

Wrangell, Alaska  
December 26, 2019

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Boat Parade

The Doc Davenport Christmas Boat Parade was held last Saturday evening, Dec. 21. The parade is a decades-long tradition for Wrangell, going back to the 1970s. Boat owners sailed out in the night past City Dock and the city shoreline, decked out in Christmas lights and shooting fireworks. There were three boats in the parade this year, one more than the 2018 Christmas parade.

## The spirit of giving: Wrangell donates ton of clothes for those in need

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

A longstanding tradition for Wrangell High School students is their senior project. As their high school careers begin to draw to a close, WHS students will organize a community service project to help give back to their community, before heading off to their next stage in life. These projects can vary in size and scope. Last year, students volunteered at Christmas Tree Lane, held ACT prep courses, assisted in amphibian research along the Stikine River, and

much more.

Danika Smith is one of several WHS seniors this year. Her senior project was to hold a clothes drive for two organizations in Juneau and Seattle. They spent a weekend collecting clothes, she explained, and the generosity of Wrangell did not disappoint. She and her family managed to gather three pallets-worth of clothing.

"It was so much, that's why we only collected for a weekend," Danika said.

Danika explained that she and her family got all the clothes



Danika Smith

packed up for transport at Sea Level Seafoods. The clothes will be shipped out via Samson Tug and Barge, who offered to transport the donated clothes free of charge. According to Krissy Smith, there were 101 boxes of clothes, or 2,063 pounds in all. These will be going to the Glory Hole in Juneau, she said, and Seattle's Union Gospel Mission Hope Place Shelter.

"Bobby Robbins actually put it on Facebook, and my mom found it and was like 'Hey, you should take this, it's a really great idea,'" Danika said, explaining where the idea for her senior project came from. "I liked it, because it's such a nice idea ... I didn't expect it to blow up so much, our living room was packed with boxes. People are happy to come together for such a good cause."



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

A flatbed truck holding all the clothes the people of Wrangell donated to Danika Smith's senior project. According to Krissy Smith, there were a total of three pallets, 101 boxes, and 2,063 pounds of clothes. The Smith family is appreciative of the people of Wrangell for their donations, Sea Level Seafoods for use of their facility, and Samson Tug and Barge for freely shipping the clothes to their final destinations.

## Six Wrangell wrestlers place at state

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Of the 11 members of the Wrangell Wolves wrestling team who travelled to Anchorage for the state championships last weekend, six walked away with placement. As teams, Bethel High School took first place in the boys' championships, while the North Pole Patriots took first place in the girls' championships. Wrangell took eleventh place in state overall in both brackets.

"Many goals were accomplished this season with a Region Team Title, 4 Region Champs, and so many State placers," Assistant Coach Jack Carney wrote on the Wolves' Facebook page. "Solid practice partners, strong team captains, dedicated students, new wrestlers that stuck out a full season, along with supportive parents and administrators all played a part in this season's success."

Rowen Wiederspohn took sixth place in the 171 bracket. He lost in the first championship round to Wayland Patten of Craig, but fought his way through three concession rounds. He lost the concession semifinals to Dalton Pinard of Mat-Su Valley and the fifth place match to Koleman McCaughey of Nikiski.

Hunter Wiederspohn took fourth place in the 152 bracket. He made it to the championship semifinals where he

lost to Adam Jockusch of Eielson High School. He won the concession semifinals, but lost the third place match to Austin Cramer of Glennallen.

Jamie Early took fourth place in the 135 bracket. She lost the first championship round to Emily Lorrington of Kodiak, and went on to win three concession rounds. She won the concession semifinals, as well, but lost the third place match to Linsey Beans-Polk of Bethel High School.

Ryan Rooney took second place in the 125 bracket. He made it to the first place match, but lost by decision to Jordan Korth of Glennallen.

Jonah Comstock took second place in the 119 bracket. He made it to the first place match, but lost by fall at 2 minutes and 53 seconds to Keegan Delaquito of Glennallen.

Liana Carney was Wrangell's sole first place finisher in state, winning the 119 bracket. She beat opponents from East Anchorage and North Pole to get to the final match. She won the first place match by fall, at 2 minutes and 52 seconds, against Autumn Poland of Lathrop Wrestling. Coach Jack Carney said that she is the first female wrestler from Wrangell to ever take first place at state.

"It went real well, of course we always want more," he said in an interview. "Really happy with how each of



COURTESY OF JACK CARNEY

Liana Carney (center) took first place in the 119 bracket for Wrangell during the wrestling state championship last weekend. Second place went to Autumn Poland of Lathrop, third place went to Oliva Troxell of Kodiak, fourth place went to Tatiana Green of East Anchorage, fifth place went to Macara Kobernuss of North Pole, and sixth place went to Ruby McCue of Ketchikan.

the kids did."

Carney said he was proud of the whole team, and felt that everyone had given it their best. Each wrestler had shown a lot of improvement over the season. He added that he hopes this season will serve as an inspiration to the team, especially to the younger

wrestlers and students who may join the team in the future, to work hard and keep this momentum going. He is trying to get as many wrestlers as he can to play on the basketball teams and to attend summer camps to keep in shape, he said, and to help out all of Wrangell's other sports programs.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, December 26:** Aidrick Glass, Dee Gross, Ted Cabot, David Churchill, Vern Cummings. **Friday, December 27:** Taylor Beck. **Saturday, December 28:** Brittney Holder, Per Nolan, Nate Stearns. **Sunday, December 29:** Gordon McCloskey, Emily Sterner, Christie Jamieson, D.J. McConachie, Kim Wickman, Michelle Gross, Kenny Golding, Jennifer Davies, John Feller, Jr., Al Brock. **Monday, December 30:** Parker Mork, Rhonda Robinson, Ella Simpson, Sophia Ely, Nichole Kagee, Duncan Scambler. *Anniversary:* Doug & Gail Thomas, Kelly & Dawn Davis, Todd & Elaine Torvend. **Tuesday, December 31:** Randy Easterly, Brad Angerman, Korben Young, Randy Easterly. *Anniversary:* Jerry & Judy Bakeburg, Mark & Dee Galla, Wess & KD Strasburger.

