

## P&Z hammers out Harbor House permitting

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Following a contentious meeting last week, the Planning and Zoning Commission held a follow-up workshop Tuesday evening to address neighbors con-

cerns about a proposed senior housing and assisted care facility.

With 30 people sitting in, the meeting was perhaps the liveliest City Hall has hosted since P&Z looked into the propriety of raising chickens in residential zoning back

in 2014. The issue at hand was a conditional use permit being applied for by Daniel Blake and Shannon Bosdell, which would convert the Sourdough Lodge they are purchasing.

The partners plan to convert the lodge into a 16-room housing facility, with five units reserved for assisted living. Renamed Harbor House, Blake and Bosdell hope to open its doors to clients starting on April 1. Two additional units on the premises would be occupied by their families.

Encompassing four lots, the property is currently zoned light industrial, which allows for heavy commercial and industrial uses. Previously, the lodge operated under a conditional use permit, something the new appropriation would likewise need because it is a multifamily structure, dormitory or boarding house. It is surrounded by single family residential to one side of Berger Street, and waterfront development properties across from Shustak Street, Peninsula Avenue and Berger.

The request came before the commission's regular meeting on January 12, but concerns from a group of residential neighbors in attendance prompted it to hold the item for a special workshop. About a dozen nearby residents came to Tuesday's workshop, in addition to other residents.

Neighbors expressed a handful of recurring concerns with the facility, including expected traffic flow on Berger, parking, liabilities related to residents who might injure themselves on their properties, pet-related issues, and noise considerations.

Primary access to Harbor House would

come through Peninsula Avenue, Bosdell explained of the first issue. However, ambulatory access would be on the more accessible Berger Street side. A potential thoroughfare could be accessible around the back of the lodge once a current wood furnace is removed. Similarly, Blake said they plan to add an access ramp to the front end of the lodge which would enable ambulances to pull up there instead.

Commissioner Charles Haubrich had recused himself at first as a neighbor, but McConachie insisted he participate in the discussion. He recommended the Harbor House administrators find a way to keep traffic flow more toward the Peninsula side of the building, and wondered whether fewer residents be admitted to the facility as a compromise.

On the second issue, the facility would reserve its parking lot for staff and visitors rather for residents, raising concerns about overflow parking on the streets. Presiding over the meeting, commission vice-chair Don McConachie noted he had stopped by the property earlier in the day with a measuring tape, and roughly estimated that even with a frontside unloading zone it could hold between 25 and 28 regular-sized vehicles. He further went on to say code required a minimum of 13 spots be provided for the particular facility.

Living on Berger Street, Kim Powell wondered what the liability might be for property owners, should a home resident injure themselves on surrounding properties. McConachie responded that legal

**Continued on page 11**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Slippery when wet

A car found its way into the ditch alongside Ishiyama Drive on Sunday morning, near the turnoff to Volunteer Park. Freezing conditions coupled with two inches of precipitation over the lengthy weekend made for icy conditions on Wrangell's roads and sidewalks rendering some steeper drives unmanageable while otherwise making life difficult for commuters. Cold temperatures and some precipitation is expected to persist through the week, meaning there's no end in sight just yet.

## New city manager search winnows field to three

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Wrangell has narrowed the field for its new borough manager, with city staff and members of the Borough Assembly holding a teleconference with five candidates during a closed-door meeting Friday.

Current manager Jeff Jabusch announced his plans to retire back in September, which is to take effect at the end of day March 31. In his current post since 2013, the move brings to a close four decades of employment with the city, much which was spent as its finance director.

The Assembly accepted the resignation announcement, approving formation of a committee to steer the transition made up of Jabusch, clerk Kim Lane, Mayor David Jack, and members Julie Decker and Mark Mitchell. The search began with a pool of about 25 candidates, which after going through resumes the committee whittled down to five. Those candidates were invited to an interview using Skype at last week's meeting, and after fielding questions four were invited to visit



Ann Capela

Wrangell next month for another round of interviews.

These include:

**Ann Capela**, recent city manager of Bethel from November 2014 to September 2016. During her time there she had secured a plan and funding for the city's sewer project, according to Alaska Daily News coverage of her tenure. Prior to that, she had been the township manager of Oakland Township in Michigan, and city manager for the City of



Michael Cleghorn

Inkster, also in Michigan. Capela had also served for three years as the town manager of Minturn, Colorado, and has served in several other administrative capacities since 1995.

**Michael Cleghorn** is presently the director of solid waste services for Killeen, Texas, since October 2012. Prior to that, he had been the assistant director of solid waste services for Lufkin, Texas for a year and a half, and the director of solid waste



Bradley Hanson

services for Crockett, Texas for six years. Before those public sector positions, Cleghorn had served for 21 years in the Army, retiring in 2004 as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. During his military service he had been an electronic warfare technician, advising on maintenance and logistical issues for his battalion's electronic equipment.

**Bradley Hanson**, had served as the city administrator for Onawa, Iowa, from June 2013

until March 2016. He had also been city administrator for Bridgeport, Nebraska, for 20 months before that, and had worked as an administrative intern in Limon, Colorado, from January 2010 to September 2011. Hanson also has private sector experience assistant managing a Walgreen's in Louisville, Colorado, and cites experience in promoting business development during his administrating jobs.

A fourth candidate, Angie Flick of Glendale, Arizona, withdrew her name from consideration Tuesday after further consideration over the weekend. She is presently the strategic business planning administrator for Maricopa County's Office of Management and Budget.

Tentatively the three candidates still under consideration will be brought for a visit to Wrangell on February 15, which will include an opportunity to meet with the public. Lane explained the hiring committee will be seeking additional input from local professionals and departmental staff as the selection process reaches its final round.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, January 19:** Terri Stark, Jim Rinehart, Laura Paulsen, Ken Davidson, Sr., Megan Talburt, *Anniversary:* Chris and Dixie Booker, Steve and Helen Keller, **Friday, January 20:** Dawson Fairbanks, Yvonne Stough, Syler Webster, Lora Laube, Deanna Reeves, Pam Wiederspohn, **Saturday, January 21:** James Stough, Jr., Joshua Davidson, Jessica Rice, **Sunday, January 22:** Lloyd Ward, Mabel Fennimore, Todd Torvend, Riley Blatchley, Lisa Messmer, Asia White, Luana Wellons, **Monday January 23:** Jean Petticrew, Madison Blackburn, Shawna Bunes, Nicole Feuerhelm, Chris Ottesen, *Anniversary:* Steve and Terri Henson, **Tuesday January 24:** Keith Appleman, *Anniversary:* Michael and Deanna Reeves, **Wednesday January 25:** Eric James, Erin Anderson, Ruth Stough, Jacob Penney. **Thursday January 26:** Kristin Galla, Savannah Smith, Mckenna Campbell, Ryker Shilts, Gina Simonek *If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.*

## Senior Center Menu

**Friday, January 20:**

Baked chicken, carrots a'la orange, three bean salad, hot roll

**Monday, January 23:**

Chili with onion and cheese, tossed salad, fruit cup, corn bread

**Tuesday, January 24:**

Chicken California, cauliflower and broccoli, carrot pineapple salad, hot roll

**Wednesday, January 25:**

Moose roast and gravy, mashed potatoes, pea and onion salad

**Thursday, January 26:**

Pork chop suey, rice, carrots, fruit slaw

**Friday, January 27:**

Chicken rice casserole, orange beets, calico corn salad

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

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**Thursday, January 19**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

**Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation:** 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Wrangell Fish and Advisory Committee Meeting:** 7 p.m. Wrangell Fire Hall. The meeting agenda includes election of 5 Committee Members and executive officers, commercial fish proposals and the Federal Designated Hunter program. All are invited.

**Sunday, January 22**

**Pioneers of AK Mens and Womens Meeting:** 5 p.m. Alaskan Sourdough Lodge. Pioneers of Alaska Mens Igloo #21 and Womens Igloo #15 Installation of Officers Meeting and Dinner. Suprise Auction to follow.

**Monday, January 23**

**Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

**Tuesday, January 24**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults.

*Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Rachel at the Sentinel to have it placed here.*

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** **Lap Swim:** M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 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. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:**

**AA Meetings:** Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

**NA Meeting:** Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

**Bridge Social:** F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.

**Salvation Army Food Bank:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information or questions please call Major Michael Bates at 874-3753.

## The Way We Were

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

**January 18, 1917:** On Tuesday evening a banquet was given at the Wrangell hotel by several of the business men in honor of the Wrangell basketball team. Cash Coulter was apparently the one who originated the idea, and saw that it was carried out. It was one of the most pleasurable events that has taken place in

Wrangell this season. Hon. P.C. McCormack acted as chairman, and as soon as the guests were seated made a few appropriate remarks explaining why the banquet was given, and praising the basketball team giving Wrangell a lot of advertising along some line other than that which it has received through the story that has been told so often that we all know what it is.

**January 16, 1942:** Recruits for the Woman's Ambulance and Defense Corps are now being sought in Wrangell. A meeting has been called for 8 o'clock Saturday night in the Fire Station which all women in the community are urged to attend to hear details of the Corps, it is announced by Lieut Eve Wold (Mrs. William H. Jensen), who is representing the group here. Aims and purposes of the organization will be completely explained at the meeting. "In this emergency every trained hand available will be needed," Liet. Wold said "The women have found a new place and a new way in which to work shoulder to shoulder with the men in this war."

