

Mayor Prysunka goes to Washington last week

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Mayor Steve Prysunka travelled to Washington D.C. last week to speak before the Senate Committee on Energy and National Resources. He was invited to speak on behalf of the National Association of Counties, an organization that works to advocate county priorities in federal policymaking. Prysunka spoke last Thursday, Nov. 21,

on the importance of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds.

"We're somewhat unique because we're actually the third largest city in the United States by area," Prysunka said to the Wrangell Sentinel, prior to his trip. "But by percent of population we're actually the largest city by area in the United States ... I believe it's 97 percent of our lands that are federal lands

so as a community we're unable to expand and, basically, grow the community so that we can tax the other activities and businesses and homes that would be in the community. We just don't have the land."

This is why these federal programs are so important to towns like Wrangell, he said, as they help towns with limited opportunities for growth to survive. The PILT program is a payment made to small communities near large areas of federal land,

such as the Tongass National Forest. It's meant to give these towns some parity with other towns that are not hindered in their expansion. Prysunka said he wanted to present the realities a rural town like Wrangell faces, such as aging infrastructure, costs for light and power, and the challenges and costs of even planning a project.

"By fully funding the PILT program, Congress can reaffirm its longstanding commitment to public lands and counties and provide them with the stability they need as they seek to implement their own balanced budgets while continuing to provide essential public services," Prysunka's testimony reads. "We need a strong and reliable federal partner to provide budgetary certainty and stability for the nation's counties."

The mayor also gave testimony on the importance of the Secure Rural Schools program. SRS funds come from a portion of Forest Service timber receipts, which are redistributed to small towns. The funds can be used to sup-

port local school districts, but Prysunka added that they could be used for other projects around the borough, too. He wanted to make the case to the resource committee that this money was "absolutely crucial"

to keeping the city and school district operating. Prysunka's testimony said that SRS program was reauthorized in 2018, where it provided \$257 million to 700 rural counties and 4,000 school districts. Seeing the program renewed once again was a big part of his testimony.

"The expiration of SRS will create dramatic budgetary shortfalls for counties if Congress fails to renew this longstanding federal obligation to county governments," his testimony reads. "Enactment of a substantial long-term program to share revenues generated from the management of federal lands with forest counties and schools will ensure that students receive essential education services and rural communities have critical funding for roads, conservation projects, search and rescue missions and fire prevention programs."

While in the capitol, Prysunka added that he intended to speak with legislators about the importance of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is chaired by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R, AK). More information about the committee can be found at www.energy.senate.gov. The National Association of Counties can be found at www.naco.org.



COURTESY OF SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mayor Steve Prysunka



COURTESY OF TAMMI MEISSNER

Several Wrangell High School cheerleaders assisted in cleaning up cigarette butts on Front Street earlier this month, collecting over 13 pounds of cigarette butts. Pictured here (left to right): Aaliyah Messmer, Brodie Gardner, Aria Chase, Kira Torvend, Haven Jack, and Coach Stephanie Cartwright.

Over 13 pounds of cigarette butts collected ahead of Great American Smokeout

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Earlier this month, on Nov. 5, several Wrangell High School cheerleaders helped SEARHC employee Tammi Meissner pick up cigarette butts on Front Street. In an email to the Sentinel, Meissner said that they managed to clean up 13.4 pounds of cigarette butts from the street and sidewalks. This was done ahead of the Great American Smokeout, which is celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November. The GASO is hosted by the American Cancer Society to promote the risks of smoking and ways to quit the habit.

"More than 34 million Americans still smoke cigarettes, and smoking remains the single largest preventable cause of death and illness in the world," the American Cancer Soci-

ety's web page reads. "Smoking causes an estimated 480,000 deaths every year, or about 1 in 5 deaths."

According to a 2018 report by the state department of health and social services, the percentage of adult smokers in Alaska has decreased by 27.7 percent, or about 41,000 people, between 1996 and 2016. Smoking among high school students has declined to 9.9 percent in 2017, with more of them using e-cigarettes than regular cigarettes. The report also says that between 2012 and 2016 there were 697 smoking-related deaths in the state and smoking costs approximately \$574 million in direct medical expenses and \$264 million in lost productivity per year.

More information can be found on the American Cancer Society's website at www.cancer.org.

Plans to subdivide old mill property

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Plans are in motion to subdivide the old mill property around 6.5 mile Zimovia Highway, according to Terri Wenger with Anchor Properties. The property, currently owned by Betty Buhler, has been on the market for quite some time. On the Anchor Properties website the almost 39-acre lot is listed at \$2.7 million. Wenger said that the plan is to subdivide the land into 11 lots, ranging in size from one to three acres.

"I could be wrong, but I think that it could be possibly the biggest private land deal in Wrangell that could probably ever happen," she said.

The old sawmill site comes with a deep water port, according to Anchor Properties' website, three existing warehouses and a mechanic shop. Wenger also pointed out that the floating bunkhouse, which used to house workers when the mill was in operation, is also still there. When lots begin to sell sometime in the near future, she said they will largely be going as-is, some work will need to be done on the lots to clean them up but not much. A lot of the old mill is paved she pointed out. This means that it should be of interest to anyone wishing to develop without having to dig up muskeg. The old mill property is currently zoned "waterfront industrial," which Wenger said meant that basically anything could be built there except for residential buildings. If someone wanted to rezone their lot, she said they could discuss it with the Planning and Zoning Commission after they bought it.

"Just the opportunity here is awesome," she said.

As many Wrangell residents know, the property is an important part of Wrangell's history. According to a 2016 article in the Wrangell Sentinel, written by Frank Roppel, during the timber industry's heyday the Wrangell sawmill employed as many as 240 full-time workers, as well as an additional 32 longshoremen. From 1970 to 1995, the

Continued on page 12

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, November 28: Hailey Cook, Rylan Shilts, Judy Taylor, Kaden Comstock. **Anniversary:** Levi & Kathy Dow, Scott & Becky Thomas, John & Karen Morse, Paul & Victoria Southland, Iver & Diana Nore. **Friday, November 29:** Shelton Eklund. **Saturday, November 30:** Ben Bowman, Kogen Brown, Nala O'Brien, Barbara Neyman, Warren Edgley, Jr. **Sunday, December 1:** Ethan Gassaway, Scott Angerman. **Monday, December 2:** Chris Royster, Candice Wilsie, Lester Kuntz, Elmer Mork. **Tuesday, December 3:** Kathy Blackburn, Marilyn Mork, Erika Riley, Chuck Traylor. **Anniversary:** Chris & Kathy Blackburn. **Wednesday, December 4:** Jared Blackburn, Mark Peterman. **Thursday, December 5:** Reid Pollow, Kimberly Powell, Ashlee Randall.

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

Senior Center Menu

Wednesday, November 27

Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry, Salad, Pumpkin Pie

Thursday, November 28

Closed THANKSGIVING Day

Friday, November 29

Baked White Fish, Vegetables, Honey Orange Salad, Muffins

Monday, December 2

Halibut Chowder, Tomatoe Rochefeller, Cold Slaw

Tuesday, December 3

Spaghetti/Meat sauce, Salad, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, December 4

Roast Beef, Green Bean, Salad, Mashed Potatoes

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, November 30

Malaspina 12:30 am

Friday, December 6

Matanuska 3:45 p.m.