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

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, December 26**

Macaroni & Cheese with Ham, Salad, Zucchini

**Friday, December 27**

Roast Beef, Green Beans, Salad, Mash Potatoes

**Monday, December 30**

Meatloaf, Broccoli, Salad, Potatoes

**Tuesday, December 31**

Macaroni & Cheese with Ham, Spinach Broccoli

**Wednesday, January 1**

Closed, New Years Day

**Thursday, January 2**

Beef Pot Pie, Spinach, Honey Orange 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, December 28**  
Matanuska, 12:00 a.m.

**Friday, January 3**  
Matanuska, 5:15 p.m.

**Friday, January 10**  
Matanuska, 7:45 p.m.

**Friday, January 17**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

**Friday, January 24**  
Matanuska, 7:45 p.m.

**Friday, January 31**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Friday, December 27**  
Matanuska, 08:15 a.m.

**Monday, December 30**  
Matanuska, 05:00 a.m.

**Monday, January 6**  
Matanuska, 08:00 a.m.

**Monday, January 13**  
Matanuska, 07:30 a.m.

**Monday, January 20**  
Matanuska, 08:00 a.m.

**Monday, January 27**  
Matanuska, 07:30 a.m.

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



## TIDES Dec. 26 - Jan. 2

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
December 26	00:52	15.7	12:35	18.4	06:22	2.6	07:04	-3.0
December 27	01:36	15.6	01:16	17.9	07:02	2.9	07:42	-2.5
December 28	02:17	15.2	01:54	17.1	07:41	3.3	08:19	-1.7
December 29	02:56	14.8	02:32	16.1	08:20	3.9	08:55	-0.8
December 30	03:35	14.3	03:10	15.0	09:01	4.3	09:32	0.1
December 31	04:14	13.8	03:51	13.8	09:45	4.8	10:12	1.3
January 01	04:59	13.3	04:40	12.6	10:37	5.2	10:55	2.2
January 02	05:49	13.2	05:43	11.6	11:36	5.2	11:44	3.1

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

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: Monday-Friday 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.
<b>Weight Room:</b>	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.

**December 25, 1919**

E.A. Lindman, secretary of the American organization of Wrangell, recently had occasion to write to Judge Jennings, and in his letter mentioned the fact that Wrangell now has a citizenship night school. Judge Jennings, in his reply, touched upon the subject of citizenship night schools in the following words: Citizenship night schools are the best means that I know of by which persons who wish to become citizens of the United States can be instructed in the principles of our government and the history of our country. We have had a night school here and one in Douglas and I have noticed that those applicants who attend the citizenship schools are the best qualified. I therefore hope that all persons in your vicinity who contemplate applying for citizenship will make it a point to attend the school and avail themselves of the splendid opportunities which I know are afforded them.

The rest of The way we were is not available for this week's paper.



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Dec. 16	39	33
Dec. 17	39	32
Dec. 18	43	38
Dec. 19	44	36
Dec. 20	41	36
Dec. 21	41	39
Dec. 22	41	35
Dec. 23	39	37



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Dec. 26	8:19a	3:17p	06:58h
Dec. 27	8:19a	3:18p	06:59h
Dec. 28	8:19a	3:19p	07:00h
Dec. 29	8:19a	3:20p	07:01h
Dec. 30	8:19a	3:21p	07:02h
Dec. 31	8:19a	3:22p	07:03h
Jan. 01	8:19a	3:23p	07:04h
Jan. 02	8:19a	3:25p	07:06h



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@ 7pm



# City holds town hall meeting on tourism industry

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

City officials, community members, and local business

owners met at the Nolan Center last Tuesday evening, Dec. 17, to discuss Wrangell's tourism industry. This meeting was to

cover the recent tourist season, as well as projections for the next one around the corner. The city also wanted to hear people's concerns and priorities when it came to Wrangell tourism.

"It's a community discussion because ultimately our docks and our Front Street are community assets," said Mayor Steve Prysunka, opening the meeting. "We want to bring everyone along on this journey as we move forward with the tourism industry and where hope to get it to."

Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore gave a brief presentation on the tourism industry as it currently stands. An estimated 20,019 tourists visited Wrangell in 2018 and spent about \$5.1 million. This is an increase of 6 percent from 2017, and 68 percent since 2010. Of those, cruise ship passengers made up 75 percent of the total number of visitors. According to graphs Rushmore presented, however, cruise passengers spend the least amount of money. The 2,449 tourists who came to Wrangell via airplane spent the most money per person, at \$650. However, since cruise passengers make up such a large percentage of the total number of tourists, they spent the most as a group at \$2.5 million, or \$169 a person.

The final numbers are not fully in yet, but Rushmore presented a graph stating that Wrangell has seen about 18,683 cruise ship passengers in 2019. The projections for 2020 put next season's cruise tourists at 19,114. According to a draft schedule for

the 2020 season, Wrangell will be receiving 74 total stops from cruise ships from April to October of next year. According to Rushmore, Wrangell's cruise industry is growing, but in smaller increments compared to other communities in Southeast Alaska.

There were three main concerns from the public that were voiced during the meeting: Cruise ship scheduling around the Fourth of July, how a growing industry might affect the annual fireworks show, and how much tourism was too much.

Continued on page 4

## Wrangell resident hit with fine from NOAA

By Caleb Vierkant  
*Sentinel writer*

On Dec. 20, NOAA issued a press release stating they had given a Notice of Violation Assessment to Wrangell resident Sylvia Ettefagh. She was given a fine for failing to offload and report the entirety of a halibut catch.

"Officers from the Alaska Division of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement in Petersburg conducted an investigation," the press release reads. "It revealed that Ettefagh and crew retained 600 pounds of Pacific halibut that was not deducted from their IFQ permit or documented on the landing receipt. When authorities discovered the unreported fish, Ettefagh reported that the intent was to retain it for personal use and not for commercial purposes. It is a federal violation to fail to offload and report all fish taken while commercial fishing, and submit inaccurate information on a required report."