**January 20, 1967:** The cargo vessel San Eduardo, under charter to load logs for the Japanese trade, berthed at Wrangell Lumber Company this week giving the port a truly international flavor. The San Eduardo is under Panama registry carries an Australian captain, a Scotland first mate, and mostly a Chinese crew with a few Caucasians from

various ports of the world. Columbia Maru, frequent caller and one of the first to take lumber cargo from the port, was anchored awaiting her turn when the San Eduardo clears. Several other vessels are scheduled in the next few weeks to take lumber cargo from WLC.

**January 16, 1992:** It hasn't been decided what to do with the national forest receipts revenue, but the City Council and the School Board agree on one thing: Save some for a rainy day. Lin Laughy, Wrangell school superintendent, said judicious use of the money could help "alleviate some

of the yearly wrangling for funds from the city." The city received \$662,635 as its share of the national forest receipts. Twenty-five percent of revenues generated by the national forests are returned to the states where the forests are located. The state then distributes the money among the communities in proximity to the national forest. The money is mandated for school use. At a Jan. 7 workshop, members of both the City Council and the School Board noted the variability in the funds from year to year, and expressed a realization that they couldn't rely on getting these kinds of funds every year.

## FERRY SCHEDULE

### Departures

#### Northbound

**Sunday, January 22**

Malaspina 4:45 p.m.

**Sunday, January 29**

Malaspina 9:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 5**

Malaspina 4:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 10**

Matanuska 9:30 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Wednesday, January 18**

Malaspina 4:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, January 25**

Malaspina 4:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 1**

Malaspina 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 8**

Malaspina 3:45 a.m.

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



## TIDES TABLE

January 19 - January 26

### High Tides

### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Jan. 19	5:44	14.2	6:04	11.7	11:48	3.9	11:47	3.5
Jan. 20	6:42	13.9	7:22	11.1	.....	.....	12:55	4.0
Jan. 21	7:44	13.9	8:38	11.2	0:45	4.5	2:09	3.6
Jan. 22	8:43	14.2	9:44	11.7	1:53	5.1	3:19	2.7
Jan. 23	9:37	14.8	10:38	12.6	3:03	5.1	4:16	1.6
Jan. 24	10:25	15.5	11:25	13.4	4:04	4.8	5:01	0.5
Jan. 25	11:09	16.1	.....	.....	4:54	4.2	5:39	-0.4
Jan. 26	0:06	14.2	11:48	16.7	5:35	3.6	6:13	-1.2



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
January 8	33	28
January 9	30	21
January 10	30	19
January 11	23	17
January 12	35	21
January 13	42	35
January 14	42	39
January 15	44	39



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jan. 19	8:05a	3:52p	7:47h
Jan. 20	8:04a	3:54p	7:50h
Jan. 21	8:03a	3:56p	7:53h
Jan. 22	8:01a	3:58p	7:57h
Jan. 23	8:00a	4:00p	8:00h
Jan. 24	7:58a	4:02p	8:04h
Jan. 25	7:57a	4:04p	8:07h
Jan. 26	7:55a	4:06p	8:11h

Brought to you by Alaska Airlines



Club 49. Free. Alaskan. Join Today.



# School budget and communication top board's agenda

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Public School District unveiled its first draft for next year's operating budget at its board's Monday evening

meeting.

Overall, the school district's budget is projected to be 2.3 percent higher than the FY17 revised budget, coming in at \$5,953,642. As with other city

## Police report

### Monday, January 9

Agency Assist: Smoke.  
Citizen Assist.  
Agency Assist: Alarm.

### Tuesday, January 10

Report of Harassment.  
Citizen Assist: Vehicle Unlock.  
Noise Complaint.

### Wednesday, January 11

Agency Assist: FD for a sinking tug.

### Thursday, January 12

Agency Assist: WMC asked for assistance.  
Agency Assist: Fire Department possible house fire. Furnace malfunctioned.  
DV Disturbance.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

### Friday, January 13

Agency Assist: DOT.  
Traffic Hazard.  
Agency Assist: Alarm.  
MVA: Vehicle in the ditch on Ishiyama Drive.

### Saturday, January 14

Suspicious Circumstance.  
Citizen Assist: Vehicle unlocked.  
Reckless Driving: Verbal warning given.  
Report of Theft.

### Sunday, January 15

Found Property: Returned to owner.

There were four ambulance calls and one dog complaint during this week.

departments, the new fiscal year is slated to begin July 1.

Accounting for the rise, step-and-column increases are anticipated to raise the teacher and support salaries budget by about \$48,000, with another \$96,000 increase in payroll benefits associated with a 10-percent health care cost increase. The superintendent and principals line items will increase by \$3,577 and \$5,001, respectively.

Despite the higher costs of education for the coming year, the district also anticipates a five-percent decrease in state funding from the Base Student Allocation, amounting to nearly \$242,000.

"That is our best estimate," said Superintendent Patrick Mayer. Starting its new session on Tuesday, the Alaska Legislature needs to hammer out a budget yet, which will include allocations made to the state's 54 school districts. "We don't actually know where that number's going to land."

The district is expecting a \$20,000 cost decrease to insurance and bond premiums, due to a relatively quiet year for claims last year.

"That should be firm," Mayer told the school board, after speaking to their agent.

In order to offset the expected shortfall, staff proposes shifting \$375,000 from its capital improvement account to cover costs. With the added inflow, the net difference for the FY18 budget is \$204 in the black.

The school board voted 5-0 to approve the draft as a first step to

adopting a new budget. Board president Georgianna Buhler announced she would be preparing a report to review at future budget workshops. Drawing on her own background in finance, Buhler is assessing the past five years of district spending for trends, and would like to use the information for more "data-driven decisions" in drawing up next year's budget.

She would also like to see the district update the way its budget items are presented, in a way that would be more informative for the board. Buhler rejoined the board after being elected in October, but had previously served on it for much of the last decade.

"The district has been using the same format for budgeting for as long as I can remember," she commented. Monday's draft was still using the same template, but Buhler expected it might look differently in future drafts.

"It's not unusual over a long period of time to look at a new format," said Mayer. He and Buhler will be presenting a joint presentation on the budget at the board's next budget workshop.

In other board business, Buhler wanted to address ongoing concerns about communication, between the board, school administrators, staff and community members. Frustrations in how input is received and concerns responded to has been a recurring theme at past meetings, with the issue coming to a head during December's pre-holiday session.

Teacher Anne Luetkemeyer

had come forward at that time during the public comment period looking for clarification on how and when parents and teachers can have various issues resolved – in that instance, lobbying to retain the middle school secretarial position – and Buhler had replied that there were mechanisms in place that did not include the school board. The exchange had become heated, and on Monday Buhler said she has since revisited the matter.

"I was really discouraged after the December meeting," she told the board. "That's not the way I want to conduct business. At the end of the day we're all neighbors and we're all friends."

Over the break she met again with Luetkemeyer and other staff members who have expressed similar concerns, and concluded their complaints were legitimate. Looking herself through the school district's policy on "chain of command" – a wording favored by the Alaska Association of School Boards – she found mapping out the structure to be harder than expected.

"Two weeks later, I threw up my hands in despair," Buhler related. Several years of turnover between principals and school secretaries have muddled the district's priorities, in her opinion, and she wanted to see a change in focus. "We're going to focus on policy, we're going to focus on process," rather than channels of authority.

Without casting any specific blame, Buhler asked that the board and school administration work with her to improve communication within and without the system. "We could have handled things better over the past few years," she acknowledged, and asked for patience on the part of all involved while the problems were worked through.

In other school business, the board congratulated high school counselor Kerry Nordstrom for receipt of the Counselor of the Year award by the Alaska School Counselor Association, presented for her previous work at Scammon Bay School. As part of the award, Nordstrom was invited to attend Michelle Obama's farewell address in Washington D.C. on January 6.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Harborlight Assembly of God

Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. 874-2244

### St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Church

Sunday Masses 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Enrichment in Faith- All are welcome, 10:00 a.m.  
874-3771 or 305-0654

### St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.  
874-3047 or 874-4480

### First Presbyterian

Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

### The Salvation Army

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.,  
874-3753

### Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,  
Faith Walking Saturday 10 a.m., 874-2743

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Priesthood Relief Society & Primary at noon.;  
Sunday School 11 a.m.; Sacrament 10 a.m.,  
874-3976 or 3778

### Wrangell Community Church of God

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964

### Bible Baptist Church

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., 874-2069

### Wrangell Seventh-day Adventist Church

Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.;  
Young People & Adult Study, 9:30 a.m., 874-3039

### Baha'i Faith

Study circles, children's and youth classes,  
devotional meetings call 874-3521  
for information

Presented for all religious faiths of Wrangell  
in respect to their devotional influences and  
public services in our community.

**Bobs'**  
**Supermarket**



I can help you make sure your  
coverage is up-to-date. Call me today.  
907-874-2358

### Katie Eddy

Petersburg Wrangell Insurance Center  
220 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929  
inquiry@p-wins.com



**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company. Northbrook, Illinois © 2012 Allstate Insurance



# Floathouse removal still at standstill

By DAN RUDY AND JESS FIELD  
*Sentinel writers*

The state has so far not received any applications from a number of floathouse owners contacted last autumn.