Friday, December 13

Matanuska 8:45 p.m.

Friday, December 20

Matanuska 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24

Matanuska, 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, December 28

Matanuska, 12:00 a.m.

Southbound

Friday, November 29

Malaspina 05:00 a.m.

Monday, December 2

Malaspina 05:30 a.m.

Monday, December 9

Matanuska 03:30 a.m.

Monday, December 16

Matanuska 08:00 a.m.

Monday, December 23

Matanuska, 09:00 am

Friday, December 27

Matanuska, 08:15 a.m.

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



TIDES Nov. 28 - Dec. 05

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
November 28	01:46	16.1	01:30	18.4	07:15	2.2	07:56	-2.9
November 29	02:30	15.4	02:10	17.3	07:55	3.1	08:36	-1.8
November 30	03:14	14.5	02:50	16.0	08:37	4.0	09:18	-0.6
December 1	04:01	13.7	03:33	14.7	09:22	5.0	10:03	0.6
December 2	04:52	13.0	04:22	13.3	10:15	5.7	10:52	1.7
December 3	05:52	12.6	05:27	12.2	11:19	6.1	11:48	2.6
December 4	06:57	12.7	06:47	11.6	12:35	6.0
December 5	07:56	13.3	08:04	11.7	00:50	3.3	01:52	5.2

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Sunday, December 1

Dove Tree Ceremony: Nolan Center Lobby, 2 pm. Open to all.

Thursday, December 12

The Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee: meeting at 7 pm, the Wrangell Fire Hall.

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

Continuing Events

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

Pool:

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class: M-W-F 8:30-9:30 a.m.
 Water Aerobics: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 Lap Swim: M-W-F 6:00-7:30 a.m. MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. TuTh 5:15-6:15 p.m. Sa 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 2 Lane Lap Swim: M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 Lap/Tot Swim: MTWThF 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. S 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Swim Club: M-F 3:15-5:15 p.m.
 Open Swim: M-W 5:30-7:00 p.m. F 6:30-8:00 p.m. S 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Weight Room: M-Thu 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m. F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m. S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

AA Meetings:

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

The Way We Were

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

November 27, 1919

The Town of Wrangell is now prepared to furnish free vaccination against smallpox. The importance of vaccination is urged. Those who have not been vaccinated in the past two years are requested to call at the office of Dr S. C. Shurick, Health officer.

November 24, 1944

Pre-Holiday turkey shoppers will find the retail ceiling prices on turkeys have been revised over those in effect last year, according to a statement made today by Donald O'Conner, Territorial price executive, for the Office of Price Administration. Dressed young turkeys will tend to be slightly less and at one price per pound whether light, medium or heavy birds. This simplifies pricing requirements for dealers too. The ceiling prices on drawn and quick frozen eviscerated turkeys in light, medium or heavy weights had to be adjusted upward to reflect increased wholesale costs to dealers. This increase however has been held to a minimum in figuring the revised ceilings, by taking advantage of the decrease in surcharge and other acquisition costs from those prevailing last year, Mr. O'Conner said.

November 27, 1969

The City of Wrangell has begun a campaign to rid the town of abandoned vehicles. Councilman Castle said the first cars to be picked up

will be those parked on streets and city property. The city also has the right to pick up unlicensed cars which are on private property, although this has not yet been done. The city is selling the abandoned vehicles to Virgil Byford, local salvage dealer. Byford pays \$25 per car and tows them away for the city.

December 1, 1994

About 30 Wrangell citizens, including most of the City Council, met Tuesday night at Wrangell High School commons to identify a capital projects list. Moved up from the previously scheduled Dec. 6 date, Mayor Ray McGurk called for a discussion to see what the community wanted submitted to the legislature but was trying to get a list submitted to

Gov. Walter Hickel so the list could be considered by the transition team prior to the inauguration of the new governor. In addition to considering a list previously made by the Council, which included a prioritized list approved by Wrangell's School Board, discussion centered around ways in which other Alaska cities were presenting their capital project lists. In the "brain-storming" discussion, categories considered included education, economic development, health and safety, transportation, ports and harbors, historical and cultural, social services and regional needs. Many solutions to problems and sources of funds were discussed as well as identification of projects to submit to the legislature.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Nov 18	45	42
Nov 19	43	37
Nov 20	46	42
Nov 21	45	42
Nov 22	50	43
Nov 23	46	41
Nov 24	43	37
Nov 25	37	36



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Nov. 28	7:47a	3:23p	07:36h
Nov. 29	7:49a	3:22p	07:33h
Nov. 30	7:51a	3:21p	07:30h
Dec. 01	7:53a	3:20p	07:27h
Dec. 02	7:54a	3:19p	07:25h
Dec. 03	7:56a	3:18p	07:22h
Dec. 04	7:57a	3:17p	07:20h
Dec. 05	7:59a	3:17p	07:18h

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Tracked package leads to controlled substance arrest

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG - A Grand Jury indicted Eric Jennings, 39, on three of the five counts set before them on Nov. 14.

Jennings was indicted on misconduct involving a controlled substance in the fourth degree, tampering with physical evidence and criminal mischief in the third degree. The two other counts, misconduct involving a controlled substance in the second degree and misconduct involving a controlled substance in the third degree, were withdrawn.

On Nov. 7, Kevin Home, a United States postal inspector, identified a suspicious express mail parcel from California addressed to Jennings care of Petersburg Fisheries, according to the complaint. Home applied for and received a search warrant on Nov. 8 and found approximately three grams of suspected heroin and one ounce of suspected methamphetamine in the package. Both substances were hidden inside tins of hot cocoa mix. A plastic bottle containing a clear odorless liquid, which tested to be gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), was also found in the package.

On Nov. 9 the parcel was outfitted with a device to alert law enforcement of its status, clue spray only visible with a black light was placed inside and representative samples of all three controlled substances



Eric Jennings

were also placed inside according to the complaint. The package was then delivered to the address and a surveillance team waited near the delivery location. Law enforcement officers observed Jennings retrieve the package at Petersburg Fisheries and transport it back to a boat in South Boat Harbor. Minutes later, the device inside the package indicated that it had been opened.

Officers made contact with Jennings and two other men aboard the vessel, according to the complaint. Jennings was the only person present who had clue spray on his hands. The contents of the package were on the boat, but the box itself was floating in the harbor. According to complaint, Jennings made spontaneous utterances



COURTESY OF DREW LARRABEE

New Table for the Forest Service

On Nov. 13, students in Wrangell High School's shop class finished a "secret project," a new table for the Forest Service. Pictured here (left to right) are students Emma Martinson, Jake Eastaugh, Ryan Rooney, and Tate Miller. Teacher Drew Larrabee said on Facebook that it hasn't been decided yet where the table will go, but people will soon be able to see it in one of the Forest Service cabins in the area.

Police report

November 18

Traffic stop verbal warning for license plate and DL out of state past 90 days.

November 19

License violation.
Missing medication.
Agency Assist: Traffic verbal warning for no headlights and crossing the center line.

November 20

Civil Dispute.
Civil Dispute.
Suspicious vehicle.
Citizen Assist.
Disturbance/Civil Stand-by.

