



Wrangell, Alaska
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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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The future of healthcare in Wrangell celebrated

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

City officials, Wrangell Medical Center staff, SEARHC representatives, and many community members were present at the Nolan Center as the “future of healthcare” in Wrangell was celebrated. The party, which took place on the evening of Dec. 13,

commemorated the SEARHC takeover of the medical center. SEARHC, a health consortium that serves Southeast Alaska, agreed to a four year lease of the medical center and to construct a brand new hospital. The new facility, which will be added to the AICS clinic, is planned to be about 44,500 square feet. Construction is expected to begin next May and is pro-

jected to be ready for use by 2021. The entire project will cost approximately \$30 million. The current medical center will continue operations until the new hospital is ready to receive patients.

“There are so many people who put in so many long hours to make this deal a reality,” said SEARHC CEO Charles Clement. “I think it’s really interesting when something feels right, and the momentum that’s behind this project and how quickly it can all come together. I’ve been doing this in Southeast Alaska for about seven years now, and spent the bulk of my career in healthcare, and I’ve never seen something come together quite this way.”

The evening was filled with food, door prizes, and speakers congratulating each other on completing this deal. The party culminated with Mayor Steve Prysunka handing over a large key, labeled “The Future of Healthcare” to Clement. There were many, many people who deserved recognition and thanks for their work, said Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga. Among the many people she spoke about deserving credit were Robert Rang and Dan Neumeister. Von Barga said that Rang, CEO of the Wrangell Medical Center, gave invaluable leadership to getting the agreement put together. Neumeister, SEARHC senior executive vice president, was also integral to the process. Von Barga shared a story about how both she and Neumeister share an affinity for peanut M&M’s. Whenever they would meet to speak about the plan for the new hospital, she would always bring some candy with her to share with Neumeister. He could always tell how big the problem was, she said, depending on how big the bag of M&M’s were.

“I would just, again, like to say thank you to everybody in this community who worked so hard to make this transaction possible, and I’d like to say hats off to SEARHC for making this commitment to our community,” said Von Barga. “You’re going to be here for a very long time, and we’re very excited about what that means for healthcare, and what that means for our economy, and what that means for the social fabric of our community.”



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wrangell Mayor Steve Prysunka handing over the key “The Future of Healthcare” in Wrangell to Charles Clement, CEO of SEARHC. The Wrangell Medical Center has been handed over to SEARHC control while a new hospital is being constructed, which is expected to be complete by 2021.

“Readathon” held at Evergreen Elementary School

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

A “readathon” was held at the Evergreen Elementary School library last Wednesday evening. The event, explained teacher Ryan Howe, was a great opportunity for Wrangell families to spend an evening reading with their children, having some snacks, and enjoying each other’s company.

“This is a great time of year to do family-oriented, fun events like this,” he said. “The teachers wanted to offer something that demonstrated a commitment to student learning but was also fun, and in the spirit of the season.”

The readathon was geared towards families with younger children, but was open to people of all ages. Besides books, attendees were treated to snacks, hot chocolate and other drinks, and iPads to play with. The idea for the readathon came up a few years ago when the state president of NEA-Alaska, an affiliate

of the National Education Association, came to visit. The president discussed student learning, and ideas on how to promote education outside of the classroom. That was when the teachers came up with the idea of the readathon, Howe said.

“It’s sort of teacher initiated, but it’s a district activity,” he said. “Basically, how the idea came around, is we heard the message that the union and the teachers should do more to promote student learning outside of classrooms, and we responded to that by saying ‘Okay, what can we do?’ And this was one of the ideas that came out of that.”

An additional goal of the readathon, beyond teaching children and giving families a fun activity, is to promote reading. Howe said that he hopes the readathon will help reinforce, in children as well as parents, how important reading is. After all, he said, it does not hurt to read more.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

From left to right: Griffy Angerman, Clay Howe, and Monica Southworth reading “Arthur’s Christmas Cookies.”