Since October, the Department of Natural Resources has been reaching out to identified owners of floating facilities anchored along the Stikine River's tidal area, the land which is under its clear jurisdiction after resolving a longstanding dispute with the United States Forest Service last March.

The floathouses being targeted are those anchored within the tidal influence of the river, which ends just beyond the terminus of Shakes Slough. Letters have been so far sent to 13 owners and occupants of these facilities according to Steve Winker, Natural Resource Manager with DNR Southeast Region Office for the Division of Mining Land and Water, which is handling the matter.

One of these has been returned due to an invalid address, and the owners of other floathouses within the area have yet to be determined. Winker reported there were five additional cases where the occupant remains unknown, three others who have been identified but have not been contacted, and one where the facility has been subsequently removed from state land by its owner.

The state's lands within the rivershed are managed under the division's Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan, Region 4. Within the Wrangell Planning Region, several floathomes fall within undesignated areas, while others nearer to the Cottonwood Islands are designated as fish and wildlife habitat, undeveloped public recreation, and transportation. Under the plan guidelines in either case, floathouses and similar facilities are advised not to be allowed use along designated wilderness areas, such as those within the surrounding Tongass National Forest.

Owners were in the letters given 30 days to contact the DMLW office in order to either initiate the application process or else arrange to move the facility. Otherwise, the matter could be referred to the regional manager, with a recommendation to initiate legal proceedings to have the houses removed. As of yet, no such action has been

initiated.

So far no applications have been submitted to DNR, though one contacted Wrangell resident is putting one together. Brenda Schwartz-Yeager is completing her packet for submission, which has required a hefty amount of paperwork. The application itself is 20 pages, requiring an additional USGS map of the site. A nine-page supplemental questionnaire is also required, covering the site's dimensions, anchorage, discharge and expected effects, as well as a sketched-out site development diagram of the area. Applicants are also expected to obtain an Army Corps of Engineers permit, which has its own process to undergo.

"That's a little bit time consuming, as well as tricky," Schwartz-Yeager explained.

The process is also potentially costly. In addition to the \$100 nonrefundable filing fee, permitting comes with a number of other costs: an annual use fee, with \$500 per year for a floathouse that is kept on-site for six months or more; a performance guaranty bond, whose value is determined by a bonding matrix; and some form of liability insurance. Speaking with Petersburg-Wrangell Insurance, floathouse coverage is an annual policy and premiums would vary like other comparable policies, affected by value, size and location.

"That's one thing they didn't really disclose initially," Schwartz-Yeager said of the letters.

In the event her application is accepted, she said she would have to weigh those costs against the use. For the past decade, her family's floathouse has served a subsistence purpose, allowing them to more easily go about their fishing, hunting and trapping. If the cost of maintaining a house upriver outweighs that saved through subsistence, it ends up defeating the purpose.

"The whole purpose of subsistence is to provide your own food," she explained. "It's a lifestyle."

Petersburg resident John Murgas is a former floathouse owner, and one of the main reasons he built it was "to play cat and mouse" with the state. He described the letters being sent to float house owners as a "repeat of what they did back in the 80s."

Murgas said the Wrangell Ranger District wanted to eliminate float houses over two decades ago. A battle over tidelands and jurisdiction between the state and feds ensued, halting any talk of restricting floathouses at the time, he said.

Murgas said floathouses were a part of the Stikine River culture long before he started traveling there to recreate in the 70s. The structures might have even saved him more than once during winter emergency situations.

"That may be an exaggeration, but it might not be either," he said. "I'd have engines fail and I'd manage to get to a floathouse, move in and spend a very comfortable night until someone came and rescued me, type of stuff."

Looking back Murgas said he probably would have survived without the structure, but at the time, it was "a life saver." He goes one step further and calls floathouses part of the aesthetic to the Stikine.

"I've never heard a complaint from anyone about them," Murgas said. "They fit very well into the scenery and the way of life."

*Editor's disclosure: Sentinel and Petersburg Pilot publisher Ron Loesch is among the Stikine floathouse owners contacted as part of the DNR's ongoing action.*

## FOR SALE

### • Kadin Building

7,942 sq ft Commercial Building  
11,000 sq ft lot in downtown Wrangell



### • Waterfront Commercial Property

1.18 acres • Next to the ferry terminal

Call John Tullis Real Estate for more information  
Cell: 503-601-9873 • Office: 907-874-2222



## THANK YOU

The Wrangell Search and Rescue K9 Team would like to thank The Stikine Sportsmen and Wrangell Fire Department for their continuing support. This past year we were able to send two dogs and handlers to the Canine Search and Recovery course in Rosholt, Wisconsin. One handler and K9 completed level one Human Remains Detection, while the second team completed the Level 3 Area Search program. We also had one dog and handler attend a Human Remains Detection course in Sitka. If you would like to learn more about the K9 team please visit us on Facebook at Wrangell SAR Dog Resource Page.

## POSTAGE NOTICE

To Subscribers,

Please remember to contact the Sentinel if you change your address-even in town.

This will help us keep our postage costs down as we pay if the post office contacts us.

Thank you,



## WRANGELL SENTINEL

205 Front Street  
P.O. Box 798  
Wrangell, AK 99929

Phone 907-874-2301  
Fax 907-874-2303  
wrgsent@gmail.com

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska

## WRANGELL SENTINEL



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

Reporters..... Dan Rudy

.....Jess Field

Front Office ..... Rachel Coblentz

Production ..... Ola Richards

### Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1

Local.....\$42

Other Alaska.....\$57

2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$67

First Class.....\$96

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



# Mariculture task force preparing statewide plan

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

A state task force set up to further develop a sustainable mariculture industry is setting up several advisory committees as part of that process.

The Alaska Mariculture Task Force was set up by Gov. Bill Walker following recommendations by the state's marine industry. The group announced January 13 that after five meetings it is on its way to proposing an implementable plan by its deadline of March 1, 2018. These recommendations will address public and private investment, regulatory issues, and research and development needs.

To that end, AMTF has created advisory committees that will be focusing on research, development and environmental information, regulatory issues, investment and infrastructure, workforce development, public education and marketing.

"I think we're on the right track," said Julie Decker, vice-chair of the task force and executive director of Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

Through its Alaska Mariculture Initiative, Decker explained AFDF had for several years pushed for the task force's formation, following indications the mariculture sector showed potential for greater development. The initiative's goal is to put Alaska mariculture on course to grow into a billion-dollar industry within 30 years, adding to the state's overall fishing industry.

In an economic analysis AFDF prepared in March 2015, it found conditions were right to further diversify the state's fishing industry, showing mariculture has potential as a developable sector. For one, consumption in Asia has improved the demand for geoduck, hard clams, seaweed and other products, creating a market and boosting the price.

The economic assessment also looked to various case studies which could be replicated in Alaska. These could bring in new methods, such as mussel raft farming developed by fishermen in northwestern Spain, or mechanized seaweed cultivation as done by the Irish. Future maricultural efforts could also look to support efforts to bolster the

state's wild stocks of salmon and crab.

The Alaska Division of Economic Development also looked into the prospects of mariculture, releasing its Alaska Shellfish Farm Size Feasibility Study shortly after in May 2015. The study compared short and long-term profitability for oyster and geoduck farms of varying sizes. It found most of the state's aquatic farms were small-acreage operations, which were less efficient in terms of return than larger scale farms.

Decker pointed out the state's multi-billion-dollar seafood industry has much of the workforce, vessels and processing infrastructure to support greater mariculture. But for long-term development of the sector, a more concerted effort would be needed to best put Alaska's assets to work and encourage it.

"We recognized that in order to develop this industry the state needs to be a part of it," she said.

Formed by Walker last March by administrative order, the task force is focused on developing a viable and

sustainable mariculture industry. The task force defines mariculture as aquatic farming of shellfish and aquatic plants in Alaska waters, as well as enhancement of wild fisheries – though not the farming of finfish, which is illegal in the state.

In its release, the task force identified mariculture of various shellfish species and seaweed as having potential to provide jobs and commerce in coastal communities while also increasing access to local foods. Culture of shellfish and aquatic plants can also bring environmental benefits to the local ecosystem, through habitat improvement and carbon removal.

Other members included Department of Commerce commissioner and task force chairman Chris Hladick, Paula Cullenberg, Angel Drobnica, Jeff Hetrick, Heather McCarty, Sam Rabung, Mike Stekoll, Kate Sullivan, Chris Whitehead and Eric Wyatt. Additional information on the members is provided on the MTF webpage, at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=amtf.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=amtf.main).

# Legislative battle over budget set for new session

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Alaska's 30th Legislature convened for its new session on Tuesday, with the state's finances presenting a daunting challenge for the next 90 days.

The spending deficit is projected at around \$3.1 billion this year if the budget is left as is. Agency spending has come to just over 13-percent since FY15, and the budget as a whole has taken a 29-percent cut when capital projects and other funding is considered. Revenue has failed to cover operating expenses since FY13, but has covered an ever-dwindling proportion since. This year the \$1.2 billion the state expects to get in revenues would only account for 29-percent of the budget, still a slight

improvement over FY16's 25 percent coverage.

