



Wrangell, Alaska  
January 25, 2018

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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12 Pages

## Court back in session at Public Safety Building

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

After two months of suspended activity, Alaska Court System has worked out an arrangement with the City of Wrangell so that its staff can resume local legal services.

The courtroom and adjoining offices are housed on the second floor of the Public Safety Building, which houses Wrangell's police and fire services, Department of Motor Vehicles and the emergency responder switchboard. Water seepage problems over the years have been a continued problem with the facility, and replacement of the building's roof and siding has this year made it the top priority of the city's list of capital projects.

After discovery of an ant infestation and extensive rot in one of the court office's walls last September, its tenant officer was relocated elsewhere and the room sealed off by maintenance staff. A consultant inspected the building later that month, issuing a report with recommendations for the city to follow up on. It pointed out a number of problems with the building's seals and materials, which had together allowed for a number of leaks to undermine the facility's integrity.

A subcontractor had also been brought in to assess indoor air quality at the building, monitoring carbon dioxide and particulate levels through much of the building and taking moisture readings of interior materials. The firm concluded that conditions in the building were unsuitable for mold growth and that the facility's air quality was several orders of magnitude below federal regulatory thresholds.

Despite those findings, ACS decided it wanted to have a third party examine courtroom offices' air quality, contracting Wasilla-area inspection company Advance Look to take samples for mold in addition to visual and moisture intrusion inspections. Until the company could verify the building's safety, as a precautionary measure, Wrangell's courtroom and offices were closed during the week of Thanksgiving.

Wrangell Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad explained  
Continued on page 12



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

### An unexpected roadblock

Workers break up a sizable block of stone blocking access to Zimovia Highway on January 19. A rockslide the previous evening temporarily blocked off access to traffic in both directions, but contractors working for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities were able to clear the obstruction by Friday evening.

## Shoemaker rebuild coming along after clean bill of health

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Following a clean bill of health from contaminants testing of

dredge material at Shoemaker Bay, the harbor restoration project looks to be continuing on schedule.

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities match grant funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 was approved for the

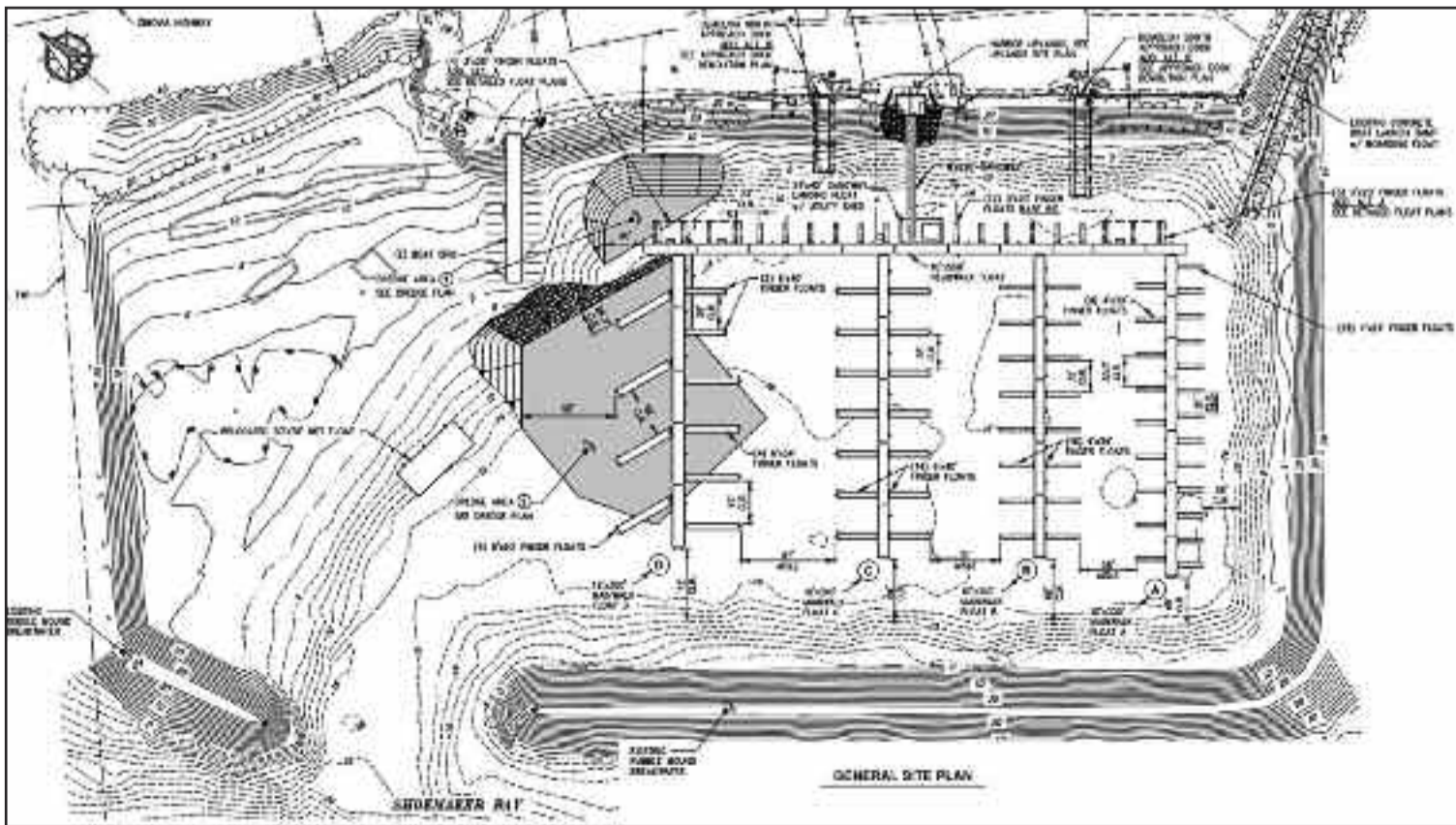
project in this year's budget, enabling replacement of the harbor's aging float network. The wooden float structure is in a deteriorated

state, with one of its five finger piers currently unusable.

Wrangell Harbor Department's plan will be to replace these with a four-finger float of a more modern design. The first three fingers will be able to accommodate vessels currently moored at the harbor, with the fourth will feature larger stalls that can maintain 54- and 60-foot vessels, with dredging of parts of the northern end improving their access.

"Our latest delay to the project has been trying to determine whether the dredging material could be contaminated," explained Public Works director Amber Al-Haddad.

During discussions with members of the Assembly in November, city manager Lisa Von Barga had informed them the matter of where to place dredged material had been overlooked in prior designs. The city is already conscious of soil contamination due to its recent experience with the state-led cleanup of the former Byford junkyard in 2016. Plans to store 18,500 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil in a monofill last summer raised hackles with residents, who lobbied the Department of Environmental Conserva-



CBW DIAGRAM

At the 90 percent stage in drafting, the general site plan for Shoemaker Bay Harbor's new float system shows how the layout will be configured. Fingers A, B and C will accommodate 21- to 40-foot floats, with small craft stalls following the main float's outside. Larger craft will be able to pull in at the back end of Finger D, made possible by dredging. The net float will be relocated past the grid, further to the harbor's northern end.

