

Wrangell educator partakes in Smithsonian research project

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A Tlingit educator and Wrangell resident returned home late last month after taking part in a community research program at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Virginia Oliver was selected for the trip by Recovering Voices, a research initiative that supports indigenous communities in their efforts to save, document, and revitalize their languages, cultures and knowledge systems. Groups of scholars and elders are brought from around the country to the Smithsonian to examine specimens in its collection related to their heritage, and then discuss their significance with museum staff.

Virginia Oliver accompanied a group of elders and teachers from Southeast Alaska, leaving in mid-March for the nation's capital. A teacher of Tlingit language and culture with Wrangell Public Schools and the local Johnson-O'Malley Program, Oliver explained that learning has been her longstanding passion. She began learning the Tlingit language through college courses, building on her understanding of the culture at the same time.

"My mother was a fluent elder, and my Aunt Martha was fluent," she explained, and her grandmother and grandfather spoke some occasionally. "They never taught us, though we used to hear it when we were younger. As soon as I started to hear it again I became interested."

Referred to the museum initiative by a friend, Oliver was surprised to be called up by Recovering Voices in January with an offer to participate.

There were 11 elders in all in her group, and Oliver recalled they at first had a hard time navigating the D.C. public transportation system. At one point they had traveled by bus to the wrong airport and were nearly run down by speedwalkers in the metro tunnels.

"Holy macaroni," she exclaimed. But they learned quickly. "We were old hands by the second week. We got pretty good at that. It was like self-preservation."

Brought to a resource center supporting the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian, Oliver recounted that the group was instructed to examine 5,592 Tlingit artifacts, prioritizing 100 of them for further study.

"You've got to do it one by one," she said. "They have so many objects there at



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Standing in front of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. last month are members of the Recovering Voices group from Southeast Alaska: Virginia Oliver, Ruth Demmert, Allen Zuboff, Garfield George, Gabby George, Linda Wynn, Florence Sheakley and Shgen George. The girl at front in Violet George.

"You've got to do it one by one.

They have so many objects there at the Smithsonian. You just wanted to pick the first 100 that you saw."

-Virginia Oliver

the Smithsonian. You just wanted to pick the first 100 that you saw."

Oliver tried to express the variety of the items there, from drums and weapons, ceremonial regalia, blankets and other woven items, bentwood boxes, tools and furniture. She got to see Chief Shakes' canoe, as well as the carved Bear screen from his house, which had at one point been cut in half.

Most of the items came from the private collections amassed by collectors, doctors and clerics during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many were difficult if not impossible to assign a correct date to as a result, but that was not all that was lost.

Anything with a face on it was important, Oliver explained, because it was alive. "If it had a face, it meant it was a living thing." These all had names and stories attached to them, though for a number of them she feared those may have been now lost to posterity.

While the elders tried to shed new light on the collection of items for the Smithsonian curators, Oliver also captured



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This pair of shoes was one of nearly 6,000 Alaska Native items Southeast elders and educators invited to Washington D.C. had to inspect, currently in the care of the Smithsonian Institution.

footage for posterity back in Wrangell. Wrangell High School equipped her with a virtual reality camera, with which she was able to record her trip through the archives and museums for students back home to experience. For many of the items, it was their first time being filmed.

"It took 32 GB for just two hours of filming," she commented. It wasn't long before she maxed out her computer's memory, and had to take a quick trip to find an external hard drive.

At the various Smithsonian museums, Oliver was also able to see all sorts of exhibits from around the world, from Egyptian mummies to the ill-fated Hope

Diamond, jewelry of the Bonapartes to the largest Salish hat she had ever seen. The capital itself was like a sort of extended museum, and she was able to tour the old ice house and eat at George Washington's favorite tavern. She also got to meet with Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan at his office, and see Capitol Hill up close.

Oliver had the opportunity to exchange her Tlingit culture too, with the visiting elders and with the museum staff. Returning home with newfound knowledge, she also made new friends and associates.

"It was just wonderful," she said. "I learned a lot, I'm glad that I went."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Sentinel extends its best wishes to the persons listed on the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship Birthday Calendar. **April 6:** Kyla McChargue, Joe Mork, *Anniversary:* Andy and Jeannie Easterly, Elmer and Marilyn Mork. **April 7:** Doug Fursteneau, Cori Robinson, Cooper Powers, *Anniversary:* Brad and Tawni Fitzgerald, Levi and Ashley Powers, Brian and Dortha Rooney. **April 8:** Matthew Edgley, Deveril Bloom, Leslie Jackson Sr., Troy Reading, *Anniversary:* Jeff and Christy Good. **April 9:** Kiara Harrison, Riley Thomas, Kathy Dow, Delores Bradley. **April 10:** eo Brown, Loretta Rice, *Anniversary:* Frank and Loretta Rice. **April 11:** Amy erteeg, Adam Morse, Jeni Smith, Christine Letts, Shelley Massin, Georgie Samson, Adrienne Angerman. *Anniversary:* Jess and Emily Rugo. **April 12:** Michael Cook, Warren Edgley, Shannon Chrisman, Kelly Davis, Jaynee Fritzingler, Keen Kohrt, Loni Bunes, Barb Rugo. **April 13:** Tenisha Nelson, Devan Harding. *If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.*

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, April 6:

Spaghetti and meatballs, broccoli blend, green salad.

Friday, April 7:

Moose stew, Onions and Carrots, fruit slaw, roll.

Monday, April 10:

Lemon Baked chicken, broccoli blend, Texas cole slaw.

Tuesday, April 11:

Lasagna, Italian vegetables, apricot salad, french bread.

Wednesday, April 12:

A1 meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed broccoli, romaine and radish salad.

Thursday, April 13:

Fiesta pork chops, pears, carrot and raisin salad, herb biscuit.

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, April 6

Story Time: 10 a.m. Public Library. Join us for stories, crafts and snacks.

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 Chautauqua: Unique Wetlands of Southeast Alaska-Joni Johnson.

Sunday, April 9

Gospel Meeting: Gospel Meeting with Lucas and Don in the Nolan Center classroom. 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10

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

Tuesday, April 11

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.

Wednesday, April 12

Gospel Meeting: Gospel meeting with Lucas and Don at the Nolan Center Classroom. 7:00 p.m. *Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne 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 gChurch 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.

April 12, 1917: In response to a call issued by Mayor J.G. Grant there was a large and enthusiastic gathering of citizens at the Redmen's hall Monday night for the purpose

of forming a home guard unit. Fred Lynch, aged 82, was the first to sign, and before the meeting closed 117 had signed for the membership, and since the meeting a number of others have signed the roster. The average age of members of the guard is probably 30 years.

April 10, 1942: From various quarters suggestions have come to the Sentinel that women of Wrangell get together to provide entertainment for the numerous service men who pass through town on ships bound northward. Noticeable, during the past has been the lack of "some place to go" and "something to do" for these men. They wander around town, go up to the school, the library, any place to get away from the ship for a few hours. They're "just kids" a long way from home who are now off to the four corners of the world. It has been suggested that, while a boat load is in port, the Legion Dugout and Civic Center be opened to welcome them. Many women have already signified their willingness to be on hand serve cookies or cake furnish magazines.