Revenues for the state largely come from its oil production taxes and royalties, which a mix of high prices and high production translated into a high point in 2007. These continued for several years, plunging in the state since 2012 with a drop in both oil and production levels. As a result, state revenues went from over \$9 billion that year to current levels.

State spending habits have been slow to respond, and while the government has been drawing on its constitutionally-allotted savings funds to make up the difference, those would be exhausted within little more than a year's time if spending is left as is. Going into the new session, budget drafts being put

forward by Gov. Bill Walker, the Senate's Republican majority and the House's bipartisan majority all propose tapping into Permanent Fund earnings in some capacity.

On the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Mike Dunleavy (R-District E) has proposed a plan to use half of the PFD earnings fund for essential state services, with the other half going to residents as previous dividend payments have. While offering no new taxes, the plan proposes \$300 million in cuts for each of the next three fiscal years, and a \$200 million cut for FY21. Savings would also be proposed by moving the state to a biennial budget process.

"The cornerstone of the approach is a revised constitutional appropriation limit to curb the growth of government which, if passed by the Legislature, would go before the voters in the next general election for approval," his office explains in a January 10 release.

On the House side, Rep. Dan Ortiz (I-District 36) plans to support a PFD restructure plan being put together by co-chair of the House Finance Committee Paul Seaton (R-District 35), which would also include a statewide income tax.

"I'm interested in looking at that," Ortiz said during a visit to Wrangell last week. Seaton has in past sessions supported a similar proposal, and has subsequently joined the coalition majority this year. "(Seaton)'s got a good hand on where the state needs to go."

Whether the Senate and House majorities will be able to reach a copromissory position on the budget will be the question this session. But compromise will be needed, not only to balance the state's

budget but also to curb expected job losses and related outmigration.

"The rippling effect is real," said Ortiz.

However, he finds no problem working with Senate counterpart Bert Stedman (R-District R) in the coming session. "During my first term I was down in his office on a regular basis," the Ketchikan representative commented. "We're on board to address the issues. I think we have the commitment and resolve to get it done. So I'm looking forward to the opportunity."

This year as sub-finance chair for Fish and Game, Ortiz said he would also be advocating to get the Department of Fish and Game "adequate resources" to manage fisheries and gather data. Over the past several years, departmental funding has been cut by over a quarter and he felt this was having an adverse effect on its program.

"I think this is one area where I disagree with the governor's budget," he said. "We're getting to the point where we're clearly seeing certain fisheries, and certain studies that have not been done that, in the end, have caused a potential foregone catch," which in turn means fewer receipts for fishermen and processors, and greater losses than the cuts' intended savings.

He will also be presenting in the second round of bill filings two different items supporting mariculture enhancement (see Mariculture article), which would further bolster that industry. One of the future bills would make it easier for shellfish hatcheries to gain access to loan funds through the state of Alaska, encouraging development.

**B.P.O. ELKS #1595**

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wed.

[www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com](http://www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com)

Exalted Ruler Randy Oliver  
Visiting Elks always welcome



Call Ottesen's True Value Hardware for all your building & special order needs.

Featuring:  
Atrium Windows,  
Snap-Loc Roofing,  
Treated &  
Untreated Wood

Phone 874-3377  
Fax 874-3549  
e-mail: [ottesenstruevalue@ak.net](mailto:ottesenstruevalue@ak.net)

**Ottesen's**  
BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value.

## Organizing the office in the new year? We can help

In stock at the Sentinel Office:  
Paper shredders, desk organizers, hole punches, 3-ring binders, folder tabs and reinforcers, whiteboards, office supplies including many sizes of envelopes, Post-its, Sharpie markers and highlighters.

2017 desk calendars now here.

**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

907-874-2301 • Fax: 907-874-2303  
Email: [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com)





# Boys take two hosting Haines

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School's boys basketball team chalked up a pair of wins over Haines last week.

"We saw some definite good things," said Wolves coach Ray Stokes.

In Wednesday night's game, they took an early lead on the visiting Glacier Bears, with Riley Blatchley's four two-pointers helping build an 18-10 lead during the first quarter. Wrangell continued to build on that lead the rest of the game, finishing with a score of 60-40. Haines was given plenty of opportunities to keep up, with the team given a total of 26 free throws due to fouls.

The next game was played at midday, due to the visitors' travel arrangements. Stokes explained the traditional Friday-Saturday game schedule will become less common as schools adjust to a

combination of budget cuts and slimmer ferry scheduling.

"I think you're going to see more of odd schedules as the money crunch hits," he said. "The way travel's getting anymore, it seems people are trying to leave it to the traveling team."

As a result of the team's flight schedule, Haines was unable to field a junior varsity squad for last week's tournament, so only varsity-level games were played.

Thursday's game was another win for Wrangell, bringing its division record to 3-3-0 for the ongoing season. The team finished the half with a 42-16 lead, with its offense racking up 24 points to Haines' six during the second quarter. Trevor Miller shot four for four on free throws through the game, and led the Wolves for points with a total of 16. The team continued its lead and finished with a 68-29 win.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Ian Jenson goes for a two-pointer over Cade Clay's outstretched hands during the fourth quarter, in Wrangell's midday game versus Haines on January 12.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Surrounded by Glacier Bears, Tyman Teat drops one for two during the second quarter of last week's midday win over Haines.

"Both games I thought we did some good things, and we certainly found some things we need to work on," said Stokes. Players were making the most of their positions, and were moving the ball better. "Defensively we need to improve though."

Wrangell next hosts Craig this weekend, with games scheduled Friday and Saturday for both the boys and girls teams.

"They ought to be some good games," Stokes said.

His boys and Craig's each have a win between themselves this season, with the Panthers winning theirs in the closing seconds.

Stokes felt if his players continued to improve their defensive game and pacing they should be able to keep ahead of Craig's offense.

"They're very, very fast, and they shoot the ball very well from the corners," he noted. "This weekend ought to be entertaining."

The next week, Wrangell will be hosting Petersburg for its homecoming weekend, another set of games Stokes looks forward to. Petersburg is currently the state's division leader, so the match up will not be an easy one. After a bye-week, Wrangell will next host another tough competitor, Metlakatla.



## Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Help advise the Federal Subsistence Board on the management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and other subsistence issues in your region.

**Application Deadline  
February 3, 2017**

For an application call  
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3880  
or visit [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence)



## Heading to networking events this season?

Make sure you're ready to impress with a set of striking Business Cards! We've got a range of ideas.

P.O. Box 798 • 205 Front Street • Wrangell, AK 99929  
PH: 874-2301 • FAX: 874-2303  
EMAIL: [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com)





# Girls split in Haines games

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's high school girls basketball team added a win and a loss to their season, playing in Haines over the weekend.

"It was a pretty tough weekend overall," said team coach Laurie Brown.

The Lady Wolves played a strong first quarter on Friday evening, racking up 19 points to Haines' 11 but then the hosts

turned the tables on Wrangell, scoring 19 points of their own during the next quarter to Wrangell's four.

Brown recounted the team's defense had a tough time versus Haines' players.

"They have speed, they shot well," she commented.

But the Lady Wolves fought their way back in the second half, making good on 14 of 22 free throw opportunities and finishing the game in a 62-50 win. The girls made a number of fouls of their own though, a trend continuing into the second evening. Three starters ended up fouling out during Saturday's game.

It was kept close, with Wrangell maintaining a two-point lead at the half.

"A lot of the bench players stepped up and really put a



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Maddy Harding defends during Wrangell's game against the Miss Chiefs on January 7. During Friday's win over Haines, she made four for six free throws and scored a total of 14 points.

**Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents**

**Star Wars: Rogue One**

Rated PG-13 • 2 hr 13 min  
Felicity Jones, Diego Luna  
Action / Adventure / Sci-Fi

**SHOWTIMES: TWO WEEKS**

Jan 20-22 & 27-29

FRI • 7 pm  
SAT • 7 pm  
SUN • 7 pm

Tickets: \$5 for 12 & under,  
\$7 for 13 & up

**N K ELECTRIC**

Here to serve all your electrical needs

**COMMERCIAL  
INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL**

874-2770, #21633

Of course it should be easy  
That's why we are here...

## FULL-SERVICE PHOTOCOPIES

We are ready to provide you with friendly, helpful and quick service.

### We offer:

- Full-Service for Color and Black & White. Our printers offer 600dpi high-resolution copies and prints.
- 1. PAPER OPTIONS:
  - 20 lb
  - laser paper
  - cardstock
- 3. PAPER SIZE:
  - Standard 8.5x11
  - Legal 8.5x14
  - 11x17
- 2. FINISHING OPTIONS:
  - Stapling
  - Collating (Sets)

*More complicated copying may require several days. Check with us for a quote.*

**NEED TO DO MORE THAN MAKE COPIES? OUR MACHINE CAN ALSO SEND & RECEIVE FAXES .**

P.O. Box 798  
205 Front St.  
Wrangell, AK 99929

PH: 874-2301 • FAX: 874-2303  
EMAIL: wrgsent@gmail.com



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Abby Armstrong goes for a layup during the Lady Wolves' win over Metlakatla on January 7. Last week she scored 22 points in two games during Wrangell's visit to Haines.

"A lot of the bench players stepped up and really put a good effort in."