Continued on page 11

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

**Thursday, January 25:** Shannon Barnett, Erin Anderson, Eric James, Ruth Stough. **Friday, January 26:** Savannah Smith, Ryker Shilts, Gina Simonek, McKenna Campbell. **Saturday, January 27:** Dacee Gustafson, Devyn Johnson, Mary Shilts, *Anniversary:* Wayne and Marty Kaer. **Sunday, January 28:** Rebecca Mork, *Anniversary:* Ed and Minnie Kalkins. **Monday, January 29:** Freddie, Jeff Villarma, Anthony Coblenz, Dawn Mill, Colten Speers, Miki McGuire, Ronan Rooney, McKinley Angerman. **Tuesday, January 30:** Audra Netro. **Wednesday, January 31:** Steve Beers, Lavonne Klinke, Selina Rilatos, Justin Churchill, Jess Rugo, Quinton Davies. **Thursday, February 1:** Christy Good, Scott Mason, Erica Smith. *Anniversary:* Gordon and Emily McCloskey.

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

## Senior Center Menu

### Thursday, Jan. 25

Beef chili with cheese, tossed salad, spicy fruit cup, corn bread.

### Friday, Jan. 26

Chicken California, Broco/cauli blend, carrot raisin salad, hot roll.

### Monday, Jan. 29

Turkey sandwich, split pea soup, potato salad.

### Tuesday, Jan. 30

Hungarian Goulash, Corn/broccoli, orange salad, hot roll.

### Wednesday, Jan. 31

French dip sandwich, peas and carrots, tossed with tomato.

### Thursday, Feb. 1

Creole Pork, brussels sprouts, tossed salad, baking powder biscuits.

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

**Sunday, Jan. 28**  
Columbia 8:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, Feb. 4**  
Columbia 3:45 p.m.  
**Sunday, Feb. 11**  
Columbia 6:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, Feb. 18**  
Columbia 2:15 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**  
Columbia 5:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 31**  
Columbia 6:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday, Feb. 7**  
Columbia 6:15 a.m.  
**Wednesday, Feb. 14**  
Columbia 5:45 a.m.

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



## TIDES Jan. 25 - Feb. 1

	High Tides		Low Tides			
	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time	AM Time	PM Time
Jan. 25	6:27	7:17	14.7	11.8	.....	12:48
Jan. 26	7:36	8:41	15.2	12.2	0:49	2:04
Jan. 27	8:43	9:52	16.0	13.2	2:02	3:18
Jan. 28	9:45	10:53	17.1	14.5	3:16	4:22
Jan. 29	10:43	11:46	18.2	15.7	4:23	5:17
Jan. 30	11:36	.....	19.1	.....	5:20	6:06
Jan. 31	0:35	12:26	16.6	19.5	6:12	6:51
Feb. 1	1:20	1:14	17.3	19.5	6:59	7:34

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

### Thursday, Jan. 25

**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.

### Monday, Jan. 29

**Hatha Yoga:** 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Hosted at the AICS Medical Clinic.

### Friday, Jan. 26

**Pioneers of Alaska:** Mens Igloo #21 and Womens Igloo #15 Installation and Potluck dinner at the Stikine inn. 5:30 meet and greet. 6:00 dinner.

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., 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, 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

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

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

## The Way We Were

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

### January 31, 1918:

The next contract for carrying mail from Wrangell to the West Coast points will almost certainly go to Leo McCormack. Mr. McCormack has received notice from the government that his proposal has been accepted. The West Coast mail contract is now held by W.J. Neil, who, it is understood, was an applicant for the new contract. When seen by the Sentinel reporter Mr. McCormack stated that the acceptance of a proposal by the government is merely tentative and that until the contract is actually signed there is nothing certain about the matter. Mr. McCormack was asked concerning what size boat he would use in case he secured the contract. He replied that primarily he was seeking the mail contract, and that beyond that he would be influenced by the volume of business in sight and the demands of the West Coast trade. When asked if he expected to buy a boat or build one he replied: "Mr. Editor, I have given this mail contract so little thought that I don't know if I shall use a boat or an airplane."

### January 29, 1943:

Sentinel reporter reports that he has been talking to his pet groundhog up on Mt. Dewey, back of town. Being in a military zone, Mr. Marmota Momax, commonly known as the groundhog, was reticent to comment at too great length when questioned relative to the following: "I don't believe it's any military secret to admit at this time that it has been colder than Hitler's feet since the

Casablanca conference up here on the mountain the last few weeks. My blood pressure gauge went down to zero a couple of nights last week and I had to slip down to get a little fuel from Fred and Brad. So far my pipes have not froze but it's cost me plenty to prevent it, or is it because I've kept the water running? At any rate, I've got a hunch, feel it in my bunions."

### February 1, 1968:

Wrangell Schools were back in full operation yesterday, using a double shift system. Elementary school students are attending classes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and high school students going from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Only four rooms of the main school building, which was damaged by fire Jan. 21, are being used for classes. School board members and the City Council met in special session Friday to consider occupancy of the building. Councilman Paul Guggenbickler

said he thought the building should be closed until the repairs were complete. Councilman Olaf Hansen Jr. reported on an inspection he made of the structure and recommended that four rooms be used in the downstairs area. He also recommended that the stairways be barricaded. Councilmen agreed, with Guggenbickler dissenting, that the four rooms should be opened.

### January 28, 1993:

The steering system on the M/V Matanuska has been replaced and the vessel has received Coast Guard certification, according to Alaska Marine Highway System Director Jim Ayers. The new system is undergoing a fine-tuning process while a technical drawing review is being completed. The vessel, which went out of service in mid December, is scheduled to resume service Feb. 3 from Ketchikan.



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Jan. 15	54	41
Jan. 16	48	41
Jan. 17	44	37
Jan. 18	39	36
Jan. 19	39	32
Jan. 20	41	33
Jan. 21	37	28
Jan. 22	36	33



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jan. 25	7:57 am	4:04 pm	8:07h
Jan. 26	7:55 am	4:06 pm	8:11h
Jan. 27	7:53 am	4:09 pm	8:16h
Jan. 28	7:52 am	4:11 pm	8:19h
Jan. 29	7:50 am	4:13 pm	8:23h
Jan. 30	7:48 am	4:15 pm	8:27h
Jan. 31	7:46 am	4:17 pm	8:31h
Feb. 01	7:45 am	4:19 pm	8:34h

# Columbia misses week over mechanical issues

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

The sole ferry linking the region's seaside communities has had to skip a week of its winter

schedule due to mechanical problems.

Alaska Marine Highway System reported the M/V Columbia has had to remain in Bellingham, Washington, after its arrival last Friday. On its approach to the dock there its bow-side maneuvering thruster stopped working.

AMHS public information officer Aurah Landau explained the thruster is a necessary feature for the vessel, particularly during winter weather conditions and while navigating narrow passages. While AMHS had made the decision to pull the vessel from its schedule, she said the US Coast Guard would

not have given Columbia clearance to travel without its bow thruster in working order.

The service is hopeful the ferry can resume its next scheduled run by Friday, with a team of technicians already on board since it arrived in Bellingham. Landau said they should know how things stand by the middle of this week.

AMHS staff has already been contacting affected passengers and rebooking travel. It was uncertain how many prospective travelers have been affected across Southeast, but 77 passengers booked to leave Bellingham last week had to make other arrangements.

In Wrangell, besides throwing off regional travel arrangements the lack of ferry service has meant the Borough Assembly has had to cancel its meeting

and workshops planned for Tuesday, due to lack of a quorum. Several members are off traveling, including Mayor David Jack in Ketchikan. Had he been able to make it back to town over the weekend as booked, the body would have had enough votes to conduct business.

Items on this week's agenda included a work session on the budget and a draft financing plan for the Shoemaker Bay Harbor project, which will involve millions of dollars of bonding. Assembly members were also scheduled to review a letter to Alaska's congressional delegation regarding its dissatisfaction with the Forest Service's planned Wrangell Island timber sale.

