



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wrangell residents held a rally at the ferry terminal Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 11, to demonstrate their support of the Alaska Marine Highway. Southeast Alaskan communities have lost the use of the ferry system after the M/V Matanuska was laid up for repairs, and other ships in the ferry system are similarly out of service for the time being. Rallies were held in towns across the region, including in Petersburg and Juneau.

Southeast communities disrupted by ferry shutdown

By CALEB VIERKANT
AND BRIAN VALERA
Sentinel writers

With the M/V *Matanuska* going out of service last week, ferry service via the Alaska Marine Highway has completely shut down. According to a press release from the Alaska Department of Transportation, new issues have been found with the ferry's reduction gear system. The *Matanuska*, at the time of writing, is being towed to Ketchikan for repairs.

"AMHS is aware of travel needs for upcoming school and community tournaments in March and is exploring options for alternative service in the event *Matanuska* is unable to return to service as planned," the press release reads.

The ferry system is an important means of transportation for Alaskans, especially in the Southeast. With this option suddenly unavailable for the next month and a half, communities across Southeast Alaska have faced disruptions.

"Living in a rural community like this, that's off the road system, it's our highway," said Mad Hesler, one of the organizers of a Feb. 11 rally at the Wrangell ferry terminal in support of the AMHS. "It's the only way for us to get around with our cars in an easy manner. It's important for these small communities, it's important to bring tourists in, for our high schools, for us to go to places like Costco, it's so important."

Wrangell resident Dale Parkinson mentioned, on Facebook, that there is a safety recall on his car. Without the ferries, however, he cannot send it to a dealer. Many other people on Facebook commented about how they and their vehicles have become separated by the ferry shutdown, among them Jeff Jabusch and Tanner Thomassen. Jabusch said that he has been trying to find other options to get his car back to Wrangell, but other options have proven to be cost prohibitive or overly dependent on good weather.

Christie Jamieson said that the ferries have disrupted travel schedules for her B&B guests since last summer. Annya Ritchie reported that Wrangell's AAU basketball team will have to fly to

Juneau for an event rather than take the ferry, which has increased their costs and reduced the ability for parents to travel with the team. Local author Vivian Prescott has also had her plans interrupted by the loss of ferry service.

"My husband and I were planning to take our RV on the ferry to visit family in Sitka with a stopover to visit family in Juneau," she wrote in a Facebook message. "We were iffy about buying tickets because we didn't want to risk getting stuck somewhere. Then the ferry system shut down completely! So now our plans are on hold."

Prescott also added she had plans for a book tour across Southeast Alaska via ferries, but now she is going to have to rethink those plans.

The school district has been impacted by the lack of ferries, as well. Secondary School Principal David Macri said that the shutdown has had a domino effect that impacts many different aspects of the schools' schedules. Travel expenses have increased for sporting events, student government, legislative fly-ins, and other events, he said. There is also an additional cost of time that the schools have had to take into account. Travel schedules that have been planned in advance have suddenly had to change, Macri said. This means that coaches, teachers, and other staff have had to scramble to rework their plans. Once those plans are changed, time then has to be spent informing students and parents, making sure everyone is on the same page. All in all, Macri said, it has been an inconvenient addition to already busy schedules.

Along with 12 other communities throughout the region, about 45 Petersburg residents gathered in front of the Petersburg Public Library at noon on Tuesday to show their support for the Alaska Marine Highway System.

One of the organizers, Malena Marvin, encouraged those present to call Sen. Bert Stedman and Gov. Mike Dunleavy's offices to let them know that the people in Southeast Alaska need the ferry system.

"People need to really make this a priority," said Marvin. "It's not acceptable

to treat people this way."

Marvin said she prefers to travel by ferry to Juneau and Seattle for medical screenings, but the reduced services this winter caused her to have to take a jet instead. She also said other communities don't have that option and traveling by jet may be too expensive for some.

According to a press release from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the AMHS issued a request for information to gather details from marine charter companies on services they can provide for interim passenger and freight services for Northern Southeast Alaska. Marvin said the state should bring the M/V *LeConte* online to service the region instead.

"We have knowledgeable long-time ferry workers we are putting out of work right now," said Marvin. "I think the state's being quite hostile to the ferry system. It's hard to come up with another conclusion other than that they are trying to kill it on purpose."

Scott Roberge and Karen Rosvold, who were also at the rally on Tuesday, said they would rather see the \$40 million set aside for the Kake Access Road project go towards the ferry system. Additionally, Rosvold said she has been discouraged from traveling by ferry since the AMHS was paralyzed this past summer after members of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific went on strike and left travelers throughout the region stranded.

"I just cut out thinking about going on a trip on the ferry after what happened last summer," said Rosvold.