-Laurie Brown  
Team coach

good effort in," Brown noted. Haines was able to regroup, and by the final buzzer the score was tied up at 39. In overtime they were able to edge out Wrangell by five points, with five baskets and a couple of free throws bringing the score to 51 to Wrangell's 46. Brown said her team learned some lessons from the tournament, and was hopeful for their upcoming games hosting Craig this weekend.

"We're just looking to continue growing each game," she said.

Starter Helen Decker will be back in play as well, after recovering from an ankle injury.

Their first game is set for Friday, with junior varsity starting at 4 p.m., and varsity slated for 7:15.



# Fish Factor

by Laine Welch

As lawmakers convene this week in Juneau, Alaska's fishing industry sees a glimmer of hope that its budget won't be gutted again.

Under Governor Walker's proposed budget for FY18, the commercial fisheries division of the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game reflects a .3 percent increase to \$70.7 million. It's a big relief for an industry whose oversight budget has been slashed by more than 30 percent over two years.

"All regions show slight increases," said Tom Gemmell, a numbers guru and executive director of the Halibut Coalition in Juneau. "It was a nice surprise this year to get a little bit of a plus up." "Fishery management offices in the Central, Westward and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions show budget increases of less than one percent and Southeast's proposed budget boost is 1.7 percent. One component of the fish budget that could take a .7 percent hit is at statewide management headquarters in Juneau.

"The budget over the years has gone back and forth between what's run out of the central office in Juneau and by the regional supervisors. Most recently, they've tried to identify projects in the specific regions. However, there still are statewide things like the genetics laboratory that have to be funded," Gemmell explained.

The governor's budget also proposes to cut back on so called test fishing in which a portion of fishermen's catches are used to fund critical management tools such as salmon counting towers and weirs. Those receipts totaled nearly \$3 million in FY16.

The state's lone marketing arm – the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute – appears poised to receive a paltry \$1 million from the general fund. ASMI, which promotes Alaska seafood in the U.S. and more than 120 countries, is funded primarily by the seafood industry and lawmakers already have put the group on notice that state support will be zeroed out by 2019. (Compare that to

Norway's Seafood Council which is funded by a tax on all seafood exports and had a budget last year of \$55 million.)

While the early budget news is encouraging, there's still a long way to go before it gets the nod from Alaska lawmakers. Gemmell believes it will be tough to cut an already bare-bones budget.

"I think we're at a point where if there is no management, there is no science. Fishery managers have to be conservative, and that means reduced fishing time and harvests with the net result being job losses for the harvesters, processors and communities," he said. "They've cut all of the fat already and we're down to bone. It would be very hard to cut the budget further without having dramatic impacts on fishermen."

**Kodiak backs fish bucks -** Kodiak already has mustered strong backing for a sustained fisheries budget by rallying the Alaska Municipal League to unanimously support a resolution calling for no more cuts. The AML comprises 164 cities, boroughs, and municipalities which "represent a unified voice for over 97 percent of the state's residents." The resolution also has the strong support of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference.

"If the division of commercial fisheries doesn't have adequate money to monitor and assess the fish stocks, they will close a fishery or they won't open it, or it will be opened at a lesser level to maintain a safety buffer. All of those things reduce fishing opportunity and that hurts our small fishing businesses, communities, municipalities and the state," said Rebecca Skinner, a Kodiak Island Borough Assembly member and co-author of the resolution.

As a prime example, Skinner pointed to Alaska's largest herring fishery at Togiak in Bristol Bay.

"The allowable catch for that fishery was reduced for this year because the surveys to

assess how many herring were available couldn't be done," she said.

Kodiak officials also are pushing for a plan that would have new fish taxes or fees go to support commercial fishing, as is done with licensing and other fees in the sport-fish and wildlife management divisions.

**Fish interest -** The Alaska Legislature's fisheries committee had to turn away interested legislators this session because the seven member seats filled so fast.

"We are going to be busy this year," said Rep. Louise Stutes-(R) Kodiak, chair of the fisheries committee. "We intend to educate not only legislators, but also the residents of Alaska that there is not one community in this state that is not impacted by fisheries in a positive way."

Stutes, who also represents Cordova and several communities in Cook Inlet, is Majority Whip in a new bipartisan coalition that will lead the Alaska House when lawmakers convene on January 17. The new group takes House leadership away from Republicans for the first time in more than two decades.

Protecting commercial fisheries from further budget cuts also will be a priority. Stutes said some dollars may be shuffled to make sure they are targeted to maintaining ongoing fisheries.

"Such as stock assessments and weir counters – we need them to maintain a sustainable salmon fishery. There's just no question about that," she said.

Work will continue on reorganizing the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, as well as tweaking the formula that sets fees for permits in open access fisheries, such as whitefish. That system has not been updated for more than 20 years.

"Right now if you have a 58 footer that can hold 200,000 pounds, and you have a 125 footer fishing the same resource in the same

## Alaska fish continues to be fallout-free

ANCHORAGE (AP) – State officials have announced that tests of Alaska seafood continue to show no detectable amounts of radiation, five years after a deadly earthquake and tsunami set off a nuclear disaster at a Japanese power plant.

More than 16,000 people were killed in 2011 after Japan's 9.1-magnitude earthquake, which led to nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Since then, U.S. and international agencies have been conducting tests to determine the health of marine life along the U.S. and Canada, KTVA-TV reported.

Testing regions in Alaska include the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, the Gulf of Alaska and the southeast region.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said Monday testing last year confirmed Alaska seafood hasn't been affected by radiation from the nuclear plant.

"Testing performed in previous years showed no detectable levels of Fukushima-related radionuclides," according to a statement from the department. "Testing in 2016 also confirmed the quality and health of Alaska seafood has not been impacted by the Fukushima nuclear disaster."

While Alaska appears to be in the clear for now, the department has detected radiation in Canada and said radionuclides have been found in "ultra-low" levels in samples from Tillamook Bay and Gold Beach in Oregon.

"These findings do not indicate a threat to Alaska waters or the safety of consuming marine fish. DEC, in cooperation with its partners, currently deems fish and shellfish from Alaska waters unaffected by the nuclear reactor damage in Japan," the statement says.

State officials are still advising Alaska residents to be aware that "fish and shellfish are still subject to local toxins, such as those that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning."

area that can only carry 100,000 pounds, the 125 footer is going to pay a much higher permit fee than the 58 footer that can out fish them. It is not a fair and equitable situation," Stutes explained adding that the issue will include lots of public input.

Stutes, who is in her second term, believes Alaska's seafood industry is gaining more recognition for its contributions to the state, especially since for several years one king salmon from Southeast has been worth more than a barrel of crude oil. (currently \$108 vs. less than \$53).

"In my opinion it is no less important than oil. We must look at it and treat it as such. The difference is, if we treat

our fisheries appropriately, they are renewable; oil is not."

The seafood industry is second to oil in the revenues it puts into state coffers, more than \$250 million in taxes and fees last fiscal year. Stutes says many don't understand that half of those fish bucks go into the state general fund and are distributed at the whim of lawmakers.

"Particularly coastal communities or places where fish are landed - they are paying a 50 percent raw fish tax that goes directly into those communities. Those are dollars that the state is not putting in. Those dollars are supplied by the resource and the fishermen and the stakeholders. And for that not to be acknowledged is criminal."



## HOW CAN I HELP MY BUSINESS GROW? MAYBE IF I TRY A CLASSIFIED Ad

They cost as little as  
**\$9.00** for up to 15 words.  
**40¢** for additional words.  
 6% city sales tax additional.

Ask us about our classified ads!

PHONE 874-2301  
 FAX 874-2303

The deadline for classified ads is 12 pm

EMAIL – [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com) WEB SITE – [www.wrangellsentinel.com](http://www.wrangellsentinel.com) 205 FRONT STREET



# Legislators see urgency in budget, but face rifts

JUNEAU (AP) – Alaska legislators agree on the need to address the state’s multibillion-dollar budget deficit. But rifts remain over how best to do that, with divisions forming over taxes, how much to keep cutting spending and whether the state needs to tinker with Alaskans’ beloved yearly oil wealth checks.

A new 90-day legislative session began Tuesday, with many lawmakers citing a sense of urgency amid the continued drawdown of state savings. Last year’s regular and special sessions were snarled by gridlock ahead of a heated election season.

With the ouster of incumbents and legislative retirements, one-quarter of the 60-member Legislature is new. The House, long held by Republicans, will be led by a coalition comprised largely of Democrats that formed around a desire to tackle the deficit. The Senate will remain in GOP control.

Republican Rep. Lance Pruitt of Anchorage, who heard from angry voters during his narrow re-election win last fall, said compromise will be critical. If you lose one fight, move on to the next, he said.

“What is needed is for everyone to recognize they’re not going to get everything that they want, that the solution here is truly going to be, I guess, Alaska’s great compromise,” Pruitt said.

For many, an idea that once would have been political suicide – using Alaska Permanent Fund earnings to help pay for government – is almost a foregone conclusion in piecing together a plan.

The principal of the fund, Alaska’s oil wealth nest egg, is constitutionally protected, but its earnings can be spent. Legislators have long been reluctant to use them for fear of being accused of raiding the fund.

But Gov. Bill Walker and a number of lawmakers see no real way around it. How many draws would be made is an open debate.