Ettefagh, with Sylver Fishing Company, explained that this was an honest mistake. She intended to split the halibut catch among two different tickets, she said in an interview with the Sentinel. However, she discovered that this was not allowed. Halibut is the only fishery where one is not allowed to divide their catch among different tickets, she said, and she was not aware of this.

"We thought we were within our rights to split the delivery," Ettefagh said. "Guess I won't make that mistake again."

NOAA assessed Ettefagh's penalty at \$17,600 for two violations of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982. However, Ettefagh took responsibility for the violations and the fine was settled down to \$15,840. She said that NOAA officials found that this was an unintentional violation, so things could have been worse.

"The maximum fine for that particular case is over \$20,000," she said.

The takeaway from all of this, Ettefagh said, was for everyone going fishing to be sure to offload everything.

## Police report

### December 16

Traffic stop verbal warning driving habits.  
Dog bite citations issued to Lorena Cana, 53, for dog at large and objectionable dog first offense.  
Suspicious circumstance.  
Welfare check all was fine.

### December 17

Agency assist: DOT.

### December 18

Citation issued to Anna Kleinhofs-Ellender, 57, for illegal parking at the airport.  
Subpoena service.  
Subpoena service.  
Subpoena service.  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning given for driving habits.

### December 19

Agency assist: AST.  
Agency assist: DPW.  
Suspicious activity.

### December 20

Traffic complain: Disabled vehicle.  
Random breath test.  
MVA.

### December 21

Agency assist: Alarm.  
Welfare check: All was good.  
Noise complaint: Fire works.  
Citizen report DUI: Unfounded.

### December 22

Suspicious activity.  
Intoxicated person.  
Agency Assist: TSA.  
Reckless driving.

During this reporting period there were three calls for EMS.



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**HEARING CLINICS**

**January 13th and 14th**  
**Stikine Inn**

**Call to schedule an appointment**

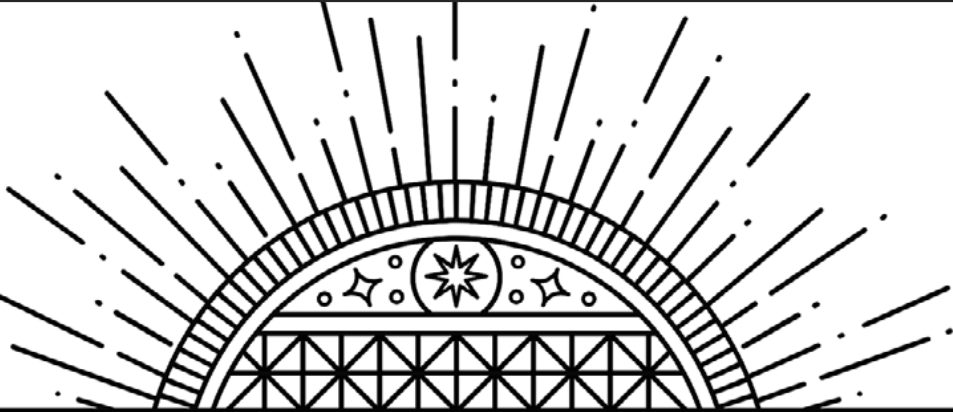
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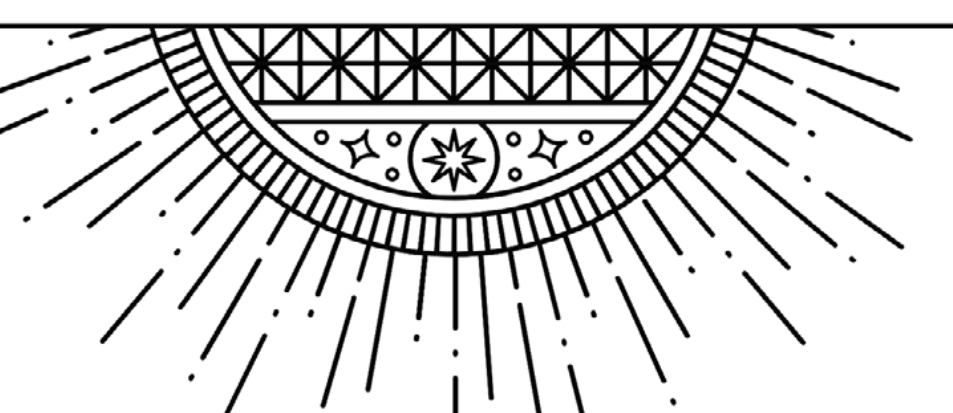


**Murder Mystery  
Masquerade Ball**

12.31.19 / 7pm / The Nolan Center  
Prime Rib Dinner / Murder Mystery  
Drinks & Dancing

Tickets \$40 in advance / \$50 at the door  
21 and over

Work together to solve a fictitious murder that happens during the party!





# Tourism industry

Continued from page 3

Being one of Wrangell's biggest celebrations, many people in Wrangell and from out of town enjoy celebrating the Fourth of July for an entire week. Many of these events, such as the greased pole competition, scrap fish derby, and canoe races, have traditionally occurred at the city dock. The 2020 draft schedule shows several ships wanting to stop in Wrangell during Fourth of July week. However, telling the ships that they just can't visit Wrangell during this week is not an option. The ships have their own schedules to keep. The ships are trying to get into a variety of different ports across the region, Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga explained, and Wrangell serves as one such destination but also as a repositioning port between bigger stops.

"The cruise industry is extremely fickle," she said. "It doesn't take much for a cruise company to get their nose out of joint about something and to go away."

Understanding these concerns about cruise ships interfering with Fourth of July celebrations, city officials did say

they were trying to find ways to minimize any impact they could have. The ships that will be visiting the week of the Fourth will not be docked in town, but anchored farther away. Passengers will then be lightered into town, which should keep the numbers of visitors in town on those days a bit smaller.