The slated business will instead be shifted to the first week

of February.

"Everything is still the same, but we're probably going to add items," said Kim Lane, Wrangell's city clerk.

On February 5 a work session on improvements to the water treatment plant is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. This should include results and recommendations from a pilot plant test study and an assessment of the municipal treated water infrastructure. The session will be followed by an executive session, allowing members of the Assembly to evaluate the first six months' performance of Wrangell's borough manager, Lisa Von Bargaen.

On February 6, a presentation on a proposed mariculture task force will be presented at City Hall at 6 p.m. The regular Assembly meeting is set to follow at 7 p.m.

## St. Philip's Rummage Sale

Saturday, Feb. 3rd  
9-11:00 a.m.

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## Police report

### Monday, January 15

Theft reported.  
Found property.  
Citation issued to Donna McKay, 64, for proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty brake lights.

Arrested on charges of Violating Conditions of Release: Joel Franks, 52.

### Tuesday, January 16

Curfew warning.  
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for speeding.  
Traffic stop.  
Arrested on charges of DV/Assault 4: Jarred Wilson, 40.

### Wednesday, January 17

Driving complaint: Report of vehicle driving on wrong side of road.

Disturbance: Officer responded.  
Domestic disturbance: Officer spoke with individuals.

Warrant arrest: Arrested on charges of Failure to Appear: Jacob Boon, 31.

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

### Thursday, January 18

Report of suspicious circumstance.

Citizen Assist: Assistance retrieving keys.

Citation issued to Timothy Buness, 61, for speeding.

Citation issued to Kyle Ballou, 19, for speeding.

Agency Assist: Report of tree and rocks blocking roadway: DOT contacted.

### Friday, January 19

Citizen Assist: Unlock Vehicle. MVA reported.

Civil Issue.  
Unsecured premises were

cleared and no one is around.  
Courtesy transport.  
Parking complaint: Vehicle parked the wrong way.

Citations were issued to Jody Lindley, 60, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

### Saturday, January 20

Disturbance: Officer responded.

Domestic disturbance.  
Found property: Cell phone.

Agency assist/Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Citation issued to Robert Johnson, 70, for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for driving habits.

Parking complaint.  
Agency assist: Officer responded.

### Sunday, January 21

Disturbance.  
Welfare check: Intoxicated person.

Driving complaint: Verbal warning for expired license.

Citation issued to Justin Barker, 32, for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty equipment.

Report of theft.

There were three ambulance calls this week.

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# Dan's Dispatch- Governor Walker's Budget Proposal

**By Representative Dan Ortiz**

Governor Walker submitted a budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed budget includes a direct increase of \$34 million in Public Safety Investments, funding for Medicaid, health care reform strategies, and deferred maintenance projects within the state.

Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) revenue is projected to be about \$2.1 billion while spending is nearly \$4.6 billion, leaving a deficit of approximately \$2.5 billion. This is troubling because the state has nearly exhausted its savings account, the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBR). The fund balance is currently only \$2.2 billion, of which only a maximum of \$1.2 billion should be withdrawn to leave a \$1 billion safety net. This is not sufficient to fill the \$2.5 billion budget deficit. Governor Walker's plan to fill this

gap is to transfer money from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account (ERA) into the state's general fund, and to appropriate funds from the CBR and the Statutory Budget Reserve Fund.

The budget also introduces the Alaska Economic Recovery Act, which will bring in roughly \$800 million over three years. The Recovery Act introduces a 1.5% wage tax, which is capped at 2 times the PFD amount or \$2,200. In real terms, households earning \$64,000 per year will pay roughly \$960 in payroll taxes to the State. Households earning \$147,000 per year or more will pay \$2,200 or twice the PFD amount, whichever is smaller.

This tax (set to sunset after 2.5 years) is designed to fund deferred maintenance projects, and will only cover proposed increases in funding, rather than closing the deficit. For Alaskan

communities, this means increased funding for high-value capital projects and the jobs that come with them. School maintenance, EMS funding, transportation infrastructure, and Senior housing will be covered by this plan, which means critical repairs to the Houghtaling roof and Pioneer Home are projects listed to be funded in the bill.

The proposal also includes an increase in motor fuels tax, an approximate PFD of \$1,200, and calls for budget reform on a broad level. This budget reform legislation withholds salaries and per diem if the Governor and Legislature fail to pass a budget by their respective deadlines, and introduces a shift to biennial budgeting. This means that the Governor and Legislature would be tasked with passing two budgets in one session to give legislators time to address other policy issues and avoid prolonged budget negotiations every year.

I rely on the input from constituents to make informed decisions. I strongly encourage each one of you to make comments and suggestions regarding the Governor's budget. I recently released a 2018 session priority survey that can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/33L7L6T>. Feel free to email me at [Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov) or call at (907) 247-4672 any time.

## Charles Richard Meissner

*passed away*  
**January 8, 2018.**  
 Services will be held at the American Legion Hall on **February 3, 2018** from **1:00pm to 3:00pm**  
 Door opens at noon.  
 An obituary will follow.

## Anan private permits to become available Feb. 1

The Wrangell Ranger District reported Tuesday that permits for the upcoming visiting season at Anan Wildlife Observatory will become available next week.

Managed by the United States Forest Service, the observatory is among Wrangell's top visitor attractions. Its main attraction is its brown and black bear population, which congregate at the nearby stream during the late summer to feed on returning salmon. For local guides and outfitters the display draws visitors from around the world each summer. In a 2015 economic study conducted for the city, consultants found Anan's economic impact in Wrangell to draw in around \$1.5 million.

During the observatory's busiest season, visitation is limited to 60 people per day between July 5 and August 25 and all visitors must have a permit. The Forest Service portions out a percentage of each year's 3,120 permits between commercial and private users. Currently 20 authorized guiding outfits divide 36 daily permits between themselves during the season, with allotments based on historical use. A lottery to allocate the most competitive days was held on October 15, with a commercial calendar set up by November 1.

For most of the remaining

permits, starting February 1 at 8 a.m. members of the public will be able to reserve themselves permits on [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov). There are 20 private permits available each day to book in advance, and reservations and payment may be completed online. In addition to the \$10 fee for each permit there is an additional \$10 transactional fee to make a reservation. Transactions can also be made by calling 1-877-444-6777.

A remaining four daily permits will be made available on a weekly lottery basis to accom-

modate last-minute planning. All lottery requests must be made in person at the district's front desk.

