

Wrangell, Alaska
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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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12 Pages

Hospital cash flow prompts request for help from city

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Cash flow problems have again been ailing Wrangell Medical Center, with the public hospital putting forward a request for \$250,000 to the city on Tuesday.

At its own board meeting on October 18, WMC's chief financial officer, Doran Hammett, explained the situation. Cash on hand had by the end of September dropped to \$311,069, down from \$838,604 at the start of the fiscal year on July 1. It costs around \$28,000 a day to operate the hospital, meaning WMC had only around 11 days' worth available for its payroll and other expenditures.

The hospital is a public asset, though its finances have historically been independent of the city's budget. But on November 2014 WMC had alerted the City and Borough Assembly to an impending crisis after its available cash reserves had dipped to six days' measure. Addressing its cash flow, the hospital has since taken on a new accountant and trimmed expenditures where possible, also farming out its billing operations to a private company, TruBridge.

In the event of future emergencies, hospital administrators approached the Assembly in July 2015 with a request for a line of credit of \$500,000, which instead of being set up through a bank would be facilitated through city reserves. Under that arrangement, it was reasoned the hospital would not need to pay interest on any money it borrowed. The arrangement was to be revisited and renewed on an annual basis.

Since February 2016, the hospital has only taken out around \$150,000 from the account, paying down the sum in installments through this summer. Before it can withdraw the \$250,000 it would need by Wednesday, the Assembly would need to vote to renew its line of credit.

There had been a couple of factors primarily behind the shortfall. Looking over the first fiscal quarter, which began in July, Hammett reported that every statistical value for the hospital has so far been down over the previous fiscal year. Patient admissions have been lower than expected, contributing to an eight-percent decrease in net revenue.

"That's what's driving the financial numbers," he explained.

Cash flow concerns have also been driven by the hospital's accounts receivable, or the procedures and services it has billed out but which have not been collected, with slow-downs in Medicare and Medicaid repayments. Hammett explained items that usually would be cycled through within 14 days had been taking more than 30 or even 60 days to process.

"It was a real anomaly," he said. "That's what brought this to light."

Following the hospital board's meeting, the next day Hammett had a conversation with TruBridge, the firm handling the hospital's billing. Problems with the accounts had been traced back to coding errors, which had caused some accounts to idle. The medical coders themselves had not been at fault, but some of their codes had been lost in translation during the billing process, Hammett explained.

"It was just an internal issue," he said. It was hard to say



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Jason Hays shows instructor Winston Davies his grouping during last Thursday's qualifier. Just behind, Chief Doug McCloskey assists other students on the range.

Dozen local students earn hunting safety certifications

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Just under a dozen students at the local middle and high schools took part in a two-week hunter education course, earning their certifications in the process.

The course was led by Winston Davies, who teaches the district's Alaska skills course.

"It's the first time to my knowledge that hunter safety has been taught here in years," he explained. The state-approved curriculum provides a well-rounded course, covering firearms safety training, wildlife conservation, and respect for natural resources, landowners and other hunters. Originally it was supposed to be an all-high school class, but interest among Stikine Middle School students led to it becoming a mixed make-up course instead.

While safety certifications are not a prerequisite for hunters in most parts of Alaska, in many other states proof of such a course is necessary to purchase a license.

"It's for life," added Davies. "I did it when I was in elementary school."

The certifications are recognized not only in all 50 states, but also by state and provincial governments in Canada and Mexico. Such programs have been ongoing for over 65 years, with Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimating some 30 million graduates during that span in the United States. The hope is to reduce accidents while promoting better stewardship of the outdoors.

The skills course had a classroom component, working through an eight-chapter curriculum. Guest

Continued on page 12

how much revenue had been impacted by the errors, but the hospital will be working with TruBridge to rectify the situation over the next month. "If they start fixing that today, we should see the impact of that pretty quickly."

If renewal of the line of credit is approved by the Assembly Tuesday evening, a check to WMC from the city's general fund would be debited by Wednesday morning.

In other hospital board business, CEO Robert Rang announced the hospital's long-term care facility had been awarded a five-star rating for the second year in a row. The team has added a new coding lead for its health information management staff, Constance Harris. She arrived on October

16, relocating with her family from Kotzebue. Laboratory staff can also look forward to the return of Vincent Balansag, who will be returning with his family from the Philippines on November 7. Agency staff had been used to cover some of his work during the absence, which began in January.

Following municipal elections earlier this month, board members welcomed Jennifer Bates and Rebecca Christensen to their number. Recently reduced from nine members to seven, the board still has one vacancy to fill. During last week's meeting, member Patrick Mayer was elected the board's president, with Olinda White appointed vice president in absentia.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

Thursday, Oct. 26: Autum Hammock, *Anniversary:* Rick and Maxi Wiederspohn. **Friday, Oct. 27:** Nathaniel Rooney, Samuel Fennimore. **Saturday, Oct. 28:** Reida Streets, Frank Young Jr., Abigail Armstrong, Sam Nieshi. **Sunday, Oct. 29:** Sadie O'Brien, Carolyn Ottesen, Margaret Fisher, Stan Torvend, Jody Lindley, Jeanne Lindley. **Monday, Oct. 30:** Michael Christian, Eric Dilg, Keith Shilts Sr., Kurt Newcomb, *Anniversary:* Mark and Nola Walker. **Tuesday, Oct. 31:** River Guggenbickler, *Anniversary:* Steve and Karin Nesbitt, Mick and Celly Young. **Wednesday, Nov. 1:** Liam Maddox, Danica Barker, Matthew Weber, Debi Prunella, Karen Morse, Scott Fennimore, Amos Comstock. **Thursday, Nov. 2:** Kristen Stutz, Kyna DeBoer, Haig Demerjian, Jackson Powers, Ian Nelson. *Anniversary:* Mike and Ida Howell, Don and Dana Van Slyke.

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

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, Oct. 26

Fiesta pork chops, cauliflower, sweet potato, fruit slaw.

Friday, Oct. 27

Baked Halibut, Brussels sprouts, hot roll, carrot raisin salad.

Monday, Oct. 30

Half cheese sandwich, split pea soup, apricot salad.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Chicken California rice, veggie blend, Texas cole slaw

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Glazed ham, sweet potato, sukiyaki salad, hot roll

Thursday, Nov. 2

Swedish meatballs, Pasta and gravy, broccoli, tossed salad.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.
Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Saturday, Oct. 28
Matanuska 2:30 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 29
Columbia 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 1
Kennicott 6:45 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 4
Kennicott 8:30 a.m.

Southbound

Friday, Oct. 27
Matanuska 12:15 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 30
Matanuska 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 1
Columbia 4:30 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 3
Kennicott 6:00 p.m.

