

Wrangell, Alaska
May 17, 2018

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 116, Number 20

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages

Plenty of projects for outgoing senior class

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

As Wrangell's high school of seniors prepares to receive their diplomas on Friday, last week 17 students took time to showcase their capstone projects at the gym.

Required for graduation, the self-driven projects encourage students to give back to the community as best they can. Projects last at least 25 hours each, which can be difficult to arrange when fitting them in with other priorities.

Many of the projects students picked reflected their interests.

"I did fire safety training with the high school staff," said Brian Schwartz.

Schwartz has been a member of the Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department since his freshman year of high school.

"I joined as soon as I can," he said. With the guidance of fire captain Dorianne Sprehe, he put together an instructional course that would better prepare adults at the school for handling an emergency.

"We went into a classroom here and made a presentation on the dynamics of fire extinguisher types," he said. "We went outside and did a live drill, it went really well."

Kiara Meissner taught elementary school students about Impressionism, featuring two of her favorite artists, Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh.

"After that they move on to a project where they use a white crayon, which is like a wax base, that they put on blank watercolor paper. They would then add colorful paints, and voila! "It was like magic for them."

- Kiara Meissner
Wrangell High School senior

Meissner walked students through the basic approaches of each painter, as well as their theories on interpreting life through art.

"After that they move on to a project where they use a white crayon, which is like a wax base, that they put on blank watercolor paper," said Meissner. They would then add colorful paints, and voila! "It was like magic for them."

After graduation, Meissner may pursue a degree in early childhood development, though art has always been an interest.

"That was always my dream. I thought about doing art and working with elementary school



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Kiara Meissner prepared a very visual display to explain her senior class project last week. She had introduced first graders at Evergreen Elementary School to the Impressionist style of painting, highlighting the works of French artist Claude Monet and the Dutch master Vincent Van Gogh in particular.

students," she said. As such, her project was a perfect pairing. "It's really exciting, because it's both of my passions."

Art was also the object of Ian Jenson and Anna Allen's project. "Our project was remodeling the elementary school library," said Jenson.

"Jen Gerald had been talking about how she wanted to change up the library for some time," Allen added.

"So we rearranged everything in there, bookshelves and furniture, and repainted the walls," said Jenson.

Working on the regular during their free time, Allen thought the experience was encouraging - both for themselves and for the younger students at Evergreen.

"As we were doing it we realized all the kids were really enjoying it. So it made it even more exciting that we were doing this," she said.

McKinley Bosdell taught an American sign language class, recalling her brother's experience as a newly arrived deaf student several years ago. Lacking communication support in class, his father would assist as he could. Bosdell had taught a similar course once in eighth grade, so the experience was not a new one.

"It was a very fun learning experience. Everybody honestly loved it," she said. "I started out

with the alphabet, we did numbers and colors, then words. ... Eventually we were carrying on conversations with each other."

Devin Till and River Guggenbickler designed and assembled the box maze for Wrangell Ministerial Association's annual harvest festival. They collected boxes from Ottesen's and other shops, and used about 26 rolls of duct tape to create their labyrinthine set of tunnels.

"It was a lot of fun," Till said. "It really makes people work together and figure it out," added Guggenbickler.

Mikel Smith and Krissy Lockabey both assisted with the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial committee's fundraising efforts.

"We contacted all the members and got their information, so we can get feedback, tell them any updates about the memorial," Smith said.

"Any upcoming events that would happen," Lockabey added.

Both saw the project as a means to do something positive for their community.

"I heard about this project and thought it would be a perfect opportunity to give back to them," she said.

"It means a lot to me, because I have a lot of family members that are on the ocean all the time, and several that have been lost. I think it's a really awesome project," said Smith.

A common thread among many students' projects was sports. A longtime basketball player, for instance, senior Tymon Teat was an assistant coach for the Stikine Middle School basketball team.

"Assistant-assistant," he clarified. "I did this for two months, every day for an hour and a half."

Much of his work was with scrimmaging and drills, but the main thing was making sure athletes were caught up on their assignments so they could travel.

"I've helped ref before, but this was the first time I actually helped coach kids I already knew," Teat said.

Caleb Groshong worked with the middle school's physical education class, assisting its teacher.

"Teaching them how to burn fat, or build muscle," he explained. Working five days a week throughout the year, the project fit in with his interests in exercise and physical activity. "This is kind of a fun thing I like to do."

He noticed a favorite activity among the students was "German ball." "It's kind of like a kickball, baseball and softball mix. You can run in either direction around the bases."

"For my senior project, I helped coach the middle school

Continued on page 12



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Zach Lane and Erin Galla are presented with \$1,000 awards by Carrie Wallace, the second annual Greg Scheff Memorial Scholarships administered by Elks Lodge #1595. The awards are for students intent on pursuing degrees in engineering-related fields.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, May 17: Peighton Royster, May Schmohl, Olin Kagee, Kristin Mill, Brody Hommel, Violet Allen, Della Demerjian, Deenie Rilatos, Lovey Brock. *Anniversary:* Wayne and Dani Easterly.

Friday, May 18: Jakob Cox, Mena Feudner. **Saturday, May 19:** Laven Ritchie, Rhea Bowman, Sheila Wickman, Kolin Shea Wallace, Jacob Werner. *Anniversary:* Jeff and Danielle Smith. **Sunday, May 20:** Lindsey McConachie, Christina A Taylor, Ray Francois, Jerry Bakeberg, Bill Bushnell, Dawn Davis. *Anniversary:* Felix and Verda Villarma, George and Ann Benson. **Monday, May 21:** Trevor Kagee. *Anniversary:* Don and Betsy McConachie, Dustin and Devyn Johnson. **Tuesday, May 22:** Dante Nesbitt, Charley Murray-Young, Jim Abbott, Angie Mork. *Anniversary:* Nate and Alicia Stearns, Warren and Chloe Edgley. **Wednesday, May 23:** Logan Scott, Dennis Pavlina, Nicole Hammer, Lori Torvend Baremore, Mia Wiederspohn. **Thursday, May 24:** Lillian Kalkins Smith, Brandon Kade Ellsworth, Jordan Glass, Yvonne Bjorge Reeve, Bucky Bjorge, Jana Barlow. *Anniversary:* Lorne and Stephanie Cook.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, May 17

Halibut chowder, 1/2 cheese and tomato sandwich, apricot salad, whole wheat bread

Friday, May 18

Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian veggies, honey-orange salad

Monday, May 21

Beef stroganoff, mixed veggies, cabbage slaw

Tuesday, May 22

Chicken salad wrap, vegetable soup, fresh fruit

Wednesday, May 23

Hotcha baked beef, steamed broccoli, marinated green bean salad, buttermilk rolls

Thursday, May 24

Chicken with noodles, mixed vegetables, cabbage, pear and raisin salad

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

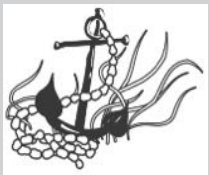
Northbound

Saturday, May 19
Malaspina 12:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 20
Columbia 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, May 22
Malaspina 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 26
Malaspina 7:30 a.m.

Southbound

Thursday, May 17
Malaspina 10:00 p.m.
Monday, May 21
Malaspina 7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 23
Columbia 8:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 24
Malaspina 10:45 p.m.

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



TIDES May 17 - May 24

	High Tides		Low Tides					
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
May 17	2:26	18.7	3:23	16.0	8:50	-3.5	8:53	2.0
May 18	3:08	18.3	4:11	15.5	9:35	-3.1	9:41	2.7
May 19	3:55	17.5	5:04	14.9	10:25	-2.3	10:35	3.5
May 20	4:48	16.4	6:05	14.4	11:21	-1.2	11:39	4.1
May 21	5:51	15.1	7:14	14.2	12:22	-0.1
May 22	7:10	14.0	8:26	14.6	0:55	4.4	1:30	0.8
May 23	8:35	13.7	9:29	15.4	2:18	4.0	2:41	1.4
May 24	9:49	13.9	10:24	16.3	3:38	2.9	3:48	1.6

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Monday, May 21

School Board Meeting: Evergreen Elementary School Room 101: 6:00 PM Work Session regarding the School Advisory Committees 6:30 PM Regular School Board Meeting. The public is encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, May 23

Wrangell Medical Center Board Meeting: Board of directors regular meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the assembly chambers at City Hall. (Note change of location).

WHS Golf Club Championship: 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Muskeg Meadows Golf Course.

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: Smoked Fish Fri 8 p.m.; Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided.