November 21

DUI-Unfounded.
Suspicious Vehicle.
Traffic Stop.

November 22

Agency Assist: Alarm.
Civil Standby.
Traffic Compliant.
Disorderly Conduct warning.
Traffic stop verbal warning for faulty equipment.

November 23

Traffic stop verbal warning for no brake lights.
Agency Assist: TSA.

November 24

Citizen Assist: Person locked out of residence.
Citizen Assist: Unlocked vehicle.

During this reporting period there were three EMS calls, three noise complaints, one dog complaint and four welfare checks.

that he picked up the box and opened it. The other two men, who could not be identified, were interviewed and stated they knew the parcel had drugs in it and that they were expecting to receive some from Jennings.

According to Jared Popp, Southeast Cities Against Drugs Task Force officer with the Petersburg Police Department, the Juneau Police Department

followed through with the case and ultimately made the arrest. Because the package came through Juneau, their police department picked up the case. Popp said he only provided logistic support to the JPD who did all the "legwork."

"We're part of the Southeast Drug Task Force, so they're not just focused on Juneau," said Popp. "They're focused on all of Southeast."

Community Movie Night

at Nolan Center, Monday, Dec. 2 at 6 pm
"South Pacific"

Everyone invited



Sponsored by Wrangell Senior Center, buses will run. Age 60+ call 874-2066 for a ride.

Ad space paid by the Nolan Center and Wrangell Sentinel

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- Fun intermission, tropical things for sale.
- Chase the winter blues away.
- Dress Hawaiian - Aloha!

Holiday Copy Services

December 13th is the deadline to guarantee delivery prior to Christmas for copy jobs.

Orders after December 13th will be done in the order they are submitted with no Christmas guarantee.

WRANGELL SENTINEL

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COURTESY OF TOD JONES

Redd Zone president, and former Wrangell resident, Tod Jones standing in front of the first “instant hatchery” his company has built.

Former Wrangellite goes into business with “instant hatchery”

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Some Wrangell residents may remember Tod Jones. He was a Wrangell resident for about 20 years, from the '70s to the '90s. He first moved to the area to help start a fish hatchery in the Burnett Inlet with the Alaska Aquaculture Company. Wrangell resident Brian Ashton was his former operations manager, Jones mentioned. When the hatchery closed down around 1995, Jones moved away.

After leaving Wrangell, Jones said he spent four years in Israel, then came back to the United States and settled down in Oregon. He and a business partner, Roger Warren, then started a company called Redd Zone. Warren is a retired hatchery manager who has worked all over Oregon, Jones said. They both are inventors, as well. Jones invented a salmon egg planter that, according to their website, has planted more salmon eggs than any other device.

Warren is the inventor of the “Warren Water Broom,” which helps keep hatchery ponds clean.

“We always talked about putting a hatchery into a shipping container,” Jones said.

The “instant hatchery” that Redd Zone is creating is unique, Jones said. Incubators are built into a standard shipping container for fish eggs. These incubators are two-foot cubes, he described, and each can hold around 150,000 eggs. The instant hatchery is also unique in that once the eggs hatch, the fry can be piped out of the incubators without ever being touched by humans. The less interaction with people that fish have, the healthier they can grow.

“The more you handle them, the more stressed they are,” Jones said.

The biggest innovations the instant hatchery brings are its affordability and mobility, Jones said. The instant hatchery is a more compact version of a typical fish hatchery.

“Usually a facility is built and engineers get involved,” he said. “This is quick and fast.”

Redd Zone sold its first unit in October. The Skokomish tribe, in Washington state, bought a 40-foot container with 36 incubators. The size of the Redd Zone units can range from 10 to 53 feet.

More information about Redd Zone can be found at reddzone.net.



COURTESY OF TOD JONES

The interior of Redd Zone’s instant hatchery. Tod Jones said that these hatcheries are an affordable and mobile alternative to traditional fish hatcheries.

Editorial

Lift the Roadless Rule on Tongass

by Ron Loesch, Publisher

Southeast Alaskans have been given the opportunity to lift the onerous roadless designation from the Tongass National Forest, and yet many have testified to leave it in place.

We’re astonished. That’s not the Alaskan way.

Why do we want the federal government to maintain continued control of the Tongass?

The roadless designation was put in place as yet another padlock on national forests that were already protected and commercial activity was eliminated or severely stymied. Half of the Tongass has been declared as wilderness. Why continue another layer of protection on lands that have already been set-aside?

Roads such as those built by the logging industry, give residents and visitors access to thousands of square miles of recreation and hunting opportunities.

Today those roads are in need of repair and in some cases the rights of way need to be cleared.

With drought conditions coming into play, Alaskans need access to more sources of water for both consumption and for hydro generation. Roads make those projects accessible for both construction and maintenance of the needed infrastructure.

Logging activities on the Tongass are not likely to resume much beyond the level at which they subsist today. With the S.E. pulp mills gone there is no need for the level of timber harvesting which took place in the 1970s and 1980s.

The US Forest Service mission is unchanged to this day. They are to manage the forests for multiple uses that include recreation, logging, mining, and even fisheries enhancement. The national forests are large enough to support those functions with minimal conflict.

We’re even more puzzled that the fishing industry speaks against lifting the Roadless Rule, out of fear of commercial activities hurting fisheries.

For crying out loud, at the end of the logging era in Southeast, every fish stream was protected by a 100 yard buffer, clear cuts were reduced in scope and forests have regenerated to the point that second and sometimes third cuts can take place in many areas.

By the 1990s, the Forest Service was actually beginning to get it right.

Alternative 6 is the preferred alternative of Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue who oversees the Forest Service. It would keep the current Forest Service Plan intact and yet would create more options and more flexibility in the execution of the Forest Plan. What’s wrong with that?

Fewer federal restrictions are what Alaskans should favor. Alternative 1 – the do nothing option, leaves continuing obstacles in the path to progress.

Comments for lifting the Roadless Rule in its entirety should be submitted to the Forest Service website. The deadline is midnight on Dec. 17.

Logging is no longer the issue. The issue is flexibility in providing Alaskans with opportunities to access the forests for recreation, resources, infrastructure and future development for our communities.



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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Construction of the new Wrangell Medical Center is staying on schedule and on budget, according to Administrator Leatha Mercurieff.

Hospital construction still on track for 2021 opening

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Construction of the new Wrangell Medical Center remains on schedule and on budget, according to SEARHC Vice President and Hospital Administrator Leatha Mercurieff. The future hospital will be about 44,500 square feet, attached to the AICS Clinic off of Wood Street, and cost

about \$30 million. Construction began in the spring of this year. Mercurieff said that there have been some minor delays with getting trusses shipped to Wrangell, but now all major structural materials are on the island. They are on target to be open for business in early 2021, she said.

As things currently stand, the frame

of the hospital is coming together. Mercurieff said that they hope to have the roof of the building complete before the first big snowfall, and will try to get the concrete floor slab completed over the winter. She mentioned that they are planning to move their pharmacy into the new hospital once it is completed, as well. The plan is to put the pharmacy where

the clinic's community room currently is.

Mercurieff added that weekly updates on construction are being posted to Facebook weekly by WMC employee Aaron Angerman. These updates, as well as a virtual tour of the future hospital, can be found on SEARHC's Facebook page.