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, December 20: Aliyah Kemfield, Caity Shafer, Marissa Williams, Logan Vergilio, Traci Campbell, Danelle Barlow. **Anniversary:** Ken and Tammy Davidson. **Friday, December 21:** Maggie Rooney, Aundria Cummings. **Anniversary:** Eric and Staci Dilg. **Saturday, December 22:** Alicia Stearns, Sean Gillen, Robert Hayes, Roy Hayes, Carmen Chaney. **Sunday, December 23:** Don McConachie, Nicholas Howell, Barney Benjamin. **Monday, December 24:** Holly Hammer, Karen Irby, Kenneth Wilson, Ella Chrisman. **Tuesday, December 25:** Dean Massin, Kade Davidson, Holly Nore, Jude Johnson, Aminda Skan. **Wednesday, December 26:** Vern Cummings, Aidrick Glass, Dee Gross, Ted Cabot, David Churchill. **Thursday, December 27:** Taylor Thomas Beck.

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 20

1/2 French Dip, Peas, Apricot Salad, Au Gratin Potatoes

Friday, December 21

Baked Fish, Peas, Sunshine Salad, Rice & Veggie Pilaf

Monday, December 24

CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 25

CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 26

Macarioni & Cheese w/ Ham, Steamed Carrots, Perfection Salad

Thursday, December 27

1/2 Chicken Sandwich, Minestrone Soup, Romaine & Tomato 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 22

Malaspina 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 23

Columbia 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26

Malaspina 4:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 30

Columbia 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 6

Columbia 9:00 p.m.

Southbound

Friday, December 21

Malaspina 4:45 p.m.

Monday, December 24

Malaspina 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26

Columbia 8:15 a.m.

Friday, December 28

Malaspina 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

Columbia 3:30 a.m.

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



TIDES Dec. 20 - Dec. 27

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft

	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
December 20	10:40	17.3	11:34	14.8
December 21	11:22	18.2
December 22	0:20	15.5	12:04	18.8
December 23	1:04	16.0	12:47	19.1
December 24	1:49	16.2	1:32	18.9
December 25	2:34	16.2	2:19	18.3
December 26	3:22	16.0	3:09	17.3
December 27	4:12	15.8	4:05	15.9

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, December 20

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 8 p.m. Special music. All are welcome.

Thursday, December 27

Riverflats Open Mic Night: Nolan Center, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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

Continuing Events

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

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:

M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Water Aerobics:

M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Lap Swim:

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

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

2 Lane Lap Swim:

M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Lap/Tot Swim:

MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Swim Club:

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

Open Swim:

M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Weight Room: M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m.

S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

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

The Way We Were

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

December 19, 1918

Reappearance of epidemic of influenza now threatened in many parts of the country. The Surgeon General of the United States Public Health, however, has issued a warning. The epidemic persists widely. Everywhere the epidemic and other abnormal conditions created by war has left millions of people particularly susceptible to disease. Risks are aggravated by the fact that medical and sanitary facilities have been depleted to meet war needs and cannot be restored to normal for some time nor without concerted effort. In view of emergency we recommend that the entire forces of the state division of the Women's Committee be thrown back of the Public Health authorities. Intensive work locally with individuals is especially called for to guard the population during the coming winter.

December 17, 1943

Joining Christmas week in Wrangell churches, the choir of the Presbyterian Church will present a Christmas cantata, "The Chorus In The Skies," in the church auditorium on Sunday evening, December 19.

The cantata, written by Fred B. composer of a number of known cantatas and other selections is entirely new, and has been copyrighted in 1943. As a cantata, each selection has a theme and a well-known Christmas carol. It carries its listeners through the entire Christmas story. Church members have spent the week bringing in the Christmas trees and boughs and banking the entire choir loft with greens.

December 19, 1968

The Wolves defeated the Kings with a score of 56-50 in the Saturday night game. The visitors were hitting the basket much better than in the game on the previous evening and out-played the locals slightly on the backboards. Keyes led the visitors by scoring with 16, fol-

lowed by Greene with eight. Eide, the visitors' 6'5" center, controlled the backboards for a good part of the game.

December 23, 1993

Last week, volunteers and the city of Wrangell trucked material to the new Head Start site from a quarry where a volunteer from the Alaska Pulp Corp. worked the loader. Kadin Corp.'s Jerry Buethe leveled out the rock with a bulldozer between loads.