The Way We Were

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

May 16, 1918

It has been persistently reported in Wrangell that the bakeries of Petersburg were selling bread made entirely of wheat flour. The Sentinel, wishing to know the truth of the statement wrote to T. Elsmore, Food Administrator of Petersburg. Mr. Elsmore's reply as follows: Gentlemen: In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst., reference the local bakery making bread entirely of wheat flour, I wish to say that to the best of my knowledge there is no foundation for the statements being made. The bakery here makes bread composed of wheat and white barley, which looks like white bread and is hard to detect and I believe this must be the cause of the statements in question. The fact that bakeries cannot buy straight wheat flour from the wholesalers would prevent them from making white bread.

May 21, 1943

Opportunity for small boat owners to get into the service of their country with their boats is being offered here this week through the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Lieut. Earle Watterworth, Coast Guard Auxiliary Director for Alaska, arrived here this week and will have a meeting in the fire hall to outline the plan and form a unit of the auxiliary here. All persons interested are asked to attend. Juneau and Petersburg already have formed units of the Auxiliary. Any vessel owner or part owner who is 18 years of age or older and is an American citizen may join a flotilla. Associate membership is extended to boatmen who do not own a share of a vessel but volunteer for crew duties. Members may fly the Coast Guard Auxiliary flag and wear all authorized insignia of the organization.

May 16, 1968

Officials of Alaska Airlines have offered to construct terminal buildings at Wrangell and Pe-

tersburg airports. Meeting with the city councils of both communities, the representatives offered to: Construct steel or concrete buildings with 2,100 square feet of floor space at each airport, furnish an airport manager and provide manpower to operate runway maintenance equipment.

They asked that the cities purchase equipment to maintain the airport runways. O.F. Bennecke, properties manager for Southeastern, said the firm feels 2,100 square feet is the minimum size structure for the airports. Within the terminal would be a 720-square foot waiting room to accommodate 65 persons. Also included in the building would be room for cargo and vehicle storage.

Bruce Neilsen, airline property manager, said the structures would follow the same basic floor plan used at Unalakleet and Kotzebue. He said he checked with a Seattle builder and found the cost to be \$11,000 for a steel structure.

The same building, however costs \$4,500 from the manufacturer he said. The airline can buy from the manufacturer and should be able to put both build-

ings up for \$12,000. The buildings would be of modular design and capable of expansion. "Never build for today," Neilsen said.

May 20, 1993

Visitors to the Garnet Ledge will find the going much easier, thanks to a joint project between the Forest Service and Todd Harding of T.H. Charters. The two parties combined efforts and money to build a small foot-bridge that will save cabin and trail users a muddy trek. Until recently, access to the cabin has been by boat to the riverbank in front of the cabin. Over the past few years, a large sand bar has built up near the cabin. When the Stikine is below the extreme high tide mark, visitors must tie up their boats in deep water, a short distance upriver. The visitors would then have to hike along the riverbank and cross a muddy slough to get to the cabin and trail to the Garnet Ledge.

The project took about 10 days to construct and was completed May 7. In addition to the bridge, planking was installed from the bridge to meet that already installed from the cabin to the Garnet Ledge trail.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
May 07	69	42
May 08	69	48
May 09	57	48
May 10	57	44
May 11	54	48
May 12	55	48
May 13	63	48
May 14	52	46



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
May 17	4:33 am	8:56 pm	16:23h
May 18	4:32 am	8:58 pm	16:26h
May 19	4:30 am	9:00 pm	16:30h
May 20	4:28 am	9:01 pm	16:33h
May 21	4:26 am	9:03 pm	16:37h
May 22	4:25 am	9:05 pm	16:40h
May 23	4:23 am	9:07 pm	16:44h
May 24	4:22 am	9:08 pm	16:46h

Budget allows for Byford soil to be shipped off-island

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Money appears to be available for Wrangell's Byford yard cleanup that would allow remaining contaminated soil to be shipped off-island rather than disposed of in a local monofill.

At the behest of Gov. Bill Walker, the Alaska Legislature approved \$5 million of additional funding to be allotted to the project in its FY19 capital budget. A capital and operating budget had both been passed by the Alaska House and Senate on Sunday, bringing to an end their extended session.

Sen. Bert Stedman (R-Sitka) noted it was the first year in a while the regular session had come to an end without any special sessions lined up to follow. In previous years, lawmakers had been called back to Juneau multiple times to take up additional items.

Taken together, the \$10.4 billion budget still needs to be signed by Walker before it can take effect on July 1, when the new fiscal year starts. He has 20 days to do so once the package has been submitted to his desk, giving his office time to review its contents. While the governor has the option to veto or reduce individual items, in light of Walker's support for

the additional funding for Byford it was not expected the amount would be changed further.

The additional funds will be added to those currently apportioned to the cleanup's second phase, which involves removal of around 18,300 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil removed from the decommissioned junkyard. The soil had been chemically treated to prevent the further leaching of its lead content, but lingering concerns among residents about the wisdom of storing the material within a fifth of a mile from the Pats Creek system convinced the managing Department of Environmental Conservation to support further funding for its complete removal by barge.

Rather than provide the requested resources from the state's general fund, legislators directed the DEC to draw from its oil and hazardous substance release response fund, an account capped at \$50 million that is maintained by a share of oil production surcharges. The fund was already tapped for Wrangell's Byford project, cleanup of which in 2016 cost around \$6 million. Transport for the remaining material was expected to cost more than \$9 million, above the \$5.5 million instead approved for construct-

ing the monofill.

The majority of projects financed by the fund deal with oil or other petroleum-based spills around the state, though contaminants like the lead at Byford also fall under appropriate use. DEC director of administrative services Jeff Rogers explained that, while contained at this point, the Byford cleanup still fit the intent of the response fund.

Project leads assigned to the project are currently updating cost estimates to transport the material to Oregon for final processing. Depending on whether newly allotted and remaining funds would together cover the total cost, more funds may still be required to complete the cleanup. Depending on how much money may be required, Rogers said DEC would likely approach the Legislature for approval.

"It will depend on how significant the delta is," he said.

On the state of the response fund itself, chief budget analyst Neil Steininger for the Office of Management and Budget explained it would not be directly reimbursed for the additional withdrawal. It would be replenished over time with its proportion of production surcharges, which Rogers estimated averaged out to around \$1.5 million per year.

While the City and Borough Assembly had remained largely ambivalent to the fate of the soil, issuing a resolution favoring either its transport or designation into a monofill last week, Wrangell Cooperative Association had been expressly against the monofill. Meeting with the lieutenant-governor and DEC leadership since the project was put on hold last August, it had helped mobilize the turnaround in direction.

"The WCA is happy the state allocated \$5 million to ship the lead-contaminated soil off island," tribal administrator Esther Ashton conveyed in a statement, following news of the additional funding. WCA was appreciative of the state's assistance in reaching this conclusion, and was hopeful for the future.

"In 100 years our great-, great-grandchildren will not have to worry about monthly monitoring of a lead-contaminated monofill so close to Pats Creek. They will not have to take water samples to determine if lead and phosphates are leaching into our fish streams," Ashton said.

With the passage of the new budget, changes to Alaska's Permanent Fund are also at hand. Legislators found common ground on calculating a percentage of the \$65 billion

sovereign wealth fund's earnings that could be withdrawn without harming the principal, to be used to reduce the state's substantial spending deficit.

"We made quite a bit of progress in using the percent-of-market-value approach," said Stedman.

Based on a five-year average value, the percent of the draw would start at 5.25 percent for the next couple of fiscal years, to be divided between dividends and agency spending. A proponent of a smaller, 4.5-percent draw, Stedman noted the percentage could be reduced as needed at the behest of the Legislature.

The money yielded by the fund would bring the state deficit down to around \$700 million, according to estimates by Walker's office. The draw would yield an estimated \$2.8 billion for next year, of which around \$1 billion would be used for individual dividends, or around 36 percent.

"I think that should be 50-50," Stedman commented.

In future, he would like to see the fund's earnings reserve protected from legislative overreach. Stedman expects a concept to that effect to be put to the public later this year, with the hopes of having an item on the ballot by 2020.

Happy Graduation
CLASS OF 2018

Sons of Rebecca Smith and Tammy Groshong in our Wrangell Branch

Congratulations Mikel & Caleb!

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Trooper report

May 1

Alaska Wildlife Troopers of the Wrangell post contacted Charles Gadd, 65 of Wrangell. Gadd was issued a \$110 citation in the District Court of Wrangell for Failure to Mark Personal Use Dungeness Crab gear.