Viking Travel has been rescheduling travel plans for tourists who had planned on using the ferry system as a result of the M/V *Matanuska* going offline this month, said Dave Berg, co-founder of Viking Travel. Others have been abandoning travel by ferry all together, and at least one client canceled a tour.

"You completely eliminated that class of people that stop in towns and stay overnight and spend money in towns," said Berg. "You essentially sent the

"Living in a rural community like this, that's off the road system, it's our highway.

- Mad Hesler,
One of the organizers of
a Feb. 11 rally in Wrangell

"My husband and I were planning to take our RV on the ferry to visit family in Sitka with a stopover to visit family in Juneau... Then the ferry system shut down completely!

So now our plans are on hold."

Vivian Prescott
Wrangell resident

"We have knowledgeable long-time ferry workers we are putting out of work right now.

I think the state's being quite hostile to the ferry system. It's hard to come up with another conclusion other than that they are trying to kill it on purpose."

-Malena Marvin,
Organizer of a Feb. 11
rally in Petersburg

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, February 13: Robert Davidson, *Anniversary:* Michael & DeAnna Villarma. **Friday, February 14:** Baxter Prunella, Jacob Mork Jr., Carsyn Christian. **Saturday, February 15:** Daniel Nore, Caiden Scott. **Sunday, February 16:** Deb Robinson, Nicole Francois, Winston Davies. **Monday, February 17:** Dennis Barlow, Jr., Aubrey Travers, *Anniversary:* Steve & Maria Beers, Erik Ottesen, *Anniversary:* Frank & Pat Warfel. **Tuesday, February 18:** Jen Banks, Taylor Bean, Tyler Torvend. **Saturday, February 19:** Lee Romane, Kinsley Angerman, Einer Haaseth, Bradley Neel. **Thursday, February 20:** Zachary Lane, Zak Lane, Mark Seimears, Jodie Guggenbickler, Mary Rooney, Jim Wenderoth.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, February 13

Baked Salmon, Peas, Tomato Aspic, Scallop Potatoes.

Friday, February 14

Tamale Pie, Spinach, Apricot Salad, Biscuits.

Monday, February 17

President's Day. Senior Center is closed.

Tuesday, February 18

Halibut Ganty, Baked Sweet Potato, Cauliflower, Roll.

Wednesday, February 19

Turkey Pot Pie, Vegetables, Salad, Biscuit.

Thursday, February 20

Beef Soup, Brussel Sprouts, Carrot Salad, Rice.

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

February Sailings CANCELLED

Northbound

Friday, March 6

Matanuska 05:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 8

Matanuska 09:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11

Matanuska 10:45 a.m.

Friday, March 13

Matanuska 11:15 p.m.

Friday, March 20

Matanuska 07:15 p.m.

Southbound

Sunday, March 8

Matanuska 07:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 10

Matanuska 07:45 p.m.

Friday, March 13

Matanuska 08:00 a.m.

Monday, March 16

Matanuska 06:15 a.m.

Monday, March 23

Matanuska 07:45 a.m.

Arrival times may vary.

Call 874-2021 for verification or call 874-3711 or Toll Free 800-642-0066 for recorded information.



TIDES

February 13 - February 20

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
February 13	03:35	17.5	03:50	16.1	09:36	0.2	09:51	-0.3
February 14	04:20	17.1	04:46	14.5	10:30	0.6	10:38	1.4
February 15	05:11	16.4	05:55	12.9	11:32	1.1	11:32	3.1
February 16	06:13	15.6	07:20	11.9	12:44	1.6
February 17	07:26	15.1	08:46	11.9	00:39	4.5	02:07	1.7
February 18	08:40	15.2	09:59	12.6	02:01	5.3	03:30	1.1
February 19	09:47	15.6	10:58	13.5	03:28	5.2	04:36	0.2
February 20	10:44	16.2	11:45	14.4	04:37	4.5	05:25	-0.6

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Monday, February 17

Derek Peterson - Youth Advocate: 8 am-3:30 pm, Elementary Gym

Hospice of Wrangell Annual Meeting: Noon at the Hall of the Catholic Church. Open to all, Lunch provided.

Wrangell Public School Board, Public Hearing: 6:00 pm, Evergreen Elementary School Room 101.

Tuesday, February 18

Derek Peterson - Youth Advocate: 8:30 am-3:30 pm, MS commons

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

Continuing Events

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

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:

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

Water Aerobics:

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

Lap Swim:

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

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

2 Lane Lap Swim:

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

Lap/Tot Swim:

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

Swim Club:

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

Open Swim:

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

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.

February 13, 1920

It was 16 years ago that Bishop Rowe made his first visit to Wrangell. This year also marks the completion of his 25 years of service as Bishop of Alaska.