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



TIDES Oct. 26 - Nov. 2

	High Tides		Low Tides		High Tides		Low Tides	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Oct. 26	5:50	11.9	5:23	12.8	11:12	5.7	.....	.....
Oct. 27	7:00	11.5	6:33	12.0	0:00	2.6	12:17	6.3
Oct. 28	8:20	11.8	8:05	11.8	1:05	3.1	1:38	6.3
Oct. 29	9:25	12.7	9:22	12.4	2:17	3.1	3:01	5.5
Oct. 30	10:15	13.9	10:23	13.5	3:35	2.6	4:08	4.1
Oct. 31	10:58	15.2	11:13	14.6	4:22	1.9	5:00	2.3
Nov. 1	11:36	16.4	11:59	15.6	5:09	1.2	5:43	0.5
Nov. 2	.....	.....	12:13	17.6	5:52	0.6	6:24	-1.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, Oct. 26

SAIL Class: 10:00 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 a.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join. 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: Monday, Tuesday, 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.

November 1, 1917:

Beginning with tomorrow Nov. 2, letter postage will be three cents. Postals and post cards will be two cents. Drop letters in towns without carrier service will remain one cent.

November 6, 1942:

The appearance of the three horses destined to be pack animals for the Groundhog Basin mine properties was nothing short of a spectacular event for at least forty one Wrangell youngsters, who had never before seen a horse. Not only were a number thrilled by their first sight of the first equine visitors in Wrangell for many a long year, but to a few came the thrill of actually riding a horse. The Black Cayuses were obliging little beasts and trotted docilely up and down the hill to the target range while the small riders bounced precariously up and down on their sharp withers. Thursday was declared "field day" at the school

and everyone from the sixth grade down went to visit the horses.

November 3, 1967:

Eight Wrangell residents are among 1,847 enrolled at the University of Alaska this term. Among out of state students, Californians number nearly twice the total of any other state's contribution. This is the third year California has led the other states. Statistics from the university's registrar's office show that 50 California students have registered for classes at the U A this year. Washington state is second with 29 students, New York, New Jersey have sent 22 students each. Enrollment figures show that 362 out of state students represent 46 states at the university. Forty-one foreign students also enrolled. They represent Australia, Austria, Canada, Nationalist China, Denmark, England, Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sweden.

Island 1985 have had to struggle to survive, overcoming predators, the elements and even stomach disorders. The elk have also had to battle against a completely unnecessary obstacle - poachers. One cow elk, a member of a small herd that has established itself on Zarembo Island was shot by a poacher last month. That shooting has so incensed local hunters that there is a \$2,000 reward if the poacher is brought to justice.

November 5, 1992: The elk that were transplanted in Etohin

POSTED FUEL PRICES

WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.80

Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.80

PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.69

Petersburg Motors: \$3.61

Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, October 24th

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

Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop
Movie info: www.cmdb.com



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Oct. 16	44	39
Oct. 17	45	39
Oct. 18	46	42
Oct. 19	46	41
Oct. 20	45	39
Oct. 21	46	39
Oct. 22	46	41
Oct. 23	55	44



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Oct. 26	7:40 am	5:23pm	9:43h
Oct. 27	7:42 am	5:21pm	9:39h
Oct. 28	7:44 am	5:18pm	9:34h
Oct. 29	7:46 am	5:16pm	9:30h
Oct. 30	7:48 am	5:14pm	9:26h
Oct. 31	7:50 am	5:12pm	9:22h
Nov. 01	7:52 am	5:09pm	9:17h
Nov. 02	7:55 am	5:07pm	9:12h

Seafood production about wrapped up for winter

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Preliminary harvest and value figures for the 2017 commercial salmon fishery indicate the season was a step up above the previous year's disastrous harvest.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported a 66.7-percent increase in exvessel value between the two years, with 224.6 million wild salmon worth around \$678.8 million brought in by the state's fishing fleet.

Chum salmon saw the biggest boon of the year, breaking records with 25.2 million fish, worth about \$128.3 million. The haul accounted for 11 percent of the total harvest and 19 percent of its value. Sockeye had been the season's most valuable salmon species, with 52.4 million fish worth \$326.1 million, 48 percent of the total.

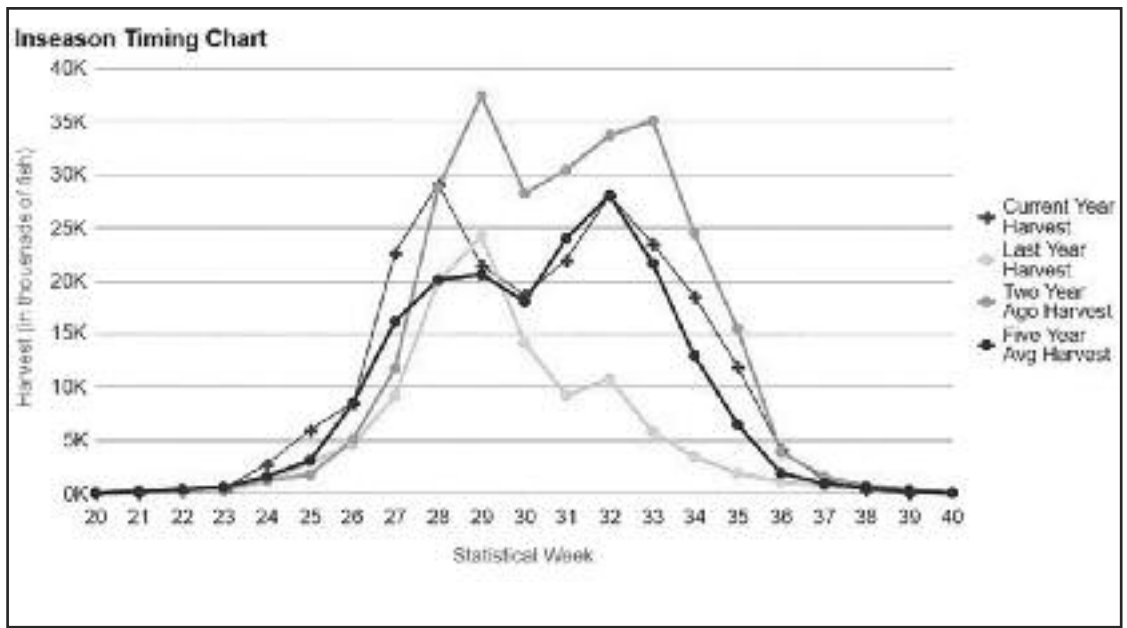
In terms of quantity, pink salmon made up 63 percent of the

total harvest at 141.6 million fish. Coho accounted for six percent of the value at \$37.6 million and two percent of the harvest at 5.1 million fish. Hampered by a late start and multiple restrictions, the king salmon harvest was marginal with only 251,141 fish, but an estimated value of \$17.8 million.