Wrangell Troopers cited Jeffrey Rooney, 47 of Wrangell, for failure to return hunting permit. Rooney was issued a \$110 citation at the District Court of Wrangell.

Police report

Monday, May 7

Traffic complaint: Speeding by the elementary school.

Parking complaint.
VCOR and DVO violation.

Tuesday, May 8

Catering permit.
Agency assist.
Agency assist: Police escort.
Agency assist.
Civil issue.
Criminal mischief.
Violation of DVO.
Summons service.
Courtesy transport.
Agency assist.
Agency assist: Electric department.

Wednesday, May 9

Summons service.
Two orders extending 20- day Ex-parte.
Traffic stop verbal warning for driving habits.
Traffic stop for yellow blinking light on top of car.
Citations issued: Mikel Smith, 17: Operating a vehicle after consuming and MCA.
Citations issued: Justin Barker, 32: Operating with expired registration and failure to show proof of insurance.

Noise complaint.

Thursday, May 10

Found cell phone.
Disturbance: Person left residence.
Agency assist: PPD.
Agency assist: UA.
Agency assist: Traffic stop.
Citation issued: Mykayla Rooney, 22: Failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warn-

ing for unauthorized lights and not having drivers license.

Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.

Friday, May 11

Citizen assist: Unlock vehicle.

Agency assist: PPD.

Agency assist.

Agency assist: Injured eagle.

Arrested: Drew Huntington, 30: On charges of a warrant on unlawful contact and court ordered VCOR.

Agency assist: Alaska Airlines.

Inmate incident.

Noise complaint.

Unsecured door and ammonia smell.

Saturday, May 12

Citation issued: Mark Hamley, 40: IID device required and failure to provide proof of insurance.

Inmate incident.

Criminal mischief.

Drew Huntington, 30: Charged with VCOR and unlawful contact.

Citizen assist: Unlocked vehicle.

Inmate incident.

Courtesy ride.

Sunday, May 13

Traffic stop: Citation issued: Devan Harding, 25: Failure to provide proof of insurance.

Traffic stop: Citations issued: Cooper Seimears, 32: Failure to provide proof of insurance and operating a vehicle with expired registration.

Arrested: Duke Aitken, 26: On charges of assault IV/ DV.

During this reporting period there were two animal complaints and one EMS call out.

2017 Alaska Press Club Awards

WRANGELL SENTINEL

BEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER 3RD PLACE

"This newspaper has strong writing, a plus in my book. Bravo!"
-Judge's Comment

Best Business Reporting 3rd Place - Dan Rudy
"SALES REVENUES SUGGEST SLIGHT SLUMP."
- November 30, 2017
Judge's Comment:
"Jam-packed full of information to help readers understand what's happening in their economy."

Obituary: May Mary Schmohl, 71

May Mary Schmohl, 71, passed away on Mother's Day, May 13, 2018 in Wrangell.

She was born on May 17, 1946 in Telegraph Creek, British Columbia. A Native Tahltan of the Crow clan Edzerta family, she was the daughter of the late Mona Keso, also of Wrangell.

Heritage was important to her and she regularly returning to her ancestral home throughout her life reconnecting with culture and family. After moving to Wrangell as a young child, she attended Sheldon Jackson High School in Sitka, Alaska, and always remembered to send letters and photos to her older brothers keeping fam-

ily connected. Other past residences include Coos Bay, Oregon, Thorne Bay, Alaska, and San Clemente, California.

May was a believer, motivating her family to have faith. She was a lover of life and helping people, spending time as a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. She enjoyed spending time exploring Southeast Alaska hunting and fishing, and playing scrabble, bingo, and pinochle with her large family and many friends. She will be remembered for her passion and her steadfast advice to eat dessert first.

She is survived by her husband Ron Schmohl; children Melinda Paulo, Holley

Goldring, Jouni Churchill, Jesse Schmohl; grandchildren Lyndsey Goldring, Presley Paulo-Sambito, Peyton Paulo-Sambito, Ashley Goldring, Olivia Schmohl, Emme Schmohl; siblings Bill Adsit, Earl Adsit, Clara Haley, Byrd Marsh, Kathy Appleman, Ellen Swicegood, Chris Kuykendall, Fern Seimears, Clint Keso; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A service organized by family will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Sat., May 19, 2018 at 2:30 pm followed by a reception at the Nolan Center from 3:00 - 5:00 pm.



May Mary Schmohl

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In case you missed getting Joyce Phillip's Peanut Butter Pie recipe: 8oz. cream cheese at room temperature. Whip until fluffy and add: 3/4 C sugar and 2/3 C creamy peanut butter. Fold in 14oz. Kool Whip and pour into two graham cracker piecrusts. Freeze for 30 minutes. Before serving, remove, cut, and add chocolate syrup.

Dessert is always ready.

Barb Brodersen

To the Editor:

Last week we received our Sealaska annual report - very interesting.

Page one: Our success. Does that ring a bell? Let's see page seven: Applying wisdom

of the past to benefit the future. Yes, page seven. Page nine: Strengthening our future. Page ten: Five-year summary 2013-2017.

Let's go to shareholders dividends, 2013 to 2017 starts at \$2.25 and goes to \$3.19 per share, financial notes, consolidated statements, income, shareholder equity, cash flows and so on. The figures are in the low thousands. Wow, where did it all go?

Just a few years ago, the Federal Government awarded Sealaska Corp. 118,000 acres of landless land which was set aside for all five landless communities. How our corporation finagled that is beyond me. Yes 118,000 landless acres. We did not receive a thank you.

Elmer Carlstrom

Wrangell Mariners' Memorial committee invites you....

"FISH FRY DINNER/DESSERT"

AND

2018 BLESSING OF THE FLEET

by Wrangell Ministerial Association

Sunday, May 20 at 5 pm

Memorial Site at Heritage Harbor

Questions?

Please contact

John Martin 305-0559 or

Jenn Miller 305-0926

Volunteers needed!



Advertising sponsored by Wrangell Sentinel

Huge thank you to Jordan Bunes

for helping to transport the SAR dogs back from Sitka. We really appreciate your support!

K9 SAR Team



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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

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

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

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

Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers Ron & Anne Loesch

Reporter..... Dan Rudy

Front OfficeTawney Flores

Production Ola Richards

Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1.50

Local.....\$46

Other Alaska.....\$62

2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$70

First Class.....\$102

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

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SEARHC meetings to lay out hospital acquisition likelihood

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A series of meetings between Southeast Alaska Rural Health Consortium and the City and Borough of Wrangell are planned for early next week.

The regional health group is entertaining making an offer to assume control of Wrangell Medical Center, a municipally-run critical access hospital which has in recent years fallen into financial difficulties. Starting Sunday afternoon and lasting through Tuesday, SEARHC will hold a series of meetings with city staff, hospital transition steering committee members and the wider community, in order to go over feasibility

findings its contractors have produced regarding the hospital.

At the regular meeting of the Borough Assembly at its May 8 meeting, city manager Lisa Von Barga informed its members SEARHC has advised her it would like to assume administration over WMC within 120 days or less, after studying its aging facility. The specifics of its findings in the form of a report were unavailable to the public by Tuesday's press time, but are expected to be presented at next week's meetings.

Built in the late 1970s, at a town hall-style meeting last month, WMC administrators reported numerous problems with the hospital, both struc-



THANK YOU

The Wrangell K9 SAR team would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising for our annual training. We would specifically like to thank the Wrangell Fire Department, Reme Privett, Rayme's Bar and the many individual community members that support our fundraising activities. As well, we would like to also thank the Stikine Sportsmen for continuing to support our ongoing training efforts. The K9 Search and Recovery program is part of the Wrangell Volunteers Fire Department. The Fire Department provides fire protection, search and rescue, advanced pre-hospital medical services, and public safety and educational programs for the Wrangell community and surrounding area.