April 7, 1967: A south end resident was driving home last week at about dusk and started to see a large round lighted object with a red light and vapors rising around it, seemingly just hovering around the hill by Wrangell Institute. He stopped the engine on his car but could hear no sound of an

engine, and the object suddenly soared into the air above him and disappeared. Mystified he drove home and reported the experience to the Sentinel and asked if we had heard any reports. A group of persons attending a meeting at The Institute had demonstrated a feat that had been done in the lower 48. They filled a large round plastic bag with air and mounted it on a wooden stand that also held a circle of candies. The lighted candles caused the UFO to soar skyward.

April 9, 1992: A series of six meetings will be held to help identify problems and

opportunities that will affect the community into the next century. Wrangell 2001 is a community generated process that will involve the public in a six-night series of meetings to develop goals to address critical issues. These issues will be identified by the community participants. Small groups will be formed to help develop a plan of action to achieve the goals to resolve the issues. This process is designed to help the people of Wrangell chart the community's future for the next nine years. The community will identify the issues and develop solutions with the help of facilitators from the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, April 8
Matanuska 12:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 9
Malaspina 7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11
Matanuska 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15
Matanuska 2:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 16
Malaspina 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, April 18
Matanuska 9:15 a.m.
Friday, April 21
Matanuska 11:30 p.m.

Southbound

Friday, April 7
Matanuska 6:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 9
Matanuska 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12
Malaspina 8:00 a.m.
Friday, April 14
Matanuska 8:30 a.m.
Monday, April 17
Matanuska 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 19
Malaspina 6:30 a.m.
Friday, April 21
Matanuska 9:00 a.m.

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



TIDES TABLE April 6 - April 13

High Tides

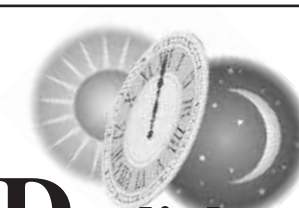
Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM		Ft
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	
April 6	10:12	14.8	11:05	15.0	3:57	4.2	4:37	0.9	
April 7	11:14	15.6	11:53	16.1	5:08	2.8	5:34	0.3	
April 8	-----	-----	12:06	16.2	6:00	1.5	6:18	-0.1	
April 8	0:35	16.9	12:52	16.7	6:43	0.4	6:56	-0.2	
April 10	1:13	17.4	1:33	16.7	7:19	-0.4	7:29	0.1	
April 11	1:47	17.5	2:11	16.5	7:52	-0.8	7:59	0.6	
April 12	2:18	17.3	2:46	16.0	8:23	-0.8	8:28	1.3	
April 13	2:47	16.9	3:20	15.3	8:53	-0.6	8:57	2.0	



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
March 26	46	35
March 27	46	39
March 28	44	37
March 29	44	39
March 30	44	39
March 31	42	41
April 1	42	39
April 2	42	35



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
April 6	6:08a	7:34p	13:26h
April 7	6:06a	7:36p	13:30h
April 8	6:03a	7:38p	13:35h
April 9	6:00a	7:40p	13:40h
April 10	5:58a	7:42p	13:44h
April 11	5:55a	7:44p	13:49h
April 12	5:53a	7:46p	13:53h
April 13	5:50a	7:48p	13:58h

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Mariners memorial steers into fundraising stage

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Going on six years in the making, a steering committee has been assembled to develop a memorial dedicated to Wrangell mariners, and is starting to solicit donations for its construction.

The five-member committee was assembled at the behest of the Port Commission, which after commissioning designs for the new memorial thought the next step would be best handled by a private corporation rather than the city.

Memorial committee member Brennon Eagle explained taking that route would make it easier to fundraise and accept donations in-kind for the construction. The group is currently applying for its tax-exempt status as a nonprofit.

"We've had a lot of discussions about it in the Port Commission meetings," said John Yeager, a member of the

commission and committee both.

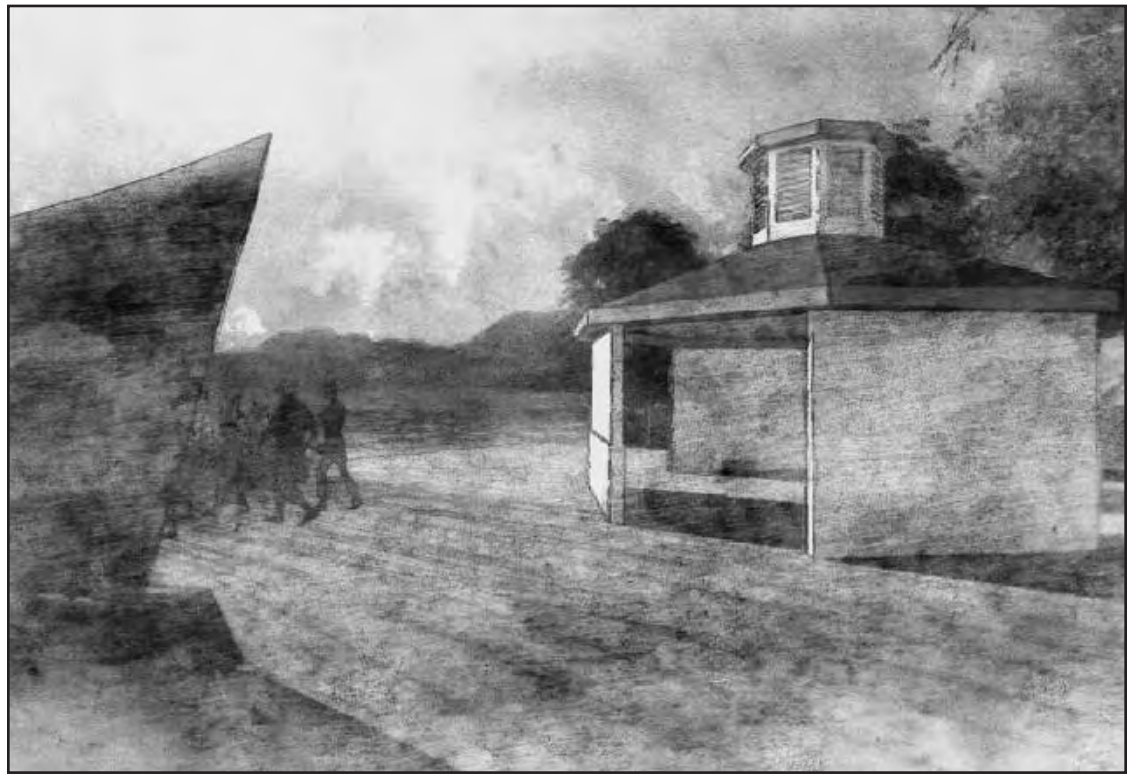
Discussions have taken up the better half of the last decade, as commissioners sought public input, and worked with local artist Brenda Schwartz-Yeager to draw up a concept. That in turn was then formalized into a site design by Corvus Design in Juneau, a final draft of which was delivered at the end of 2015.