Walker has pitched capping dividends at \$1,000 for two years and then changing how they are calculated. Republican Sen. Mike Dunleavy of Wasilla has suggested keeping the existing dividend formula as part of a plan that seeks \$1.1 billion in additional spending cuts over four years and envisions some use of fund earnings and other pots of state money.

Others have supported some structured use of earnings, while Democratic Sen. Bill Wielechowski of Anchorage argues Alaska’s oil tax system should be changed before that’s considered. Dividends are drawn from fund earnings.

The Senate majority wants to cut \$750 million over three years and put a spending limit into law. Incoming Senate President Pete Kelly, a Fairbanks Republican, said further changes to the state’s health care system are needed, and education, a major budget item, needs to be discussed.

Democratic Rep. Andy Josephson of Anchorage said it would be foolish not to look for savings opportunities but is concerned with the level of cuts the Senate GOP is eyeing. Some places could use more money, such as the University of Alaska system, he said.

Walker last year failed to muster support for most pieces of his fiscal plan, including use of permanent fund

earnings, industry tax hikes and a personal income tax. Lawmakers approved changes to Alaska’s oil and gas tax credit system, but Senate Democrats and House coalition members want more.

This year, Walker has proposed freezing state employee pay increases, along with a permanent fund bill and tripling motor fuels taxes. He has said he’s willing to work with lawmakers to fill the remaining gap.

The House coalition is looking at some use of permanent fund earnings, a broad-based tax such as an income or sales tax, reducing the dividend to a “sustainable” level and budget cuts, including further tax credit changes, said incoming House Finance co-chairman Paul Seaton, a Republican from Homer.

## State sues two federal agencies over hunting restrictions

ANCHORAGE (AP) – The state of Alaska on Friday sued two federal agencies to overturn a ban on certain hunting techniques on national refuges and preserves, including the killing of black bear sows and their cubs in dens with the aid of artificial light.

The state also wants the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the hunting of black bears and grizzly bears, also known as brown bears, over bait.

Gov. Bill Walker, an independent, said in an announcement that Alaskans, especially rural residents, rely on hunting and fishing to put food on the table.

“These regulations impact our basic means of survival,” he said. “Alaskans must be able to provide for their families, and the rules that have been put forward by the federal government do not support that.”

John Quinley, a spokesman for the National Park Service in Alaska, said by email he had seen the lawsuit and could not comment on it.

The National Park Service in October 2015 published regulations that restricted certain sport hunting practices in national preserves. The agency prohibited the killing of wolves and coyotes, including pups, during denning season, the killing of any black bear with artificial light at den sites, and the killing of black and brown bears over bait.

The regulations, Quinley said, left rules for subsistence hunting unchanged.

The state and federal government have long been at

odds over “predator control” on federal conservation lands where management goals can differ.

A seven-member state Game Board appointed by the governor sets bag limits and seasons for game animals. The board has taken an aggressive stand to expand human consumption of moose and caribou by killing wolves and bears.

Along with increased bag limits and longer hunting seasons for predators, “intensive management” programs have involved systematically killing bears and wolves, including shooting them from aircraft. Critics and proponents disagree on the program’s effectiveness.

Alaska Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth said in the announcement that the lawsuit is about restrictive federal regulations.

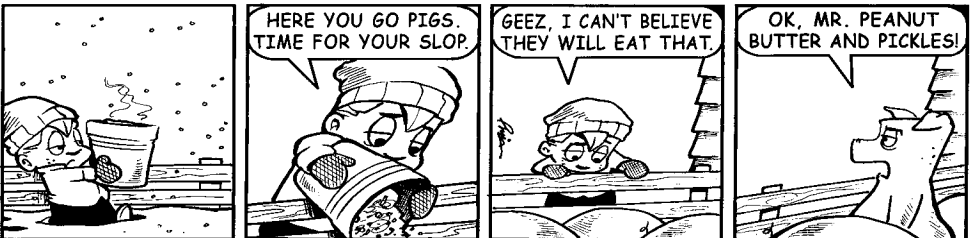
“These federal regulations are not about predator control or protecting the State’s wildlife numbers,” she said. “These regulations are about the federal government trying to control Alaskans’ way of life and how Alaskans conduct their business. This is contrary to state and federal law.”

The lawsuit claims federal regulators illegally preempted the state’s authority to manage wildlife. The lawsuit seeks to overturn the regulations.

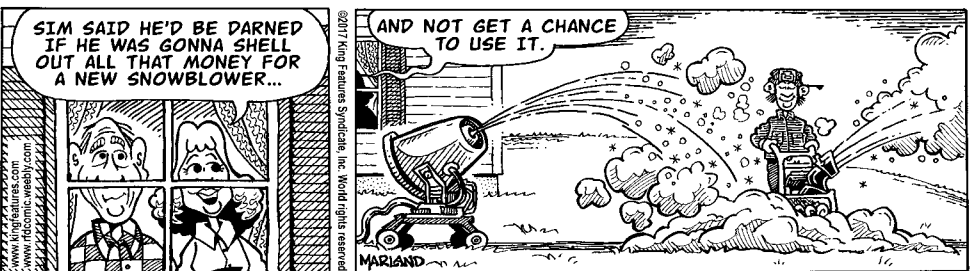
“To preserve the ability to hunt for future generations, state officials need the flexibility to manage wildlife populations,” said state Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten. “These regulations remove that flexibility.”

## Comics

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### Just Like Cats & Dogs



## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Aid
- 5 Verse
- 9 Wander about
- 12 Neighborhood
- 13 Fairy tale baddie
- 14 — de Janeiro
- 15 Coup in bridge or baseball
- 17 Moreover
- 18 Release
- 19 Patchwork horse
- 21 Mad
- 24 Roe provider
- 25 Golfer McIlroy
- 26 Haughty, strutting sort
- 30 Ms. Gardner
- 31 Bluefin and albacore
- 32 Oft-chanted initials
- 33 Round Table member
- 35 Smile
- 36 Transaction
- 37 Skin-covered craft
- 38 Stimulant
- 40 One who's gonna get it?
- 42 Address for 33-Across
- 43 Extensive treat for sightseers
- 48 Tackle the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
			18			19	20				
21	22	23			24						
25				26	27				28	29	
30			31					32			
33			34					35			
		36					37				
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			

- slopes
- city
- continent
- 49 " — Lang Syne"
- 9 Courtroom
- 29 Tug
- 50 Ticklish Muppet
- 10 " — That a Shame"
- 31 Anti-riot chemical
- 11 Old fogey
- 34 Bee follower
- 16 Parched
- 35 Type of snake
- 20 Author Fleming
- 37 Tease
- 21 Fast-shrinking sea
- 38 Cold War abbr.
- 22 PBS science show
- 39 Toll road
- 23 International auto race
- 40 Revolutionary War hero
- 24 Expecto-rated
- 41 Tackles' teammates
- 26 Tug
- 44 Regret
- 27 Yoko of music
- 45 Bullring bravo
- 28 21-Down's
- 46 Actress Thurman
- 47 Scepter

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Puzzle answers on page 10



# Chum release in Thomas Bay given green light

By **JESS FIELD**  
*Sentinel writer*

**PETERSBURG** – An application for an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) permit alteration to release 40 million chum salmon in Thomas Bay brought forth by the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has been approved.

The application process has taken just over a year to secure the location, north of Petersburg, for the release but the change is something NSRAA general manager Steve Reifentstahl has been thinking about for a while now.

“I looked at Thomas Bay approximately 20 years,” he says. “Had temperature probes out there to evaluate temperature throughout the winter and

also looked at conditions and sites for anchoring the net pens.”

Reifentstahl says he gave the streams and rivers entering Thomas Bay a good looking over, too. Flash forward to a year ago and NSRAA was eyeing Thomas Bay as a good option to combat low production of the organization’s Hidden Falls hatchery. Reifentstahl and NSRAA are hoping Thomas Bay will be an “excellent site.”

Last year, NSRAA had all the necessary permits, but the final permit needed through ADF&G got tabled in order to have a baseline test conducted to collect additional information. The study looked into Chinook bycatch, among other things, and a report was completed by Patrick Fowler of

Petersburg’s ADF&G division of sport fish, and Troy Thynes of the division of commercial fisheries.

Its contents were available to the regional planning team (RPT) during their meeting at the end of November in Juneau. The body unanimously recommended ADF&G commissioner Sam Cotten approve the release.

“He doesn’t have to go along with their recommendation, but in this case, he did,” Reifentstahl says of Cotten.

The net pens are on their way to Petersburg where they will be assembled and then taken to Thomas Bay, Reifentstahl says. The amount of fry released this year will be 25 million and they are currently being mobilized. NSRAA should have them ready to move into holding locations at Thomas Bay by mid- to late-February. The fry will be held

for a couple months before being released, he says.

“The apprehension or concern is that we haven’t operated in Thomas Bay. Not all release sites work as well as others,” Reifentstahl says. “But you can’t know until you do it. So, we’re going to get started and it’ll take three years from the first release.”

By that Reifentstahl means the results of this year’s release will be unknown until 2020. NSRAA will do everything they can to raise healthy fish able to withstand difficult marine environments, but it’ll be a waiting game. Predators and water conditions go a long way in determining the success of a release like this, Reifentstahl says.