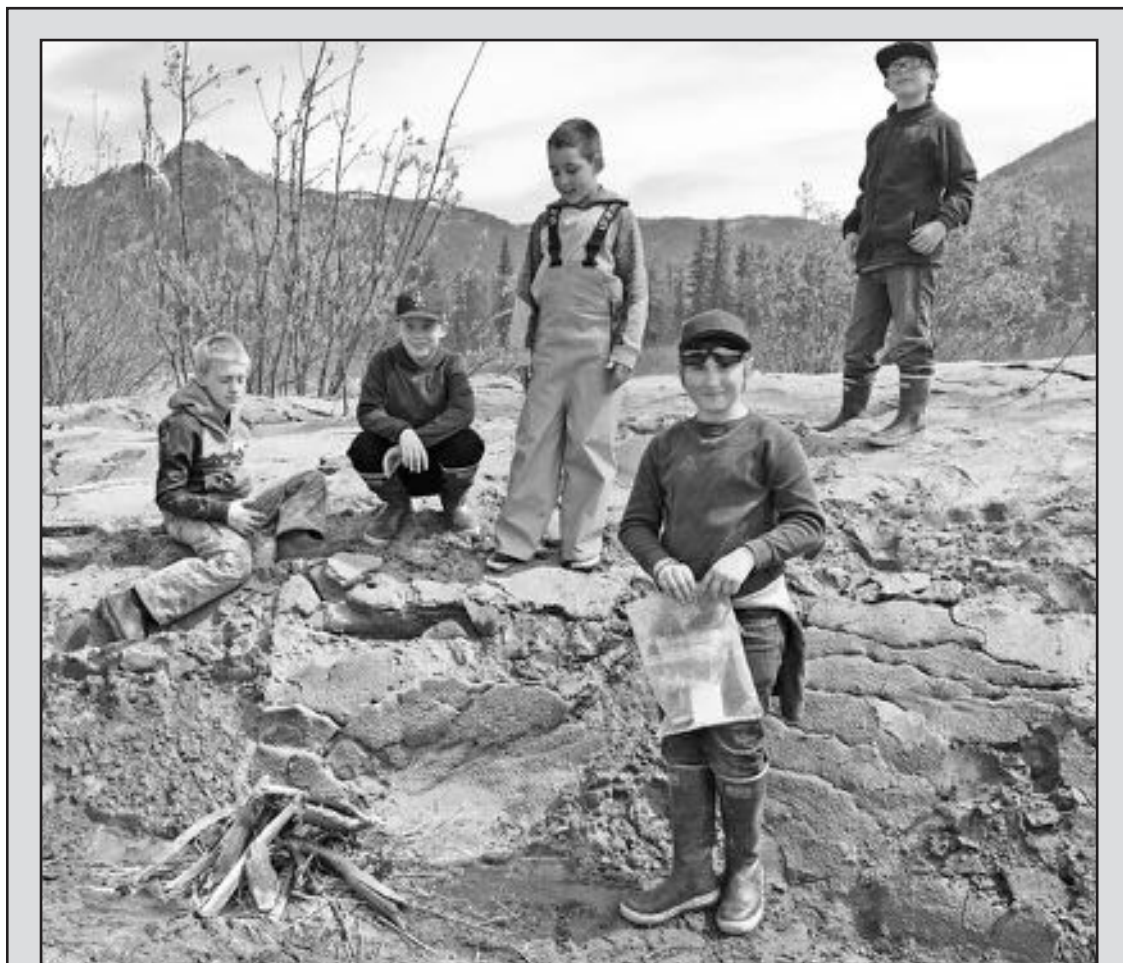


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE PAWUK

To build a fire

A group of fourth graders from Wrangell's Evergreen and Petersburg's Stedman elementary schools combine forces to build a fire during last week's trip up the Stikine River. The Stikine River Jetboat Association took the classes upriver, while instructors from both communities walked kids through the process of catching hooligan, tracking, birding, general survival skills and most importantly of all, how to enjoy nature without leaving any trace behind.

turally and with its utilities. Contracted by SEARHC to assess the building in preparation for an offer, Minnesota firm Wold Architects & Engineers reportedly estimated current WMC facilities would require \$24 million to be brought up to code, a sum neither the hospital nor the city currently has on hand to spend.

One component of the hospital's financial delicacy is the age of its facility, in the sense that it no longer has depreciation to draw upon when being recompensed by federal coverers Medicare and Medicaid. The cost of needed capital fixes, such as to its fire suppression system and water mains, would also put the hospital quickly into the red according to Robert Rang, WMC CEO.

"There's no question in my mind that we need a new facility," Von Barga said.

However, in a concept of a new facility drawn up for the city and presented in November, estimated costs for a new facility and equipment are at around \$90 million.

If it found the numbers worked to its advantage, SEARHC has expressed interest in assuming responsibility for construction of a new facility on a combined campus with the Alaska Island Community Services clinic, which would improve service provision there. SEARHC acquired the Wrangell-headquartered care provider AICS last year in a separate deal, and has since assumed management of its operations.

Since the acquisition, former AICS executive Mark Walker has reported the organization has improved its revenues by 20 percent under the SEARHC umbrella.

"We had savings in our cost of health care insurance for our

employees, and in the cost of other services we gained efficiencies as well. Our improvements in revenue were primarily through increased reimbursement through Medicaid and Medicare," he explained. "The result of the merger is that services are more sustainable for the community of Wrangell in the long run."

Walker also asserted the merger and the access to SEARHC's resources had a positive effect on staffing in Wrangell, particularly in the realm of medical services, in administration and in behavioral health.

"We have more employees now since the acquisition," he said.

At last week's meeting, Rang reported the hospital had the equivalent of roughly nine days' operating cash on hand, factoring out \$250,000 it was borrowing from the city and another \$150,000 in hospital foundation funds earmarked for new equipment. While AICS had been financially in a much healthier position before its acquisition than Wrangell's hospital is in now, Walker said long-term trends in the health-care industry looked problem-

atic. "Our merger was not based on an immediate need," he said. "Strategically aligning with SEARHC would be best for services in Wrangell."

Closely associated with WMC before the acquisition, AICS still maintains physician and pharmacy service agreements with the hospital, and purchases a significant fraction of its overall services.

City clerk Kim Lane explained no actions were expected on the part of the assembly immediately after the meetings SEARHC has scheduled. However, by mid-June an offer could potentially be up for consideration.

SEARHC intends to host its first stakeholder committee meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, inside the AICS clinic's community room, followed by another meeting with the steering committee there at 5 p.m. On Monday, the organization will be meeting with clinical and hospital staff during the day, with a community meeting planned at the Nolan Center at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, a 6 p.m. presentation to the assembly is scheduled to be held at City Hall.

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<p>\$139⁹⁵ Silver Oak Wine Napa Valley Cabernet, 750 ml</p>	<p>\$9⁷⁵ or Monarch Vodka 750 ml</p>	<p>\$18⁹⁵ Bud Light Beer Rita, Selected Varieties 12 pk, 8 oz cans</p>
<p>\$38⁹⁵ Jack Daniel's No. 7 Tennessee Whiskey 1.00 ltr</p>	<p>\$15⁹⁵ Yellow Tail Wine, Selected Varieties, 1.5 ltr</p>	

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We reserve the right to limit. Not responsible for printing or pictorial errors.

Wrangell golfers reclaim Ryder Cup

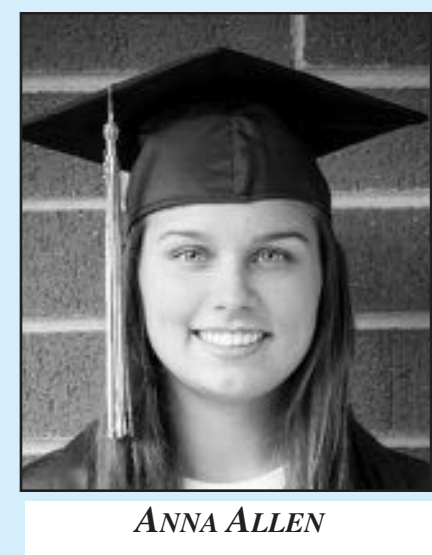
Outnumbered over the weekend, Wrangell's team of golfers reclaimed the Ray Pederson Ryder Cup from their Petersburg rivals. Eighteen golfers played on Saturday, with a point awarded for the best score on each individual hole. Wrangell led five points to three.

With 16 hitting the links on Sunday, Wrangell led 12.5 to 7.5, reclaiming the Ryder Cup. Petersburg had won the trophy at last year's event, taking it back from Wrangell after it won in 2016.

One of the two communities' enduring rivalries, the cup is named for Petersburg's former Public Works operator, in life an avid golfer.