Most of the state's salmon fisheries have by now closed, but the numbers remain preliminary. A full report is anticipated later this year in December. In terms of poundage, Alaska's salmon fishery this year had been the third-largest since 1975, and was only the third time the harvest has exceeded a billion fish.

Pinks bounced back somewhat, ranked fourth in terms of poundage since 1975 and third in value.

Bristol Bay enjoyed another great sockeye season, with 37.7 million valued at \$209.9 million. Norton Sound's coho salmon re-



ADF&G GRAPHIC

In the thousands of salmon, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game graphic shows harvest tendencies by statistical week, from May until October. After sizable returns through July and August in 2015 were followed by a far more modest harvest the following year, the Southeast salmon harvest this year has followed closely the five-year average.

turn provided a new record harvest of 191,000, while in Chignik the pink salmon harvest of just over 7 million wild pink salmon also set a new record. However, fishermen in southern Southeast were disappointed by returns in the region, which came in lower than forecast.

"It was less than we thought," explained John Webby, Southeast

Alaska operations manager for Trident Seafoods. The shortfall caused its Wrangell plant to shut down its summertime operations early, in mid-August. However, the Petersburg plant remained op-

erational until earlier this month. A number of fish were being caught further to the north, meaning tenders had to run further

Continued on page 4

Police report

Monday, Oct. 16

- Agency Assist.
- Found property: Owner notified.
- Report of theft.
- Report of disturbance.
- Criminal mischief.
- Agency assist: Line crew.
- Citizen assist: Vehicle unlocked.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

- Dog complaint: Citation issued to Jennifer Wiederspoohn, 40, for dog at large.
- Agency Assist: Fire alarm.

Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Agency Assist: Disturbance.
- Suspicious circumstance.
- Citizen assist: Disturbance UTL.
- Civil Issue: Abandon vehicle.

Thursday, Oct. 19

- Citation issued to Jerry Knapp, 37, for Failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for driving habits.

Agency Assist: Person reported hitting the trailer hitch of the trailer of WFD in parking lot.

- Agency Assist.
- Agency Assist.
- Report of gun shots: UTL fireworks.

Friday, Oct. 20

- DV: Criminal mischief.
- Agency Assist: AICS.
- Citizen Assist: Unlock vehicle.
- Hazardous condition: Person fell on slick board.
- Suspicious circumstance.

Saturday, Oct. 21

- Citizen report possible DUI.

Sunday, Oct. 22

- Agency Assist.
- Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.
- Domestic dispute.

There was one ambulance call in this reporting week.

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Court report

October 23

Michael A. Stephens, 57, appeared before First District Court Judicial Officer Kevin Miller for charges of Assault in the 4th Degree and Criminal Trespass 2, both misdemeanors. The defendant pleaded guilty to both counts, and was ordered to 12 months and 10 days with all but two months suspended. The unsuspended time was to be served immediately with credit for time served. Seven other counts were dismissed by prosecution. Stephens was ordered to pay \$400 with \$200 suspended, and three weapons used in the incident are to be forfeited to the state. He has been placed on probation for one year.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Church
Sunday Masses 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Encirchment in Faith, All are Welcome, 10:00 a.m.
874-3771 or 305-0654

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m., Church School 10:00 a.m.
874-3047 or 874-4480

First Presbyterian
Children's Sunday School and Adult Class 9:45 a.m.,
Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

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

Island of Faith Lutheran Church-ELCA
Worship Service 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship,
Faith Walking Saturday 10 a.m., 874-2743

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Priesthood Relief Society & Primary at noon.;
Sunday School 11 a.m.; Sacrament 10 a.m.,
874-3976 or 3778

Wrangell Community Church of God
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; 874-3964

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

Wrangell Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.;
Young People & Adult Study, 9:30 a.m., 874-3039

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

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

Bobs' Supermarket

Seafood

Continued from page 3

afield for their collections.

quite slow, it was okay," commented Patrick Wilson, manager at Petersburg Fisheries, of Icicle

Seafoods. The returns had been good enough to keep the plant's crew busy through the summer, and the chum salmon run had been better than usual.

Open year-round, the company has continued producing through the sea cucumber, shrimp and Dungeness crab fisheries.

"We were hoping it would be busier," he said of the latter. The commercial Dungeness season had been shortened by three weeks this summer, due to calculations based on its opening week's poundage. A shortened, 30-day fall fishery for the crab through the month of October was subsequently announced, but so far there has been little luck locally.

"The fall Dungeness season has been terrible, pretty much what I'd expected," said Vern Phillips, of Wrangell's Sea Level Seafoods. "There's a lot of gear already on the beach."

He anticipated Sea Level's last

day of operations to be October 31, bringing an end to Wrangell's production for the year.

Petersburg Fisheries will continue to produce through next month's rare commercial red crab fishery, with harvest objectives for Southeast Alaska set in September. A total objective for open areas has been set at just over 201,000 pounds.

"I guess we'll see what hap-

pens," said Wilson.

Four of the management areas will only see a 24-hour opening on November 1, with non-surveyed sections reopening on November 6.

Though most producers will be dialed down for the winter, production is expected to resume in mid-March with the start of the commercial longline season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Appointed to serve

Wrangell resident Sandy Churchill was appointed second vice president at this year's Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp, held earlier this month in Portland, Oregon. It was the first time in 105 years that the convention has been held outside of Alaska, and the first time Churchill has served as a grand officer. In that capacity, she chaired five of the camp committees, and with other volunteers helped raise \$5,000 for the convention.

Reflections: October in Alaska

Yes the winter is upon us and the summer fun is behind us, but we still have things to look forward too. Our children are back in school and by now very accustomed to their individual schedules. Maybe now they are thinking about trick or treating, maybe thinking about snow but it's too early for snow.

Nevertheless we have things to be excited about no matter the time of the year.

It is nice to be able to embrace each particular time of year and what individual things happen. Finding the fun and feeling the excitement keeps us looking to the future. We as humans (young or old) need to look for the good and loving things that surround us. Each day unique things happen, noticed or not.

Many years ago a wonderful thing happened and the world has been talking about and reading about it ever since.

Here with us in this world is an ever loving God that watches over us. He smiles with us when we are happy and He holds us in his arms when we need comfort. He is with us, always available to listen to us through prayer. So at this time of year and all times in our year there is the one gift that will excite us - our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Don McConachie
St. Philip's Episcopal Church

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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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Lady Wolves seed third in volleyball tourney in Haines

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School's volleyball team is poised to be in contention with the region's leaders, following a busy game schedule two weekends ago.

Leaving on the ferry October 12, the Lady Wolves took part in the Juneau Invitational Volleyball Extravaganza over the following two days. The tournament gave the team an early opportunity to play against an array of schools in quick succession.

