

## How ferry shutdown impacts school districts

By CALEB VIERKANT  
& BRIAN VARELA  
*Sentinel writers*

The shutdown of ferry service in Southeast Alaska has impacted many aspects of day-to-day life in communities across the region. In previous reporting by the Wrangell Sentinel and Petersburg Pilot, peoples' travel plans have been disrupted, businesses have been impacted, and cultural events like Celebration 2020 could potentially see decreased turnout.

Another aspect of Southeast communities that is facing disruption from the lack of ferries are school districts. The schools of Wrangell and Petersburg are trying to find ways to deal with the sudden loss of one of their means of transportation.

According to a press release from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the M/V Matanuska isn't expected to go back online until sometime after April 14 despite an earlier DOT press release that stated the M/V Matanuska would be out of service through March 1 to address an issue with the reduction gear system.

The M/V Columbia is expected to pick up sailings that were originally scheduled for the M/V Matanuska on or after April 14.

Superintendent Debbe Lancaster, of the Wrangell School District, went into some detail about the impacts they were facing. The four main areas that have been affected include increased travel expenses, changes



COURTESY OF RICH EINART

### Homecoming court

The 2020 Wrangell High School Homecoming court (left to right): Freshman Jacen Hay, freshman Kiara Harrison, sophomore Jake Eastaugh, sophomore Liana Carney, junior Brett Abrahamson, junior Robyn Booker, senior and Homecoming King Makai Allen, senior and Homecoming Queen Kaylyn Easterly, senior Wade Jack, senior Jing O'Brien, senior Trevor Miller, and senior Laura Helgeson. See stories on page 7.

to sport schedules, an additional burden of fundraising for school organizations and community members, and just the fact that this is an unwelcome distraction for the district, which is in the middle of a school year and its budget season.

"We will continue to work with ASAA and stakeholders to figure out how to continue to have reasonably priced student activities that include travel," Lancaster said in an email.

"Our community relies on consistent ferry service for travel between Alaskan communities," reads one of the school district's

2020 legislative priorities, which were discussed in a Feb. 24 school board meeting. "The reduction of ferry service has negatively impacted the school district budget by forcing our student athletes to travel via jet service for competitions. We are also seeing an increase in shipping costs for necessary supplies and equipment that are shipped to our island. Wrangell Public Schools strongly urges to find a reliable solution for adequately funding our highway system."

The Wrangell School District is currently undergoing its budget season. A draft of the FY

2021 budget currently has revenues set at a little less than \$5.7 million, and expenditures around \$6.5 million. Travel costs are divided under several categories, depending on who is traveling and for what purpose. Under the "student activities" category, student travel is set at \$125,000. This is a step down from the FY 2020 budget of \$140,675. FY 2021 is still in its early draft stages, however, and the numbers are subject to change.

During a school board meeting on Feb. 24, there were also some revisions to the current budget, FY 2020. The original fund for student travel was set at \$151,675. This was decreased to \$146,675. The total fund for staff travel was increased from \$50,500 to \$70,500. Total expenditures budgeted for FY 2020 remain the same despite these changes, at \$6.1 million.

In a Feb. 13 article in the Sentinel and Pilot, Wrangell Secondary School Principal David Macri said that the loss of ferry service was having a "domino effect" in the school system. Aside from increased costs the schools now face for travel, Macri pointed out the additional time this was costing school staff. Travel plans and events schedules have had to be redone, he said, taking up a lot of time. Coaches, teachers, and school staff then have to make sure students and their parents are properly informed of the changed plans, costing them more time.

One of the most obvious ways schools have been impacted is in the area of sports. School districts across Southeast have relied on the ferry system to travel for sporting events in the past. Now that such an option is gone,

sports teams are facing higher costs and disrupted plans.

"The school has been contacted and informed that we do not have access to a ferry to travel to regions," reads a Feb. 20 Facebook post by the Wrangell school district. "Our teams, pep band and cheer will be flying up. As soon as we get our travel details solidified we will communicate with parents then."

The Ketchikan Daily News reported that AMHS asked Alaska Airlines last week if the airline would be able to accommodate schools to the Regional V basketball tournament in Juneau on March 12 and 13. The Ketchikan Daily News also reported that Alaska Airlines replied they would be able to get all the participants to Juneau a few days before Regionals are set to start.