Another concern voiced during the meeting, about the annual fireworks show, was more of a misunderstanding on the part of the public. Prysunka explained that, last year, the fireworks show was moved from its traditional location at city dock to Volunteer Park because of permitting and safety issues, not because of any cruise ships. As some readers may remember, last year's fireworks show was cancelled. Again, this had nothing to do with the cruise ships, but a drought the city was experiencing. Prysunka added that they had considered doing the fireworks out on a barge, but this would be very costly. Where and when to hold the fireworks show would be an ongoing discussion, he said.

As to the final concern, about how much tourism was too

much, city officials did not have a definitive answer. Von Barga said that they do not really have any goal for what they want Wrangell's tourist numbers to look like, that is where community input would come in.

"There is no intent of anybody in Wrangell for us to become Ketchikan, Juneau or Skagway" she said, referencing some of the larger and busier cruise ship destinations in Southeast. "Never, not in any circumstance ... The second thing in regard to that is Wrangell does not have the capacity to become those communities because we do not have the infrastructure."

One such way they were looking for community input around the tourism industry was by the creation of Tourism Best Management Practices or TBMPs. These are a set of guidelines that the Wrangell Convention and Visitor's Bureau is wanting to put together for the city. These would be agreed upon by tourism-related businesses in Wrangell, voluntarily, to keep tourism from interfering with day-to-day life in town as much as possible. The guidelines would also serve as a way for businesses to handle confrontations between each other more


effectively. Rushmore said that the Convention and Visitor's Bureau was looking at the TBMP guidelines from Juneau as a good example. Some of the guidelines they might put together could cover timing of tour boat departures, parking locations, and other topics. After the meeting, Rushmore sent out an email say-

ing the CVB would be holding a workshop on the TBMPs on Monday, Dec. 23 at noon.

Other topics covered in the town hall meeting included how to encourage yacht owners and other independent travelers to visit Wrangell, declining ferry passenger numbers, and other work that the CVB does.

**Early Deadline for  
January 2, 2020 Edition**

Deadline for all ads and  
Letters to the Editor  
**Friday, Dec. 27**  
WE'LL BE CLOSING AT NOON  
**ON TUESDAY, DEC. 31**  
FOR NEW YEARS EVE  
**WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THE SENTINEL  
ON THURSDAY JAN. 2**



**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

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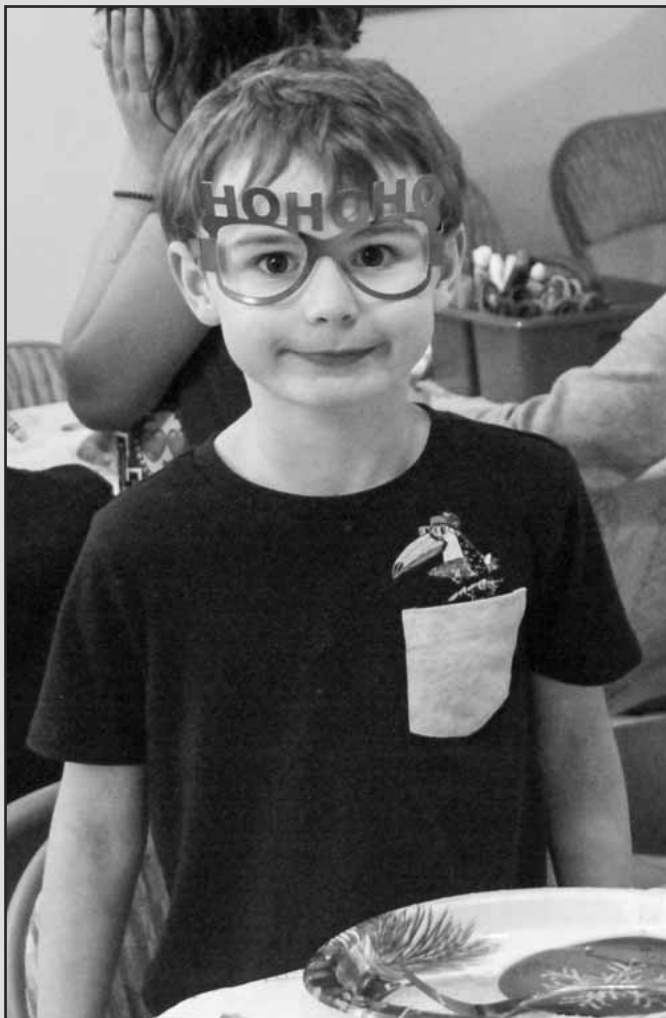


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Pancake dinner at Eagle's Nest

Eagle's Nest, the after-school program hosted by Wrangell Bible Baptist Church, held a pancake dinner party to celebrate the Christmas season. Besides dinner, the evening was full of Christmas-themed games and activities. Pictured here is Chandler Roane.



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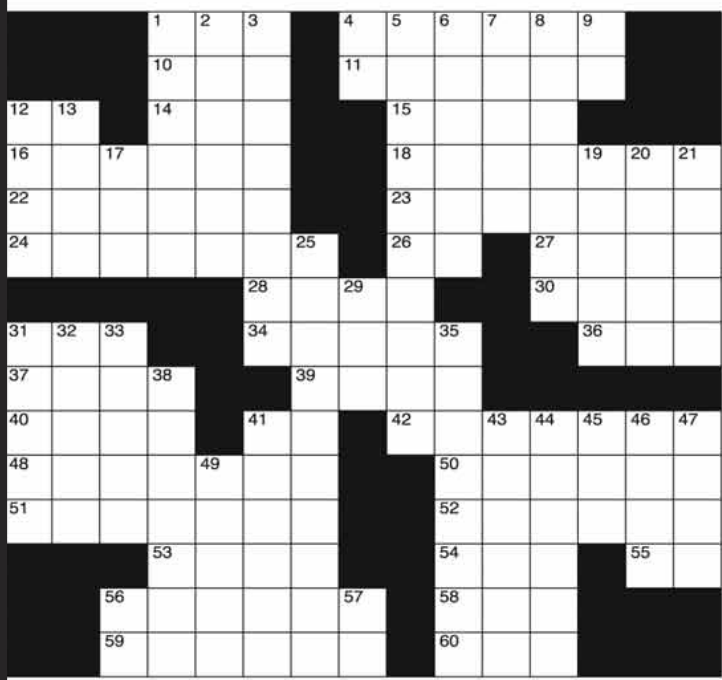
Other Alaska.....\$62