There will not be a tournament at Muskeg Meadows Golf Course this weekend, with a run benefiting the Special Olympics scheduled to start Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

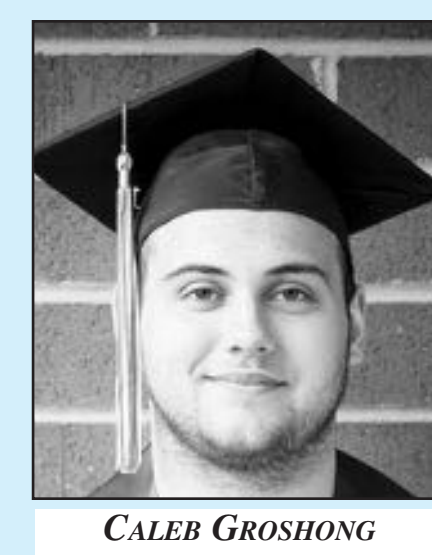
Congratulations, CLASS OF 2018!



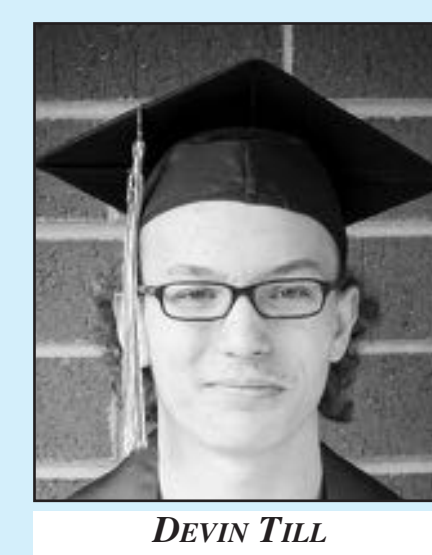
ANNA ALLEN



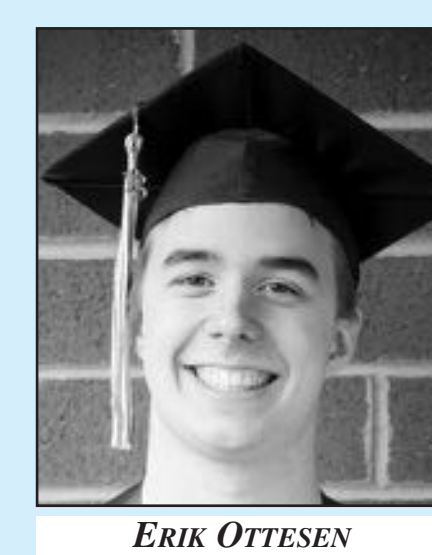
BRIAN SCHWARTZ



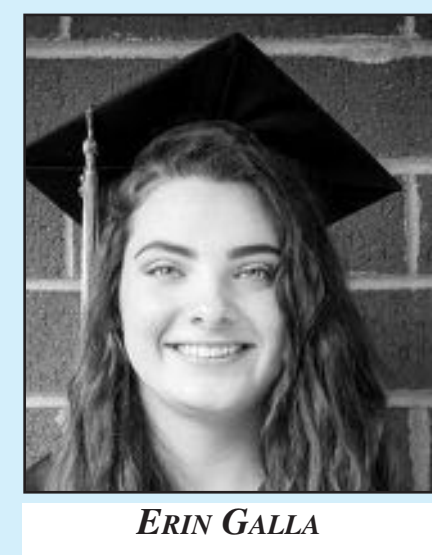
CALEB GROSHONG



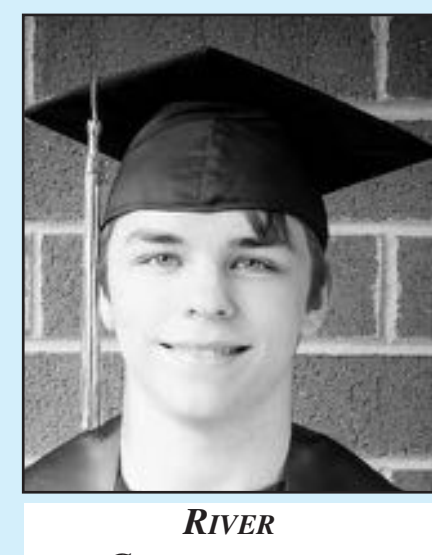
DEVIN TILL



ERIK OTTESEN



ERIN GALLA



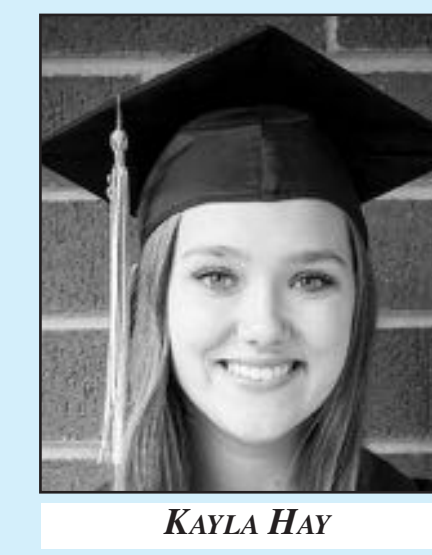
RIVER
GUGGENBICKLER



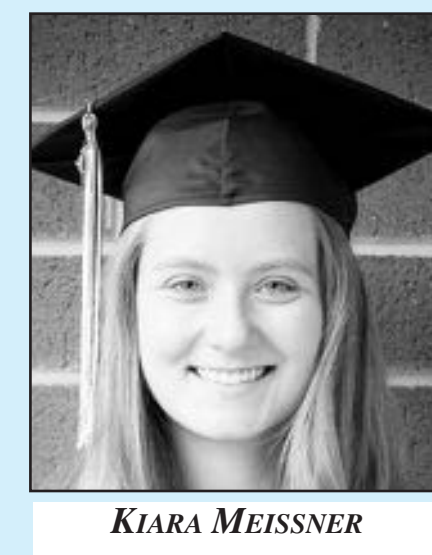
HANNAH MIETHE



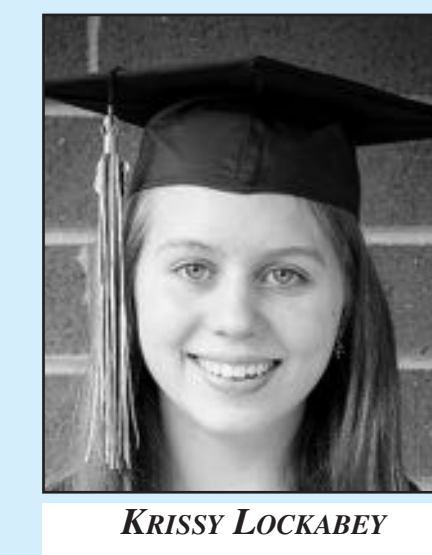
IAN JENSON



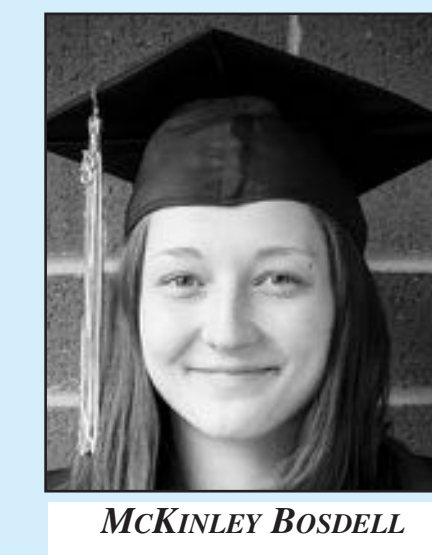
KAYLA HAY



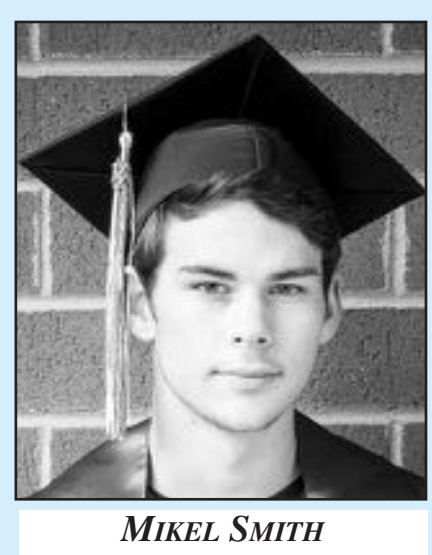
KIARA MEISSNER



KRISSY LOCKABEY



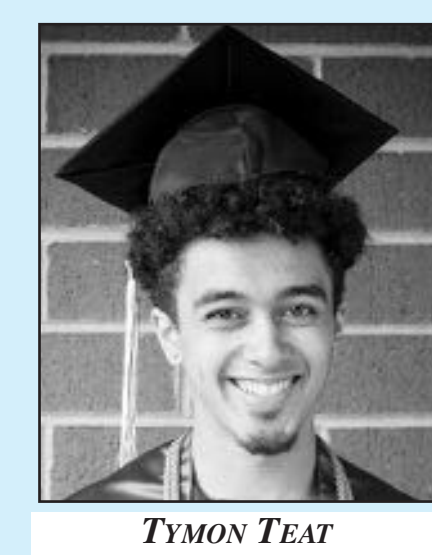
MCKINLEY BOSDELL



MIKEL SMITH



SCYTHIA MCQUEEN



TYMON TEAT



ZACH LANE



Back row l-r: Tymon Teat, Erin Galla, Brian Schwartz, Ian Jenson, Caleb Groshong, River Guggenbickler, Mikel Smith, Erik Ottesen, Devin Till and Zach Lane. Middle Row l-r: Hannah Miethe, Scythia McQueen, McKinley Bosdell, Anna Allen. Front row l-r: Kiara Meissner, Krissy Lockabey, Kayla Hay.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES
FRIDAY, MAY 18 AT 7:00 PM
@ HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