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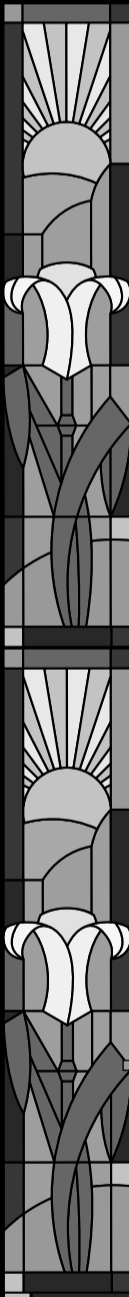


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## CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

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

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

**First Presbyterian**  
 Worship Service 11 a.m., 874-3534

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

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

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

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


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

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


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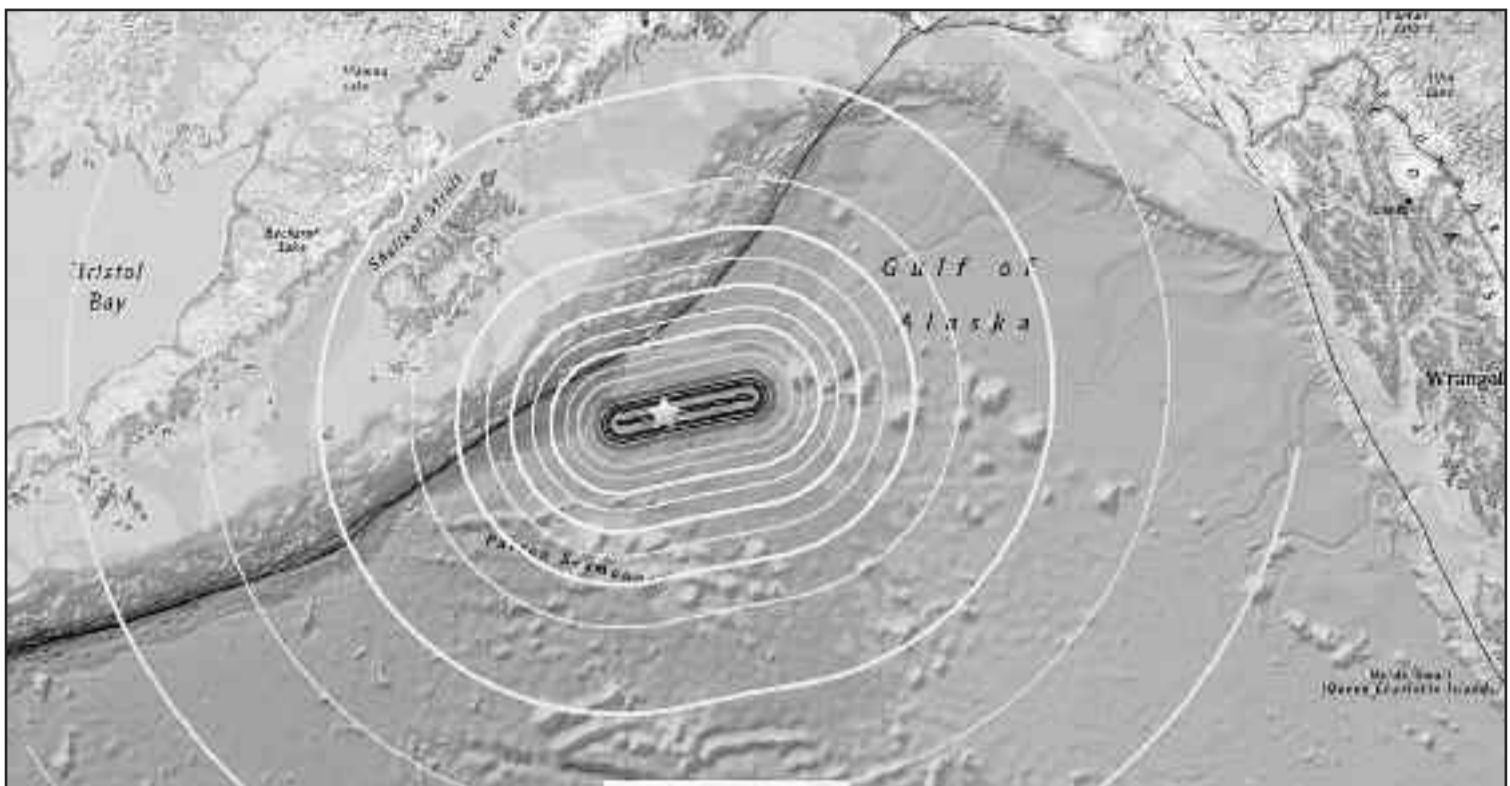
First Class.....\$96

# Tsunami scare Tuesday brief but harmless

Wrangell residents were among those in communities ringing the Gulf of Alaska who were alerted to a tsunami warning just after midnight Tuesday, following reports of an 8.2 magnitude earthquake occurring 175 miles offshore from Kodiak city.

Issued at 12:35 a.m. local time, the Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer had forecast tsunami activity after registering the quake, which had occurred at a depth of 12 miles. Part of the National Weather Service, the center projected the rippling effect to first reach Kodiak at around 1:45 a.m., followed by Seward and Elfin Cove 10 minutes later and Sitka at 2 a.m. Tsunami activity was initially projected as far to the northwest as the Alaskan island of Saint Paul, and working its way down the west coast to California, reaching Oceanside by 7:05 a.m.

Residents living within this coastal range were advised to seek higher ground or to move



USGS MAP

This US Geological Survey map indicates where Tuesday morning's earthquake took place, as well as its outward impact. Taking place about 12 miles below the surface of the Gulf of Alaska, the 7.9 magnitude tremor sparked a tsunami alert across much of the state's southern coastline.

inland, and to tune in to local news reports. Reactions to the alert varied between communities. No action was necessary to take in Wrangell and other Inner Channel communities.

The Anchorage Daily News reported residents of the state's largest city had been shaken awake by the earthquake, about 350 miles away. Sirens went off in both Kodiak and Homer, and limited evacuations of residents and materiel took place in communities from Sitka across the Gulf to Kodiak.

The actual activity was less severe than feared, with waves of less than a foot recorded by the National Tsunami Warning Center in Homer, but most activity ranging at around half that height. No damage or harm was reported, and within several hours warnings were being dialed back or withdrawn. A subsequent 4.7 magnitude tremor was recorded at the area at around 10 a.m., but was not accompanied by any warning of tsunami danger.

A report issued jointly by the

Alaska Earthquake Center and other agencies Tuesday morning has subsequently set the earthquake at a magnitude of 7.9. It had occurred as the result of strike slip faulting within the surface of the Pacific tectonic plate, as it converges with the neighboring North America plate. The Pacific plate subducts beneath the latter at the Alaska-Aleutians Trench roughly 55 miles to the northwest of Tuesday's quake, moving at a rate of 2.16 inches per year. The quake occurred on a fault system within the Pacific plate itself, and similar seismic events typically occur over a broad area of 142 by 18 miles.

The Earthquake Center reports large earthquakes are common in the Pacific-North America plate boundary just south of Alaska. In the past 100 years 11 other magnitude 7 or greater quakes have occurred within 370 miles of Tuesday's disturbance. Most of these actually occur on the plates' subduction area, such as the Great Alaska earthquake of March 1964. While those kinds of earth-

quakes can create tsunami conditions, Tuesday's tremor was of a variety less likely to do so. Quakes of similar magnitude occurring in the vicinity in 1987 and 1988 had also failed to result in either damage or casualties.

## We have teamed-up to make rural healthcare better.

Wrangell Medical Center, Public Health Nursing, SEARHC and AICS have come together as proud partners in the Wrangell Area Rural Health Network to share data, look at community needs and develop strategies to address healthcare challenges affecting families in Wrangell.

This partnership continues our commitment to provide comprehensive healthcare in Southeast Alaska's most rural communities. Learn more by scanning the QR code below.



The Wrangell Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that we will be honoring *the WVFD (Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department)* during the 2018 Chamber Dinner to be held on **Saturday, February 10th at 6pm - Nolan Center**

We are seeking your best stories and testimonials about what the Fire Dept. has done for you!

Some of these may be read aloud during the dinner and others will be displayed (let us know if you have a preference).

Please send your stories to **Box 49, Wrangell, AK 99929.**  
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# Lady Wolves win two in first home games

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

The Lady Wolves won a pair of games last week against Haines, during Wrangell's first home games of the 2017/18 season.

The two wins put Wrangell at 4-2 so far during its regular basketball season, which had been preceded by an eighth-place showing at an interregional tournament at the Clarke Cochrane Christmas Classic in Ketchikan late last month.