Library to digitize archive of Wrangell publications

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

Past microfilms of the Stikine River Journal, the Fort Wrangell News and the Wrangell Sentinel will be digitally archived using a \$8,250 grant that Wrangell Cooperative Association applied for

and received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

About 18,500 images are set to be digitized by APEX Covantage and will meet the same standards as the Alaska State Library's historical newspaper documentation program, ac-

cording to Tribal Administrator Esther Ashton. Issues from the Stikine River Journal from 1898 through 1899, Fort Wrangell News from 1898 and the Wrangell Sentinel from 1902 to 1957 hopefully will be digitized. Library Director Margaret Villarma said the li-

brary may not be able to digitize every issue of the Wrangell Sentinel from 1902 through 1957, because there might not be enough funding. The only way to determine if the grant is large enough to cover the cost is to count every page of microfilm, but the library doesn't have the time to count each page.

Every year, Wrangell Cooperative Association asks the Irene Ingle Public Library, and other organizations around town, what projects they would like to have funded. Wrangell Cooperative Association then applies for grants to help fund the projects. In addition to the \$8,250 grant to digitize microfilms, Wrangell Cooperative Association is also going to use grant money to purchase a subscription to the

Alaska Digital Library.

"Basically as a tribe we're looking to collaborate with different entities in the community to make Wrangell a better place and help all of the citizens, including the tribal citizens," said Ashton.

By digitizing archives of the three publications, historical data will become easily accessible, said Villarma. Early newspapers also have recorded Tlingit names and other historical information regarding the Tlingit tribe. The only way to currently access the newspapers is to find each individual microfilm, which can inundate library staff.

"Digitizing these newspapers will allow the public to have greater access to this information," wrote Villarma in a statement to the Sentinel.

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WRANGELL SENTINEL



Wolves take third at Sitka tournament

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Wolves wrestling team travelled to Sitka this past weekend for a tournament at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. With 150 accumulated points, the team walked away with a third place win, behind Ketchikan in first and Mt. Edgecumbe in second.

In the varsity 103 bracket, Devlyn Campbell took fifth place and Jacen Hay took third. In the varsity 130 bracket Ryan Rooney took first place. In the varsity 135 bracket Ethan Blatchley took third place. In the varsity 152 bracket Hunter Wiederspohn took first place. In the varsity 171 bracket Rowen Wiederspohn took second place. In the varsity 215 bracket Jake Eastaugh took fourth place. In the varsity 285 bracket Leroy Wynne took fifth place. In the girls 112G bracket CeAirra Glaser took fourth place. In the girls 125G bracket Liana Carney took first place. In the girls 135G bracket Jamie Early took second place.

Assistant Coach Jack Carney said he thought his team did very well.

Basketball season just around the corner

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Basketball season opens Dec. 4 for Wrangell's boys and girls basketball teams. While the teams are yet to meet for practice, both head coaches are optimistic about the coming season. A common theme between the coaches is the emphasis on promoting teamwork amongst their players.

The Lady Wolves had an exceptional season last year. After going 11-3 in their regu-

lar season, they took their first regional championship in 25 years. They then went to State, where their season came to an end after two narrow losses to Deanna High School and Unalaska. Coach Laurie Brown said that they had three senior players graduate last year, but the team has several returning players as well as freshmen who are showing lots of potential. Brown said that the team's goal is always to win games, but she also wants the team to really learn how to work to-



SENTINEL ARCHIVES, 2019

Wolves player Skyler Lofftus (No. 23) in last year's home game against the Metlakatla Chiefs



SENTINEL ARCHIVES, 2019

Lady Wolves player Maddy Harding (No. 10) in last year's home game against the Craig Panthers.

gether. Teamwork is going to be emphasized through the season.

"I'm really looking forward to the season this year," Brown said. "We're gonna look at getting team-ready."

The Wolves, the boys' team, had a hard-fought season. They won and lost equally in their regular season, going 8-8 in conference games. They were seeded third in regionals, but came home for the year after losses to Petersburg and the Haines Glacier Bears. Coach Cody Angerman said that his team is as ready as it can be in the pre-season. He encouraged his players to participate in other sports to stay in shape, and they will be seeing lots of returning players this year. One of the lessons from the last season, he said, is

the importance of the team working as a cohesive unit. The key for more success this year will be increased teamwork.

"My viewpoint on basketball is that the best players are always the guys that can make their teammates the best that they can possibly be," Angerman said. "You know, get their teammates involved, make it the easiest game they can for their teammates."

Both teams will be traveling to Petersburg for their opening games on Dec. 20 and 21, followed by Rally the Regions on Jan. 3 and 4.

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lady Wolves player Jade Balansag (No. 1) sending the ball back over the net.

Lady Wolves end season at Regionals

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Lady Wolves' volleyball season came to a close last week. Wrangell was host to the regional tournament this year, seeing players from all over Southeast Alaska compete. While the team fell in Regionals, and will not go to State this year, Coach Alyssa Allen said she was proud of her team's performance.

The Lady Wolves went up against the Haines Glacier Bears for their first game at Regionals. They won three games in a row, with scores of 25-9, 25-15 and 25-16. After Haines came a game against Klawock, where Wrangell once again won three sets in a row. The scores were 25-21, 25-23 and 25-22.

Loretta Rice, who helped keep score during regionals, said this was the first time the Lady Wolves beat Klawock this season.

Wrangell and Klawock met once again in the tournament, which would be the final set of games for the Lady Wolves. Klawock won all three games this time around, with scores of 25-23, 25-21, and 15-15. Wrangell was knocked out of the brackets, and Klawock went on to compete against Craig in the championship game. Craig took the regional championship this year, and both they and Klawock will be going to State.

"I feel like we improved a lot this season," Allen said in a Facebook message. "We had a pretty young team that'll be back next year."

Happy Thanksgiving



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Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Alaska salmon permit values ticked upwards in regions with good fisheries this year while others tanked

The value of Alaska salmon permits has ticked upwards in regions that experienced a good fishery this year while others have tanked.

Not surprisingly, the record sockeye fishery at Bristol Bay has boosted sales of driftnet permits to nearly \$200,000, up from the mid-\$170,000 range prior to the 2019 season. Another strong run forecast of 48.9 million sockeyes for 2020 with a projected harvest of 36.9 million could increase the value even more, said Doug Bowen of Alaska Boats and Permits in Homer.

What's really raising eyebrows, Bowen said, is values for driftnet permits at Area M (False Pass) on the Alaska Peninsula where lots of people want in and not many want out.

"We sold one at \$235,000 which is amazing - \$40,000 more than a Bay permit," Bowen said. Listings by other brokers reflect the same trend with Area M seine permits also commanding over \$180,000.

Wanting in are fishermen at Cook Inlet where another poor season has seen the value of driftnet permits plummet.

"They got up as high as \$40,000 before the season, we've sold a couple at \$28,000 and they are down around \$25,000 to 26,000," Bowen said. "You have folks in Cook Inlet that have hung on for years and they're trying to get out and go to Area M or Bristol Bay where they can hopefully make a living."