A former commission chair and longtime supporter of the project, Eagle was glad to see the memorial design enter this latest phase.

"It's just another thing that contributes to a well-rounded community," he explained.

"We're a seafaring community," Yeager commented. "There's a lot of tradition of remembering those lost at sea, and loved ones."

The project will not be a cheap one to complete. Construction estimates drawn



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This view of Wrangell's proposed mariners memorial highlights the site's decorative pavilion, which resembles a classic lighthouse. The simple, octagonal structure overlooks Zimovia Strait from the corner of Heritage Harbor, and a portion of the steel memorial wall is visible at left, curving to a point like the bow of a ship.

LAND EXCHANGE Informational Meeting

Thursday, April 6
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Nolan Center

(Refreshments will be served)

Representatives from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and Trust Land Office will provide an update on land exchange legislation. The exchange would help the Trust Land Office fulfill its mission by replacing trust-owned property adjacent to several communities, including Wrangell, with land that has higher value for timber harvest. This will help the Trust Land Office increase revenue production from Trust-owned land, which supports vital mental health services for Alaskan beneficiaries.

The land exchange would protect popular trails, viewsheds, and iconic recreational sites in Southeast. It will also help to protect certain watersheds near communities and preserve some old growth timber stands. The exchange will also ensure jobs stay in the Southeast communities by protecting the timber and tourism industries.

For more information on the land exchange, go to www.mhitrustland.org.



Trust
Land Office

Trust
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

up by PND Engineers in Juneau pegged the cost at around \$332,000, including contingencies. Yeager pointed out those estimates looked at the project through the lens of a public contract, and could come down significantly as work unfolds.

The memorial would be built in phases, with the first establishing a concrete plaza and pavilion overlooking Heritage Harbor, near the ramp. Eagle explained the site was ideal for the project, being so close to the sea.

"It was important to maintain water access to it," he said. "That's the most important feature."

Curved walls bearing brass plaques would resemble the line of a ship's bow, with steel the preferred material. The concrete pad would mimic wood planking in design, and the pavilion would likewise resemble a lighthouse.

"We wanted to have some-

thing that carries local significance," Eagle said.

The steering committee is still hammering out the guidelines for inclusion on the memorial, but Eagle said they preferred inclusivity. That underpinned the whole mariners concept, rather than being dedicated more strictly to fishermen. Residents spend a number of different ways living on the water, and he felt the design complimented that.

"We feel there are a lot of different stories to the seafaring tradition here," he said. "There's a lot of parts to this that we want to encapsulate."

The committee has already met three times since being

formed this year, and members showed design concepts and sought support from people visiting the Hospital Health Fair on Saturday. The group will be seeking money of course, but are also looking for volunteers and in-kind donations.

The committee was also gathering signatures of support during the fair, which can be used in future to help secure grant funding and other aid.

"We've had great support so far this morning," Yeager commented while minding the committee's booth. "They show that the community is behind the project."

"I think this is going to be something good for the community," said Eagle.

Police report

Monday, March 27

Parking complaint.
Citizen Assist.

Tuesday, March 28

Alarm: Business alarm went off. Officer responded and contact person notified.
Lost Keys: Missing keys reported.

Wednesday, March 29

Civil Issue.
Citizen Assist.
Traffic Stop.
Parking Complaint.

Thursday, March 30

Rock in the Road: Caller reported rocks in the road by Heritage Harbor. DOT already cleaning up.
Controlled burn: Person called station.
Missing Property: Caller stated they had lost their coat.

Friday, March 31

Parking Complaint
Citizen Assist: Assistance with paperwork.
Noise Complaint: Verbal warning for loud music.

Saturday, April 1

Citation issued: Kelsey Leak, 49, for blocking traffic.

Sunday, April 2

Noise Complaint: Officer responded.
Civil Issue: Officer spoke with individual.
Found Clothing.
Report of gun shot: Officer responded. Kids stated it was fireworks.

There were two ambulance calls and three dog complaints during this week.

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Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. 2015 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results. <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/yrbs/yrbs.aspx>

Harbor House opening held up by occupancy inspection

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The opening of a planned assisted living and senior housing center has been pushed back by a couple of weeks, its owners say.

Shannon Bosdell said a Certification of Occupancy from the state is needed before Harbor House can open its doors to residents. First announcing the venture back in December, he and co-developer Daniel Blake were expecting an April 1 start date.

"It got pushed out by a week, week and a half," Bosdell said.

Formerly the Sourdough Lodge, once certified, the Peninsula Avenue facility will be able to accommodate five assisted living rooms and up to 11 rooms for senior housing. Bosdell has explained one of the benefits of the arrangement is it will allow for couples with mixed care level needs to con-

tinue living together.

The site will have a combination of single- and double-occupancy rooms available, depending on preference. The singular units will be accommodated by a large community room and cafeteria, which Bosdell explained would operate like a restaurant.

Harbor House will have both a recreational director and registered nurse on staff to attend to residents, and Bosdell said transportation services would be available to take residents into town each day.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the conditional use permit application needed to open the assisted living center back in January, following a pair of hearings that were at times contentious. Nearby neighbors had expressed concern that the new usage would be disruptive to residents, causing increased traffic, on-street parking, unat-

tended pets, and the potential nuisance of nighttime ambulance calls.

The commission took some of these concerns to heart, adding several provisions to the permit that would address access and parking concerns. Since then, Bosdell reported the care home has gotten its state licenses and certifications in order, save that for occupancy, which requires approval from the state Fire Marshal's Office.

"We've waited two months to get to the head of the line," he said.

Tentatively the opening is set for mid-April. At the moment, about half of the rooms have been booked, with nine residents signed up.

The addition of the new facility could help alleviate a need for senior housing in the community. A housing needs survey conducted by Wrangell Cooperative Association in 2015 found the issue to be one

of the community's top priorities.

Death Notices

Jack Engdal passed away March 19, 2017. An obituary will follow.

Stella Deatherage passed away on March 26, 2017 in Eugene, Oregon. There will be no service and no obituary will be submitted to the Sentinel.

POSTED FUEL PRICES
WRANGELL
L N M: \$3.51
Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.51
PETERSBURG
SE Island Fuel: \$3.64
Petersburg Motors: \$3.53
Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, April 4

Obituary:

Twila Mae (Winters) Appleton Briskar, 90

Twila Mae (Winters) Appleton Briskar, 90, of Curwensville died on March 26, 2017 at UPMC Altoona.

Born on October 10, 1926 in Curwensville, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Violet (Craddock) Winters.

She was a graduate of Curwensville High School in 1945 and a lifelong member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Curwensville. She was employed by Sheertex Hosiery and Bayer Clothing.