Jaime Cabral, activities director for the Petersburg School District, said what school districts are facing in Southeast Alaska with the absence of a ferry is unprecedented. School districts have been working together to help make more cost effective. For example, Haines High School played Wrangell High School on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then they'll play Petersburg High School on Thursday and Friday. Typically, schools only play two games a week, but in order to save money on travel costs, Haines is playing four of their conference games in the span of four days.

At their winter conference, Southeast Alaska activities directors discussed different options in order to continue traveling for sports games in the future, said Cabral. Instead of having games strictly on Friday and Saturday, games could revolve around the

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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Community comes together for the Ferdinands

The community of Wrangell turned out in large numbers last week to support some of their own. Randall Ferdinand, community member and fisherman, passed away in a boating accident last Sunday, Feb. 16. He leaves behind two daughters, Amy and Isabelle. A community walk around town, and chili feed were organized by Southeast Beasts and Wrangell Burial Assistance on Saturday, Feb. 22, to raise money for the Ferdinand family. A silent auction was also hosted at Wrangell High School over the weekend, during homecoming, to raise money.

Auction items included, among other things, artwork and cooking supplies donated by people and businesses in town. Dezyn Johnson, with Wrangell Burial Assistance, said that the community walk raised a total of \$3,585 for the Ferdinands. She did not have an exact number for the auction, but she said it raised about \$4,000. "We are just blown away and thankful for Wrangell's generosity," Johnson said.

Patty McMurren, Amy and Isabelle's aunt, said they were incredibly grateful for Wrangell's support.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, February 27: Anniversary:** Chuck & Ava Hay, Tina Draper, Amber Hommel, Jacob Hammer. **Friday, February 28:** Howard McNeeley, Tasha Massin, Lou Rae Davidson, Shannon Nore, Felix Villarma, Frank Warfel, Kyla Teat. **Saturday, February 29:** No birthdays. **Sunday, March 1:** Jamie Strain. **Monday, March 2: Anniversary:** Jim & Juli Gillen, Ron Sowle, Sr., Calleigh Miller, Ella Gugenbickler. **Tuesday, March 3:** Nicole Webster, Josh Rice, Beth Comstock. **Wednesday, March 4:** Andy Morse, Donna Loucks, *Anniversary:* Dude & Debbie Torvend, Betsy McConachie, Alan Cummings, Judy Guggenbickler, Samuel Comstock, Alan Fennimore, Sherry Bond. **Thursday, March 5:** Kevin Roope, Jessica Davidson, Pat Warfel, *Anniversary:* Jim & Elsie Bailey, Lucy Robinson.

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

## Senior Center Menu

### Thursday, February 27

Chicken Rice Casserole, Broccoli, Spinach Salad.

### Friday, February 28

Beef Burritos, Black Beans, Fruit Slaw, Rice.

### Monday, March 2

Beef & Green Pepper Casserole, Salad, Cornbread.

### Tuesday, March 3

BBQ Chicken, Oven Fries, Coleslaw, Biscuit.

### Wednesday, March 4

Chinese Pork, Steam Broccoli, Toss Salad, Rice.

### Thursday, March 5

Pineapple Chicken, Green Beans, Salad, Rice.

Please call

Wrangell Senior Center

at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations.

Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

## FERRY

## February & March Sailings CANCELLED

Arrival times may vary.

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



## TIDES

### February 27-March 5

#### High Tides

#### Low Tides

	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft	AM Time	Ft	PM Time	Ft
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February 27	02:55	15.5	03:01	14.7	08:46	1.8	08:57	1.2
February 28	03:21	15.1	03:34	13.8	09:21	1.9	09:27	2.2
February 29	03:50	14.7	04:13	12.7	10:01	2.2	10:02	3.3
March 01	04:24	14.2	05:04	11.6	10:48	2.6	10:45	4.4
March 02	05:09	13.7	06:22	10.7	11:47	2.9	11:42	5.4
March 03	06:17	13.2	08:00	10.7	....	....	01:00	3.0
March 04	07:42	13.4	09:21	11.6	00:57	6.2	02:23	2.3
March 05	08:59	14.2	10:20	12.9	02:25	6.0	03:37	1.1

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Friday, February 28

**Taco dinner and game night:** 6:00 pm, Evergreen Elementary Gym. For more info call 907 209 9117.

Monday, March 2

**School Board Work Session:** 6:00 pm, Evergreen Elementary School Room 101.

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low?