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

First Class.....\$102



# Comics



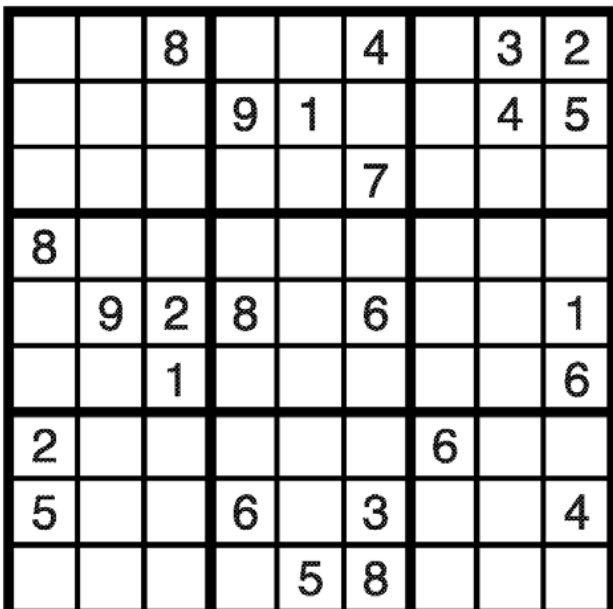
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hair care product
- 4. Looped
- 10. It's present in all living cells
- 11. Choose
- 12. South Dakota
- 14. Cash machine
- 15. Of the pia mater
- 16. Ancient Egyptian documents
- 18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs
- 22. Not perceived
- 23. Look over
- 24. Improve a tire
- 26. Time zone
- 27. Main branch of Islam
- 28. Bark of the mulberry tree
- 30. Sea eagles
- 31. Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)
- 34. Famed Hollywood producer
- 36. Yuck!
- 37. Reject outright and bluntly
- 39. \_\_\_ 500, car race
- 40. Small heap or pile
- 41. Type of degree (abbr.)
- 42. Contagious skin disease
- 48. Erases from a surface
- 50. In an enthusiastic way
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Intricately produced pattern
- 53. It flows NW to the Seine
- 54. Be obliged to repay
- 55. Southeast
- 56. Slip in
- 58. Leisure time activity
- 59. Breastbones
- 60. Sun up in New York

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. More cloudy
- 2. Main course
- 3. Protect with plastic
- 4. Equally
- 5. Rebukes
- 6. Friend to a salesman
- 7. Warms up
- 8. Overshadow
- 9. Interior lineman in football
- 12. San Antonio hoopster
- 13. Comedian Cook
- 17. Time zone
- 19. First PM of India
- 20. Performing perfectly
- 21. A way to hide
- 25. Former NBA commissioner
- 29. Peter's last name
- 31. Outlying suburb of London
- 32. Used to cut steak
- 33. Deep inlets
- 35. Type of tree
- 38. Done openly and unashamedly
- 41. Indigenous person of N. Africa
- 43. Confessed openly
- 44. A way to separate with an instrument
- 45. Influential journalist Tarbell
- 46. Manning and Roth are two
- 47. One who cares for horses in India
- 49. Something to believe in
- 56. Form of "to be"
- 57. Atomic #73

# SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the January 2 edition

# Tough start for the Wolves' basketball season

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Wolves had a rough beginning to their basketball season after two losses to the Petersburg Vikings this weekend. In two games on Friday, Dec. 20 and Saturday, Dec. 21, Wrangell put up a tough fight in two high-scoring games but were unable to keep up with Petersburg.

In the first game, Dec. 20, the Wolves managed to take the lead at the end of the first quarter with 17 points to the Vikings' 16. By the end of the first half, however, the Vikings pulled ahead at 35 to 21. They held this lead for the rest of the game, despite Wrangell's best efforts to catch up. The final score was 74 to 45, Wrangell's loss.

On Dec. 21, it was more of the same. Petersburg took the lead early in the first quarter and held it for the entire game. The Wolves had a hard time scoring this game, especially in the second quarter. The final score was 63 to 43, another win

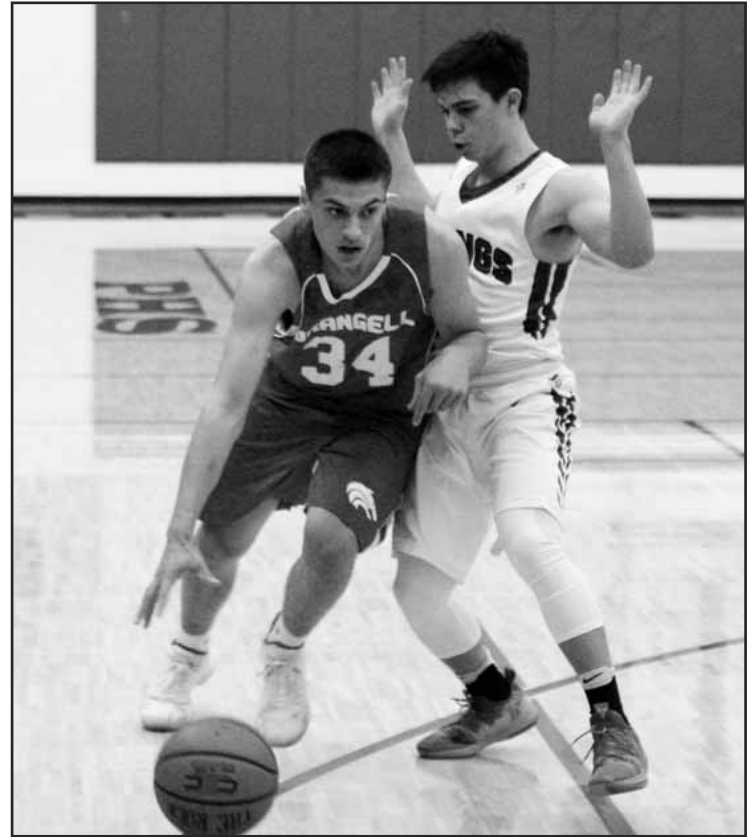


PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Trevor Miller dodges Petersburg's Brennan Skeek.

for Petersburg.  
"Petersburg's a hard place

to play in, to begin with," said Coach Cody Angerman.

