor's proposal goes forward."

Ortiz went on to say that there are basically five options available to balance the budget: Budget cuts, use of savings, shrinking the PFD, taxing industries and businesses, or taxing Alaskans themselves. He said that the options of new taxes have been taken off the table by the governor this year. They cannot use savings anymore, he added, as there are no more savings left to use. What it comes down to, he said, is a choice between a full PFD and harsh budget cuts, or a smaller PFD and lesser budget cuts.

After Ortiz spoke, Borough Manager Lisa Von Bargaen took the microphone to explain how these cuts could hit Wrangell, in

particular. Under the proposed cuts, she said, Wrangell could lose approximately \$1.3 million. This breaks down to \$838,813 cut from the Wrangell School District, \$307,405 cut in the shared fisheries tax, \$168,875 from school bond debt reimbursement, and \$25,000 cut from library and museum grants. Von Bargaen added that this was a conservative estimate, as the school district could reportedly lose as much as \$1 million. She also added that there are 18 people in Wrangell who are employed by the marine highway system. Losing the ferries would have a trickle-down effect that could seriously hurt Wrangell in a number of ways.

However, there was a bit of good news when it came to education cuts. Von Bargaen said that Wrangell did have some extra money to buffer the loss of revenue in the form of Secure Rural Schools money. Secure Rural Schools, or SRS, is a federal program that comes from national forest receipts. Wrangell has been fairly prudent with this money over the years, she said, and has been setting some of it aside in case of emergencies. Von Bargaen said they have a reserve fund of about \$3.2 million to help offset costs. This reserve won't last forever, she said, but it could help in the short term.

"It's possible to be able to use the SRS fund to bridge the education cuts that are being proposed for the short term, but we have to come up with a long term solution," Von Bargaen said. "The cost shifts from the state to Wrangell of just over \$1 million. So what that means is we have to do one of four things. At some point we have to cut education, or we have to cut general fund programs to help fund education in this community, or we have to increase taxes, or we have to do some sort of a combination of all those things in order to bridge that gap."

After Von Bargaen spoke, the floor was opened for community input. Wrangell resident Anya Ritchie asked Ortiz what the state was doing to bring in new sources of income, so Alaska would not be so dependent on the oil industry. A similar question was voiced by resident Jim Leslie. Ortiz responded that they are looking into ways to diversify Alaska's revenue streams, but that is something that takes time. Alaska is rich in natural resources, he said, so the future could potentially hold more mining and logging, or even in-

"Personally, I think that Alaska's got to quit giving everything away for free. I'd rather pay my taxes in Alaska where I can see it (expletive) away in Alaska versus (expletive) away at the federal level."

- Wrangell resident, Todd White



vesting in natural gas. Prysunka added that the Southeast Alaska Power Agency is also looking into further developments in hydropower and even wind power.

One topic of discussion revolved around how the proposed budget could affect people on fixed incomes around the state. Carl Carlisle, Wrangell resident, said that he was very concerned about how this would affect the poor. Pushing people further into a corner with cuts to services, he said, would only lead to an increase in crime, the underground economy, and poaching across the state.

Several community members who spoke up said that they

would rather have a smaller PFD than to see these budget cuts. One woman said that she and her family could expect \$12,000 from a full PFD, but that would not be enough to keep the ferry running or to cover the cuts to the education budget. Others agreed that they would be okay with a smaller PFD. Some even voiced support for new taxes.

"Personally, I think that Alaska's got to quit giving everything away for free," said resident Todd White. "I'd rather pay my taxes in Alaska where I can see it (expletive) away in Alaska versus (expletive) away at the federal level."

Other members of the com-

munity were less supportive of the idea of new taxes, but the general consensus among those who spoke up was that a full PFD was something they could do without in the name of less drastic cuts. The marine highway was a point of division amongst the audience. Some called it an acceptable loss, others saw it as a necessary part of life in Southeast Alaska. The meeting went on for about two and a half hours.

Von Bargaen assured the community that this town hall meeting would be the first of many as the city begins putting together its new budget, which is expected to be completed by July.



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