On March 8, 1946, she married Miles Appleton Sr. who preceded her in death on July 23, 1976. On February 11, 1982, she married Rudy Briskar and lived with him in Wrangell, Alaska for several years before returning to Curwensville. He died in August of 1998.

She is survived by her son, Miles Appleton Jr. and wife Sherry of Curwensville; two grandchildren, Mary Appleton and Jay Appleton; one great grandson, Braedyn McCahon; and a sister Lillie Tornatore of St. Marys and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by son, John Appleton; two grandsons, Daniel Appleton and John Shannon Appleton; two brothers, Donald Ray Winters and Arthur Winters Jr.; and a sister, Joy Rickard.



Twila Mae (Winters) Appleton Briskar

Funeral services were held in Curwensville. To sign the on-line guestbook go to www.beardsleyfuneralhome.com.

Celebration of Life planned

There will be a celebration of life for Ginny Gillen/Allen Friday, April 7 at 4 pm at the Elks. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Wrangell Search and Rescue.

April Specials

Regular Furniture 30% off

Bed Frames 50% off

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Maundy Thursday
April 13 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Celebration
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USCG cutter recalled from visit by medical emergency

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A Coast Guard cutter stationed in Ketchikan was due to stop in to Wrangell over the weekend for its Tent City Days celebration, but unexpectedly had to divert course and return home en route.

The CGC *Anthony Petit* was about 31 miles away when it abruptly changed course Friday evening.

“Unfortunately, just by Lincoln Rock, a member of our crew developed a serious medical condition,” explained Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Bauer. The ship made speedily for home, the crew member was successfully transported for emergency care, and is currently down in Bellingham undergoing treatment.

The cancelled visit would have allowed for public tours of the *Anthony Petit*, giving residents a chance to meet with its crew of 24 and inspect the vessel while also learning about its mission. The 175-foot, coastal buoy tender has been featured at Tent City celebrations in the past, though in recent years the stop has been more difficult to schedule.

USCG allows for such visits when operationally available. The cutter’s primary mission is in maintaining navigational aids around Southeast waters. Bauer explained the team supports an assortment of assets from Dixon Entrance past Juneau, just short of Haines.

Harsh weather coming through the region’s inner waters can damage indicators and buoys at any time, so the *Anthony Petit* is kept on readiness status 24 hours a day.

“That keeps us on our toes,” said Bauer. The vessel supports other USCG efforts in the region



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Budding brilliance

Mya DeLong and a group of seven- to nine-year-old girls pause during a junior floral classification workshop on March 29 at Groundswell. The session was the first of three the florist plans for local girls, with a workshop on arrangement building on what they learned about different species of flora, and a final class putting those skills to the test with an Easter arrangement course.

as needed, and can coordinate with other assets so it can undergo its own maintenance periods.

The Tent City visits come as a pleasant respite then, allowing crew members to take in the sights – maybe take in a round of golf – while also allowing the public a chance to see what they do firsthand.

“We were really looking for-

ward to it,” said Bauer. “A lot of guys were looking forward to getting around the city.”

There may be other opportuni-

ties in the future, and the petty officer said next year’s Tent City Days is on the crew’s radar. Festival organizer Kelly Gunderson said she would like to

try and coordinate other visits by the *Anthony Petit* and other Coast Guard assets, not only for Tent City but for July 4 and other events.

Alaska Senate eyes changes to public education

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Senate is proposing school funding cuts and phasing out a scholarship program the Senate majority says hasn’t met expectations.

Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair Lyman Hoffman says a \$69-million cut to a school funding formula is being considered as part of a larger budget-cutting strategy.

The Senate also is proposing steps intended to improve education, including repurposing a fund for scholarships to instead provide education innovation grants.

Under one proposal, this year’s high school graduating class would be the last to receive merit-based scholarships.

Senate Majority Leader Peter Micciche says educators unhappy with the proposed cut should urge House passage of legislation that would use Alaska oil-wealth fund earnings to fill much of the state’s deficit.

He says lawmakers could then better evaluate any remaining gaps.

House majority leaders have said they want a more comprehensive fiscal plan.



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SEARHC-AICS merger completed

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) has completed its acquisition of Alaska Island Community Services (AICS), with the transition formally taking effect on April 1.

Started in 1975, SEARHC is a non-profit tribal health consortium representing 18 Native communities in the region. Among its other programs, it operates Mt. Edgcombe Hospital and the Ethel Lund Medical Center in Juneau. One of the largest private employers in the region before the merger, the deal with AICS extends its reach to 24 communities.

Established in Wrangell in 1989, AICS has provided a variety of clinical and mental health services. In the intervening years it had expanded its service range to include Petersburg, Gustavus, Point Baker, Port Protection, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, Naukati, Edna Bay, and most recently the Front Street Community Health Center in Juneau.

Under the agreement, SEARHC assumes operational and management support roles while AICS, retaining its name, will continue to operate out of its existing facilities and locations. The former AICS govern-

ing board has been reformed into an advisory council, which will provide input to an eight-member accreditation governing body made up of SEARHC corporate board members. The new council was arranged to include members of the former AICS board, and representatives from SEARHC, Wrangell Medical Center and the Borough Assembly.

Meeting with the Assembly in January, SEARHC senior vice president Dan Neumeister explained the newfound relationship would see a net increase in AICS' operating margin of about \$2,000,000 annually. This would be due both to organizational efficiencies and the status of SEARHC as a tribal entity, allowing it greater reimbursement rates in both Medicare and Medicaid. Because of its size, the consortium would also be better able to negotiate with Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield, the sole participating insurer in Alaska's health insurance marketplace.

In that and subsequent meetings, SEARHC has also made a commitment to the Assembly that it continues serving all patients, assumes the local property tax obligation of the AICS clinic site, and establishes a

foundation to help support community-designated health priorities using a percentage of surplus funds.

The arrangements made between AICS and Wrangell Medical Center for staff and services will also continue. This includes physician and provider coverage for WMC as well as part-time pharmacy coverage, behavioral health consultation, biomedical services and information technology support. In turn, SEARHC would still be provided with radiology, laboratory and rehabilitation services as well as the handling of biological waste services for the AICS clinic.

"It's gratifying to know the depth and breadth of services provided to the patients and residents of Wrangell and sur-

rounding communities will be enhanced through this merger," SEARHC President and CEO Charles Clement said in a release Monday.

With these assurances, the Borough Assembly last month approved transfer of the statutory warranty deed from AICS to SEARHC for its Wood Street clinic property.

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4. Make yourself so well known that customers will automatically come to you.
5. Remember, there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they knew you were there.
6. Set aside some time to think about promoting your business. Don't believe word of mouth and social media is the ONLY advertising you'll ever need.
7. Remember that you have competitors trying to attract your customers away from you.
8. Studies show a potential customer must see your company's advertisement at least 3 times for the product or service to register. Be consistent.

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Tent City a wrap

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Another year's Tent City Days wrapped up over the weekend, culminating in a post-roller derby party out on the town late Saturday.

"It went pretty good," said Kelly Gunderson, who helped organize this year's events. "Especially with the derby girls."