"We're really getting excited about getting a new building," said Glenda Gillen, Head Start's director.

Gillen says that the center's current landlords have been very helpful in the nine years they have been in the SNO Building, but the program shares the building with a lot of other activities, and they look forward to having their own building, with room outdoors for the children to play.

Gillen said she isn't sure when Head Start will be able to move into the new building, but

she hopes that they can do it sometime this spring. In addition to the excavation contractors who donated equipment, fuel and workers for the lot preparation, the Wrangell City Council has agreed to donate the lease of the land for the building and water, sewer and electrical hook-ups.



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FRI. DEC. 21 - SUN. DEC. 23
7PM NIGHTLY

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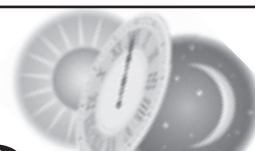
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Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Dec. 10	42	39
Dec. 11	42	37
Dec. 12	41	37
Dec. 13	42	30
Dec. 14	33	26
Dec. 15	44	30
Dec. 16	46	37
Dec. 17	48	39



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Dec 20	8:16 am	3:14 pm	6:58h
Dec 21	8:17 am	3:14 pm	6:57h
Dec 22	8:17 am	3:15 pm	6:58h
Dec 23	8:18am	3:15 pm	6:57h
Dec 24	8:18 am	3:16 pm	6:58h
Dec 25	8:19 am	3:17 pm	6:58h
Dec 26	8:19 am	3:17 pm	6:58h
Dec 27	8:19 am	3:18 pm	6:59h

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Icy runway causes minor incident at Tyee Hydro Plant

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Ice on the runway caused a minor incident involving an aircraft at the Tyee Lake Hydro Facility. On the morning of Dec. 17, a pilot contracted with Southeast Alaska Power Agency landed at the facility, located at the head of Bradfield Canal, about 40 miles south of Wrangell. The incident occurred around 9 a.m., according to SEAPA chairman Steve Prysunka.

The contractor, who wished to not be named, said that the

landing was fine, save for a patch of ice on the final portion of the landing strip. He said that the plane was going about walking speed when it hit the ice, and simply did not come to a stop. The plane tipped nose-first into a ditch. There were four passengers in the plane, pilot included. Prysunka said that everybody was fine and there were no injuries. The only damage to the aircraft was a bent propeller. The pilot called this minor incident a "nonevent," similar to someone in a car skidding on ice in their driveway.



COURTESY OF JENN MILLER

Groundbreaking for the Mariners' Memorial

The ground was broken for the planned Mariners' Memorial, near Heritage Harbor, last Thursday afternoon. Fishing, and the ocean itself, is an integral part of life on Wrangell Island. The memorial is meant to honor the memory of Wrangell sailors who have been lost at sea. Jenn Miller, part of the memorial committee, said that they recently received a substantial anonymous donation. A total of \$75,000 has been raised for the memorial, about half of what the committee is seeking, Miller said. The current plan is to have the foundation, concrete paving, and pavilion done by the fall. Brett Woodbury is donating time and materials for the prep work, Miller said. More information about the Mariners' Memorial can be found online at www.wrangellmarinersmemorial.com. Pictured from left to right are Stuart Woodbury, Brett Woodbury, and Jenn Miller.

Two dogs found dead off of Spur Road

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Two dogs were found dead near Spur Road on Dec. 11. Wrangell resident Melvin Gadd found the dogs. He was driving down the trail off of the spur road, and stopped to clear some brush away from the road, when he found them. He said that the bodies were fairly decomposed. He guessed that both animals were less than a year old. Gadd notified the police about the dead dogs, and they are investigating the situation.

The news of the dead dogs spread through town quickly, by word of mouth and via social media. Rumors spread on Facebook said that the

dogs were tied to a tree and abandoned. McCloskey, when speaking to June Leffler with KSTK, refuted those rumors. He said that the dogs had been shot, not left to starve. The bodies had been left there for about a month, he added. Many people, online and in person, expressed shock and outrage that these dogs were killed. McCloskey said that the authorities had "some suspicion" as to who the dogs belonged to, but the investigation is ongoing.