At Kodiak, which had a strong 2019 fishery, the value of seine permits value increased for the first time in many years from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

The Kodiak fishery produced over 36 million salmon, well above the 10-year average of 21 million fish, of which nearly 33 million were pinks. The value to fishermen was nearly \$46 million compared to the recent 10 year average of \$38 million. A fleet of 176 seiners accounted for most of the harvest with each averaging \$227,552 per permit, an increase of \$80,000 over 2018.

Conversely, at Prince William Sound seine permit values remain lackluster in the \$175,000 range with drifts upwards of \$145,000. The estimated preliminary dockside value of the total salmon harvest was nearly \$114 million, an increase of about \$19 million from 2018.

Contrary to expectations, Southeast Alaska had a disappointing salmon fishery which has put a downward press on permit prices.

"With the preseason optimism there, the Southeast drift was around \$90,000 to \$92,000. We have one now at \$87,000 so that's a lower asking price than what the preseason sales were. But there is no action there," Bowen said, adding that South-

east seine cards are holding at \$230,000 also with little activity.

Southeast's 2019 salmon fishery was valued at under \$102 million compared to nearly \$134 million in 2018.

Meanwhile, the Panhandle is projected to see pink salmon numbers catches plummet next summer. State fishery managers are forecasting a 2020 catch of just 12 million pinks, one-third of the 10 year average, and down from 21 million taken in 2019.

An advisory from the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game stated: "It is possible that drought conditions present in Southeast Alaska from the parent year 2018 spawn through the spring of 2019 reduced spawning success or negatively impacted overwinter survival of developing juvenile salmon, but the exact reasons for the low juvenile abundance are not known."

It added: "Like many recent years, a potential source of uncertainty regarding the 2020 pink salmon return is the anomalously warm sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska in 2019. Compared to sea surface temperatures since 1997, when NOAA first started the Southeast Coastal Monitoring project, surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska in 2019, immediately offshore of Southeast Alaska, were the warmest of the time series in July, the 4th warmest in August, and 3rd warmest in September."

Uni undone - Uni, or roe from sea urchins, is a popular delicacy with sushi lovers but it draws little interest by Alaska harvesters.

Alaska has a red urchin fishery in Southeast with a harvest guideline of 3.5 million pounds, although that number is based on older stock surveys, said Phil Doherty, co-director of the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive

Fisheries Association.

"That's a bit of a ghost guideline average level, because there aren't that many sea urchins still here," he said, adding that since the 1980s and '90s the bulk of the urchin beds have been wiped out by sea otters.

"That's the number one factor in the lack of production in Southeast, and there's nothing that's going to happen here in the foreseeable future to change that," he added.

A second reason for the lack of interest, Doherty said, is the difficulty in getting the delicate uni from the softball sized urchins to Japanese markets in top condition.

"The Japanese market is very particular on how seafood looks and it's very difficult to crack open the urchins and get the roe out and pack it into special containers and get it onto the airlines and over to Japan, which is the main market," he explained.

For the most recent Southeast harvest of around 700,000 pounds of red urchins in 2015, a handful of divers got 49 cents a pound.

Smaller, hockey puck sized green urchins found around Kodiak are preferred over the reds, but a lack of markets also has stalled fishing interest there. There's been no urchin harvest since 2001, said Nat Nichols area manager for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game at Kodiak.

"It's not that the harvest stopped because we had concerns about the stock - it was largely market driven. I think the major barrier for even a small scale fishery is finding a market and getting them there in good condition," he said.

In the 1980s, landings of green urchins reached about 80,000 pounds; now the harvest limit is 55,000 pounds. Only one

Kodiak permit was issued last year and this year by a diver collecting samples for potential buyers.

Nichols said urchin uni is now more familiar to U.S. buyers and perhaps there might be interest from more local markets.

"If you could develop a smaller local market, that would alleviate the issue of getting bigger loads of product sent out in good condition," he said. "That might spur more participation."

Ocean awards - The Alaska Sealife Center is accepting nominations through Dec. 10 to recognize those who have made special contributions to ocean sciences, education and management. Awards and cash prizes will be given in five categories, including for youths aged 12-19. Nominations can be made online at alaskasealife.org or by email at oceanawards@alaskasealife.org.

Tongass correction - In the comment period for the Draft

Environmental Impact Statement and proposed rollback of the Tongass roadless rule, more than 80,000 comments have been received so far - not over 140,000 as was previously stated. According to Paul Robbins, Jr., U.S. Forest Service/Tongass public affairs officer, those comments were from the scoping period last year and were not in reference to the current proposed rule. Comments are now being accepted online through December 17, by email to akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us or by mail to the US Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau 99802.

Correction

In last week's edition of the Sentinel we reported that SEARHC's CNA training program was the first at the Wrangell Medical Center. The program is new under SEARHC, but the program has existed in Wrangell before.



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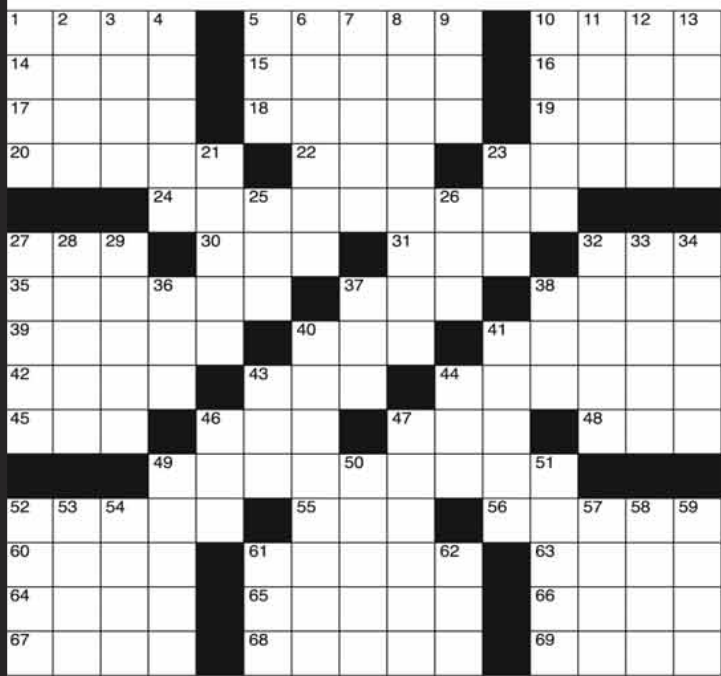
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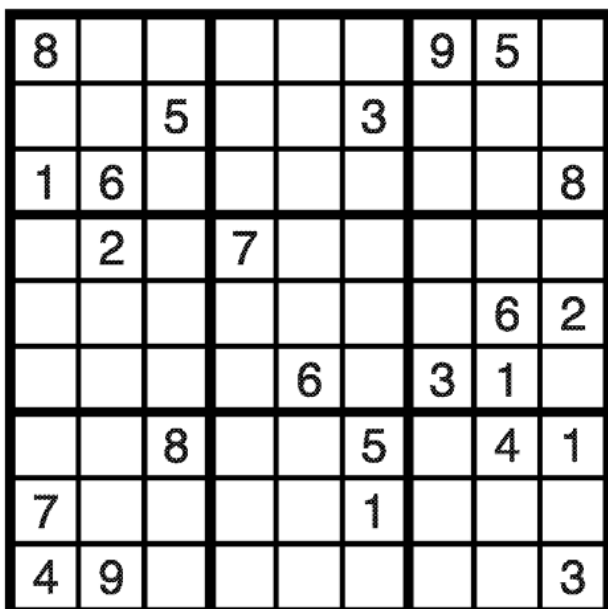
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Vital part of a lock
- 5. Adherent of Zoroastrianism
- 10. European river
- 14. Nonprofit public health group
- 15. Make law
- 16. Three-banded armadillo
- 17. Monetary unit
- 18. Sandwich-like dishes
- 19. Sicilian city
- 20. Finger millet
- 22. Of she
- 23. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 24. Lawyers
- 27. A place to relax
- 30. Often said after "Hee"
- 31. Supervises flying
- 32. Cheer of approval
- 35. Something spiders twirl
- 37. Aggressive dog
- 38. Long-legged gazelle
- 39. Mogul emperor
- 40. Baltic peninsula
- 41. Fencing sword
- 42. A reward (archaic)
- 43. Pigeon sound
- 44. Type of groove
- 45. Inquire too closely
- 46. Nine Inch Nails' debut (abbr.)
- 47. An often unwelcome guest
- 48. Something you can draw
- 49. Songs to one's lover
- 52. Eastern Cairo mosque
- 55. A partner to cheese
- 56. Absorption unit
- 60. A type of sandwich
- 61. Herbaceous plant
- 63. Chinese temple classification
- 64. Native person of central Volga
- 65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 66. Some take them up
- 67. South American nation
- 68. Threaten persistently
- 69. Morningwear