Send information for Roundup to wrgsent@gmail.com or call 874-2301.

## Continuing Events

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

### Pool:

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

### MEETINGS

### AA Meetings:

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

## The Way We Were

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

### February 26, 1920

The Willson & Sylvester Mill company have built an addition to their wharf in order to have room for the construction of a box shed 150 feet long by 40 feet wide. A considerable supply of boxes will be kept in this shed at all times, thereby making it possible to bring the barge in and load quickly and get out again in the least possible time. The mill will be a busy place during the next few months, as four million feet of lumber will be required for the manufacture of the boxes now booked for delivery. The box orders are from various canneries in the Territory extending north to Chomley on the south.

### February 23, 1945

Relief from the present housing shortage in the Wrangell area has just been made possible. George W. Coplen, regional representative of the National Housing Agency, announced that this locality has been determined eligible for an unlimited number of residential conversion priorities. This action is in accordance with the recent announcement of the War Production Board and the National Housing Agency that such priorities would be made available in areas where NHA determines that housing shortages are causing extreme hardship. Apartment houses and other existing dwelling units may now be remodeled or converted to provide smaller housing units. Applications for permission to convert or remodel such structures should be filed with the Federal Housing Administration, a constituent unit of NHA, in Portland, Ore. The applicant will be permitted use of materials contained in

the war housing critical list and the rents charged will be under OPA regulations. Occupancy will not be limited to war workers. Need for providing additional living units for general occupancy in congested areas has long been recognized but little could be done about it until materials needed to construct housing for war workers could be released.

### February 26, 1970

At one time the old gym had no water fountain handy so the teams had some form of water bucket. The local town team known as the "Whiskey Five," had a big bottle the manager would slide out on the floor. The renewed vigor the old boys showed after a sip gave suspicion that it contained more than water. In one game the bottle went sliding out to the visiting town team by mistake, only to be hastily retrieved after they had barely had a taste. On the next, and on the following time outs, the local fans were treated to a sight never seen before or since - opposing teams in the same

huddle drinking water from a common container!

### February, 23, 1995

Wrangell High School Lady Wolves volleyball team failed to turn in a winning set when facing a senior-strong crew at Petersburg Friday and Saturday. Wrangell's varsity team lost 1-15, 6-15, 4-15 Friday and 8-15, 0-15, 13-15 Saturday. Junior varsity gave up sets 12-15, 12-15 Friday, and 11-15, 14-16 Saturday. Next outing for the pack will be at home when they host Mt. Edgecumbe Friday and Saturday.



## No MOVIE THIS WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 29

Coming up:

March 6 - March 8

Sonic The Hedgehog



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Feb. 17	41	36
Feb. 18	45	37
Feb. 19	42	35
Feb. 20	39	36
Feb. 21	39	36
Feb. 22	37	33
Feb. 23	39	30
Feb. 24	36	30



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Feb. 27	6:47a	5:16p	10:29h
Feb. 28	6:44a	5:18p	10:34h
Feb. 29	6:42a	5:20p	10:38h
Mar. 1	6:39a	5:22p	10:43h
Mar. 2	6:37a	5:24p	10:47h
Mar. 3	6:34a	5:26p	10:52h
Mar. 4	6:32a	5:29p	10:57h
Mar. 5	6:29a	5:31p	11:02h

# Calls for ferry service, OCS workers, local Fish and Game office heard in state finance committee testimony

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Alaska House Finance Committee received public testimony from people across the state on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21 and 22. The state is currently in its budget season again, and the finance committee held the meeting to hear what the public felt was important.

Several members from Wrangell called in from the local Legislative Information Office to give their perspective on the community's needs moving forward. Among the items Wrangellites voiced support for were the need for ferry service, a local Office of Children's Services worker, and to keep the local Department of Fish and Game office open and running.

"I just feel strongly about the importance of the Alaska Marine Highway System," said Wrangell resident Gayle Gross on Friday. "It's just been, to me, a calamity we're facing in coastal Alaska. I think we're jeopardizing our prosperity and safety in our communities with the cuts to the marine highway system that have happened."