"They'd been there awhile," said Wrangell Chief of Police Doug McCloskey. "They were not tied to the tree. It looks to me like somebody euthanized them ... Lead them out there and the leashes were left with them."

Police report

December 10, 2018

Traffic stop: Citation issued to Shane Legg-Privett, 40. Failure to provide proof of insurance. Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Civil issue.

Agency assist: EMT's.

Found property.

Agency assist: EMT's.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Agency assist: Chimney fire.

December 11, 2018

Suspicious vehicle.

Citizen assist.

Vacation check.

Two parking complaints.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

Agency assist: EMT's.
Civil issue.

December 12, 2018

Civil issue.

Traffic complaint: Extra patrol requested around school.

Citizen assist: Senior in need.

Noise complaint.

Two agency assist: EMT's.

December 13, 2018

Three agency assist: EMT's.

Citizen assist: Senior in need.

Theft reported.

Traffic complaint: Officer responded.

Citation issued: Laurie Brown, 31. Failure to stop and verbal warning for expired license less than a year.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning given for no headlights.

Agency assist: Medical transport.

December 14, 2018

MVA

Bird complaint.

Agency assist: Alarm.

Concerned citizen.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for not stopping at stop sign.

Theft.

Citizen assist: Security check.

Domestic.

December 15, 2018

Agency assist: Alarm.

Agency assist: Power outage.

Agency assist: WMC.

Agency assist: Alarms.

Found property.

Harassment.

Citizen assist.

Agency assist: Dumpster.

Harassing messages.

Illegal parking.

Verbal warning for illegal parking.

Arrested: Duke Aitken, 26, on charges of domestic violence assault III.

December 16, 2018

Agency assist: Ambulance.

There were five ambulance calls and two dog complaints this week.

We're going to have to say goodbye... but it won't be for long!

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

We want to ensure we're helping you plan ahead for the winter service gap in Prince Rupert and reduced service to the communities of Southeast. The MV *Malaspina* will leave service 12/28/2018 and return on 2/22/2019 creating a service gap. Please plan ahead!

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Wrangell Sentinel Coloring Contest Winners



Congratulations

to

1st-Addison Bania, Age 9

2nd-Erika Jabusch, Age 6

3rd-Landen Gillen, Age 9



Thank you for all your wonderful pictures. It was hard to pick the winners. Winners, please stop by to pick up your prize in our office after Thursday, Dec. 27.

Sentinel office staff

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School board discusses budget revisions, hears from fired teacher

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell school board met the evening of Monday, Dec. 17. The school district's finances and budgets were a big topic of discussion during the meeting. The board had received the results of an audit for their 2018 financial year. Board President Aleisha Mollen said she was happy to report that the district passed the audit, and nothing of concern had been found.

The school board then discussed revisions to the FY 2019 budget. This is the district's current budget, which will be used until June 30, 2019. The budgeted revenues for the school were decreased by \$44,176, to a projected total of approximately \$6.56 million. This decrease in revenues, Mollen explained, were because of a decrease in variance of four students. The school district receives a certain amount of money based on the number of students in the district. The projected number of students, made in November of 2017, was found to be four students higher than the actual number found in October of 2018.

Expenditures in the 2019 budget were also changed by an increase of \$51,278, making projected expenditures for the financial year approximately \$6.66 million. The increased expenditures come in the categories of professional and technical services, smart board replacement needs, school sup-

plies, and other categories. A full layout of the FY 2019 budget can be found online on Board Docs, attached to the meeting agenda.

Budget assumptions for the financial year of 2020 were also briefly discussed. The 2020 budget will be put in place on July 1, 2019. As it stands currently, the budget will be based on the assumption of there being 304 students in the school district. The board is anticipating a "modest property insurance increase" due to increased valuations and replacement costs. They are also expecting a carryover of \$476,000. The 2020 budget is still in its draft stage. Committee meetings, review boards, and public hearings will take place before a final copy is adopted by mid-April of 2019.