Angerman said that Petersburg has a big and strong basketball team. That, plus a home-field advantage, meant that the Wolves knew they were walking into a tough fight. Angerman mentioned that several of his players also played on the wrestling team, and were in Anchorage for their state tournament.

While Wrangell lost, he said that the games were a good learning experience. Moving forward, Angerman said that the team will be focusing on improving their defense and rebound games. The Wolves will be traveling to the Clarke Cochrane Tournament in Ketchikan this week, Dec. 26 to 30. Angerman said their first game will be against Monroe High School.



PHOTO BY BRIAN VARELA/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Brett Abrahamson passes the ball to Tyson Messmer after being blocked from taking a shot by two Vikings.

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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## A small cod fishery will happen in Gulf state waters for 2020

They say good things come in small packages and that's the case for Alaska cod fishermen heading into the new year.

A small cod fishery will occur in Gulf state waters (out to three miles) for 2020, putting to rest speculation that no cod would be coming out of the Gulf next year.

A catch quota of about 5.6 million pounds, down from 10.2 million pounds, will be split among five regions: Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and the South Alaska Peninsula, with limitations on gear and staggered openers.

That will be a relief to thousands of Alaskans whose jobs are tied to the fishing industry. Unlike other coastal communities that run on summer salmon, P-cod typically kicks off fishing on New Year's Day in many fishing towns and keeps workers busy at seafood processing, transports, fuel docks, grocery stores, repair shops and other businesses throughout the year.

It didn't make the mainstream press but in an unprecedented move earlier this month, fishery managers shut down cod fisheries for 2020 in Gulf federal waters (from three to 200 miles) due to a collapse of the stock from "(un)natural causes."

The fish were clobbered by a three year heat wave starting in 2014 that raised water temperatures by as much as five degrees. The shift hurt several cod year classes and their offspring by throwing their metabolism and diets off kilter. Cod numbers decreased from nearly 250.5 million pounds in 2014 to under 30 million pounds in 2018 and surveys this year showed more declines.

"Think of no salmon returns to Bristol Bay. Or a shutdown of pollock for the A season in the Bering sea. This is the kind of seismic impact the changes in climate have wrought with cod," John Sackton,

founder of SeafoodNews.com, wrote it his Winding Glass column titled "Lack of Cod killing Alaskan Communities, as State and Council Punt on any Relief."

When making their decisions, fishery managers must consider other cod-dependent users. By law, strict apportionments must accommodate the diet of sea lions, a protected species.

"The closure they've announced this year is not because of overfishing or a stock collapse. It's really because of federal mitigation measures for Steller sea lions," said Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

The state cod fisheries are determined by surveys and stock models done by federal overseers who then break out the catch among all Alaska fishing regions and gear types.

While some fishermen questioned the opener, suggesting it would be best to "let the Gulf cod rest a bit," Commissioner Vincent-Lang defended the decision and called it a "balancing act."

"This decision is a carefully thought out and conservative approach to recognize the balance between conservation and Alaska's right to manage our own resources. We are confident that we've struck that balance in this decision and will be monitoring to avoid over harvest yet provide our fishermen the opportunity to fish," he said in an email message.

Governor Mike Dunleavy added in a statement that he trusts ADF&G to monitor and manage the fishery in a way that avoids over harvest and yet provides an opportunity to fish and provide tax revenues for fishing towns.

Around 225 boats of all sizes fish for cod in the Gulf of Alaska, including trawlers, longliners, pot boats and jiggers, each an independent business supporting several families.

The Gulf cod outlook is grim with sur-



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Christmas Art Display

Christmas-themed art by Jacquie Dozier is on display at the Nolan Center. This piece was made with mementos from past holidays, according to a placard describing the art piece.

veys showing very few tiny cod in the water. Worse, an even hotter blob appears to be on the horizon, said Steve Barbeaux, a scientist with NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

The future is getting harder to predict, said Nat Nichols, area groundfish manager at ADF&G in Kodiak, because decades of robust data used to assess the stocks no longer apply.

"All of a sudden all the data you collected in the 80s and 90s about how ocean conditions affect certain stocks start to become a lot less useful for mak-

ing predictions because it's so different than anything we've seen," Nichols said. "If you're trying to compare ocean conditions this year and make a forecast for next year, that works pretty well if you've seen these conditions before. But if you haven't, it starts to fall apart pretty quick."

Meanwhile, Trident Seafoods announced last month that it will close its Sand Point processing plant at Sand Point for the winter. It is the first such closure at Sand Point since 1898 when it was

Continued on page 7

## Classified/Legals

### JOBS

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**WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS** is accepting applications for the Second Semester of the 2019-2020 School Year: K-12 School Counselor: the counselor is responsible for data collection related to social, emotional and personal counseling and guidance for students assigned. Valid Alaskan Type C Special Services Certificate required, with an endorsement as Counselor. Alaskan Type A Teaching Certificate preferred. At least one year demonstrated successful educational counseling experience preferred. Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of the counselor to maintain competency in areas of certification and assignment. It is the responsibility of the counselor to provide counseling opportunities and a planned sequence of career guidance activities for students.