This sentiment was shared by several other Wrangellites who called in on both days of testimony. Brenda Yeager said that the lack of ferries has hurt her ability to make a living through various jobs. As a commercial fisherman, most of her catches are transported out of town via the ferry system. As an artist, she travels around on the ferries to different art shows across Southeast Alaska, and her artwork is typically too large to put on an airplane. Yeager also runs a tour



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Nolan Center open house

The Nolan Center held an open house last Thursday, Feb. 20, to commemorate Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. The open house featured performances by the JOM dancers, a museum display of Alaskan civil rights leaders, and an art project put together by Evergreen Elementary's fourth and fifth grade classrooms. Pictured here is the fifth grade class at the open house, showing a book and commemorative \$1 Peratrovich coin they were gifted during the open house.

**Back row (left to right):** Kasey Whitaker, Brody Hommel, Sophia Martinsen, Maddlyn Davies, Alexis Easterly, Alana Harrison, Everett Meissner, Sawyer Rooney, Dakota Holder, Jackson Carney, Caleb Leatherland, Elena Haines, Hannah Gardner, and Teacher Laura Davies. **Front row (left to right):** Andrei Bardin-Siekawitch, Hailey Cook, Sydnie Yong, Natalia Ashton, Addy Bania, Taylor Hamilton, and Gregory Gifford

company, she said, and the lack of regularly scheduled ferry service has hurt travelers' abilities to plan trips to the region.

The ongoing issues with the ferry system was not the only topic Wrangellites voiced concern about. Assembly Member Anne Morrison called in on Friday to testify about Wrangell's need for a local OCS worker. Wrangell used to have a local social worker, years ago. However, the position was centralized in

Petersburg. Morrison said that the caseload was too great for a single worker to handle, across multiple communities. She called for a local OCS position to be restored to Wrangell, so as to lighten the workload for the Petersburg worker and to ensure support systems were in place for Wrangell youth.

"During the 2018 session you passed a bill, House Bill 151, known as the 'Children Deserve a Loving Home Act.' In that bill,

standards were set for the average caseload limit for a social worker not to exceed 13 cases per worker," Morrison said. "The woman in Petersburg is, right now, dealing with an excess of 60 cases in three communities."

Kate Thomas, Wrangell's parks and recreation director, also voiced support for a local

OCS worker. Thomas spoke about the community's efforts to come together to support the emotional and mental health of their youth on their own, but she said that it could never replace the importance of a local OCS office. When lawmakers devalue the importance of access to pro-

Continued on page 4

## Police report

### February 17

Agency Assist: Hoonah P.D.  
Civil Issue.  
Traffic Stop.  
Disturbance.

### February 18

Traffic Stop: Michael Howell, 47, citation for failure to provide proof of insurance.  
Deer Complaint.

### February 19

Citizen Assist: Unlocked vehicle.  
Summons Service.  
Traffic Stop verbal warning for headlight out.

### February 20

Drug Info.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.  
Traffic Complaint.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for no headlights.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning driving habits.

### February 21

Dog Euthanasia.  
Fraud.  
Theft.  
Agency Assist: Dead deer.  
Dog Bite.  
Suspicious Person.  
Agency Assist: Forest Service.