First up were the girls at Thunder Mountain High School, who won 25 to Wrangell's 13. The Lady Wolves followed up against Petersburg, losing 21-25 in a tight match.

The team beat Ketchikan soundly, 25-13, and had a pair of wins against Metlakatla and Craig with both scores at 25-11. Juneau-Douglas was a tougher competitor, winning 25 to Wrangell's 11 points. Games against Sitka and Mount Edgecumbe also ended in losses, 22-25 and 14-25 respectively.

In best-of-three bracket play the following day, Wrangell bested Metlakatla in two games, finishing the first 25-6 and the second 25-18. It likewise beat Klawock's team, first in a tightly-contested match 26-24, then again 25-18.

"We were really busy," said Wrangell coach Jessica Whitaker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wrangell's varsity volleyball team huddles up before a match at J.I.V.E. in Juneau, held October 13 and 14. Drawing teams from around Southeast Alaska, the annual tournament has been a reliable opportunity to practice bracket competition early in the season.

Since its first showing on Prince of Wales Island, the team has been focusing on better court awareness. The girls have taken a more aggressive presence on court as a result, and have increased their serving percentages and kill count.

At JIVE, several Lady Wolves were recognized for their achievements, with Helen Decker elected to the All-Tournament team by the officials. Kayla Hay, Kiara Meissner and Krissy Lockabey each made the All-Academic team as well.

A busy tournament was followed by further travel as the girls headed north to Haines for their

first seeding tournament.

"The girls were able to play really well," Whitaker commented.

In best-of-five play, Wrangell won in three matches against Klawock, scoring 25-12, 25-22 and 25-19. Against the hometown hosts Wrangell beat Haines in all three matches, 25-6, 25-7 and 25-17. Skagway's game also ended in a trio of Wrangell wins, 25-17, 25-11 and 25-15, as did that against Metlakatla, winning 25-13, 25-7 and 25-16.

Wrangell ended up getting seeded behind Craig and Petersburg, after losing to both teams. Craig was up by two matches

(winning 25-16 and 25-14) before Wrangell was able to pull up a 25-16 win of its own, but Craig's girls were able to take one more in a close 25-20 exchange. The game against Petersburg was over in three, but with two very close matches ending 23-25. The Lady Vikings won one more at 25-12.

Whitaker noted players Hay and Kaylyn Easterly had both played important roles in the team's performance, with Hay leading the team in kills. After another by-week this weekend, the team will be heading next to Metlakatla on November 3 for a two-day tournament.

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Exam results suggest Alaskan schools struggling

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A statewide assessment of grade schoolers taken this spring has suggested education has some room for improvement.

The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) exam was administered for the first time to students between third and 10th grade, testing for proficiency in mathematics, English language arts and science. Mirroring standards used in the widely-used National Assessment of Educational Progress, PEAKS provides a snapshot of student performance in relation to grade-level standards.

Overall, schools across the state did not achieve high marks. A handful of institutions' students saw high proficiency levels, with only Skagway having 30 percent or fewer of its students to be below proficiency among schools in Southeast.

Like those at other schools, Wrangell's students were measured for English and mathematics skills, as well as for science. Third through fifth graders at Evergreen Elementary saw 72.7 percent measure "below proficient" in language arts, and 54.6 percent in mathematics. In fourth grade science, only 50 percent of students were below proficient.

At the higher levels, students at Stikine Middle School tested better in English, with 43.3 percent below proficiency. In math that figure was at 60.7 percent, while in science eighth grade students were 46.2 percent below the standard.

Ninth and tenth graders at Wrangell High School measured similarly in math, with 62.8 percent below expectations for their age group. In language arts, the group was 54.8 percent below proficiency. In science students stood out, with 81.2 percent meeting proficiency levels.

The scores were more or less comparable to other schools in the region. Students at Rae C. Stedman Elementary in Petersburg, for example, saw 46.7 percent below proficiency in English and 52.3 percent below in math. Likewise, taking an average of scores for seven Juneau elementary schools, 56.4 percent of students were below proficiency in English, and 57.9 percent below in their math skills.

Additional information on the PEAKS assessment, including sample questions, can be found on the Department of Education and Early Development website at <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>. An informational map presenting student scores from the assessment was also put out by the Alaska Policy Forum last week, at http://alaskapolicyforum.org/AK_peaks/ Based in Anchorage, the conservative think tank thought it important to make the results available to the wider public.

APF senior policy researcher David Boyle likened PEAKS results to those assessed by the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) test administered in 2015, the first statewide assessment required under the Every Child Succeeds Act passed that year. Results that year indicated majorities of Alaskan students to be only partially meeting more rigorous standards adopted in 2012. The exam proved unpopular with school administrators and faculty, and after technical issues the AMP was scrapped without another administration.

Boyle felt the PEAKS exam would be an improvement over the state's past tool for evaluation, the Standards Based Assessments. Students tend to perform better on the SBA, which could be masking shortcomings in the state's educational institutions.

"In the past they've had the SBA, which has been very, very lenient in its grading systems," he said.

One impetus for the newer standards had been poor performance among Alaska high school graduates compared to those from other states, where around 20 percent applying for military service were unable to pass the written entrance exam, and around half were required to take some form of remedial courses when entering college.

While standardized testing is but one measure of students' academic progress, Boyle suggested PEAKS and AMP both highlighted problems within the state's public school system, with institutions not doing well for the amount of resources being invested into them.

"I think we need to do some out of the box things," he said, referring to school alternatives like charters and more vocational programming. Boyle pointed to the relatively high proficiency levels of charter schools in the Anchorage area as examples, such as Aquarian and Eagle Academy, or Watershed in Fairbanks.

Requests for input on the article placed to the high school principal and district superintendent's office were not responded to by Tuesday evening's press time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH E RICH PHOTOGRAPHY

Swan lake duet

Practically a reflection of each other, swans return to Pats Lake on Wrangell Island.

The Faces Behind the Headlines

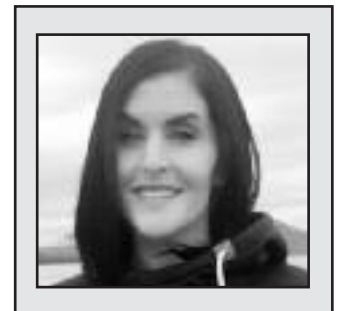
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Intergovernmental workshop held over Byford monofill

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Members of the Wrangell Assembly commiserated with Wrangell Cooperative Association leadership Tuesday evening to discuss possible alternatives to a proposed monofill for the Byford cleanup.

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposes interring 18,350 cubic yards of treated, lead-contaminated soils in a rock pit managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The material was removed during cleanup of acres of property at the former Byford junkyard, which the city had previously acquired through foreclosure. DEC stepped in to manage the expensive project after funding through the Environmental Protection Agency proved unable to allocate the funds.