The Garnet Grit Betties hosted a special bout for the event. Twenty-eight women donned pads and skates and took to a converted track at the high school gym Saturday afternoon. Coming from six different communities, they formed two "mash-up" rosters that went against each other over the course of four bouts.

The basic premise of the sport is that two teams of five skaters assemble together at the track's start. One designated skater from each side wears a star on her helmet, indicating she is the "jammer" for the round. Each jammer tries to skate her way past the other four opponents – the "pack" – and break ahead, with the lead jammer then able to rack up points for every opposing player she passes.

There are other rules to the game – such as "pivot" players jammers can pass their stars off to to continue the jam – but the teams continue in increments of two-minute jams throughout until time runs out. The team with the most points wins.

The games were a friendly bout, with no lasting



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

At far left, Petersburg jammer Dark Flow RideHer tries to slam through a pack of opponents during Saturday's Fool's Gold Mash-Up. Hosted by Wrangell's Garnet Grit Betties, the matches featured more than two dozen skaters and an assortment of referees, scorekeepers and volunteers from around the region.

injuries experienced during the afternoon. Onlookers came and went throughout the day, following the wrap-up of Wrangell Medical Center's Health Fair. Held at the Nolan Center, WMC outreach coordinator Kris Reed explained turnout for the fair had been good: 40 booths had been set up with various prizes, health-related information, and community updates, and hundreds of people came through.

The big draw was the release of results for the March blood draws. For most of the month the hospital discounted its various laboratory tests, and around 480 patients appeared on Saturday to pick



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Visitors and residents peruse the different displays at WMC's 2017 Health Fair on Saturday. Everything from fly-out services to flower arranging, good nutrition and religious enlightenment was being offered, with people enticed to learn more through an airline ticket raffle.

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up results for 1,616 different tests. Even though the lab had been a little short handed, technicians were still able to keep up with the deluge of test tubes.

Tent City Days ended up being hosted around the fair this year, though in past years it tends to be set for the second weekend of February. Gunderson explained this year's shift was due to scheduling difficulties, and with advance planning she hopes to shoot again for February. She already plans to start getting people mobilized in May.

"I want to get the community back into it," she said.

A planned visit by a Coast Guard cutter ended up getting canceled (see story on page 5), but other entertainments were had over the weekend. On

Friday night, local pooches participated in the Annual Wrangell Dog Show. "We had just over what we had last year," explained Kasee Emens, who organized the show.

Pets competed in 10 different events, which ranged from tricks and time trials to just looking the cutest.

"Each category got a prize," Emens explained.

This was the first year she had a hand in organizing the show, due to Tent City's scheduling shuffle. "It will be better once we have more time to plan," she said. It went off without a hitch however, and Emens is looking forward to next year's show. She promised there would be some agility course obstacles added, and some more advance notice.

She and her dog had only

first participated last year, and she said it wasn't too difficult to prepare for. For those thinking of entering their own canine companions next time, only a little bit of practice goes a long way.

Over the course of Sunday afternoon, a winner emerged from the Three Bobs' Cribbage Tourney at the Elks. The long-standing cards game is dedicated to three Bobs in particular – Smith, Burrell and Prunella – who had been avid players in the past.

Out of 18 players this year, Clara Haley finished in fourth place during the semifinals, with Kristen Debord in third place. The last game came down between winners of the last two tournaments. Robert Shilts came out ahead of Collin Dando, winning the \$80 pot.

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Demand for fish captured wild in the US shows big gain

Seafood sales at American retail stores are on an upswing and should remain that way for the foreseeable future. Better yet - demand for fish captured wild in the USA showed the biggest gains of all.

That's good news for Alaska, which provides nearly 65 percent of wild-caught seafood to our nation's supermarkets (95 percent for salmon!). A new survey by trade magazine Progressive Grocer showed that retail seafood sales rose nearly 40 percent over the past year, and 56 percent predicted an upturn in seafood sales this year.

U.S. wild caught seafood topped the list for the highest demand increase by nearly 58 percent of retail respondents, especially products from Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

A breakdown of the 2017 Retail Seafood Review by Seafood Source showed that wild-caught seafood also was perceived as being of higher quality, and 53 percent said wild tastes better than farm raised goods.

The review said Americans are buying less beef, chicken and pork due to health concerns, and issues linked to animal welfare and environmental impacts.

Analysts at FoodDive said "This gives retailers an excellent opportunity to grow the seafood category, but much work is needed in terms of advertising and consumer education to get customers to bite."

To lure more seafood shoppers, experts advised sellers to increase in-store signage and make smarter use of digital coupons and promotions. Workers behind the retail counters, they said, should be better trained about fish varieties, if it is wild or farmed, and how to prepare it. The Retail Seafood Review said that temporary price reductions were the most popular and effective form of promotion. Asked what they would like from seafood suppliers to help improve sales, respondents suggested "lower pricing on less popular fish to get people to try it."

Fast food fish flap - Here's a fun take on fast-food fish sandwiches with some biting feedback.

Writers at Business Insider sampled seven sandwiches, with Arby's "gummy" Crispy Fish "with no taste or joy" ranking last.

Dairy Queen's Alaska Cod sandwich is described as "a fillet slicked by a spill of tartar

sauce that would offend even the Exxon Valdez disaster."

Burger King's fish sandwich is "gray and sad," McDonald's is "boring." White Castle's fish slider is crispy, but "bland and sorry looking." Popeye's Seafood Po'boy has "more breading than fish."

The winner? Wendy's premium cod fillet which the Insiders said reminded them of an "honest to goodness fish fry."

Salmon center stage - Any Alaskan will tell you they want to protect our wild stocks of salmon, but how to do that brings different perspectives. A Salmon Policy Forum in Juneau will advance the discussion, with a focus on the Alaska laws that protect salmon habitat.

"This forum is not intended to push any agenda. It is educational and informational and a way to get ideas on the table and have a more in-depth conversation," said Lindsey Bloom, manager of the Salmon Habitat Information Project for United Fishermen of Alaska, a forum co-sponsor.

Panel discussions will include historians, scientists, managers, miners and hopefully, legislators. The forum is set for April 11 from 5:30 to 8pm at the Rockwell Ballroom. It is co-sponsored by the Center for Salmon and Society at the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks, and Salmon Connect. Find more information on Facebook.