CLUES DOWN

- 1. German courtesy title
- 2. Samoan capital
- 3. A type of carpet
- 4. Upper bract of grass
- 5. Al Bundy's wife
- 6. In a careless way
- 7. More uncommon
- 8. Expressing contempt
- 9. Belonging to a thing
- 10. Adventure stories
- 11. Copycats
- 12. Farewell
- 13. Greek mythological builder
- 21. Colorless, volatile liquid
- 23. Monetary unit of Burma
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Body part
- 27. Mischievous child
- 28. Popular card game
- 29. Building occupied by monks
- 32. Spiritual leader
- 33. Independent ruler
- 34. He wrote about the Gold Rush
- 36. Bundle of banknotes
- 37. Corporate honcho
- 38. Touch softly
- 40. Made by oneself
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Subcompact Toyota crossover
- 44. Cool!
- 46. Popular vegetable
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Transylvanian city
- 50. Robert and Stephen are two
- 51. Philippine island
- 52. Canadian law enforcers
- 53. Wings
- 54. He played Perry Mason
- 57. Ballpoint pen
- 58. Metrical foot
- 59. It has nostrils
- 61. Confederate soldier
- 62. Take in solid food

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the December 5 edition

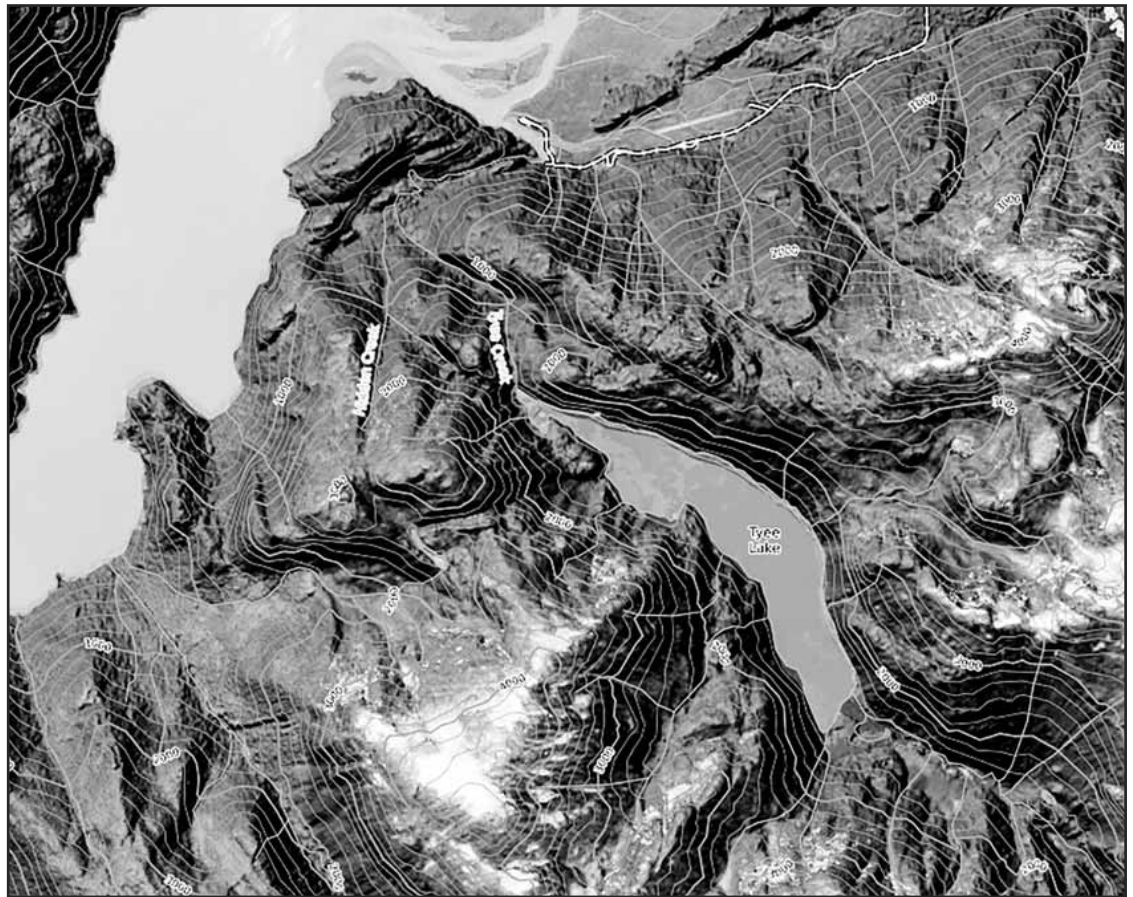


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CALTOPO.COM/

Hybrid Satellite view of Tyee Lake.

Tyee Lake set to power Wrangell through winter

By BRIAN VARELA
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – The water level at Tyee Lake was at 1,380.6 feet as of Nov. 18, which will allow the hydro plant to produce power for over seven months should all inflows to the lake stop.

As part of the Southeast Alaska Power Agency, Tyee Lake dedicates its power to Petersburg and Wrangell, while Swan Lake produces power for Ketchikan. The 1,380.6 foot water level is about even with normal water levels for this time of the year, and is above the approximately 1,300 foot water level in November 2018, according to SEAPA.

The current lake level can provide enough hydropower to sustain both Wrangell and Petersburg for about 249.4 days. If all water inflows to Tyee and Swan Lakes stopped, then there would be enough water in both lakes to power the three communities for 213.9 days, according to SEAPA. The current water level in Tyee Lake means the hydro plant will still be able to provide power to Wrangell and Petersburg through the winter as inflows to the lake freeze.

"We're going to be making it through the wintertime, barring any catastrophic failure of a pipe or something like that," said Petersburg Borough Utility Director Karl Hagerman, as he knocked on his wooden desk. "We're sitting pretty good."