During January 17's midweek game the Glacier Bears had started out with a 14-9 lead after the first quarter. Wrangell's girls fought back, outscoring Haines the next two quarters by a 3-1 margin to

hold a 53-28 lead before the final eight minutes. An about evenly matched last quarter meant a big win for Wrangell, finishing 71-44.

"The girls worked very hard," said Lady Wolves coach Laurie Brown. "Wednesday night we came out really strong."

Though they weren't able to field junior varsity teams, during Wednesday's second half Brown was able to play more of her second string, getting them experience on the court.

"Kaylyn Easterly had some big numbers the first night," she commented. Easterly led her team for points overall with 24, dropping 10 of 16 two-pointers thrown and scoring all four of her attempts



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Haines and Wrangell players rush after a loose ball during Wednesday's evening game last week. The Lady Wolves ended up winning with close to a 30-point lead their first game, but won the next day by a much closer margin.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Kaylyn Easterly lobs for two points during Wednesday's fast-paced game against the Glacier Bears.

from beyond the three-point line.

"Anna Allen also had a really good game," Brown added. Allen was just behind Easterly in points with 21, making half her free throws and better than half of her goal attempts overall. Brown noted she had also led the team for rebounds.

Thursday's afternoon game was more tightly contested, with Haines maintaining a close score throughout.

"I could tell my girls were tired," said Brown.

By the half Wrangell still held an eight-point lead, and after some back and forth in the lead came out on top with a 60-52 win over Haines.

Brown said her girls would need to work on their consistency, but that they had done a good job both with offense and their defense. Penalties too would be another area to work on, with Wrangell outpacing Haines in fouls 30 to 16 during Wednesday's game.

The team heads next to Met-

lakatla, one of the region's top contenders.

"We've been really preparing," said Brown. "They have some big middle people," able to play strong in the center, as well as good outside shooters. The team also tends to play zone defense, something Brown said her girls would be preparing for.

After Metlakatla the season enters its second half. Wrangell will be back at home for most of it, hosting Craig next February 7 and 8.

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healthy is here.



# Glacier Bears and Wolves split in Wrangell home games

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School's boys basketball team split another weekend with its regional rivals during last week's games.

Hosting Haines, it was the Wolves' first home games after several weeks on the road.

"It went pretty well I think," head coach Cody Angerman commented.

Playing on Wednesday and Thursday due to travel considerations, both games ended up being close ones for the two teams.

"They actually match up with us pretty well," said Angerman.

Haines senior Dylan Swinton was a leader on the opposing side of the court, backed up by a pair of talented freshmen, he said.

On Wrangell's team, several of its players shone during play, with junior Riley Blatchley and senior Tymon Teat holding up the offense.

"I thought Riley really stepped

up and played well," said Angerman. He had broken 20 points in each of the two games, leading the team. "He really had some big games."

Teat was also a force on the court, helping the Wolves press home on its drives. "When we really need a bucket you give him the ball," said Angerman.

Playing a well-rounded offense, the Wolves' defensive game was also important. Angerman commended senior Brian Schwartz for his performance, a key defender through both games with his blocks and rebounds.

"I give him the big assignments," the coach said. One of Schwartz's strengths is his versatility. "Brian can almost guard every position."

During Wednesday's evening game the Glacier Bears trailed just behind the Wolves through the first half, with Wrangell up 37-34. After matching scores through the next quarter Haines was able to jump



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Senior Brian Schwartz shoots after a foul late in Thursday morning's game against Haines. After losing to the Glacier Bears in a close game the previous evening, the team was able to win one of its own during the day.

ahead for the win, finishing ahead 69-66.

The next morning, the two were back at it in another close game. Wrangell held a slight lead at the half, 33-27. Haines came close to catching up, but the home team was able to extend its lead by a few points by the end, finishing 58-52.

Looking ahead, the team is scheduled to play in Metlakatla this weekend. The Chiefs are strong contenders for State this year, and while the games ahead should be challenging Angerman said the trip should be an enjoyable one.

"The Metlakatla trip is always really fun," he said, commending the school for its hospitality.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Riley Blatchley earns some points late in Wrangell's Thursday morning win while hosting the Glacier Bears.



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## CAN SUMMER VISITORS FIND YOU?

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- CHARTER OPERATOR & LODGING DIRECTORIES
- RECREATION MAP
- WRANGELL ISLAND ROAD &
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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Sea otter predation and their impacts were among topics at the Board of Fisheries meeting in Sitka

Sea otters and their devastating impacts on Southeast Alaska shellfish were among the many emotionally-charged topics at the state Board of Fisheries marathon meeting running from January 11-23 in Sitka. The Board was set to address 153 proposals for state subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries for the Southeast and Yakutat regions.

Crabbers and fishermen who dive for lucrative sea cucumbers, geoduck clams and urchins again pleaded for changes to regulations to help protect their livelihoods from the voracious appetites of growing numbers of otters throughout the region.

Olivia Olsen, who operates Alaskan Quota and Permits in Petersburg, summed up the problem in a previous conversation saying, "Sea otters are really causing havoc. They are moving in and moving north and just wiping out the grounds behind them. It is a definite problem, a major problem."

About 400 sea otters were reintroduced to Southeast in the early 1960s after being nearly wiped out by fur traders. A 2012 estimate put their numbers at 25,000 and at a reproductive rate of 12 percent a year, the population likely tops 40,000 animals today.

A 2011 report by the McDowell Group (the most recent analysis) said otter predation has cost the Southeast economy over \$28 million in losses to the Dungeness crab and dive fisheries since 1995.

The report concluded that those fisheries and large populations of sea otters cannot coexist in the same waters, adding: "Once commercially viable numbers of geoducks, urchins, sea cucumbers and crab are gone, they are not likely to return while sea otters remain."

In testimony to the board, Kyle Hebert, dive fisheries research supervisor for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, called sea otters "the greatest threat to the future of the dive fisheries," and said that fewer areas are now open with declines continuing in southern regions.

"Although geoduck clam and sea cucumber areas are still open in this area, the populations are steadily declining and with each survey that we conduct, we expect commercial harvest opportunities to drop," Hebert added.

Sea otters are listed as a protected species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Nearly 20 Southeast organizations, municipalities and Native groups are on record asking for management changes to the federal sea otter plan so that it interprets the Act for an ecological balance of all species, including humans.

Many urge that the State take over otter management from the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which they criticize "for doing nothing to rectify or implement a sustainable management policy since the mid 1990's."

The Ketchikan Borough has suggested that more Alaska Natives be allowed to hunt otters, the only ones allowed by law to do so. Only about 1,200 are taken annually, which does not keep up with the otter birth rates. In a 2017 issue paper borough manager Ruben Duran suggested that the blood quantum (percentage) for Alaska Natives be reduced from one-quarter percent to one-sixteenth or 6.25 percent to allow for more hunting.

The continued loss of revenue through lack of sustainable otter population management, Duran said, is likely to remove over 650 fishermen and other full-time related jobs in the region.

"I know the department has to have a sustainable management plan in place, and we don't argue with that, but our question is that you don't have a sustainable management plan in place when you have sea otters," said Phil Doherty, executive director of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association.

Most decisions on sea otter management are beyond the purview of the state Board of Fisheries. Member Orville Huntington suggested that the otter population would eventually limit itself.

"I think nature will take care of itself at some point," he said.

The 2016/17 Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery was valued at \$5.3 million to fishermen, geoduck clams at nearly \$3 million, over \$7 million for Dungeness crab and \$677,000 for red urchins.