During the public comment section of the meeting, the board heard from a former employee of the district. Shanna Mall was hired as a fine arts teacher this year, but was recently let go due to undisclosed reasons. Mall came before the board to say that she felt her termination was unjustified. She did not go into detail about her firing, but said it was for several reasons she felt were inaccurate.

"I would not be standing here if I did not believe I did not have the support of the majority of my parents and students," she said. "One of the reasons I was dismissed was for incompetence. I have eighteen years

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Cooperative Association hosted a Christmas party at the Nolan Center last Monday evening. Richard Oliver, board chairman for the association, welcomed everybody before dinner. Besides food, people got to enjoy games, enter raffles, and even had a visit from Santa Claus.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

There was plenty of food at the WCA's Christmas party, ranging from casseroles to moose. There were plenty of desserts, as well, such as pies and chocolate covered pretzels. Pictured here is Donna McKay getting some dinner.

WCA hosts a Christmas party

Death Notice

Lawrence Bahovec, 101, passed away December 6, 2018 in Seattle, Washington, with his family by his side. An obituary will follow.

CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

FRI., DEC. 21- open 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
Deadline for all ads
MON., DEC. 24 – open 9 a.m - Noon
TUE., DEC. 25 & WED., DEC. 26
Sentinel office closed
THURS. DEC. 27 - open 9 a.m - 5 p.m.
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Wrangell IGA
is pleased to announce that we will be open **Sunday, December 23** from **Noon to 5pm** for your Christmas shopping convenience.

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Wrestling team takes fourth amongst 2A schools at state

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

A rather impressive season for the Wrangell Wolves wrestling team came to a close last weekend, after the state championships in Anchorage. The Wolves, consisting largely of freshman wrestlers, were able to claim fourth place amongst participating 2A schools, and 10th place overall. First place went to

Homer High School, followed by Glennallen and Bethel High School.

"Just getting into finals is a feat ... I really think that we prepared the team very well this year," said Assistant Coach Jack Carney.

Individually, Wrangell saw two wrestlers take second place in their brackets: Ryan Rooney in the 103 bracket and Liana Car-

ney in the 112G bracket. Ryan Rooney was able to beat wrestlers from Nunapitchuk, Mt. Edgecumbe, and Napaskiak. During the first place match, however, he lost by decision to Landon Smith of Bethel High School. Liana Carney beat wrestlers from Eagle River and Lathrop, but lost to Starr Erikson of Nome.

Hunter Wiederspohn was able



PHOTO BY JACK CARNEY

Ryan Rooney of Wrangell High School (right) versus Landon Smith of Bethel High School. Rooney took second place in the 103 bracket.

to claim third place in the 152 bracket. Jack Carney said that Wiederspohn came within "fractions of an inch" of beating Dillon Chaney, of Dillingham, in the semifinals.

Dillon Rooney took fifth place in the 189 bracket. This was his final competition, being a high school senior. Jack Carney said it was terrific that he was able to win the fifth place match, and his final competition of his high school career.

Jack Carney said he was proud of the Wrangell Wolves, calling them one of the hardest working team in the state. He is looking ahead to next year, he said, and he sees only good things for the team. The team cannot wait for next year either, he said. They are already talking about wrestling camps and exercise schedules for the off season. With a lot of freshman wrestlers expected to return with even more experience, future success is highly likely.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Wolves wrestling team got a ride around town from the volunteer fire department. The team left for the state tournament in Anchorage on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

School board

Continued from page 4

of experience ... as both a teacher and a principal. I have a legislative citation from the state of Alaska for my work for education for students and families, and extensive training beyond just the principle stuff."

Mall added that she had worked in politics, at the state level, on passing House Bill 278. She also said that she had about 20 letters of recommendation from people who know her, which she said she would be submitting to the school board. As this was only a public com-

ment, the board took no action beyond thanking Mall for her time. Mollen could not comment on the reasons she was let go, after the meeting, but said there was the possibility of a public hearing in the future.

Other items covered in the meeting

include an update from the school discipline and safety committee, approval of an extracurricular contract with Elementary Drama Advisor Karen Morse, a curriculum review, and an evaluation of superintendent Debbe Lancaster.