February 9, 1945

On February 2 the Girl's Pep Club gave their first party of the year. The high school and faculty were present, with the addition of a few eighth graders who got in quite by accident. Some of the high school girls thought that they were back down stairs when they played "The Farmer in the Dell." A fast game of "Steal the Bacon" and "Musical Chairs" were played for over an hour. Christine was exceptionally adept in getting into those chairs. The broom dance was played several times during the evening. The same broken broom was used again. Bountiful refreshments were two kinds of sandwiches, two kinds of jello, three kinds of cookies and hot chocolate. The party ended with great success with no bones or records broken.

February 12, 1970

WPTV, Wrangell's cable television station, is running into static from a number of dissatisfied customers. Recently, a petition was circulated among subscribers, asking for discontinuance of service until such a time that the station provided quality programming and lived up to its promises made when it was first coming into the city. Over 150 signatures were on the petition. Meanwhile the dissidents appear to be having their own problems as many signers continue to subscribe to WPTV. They claim that the service has improved, whereas their co-signers insist that it has not. WPTV has discontinued service only to those subscribers who have called or written individually. Hilmer (Lefty) Johnson, station manager for WPTV in Wrangell, would not comment on how many people

have discontinued service. Private citizens have called a meeting on the matter at the grade school's multipurpose room Feb. 22.

February 9, 1994

A one-day retreat for persons interested in the creative arts is being sponsored by Wrangell Presbyterian Church February 18th. Running from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the art workshop will be conducted as an expression and formation of spiritual life by Tim Doty, a former Alaskan, who is now a pastor in San Jose. Topics will include "Challenges and Opportunities of the Artistically Creative Person," "

Art as a Sacred Medium" and "Art as Gift" and "Art as Commodity."



NO MOVIE THIS WEEK

Coming up:
Feb. 21st - Feb 23rd
Dolittle



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Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Feb. 3	37	30
Feb. 4	38	34
Feb. 5	43	39
Feb. 6	40	35
Feb. 7	38	31
Feb. 8	38	28
Feb. 9	39	35
Feb. 10	41	37



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb.13	7:20a	4:45p	09:25h
Feb.14	7:18a	4:48p	09:30h
Feb.15	7:15a	4:50p	09:35h
Feb.16	7:13a	4:52p	09:39h
Feb.17	7:11a	4:54p	09:43h
Feb.18	7:09a	4:56p	09:47h
Feb.19	7:06a	4:59p	09:53h
Feb.20	7:04a	5:01p	09:57h

Police report

February 3

Warrant Attempt.
Criminal Mischief.
Welfare Check.
Misconduct Involving Weapons.
Found Property.
Summons Service.
Agency Assist: Breath test.
Summons Service.
Agency Assist: Ambulance.

February 4

Agency Assist: Department of Public Works.
Welfare Check.
Dangerous Play.

February 5

Traffic.
Found Property: Property returned to owner.
Found Property.
Citizen Assist: Unlocked vehicle.
Agency Assist: Fire department.

February 6

Agency Assist: Hoonah PD.
Agency Assist: Hoonah PD.
Agency Assist: Juneau PD.
Traffic: Fail to Stop for School Bus.
Agency Assist: Fire Department.
Noise Complaint.

February 7

Disturbance.
Hit and Run.
Disturbance.
James Howe, 47: Arrested on Charges of Violating Conditions of Release/Unlawful Contact.
Warrant Arrest: Casey Seimears, 37.

February 8

Domestic Disturbance.
Civil Issue.
Found Property.

February 9

Agency Assist: Fire.
Suspicious Person.
Citizen Assist.

Court report

Jan. 21: Caleb Padgett pled guilty to charges of driving under the influence. He was sentenced to 45 days imprisonment, with 42 suspended. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,500, \$150 police training surcharge, \$50 initial jail surcharge, and \$330 for the cost of imprisonment. He will be on probation for one year.

A change of plea hearing was held for Valerie Nakamura, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license and driving in violation of license limitation. The hearing was reset and rescheduled for Jan. 27.

James Vandebunte was arraigned on a charge of theft. A representation hearing was set for Feb. 4. A calendar call was set for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Rebecca Bliss, charged with assault. The hearing was reset for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Dusty Cowan, charged with online enticement of a minor and

distributing indecent material to minors. The hearing was scheduled to continue on March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Richard Phillips, charged with driving under the influence, failing to stop at the direction of an officer, and criminal mischief. A trial call was also held for him on a charge of violating conditions of release. A change of plea hearing was scheduled for Feb. 25. A calendar call was set for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Daniel Meissner, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license, assault, criminal trespass, and violating conditions of release. Another calendar call was set for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A status hearing was held for Nicole Lupro, charged with a probation/parole violation. An adjudication hearing was set for March 23.