The move could open the door for increased opportunity for early season commercial seiners and gillnetters. However, it was noted at

the RPT’s last meeting that a letter of opposition and a petition signed by 72 people from Petersburg had been received. Letters of support submitted by Icicle Seafoods, Silver Bay Seafoods, among other organizations and about a dozen commercial fishermen, were also noted during the meeting.

“We have been listening to what people say and their concerns about the recreation conflicts or possible fishing conflicts,” Reifentstahl says. “And, we are going to design the harvest area so that we minimize those conflicts. We have a long history of working areas where there are other user groups.”

Reifentstahl says NSRAA, a Sitka-based organization, was established three decades ago and it’s ready to deal with any potential conflicts that arise in Thomas Bay.

### Request for Proposals

Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA), a federally recognized tribe, is soliciting proposals and rate information from qualified firms and individuals to provide audit services for WCA. The audit service to be provided is for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, with the option to extend 2 years. Required qualifications are included in the RFP. For more information and to request a copy of the RFP, please contact Bill Willard at 104 Lynch St. C-1, Wrangell, AK 99929 or call (907) 874-3077 or email [wwillard@wca-t.com](mailto:wwillard@wca-t.com) and [esthera@wca-t.com](mailto:esthera@wca-t.com). Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please leave a message if calling after hours. Deadline: February 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. AKST.  
**Publish: January 19 and 26, 2017**

### CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA In-House and Public Announcement ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION POLICE OFFICER, POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Wrangell Police Department will be accepting applications for Police Officer until the position is filled.

The Candidate must meet the minimum standards for Police Officer per the Alaska Police Standards Council. An Alaska Police Standards basic certification is preferred, however the Wrangell Police Department encourages applicants who are motivated, friendly, self-starting and are a team player to apply and we will assist you in obtaining the required certification.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, have a High School Diploma/GED, and must possess or be able to obtain an Alaska Drivers License. Applicants must successfully complete a background investigation, medical and psychological examination and drug screening. Submit resume and letter of interest to Chief Doug McCloskey, Wrangell Police Department, PO Box 1168, Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Phone (907) 874-3304.

The City of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Jeff Jabusch  
City Manager

**Publish: January 19, 26 and February 2, 2017**

### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

**Notice to Senior Citizens and Disabled Veterans**  
**SENIOR CITIZEN & DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS** will be accepted at Wrangell City Hall - P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, **until 5:00p.m. March 1, 2017.** A drop box is available after hours. Applications mailed must be postmarked by March 1, 2017. These forms are also available on our website: <http://www.wrangell.com>.

First-time **Senior Citizen** applicants will be required to provide proof of age in the form of a Birth Certificate or US Passport. You must be 65 years old or older as of January 1, 2017 to qualify.

First-time **Disabled Veteran** applicants will be required to provide proof of 50% or more disability.

**THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION DOES NOT PLACE A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY.**

Lee Burgess  
Finance Director

City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

**Publish: Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2017**

## Classified/Legals

### BOATS AND MARINE

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

### FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO BEDROOM Apartments. No pets. 305-0619.....tfn6-9b8

### JOBS

ARROWHEAD TRANSFER AND LP GAS is looking for

part-time customer service agent. This position is year round, not seasonal. No benefits. Please go to [www.arrowheadlp-gas.com](http://www.arrowheadlp-gas.com) for application.....3x2-2b27

### HIRING FOR TANNER CRAB

– Petersburg Fisheries, A Division of Icicle Seafoods, Inc. Paying \$10.25 per hour, \$15.38 overtime. Telephone: 907-772-4294.....2x1-26b21

### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE - City Board and Committee Vacancies**

Persons interested in serving on the following City Boards and Committees, please submit your **Letter of Interest** to the Office of the Borough Clerk, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929.

Deadline for Letters of Interest is **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017**, for the following vacancies:

- Planning & Zoning Commission one - (three year term)
- Economic Development Committee two - (three year terms)

If you have any questions on the duties and responsibilities for each board and committee, please contact the Borough Clerk’s Office at either calling 874-2381 or emailing [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com) or stop by City Hall at 205 Brueger Street.

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

**Publish: January 19, 2017**

### CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The following vessel has been impounded pursuant to Wrangell Municipal Code, Title 14.

The City and Borough of Wrangell intends to sell one (1) vessel (sailboat) at a public auction, at Wrangell City Hall, on **Friday, February 10, 2017 11:00 a.m.** All items will be sold for cash to the best and highest bidder. At any time prior to the sale, the owners, or their operator, master or agent, may redeem the equipment with a cash payment of all fees against it, plus costs and interest.

Upon sale being made, the City and Borough of Wrangell shall make and deliver its bill of sale to the buyer. The City and Borough of Wrangell offers no warranty as to the condition or fitness of use and assumes no liability to owners or their operator, master or agent in the sale of the vessels. The vessel will be sold in its current condition, as it is found in the following location.

DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID	CURRENT LOCATION
“LINDA ANN”	\$2,514.35	Shoemaker Harbor 11B

**Publish: January 19, 26 and February 2, 2017**

### POSTED FUEL PRICES

#### WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.43

Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.43

#### PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.56

Petersburg Motors: \$3.45

*Unleaded gas prices posted  
Tuesday, January 17*

### — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	E	L	P	P	O	E	M	G	A	D		
A	R	E	A	O	G	R	E	R	I	O		
G	R	A	N	D	S	L	A	M	A	N	D	
				F	R	E	E	P	I	N	T	O
A	N	G	R	Y	S	H	A	D				
R	O	R	Y	P	O	P	I	N	J	A	Y	
A	V	A	T	U	N	A	S	U	S	A		
L	A	N	C	E	L	O	T	G	R	I	N	
				D	E	A	L	K	A	Y	A	K
U	P	P	E	R	H	E	I	R				
S	I	R	G	R	A	N	D	T	O	U	R	
S	K	I	A	U	L	D	E	L	M	O		
R	E	X	S	E	E	S	R	E	A	D		

### — Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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



# P&Z

Continued from page 1

counsel would be consulted for a definite answer.

"I cannot answer that yet," he said. He advised Bosdell and Blake to seek an opinion from their representation as well, if possible.

Touching on that topic, Blake explained that state licensing would require them to look to the welfare of their assisted living residents, which included monitoring the whereabouts of those in assisted care. The facility would be insured, and would have to respond to any emergencies appropriately.

"Under our state license, we have an obligation to take care of our residents," he said.

Otherwise, senior residents would be just like any other, free to come and go as they pleased.

"What this really is is home for them," said Bosdell. "I'm not bringing in prisoners here."

Pets also factored into the conversation, both those owned by future senior residents and existing families. One concern was the matter of picking up after pets' feces, and of dogs wandering around the neighborhood.

Blake responded that residents would be allowed to keep pets, but that they would need to have proper shots, a "proper attitude," be leashed when out and cleaned up after. Bosdell added they would have staff to help those unable to bag and dispose of messes themselves. McConachie recommended the two return with a definite plan for a set-aside dog walk area as well.

On the topic of noise, neighbor Therese Pempek wondered whether there would be an addi-

tional curfew or noise restriction placed on nearby residences. She expressed concern that house projects, lawnmowers and other doings would be disruptive for the residents of a senior care center.

"We are a neighborhood of families," she explained.

"There's no reason for it to change the neighborhood," said Bosdell. He felt residents would want to live at Harbor House to avoid having to stay in a hospital, or live under less desirable circumstances. "They want to be part of the community."

Both pet and noise related, Dave Powell was concerned about the effect traffic might have on his pets, particularly during early-hour ambulance calls. Also present at last week's meeting, he expressed surprise that neither of the prospective owners had stopped by to consult with neigh-

bors such as himself before attempting the transition. Letters regarding the proposal were issued by the city to affected property owners, and local media outlets had announced the proposed facility earlier this month.

"That to me is what someone in a neighborhood does," Powell commented.

"I'm not trying to be rude," Bosdell replied. "The last time I checked I don't need permission to move into anybody's neighborhood here."

At times the atmosphere grew testy, even rambunctious as people in the room spoke over each other. On at least two occasions McConachie had to quiet things down with his gavel. Several non-neighbor residents offered their perspectives on the issue through the meeting, but he found it was counterproductive.

"Our job is to determine whether this is an allowed use for this particular venture," he said of the commission. "I appreciate the passion of anyone who has lost a loved one." But he pointed out the proper mode of recourse is to take any grievances to the Borough Assembly's board of adjustment, should conditional use be granted for the facility.

Setting a special meeting to decide the issue for January 23 at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, McConachie advised the business partners to prepare a dog walk and parking plan, and to be able to answer to the issues brought up during the workshop. He also recommended they take some time to meet with neighbors individually and work out any lingering concerns. The other issue to find an answer for would be that of liability for injuries.

# Business Directory

**WRANGELL SENTINEL**  
To advertise here just call: **907-874-2301**

**TYEE TRAVEL**  
*Cruise and Tour Specialist*



- Cruises • Packages
- Vacations

Cruises and custom tours to Alaska for your family & friends

Wrangell  
**874-3383**

Call Toll Free 1-800-942-9741

**Stikine Drug**



Prescriptions, Gifts,  
Candy, Cards  
New Perfumes Are Here!