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- Supplemental Nutrition Assist Prog (SNAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Benefit Prog.
- Medicaid



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“Tisha” Benson named 2018 Nurse of the Year

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

At a Nov. 3 dinner at the Hilton in Anchorage, Letitia “Tisha” Benson was named 2018’s March of Dimes Nurse of the Year. She received the award of excellence for public health and ambulatory care. Benson said that the nurse of the year award is given to nurses in all 50 states by March of Dimes, a non-profit that works to improve health for mothers and babies. According to her, there were 109 nominations for the award in Alaska, and the top 65 were invited to the Hilton dinner. Simply being nominated was a great honor, she said, let alone being

chosen as the winner.

“It was kind of like the Grammy Awards,” she said. “Nobody knew who the winner was until they opened the card.”

Benson is the daughter of Randy and Carol Churchill. She grew up in Wrangell, and said that she has always had an interest in all things medical. She graduated from Wrangell High School in 2000, and has continually pursued an education in her desired field ever since. She received an associate’s RN degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage, as well as a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Most recently, she has received an MBA from Alaska Pacific University,



Letitia “Tisha” Benson

sented Alaska in the United States Breastfeeding Committee, where she travelled to Washington D.C. to discuss workplace accommodations for lactating mothers with Representative Don Young and Senator Lisa Murkowski.

Benson had nothing but praise for Southcentral Foun-

ation and the people she worked with. She also commented on how honored she was to have been nominated for the nurse of the year award. Nursing is her passion, and she said that she would also love to speak with students at Wrangell High School about her career someday.

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with a concentration in Health Service Administration.

For the past eight years, Benson has worked at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage. She started as an intern, she said, and is now a senior RN case manager. As case manager, she works to coordinate care for patients involving multiple specialties. She is also the primary point of contact between people and their medical team, answering questions and helping provide education, triage, follow up, and several other kinds of medical care. She is also a mentor to six other nurses.

“I wear a lot of hats,” she said with a laugh. “I am a lot like the gatekeeper.”

On top of all this, Benson is an active member of the Alaska Native/American Indian group at her clinic. She works with the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Native Nurses to try and expand the number of Alaska Natives in nursing, as well as in leadership positions of the medical field. Recently she also repre-

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In the Matter of the Estate of:)
GARY LEE ALLEN SR.)
 Deceased)
 Date of Birth: 01/07/1943)
 _____) Case No. 1WR-18-16 PR

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You are notified that the court appointed Gary Lee Allen Jr. as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2018.

Gary Lee Allen Jr.
PO Box 932
Wrangell, AK 99929

Published: December 13, 20 and 27, 2018

Puzzle answers from Dec. 13 Edition



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

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Cordova, Sitka, Ketchikan and Petersburg were top 20 Alaska ports in 2017

Alaska is the nation's super power when it comes to seafood.

American fishermen landed

just shy of 10 billion pounds of fish and shellfish last year valued at \$5.4 billion, both up slightly. Of that, Alaska accounted for 61 percent of total landings (6 billion pounds) and 33 percent of the value (\$1.8 billion).

That's according to the 2017 Fisheries of the US Report just released by NOAA Fisheries which covers all U.S. regions and species, recreational fishing, aquaculture, trade and

much more. The popular annual report also includes the top 50 U.S. ports for seafood landings and values and once again, Alaska dominated the list.

"The Alaska port of Dutch Harbor led the nation with the highest amount of seafood landings - 769 million pounds valued at \$173 million - for the 21st year in a row," said Ned Cyr, NOAA director of Science and Technology at a media teleconference. "New Bedford, Massachusetts had the highest value catch for the 18th year in a row - 11 million pounds valued at \$389 million with 80% coming from the highly lucrative sea scallop fishery."

The "Aleutian Islands" ranked second for seafood landings thanks to Trident's plant at Akutan, the nation's largest

seafood processing facility. Kodiak bumped up a notch from fourth to third place. The "Alaska Peninsula" ranked 7th and Naknek came in at number 9.