A calendar call was held for Kelly Bullard, charged with driv-

ing under the influence, driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license, and violating conditions of release. A minor offense hearing was also held for a charge of driving with a cancelled/suspended license. The minor offense hearing was reset for March 17. For the other charges, the calendar call was rescheduled for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Diane Bloom, charged with assault. A status hearing was set for March 23.

A trial call was held for Alan Lee Cummings, charged with assault, unlawful contact, and violating conditions of release. A bail hearing was set for Jan. 27. A trial call was set for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Lynn Marks, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. The calendar call was reset for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A calendar call was held for Duke Aitken, charged with assault in the fourth degree and assault 3. The calendar call was



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Chocolate Lover's Festival

Wrangell's annual Chocolate Lover's Festival was held downtown last Saturday morning, Feb. 8. People had the opportunity to buy a box full of homemade chocolates and bid on several raffle items. Proceeds from the festival go to support activities for Wrangell Medical Center Long Term Care. Pictured here is Alice Rooney with a few of the treats available at the festival

reset for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A trial call was held for Opal Wilsey, charged with theft and criminal trespass. The trial call was reset for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

A trial call was held for WYNTERWAINUI GROSS, charged with harassment. A change of plea hearing was set for Jan. 27.

A calendar call was held for Aaron Young, charged with driving under the influence and re-

fusing a chemical test. A status hearing was also held for charges of driving under the influence and a probation/parole violation. Trial dates for Jan. 22 were vacated.

A trial call was held for Kory Versteeg, charged with various misdemeanors in the marking, storage, and escapement requirements for king crab gear and pots. A calendar call was set for March 17, with a jury trial set for March 24.

Assembly workshops library and Nolan Center staffing issues

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met Monday, Feb. 10, to workshop some staffing issues at the Irene Ingle Public Library and the Nolan Center. The assembly originally planned to hold a special assembly meeting right after the workshop, but instead decided to just have the workshop and revisit the topic at a later meeting.

An assistant position is currently open, one of three permanent positions the city maintains at the library: Library Director, Assistant II, and Assistant I. The Assistant I position is currently the unfilled job. However, with the borough going through its budget season and assembly members wanting to save money where they can, the question of the evening was whether or not the assistant position was necessary, and if so how the position could be used most efficiently.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga presented the assembly with five different options, briefly summarized as follows:

Option 1: Maintain the Library Assistant I position at 21 hours a week, and consider creating a different health insurance benefit tier for part-time staff.

Option 2: Increase the hours of Library Assistant II, while reducing the hours of the Nolan Center Collections position.

Option 3: Increase the hours of Library Assistant II, while reducing the hours of the Accounts Payable Clerk at city hall.

Option 4: Eliminate the Library Assistant I position altogether.

Option 5: Increase the Library Assistant I position to full-time, and consider making a new health insurance tier for part-time staff.

During the workshop, Assembly Member Drew Larrabee proposed a sixth option; to increase the hours of the position in question, but to share the employee with the Wrangell High School Library. This idea drew interest from the rest of the assembly, but they decided that it would have to be revisited at a later date. They needed to decide on some immediate direction during the workshop, said Mayor Steve Prysunka, and the feasibility of Larrabee's suggestion would take time to determine.

"We've been struggling at the high school with the fact that our high school library has essentially been closed," Larrabee said. "We don't have the staffing to cover it, the check-out system has been outdated and is obsolete. It needs a lot of work."

Both Jeff and Kay Jabusch, Wrangell residents and members of the Friends of the Library, spoke against eliminating the Assistant I position. The li-

Continued on page 4

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Dan's Dispatch

*By Representative
Dan Ortiz*

Let's talk about the prospects of this year's legislative session and budget deliberations as they relate to the AMHS. Our ferry system has been at the forefront of many legislative conversations: On the very first day of the Alaska State Legislative session, the House Transportation Committee held a hearing titled "The Importance of AMHS to Alaska & the Need for Increased Funding." Municipalities had the opportunity to describe how our ferry system is vital for our communities, economies, and families.

Thank you specifically to Mayor Prysunka for speaking on behalf of Wrangell. Last month, on January 15th, the Marine Transportation Advisory Board hosted a meeting to outline the recently published "AMHS Economic Reshaping Report." At the meeting, the Department of Transportation stated that the Prince Rupert route would be continued starting May 1st. Last month, the Department of Transportation also sought public input on their proposed ferry schedule for May 2020 through September 2020. Last week, the Governor published his Fiscal Year 2020 Supplemental Budget. In

it, Governor Dunleavy requested that the Legislature provide an additional seven million dollars for operations and an additional five million dollars for the repair of the Aurora (this is after the Governor vetoed five million dollars that the Alaska House Majority put in the budget at the end of the prior legislative session). If the supplemental request is approved, the money will allow the AMHS to close the gaps and meet the proposed schedule obligations for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2020. It will *not* pay for any additional service to the existing reduced schedule. I'm

hopeful that the House Majority will be supportive of passing a slight budget increment, which would fund the AMHS at a level that would avoid the significant service reductions we saw this year.