Reclamation work at the site last spring revealed the extent of the contamination to be significantly greater than first estimated, and plans to transport the leaden soil to Oregon for treatment were mostly shelved in favor of a local monofill, with the soil treated to reduce its leachability. Subsequent selection of

the rock pit by DEC proved controversial among residents due to its nearness to Pats Creek, an anadromous stream system. Subsequent meetings with the Tribe and Assembly in August led DEC to postpone the start of work to April 2018.

In the meantime, the department has recommended that the concerned parties seek out alternative funding sources to cover additional costs to the project for funding a complete transport off-island. Cost of the monofill has been estimated at \$5.7 million with full transportation estimated by DEC at around \$12 million. However, in a letter to the city issued last month it was explained project delays and mobilization costs would likely make the difference between the two project approaches closer to \$8 million.

Alternatively, other site candidates were welcome. WCA administrator Esther Ashton explained the Tribe's environmental office is currently reviewing all state lands on the island which might fit the criteria laid out by monofill project leads.

Ashton explained she met with Lt. Governor Byron Mallott last week at the

Alaska Federation of Natives' annual conference.

"He'd already been briefed on it three times," she said. He had reportedly expressed interest in DEC's interactions with local governments, and recommended WCA put forward a proposal to ensure closer collaboration on such projects in the future.

"He said his next step is to meet with the the commissioner and the governor on this," said Ashton. She also met with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, and is in contact with her office on the matter.

For its part, city manager Lisa Von Bargaen said she would be asking Wrangell's federal lobbyist on retainer to solicit additional funds from various sources. She also sought direction on what role borough staff should play in looking for alternative sites. Mayor David Jack thought they should be involved, too, and review city-owned properties as possible sites for the monofill.

"It should be a partnership," he weighed in. DEC briefly considered the running track next to Evergreen Elementary and a rock pit near the Spur Road shooting range, but had ruled them un-

suitable.

Assembly member Stephen Prysunka advised restraint, noting city staff already had a number of critical projects to contend with, such as boosting productivity at the water treatment plant and renovating the Public Safety Building.

Von Bargaen also wanted to get an idea of whether the Assembly would be willing to put up a match themselves, offering that a modest level match might be worthwhile if the possibility arises.

Prysunka expressed disagreement, saying he would be unwilling to put any money forward considering other projects the city was contending with. "I don't believe we have extra cash to be putting forward to the project," he said.

By the workshop's end, Von Bargaen and Ashton agreed to continue to keep in contact as both governments seek out alternatives.

"We would love to collaborate on this. I think together we are stronger," Ashton commented.

"We just want to find out if there's any way, any funds out there to get it off the island," added Richard Oliver, WCA board president.

Assembly says no to Wrangell Island sale, yes to WMC credit

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At Wrangell's regular meeting of the Borough Assembly Tuesday, members opted not to withdraw their opposition to a proposed timber sale package.

The United States Forest Service has over the course of years been putting together a timber sale for Wrangell Island, of which it manages 93 percent of the borough's land area, which has been nearing its final stages. In August the city responded to the project's final draft record of decision with an objection letter. After speaking with staff, Tongass National Forest supervisor Earl Stewart proposed an alternative that

might satisfy the city's concerns.

The primary concern was that the service's preferred alternative would not produce sufficient timber capable of sustaining a small- to medium-sized mill. The counteroffer to allow between 250,000 and 500,000 board feet to be harvested annually over the 10-year sale was deemed to still be insufficient by Wrangell's Economic Development Committee last week, which recommended that the Assembly maintain its objection.

The next step will be to hold a formal meeting with Stewart in Juneau on October 30. Wrangell manager Lisa Von

Bargaen will be participating by phone, and will report what transpired at the next Assembly meeting on November 7.

During the meeting, Assembly members also approved renewal of a \$500,000 line of credit for Wrangell Medical Center (see hospital article), in place so far for two years. Hospital CEO Robert Rang appeared to implore the council to approve the arrangement, as WMC's financial situation had grown quite dire. Cash-on-hand levels had dropped from around 11 days' worth of operating expenses by the start of October to barely three, and an infusion of \$250,000 would be needed immediately to make payroll.

Prior to the vote, Assembly member Stephen Prysunka offered up a potential conflict of interest, as his wife is chief of staff at the hospital.

Mayor David Jack waived the concern, saying "I don't see it as a conflict of interest because it's not directed at her personally."

Before approving the item, fellow member Patty Gilbert asked that Rang provide financial reports from the hospital on a monthly basis. The Assembly then voted 4-0 in favor.

In other business, Von Bargaen told the Assembly the city had been approached with an invitation to sign on to a new appeal to the "Roadless Rule," after the most recent lawsuit was thrown out by the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia late last month. In place since 2001, the rule prohibits new road construction in much of the national forest system, of which most of Southeast Alaska is a part.

Von Bargaen said the potential appeal is being orchestrated by Jim Clark, a Juneau-based lawyer. "He has asked if we would like to sign on again to that appeal," she explained, adding he would need an answer in 45 days. A proposal may be coming before the Assembly at its next meeting on November 7, as it will not have another meeting until December.

Von Bargaen also relayed information that a 2016 amendment to the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan may require congressional review, per a decision issued Monday by the Government Accountability Office. The decision stemmed from a letter submitted by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, and Von Bargaen said it was possible a resolution of disapproval put forward in Congress could enable application of an earlier version of the management plan.

Wrangell Parks and Recreation has been having trouble filling lifeguard positions, despite waiving fees for training and looking at other financial incentives. As a result, department head Kate Thomas has been spending more than half of her working hours on lifeguard duty, Von Bargaen noted. A workshop seeking public input will be held by the Parks Board inside City Hall next Wednesday at 6 p.m. Swimmers and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Clerk Kim Lane also informed the Assembly the city will finally enable online payments for public utility bills, either on one's computer or mobile devices. Payments will be instantly transferred, and users will be able to take a more in-depth look at their energy use history. For those without computer access, a terminal will be made publicly available at City Hall, or people can still make payments at the front desk. The city still has no plans to accept credit card payments for property taxes, however. Because of amounts involved, credit fees would be financially damaging, Lane explained.

Assembly members also expressed hesitancy to adopt a memorandum of agreement with USFS regarding display of the retired vessel Chugach. At the boatyard now, it was proposed the Nolan Center might set aside yard space for outdoor display of the vessel. Prysunka expressed concern that the arrangement would increase maintenance costs, because while USFS would commit to upkeep of the boat in perpetuity, a proposed roof and viewing platform would likely be the borough's responsibility.

In light of other, larger capital needs and financial commitments, Prysunka felt it would be unwise to commit the city to such a course.