Alaska ports rounding out the top 20 were Cordova, Sitka, Ketchikan and Petersburg. In all, 13 Alaskan fishing communities ranked among the top 50 list of U.S. ports for seafood landings.

The report also highlights the growing role for aquaculture in the domestic seafood industry. U.S. marine and fresh water aquaculture was valued at \$1.5 billion in 2016, equal to about 21 percent of the value of the nation's combined seafood production, with oysters, clams and salmon generating the highest value.

The U.S. still imports over 80 percent of its seafood and federal overseers are intent upon turning that tide.

"The Dept. of Commerce and NOAA are committed to addressing the U.S. seafood trade deficit through regulatory streamlining, increasing aquaculture production and creating a better, fairer trading system for all Americans," Cyr said.

Nearly six billion pounds of fish and shellfish were imported to the U.S. last year, up 1.6 percent, valued at \$21.5 billion, a 10.4 percent increase from 2016. Shrimp, salmon and tuna continued to top the list of imports.

In other report highlights:

Alaska pollock accounted for 28 percent of all fish landed in the U.S. and 17 percent of the value.

Alaska accounted for nearly 98 percent of the nation's salmon landings.

The average dock price paid to U.S. fishermen last year across the board held at 55 cents per pound.

Sport fish enthusiasts made 202 million salt water fishing trips last year with striped bass and blue fish being the biggest catches. Only 2 percent of the anglers went to the Pacific coast. Alaska data were not available for 2017.

The U.S. seafood industry's contribution to the economy increased slightly, according to an accompanying fisheries economic report for 2016. Commercial fisheries generated \$53 billion in sales, supported 711,000 jobs and added \$28 billion to the nation's GDP, all up by 2 percent.

Eat more fish! Americans ate more seafood in 2017, reaching the highest level since 2008. Per capita consumption was 16 pounds, an increase of 1.1 pounds from the year before. That's according to the top ten list of favorites compiled each year by the National Fisheries Institute and based on data from the NOAA fisheries report.

Shrimp remained at the top of the list of favorites with Americans eating 4.4 pounds per person last year. Salmon ranked second at 2.4 pounds followed by canned tuna, at 2.1 pounds.

Rounding out the top 10 were pollock, tilapia, catfish, crab, cod, clams and pangasius.

Fish watch - Cod catches will decline next year in both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, while catches for pollock will be up in the Bering Sea and down in the Gulf. The 2019 numbers were set

this month by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for over two dozen fisheries in federal waters from three to 200 miles offshore.

The Bering Sea pollock catch got a 2.4 percent increase to nearly 1.4 million metric tons or more than three billion pounds.

Bering Sea cod catches were cut 11.5 percent to just over 366 million pounds (166,475 mt).

In the Gulf, pollock catches will be down 15 percent to 311 million pounds, a drop of 55 million pounds from this year.

Gulf of Alaska cod catches will again take a dip to just over 27 million pounds - down 5.6 percent.

Meanwhile, boats are still out on the water throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea hauling up final catches of various groundfish for the year.

The four million pound red king crab fishery at Bristol Bay is a wrap, but crabbers are still tapping away at the 2.4 million pound Bering Sea Tanner crab quota. Snow crab is open but fishing typically gets going in mid-January.

Divers are picking up the last 35,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in parts of Southeast Alaska. About 170 divers competed for a 1.7 million pound sea cucumber quota this year; diving also continues for more than 700,000 pounds of giant geoduck clams.

Southeast trollers are still out on the water targeting winter king salmon.

Looking ahead: There will be no king salmon catches allowed next year at the Stikine and Taku Rivers due to low run forecasts.

A fishery for seven kinds of rockfish will open in Southeast on January 5. The 55,000 pound quota can include yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, China, tiger, and rosethorn rockfish.

The 2019 Sitka Sound sac roe harvest has been increased slightly to 12,869 tons. This past season the fleet took just 2,800 tons out of the 11,128 ton herring catch.

At the state's largest roe herring fishery at Togiak, the harvest for next year will be 24,430 tons, a slight increase.

The year-round cycle of Alaska's fishing industry will begin on January 1.