At the start of 2019, Tyee Lake's water level was at 1,280. In February, the lake level dropped to about 1,261 feet, causing the borough to run diesel

generators as water levels approached the 1,258 draft level set by SEAPA. When Tyee Lake reaches its draft limit, the hydro plant no longer continues to provide power to Petersburg and Wrangell.

Petersburg also receives power from its own hydroelectric project at Blind Slough that draws water from Crystal Lake. It provides about 25 percent of the borough's electricity. Last Monday, the water level at Crystal Lake was at 1,291.5 feet. The Blind Slough Hydroelectric project operates between 1,274 and 1,294 feet.

If water in Tyee Lake reaches 1,400 feet, then water will begin to spill out. The same thing happens when Crystal Lake reaches 1,294 feet.

"Any water that spills over the spillway is lost energy," said Hagerman. "It's water we could have used to produce power."

In September, a bear gnawed on a fiber optic cable that carries data from the Blind Slough Hydroelectric project to a control room, causing the cable to fail. The cable has since been mended, but Hagerman said the borough may replace the cable because of its age and the condition it's in. The new cable would be 5,000 feet long and take about six months to produce. The project has an estimated cost of \$10,000, according to Hagerman. The new cable would also be stronger than the current one.

"It looks pretty tough, but a full grown black bear or brown bear that wants to chew up a cable is probably going to be able to chew up that cable," said Hagerman.

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Wrangell by the numbers: Visitor industry continues to show growth

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Rain Coast Data, on behalf of the Wrangell Convention and Visitors Bureau, recently released a document examining the economic impacts of the tourism industry on the community. "Wrangell Visitor Industry By The Numbers 2019" looks at everything from changes to the visitor industry, jobs supported by the industry, how many people visit and by what means of travel, and much more.

"Wrangell is a distinct and attractive visitor destination that is growing in popularity as a small cruise ship destination," a visitor overview in the document reads. "Unlike other

Southeast Alaska communities that have a more mature visitor industry, Wrangell's charm includes a 'working waterfront' district rather than souvenir and diamond-focused shops ... Wrangell has unique opportunities for nature-based tours and wildlife viewing."

In the summer of 2018, according to the document, about 20,019 tourists visited Wrangell and spend roughly \$5.1 million. This represents a six percent increase in visitors from 2017. In 2019, preliminary estimates put the number of visitors up an additional 32 percent, at 26,490.

Tourism makes up the second largest private sector industry in Wrangell, just behind the maritime industry. Last year

the visitor industry made up nine percent of all private sector jobs in the city, about 106 jobs and \$2.9 million in earnings. However, the industry remains smaller than the regional average. Across Southeast Alaska, the visitor industry represents 18 percent of all jobs.

"That being said, the Wrangell visitor sector appears to finally be growing," the document reads. "Between 2017 and 2018, visitor industry wages grew by 20 percent, from \$2.4 million to \$2.9 million and the community increased tourism jobs by six percent. Once the numbers are finalized for 2019, a significant increase in jobs and wages is projected."

Visitors to Wrangell travel in four general categories: Cruise ships, yachts, planes and the ferry system. In 2018 cruise passengers made up 75 percent of summer tourists visiting Wrangell, with yachts, air travel and the ferry making up the remaining 25 percent. The ferry system saw a decrease in use by visitors in 2018, compared to 2017 numbers. Air travel was down for summer visitors, it is

estimated, but there was an overall increase from 2017 total numbers. Cruise ship and yacht visitors continue to increase. In 2018, there was an estimated 14,991 summer tourists who came to Wrangell via cruise ship, up 10 percent from 2017. There were 1,618 yachters who visited last year.

"In 2019, based on initial estimates, more than 21,000 [cruise] passengers visited Wrangell," the document reads. "This represents a 44 percent increase in total arriving passengers from 2018 ... Total yacht visits were up by 24 percent in 2018 over 2017. The average number of people per each is approximately three, and remained the same as the year before."

While cruise ship passengers make up the largest portion of visitors to Wrangell, they also spend the least. The estimated per-passenger spending for 2018 reports that the average cruise passenger spent \$169 in Wrangell. Visitors who come by plane spend the most, an average \$650 per person. Ferry passengers and yachters spend an

average of \$450 and \$350, respectively. Of the \$5.1 million spent by tourists in Wrangell, roughly \$2.7 was spent on excursions. An additional \$1.5 million was spent on food and drinks. The remaining amount was spent on hotels, transportation, and retail spending.

The document also contained the results of a 2019 survey by the Wrangell Cooperative Association on what Wrangell residents felt the community's tourism-related needs were. Of the 482 people who took the survey, 36 percent said that more Alaska Native dancing and storytelling should be a high priority. Thirty-four percent said that the creation of a park at the current location of existing freight services was a high priority. Only 14 percent of people surveyed said that growing large cruise ship visitations should be a high priority.

The full "By The Numbers" document can be found online at www.raincoastdata.com. It can also be found on the City of Wrangell's website, www.wrangell.com.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL Surplus Property FOR SALE

The City and Borough of Wrangell is soliciting bids for the sale of various surplus property.

All surplus property is to be sold As-is, Where-is, and will be available for public review and inspection upon request, Monday through Friday beginning Friday, November 15, 2019.

The "list of items and bid forms" are available at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street, Wrangell, Alaska and online at www.wrangell.com under the Resource Center tab (Bids/RFPs and Auctions).

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Kim Lane, MMC
Borough Clerk

Publish: November 21 and 28, 2019

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:)
)
Michael P Nash)
Deceased) CASE No. 1KE-19-00140 PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Leanna Nash has been appointed by the Superior Court in Ketchikan, Alaska, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Michael P Nash. All persons or entities having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within (4) 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 of the estate c/o Law Office of Brandon C. Marx, P.O. Box 6171, Sitka, Alaska 99835 or filed with the Superior Court in this matter.

DATED this 6th day of Nov, 2019 at Sitka, Alaska.

Brandon C. Marx
Attorney for Leanna Nash
As Personal Representative
Estate of Michael P Nash

Published: November 14, 21 and 28, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE Vacancies on City Boards/Committees City and Borough of Wrangell

The City and Borough of Wrangell is accepting *letters of interest* from citizens who may wish to serve on the following Commission:

Planning & Zoning Commission until 10/2021

Please submit your *letter of interest* by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, prior to the next Regular Borough Assembly meeting** to:

Mayor Steve Prysunka
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

Or email your *letter of interest* to the Borough Clerk at: clerk@wrangell.com.

A copy of the code chapter for any of the above boards and commissions can be obtained by contacting the Borough Clerk's Office or viewed at the City's website at www.wrangell.com

The City & Borough of Wrangell is an equal opportunity employer.