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Wrangell Sentinel
56 Degrees North & AK Waters

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

2018 salmon harvest projected at 149 million fish, down 34% from 2017 take of 226 million salmon

Alaska's 2018 salmon season officially gets underway this week with the first 12-hour opener on May 17 for sockeyes and kings returning to the Copper River.

The catch there this year calls for 19,000 kings and 942,000 sockeye salmon targeted by a fleet of more than 500 drift gillnetters.

Here's a primer of how fishery managers project the rest of Alaska's salmon season may play out:

Statewide, the 2018 salmon harvest is projected at 149 million fish, down 34 percent from the 2017 take of 226 million salmon.

The shortfall this season stems from lower projections for hard to predict pink salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is forecasting a total humpie harvest of just over 70 million, down by half from last year.

For sockeyes, a statewide catch of about 52 million is down by 1.8 million fish from 2017, which was the 5th largest red salmon catch since 1970. By far, most of the sockeyes will come from Bristol Bay's nine river systems where a harvest of 37.5 million is projected.

For chum salmon, this year's Alaska catch is pegged at 21 million, down by nearly four million from last year's huge 25 million haul, the largest catch in 47 years.

The 2018 coho catch should

be nearly 6 million, an increase of 600,000 silvers from last season.

For Chinook salmon, a catch of 99,000 is projected in areas outside of Southeast Alaska, where the numbers are determined by treaty with Canada.

The Southeast harvest will be just 130,000 fish for all users, down 80,000 from last year. For commercial trollers the take is 95,700 taken from a few select areas.

The salmon market outlook is good heading into the 2018 season. "Demand for Alaska salmon is fairly strong and competing farmed salmon prices are high. And despite catching over a billion pounds of salmon last year, there are no big inventory concerns," said longtime fisheries economist Andy Wink of Wink Research and Consulting.

Alaska sockeye could face some competition in its expanding fresh market sales from fish at the Fraser River in British Columbia.

"Their runs have popped every four years and this is an up year for that system. That would bring a significant volume of fish to market this year," Wink said, adding "I'm not too concerned because demand for Alaska sockeye is robust and farmed prices are providing a lot of support."

The average sockeye price paid to Alaska salmon fishermen in 2017 was \$1.13 per

pound.

The price for Chinook salmon was \$5.86; coho salmon at \$1.19, pinks at \$.32 and chum salmon averaged \$.66 a pound at the docks.

The total value of the 2017 salmon fishery was nearly \$680 million for Alaska's fishermen, - a nearly 67 percent increase over 2016.

Clam diggers get down - Razor clams from Alaska are a rare delicacy and are snapped up by restaurants on the west coast and Canada.

The giant clams, which can reach more than 10 inches, are harvested by hand from a single 10 mile stretch of beach on the west side of Cook Inlet at the southwest corner of Polly Creek. The fishery, which opens in May and can run into August, is the only commercial razor clam fishery in Alaska.

The diggers are allowed to take 350,000 to 400,000 pounds of clams in the shell this year and are paid \$.65 to \$.75 per pound.

"About half of that is clam meat. Any broken clams go to the pet food market," said Pat Shields, regional manager at Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game in Soldotna.

Coolers filled with whole clams are flown four to six times a day from the beach to the Pacific Alaska Shellfish plant in

Nikiski, where they are immediately processed and sent to awaiting markets.

"The processors also get \$.60 to \$.70 a pound to shuck them. Then they are vacuum packed and sent fresh or frozen to a lot of markets. It's a really good product," Shields added.

Nearly all of the clam diggers out on the Cook Inlet flats are from out of state.

"Most of the diggers are Hispanic from California," Shields said. "It's such hard work that we have a hard time finding local folks to participate."

"You put this big bag on your belt and you're stooped over for hours at a time," Shields explained. "Most of them use their hands or a very small spade. They dump them into a bucket and the clams get sorted in coolers."

Other Cook Inlet beaches have been closed to clam digging since 2014 due to a drop off in the stocks. More recently state fishery biologists have found encouraging signs of lots of juvenile razors signaling a potential rebound of the delicious clams.

Cash for tags - Hook a sablefish (black cod) with a bright orange or green tag and you would win cash. State fish managers awarded \$3,000 to seven lucky winners in cash prizes ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

Their names were drawn by lottery among all those who had returned tags over the past year.

Fishery biologists at ADF&G have been tagging sablefish in Southeast Alaska since 1979 to learn more about the fishes movement, growth, and abundance.

The farthest north returned sablefish tag was from St. Matthew Island in the Bering Sea; the farthest south came from Humboldt, California. But for the most part, most sablefish stay close to home.

"You have your sablefish that are like I love my home, I'm just going to stay here," said Naomi Bargmann at ADF&G in Sitka.

"That is about 85 to 90 percent of the fish that we get in Chatham (Strait), they stay," she added. "The rest of them will pick up like Magellan and go explore other places."

One of the oldest tags was 34 years old, returned in 2013, and nearly 35,000 have been recovered in all.

This month 7,000 more tagged sablefish were released, bringing the total to more than 140,000 tags since the project began.

To qualify for the lottery, the returned tags must include the latitude and longitude where the sablefish was caught and the capture date and method. Anyone who returns a tag receives a t-shirt.

Please join us in honoring our military service men and women!

In Celebration of

May National Military Appreciation Month

First Bank will donate **\$25** to the service organization of your choice for every checking, savings or time deposit account opened with us in the month of May!*

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Qualifying organizations include:

- Juneau American Legion Post 25
- Juneau Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5559
- Sitka American Legion Post 13
- Sitka Veterans Association
- Ketchikan American Legion Post 3
- Ketchikan Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4352
- Petersburg Veterans Memorial Fund
- Wrangell American Legion Post 6
- Prince of Wales American Legion Post 26
- Prince of Wales VFW Post 12151

*The account must remain open for the first three months in order for the organization to receive credit
**Some restrictions may apply

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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Seated with niece Lisa Messmer, Wrangell resident Lawrence Bahovec inspects a clipping at the Senior Center, ahead of a special award presentation last Thursday.

Wrangell centenarian honored by state for longevity

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Designating this May as Older Americans Month in Alaska, Gov. Bill Walker recognized Wrangell's oldest resident along with other centenarians across the state.

In a special luncheon at the Wrangell Senior Center, Lawrence Bahovec was presented with a personalized commendation as a distinguished citizen. At 101 years old, Bahovec is one of 83 Alaskans who have reached the milestone, and was among the 21 other residents of the state so honored with this month's commendations.

Celebration activities across the state were organized to mark the recognition, and at Wrangell's center cake accompanied Bahovec's favorite meal, featuring fried rice and egg rolls. Family and friends joined him and other residents at Thursday's lunch, where certificates and pictures were presented.

"It's nice to see all of these people here," he commented.

Born in Chicago on January 4, 1917, since infancy Bahovec has been a resident of Wrangell, spending much of his adult life as a fisherman. He retired during the 1990s.

With the Older Americans Month designation, Alaskans of every age are encouraged to "take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being and celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our communities." The month is set aside as a time to celebrate the past and continuing achievements of older Alaskans and their contributions to their state, communities and families.

Asked what keeps them going, Alaskan centenarians have said that having a positive attitude is considered important. "Remaining optimistic, living with purpose, being able to enjoy a good laugh, and maintaining social relationships are the building blocks for living a long, happy life," the Commission on Aging summarized.