It is the responsibility of the counselor to provide consulting service to the teachers, administrators and parents. It is the responsibility of the counselor to provide information and recommendations for education and career placement, and to make health, psychological and legal referrals. It is the responsibility of the counselor to share in the facilitation of district wide testing program to include statewide assessments and MAP testing, assessments and surveys including administration, information, interpreta-

tion, staff training and evaluation of results. It is the responsibility of the counselor to strive for harmonious and cooperative relationships with staff, students, parents and community. It is the responsibility of the counselor to encourage community participation, maintain a positive image, and to develop contacts in the community. Anticipated Start Date: January 6, 2020. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. Position open until filled. It is Wrangell

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### Public Hearing - Proposed Critical Habitat for Humpback Whales

NOAA Fisheries will be holding a public hearing in **Petersburg on January 6th** to solicit public input on a proposed rule to designate critical habitat for humpback whales under the Endangered Species Act. The hearing will be held in **the Borough Assembly Chambers** (12 South Nordic Drive, Petersburg, Alaska 99833) from **4- 7 pm**.

For more information on this proposed rule or instructions on how to access the hearing remotely, please contact Lisa Manning (lisa.manning@noaa.gov).

## Puzzle answers from Dec.19 Edition

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





PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Emma Martinsen runs the ball up court while Petersburg's Kaili Simbahon prepares to block her.

# Lady Wolves victorious in alumni game and season opener against Petersburg

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Lady Wolves, Wrangell's high school girls' basketball team, held their annual alumni dinner and game last Tuesday, Dec. 17. The game is a tradition where past and present basketball players come together to celebrate the opening of a new season. The team served dinner to attendees, raising money for the Lady Wolves' trip to Rally of the Regions in Anchorage in January. There was also an auction of several gifts and treats for people to bid on. According to Coach Laurie Brown, they served about 180 people during the dinner.

Brown said that the game itself was very competitive and a good way for her team to get the jitters out of their system. The Lady Wolves are a small

team this year, she said, but the players were very strong and talented. They are still making adjustments and learning to mesh as a team, but this game was a good sign. The Lady Wolves won the alumni game 41-31, she said.

It was a busy week for the Lady Wolves, as they travelled to Petersburg for their official season-opening games against the Lady Vikings shortly after the alumni game. These were some especially hard-fought games, as Wrangell and Petersburg have a longstanding rivalry. Their first game was on Friday, Dec. 20. The Lady Wolves took the lead early, holding a 10 point lead at the half. This lead grew to 20 points by the end of the game, with the final score being 57 to 37, a win for Wrangell.

Saturday's game, on Dec. 21,

was described as hard-fought by Brown. Wrangell and Petersburg stayed close together in the first quarter, the Lady Wolves barely leading at 14 to 11. The entire game was Wrangell fighting hard to maintain a narrow lead, only pulling ahead near the end. The final score was another win for the Lady Wolves, 61 to 51.

These three games demonstrated that the team still has some kinks to work out, Brown said, such as improving their passing game. All in all, though, she said it was a great way to begin the season. Rally of the Regions will take place on Jan. 3 and 4, where the Lady Wolves will be returning to defend their championship title they earned last year. Judging by these past three games, Brown said she likes the team's odds of holding the title.

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

founded by a San Francisco fishing company as a cod fishing station and trading post.

Pacific cod is Alaska's second largest groundfish catch by volume topping 510 million pounds in 2018 (a 22% decrease from 2017), according to an by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council plan team. The combined dockside value of Bering Sea and Gulf cod catches in 2018 totaled \$225 million, reflecting a 59% drop in the Gulf to just \$29 million.

There will be a 2020 cod fishery in the Bering Sea of 305.5

million pounds, down by nearly one million pounds.

**Fishing futures** - The 2007 has helped build a sustained network of fishing operations across the state and the next gathering is set for January 21-23 in Juneau.

The AYFS, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant, will have drawn over 500 attendees after the Juneau event, said Sunny Rice, a Sea Grant marine advisor at Petersburg who has helped organize eight summits over 12 years.

"I'm starting to feel like we

are influencing a generation a little bit," she said, adding that it's a fast-paced three days of learning and networking.

"We start by giving new entrants into commercial fisheries the opportunity to meet each other so they can connect, and then they meet people who have been established in the industry for a long time and glean information from them," she said.

The summit focuses on three themes, with an emphasis on the business of running a fishing operation. How Alaska seafood fits into the global picture is another topic,

Rice said. That will include the views of the , the nation's largest consumer owned food cooperative based in Seattle since 1953.

"Their focus is on sustainability and they love Alaska seafood," Rice said.

The summit also digs into the fishery regulatory process.

"How do you participate in the Board of Fisheries, what do you need to know when a decision is being made at the Council level that impacts your business," she explained. "How you can get on your local harbor board, be a part of

your RSDA or your CDQ or your local fish and game advisory committee."

A changing climate's impacts on fisheries also is on the agenda and Rice said she's surprised at how many fishermen now call it their top concern for the future.

The Juneau event also let's summit-goers meet with Alaska legislators at the start of the session.

Discounts apply for sign ups through January 7<sup>th</sup>. AMSEA also is offering a free in conjunction with the Summit.

**Fishermen's Almanac #2-** Personal glimpses that chronicle the fishing life make up the and volume 2 is available now. The 124 page book contains 50 submissions from across Alaska.


"The almanac serves as a cultural touchstone for a community that not a lot of people outside of that community can find a window into. For people who fish it's a really great community builder. And people who don't can get a window into this livelihood and why it's important and worth preserving," said Jamie O'Connor of Homer, a fisherman who heads the working waterfront and young fishermen's programs for the .

The first Alamac last year was so popular it covered the costs for volume 2 and it may go to a second printing.

"Last time there were lots of really cool photos and this time we still got great photos, but a lot more original art and written pieces which is really exciting," O'Connor said."

The Almanac is modeled after a publication for farmers that dates back to 1792.

Find the AK Young Fishermen's Almanac at local stores, community events and online at .