My goal is to provide adequate service to rural Southeast Alaska, Prince Rupert, and to Southwest coastal Alaska. Now that Legislative session has begun, I will continue providing frequent updates on legislative issues pertaining to Southern Southeast. You can also reach me by email at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or phone at 907-465-3824.

Assembly

Continued from page 3

library provides many important programs and educational opportunities to the public, they said, and they needed all the staff they could get to keep things running smoothly. Library Director Margaret Villarma said that the ideal situation for them would be to have the assistant position with more than part-time hours.

"That would be the ideal situation for us, to be honest with you," she said. "That would work out the best. The city would get more for their money, because you're paying the benefits already, so we would be able to offer more to the community."

One of the questions revolving around the library assistant position was the health insurance benefits. The Wrangell Sentinel reported in an article on November 7, 2019, that the position in question pays a salary of about \$17,000 a year. When benefits are added, however, total compensation can range between \$22,000 and \$53,000 a year. Assembly Member David Powell said he was against giving so many benefits to only part-time employees. The rest of the assembly seemed to agree that full benefits for part-time employees

was a high cost for the city to bear. After some discussion about what options were the most feasible, and what level of benefits they should consider for part-time employees, the assembly came to a consensus.

"I'm going to throw out that we change to a 70/30 [health-care] split, and employee-only insurance, maintaining the position at the 21 hours," Prysunka said.

With the question of the library position handled, and a quick recess, the assembly moved on to discuss two positions at the Nolan Center. The

Nolan Center serves as the community's movie theater, museum, and civic center. Director Cyni Cray said that if the assembly wanted to continue to see growth in the Nolan Center's programs and revenue, she needed the creation of two permanent positions: A museum collections employee and an attendant. Von Barga pointed out that Cray was spending a lot of time training temporary employees to fill these roles, and it would be more efficient to seek stable employment for these jobs.

The discussion on these jobs was relatively brief, as the assembly

decided to look at these positions similarly to the library assistant position. They agreed that both positions should be 29-hours a week, with employee-only health insurance at a 70/30

split. As this was a work session and not a full meeting, no official action was taken. The purpose of the workshop was to give the borough a direction to move towards.

Celebration of Life for
John L. Maxand
Saturday, Feb. 15, 1:00 pm
at the Elks Lodge
Buffet to follow
in the Elks Nolan Room



Eugene (Gene) Mark Hiebert, 84

Eugene (Gene) Mark Hiebert passed away in his sleep in Manila, Philippines on January 20, 2020. He was 84 years old. He was born to Leonard and Clara Hiebert on April 18, 1935 in Napa, California. Gene spent his childhood in Napa, learning how to work and live off the land. He was home schooled for much of his childhood. Though not a religious man, he strived to live a good, honest life, to always work hard and not be a burden to anyone.

At age 18, Gene moved to Wrangell to be a logger at his Uncle Art Hiebert's logging camp on Vanks Island. Shortly after that he

married a local Alaskan Native/Asian young woman, Marjorie Lauth. They were married for 25 years and had five children. He supported his family by logging and working at the sawmill.

Gene loved Wrangell and had many entertaining stories to tell of the locals. He was a character and they used to have a lot of stories about him, too. It was often said that he was the toughest man in Wrangell! He had many close calls with death.

After a near-death experience, Gene stopped drinking so much, and started organic gardening and raising chickens on the family homestead on the North End. The plants in his garden were so big and beautiful that tourists would stop and take pictures of them. The secret was in his fertile soil cultivated through dedicated composting.

In 1977, the family moved to Sitka because his wife had a job at Mt. Edgecumbe boarding school. Gene worked at the pulp mill.

In 1991, he moved back to Wrangell because his oldest daughter, Marcia, had moved back. Once again, he started working at the sawmill. Eventually he got a job on the ferry where he worked until his retirement.