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Rod and Gun Club hosts first turkey shoot

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Rod and Gun Club, a relatively new organization in the community, held its first turkey shoot out at the gun range last Saturday morning.

The club was put together to encourage and support local fishing and shooting sports. The club is also in a partnership with the Friends of the NRA, looking to receive grants for improvements to the gun range. The pur-

pose of the turkey shoot was partially to demonstrate to the Friends of the NRA the need for gun range improvements in Wrangell, according to Club President Terry Courson. However, he added, the main reason for the turkey shoot was to serve as a membership drive and to have fun. There was also a fundraising aspect, as well, but membership was the main goal.

The turkey shoot opened a little after 11 a.m. on Saturday. It was a cold morning, with snow on the ground, but Courson said he was amazed by the turnout. Attendees were treated to hot dogs, chips, and drinks while the turkey shoot was set up. Dave Powell and Doug McCloskey set up targets and helped younger shooters with their rifles. Participants were divided into several categories: seven to nine-years old, 10 to 12-years-old, teens, women, and men. Using .22 long rifles with iron sights, each shooter was given three shots at a paper target. Whoever made a shot closest to a bullseye won their round.

Youth winners included Jackson Carney, in the seven to nine-years-old age category, and Gavin Hunt in the 10 to 12-years-old category. Kyle Hommel Jr. took first place in the teen cate-

gory. The men and women categories each took two rounds to shoot. The winners of the women's category were Kathleen Easterly and Pam McCloskey. The winners in the men's category were Kenneth Wilson and Matt Houser. Matthew Barker was named the best shot overall. Ian Nelson, a fourth grader, also won a mixed men/boys round of shooting.

The prizes for the younger winners were \$25 gift certificates to the movie theater. For the adult contestants, there were frozen turkeys on the line. Three contestants also won some "booby prizes" of small game hens. These went to Juanita Courson, Kim Powell and Shirley Wimberly. Besides the prizes, there was also a 50/50

raffle people could enter. The winner of this raffle was Heather Peterson, the whole pot being a sum total of \$310. A Cricket Youth Rifle was also won in a raffle by Victor Harrison.

The turkey shoot was a great success, Courson said. The rod and gun club had 57 new members sign up. They also raised over \$1,000 for the club. Being the first shooting event hosted by the club, he said it was a good learning experience. The next event on the club's agenda, Courson added, is a pistol shooting contest at the indoor range at the police station. The date of this event is to be determined. To learn more about the rod and gun club, search for the "Wrangell Rod and Gun Club" on Facebook.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Jackson Carney at the Wrangell Rod and Gun Club's turkey shoot. Carney took first place in the seven to nine-year-old category.

Convention and Visitor Bureau discuss new website and birdfest

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Thursday afternoon to discuss a variety of items. A new website for the CVB, to show all the attractions of Wrangell for tourists and locals, was a big discussion item. Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore took the lead on the discussion, explaining that there was a lot of work to do to make the site ready for online traffic. The work left included finding photographs to show off the city and events around town, adding pages, working out some minor glitches, and fixing links that were redirecting to the wrong pages. Bureau members present proposed dividing up the work, each person agreeing to write a certain page of the website. The new website is a work in progress, they said, but should likely be ready for use by the New Year.

The Stikine River Birding Festival, or Birdfest, was also discussed in the meeting. The festival highlights birding opportunities around the Southeast Alaska region, and also provides other opportunities for tourists to enjoy life in Wrangell. According to a draft schedule of events, provided by Corree Delabruue, next year's festival is scheduled for April 25 to 28. However, she said during the meeting, projected low tides during that weekend could prove to be problematic. With tides being too low, she said, people might not be able to get out on the water or up the river to go bird watching. After some discussion, the bu-

reau agreed that maybe this next year should be the year the festival is "spread out" and not confined to a single weekend. This was something the bureau said it had been talking about for several years, but this year seemed like a good opportunity to do so. After some discussion it was pro-

posed that the birding festival be recognized from mid-April to mid-May. A majority of events would be kept in the original weekend of the festival, but others would be scattered through the other days. A finalized schedule of events will be released in the near future.

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