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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Southeast Alaska residents own nearly 2,700 fishing vessels and they own more fish quota shares than other regions

Alaska's fishing fleet of 9,400 vessels would span nearly 71 miles if lined up from bow to stern.

And Alaska's fishing industry catches and processes enough seafood each year to feed every person on the planet one serving; or a serving for each American every day for more than a month.

Those are just a few of the fish facts highlighted in the annual "Economic value of Alaska's seafood industry" report by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute compiled by the McDowell Group.

The report breaks down the numbers of fishermen, processors, species caught, values and more by region in a colorful, user-friendly way that can provide every Alaskan with a better understanding of the seafood industry, especially policy makers.

Here are some highlights:

The Alaska fishing industry employs nearly 60,000 workers, of which nearly half are fishermen.

Thirty-six percent of those fishermen live in south central Alaska towns such as Anchorage, Homer, Kenai and Cordova, more than any other region.

Most of Alaska's fishing boats (2,688) are between 23 and 32 feet in length.

Southeast Alaska residents own the most fishing vessels at nearly 2,700 and they also own more fish quota shares than any other region.

Seafood processing is the largest manufacturing sector in Alaska, accounting for 72 percent of manufacturing employment. Processing includes 169 shore-based plants, 73 catcher-processors and more than a dozen floating processors.

At Kodiak, fishing accounts for nearly 40 percent of all jobs; 48 percent of all processing workers are year-round residents, the highest number in the state.

Salmon accounts for the greatest economic impact in terms of jobs, value and income, with pollock a close second. Alaska pollock is the largest single species U.S. fishery by volume.

Seafood is by far Alaska's top export - more than two billion pounds went to 105 countries in 2016, valued at over \$3 billion. Exports account for about two-thirds

of the sales value, with the rest going to U.S. markets.

Globally, Alaska pollock provided 44 of world supply in 2016, Alaska salmon provided 14 percent, cod at 16 percent and Alaska crab at 29 percent.

Since statehood in 1959, Alaska's seafood industry has harvested nearly 170 billion pounds of seafood. The largest harvest ever was in 2015, topping six billion pounds.

Of the numerous fishery taxes and fees, 40 percent goes to state coffers and is distributed at the whim of the Alaska legislature (\$58 million in 2016), and 31 percent goes to local governments where the fish was landed.

Sign up time ticking – The deadline to sign up to use electronic monitoring systems next year instead of human observers to track catches is fast approaching. It applies to boats using longline and pot gear, but preference is given to vessels that are between 40 and 60 feet in length.

"If you don't get in by the November 1 deadline you will not be eligible," said Malcolm Milne, president of the Homer-based North Pacific Fisheries Association, which for several years has helped develop the EM system in Alaska.

In trials the video cameras proved they could track and identify over 95 percent of the species required for fishery management decisions, and by all accounts, the system is easy to use.

"Once your boat is wired you just turn the cameras on and they record everything coming over the rails," Milne explained. "When the set is done the camera is off and at the end of your trip you mail in the hard drive to be reviewed. It took a trip or two to get used to the system, but after that you don't even realize it's there."

Also easy, he said, is the sign up which takes about 10 minutes.

"Anyone who is participating in the observer program already has a user name and password. You can go online and click on a button to opt in to EM and after a couple of quick questions you're done," he said.

Even better, the electronic mon-

itoring systems come at no cost to users.

"It all comes out of the 1.25 percent North Pacific observer fee so we are paying indirectly, but there is no additional cost for having the electronic monitoring installed," Milne said.

So far about 110 longline and pot boats have signed onto the EM program and the new program will only cover as many boats as funding allows.

Register by Nov. 1 with a phone call at 1-855-747-6377 or online at the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODD).

Crab con - Bering Sea crab fisheries opened on October 15 and eager markets await the first deliveries of snow, Tanner and red king crab.

While national surveys clearly show that most Americans want to know where their foods come from, they won't have a clue when it comes to Alaska crab.

Customers can easily tell at retail counters where their salmon, cod and other fish choices was caught, and if the fish is wild or farmed. That's due to Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) laws, which went into effect more than a decade ago. But the laws do not apply to seafood that has been 'processed,' no matter how minimally.

"There is an exemption in the COOL laws for products that are cooked or otherwise altered - steamed, canned, things like that - and since crab are required to be cooked right after delivery they are not included," explained Jake Jacobsen, director of the Inter-Cooperative Exchange, a harvester group that catches 70 percent of the Bering Sea crab quota.

"When a consumer goes into a grocery store they don't know if the crab comes from Russia or Newfoundland or Alaska. We think that American consumers will prefer Alaskan product and there are good reasons for that," he added.

The push to exclude products that are canned, pouched, smoked or steamed stemmed from a big push by the U.S. tuna fleet.

"All we wanted to do was carve out crab, but they had a much more powerful lobby than we did," Ja-

Official totals for the 2017 moose harvest

Kupreanof Island – 48

Stikine River – 25

Mitkof Island – 13

Thomas Bay – 8

Farragut Bay – 8

Wrangell Island – 4

Kuiu Island – 4

Zarembo Island – 3

Wrangell mainland – 2

Petersburg mainland – 2

Woewodski Island – 1

Total – 117

Note: 12 of the bulls checked in this year failed to comply with local antler restrictions, following a typical rate of noncompliance seen in other years.

Antler configuration percentages

2x2 brow tines – 45 bulls (38% of harvest)

Spike fork – 45 (38%)

Three or more brow tines – 14 (12%)

Spread 50 inches or greater – 1 (1%)

Illegal configuration – 12 (10%)

cobsen said.

The crabbers believe the public has a right to know, especially since much of the crab imported into the U.S. from Russia is illegally caught. In past years, an estimated 40 percent of king crab sold in world markets was from pirated Russian harvests. Jacobsen said the situation has improved but the crab import data can be deceiving.

"There is still poached crab going into China and Korea and then finding its way into the U.S. But there is no way to tell if it's legal or not because there is no traceability requirement," he explained.

Crabbers have taken their case directly to U.S. buyers and retailers and several, including HyVee and Publix, only source their crab from Alaska. Meanwhile, Jacobsen said the push to get U.S. labeling on Alaska crab will continue.

On a related note: Tanner crab

is spelled with a capitol T because the species crab was discovered by and named after Lieutenant Zera Luther Tanner, commander of the research vessel Albatross which explored Alaska waters in the late 1800s.



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Alaska challenging constitutionality of salmon proposal

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The state of Alaska is challenging the constitutionality of a proposed ballot initiative aimed at protecting salmon habitat.

The state says it is appealing a court decision that called for allowing backers of the measure to begin gathering signatures.

The matter went to court after Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott last month refused to certify it, citing a Department of Law opinion.