Over the years, Gene corresponded with penpals in the Philippines. In 2006, he left Wrangell to retire in the Philippines. He loved the Filipino people and contributed greatly to



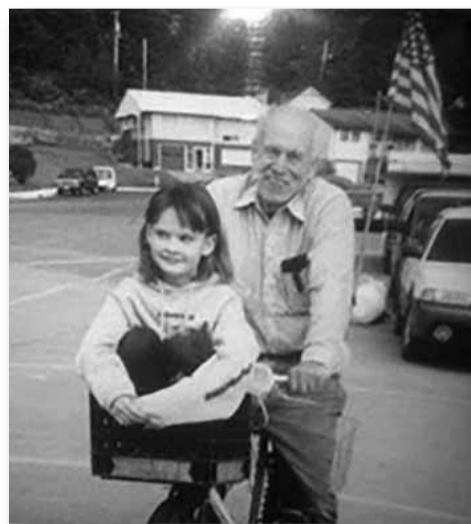
Eugene (Gene) Mark Hiebert

local philanthropic charities.

Gene traveled back and forth to Alaska, Oregon, and California to visit his family. He was always a good guest in spite of liking to argue just for the fun of it. He loved to email his kids and sister, Opal. They will all greatly miss those emails.

Gene was preceded in death by a son, Allan and former wife, Marjorie. He is survived by four of his children: Marcia (Greg) Miller of Wasilla, Val (Terry) Hiebert/Delay of Valdez, Theresa (Jay) Spires of Salem, Oregon, Gene (Liz) Hiebert of Salem, Oregon and twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. His sister Opal Lemmer of Cupertino, California and brother Dennis of San Diego and nieces and nephews in California.

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Wolves set new high scores in games against Craig

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Wolves faced off against the Craig Panthers for the second time in as many weeks this past weekend. This past meet on Feb. 7 and 8 saw the Wolves win two high scoring games, as well as achieve new "high scores" for their season so far.

The first game on Friday, Feb. 7, opened with the Wolves taking the lead at 18-11. This lead only extended through the game, with the Panthers only managing to make a small handful of baskets in the second and third quarters. The scores were 35-16 and 57-26 in the second and third, respectively. The fourth quarter saw the Panthers get a second win and stage a minor comeback, but it was not enough to catch up to the Wolves. The final score was 72-41, a win for Wrangell.

This game also marked a new high for the most points the Wolves scored in a single game this season. The previous high scoring game was also in a game against the Craig Panthers on Feb. 1, with a final score of 60-39.

This record was soon to be beaten. The next game on Feb. 8 saw the Wolves perform even better than the previous game. The score at the end of the first quarter was 18-5. Wrangell's offense continued to push through Craig's defense and the points continued to rack up. The Panthers played hard, but could not keep up with the Wolves. The final score, and yet another high score for Wrangell this season, was 80-44.

Coach Cody Angerman said that the Panthers had a few of their players missing from these games due to illness, but that his team took the games as seriously as they always do.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Ryan Rooney (No. 24) on defense during the Wolves' game against the Craig Panthers on Friday, Feb. 7.

"When we prepare for games like that we prepare the exact same way," he said.

Angerman said he was proud of the Wolves' performance, especially the younger players like Jacob Hay and Devlyn Campbell. He also called out senior and junior players Trevor Miller and Brett Abrahamson for their performance, especially when it came to teamwork and setting up other players to take shots.

Moving forward, he said the team will continue to

focus on improving their rebound game, practicing a half court trap defense, and tightening up other loose ends in their performance.

The Wolves will be playing against Metlakatla this coming weekend, Feb. 14 and 15. Angerman said that it will be a good opportunity to showcase the Wolves' progress since they last faced off against the Chiefs.

"I feel pretty good," he said. "Like I said, we prepare the same way no matter what."

Mixed results for Lady Wolves in against Lady Panthers

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Lady Wolves travelled to Craig High School this past weekend for another round of games against the Lady Pan-

thers. Wrangell claimed two exciting wins over Craig two weeks ago, on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. This time around, however, the Lady Panthers put up a tough fight. Both teams walked away with one win each.

The first game, on Feb. 7, went in Wrangell's favor. It was a close game, but the Lady Wolves managed to maintain a narrow lead and claim a win. The final score was 43-50. The second game, on Feb. 8, was very close. Both teams stayed practically neck-and-neck up until the end. The game ended with Craig barely holding a three-point lead. The final score was 54-51.

Coach Laurie Brown said that their defensive game was their main shortcoming in Saturday's game. The team's zone defense was not as effective against the Lady Panthers after three games in a row, she said. Brown also added that her team was struggling to keep up with Craig in

making points on Saturday.

"We just were having a hard time finding that basket," she said.

All in all, though, Brown said she was happy with the Lady Wolves' performance. They are going to work on strengthening their defensive game moving

forward, she said. The Lady Wolves will be facing off against Metlakatla this weekend, Feb. 14 and 15. Brown said she is excited to play against the Miss Chiefs again.

"We're really looking forward to these games," she said. "This is the team to beat."