**Fish seats** - Seven people have applied for a seat on the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Five of the applicants are from Juneau, including previous CFEC employee Yvonne Fink. Carol Petrabourg and Jeff Kasper are Department of Fish and Game Juneau employees. Dale Kelley is long-time director of the Alaska Trollers Association and Jim Sepal is a marine surveyor.

Two applicants from Anchorage are Eric Olson, a former chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Werner Jon Dunham who operates Terratechnika, an earth science service company.

The CFEC, which oversees a staff of about 20, was created by the Alaska Legislature in 1972, mostly as a means to control entry into salmon fisheries. It now regulates 68 fisheries including herring, crab, state water sablefish, shrimp and dive fisheries. The commission also issues and transfers annual fishing permits and licenses, rules on any appeals and collects

commercial fishing data.

The new Commissioner will join one other - Fate Putman, a Juneau attorney and lobbyist. Stepping down in March is current CFEC chairman Bruce Twomley who has served for 35 years. He called the work of the CFEC "vital."

"Without Commissioners being able to pay attention and respond to emergency situations, fishing time is going to be lost for sure. This remains a demanding job. And it's all about getting fishermen in the water," Twomley told radio station KHNS in Haines.

Governor Walker will make a selection in coming weeks. His choice must then be approved by the Alaska legislature.

**Seafood trends** - The whole point of catching fish is to get people to buy and eat it, both at home and at restaurants.

Here are some of the latest trends for 2018, according to a Seafood Keynote report by Datassentials, a national market tracker. It combines the opinions and behaviors of over 1,000 consumers and hundreds of restaurant, retail, and onsite operators.

Salmon remains Americans' most seafood popular choice by, but diners are interested in branching out to other fish and shellfish.

Seafood also is becoming increasingly popular for breakfast and brunch, thanks to popular dishes like shrimp and grits, crab Benedict and salmon frittatas.

Seafood is becoming more trendy in the growing snack market. Nearly 90 percent of consumers said they have snacked on seafood, such as popcorn shrimp, sushi or calamari. Nearly 90 percent of respondents said they eat seafood because it tastes good; 88 percent said because it is healthy.

One-third of the operators said seafood sales increased over the past year. Two out of five said positioning seafood as a healthy, better-for-you choice is the most effective way to market it.

The trend for seafood at more upscale restaurants is growing, but declining at fast food.

Frozen seafood is perceived to be a great value, more convenient and to have a longer shelf life. "However, many consumers and restaurant operators still prefer fresh seafood, which means that there are opportunities for frozen seafood suppliers to educate restaurant buyers on specifics such as how quickly the fish was frozen and the story of where it was sourced," the Keynote Report said.

More consumers want to know where their foods come from. In a big plus for wild seafood, they also are seeking non-genetically

modified foods "in droves."

People are demanding natural foods with fewer additives of anything, and are reading labels like never before.

Healthy and light entrees are expected to grow at a faster rate through 2018, another opportunity for seafood.

Touting seafood sustainability is still a rarity on US menus, said Datassentials. Just over one percent use the word on menus, nearly three times higher than 5 years ago. The word 'wild' is featured on over 9 percent of US restaurant menus and 'local' at nearly 5 percent.

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# POW captain receives fine, loses boat for creek robbing

On January 10 the Department of Law reported a Prince of Wales fisherman had been sentenced for a number of misdemeanor counts related to fishing violations.

Commercial salmon seine captain Curtis Demmert was sentenced to multiple misdemeanor counts, including commercial fishing in closed waters, fishing too close to a salmon spawning stream and falsifying his commercial fish ticket.

On September 13, 2017 Alaska Wildlife Troopers had received a report that the F/V Tlingit Lady, a 58-foot commercial seine vessel captained by Demmert, had been seining for salmon at the head of Coco Harbor, roughly 65 miles into closed waters. Coco Harbor is home to several salmon spawning streams and has been closed to commercial fishing for nearly 30 years. Later that evening the caller reported again that F/V Tlingit Lady was making an additional set in Coco Harbor. After the final set the vessel blacked out its lights and left Coco Harbor in the dark.

On the morning of September 14, Demmert had offloaded 23,159 pounds of salmon to a commercial tender vessel. Demmert claimed the fish were caught on September 13 in open water near Mclean Arm, some 65 miles from Coco Harbor. The average catch for seiners fishing in the open area was 9,000 pounds. Based on the distance into closed water and the fact that Demmert was fishing near a salmon spawning stream, an illegal practice known as "creek robbing," the Wildlife Troopers seized the F/V Tlingit Lady and everything on it, including the skiff and seine nets.

On December 19 Demmert pleaded guilty to Commercial Fishing During Closed Period, Commercial Fishing in Closed Waters, False Information on an ADF&G Fish Ticket, and Unlawful Possession of Fish. On January 10 the defendant was sentenced by the court in Prince of Wales.

The state's prosecutor argued Demmert had taken a calculated risk when he fished far into closed waters, for potentially significant monetary gain while putting a salmon run in peril. The prosecutor stated that "without vigorous enforcement of the regulations, fish in Alaska could be



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

## Hoop shooters

Time was taken out during last Wednesday night's game against Haines to present awards to Wrangell's 2017 Elks Hoop Shoot winners. And the winners are... Front row, 8-9 year olds: Alana Harrison (1st), Sophia Martinsen (2nd), Jenna Eastaugh (3rd), Aadyn Gillen (1st), Jackson Carney (2nd) and Gavin Hunt (3rd). Middle row, 10-11 year olds: Mindy Meissner (1st), Mia Wiederspohn (2nd), Kayla Meissner (3rd), Daniel Harrison (1st), Keaton Gadd (2nd) and Ben Houser (3rd). Back row, 12-13 year olds: Brodie Gardner (1st), Kiara Harrison (2nd), Zahara Richie (3rd), Jacen Hay (1st), Leroy Wynne (2nd) and Devlyn Campbell (3rd.)

wiped out, and the employment, sport, subsistence, and traditions of Alaskans gone with them."

The court imposed a sentence including a \$32,728.79 fine, 180 days of suspended jail time, forfeit \$17,728.79 from the illegally caught salmon and forfeit the F/V Tlingit Lady, the seine skiff, seine nets, and everything aboard the vessel to the State of Alaska.

In arguing for forfeiture of the fishing vessel the prose-

curator stated "other commercial fishermen and the general public must know that if a fisherman commits an offense this egregious, the vessels and instrumentalities used in aid of the violation will be lost to them."

The case was investigated by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Southeast Alaska. The case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Aaron Peterson of the Alaska Department of Law, Office of Special Prosecutions.

## Comics

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### Just Like Cats & Dogs



## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Mamma Mia!" group
- 5 Apprehend
- 8 Colorful fish
- 12 Clay-rich soil
- 13 Blunder
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Democrat or Republican
- 17 Radiate
- 18 Faucet
- 19 Arouse
- 21 Fireworks reaction
- 22 Delany or Carvey
- 23 Venomous viper
- 26 Zodiac cat
- 28 Passenger
- 31 Prosperous time
- 33 Knock
- 35 Pepsi competitor
- 36 Soothe
- 38 Tatter
- 40 Actor Danson
- 41 A long time
- 43 Bugging device
- 45 Tranquil
- 47 Pencil end
- 51 Impulse carrier
- 52 Multiple marriage
- 54 Expectorate

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- 55 Ailing
- 56 Malaria symptom
- 57 Pop
- 58 Oklahoma city
- 59 Untouchable Eliot
- 6 Curved path
- 7 Wide
- 8 Occurring naturally
- 9 Bikini pattern?
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Chopped
- 16 Implement
- 20 Card game for two
- 23 Lawyers' org.
- 24 Scale member
- 25 Edwin Land's company
- 27 Rowing need
- 29 — out a living
- 30 Primary color
- 32 Purplish
- 30-Down
- 34 Kneecap
- 37 Longing
- 39 Indiana city
- 42 Brownish tone
- 44 Heathen
- 45 Back talk
- 46 World's fair
- 48 Wise one
- 49 Ostriches' kin
- 50 Deli loaves
- 53 On in years

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes so each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid contains all of the numbers from 1 to 9.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Puzzle answers on page 10

# Classified/Legals

### REGULAR TRANSFER

Aaron Ellis Powell d/b/a Totem Bar and Liquor Store located at 116 Front Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 is applying for transfer of a Package Store AS 04.11.150 liquor license to Totem Bar and Liquor Store, LLC d/b/a Totem Bar and Liquor Store. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501.