Kim Lane, MMC
Borough Clerk

Published: November 21 and 28, 2019



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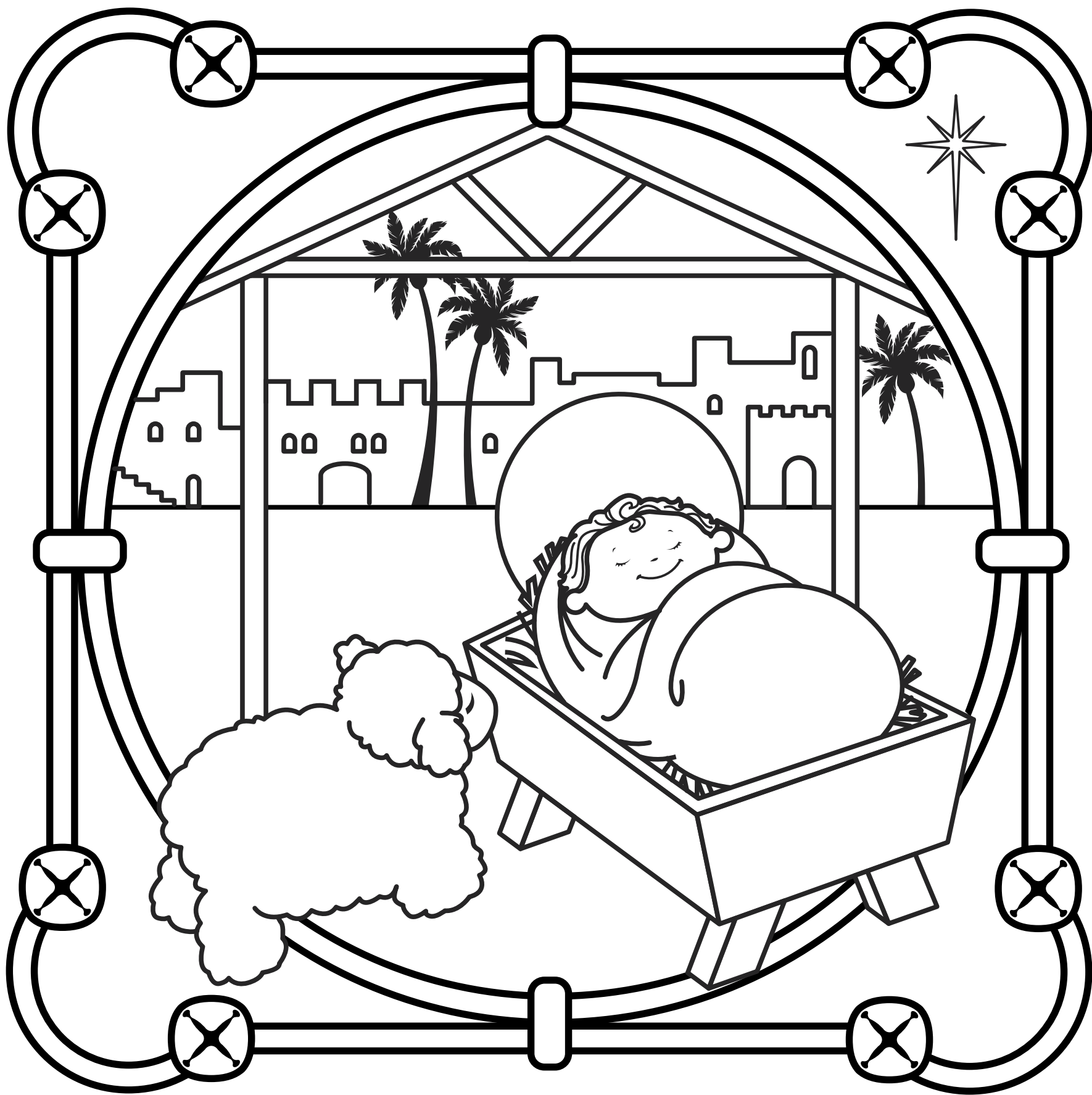
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- 2nd Place - \$15 Cash**
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1) No purchase necessary to enter. 2) Open to children ages 5-10. 3) Entry must be on original Sentinel newspaper, no copies allowed, one entry per child. 4) Pictures may be colored with crayons, markers or colored pencils. 5) Entries will not be returned. All entries become property of this newspaper and may be used accordingly. 6) Decision of judges is final. 7) Drop off entries by 5 pm on Friday, December 13th at the Sentinel during regular business hours or mail to: Wrangell Sentinel, Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929.

8) Winners will be announced in the December 19th edition of the Sentinel and displayed in the store for one week.

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Shoemaker renovations extended to boarding float, parking lot

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Shoemaker Bay Harbor has been undergoing renovations since the summer of 2018. First built in 1977, according to Harbor Master Greg Meissner in a previous interview with the Sentinel, it has grown well past its life expectancy. The work has seen the installation of a new gangway and floats. The harbor was also dredged to make it a little deeper. Meissner, in an interview in August 2018, said that the plan was to rebuild Shoemaker to make it more easily accessible to wider, deeper boats.

During a meeting of the Wrangell Port Commission on Oct. 9, Meissner said that work on Shoemaker was all but complete, save for a few minor jobs and some ongoing discussions about changes to the project's ICAP fees. However, during a borough assembly meeting on Oct. 22, a change order to the contract was approved, adding a few new scopes to the Shoemaker project. The borough assembly approved a budget amendment of \$318,264.26.

"Also included within the Change Order, for authoriza-

tion by the Assembly, is \$540,500 worth of additional construction work," the Capital Facilities Department Report from the meeting reads. "This work includes improvements to a portion of the parking lot's main entrance and main driving and parking throughway, as well as the replacement of the existing boarding float, adjacent to the launch ramp."

The Capital Facilities department report also stated that an increase in the ICAP rate, from one percent when renovations began to 10 percent, was going to be applied to the entire amount of the project. This fee, costing about \$430,000, will be paid from a \$5 million grant set aside for Wrangell. The report also states that the ICAP fees are not expected to impact the Harbor Department's reserve funds and there will be some grant funding remaining.

Capital Facilities Director Amber Al-Haddad said that work on the parking lot is expected to begin within the next two weeks. The boarding float, meanwhile, will not be coming to Wrangell until next spring. Work on its replacement will hopefully begin sometime around March, she said.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

The bunkhouse for Wrangell's former sawmill, located past Shoemaker Harbor near 6.5 mile on Zimovia Highway.

Old mill

Continued from page 1

article reads, the cities of Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Klawock, Haines, Petersburg, and Wrangell all had large sawmill operations. During its lifetime, the Wrangell sawmill produced 4.5 billion board feet of lumber.

"With the passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act by Congress in 1990, the supply of timber needed by the two pulp mills and large export sawmills was severely curtailed, and large scale operations ceased shortly thereafter," the article reads. "Alaska Pulp Corporation (originally ALP) closed its Wrangell sawmill at Shoemaker Bay in 1995. The mill was later sold to Richard Buhler of Silver Bay Logging, who continued to operate the mill intermittently until 2008, only when logs were available."

Wenger said that they intend to bring their plans for subdivision to the planning and zoning commission during their next meeting, currently scheduled for Dec. 12. While she could not give a rough estimate on how much the planned 11 lots would cost, she said that they would be more affordable than \$2.7 million for the entire property. She said that she has been excited about seeing this property be put to good use. Wrangell needs more land for industrial development, she said, and this property could help with that.

"The investment's already there, the problem is that it's just being left to deteriorate," Wenger said. "There's enough infrastructure there that is salvageable. That was my main point, to get it on the market before it just becomes an alder field. The town needs it."



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