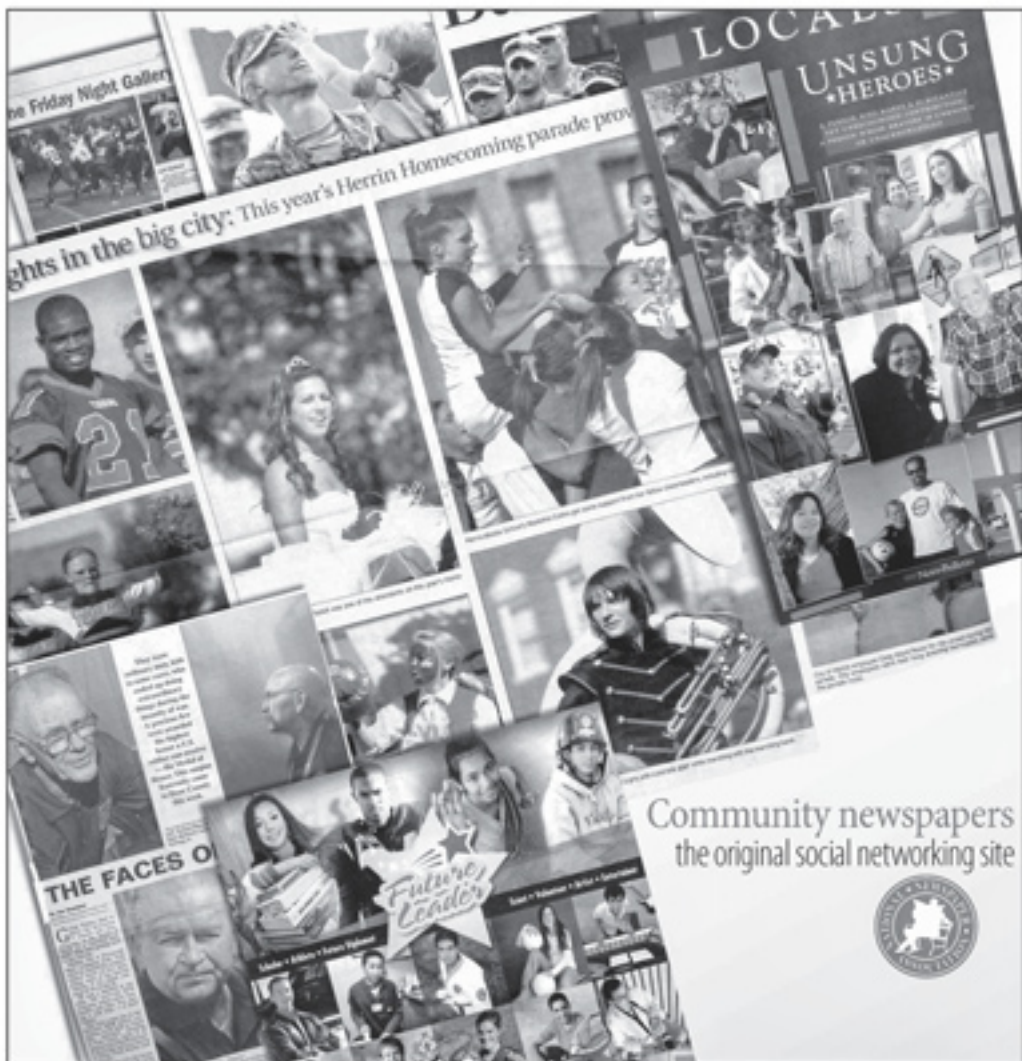
### February 22

Welfare Check.  
Suspicious Incident.  
Traffic Stop.

### February 23

Traffic Stop: Clayton Martinsen, 16, citation for speeding.  
Assault: Unfounded.  
Sex Offender Registration.

During this reporting period there were 5 EMT calls, 3 Subpoena Services and 5 Citizen Assists.



# Dan's Dispatch

By Representative  
Dan Ortiz

Thank you to everyone who spoke up during public testimony on the budget in House Finance last week. I need to hear from you in order to do my job, and I was incredibly impressed with the straight-forward, intelligent, and passionate comments that the residents of Wrangell provided.

There were more people in Wrangell who testified than all other District 36 communities

combined! You all have been the most effective political advocates for any community. The top three issues brought to our attention were: staffing woes in the Office of Children Services, the threat of closure for the Office of Fish and Game, and protecting the Alaska Marine Highway system.

I will continue to work on these issues. I am working with the Department of Health and Social Services, the City of Wrangell, and the legislature to

implement an additional OCS caseworker or social worker in Wrangell. The Fish and Game subcommittee that I chaired did NOT accept the Governor's proposal to cut the Fish and Game office in Wrangell, and I plan to hold fast on that decision. Lastly, the Department of Transportation subcommittee added \$18.7 million to AMHS funding in order to increase service next year, which I support.

Once again, thank you Wrangell. I appreciate your overwhelming testimony in support of your community, and great job making your voices heard. If you want to tell me more, you can always email me at Rep.Dan.Ortiz@AKLeg.gov or call my office at 907-465-3824.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Several pallets of rebar, which will be used in construction of the Wrangell Mariners' Memorial this summer. Plans are in place to have foundation and pavilion work for the memorial complete by the end of June.

## Mariners' Memorial construction nearing milestones

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Mariners' Memorial project is moving along at a good pace, according to Brennon Eagle. The memorial has been a long-running project for the community, beginning back in the early 2000s. According to the memorial committee's website, Wrangell High School seniors worked to identify a suitable location and design for the memorial, meant to recognize Wrangellites who lose their lives at sea. The Wrangell Mariners' Memorial Committee achieved tax-exempt status as a nonprofit in 2017. Ground was broken for the memorial at Heritage Harbor in December 2018.