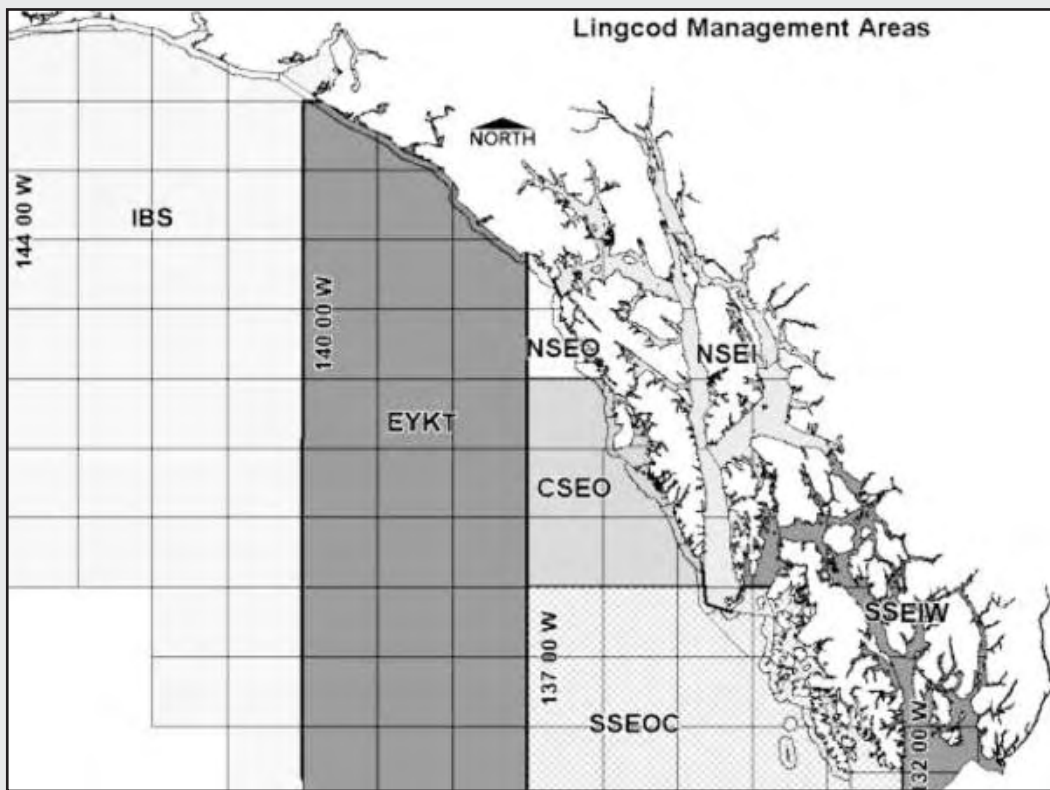
Crew cash - Fishermen can get cash back for their crew license fees—if they purchase them on line.

It's the first year that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is providing the online opportunity to replace paper licenses being purchased from vendors. It's more convenient for customers and switching from paper to eLicenses saves the state lots of cash.

"If we were able to achieve 100 percent online sales for licenses, it would save the department a couple hundred thousand dollars. Even at 50 percent sales, it's a big savings for us," said Forrest Bowers, deputy director of the commercial fisheries division in Juneau.

Crew licenses are the latest addition to ADF&G's online store, which offers print at home options for nearly every Alaska fishing and hunting license and more.

The department hopes to lure fishermen to the online store with 10 free crew license giveaways.



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

Lingcod fishery allocations announced for 2017

The Department of Fish and Game announced late last week its opening for the directed lingcod fishery will be starting next month.

For the outside waters of Southeast District, east of 144° W., the fishery opens May 16 just after midnight. Lingcod management areas will remain open to directed lingcod fishing until November 30 or when harvest allocations are taken, whichever occurs first.

In round pounds, the largest allocation will be for the East Yakutat section between 137° and 140° W., at 111,000. The next largest allocation will be for Central Southeast Outside (refer to map) at 86,400 pounds, followed by 50,100 for the Southern Southeast Outer Coast sector, 46,000 for the Icy Bay Subdistrict, and 17,200 for the Northern Southeast Outside area. No allocations were allotted for either the Northern Southeast Inside or Southern Southeast Internal Waters sectors.

All lingcod retained must measure at least 27 inches in length, from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or else 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Logbooks for ADFG are required, and a copy of the logbook pages detailing a landing must be attached to the associated fish ticket at the time of the landing. Entries must include the date, specific location in degrees and decimal minutes, number of lines and hooks used, average depth, and other details.

Gear legal for the permitted, directed lingcod fishery is limited to mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear and hand troll gear. Vessels fishing for or transporting

groundfish taken with dinglebar troll gear must display the letter "D," while vessels using mechanical jigging machines display an "M." A person may not operate a vessel that displays more than one of these letters at a time, and neither letter can be displayed when fishing for salmon.

Several waters will remain closed in specific areas, including around the Edgecumbe Pinnacle Marine Reserve, Gulf of Alaska coral protection areas, and a section of Sitka Sound in the Central Southeast Outside. For particular coordinates, refer to the ADFG announcement at www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/771243062.pdf.

Bycatch allowances for groundfish also apply to the directed lingcod fishery. Based on the found weight of lingcod on board, a 10-percent bycatch is allowed for demersal shelf rockfish in the EYKT, NSEO, CSEO, SSEOC and IBS waters. A 15-percent bycatch is allowed for black, blue, and dark rockfish in the aggregate, while other rockfish and thornyheads have a five-percent allowance. Pacific cod and spiny dogfish each have a 20-percent bycatch allowance, as do other ground fish besides skates, which are at five percent. Sablefish are not allowable. For further possession and landing requirements, refer to the fishery announcement.

Catch and effort will be closely monitored, and fishermen should expect area closures on short notice from departmental news releases, the Coast Guard "Notice to Mariners" report and the National Weather Service broadcast. Closures will also be announced on the groundfish hotline at 907-747-4882.

"If you're randomly selected the cost of the license will be refunded to you," Bowers said, adding that the deadline is October 6.

Annual commercial crew licenses cost \$60 for Alaska residents and \$277 for non-residents. Seven day licenses cost \$30 for both resident and non

residents.

Navy training correction - The ordnance expected to be used during the Northern Edge 2017 exercises in the Gulf of Alaska are two Navy Destroyers and one replenishment ship. According to a March 27 message

from the public affairs office at Alaskan Command, the ordnance is similar to what was used during Northern Edge 2015: 15 inert/non-explosive naval gun shells, approximately 2,100 small arms rounds, five signal flares, six floating targets and 250 active sonobuoys

Alaska police probe Ketchikan doctor's death as suspicious

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KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) – The death of a Ketchikan doctor remains under investigation after police learned that the friend who reported the doctor missing was accused of stealing money and valuable items from his home, authorities said.

Eric Garcia was reported missing March 27 by his 31-year-old friend, Jordan Joplin of Maple

Valley, Washington.

He called police to say Garcia had not been seen for 10 days, the Ketchikan Daily News reported.

Police say they later heard from Garcia's family members that a coin collection, watches and alcohol were missing from his home.

"The collections he had were quite extensive, and we're trying to determine exactly what items are still outstanding," said Joe White, Ketchikan's acting police chief.

An investigation determined Joplin had a shipment of items sent by barge on March 17 to the

Seattle area and withdrew \$37,000 from Garcia's account, said deputy police chief Josh Dossett.

Ketchikan police were joined by the King County Sheriff's Office and Port of Seattle officers in their search of the shipping containers once they arrived in Washington.