**Published: January 11, 18 and 25, 2018**

### REGULAR TRANSFER

Aaron Ellis Powell d/b/a Totem Bar and Liquor Store located at 116 Front Street, Wrangell, Alaska 99929 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary AS 04.11.090 liquor license to Totem Bar and Liquor Store, LLC d/b/a Totem Bar and Liquor Store. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant and to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501.

**Published: January 11, 18 and 25, 2018**

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### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to a lack of a quorum, the Work Session and Regular Assembly meeting of January 23, 2018 has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, February 6, 2018**. The meeting are as follows:

**6:00 p.m.** - Work Session/Presentation: Mariculture & the Mariculture Task Force's Comprehensive Plan.

**7:00 p.m.** - Regular Assembly Meeting.

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

**Publish: January 25, 2018**

### USDA FOREST SERVICE PETERSBURG AND WRANGELL RANGER DISTRICTS CENTRAL TONGASS LANDSCAPE LEVEL ANALYSIS

The Forest Service is developing a proposed action for a landscape level analysis - the Central Tongass Landscape Level Analysis (CTLLA). The project area includes both the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts on the Tongass National Forest. Through the National Environmental Policy Act process, we plan to identify and analyze the environmental effects of a variety of activities that can be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.



To help us better understand what is important to you within the CTLLA project area, we invite you to complete a questionnaire on the CTLLA project webpage:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd568085>.

Questionnaires are also available at both ranger districts or by contacting Marina Whitacre at 907-772-3871 or [mwhitacre@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwhitacre@fs.fed.us). It would be most helpful to have your completed questionnaire by February 22<sup>nd</sup>; however, feedback will be accepted at any time. Questionnaires can be emailed ([comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us) with 'CTLLA' in the subject line), faxed (907-772-5995), mailed (PO Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833), or hand-delivered to either ranger district office during business hours.

Public meetings regarding this project are being planned in March within the communities of Kake, Kupreanof, Petersburg and Wrangell. More on these meetings will be posted on the project webpage (see above) and through public notices and electronic notifications. To receive electronic notifications regarding the CTLLA, or any other. Forest Service projects, you may sign up here: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=NEPA\\_53098\\_S](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NEPA_53098_S). In the meantime, if you have questions about the project proposal, please contact David Zimmerman, ([dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us)) or Carey Case ([ccase@fs.fed.us](mailto:ccase@fs.fed.us)) at 907-772-3871. We look forward to your participation.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Publish: January 25, 2018**

### City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska PUBLIC OUTCRY AUCTION

For the Disposal of Eleven (11) Float Sections  
Located at the SHOEMAKER BAY HARBOR, Wrangell, AK

**Auction Date: Friday, February 16, 2018**

**Auction Location: Wrangell City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska**

**Bidder Registration Required Prior to Auction Start**

**Auction Time: 2:00 PM**

Subject to WMC 5.10.060 the City and Borough of Wrangell will offer for sale, by public outcry auction, to the highest qualified bidder, the following surplus property located in the City and Borough of Wrangell:

Float Section	Size/Dimensions	Minimum Bid
1	12' (w) x 152' (l)	\$25
2	12' (w) x 152' (l)	\$25
3	12' (w) x 152' (l)	\$25
4	12' (w) x 160' (l)	\$25
5	12' (w) x 160' (l)	\$25
6	12' (w) x 152' (l)	\$25
7	12' (w) x 152' (l)	\$25
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Bid documents may be found at [www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com) under the Bids, RFP's & Auctions section in the Resource Center Tab, or by contacting the Borough Clerk at [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com).

**Publish: January 18, 25 and February 1 and 8, 2018**



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### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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# Shoemaker

Continued from page 1

tion to find an alternative. The department has since put the project on hold, but is expected to resume work in April.

The Shoemaker dredging would bring up about 7,500 cubic

yards of material, which the city plans to store at an upland monofill site near the public shooting range. Because wetlands would not be affected, Al-Haddad explained the city is under no obligation to test the material before-

hand.

However, she said, "We have an obligation to the community to make sure it is not contaminated. Especially with the Byford soil issue a hot topic right now, we wanted to make sure we do our due diligence and do the right thing."

If the dredged material did prove to be contaminated, the city would be obligated to deal with it properly, which would inflate the cost of the overall project, already pushing \$12 million. Despite the risk of added cost, Assembly members approved undertaking the testing. Admiralty Environmental LLC was contracted to test the material, and measured samples from the proposed dredge site for heavy metals and petroleum hydrocarbons.

"We went down and collected those down to a four foot depth, to make sure we got a good representative sample," said Al-Haddad. "All of those came back - a lot of them no detection - and a couple of them were very minimal."

The substances that were detected came back at marginal levels, compared to DEC thresholds. Lead came back at 1.5 milligrams per kilogram, for instance, compared to a 400 mg/kg threshold.

Mercury was not detected at all.

With that given the all-clear, Al-Haddad said the city would proceed to make available its shooting range monofill for the contractor's use, should they need it. "We will be making that site available to the contractor as a disposal location option. They may choose to do something different with it, but it would be up to the contractor to figure out," she explained.

Now that that unknown has been cleared, the city will have a better idea about its project costs. A combination of harbor reserve funds and municipal bonds will cover the majority of it, which is being worked out by Wrangell's finance department.

"As soon as we get the bonding in place and we know that we're good to go, we'll release the project for competitive bidding," Al-Haddad said.


The completed bid packet could be ready by March, and once that process proceeds it is hoped that work can begin by September.

"This time of year it works good," explained Greg Meissner, Wrangell's harbormaster. "We have a lot more vacant space in the fall."

If sticking to schedule, work would likely wrap up before the following May. People currently mooring at Shoemaker would need to coordinate new spots to keep their vessels while the project goes on. Meissner said workshops would be scheduled and letters sent ahead of time. There would be some opportunity for stallholders to switch around to other harbor facilities on a permanent basis if they wanted, and for others to move into Shoemaker Bay.

Along with disposing of its dredging, project planners also need to contend with disposing of its old float materials. One way to approach that will be to sell off sections by auction. Meissner said a cry-out action was being scheduled for 2 p.m. on February 16, inside City Hall.

Eleven sections of dock will be portioned off and sold to the highest qualified bidder. Ahead of the bidding, Meissner said his department will go out and mark off and number sections, allowing prospective buyers to take a gander. Once purchased, auction winners would need to coordinate with the department to remove their sections ahead of the new float construction.



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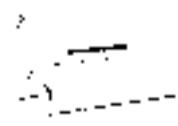
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# A.G. decision unlikely to alter cannabis legalization in Alaska

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Despite a rescinding of Obama-era orders allowing for the state-by-state legalization process of marijuana earlier this month, the relationship between federal and Alaskan agencies seem unlikely to change at the moment.