The department maintained that the measure would limit the Legislature's ability to decide how to allocate anadromous streams among competing uses and raised constitutional questions.

In a release, Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth says the state is taking no position on whether the proposal is good public policy. But she says it raises a constitutional issue that should be answered by the Alaska Supreme Court.



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PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Susan Eagle and Diane O'Brien serve up homemade halibut chowder and yam soup for seniors on October 18. The lunch was paired with bread and followed up by a special cake prepared for the 150th Alaska Day celebration.

Celebrating 150 years



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Led by Tasha Morse, students from Mrs. Miller's third grade class sing the Alaska Flag Song for four dozen seniors on Alaska Day. The group was treated to a hot soup lunch and cake by volunteers at Island of Faith Lutheran Church, an annual tradition to mark the anniversary of Alaska's purchase from the Russians in 1867.

Comics

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



Just Like Cats & Dogs



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dutch earthenware city
- 6 Ado
- 12 More blood-stained
- 13 Unilateral
- 14 Rhododendron cousin
- 15 Busy
- 16 Small plateau
- 17 Rocketry org.
- 19 Started
- 20 Group of actors
- 22 Omega pre-coder
- 24 Second person
- 27 Church furniture
- 29 Lecher's look
- 32 Toady
- 35 Transcending (Pref.)
- 36 Mine car
- 37 Ball holder
- 38 Hooter
- 40 Sans escort
- 42 Tablet
- 44 Inauguration recitation
- 46 Mine entrance
- 50 Captivate
- 52 Intertwine
- 54 Swear (to)
- 55 Like thunder
- 56 Prolonged

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- Teapot'
- 11 Watched
- 39 Untethered
- 12 School of whales
- 41 Greek consonant
- 18 If all else fails
- 42 Carrots' partners
- 1 Nap
- 21 Zoo favorite
- 23 'Help!'
- 43 Con
- 24 Thanksgiving veggie
- 45 — and letters
- 25 Unclose
- 47 Plastic user's concern
- 26 Modern
- 48 Capri or Wight
- 28 Spreads thickly
- 49 Biblical possessive
- 7 Open a bottle
- 30 Shelter
- 8 Collection
- 31 Preceding
- 51 'Family Guy' daughter
- 9 Stephanie Meyer series
- 33 Legislation
- 34 '— Little
- 53 Enthusiast

DOWN

- 1 Dutch earthenware city
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- 50 Captivate
- 52 Intertwine
- 54 Swear (to)
- 55 Like thunder
- 56 Prolonged

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes so each row, column, and 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle answers on page 10

Classified/Legals

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Petersburg. Information on the sale and the parcels can be viewed on the Trust Land Office's website at www.trustland-office.com or call (907) 269-8658.....5x10-26b

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**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking *Letters of Interest* to fill the upcoming vacancies to the SEAPA Board of Directors, which consist of:

**Two (2) voting members and
Two (2) alternate members for Wrangell**

These vacancies are one-year terms from January 1 – December 31, 2018.

Please turn your Letter of Interest into the Borough Clerk's Office, 205 Brueger Street, City & Borough of Wrangell, P.O. Box 531, Wrangell, AK 99929, **on or before 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2017.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-874-2381, or email: clerk@wrangell.com

Appointments will be made at the *rescheduled* regular Assembly meeting on November 7, 2017.

Publish: October 26 and November 2, 2017



The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is recruiting for a Project Maintenance & Operations Foreman to join its team. Salary + excellent benefits provided in accordance with the IBEW Local 1547 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Base location is Tyee Hydroelectric Facility – approximately 40 miles southeast of Wrangell, Alaska. Foreman leads the operations and maintenance crew in the safe performance of duties associated with Tyee generation facilities, power lines, switchyards, and substation. Standard work schedule is 10 days on and 4 days off. Position typically requires residency on site in employer-provided housing during each 10-day tour of duty, but may vary to meet business needs. Position requires a broad range of experience, skills, and clear demonstration of the ability to successfully perform essential duties and responsibilities. Qualifications for the position include a High School Diploma and valid Alaska driver's license. This position is open until filled. A complete job description and the electronic application process are available online at:

<https://seapahydro.applicantpro.com/>
SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Publish: October 26, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wrangell Museum has been in the process of cleaning up its paperwork and ownership on items held in the collection: Please be advised that the Museum will acquire ownership of the following items if a valid claim is not received by the museum within 45 days of the last publication of this notice. All items are "Found in collection." All items have been in the museum's documented possession since prior to 1993. A list of the items is as follows: FIC #'s .017 US flag, poor condition, 018 US flag, faded, 019 Burroughs adding machine, 020 Alenn66 adding machine, 021 LC Smith Typewriter, 022 Underwood NO5 typewriter, 024 Wicker table, good condition, 025 paper dispenser, 026 1/2 barrel Broken, 027 Fire extinguisher, 029 Ice tongs, 031 Petroglyph rubbings (35) moldy, 033 Iron disc, 034 tent stove, 035 ironing machine owned by Irene Ingle, 038 Short handled shovel, 039 presentation award for Maj. John Chennault, 040 Gas lamp regulator-poor condition, 041 bone tool, 042 orange crush bottle, 043 petroglyph, 044 telephone cable, 045 qt. milk bottle, 046 pt. milk bottle, 047 biscuit cutter, 048 kerosene lamp reflector, 049 blue cloth purse, 050 Alaska License Plate (ALP) T14801, 051 ALP 3356, 052 Yukon LP 2894, 053 ALP 627, 054 through 069 Wrangell License plates #'s 78 through 91, 070 two 1972 Filipino Pisos, 071 wooden mop bucket, 072 manual master clock, 074 master clock weights & key, 075 Clock key, 076 ALP AHR510, 077 Japanese fan, 078 Winnies café pen, 079 plastic matchbook cover with seal hunting etched, 080 Gravestone rubbing on poster board, 081 watercolor by R. Korthals, 082 Ivory & Baleen bracelet, 083 White beaded bag, 084 black satin fan, 085 ladies leather gloves, 086 hair curler, 087 button hook, 088 laundry plunger, 084 metal pail with lid, 090 through 094 cannon balls, 094 glass insulator, 095 pt. mason jar, 096 crank coffee grinder, 097 sewing kit in leather, 098 miners pick, 099 salvation army badge, 100 cedar woven mat, 101 Salvation army medal, 102 Iron stove APA cannery, 103 splitting maul- Nore family, 104 scallop shells, 105 wooden crate, 106 Iron disk, 107 spool holder, 108 coffee grinder, 109 stone anchor, 110 gas light fixture parts, 111 pike pole. Contact: Terri Henson, Museum Director, PO Box 1050, Wrangell AK 99929. 907-874-3770 for more information or to make claim of ownership.