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wrangell and Petersburg hit the court

Wrangell and Petersburg faced off in a set of AAU basketball games last Saturday, Feb. 8. Both teams played hard, but Wrangell was able to walk away with two wins. The "B" game ended with a score of 27-18, and the "A" game ended with a score of 42-14. Pictured here is Wrangell player Vanessa Johnson (right) and Petersburg player Rikka Miller (left) during the B game.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

Several fish bills before the Alaska Legislature have wide support from fishermen

Alaska lawmakers are making fast work of several fish bills that have wide support from Alaska's fishermen.

"I was anticipating a somewhat slow start, but they're organized and they're diving right into these issues and taking these bills up. And so there's lots of opportunities to participate," said Frances Leach, executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska.

The bill (HB 35) that would resolve a conflict of interest fix at the state Board of Fisheries has been moving through committee hearings in Juneau and could finally be settled after a 14 year push.

"One of the reasons they're chosen for that board is they may have a regional expertise or they may have a user group expertise. So we want them to be able to not vote, but participate

and lend that expertise in deliberations to provide clarification to other board members who may not be as familiar with that region or fishery," Leach said.

Another fast moving measure (HB 85 and SB 145) aims to give boat owners a break from having to register it in person at a DMV. It was part of a well-intentioned Derelict Vessels Act whose ill-timed roll out last year by the Dept. of Administration created chaos among commercial and sport boat owners who were breaking a new law they didn't even know about.

UFA supports the concept of the Act which is aimed at identifying owners of abandoned boats, "but we are really pushing for this exemption because we already register our boats through the state Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and they have all the details that

would be going to the DMV because they're both state managed data bases. So it's kind of like reinventing the wheel and just causing more work," Leach said.

A bill that would allow Alaskans to transport live crab (HB 203) also is moving its way through the legislative process. Live crab is the most lucrative market and the bill has UFA's strong backing.

"As the statutes currently stand we're not able to transport red king crab, Tanner crab and Dungeness live via ground. This bill would make it so that could happen and it would open up some new avenues, I believe," Leach explained.

UFA also strongly backs bills supporting Alaska's mariculture industry and a sound commercial fisheries budget.

Other fishery related bills in the legislative pipeline include providing product development tax credits for cod and pollock (SB 130) and a push for a personal use priority above all other users (SB 99). Another measure that is resurfacing is HB 199 which seeks to create "rehabilitation permits" to allow transfer of fish eggs or fry from waters in one locale or region to enhance habitat in waters elsewhere.

to remove anadromous or freshwater finfish from water of the state, Leach said UFA will solidify its positions on more fish bills at the annual meeting Feb. 25-27 in Juneau. United Fishermen of Alaska is the nation's largest fishing trade group with 35 member groups, from small skiff fisheries to the largest at-sea processors.

Halibut dips - As expected, catches of Pacific halibut will be down seven percent this year due to declining stocks. Alaska's share of the 20.3 million pound total catch is 17.11 pounds. The halibut fishery will open on March 14 and close on November 15.

Below is the breakdown of catches for 2020 compared to 2019, in millions of pounds

Future fish buyers - A "Next Generation" of foreign seafood buyers is set for a whirlwind visit to the working waterfront of Kodiak, the nation's #3 fishing port. After touching down in Seattle, eight under 40 visitors from Ukraine, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Mexico will spend two full days this week in Kodiak to meet with fishery managers, tour four big processing plants and go out on a few boats.

"The goal is to show them all

parts of the Alaska seafood story from harvesting, processing, sustainable management, everything, "There's really no better way to show off the wonders of Alaska than in person and for people to see it up close with their own eyes." said Alice Ottoson-McKeen, international marketing specialist at the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute who organized the millennial trade mission.

ASMI has strong relationships with buyers around the world who have long opted for Alaska seafood over other choices; this mission aims to build similar strong connections with the upcoming generation, she said.

Two years ago, ASMI hosted a similar mission and brought a group of seven European seafood buyers to Dutch Harbor in February for four days.

"Our goal when we bring these missions in is to showcase and impress upon people that Alaska seafood really is the things that we advertise in our taglines - it is wild, it's natural, it's sustainable," she explained.

Why bring all these visitors to Alaska in the middle of winter?

"Alaska fisheries are open year round, and just because it's

Continued on page 7

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Salvatore Bruno,)
Deceased.) CASE NO. 1WR-20-05PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pete Bruno has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims should be submitted to the above titled court, Box 869, Wrangell, AK 99929, with a copy to the personal representative, Pete Bruno, c/o Michael P. Heiser, 300 Mill Street, Suite 20, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Dated: 09/23/2019

Pete Bruno

Personal Representative

Published: February 6, 13 and 20, 2020

Classified/Legals

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OFFICE HELP WANTED: The Wrangell Sentinel is looking for a computer savvy, customer friendly worker. Must be able to lift 25 pounds and have own car. DOE. Please stop in the Sentinel office to fill out a job application or email resume to wrgsent@gmail.com.....tfn11-

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Special Board Meeting on February 21, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST and on February 22, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon PST at the Hotel Interurban, Mount Si 1 Room, in Tukwila, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is for orientation of new board members, election of officers, and strategic planning. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.