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# Alaska Natives Without Land begin organizing volunteer efforts

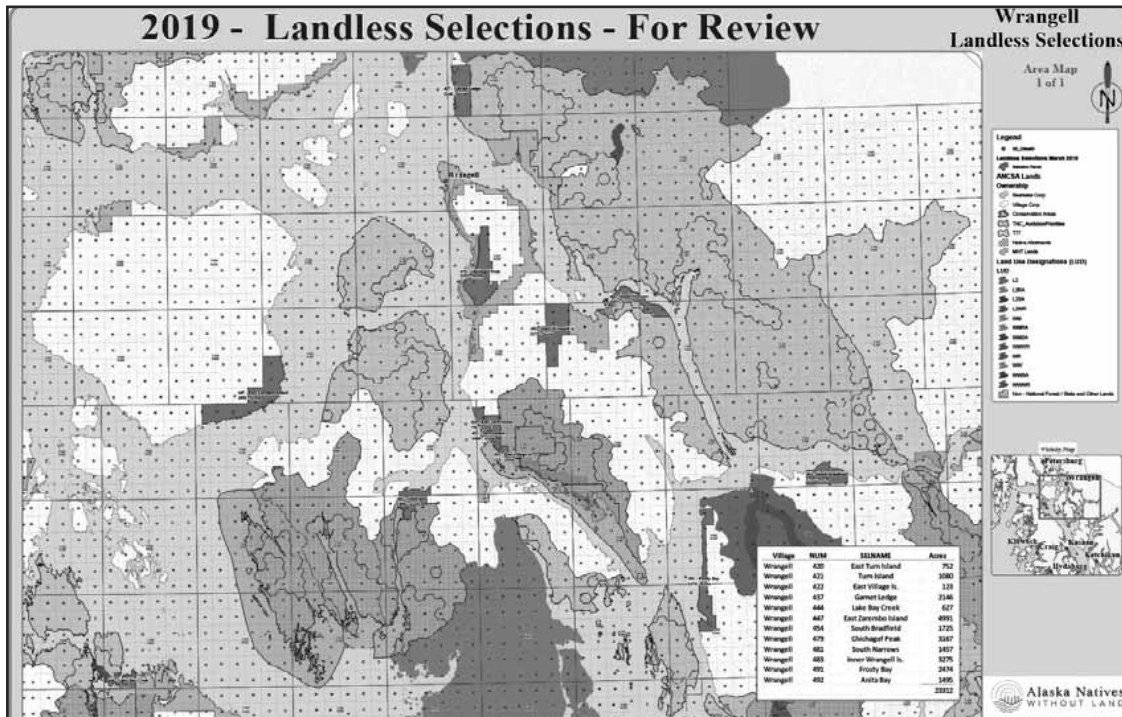
By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Back at the end of August of this year, Alaska Natives Without Land visited Wrangell to hold a presentation on their organization and mission. The group represents five Alaska Native communities in Wrangell, Petersburg, Haines, Ketchikan, and Tenakee Springs. According to their website, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed in 1971. This returned 44 million acres of land and \$963 million to 13 newly organized native corporations. However, for no discernible reason according to a 1993 study by Congress and the University of Alaska, these five native communities were left out of the ANCSA. Alaska Natives Without Land is working to get these landless communities recognized and some of their traditional homeland restored to them. One such way they are doing so is by work-

ing to introduce a bill in Congress to amend the ANCSA.

"As you know things on capitol hill are a little hectic right now," said Campaign and Volunteer Coordinator Todd Antioquia. "We had hoped that we would have had our legislation introduced by now, but there's been some distractions. Nothing in relation to our legislation, but we're still very hopeful. The delegation continues to assure us they will introduce something soon, I'm hoping maybe January."

Antioquia iterated several times throughout the meeting that this was only a rough schedule, they were not certain when the Alaska delegation would introduce the bill. Ahead of introducing this legislation, Alaska Natives Without Land has been working to demonstrate how much support they have across the five communities they represent.



FROM THE ALASKA NATIVES WITHOUT LAND WEBSITE

A map of the Wrangell area, on the Alaska Natives Without Land website, showing proposed areas of land the organization is proposing be given to the landless native community.

They have been doing so by hosting meetings, getting letters of support signed, and growing their online following. They are now also working on coordinating grassroots volunteers to go to solicit support from local businesses.

Among the packets Alaska Natives Without Land plans to send to volunteers is a FAQ sheet about their mission and

goals, a letter of support for local businesses to sign, and other items. According to a Google Drive document Antioquia shared during the meeting, they identified about 110 Wrangell businesses the volunteers could talk about supporting. He added that the volunteers would know Wrangell better than they do, so the list might hold inaccur-

rate information or businesses that no longer exist. The rest of the meeting was spent discussing which businesses were native-owned, and how best to divide them amongst the volunteers present.

To learn more about Alaska Natives Without Land, visit [www.withoutland.org](http://www.withoutland.org). Antioquia can be reached at [todd@withoutland.org](mailto:todd@withoutland.org).

## Sitka mulls joining tiny house movement

SITKA, Alaska (AP) - Sitka is considering getting into the tiny home movement.

The Daily Sitka Sentinel reports the Sitka Planning Commission got its first look Wednesday at how city code could be amended to make room for tiny houses, specifically those on chassis allowing the structures to be moved.

"We're looking to hear from tiny homes advocates in the community," city special projects manager Scott Brylinsky told the newspaper Thursday.

Brylinsky and another planning official plan to reach out to tiny home advocates before the next meeting.

At Wednesday's meeting, the commission voted 3-2 to direct Brylinsky to continue developing proposals on changing parts of the general code to define tiny houses and tiny houses on chassis. The idea is to allow them in mobile home parks and manufactured home parks.

Brylinsky was hired to work on an action plan for tiny homes, among other projects.

The informal action plan was proposed by the Sitka Assembly last year. The plan directed the Planning Commission review zoning codes to see which ones could be changed to enable tiny homes as a potential affordable

housing option.

Acting Chairman Darrell Windsor said he would like the full commission present before making recommendations for changes related to tiny homes.

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