**Tongass**  
Federal Credit Union  
*Your community credit union*



Local People  
Local Branches  
Local Answers



874-2500 | 215 Front St. (Kadin Bldg.)  
**TONGASSFCU.COM**

**CITY MARKET INC**  
*Where Wrangell Shops!*



Since 1935

Full Grocery, Meats & Produce,  
Video Rentals  
Fax, Copy & Postage

423 Front St (907)874-3333

**Ottesen's True Value**  
**874-3377**



Hardware,  
Appliances,  
Sporting Goods,  
Toys, Housewares,  
Building Supplies,  
Clothing and More!

**FEBRUARY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

And with it comes Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. Whatever your reason to celebrate, your local merchants can help so check with them, then enjoy the shortest month of the year!

**Shop Locally**

**FIRST BANK**  
*The one who's here.*

MEMBER FDIC

Your first stop for:  
Checking • Savings • Investments  
Consumer, business & home loans




224 Brueger Street  
874-3363

**Johnson's Building Supply**

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS

**We Deliver**

2.5 Zimovia Highway  
Phone 874-2375  
Fax 874-3100

**Stikine**  
**AUTO WORKS**



Call 874-2468  
for an appointment

**Sentry**  
*Hardware & Marine*

Got A Question... Need A Hand?



408 Front Street  
874-3336

*Yes, We Can!*

P.O. Box 1139 • Wrangell 99929

**Buness Bros. Inc.**

Appliances  
Home Furnishings  
& Sporting Goods




**874-3811**

**The Bay Company**

431 Front Street  
Marine Sales & Service



#1 on the water

Phone 874-3340 • Fax 874-2592  
Email: info@baycompany.com

**Bobs' IGA**



Groceries  
Meats • Bakery  
Deli • Liquor


Wrangell's Complete Food Store  
Phone 874-2341

For life insurance, call a good neighbor.



**Reuben Willis, Agent**  
Bus: 907-586-2027  
Toll Free: 877-607-2027  
reuben@myakagent.com  
720 West Willoughby Avenue  
Juneau, AK 99801

Call me and I'll help you choose the right life insurance for you and your family.  
**We put the life back in life insurance.**



A business that doesn't advertise is like a building without a foundation.  
Call The Sentinel for help with that foundation 874-2301.

**AUTO-MARINE REPAIR**  
*and detailing*

**Vehicle & Marine**

- Repair • Service • Parts • Tires
- Small Engine Repair
- Boat & Vehicle Detailing

113 3rd Ave, Wrangell Ak  
Phone: (907) 874-3660

**A CUT ABOVE**

**FREEMAN & SON'S**  
Machine and Fabrication  
513 Case Avenue, Wrangell



SPECIALTY PARTS AND INDUSTRIAL REPAIR

9 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday  
SERVING S.E. ALASKA FOR OVER 30 YEARS

**874-3326**

**State Farm**



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI),  
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI),  
1311000  
Bloomington, IL



# Bill to restore PFD cuts

JUNEAU (AP) – Bills that would restore the portion of Alaskans’ oil wealth checks that were cut by Gov. Bill Walker last year were filed Monday, ahead of the start of the new legislative session.

The legislation to restore dividends was proposed by Republican Sen. Mike Dunleavy of Wasilla and incoming Republican Rep. David Eastman of Wasilla. Democratic Sen. Bill Wielechowski of Anchorage revived a proposal he has pushed previously with little success which he said would enshrine the current dividend formula in the state Constitution.

The Alaska Permanent Fund is a state nest egg of sorts born of oil wealth and grown through investments. The fund’s principal is constitutionally protected, but the fund’s earnings can be spent, if lawmakers choose. For years they’ve been reluctant to do so, for fear of being accused of raiding the fund. Dividends currently are drawn from fund earnings.

A major debate raging as Alaska struggles with a multi-billion-dollar budget deficit is whether to use fund earnings to help pay for state government and change how dividends are calculated, as Walker has proposed.

Walker last year cut the dividend, citing legislative inaction on his plan to address the deficit, which also included tax measures. Wielechowski and others challenged his veto, but a judge found Walker acted within his authority. The case is being appealed.

In an interview last month, Dunleavy said people get “up in arms” when politicians meddle with the fund.

“It certainly impacts their dividend. But for a lot of folks that are conservative, the last thing they want is to give government access to billions of dollars to either maintain or grow government,” he said.

The bills to restore the permanent dividend funds were among more than 50 measures released Monday, with another round scheduled for release Friday. Monday’s batch included a bill that would provide survivor benefits for families of peace officers and firefighters, a version of which faltered last year.

Also proposed were bills that would let voters post selfies with their marked election ballots and bar state or municipal agencies from helping implement any federal directive to create registries based on race or religion.

Another bill would cut off legislative salaries and daily allowances if the Legislature does not pass a fully funded operating budget within the first 90 days of a session. Pay under the bill, proposed by Wielechowski, would resume once a budget passes.

While voters approved regu-

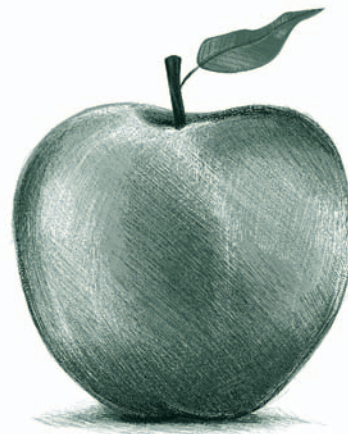
lar legislative sessions of 90 days, lawmakers in recent years have taken longer to finish their work. The constitution allows for regular sessions of up to 121 days, with an option to extend for up to 10 days.

“I think this would certainly put some pressure on legislators to get the job done,” Wielechowski said.

Incoming Republican state Rep. George Rauscher of Sutton has proposed putting a spending limit in the constitution. For any of the constitutional-change proposals to go before voters, they first will need two-thirds support in both the House and Senate.

Majority Senate Republicans will look at proposing some kind of spending limit in state law and the potential use of permanent fund earnings, incoming Senate President Pete Kelly said Monday.

The legislative session began last Tuesday.



## Nominate your favorite teacher.

Now accepting nominations for the statewide BP Teachers of Excellence program. **New this year**, you can also nominate a principal, school nurse, teaching assistant or other school staff member for the **Educational Allies Award**, recognizing the unsung heroes in our schools. Nominate at [bpteachers.com](http://bpteachers.com) by February 1.



[bpteachers.com](http://bpteachers.com)

# CAN SUMMER VISITORS FIND YOU?

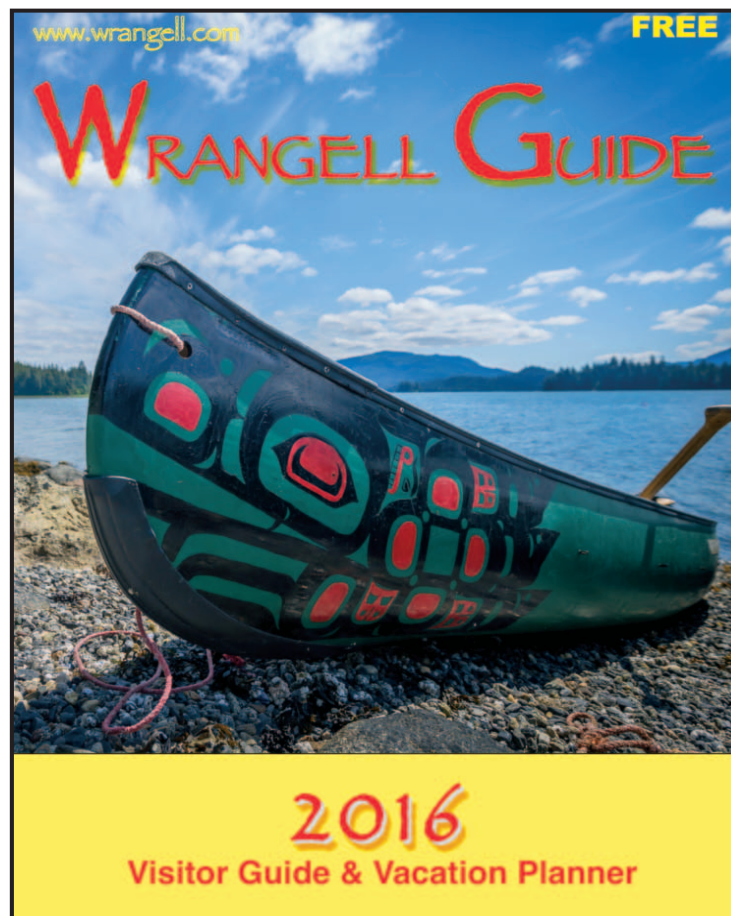
## 2017 Wrangell Guide

*Glossy Full Color Magazine 8,000 copies*

**Advertising deadline is February 13, 2017**

*Grab Their Attention!*

*Ask us about FULL COLOR AD SPACE*



### FEATURES IN THE GUIDE INCLUDE:

- **CHARTER OPERATOR & LODGING DIRECTORIES**
- **WRANGELL ISLAND ROAD & RECREATION MAP**
- **WRANGELL WALKING TOUR**

The Guide is filled with photos, stories and information about Wrangell and the surrounding area. It makes a great resource for tour operators, travel planners and independent travelers.