Published: February 13, 2020



Puzzle answers from Febr. 6 Edition

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Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

icy and it's cold, that doesn't mean that our fishermen aren't out fishing," Ottoson-McKeen said. "They get to really understand the hard work that goes into bringing Alaska seafood to market. I think that really reinforces that Alaska seafood is wild, and it's totally natural. And it also allows us to showcase products that we wouldn't necessarily get to see in the summer."

Grants give back - The Alaskan Leader Foundation is accepting applications from non-profits and projects for its annual grant giveaways in Kodiak and Bristol Bay. Funding typically goes to programs such as food banks, shelters, educational and youth programs, museums and recycling efforts.

Alaskan Leader Foundation was founded in 2000 by six Kodiak fishing families and was joined in 2007 by the Bristol Bay Economic Development Foundation. Deadline to apply is February 28. For an application, contact Linda Kozak at 907-539-5585 or lindakozak@gmail.com.

Fish watch - Winter sees a wide array of Alaska fisheries out on the water with more to come.

Cod and a big mix of whitefish kicked off the year in the Bering Sea and in many parts of the Gulf.

Alaska pollock, the world's largest food fishery, opened on January 20 in the Bering Sea with a 3 billion pound harvest. Smaller pollock catches will come out of the Gulf (250 million pounds) and at Prince William Sound (5 million pounds).

Boats are targeting black rockfish in Southeast, and at Kodiak, Chignik, the Alaska Peninsula and along the Aleutians. Lingcod also is open in Southeast. (856,000 pounds).

Bering Sea crabbers are still out on the grounds pulling up snow crab. This season's catch was boosted to nearly 34 million pounds, a 24 percent increase.

A 400,000 pound Tanner crab fishery at Kodiak is going slow but fishermen are fetching over \$4 per pound. Tanner and golden king crab fisheries open in Southeast on February 17. The Tanner catch usually comes in at around one million pounds; the golden crab quota of 41,000 pounds is down by about half.

A also Tanner crab fishery opens on March 1 at Prince William Sound.

Southeast's shrimp trawl fishery closed on February 3 around Petersburg and Wrangell with a catch of 400,000 pounds of pinks and sidestripes. Shrimp trawling is Southeast's longest ongoing fishery since 1915 and it will reopen again in May.

And if you didn't think



COURTESY OF JENN MILLER-YANCEY

Evergreen Elementary recognized at ESEA Conference

In December of 2019, Evergreen Elementary School was recognized as a "Distinguished School" by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Distinguished Schools Recognition Program. Evergreen Elementary was recognized for excellence in serving special populations of students.

This past week, several representatives for Evergreen Elementary took part in the national ESEA conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where the school was officially recognized. Pictured here (left to right) are Lorna Salchen-

berg, Jenn Miller-Yancey, Ryan Howe, Mikki Angerman, and Dani Lewis.

"Our Evergreen Elementary staff has worked as a team for many years," Superintendent Debbe Lancaster wrote in a Facebook post on Feb. 5. "Because of their collaborative efforts and teamwork, they have increased student achievement through increasing literacy, closing achievement gaps, and providing support to all students through Title IA funded opportunities."

Alaska salmon fishing goes on nearly year round -over 100 Southeast trollers are still out on the water fishing for winter

kings.

The state Board of Fisheries is in the midst of a marathon meeting on Upper Cook Inlet fishing

issues. More than 170 management proposals are on deck through Feb 19 at the Anchorage Egan Center.

Good Luck Wolves & Lady Wolves at the Regional Basketball Tournament March 13-14 in Juneau



WHS 2019-2020 Cheerleaders & Pep Band



PEP BAND

The Wrangell High School pep band. Back row (left to right): Paige Baggen, Tasha Massin, Jimmy Baggen, Adriana Larrabee, Bruce Smith, Coby Holder, Jacob Allen, Killian Booker, and Ander Edens. Front row: Sophia O'Brien, Jade Balansag, Terra Hoyt, Jing O'Brien, Maddison Blackburn, Elias Decker, and Laura Helgeson. Not Pictured: Skylar Larrabee.



CHEERLEADERS

The Wrangell Cheer Team. Bottom row (left to right): Kira Torvend and Brodie Gardner. Middle row: Aria Chase, Haven Jack, and Robyn Booker. Back row: Cassidy Cowan, Savannah Smith, and Aaliyah Messmer.

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