On January 4 Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memorandum to all United States Attorneys rescinding guidance articles previously issued during the previous presidential administration. This included the memo issued by then-Deputy Attorney General James Cole in 2013.

The Cole memo had laid out a more hands-off policy regarding drug enforcement when it came to state-level legalization of recreational marijuana. While still considered a controlled substance at the federal level, the memo outlined eight problem areas where federal legal intervention may occur, but otherwise gave its consent for retailers and distributors to operate within robust state guidelines. The memo ultimately served as the benchmark against which state actions such as those taken by the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office have been measured, and allows for transport between licensees within state boundaries.

AMCO was created following voters' passage of Proposition 2 in 2014, allowing for the regulated legalization of recreational marijuana. Regulations to oversee the transition were started by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in April 2015, with a separate board formed for marijuana in July and the office taking on a combined role to both substances. The Marijuana Control Board has since the middle of 2016 approved 164 licenses for businesses across the state, ranging from cultivators and retailers to processors and manufacturers of the drug.

With the Cole memo's rescission, the future of the state's regulatory approach to cannabis has been rendered uncertain. Sessions' decision specifically cited five other memoranda as well, providing district attorneys guidance on subjects ranging from authorizing medical usage of the drug to dealing with finance in the burgeoning industry. In his memo, Sessions noted that marijuana has been generally prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act, and that current federal law reflects "Congress's determination that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that marijuana activity is a serious crime."

However, the Attorney General suggested the Justice Department has "finite resources" at its disposal, and directed prosecutors to weigh their priorities depending on the seriousness and cumulative impact of crimes, as well as the deterrent effect of criminal prosecution.

For its part, the office of Alaska District Attorney Bryan Schroder issued a statement suggesting a status quo:

"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Alaska will continue to use the long-established principles of federal prosecution to determine what cases to charge. One of the key principles is to follow federal law enforcement priorities,

## Court

Continued from page 1

that inspection had taken place in December, with a report reaching both ACS and City Hall this month. The city had also contracted Advance Look to examine the rest of the Public Safety Building for air quality during its examination of the courtroom office area.

Al-Haddad reported the company's results indicated nothing significantly different than what had been previously ascertained. Air quality particulates were within acceptable safety ranges, she said, with one exception.

"With the microbial air particulates there was one area that was of concern," she said, referring to the court officer's cordoned-off office. The exterior wall, which had been opened up by city staff last September, was still a source of concern until its materials could be fully replaced. She explained the company had some recommendations for containing the space and allowing the offices to reopen safely.

"We followed Advanced Look's recommendations and concurred with the court to install HEPA filters in their space," Al-Haddad said. Under a half-dozen units were placed around the

court area on Friday. "We'll run them likely until we do the renovation project."

ACS staff began resuming duties on January 18, and Judge Kevin Miller arrived by plane Monday morning to undertake the week's scheduled courtroom business. Two court officials employed at Wrangell's office had been placed on administrative leave during the office's two-month closure. Though light, the court's caseload had been picked up by the district court in Ketchikan.

"They did a fabulous job," said Leanna Nash, a judicial officer with Wrangell's court. The clerk in Ketchikan had been in contact with her each week during the two-month closure, keeping her abreast of ongoing court concerns.

Nash said the public's patience during this time has been greatly appreciated, and the office will be getting caught back up to speed in the near future.

"It's going to take a couple of weeks, probably," she estimated. "We're mostly filing right now, double-checking."

Efforts to repair the roof and siding of Wrangell's Public Safety Building remain in their planning stages. Al-Haddad ex-

plained the scope of the project will depend on the city's success in securing Community Development Block Grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The full project is likely to cost \$550,000, largely to be financed by the city. If the project is selected for the HUD grant, those funds could under the program's guidelines only be used for part of the building relating to the Fire Department. The cost to repair those sections has been estimated at \$294,000, with Wrangell needing to come up with at least \$137,000 as a match. The remaining \$255,000 needed to repair the building would have to be covered by the city separately.

*For those selected for jury duty this year, Nash said summonses will be going out as soon as possible. No trials have so far been scheduled for February, with the soonest so far set for March 19. Potential jurors should expect to see directions in the mail well before that time, she said.*

both at the national and local levels. The highest priorities of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Alaska are consistent with those of the Justice Department nationally: combating violent crime, including as it stems from the scourge of drug trafficking. Consistent with those priorities, the U.S. Attorney's Office released an anti-violent crime strategy in October of the past year. We will continue to focus on cases that meet those priorities."

The office had no further comments to add regarding the subject. But the strategy it refers to is specific to curbing a recent rise in property and violent crimes in Alaska, and addressing opioid misuse. To that end, the department outlined five primary components it will be focusing on, including calling out a federal duty agent to every murder and shooting scene, creating a ballistics task force to better review evidence from violent crimes, partnering more closely with the Alaska State Troopers in rural communities, initiating a project to identify violent offenders, and on curbing opioid abuse across the state.

MCB chair Peter Mlynarik had announced his resignation from

the board once the Sessions memo was released, citing legal uncertainty of the state's position. AMCO's own response has been more cautious in assessing the Sessions memo's intent, but does not predict any change in policy. Following Sessions' announcement, it released a statement on its website:

"AMCO cannot provide legal advice to applicants or licensees, nor can we advise whether you should continue your application or alter your business practices. The Department of Law is still working to evaluate what the impact of rescinding the Cole memorandum will be for Alaska. AMCO will continue to implement state law in close conjunction with the Department of Law, and as new information is available, will make every effort to inform licensees and the public."

Area business owners did not seem to be too concerned about the legalization process reversing course.

Susan Burrell, owner of The 420 in Petersburg, thought there would not be much of a change forthcoming. "Being in Southeast Alaska, I do not believe they will tackle me, the little guy, and although the Cole memo allowed

for banks to provide service for marijuana businesses, none here in Alaska have ever done so."

From a regulatory perspective, she cited AMCO's swift response to businesses that fail to comply with state regulations as evidence the program has been working as it should.

"The AMCO has been doing a great job with the enforcement of the laws set forth by them," Burrell said.

Her experience extended also to the local level: "The Borough of Petersburg has been a pleasure to deal with in regards to every aspect I have had with them. We set our alarm system off a couple of times and the Petersburg Police Department was on the spot in answering it. Residents of Petersburg have been very gracious and we have had no repercussions to having our little spot in downtown Petersburg."

One area she would like to see improved on would be efficiency with the state's processing of applications. "I think they need to hire more people though, as their licensing process has been really slow this last six months."

In Wrangell, business owner Kelsey Martinsen still has applications being processed for Happy

Cannabis, a retail and small cultivation facility. City manager Lisa Von Barga reported earlier this month that Martinsen's building plans for the downtown shop had finally been approved by the Fire Marshal, and that the city has subsequently issued a building permit. A letter has been sent to AMCO informing them his local permits are in order.

Martinsen currently has three licenses under review by the MCB. One cultivation license has been approved pending inspection, while a retail license has been delegated to the AMCO director's office pending completion of additional requirements. A concentrate manufacturing permit application is only in the initial stages.

Asked about Sessions' memo, Martinsen's confidence in Alaska's legalization process was not shaken. "I think he's a little late on that," he commented, pointing to some 30 states now that have some level of regulation for cannabis.

While his permit applications are being processed, Martinsen was unsure whether he still plans to open his store, or what the possible timeline might be. "We don't know at this point."



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