Publish: October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2017

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**City and Borough of Wrangell
Line Apprentice- Electric Department**

Wrangell Municipal Light and Power will be accepting In-House applications for the position of Apprentice Lineman from October 12th through October 19th. Applicants must have a current Alaskan CDL drivers license and DOT Medical Certificate plus the ability to obtain a State of Alaska Certificate of Fitness. This is a full time benefited position.

For complete list of duties and responsibilities a job application may be obtained and returned to City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (PO Box 531) Wrangell Alaska 99929.

The City and Borough of Wrangell is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Published: October 19 and 26, 2017

**Solid Waste Transfer Station
Announces New Hours of Operation**

Effective October 3rd, 2017, the hours of operation at the Solid Waste Transfer Station will change. The new schedule will be:

- Sunday – Monday** Closed
- Tuesday – Friday** 8:30 am to 11:00 am and 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- Saturday** 8:30 am to 11:00 am and 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

This change is necessary to give the facility attendants the time needed to ensure that garbage is stowed and that the fire is extinguished by the end of the work day. This change streamlines the operating hours throughout the week, represents the same five hours per day of public access, and maintains access through the standard lunch hour. The Saturday schedule reduces the public access by one hour. The station will remain closed on Sundays and Mondays. If you have any questions about the new schedule, contact Public Works at 874-3904.

Amber Al-Haddad
Director of Public Works and Capital Projects
City and Borough of Wrangell

Publish: September 21, and 28, October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that William W. Armstrong has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Annie M. Armstrong. 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 said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the personal representative, c/o Faulkner Banfield, P.C., 8420 Airport Boulevard, Ste. 101, Juneau, Alaska 99801, or filed with the Superior Court for the State of Alaska at Wrangell, Alaska, 1WR-17-21PR.

Publish: October 12, 19 and 26, 2017

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Classical concert raises money for music program

By DAN RUDY
A group of local musicians banded together to raise funds performing at the elementary school last Thursday evening.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Odile Meister, Tasha Morse, George Benson and Alice Rooney perform baroque music for a fundraiser at the elementary school October 19. Bearing a pumpkin on its head in the background is a seasonal little reminder of the group's "bear-oque" theme for Octoberfest.

Dubbing themselves the Wrangell Bear-oque Players – a portmanteau of bear and baroque, referencing past appearances together at Bearfest and the musical style – the ensemble was actually divided into two groups for the evening. A woodwind and strings set performed pieces of classical music, while a brass quintet played jazz.

The evening was organized by Mike and Mary Kurth, former teachers who have returned to Wrangell after a stint in Ketchikan. Drawing talent from various residents around town, the players performed for audiences this year at the Stikine River Bird Festival in April and Alaska Bearfest in July.

Donations at the door will go toward the public schools' music program, directed by Tasha Morse. With a limited pool of students and instruments, she explained the combinations they are able to play can be eclectic, and the additional donations will help give them some greater variety.

"We're going to try to get some music that fits our strange instrumentation," she said.

A musical education can last a lifetime, as the assembled musicians could attest introducing themselves and where they had picked up the habit.

"The unique thing about this group is, all being local performers, you're looking at 200-plus years of musical experience right here in this little town of Wrangell," Mike Kurth told the audience. "They have to start somewhere, and there are quite a few that are in the audience who I'm sure have started or will start."

"I started playing the flute in 5th grade band," said Morse. "It's been about 23, 25 years on the flute." When she was asked to join the ensemble earlier this summer, she had been delighted.

"That sounds like a lot of fun. I don't get to play anymore, I always get to direct," Morse said. "It's been really great to get it under my fingers."

When not in training for run-

Continued on page 12

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Gun

Continued from page 1

speakers also participated in the class, such as the local Alaska Wildlife Trooper outlining a number of the state's regulations. Chief Doug Mc-

Closkey of the Wrangell Police Department and professional guide Scott McAuliffe have been helping out with the course as well, Davies explained.

The practical component of the course was held in the police department's basement, where it maintains an indoor shooting range.

"We've been coming up to the range almost every day for the last two weeks," said Davies.

There, students learned basic mechanics with scoped .22-caliber rimfire rifles. To earn their certification students would need to qualify, demonstrating marksmanship at a distance of 50 feet.

The course took more time than Davies first anticipated, as the lessons were for many their first formal instruction on the use of firearms.

"There are a few that have shot a little, but not that much,"

he said. "For some of them, a lot of them, even those that have hunted quite a bit, they came in and they were spraying lead all over the place. It's amazing how much they've tightened their groups up over the last week. They've seen huge improvement."

The experience gained has been useful, and Davies hopes to be able to organize an adult course that would be open to the wider community.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

A student takes aim at a target on the shooting range. Students spent time during the past two weeks learning how to properly handle and effectively aim their rifles.

Concert

Continued from page 11

ning events, George Benson also plays the violin.

"I think I started when I was 10," he recalled.

"It's been over a half-century," Alice Rooney said of her piano. She has been a staple member of other musical events in Wrangell, such as for the annual Christmas Chorale.

"I started playing cello when I was 10, and my mother was my first teacher. She was my teacher until I went to high school," explained Bonnie Demerjian.

Both Kurths played the French horn during the classical ensemble. "I started French horn when I was ten," Mary explained. "I started piano when I was younger."

"I started when I was in seventh grade," said Mike. "I wanted to play trumpet. By the time I got there, the band director said 'Well, we're all out of trumpets and you have two choices. You can play either a baritone, which is kind of like a small trumpet, and then we have what's called a French horn. It's sort of like a circle, kind of like a pretzel.' Well I like pretzels, so I went with that."

They were joined by Odile Meister on the violin, and for the brass assortment LaDonna Shilts and Lynn Prysunka.

Shilts had started the trumpet back in grade school, though after graduating had hardly touched the instrument in the decades since.

"My trumpet is 37 years old. I got it when I was a freshman in high school. I've been playing it for a while," she said. When the Kurths approached her about the concert, she thought it sounded like fun. "We didn't do jazz in high school. This is all brand new to me."

Prysunka had played trombone in school for five years. When she got her invitation to play, she had also not been in much practice since.

"I was a little skeptical but it's a lot of fun," she said. Prysunka played using an instrument she had gotten for her son one Christmas. "He thought it was an airsoft gun," she recalled. Masking his initial disappointment, he had played it all through high school.

For the brass section, Mary Kurth played trumpet.

"I picked it up along the way. It was my older brother's," she said. It had been left under his bed when he departed for college, and she sort of adopted it. "I played trumpet a lot when I was teaching, it was easier."

The event had drawn a nice showing, and audience members were sure to take out their checkbooks on the way out.

"It's nice to see people come out," commented Morse. She is currently in Klawock with her music students for the annual Honor Fest, returning this weekend.

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