Comics

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in each a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gorilla
- 4 Lathers
- 9 Justice Dept. div.
- 12 Felon's flight
- 13 Violinist's stroke
- 14 Young chap
- 15 Shift back and forth
- 17 Work with
- 18 Have a bug
- 19 Texas city
- 21 Suppress the sound
- 24 Landlord's due
- 25 Web address
- 26 Finish
- 28 Nephew's sister

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54						55					56	
57						58					59	

- 31 Author Bellow
- 33 - -tac-toe
- 35 Pharma-ceutical
- 36 Spritelike
- 38 "Bow-wow!"
- 40 Historic period
- 41 Pedicurist's target
- 43 Got away from
- 45 Supernatural spirit of Islam (Var.)
- 47 Existed
- 48 Regret
- 49 Confuses
- 54 Where - at

- 55 * - Grows in Brooklyn*
- 56 Singer Sumac
- 57 Dog or cat, usually
- 58 Dilutes
- 59 Menagerie
- 9 Saabs
- 10 Discomposed
- 11 Low voice
- 16 Half- (Starbucks option)
- 20 Oklahoma city
- 21 Clio or Erato
- 22 Caspian feeder
- 23 Most superficial
- 27 24 horas
- 29 Remedy
- 30 "Zounds!"
- 32 Friend of Dorothy
- 34 Guys with
- 37 oars, maybe
- 39 Local, often
- 42 Cultivated land
- 44 Gls' entertainment org.
- 45 Faucet problem
- 46 Twine fiber
- 50 Spoon-bender Geller
- 51 End of the alphabet
- 52 Comedian Phillips
- 53 - Paulo, Brazil

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Secon and ADOT/PF will host a **Public Meeting at 6 pm on May 23, 2018 in the Nolan Center.**



To provide an overview of the ADOT/PF project Wrangell **Evergreen Road Improvements & Pedestrian Access.** Scheduled for construction this summer/fall between the ferry terminal and the airport. Please attend to learn about project timeline, impacts, project contacts, and employment opportunities.

PUBLIC NOTICE REGULAR TRANSFER

Southeast Properties, Inc. d/b/a Stikine Inn located at 107 Stikine Avenue Wrangell, AK 99929 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary – Tourism AS 04.11.400(d) liquor license to North Star Ventures, LLC d/b/a Stikine Inn located at 107 Stikine Avenue Wrangell, AK 99929.

Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501.

Published: May 3, 10 and 17, 2018

LEGAL

Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, Borough Charter, Sec. 4, public notice is hereby given that the following ordinance listed by title only has been adopted by the Borough Assembly. Such ordinances are currently on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected upon request.

ORDINANCE NO. 946 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SUBSECTION 14.11.005(CC), FEE SCHEDULE, CRUISE SHIP SECURITY FEE, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 947 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 3.05.050, TELECONFERENCING, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, ASSEMBLY – RULES OF PROCEDURE

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Publish: May 17th, 2018

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

JOB WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TRANSPORTATION (WCAT), is seeking 2 trail and road maintenance

laborers. Complete job descriptions and applications available at WCAT office at 104 C-1 Lynch St. Contact Bill Willard or Lizzy Romane at 874-3077 with questions. Closing date: May 25 at 1 p.m.....2x5-17b44

white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfnhdh

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

WANTED PROFESSIONAL MALE IN MID-50'S looking for Wrangell housing (room, studio, apartment, or small house). Starting mid-June through October. Desire nice, clean, furnished unit with all utilities included. Strong preference for "in-town" location, but will consider other areas. Long term employment verification (24 years) and references available upon request. Please call Juneau: (907) 957-7969. 1x5-17b

SERVICES THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	8	2	9	1	7	6	5	3
6	1	9	5	8	3	7	2	4
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7	2	8	3	4	5	9	1	6

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	E		F	O	A	M	S		F	B	I
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WRANGELL MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER NOTICE

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power would like to remind everyone that an electrical permit is required before doing any electrical work within the City and Borough of Wrangell.

Wrangell Municipal Code 15.12.040 states that no electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premise, public or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any such existing facilities without first securing a permit from the office of the electrical superintendent.

WML&P would also like to remind everyone that per Alaska Statute all wiring must be done by a licensed contractor working under a valid administrator's license. Minor exceptions are allowed for persons working on their own residence provided that residence is owned by and the primary occupancy of the person doing the work and no commercial enterprise is being conducted on the premise.

Anyone having questions is encouraged to contact Wrangell Municipal Light and Power at 907-874-3602.

Publish: May 17, 2018

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance Water Department

The City and Borough of Wrangell will accept applications for one position entitled Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance until May 31, 2018.

The Water Department is currently seeking an applicant to fill one position of Temporary Water Treatment Plant Light Maintenance. This position will assist in the day-to-day maintenance at the water treatment plant. The position is full-time, temporary that will work forty hours per week for approximately four to six months.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license and have knowledge of light maintenance.

For a complete list of duties and responsibilities a job application may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929.

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

Lisa von Bargaen
Borough Manager

Publish: May 10, 17 and 24, 2018

Comments About Judges Needed at Public Hearing May 22, 2018 - 4:30 p.m.

We need your help! State law requires the Alaska Judicial Council to evaluate the performance of judges and justices who will be on the ballot in November (see website for list of judges: www.ajc.state.ak.us). The Council would like to hear your opinions about the judges' legal ability, fairness, diligence, integrity, temperament, and overall performance.

Please share your experience by attending a public hearing on Tuesday, May 22, at 4:30 p.m. at your local Legislative Information Office (locations listed at their website: www.akleg.gov), or by calling 1-844-586-9085 (toll free), 907-586-9085 (if calling from Juneau), or 907-563-9085 (if calling from Anchorage). You may also write to us at the address below or send an e-mail.

After considering public testimony and other information, the Council will vote its retention recommendations on June 12, 2018.

Alaska Judicial Council
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City looking at snips and cuts as budget patched together

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Second and third budget workshops this month were held Monday and Tuesday night as the city moves closer to a final budget draft for the coming year.

A fourth workshop has been scheduled for this evening, to deal with the Wrangell Public Schools budget. Afterward a public hearing of a draft completed budget is anticipated next Tuesday evening during the Wrangell Assembly's regular 7 p.m. meeting.

During Monday's session, assembly members and city staff contemplated its revenue outlook for the coming year (see graph). Over the past decade, reductions to state and federal funding sources have been the primary factors in reducing Wrangell's fiscal inflow, by nearly 11 percent by next year. Reductions to state revenue sharing since Alaska began contending with multi-billion-dollar spending deficits in FY14 have been problematic, this year cutting the expected share down by more than half from a high of

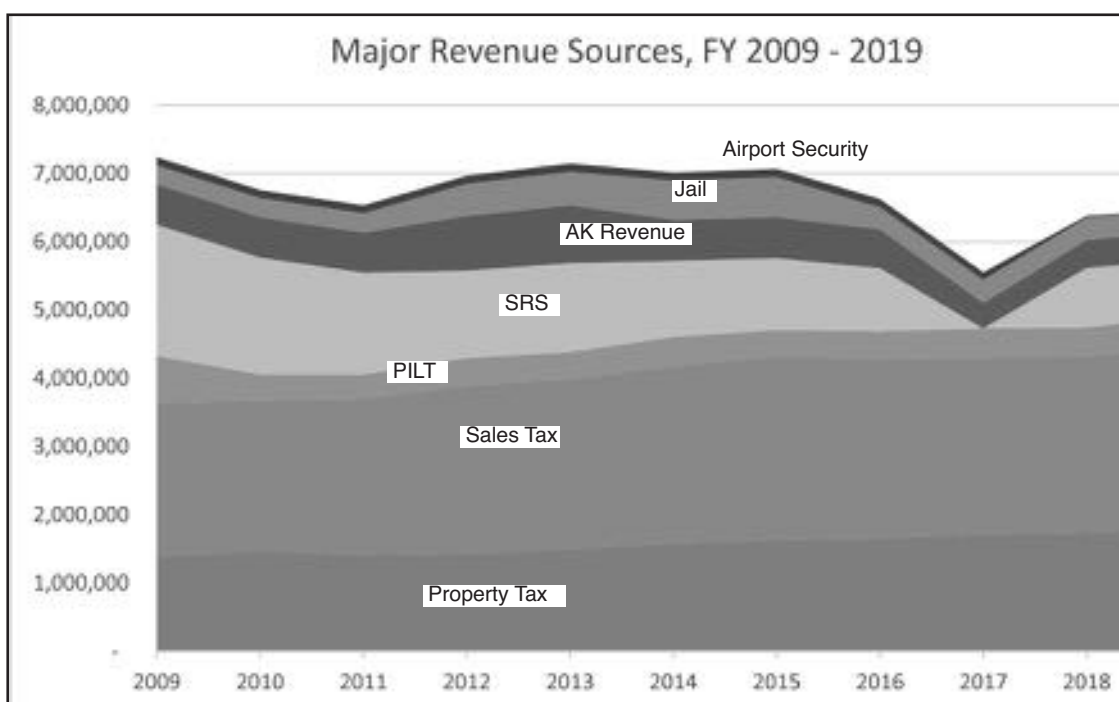
\$846,000 in 2013.