Joplin was arrested and will be extradited to Ketchikan to face theft charges.

Garcia had last been seen at work on March 16 and had plans to attend a weeklong conference out of town. The shipments and electronic bank account transfers

started March 17 after he is believed to have died, Dossett said.

An autopsy did not show an obvious cause of death for Garcia, who was a general surgeon at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center for about 10 years. Police are awaiting toxicology reports to determine how he died.

"Due to the nature of the case, they're speeding it up," Dossett said. "We should have some results in two to three weeks. Normally it's a six to eight weeks wait for toxicology. At this point, we would consider the death suspicious."

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Comics

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



IT HAS BEEN A LONG WINTER. I CAN'T WAIT TILL IT'S WARM ENOUGH TO GO SWIMMING.

DAD WILL FIRE UP THE GRILL AND WE CAN EAT BURGERS AND SHOOT OFF FIREWORKS.

YEAH, AND STAY UP ALL NIGHT GOING TO THE DRIVE INN EATING JUNKFOOD WITH SODAS.

WOW, I MUST HAVE CASIN FEVER. WE BOTH KNOW WE'RE IN FOR MANY HOURS OF YARD WORK.

R.F.D. by Mike Marland



LOOK'A THERE, BILL -- DID SIM GO AND BUY SOME KINDA DRIVERLESS TRACTOR?

OH, WAIT -- NEVER MIND. GUESS WE JUST FORGOT TO SET THE BRAKE!

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

6	1		2					8
	3			7		4		
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7		9	3					2

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BUY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



I'M SO DEPRESSED, FOOTBALL SEASON AND MARCH MADNESS ARE OVER. SO LONG TO ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Scrooge's cry
- Astronaut Grissom
- Indiana politico Bayh
- Egg
- Fire residue
- Predicate part
- Thin tie with a clasp
- Shelter, at sea
- Corp. bigwig
- Honey bunch?
- Rhett's shocking word
- Fresh
- Shortcoming
- Custodian
- Broadcasting
- PC picture
- Set of tools and parts
- Singer Campbell
- Naval prisons
- Own
- Rachmaninov or Prokofiev
- jongg
- Volcanic outflow
- Luxury boat
- Bullets and such
- Autumn mo.
- Entrance
- Serve tea
- PI follower

DOWN

- Goes up and down
- Acknowledge
- Hawaiian dance
- Guy's partner
- Secondhand
- Bundle of wheat
- 1990s Burt Reynolds sit-
- Napoleon's exile site
- Nervous
- Evergreen type
- Plaything
- com
- Annoy
- Exist
- Peacock network
- Trumpet-shaped flower
- Encountered
- Cow's call
- Stir-fry pan
- Hay bundle
- Falsehoods
- Sea eagles
- Triangular sails
- Land measure
- Black (Fr.)
- Tear
- Male cat
- Caribbean, for one
- Express
- Tusk material
- Liniment target
- Stallion, as a child
- Vagrant
- Salver
- Gorilla
- Chic, in the '60s
- Coffee holder
- AAA job

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Labor and business in tiff over workers comp reform

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaska Gov. Bill Walker is sponsoring workers' compensation legislation aimed at making it easier to determine whether someone is an employee or an independent contractor.

Walker's bill creates a new definition for independent contractors to determine if employers have to pay to insure against on-the-job injuries, KTOO-FM reported.

The legislation has drawn criticism from Alaska's Small Business Association, which says the new definition is too narrow for industries that rely heavily on independent contractors, such as construction.

But construction workers spoke in

favor of the bill during a House committee hearing last week, saying it'll prevent employers from misclassifying workers to lower their cost of labor and gain an unfair competitive advantage in the bidding process.

"I've been working in the painting and drywall finishing trade my entire adult life, and have never seen the abuse of this so high," Charlie Young testified on March 20. "More and more, these cheating contractors are winning the bids on projects, as I watch the amount of work for me get less and less."

This type of activity has been seen by Rhonda Gerharz, who handles cases

involving employers that fail to pay workers' compensation insurance.

"There are some who are very well versed and are deliberately trying to save money and trying to underbid their competitors," said Gerharz, chief investigator for the Alaska Division of Worker's Compensation Special Investigations Unit. "And there are others who are just not, perhaps not savvy business people and they think that they can just call someone an independent contractor and issue them a 1099. and that's not how it works."

The Small Business Association is concerned that the new way of defining

independent contractors would increase the cost of business and eventually apply in cases regarding other benefits such as unemployment insurance and minimum wage.

Gerharz said the new definition serves to make it clear to both employers and workers who is an independent contractor and who is not.

Walker's legislation passed out of the House committee but still faces several more votes.

The legislative session is scheduled to end April 16, but the workers' compensation issue has led to special sessions in the past.

Classified/Legals

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THANK YOU WMC, Kris Reed for a great health fair. Wilma Stokes-Leslie, Sr. Center outreach worker.....1x4-6p

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is hereby given that the regular board meeting of the Wrangell Medical Center Board of Directors shall be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Nolan Center Classroom, Wrangell, Alaska. Separate notice for the regular Board of Directors meeting shall not be required.
Kris Reed
Board Secretary
Wrangell Medical Center
Publish: April 6, 2017

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
Pursuant to the City & Borough of Wrangell Code, Sec. 3.04.808, notice is hereby given that the regular assembly meetings of the assembly shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The meetings shall be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Assembly Chambers, City Hall, Wrangell. If any such Tuesday shall fall on a legal holiday as defined by the laws of the State of Alaska, the meetings scheduled for that day shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday. Separate notice for the regular council meetings shall not be required. There will be no regular meetings the second Tuesday in July and August and fourth Tuesday in December.
Kim Lane, Borough Clerk
City of Wrangell, Alaska
Publish: April 6, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT WRANGELL; In the matter of the Estate of Gary James Stevens; Case No. 1WR-17-07 PR. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LINNEA LEE BROOKS has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the deceased 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. Claims must either be presented to Linnea Brooks P.O Box 638, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, or filed with the Clerk of Court, Box 869, Wrangell, Alaska 99929-0869.
Publish: March 23, 30 and April 6, 2017

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	H	G	U	S	E	V	A	N		
O	V	U	M	A	S	H	V	E	R		
B	O	L	O	L	E	E	E	X	E	C	
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			N	E	W	F	O	I	B	L	E
J	A	N	I	T	O	R	O	N	A	I	R
I	C	O	N	K	I	T	G	L	E	N	
B	R	I	G	S	P	O	S	S	E	S	S
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Trump revokes Alaska refuge rule; change may be symbolic

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – The state of Alaska’s toolkit for increasing moose and caribou numbers includes killing wolf pups in dens, shooting wolf packs from helicopters, and adopting liberal hunting regulations that allow sportsmen to shoot grizzlies over bait.

But when state officials wanted to extend “predator control” to federal wildlife refuges, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said no. And after years of saying no, the agency late last year adopted a rule to make the denial permanent.

Alaska’s elected officials called that an outrage and an infringement on state rights. The dispute reached the White House.