The biggest dip in the budget stemmed from the complete loss of federal Secure Rural Schools contributions in 2017, dropping from \$922,952 the previous year to \$0, though its partial restoration for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years have been helpful. State jail funding has taken a sharp drop since FY16, while airport security stipends that once were \$118,000 each year will be phased out by this coming year.

During Monday's discussions, various revenue-adding options were considered, including raising the cap for exemptions on sales taxes from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The amount for individual sales totaling above that threshold are exempt from the city's seven-percent sales tax.

"It's one of the ideas that have been kicked around," said finance director Lee Burgess.

Compared to most other communities in Southeast, Wrangell's cap is on the low end, Burgess citing Juneau's at \$12,000, and Sitka and Kodiak's each at \$3,000. Peters-



CBW GRAPHIC

Included in this coming year's draft budget for Wrangell, a decade's revenue sources are tracked. While sales and property taxes have increased slightly, reductions to state and federal funding sources have put a crimp in the city's clutch purse.

burg's is the lowest, at only \$1,200. In a first-such assessment, Burgess' department estimated that exempted purchases totaled \$5.2 million last year. If the cap were eliminated entirely - politically not

an advisable move, and economically potentially having a chilling effect on local activity - that would yield an extra \$363,000 in revenue.

"That means, in theory, \$363,000 in revenue," Burgess stressed. "Not that that's the recommendation in our budget."

Simply adjusting the cap by \$500 could yield an extra \$80,000 by his conservative estimates, admittedly not a great sum, but still of help. If coupled with a slight increase of one in the city's mill rate, an extra of \$260,000 could be drummed up.

On the mill rate, for context Burgess noted the rate was about a third lower than what it was in the mid-1960s, at their height.

"We're also working pretty hard on collections," he added, improving internal procedures.

At assembly member Roland Howell's suggestion during the May 1 workshop, Burgess also agreed that costs could be reduced by phasing out paper-based billing for utilities. The city has already made inroads there with its on-line billing system rolled out this year, which has the added bonus of saving time among front-office staff.

On Monday the room also mulled over the health of its special enterprise funds. Growing expenditures in the sanitation fund compared to

stable revenues have left its reserves dwindling, prompting a recommendation by the Finance Department that a rate increase be enacted. With sizable capital projects ahead of it, the water fund also could potentially use some bolstering by a rate change.

"The sewer fund is doing the best of all of them, comparatively," noted Lisa Von Borgen, the city manager.

Halfway into its own five-year infrastructural overhaul, Wrangell Municipal Light and Power shows healthy reserve levels at the moment, at around \$3.5 million. However, increasing new diesel generation capacity remains a big priority with the department, with a new generator it needs possibly costing in the neighborhood of \$2 million.

Assembly member Stephen Prysunka noted the department counted annual rebates received by Southeast Alaska Power Agency as revenue, something he worried could give a false impression about the utility's finances. Last year the power concern approved \$606,000 back to Wrangell, which then goes back into the local department's coffers. Also a member of the SEAPA board, Prysunka cautioned that the agency has a number of large-scale capital projects of its own on the horizon, and that the rebate should not be counted upon.

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Senior class

Continued from page 1

volleyball team," said Kayla Hay. "I attended every practice. They were held five times a week."

Excitingly, the team's A-squad took second place this year, an unexpected upset.

Erin Galla was also in for a pleasant surprise with her project.

"I was the Lady Wolves' basketball manager for the season," she said, accompanying them on their unexpected trip to State.

"It was really fun, and I was really glad to see them succeed so greatly," she recalled. "It was definitely pretty hectic trying to get that changed straight after regions."

Galla had odd jobs on and off the court, helping the coaches and players.

"My main focus was taking stats on games," she said. "That was used to help players make and break records. So it helped them see how their progress was going and improve themselves."

Coaching was not the only way to be involved in school



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAWNEY FLORES

A panoramic view of the inside of Evergreen Elementary School's library shows the work put in by seniors Ian Jenson and Anna Allen this year. For their senior projects, the two worked together to spruce the place up with cheerful murals.

sports. Zachary Lane and Erik Ottesen livestreamed home basketball games for an online audience. The two noted an increase in viewership this year as some of the bugs were worked out over last year's service.

"More people enjoyed it," Lane hypothesized, based on an increase in "likes."

Scythia McQueen and Hannah Miethe took charge of raising students' spirits, with a spirit club throughout the year.

"Nobody was making posters, which was the big problem, nobody was planning homecoming," Miethe recalled. "So we just took it on."

"We coordinated with businesses and had them sell flowers for Valentine's Day. We made posters for the different teams, which is really fun," said McQueen. The duo also designed and printed team spirit logos, and fundraised for the girls' basketball trip to regionals. "We just wanted to positively affect the community and get the school involved in the community, the community involved in school."

"For visiting teams it was a big thing," Miethe added, making Wrangell a more welcoming venue.

As this year's graduating class heads out to new and exciting experiences, a number of them will be heading to college more financially prepared. On

Monday afternoon a number of awards and scholarships were presented to the class. Some awards have still yet to be announced, but at the moment the Class of 2018 have amassed \$357,000 in state and local scholarships.

"It all adds up," explained academic counselor Aimee Romeijn. "We're very grateful for the support the community has provided."

Graduation is on Friday evening at 7 p.m., inside the

Wrangell High School gymnasium.

Fish fry to find funds for new memorial

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The steering committee for an upcoming mariners' memorial will be holding its first spring fundraiser this weekend.

Taking advantage of the warmer weather, an outdoor fish fry event has been scheduled for 5 p.m. this Sunday at Heritage Harbor. The meal will also feature a silent auction for a number of submitted items.

A monument dedicated to Wrangell's seafaring traditions and its community members lost at sea has been a goal for a decade and a half. After financing designs for a memorial at Heritage Harbor, by early 2017 the Port Commission established a five-person committee to navigate the fundraising process for construction. It was reasoned at the time that a private corporation would be better suited to the task than a municipal body.

A longtime proponent now on the resulting committee, Brennon Eagle said their approach so far has been to focus first on seeking individual support. To this end, the memorial committee has been cultivating memberships, with small contributions of \$50 or more indicating support for the project.

The committee is also in the process of securing larger sponsorships from business owners and fishermen, as well as in-kind support from contractors able to work on construction. With enough names and organizations behind it, Eagle explained, it will improve the committee's opportunity for obtaining larger grant funds needed to complete the project.

"We're still working on some larger corporate donations," he said.

Applications for larger grants would follow once those are in place, as timing is a consideration. Some funding sources have timetables attached to their use, and it would be important to make sure everything else is in place before securing these. "You don't want to get your grants too soon," said Eagle.

Already this year a cocktail and auction event held in February boosted the first phase of memberships and so far some 235 individuals have shown their support.

The site of the dinner will be at the future location of the prospective memorial, overlooking the harbor near its landing ramp. Eagle explained it will be an opportunity to help supporters visualize what is in store for the location.

The event will also be marked by a blessing of Wrangell's fleet with the aid of the local Ministerial Association. Part of the memorial's site selection had such displays in mind, and its nearness both to the harbor and its view of the nearby strait better ties the memorial to its intended purpose. A blessing of the fleet ahead of the upcoming commercial fishing seasons is a big function the committee would like to see integrated with the future memorial, and Eagle was glad to see the WMA is keen to be involved.

"They're excited to give this a try," he said.

Organizers for the fish fry have had support from a number of sources already in putting on the event, such as high school art students putting together a sign heralding the "Home of the Future Wrangell Mariners' Memorial." The group is still looking for additional support, either with volunteered time or donated food items. Those interested or able to help can contact committee chair Jenn Miller at wrgmarmem@gmail.com

The memorial committee will also be selling newly designed T-shirts, which will be unveiled at Sunday's supper. For more information, see the memorial website at www.wrangellmarinersmemorial.com.

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