President Donald Trump on Monday signed a resolution approved by the U.S. House and Senate to revoke a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule banning most predator control on Alaska refuges. Alaska’s lone U.S. representative, Republican Don Young, says Alaska was promised it could manage game animals. Refuge overseers have ignored the law, he said.

“Some of you will say, Oh, we have to protect the wolf puppies,” Young told colleagues on the floor of the House. “That’s not what it’s about. It’s about the law.”

Congress explicitly gave Alaska authority to manage wildlife in the Alaska Statehood Act and two more laws, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said after voting to revoke the rule.

Alaska’s 16 national wildlife refuges cover about 120,000 square miles (310,800 sq. kilometers), an area slightly smaller than the state of New Mexico. Residents of rural villages living a subsistence lifestyle rely on refuges as hunting grounds. So do urban sportsmen.

Critics contend Alaska officials use unsportsmanlike techniques that would have horrified Teddy Roosevelt, creator of the first federal refuge, to boost moose and caribou numbers. Sportsmanship, however, is not a consideration, according to state authorities, when it comes to sur-

gically removing certain numbers of predators to benefit prey populations.

Predators can kill more than 80 percent of the moose and caribou that die during an average year, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Alaska’s mandate for killing predators comes from a law passed by the state Legislature recognizing that certain moose, caribou, and deer populations are especially important human food sources. When those populations drop too low, the Alaska Board of Game, which regulates, hunting and trapping, can authorize “intensive management.”

The focus once was almost totally wolves. Since 1993, the state has killed hundreds along with lesser numbers of black and grizzly bears that prey on caribou or moose calves.

Federal wildlife refuges operate under a different mandate. For

example, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, where the state in 2010 sought to kill wolves from helicopters to protect caribou on Unimak Island, was created by Congress with the mission of conserving animal populations and habitats “in their natural biodiversity.”

Geoff Haskett, former Alaska regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the agency adopted the rule for Alaska refuges after repeatedly fending off state attempts to extend predator control in direct conflict with refuge purposes. Some attempts up in court. For two years, he said, the state authorized an overharvest by hunters of grizzly bears on the Kenai Peninsula. The agency closed the Kenai Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in response.


“Brown bear biologists from both the state side and the federal side had real concerns about the

amount of unlimited harvest and the amount of females that would be taken by what was proposed by the state,” Haskett said.

Haskett left the agency and is now acting director of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Even though President Trump signed the congressional resolution, Haskett believes it will not give the state of Alaska carte blanche to begin predator control on federal refuges.

“It doesn’t change the laws and authorities and existing regulations that the service already has,” Haskett said. “It’s really back to square one.”

Ken Marsh, spokesman for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, agreed. Without a blanket rule, federal refuge managers likely will consider predator control requests on a case-by-case basis, he said, under provisions of federal environmental law.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) will hold a Regular Board Meeting on April 13, 2017 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm AKDT at the Best Western Plus Landing Hotel, Sunny Point Ball Room, in Ketchikan, Alaska. For additional information, please call 907.228.2281.
Publish: April 6, 2017

Tuck: Legislature prepared to go beyond 90 days

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska House majority leader says legislators are prepared to work past the scheduled end of session, if necessary, “to do things right.”

Democratic Rep. Chris Tuck says lawmakers are dealing with weighty issues in trying to address Alaska’s deficit, and want to ensure bills are well vetted.

The House has yet to complete work on an oil tax-and-credit system overhaul, which majority

members consider a key component of a fiscal plan. That bill would still have to go to the Senate.

Also pending in the House: legislation to reinstitute an income tax and use Alaska oil-wealth fund earnings to help pay for government.

The Senate, which passed its own oil-wealth fund legislation, has bristled at an income tax.

Session is scheduled to end April 16, under a voter-approved 90-day limit. The constitution allows sessions of up to 121 days.

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Brewery expansion could help Juneau recycling efforts

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Alaskan Brewing Company’s plans to expand its Juneau-based facility could help spur the consolidation of the city’s waste services.

The brewery is looking to purchase four lots owned by the City and Borough of Juneau for additional retail, storage or office space. The transfer would displace the city’s water utility and public drop-off area for household hazardous waste, The Juneau Empire reported.

“We’re interested, so it could happen fairly quickly on our schedule,” said Alaskan Brewing Company spokesman Andy Kline, “but it’s up to the city to say, ‘Yes.’ They’d have to figure out what to do with the hazardous waste area.”

RecycleWorks Manager Michele Elfers told city and borough officials at last week’s assembly meeting that relocating the hazardous waste drop-off facility could help streamline the city’s plans to consolidate waste services.

Juneau currently has three recycling programs all in separate locations. If forced to move the drop-off facility, the city could create a new hazardous waste drop-off location where residents could also dispose of recycling, composting and scrap metal. Having the operations housed on one property could lower operating and maintenance

costs. “I think it could be a really exciting opportunity for Juneau in general and the community because Alaskan Brewing Company is a really valuable business and community asset for us, and it could provide some opportunity for the RecycleWorks program too, to take our service to a higher level,” Elfers said.

The city opened the drop-off facility for hazardous waste in 2014. Before that, the city held only a few events to collect such waste each year. The total amount of hazardous waste collected from 2014 to 2015 increased by 100 tons.

Elfers has proposed several locations for a new consolidated recycling center, including a gravel pit in Lemon Creek and the Capitol Landfill.

Assembly members have decided to look into the relocation and consolidation of waste programs.

Alaskan Brewing Company is aware of its potential impact on the city’s recycling efforts. Kline said RecycleWorks’ environmentally friendly operations are in line with how the brewery runs its business.

“If we can assist, if we can be a catalyst in the community to allow for our waste to be used in a more efficient way community-wide, then we totally would advocate for that,” Kline said.

Juneau’s typical weather.

Juneau Police Lt. David Campbell said there were no injuries. He said the tail end of the avalanche might have hit a fence and a parked vehicle, but no homes were struck in this southeast Alaska city sandwiched by mountains and the ocean.

Juneau resident catches avalanche, waterfalls on phone

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – Carole Triem heard an unusual sound when she left an indoor swimming pool in downtown Juneau after her Friday morning workout.

She thought she heard thunder, “which is strange because we don’t get thunder here in Juneau.”

Instead, what she heard was an avalanche beginning its cascade down Mount Juneau.

An avalanche in Alaska’s capital city isn’t an unusual event after several this year. But what was different

for Triem, she said, was that she was able to pull her phone out and capture most of it on a 70-second video.

“I looked up, and I think I caught the very beginning of it,” she said. “I think I got pretty lucky.”

She didn’t feel like she was in any danger since she was far enough away from it, and didn’t feel a whoosh of air from the avalanche.

“I couldn’t feel anything different from where I was standing, just normal cold and wet,” she said of

Juneau’s typical weather.

Triem caught not only the avalanche on video, but also more moisture this time in the form of waterfalls that followed the snow down the mountain.



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