The way things are going now, Eagle said, construction will reach another important milestone this summer.

According to Eagle, cement work will start up this spring. The plan is to have the foundation for the memorial, as well as the pavilion, complete by June 30. All the materials required to construct the memorial are either in Wrangell or are currently being delivered, he said.

The memorial itself is not the only thing being worked on. Jennifer Miller-Yancey, president of the committee, said that they are working on paperwork for the memorials' plaques. The names of those Wrangell mariners lost at sea will be put on the plaques and attached to the walls of the memorial.

"It will include an application, as well as a story form for the applicant to tell the story of the person they would like a plaque for," she said. "After we crush out a few more details, the forms will be available to the public. We hope to be finalized with this paperwork preparation this spring."

Miller also added that the memorial committee is looking to expand. Anyone interested in serving on the committee can send a letter of interest to PO Box 2346, Wrangell.

# Testimony

Continued from page 3

grams like the OCS, she said, they are putting money over the wellbeing of Alaskan children.

Debbe Lancaster, Superintendent for the Wrangell School District, also voiced support for a local OCS office. The office can provide a community support, ways to de-escalate conflicts, and help reunite families, she said. Wrangell children need all the support they can get, she said, especially with a 52 percent poverty rate in the community and budget cuts to the school district.

"Whereas we have great individual resources for supporting our students and our families, we need a full-time presence of OCS," Lancaster said. "OCS is needed now more than ever."

On a similar topic of Wrangell losing state offices to centralization in Petersburg, many people voiced support for keeping the local Fish and Game office open. It was proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, in an effort to cut down on their budget, to close Wrangell's office and relocate one of the positions there to Petersburg. Several people voiced opposition to this idea, including Mike Lockabey, Brian Merritt, Jim Anderson, Larry Kline, and others. A common theme of everyone's testimony was that the office provided important services to locals that could not be accomplished remotely.

"Many Wrangell people use the facility for various activities that can't be done online, such as sealing hides, checking in moose antlers and lower jaws, tooth extraction from bear skulls, and other personal human-to-human interactions," said Merritt.

"This office has been an absolute necessity to me," added Kline. "I am not versed in computers, whatsoever. I barely can look things up. The time it takes me to look anything up on that computer, I can have it answered here completely and honestly and thoroughly, so I do not get into any hassles with the Fish and Game troopers, or anything like that. It's very clear to me. Trying to understand and go through this computer has been a hassle. Talking to these people ... it's been fantastic."

Recordings of the testimony, on Friday and Saturday, can be found at [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov), under the "meetings" tab.

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March 10-13	G.I. Clinic - Dr. Woods	907-228-8101
March 12-13	Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Beglin	888-739-2700
March 23-26	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Thorson	907-228-7649
April 7-9	Oncology - Dr. Raish	907-228-8101
April 13-16	Pulmonology Clinic - Dr. Morison	907-228-7649
April 13-17	Urology Clinic - Dr. Schoenrock	907-225-7346
April 21-22	Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Beglin	888-739-2700
May 4-15	Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic - Dr. Christensen	907-228-8101
May 12-15	G.I. Clinic - Dr. Woods	907-228-8101



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# Swim club competes in championships in Anchorage and Ketchikan

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Swim Club has had a busy start to 2020, competing in two tournaments in Anchorage and Ketchikan in January and February. Four club members swam in the Alaska Senior Championship, in Anchorage, near the end of January. Coach Jamie Roberts said that this is the highest level competition in Alaska for swimmers between the ages of 13 to the mid-20s. The three-day event saw about 160 swimmers from 16 different teams compete. Wrangell was represented by Jimmy Baggen, Nikolai Siekawitch, Jack Roberts, and Renee Roberts.

“This year’s championship meet was held in Long Course Meters (LCM),” Coach Roberts wrote in a statement. “The Wrangell Swim Club trains in Short Course Yards (SCY). Our home pool is 25 yards long. The pool they competed in is 50 meters long. A 50 meter Freestyle is actually 14 feet longer than a 50 yard Freestyle. The biggest challenge for the Wrangell swimmers was that they typically have a wall to push off of every 25 yards, but in a 50m pool they only get a wall every 50m.”

According to Roberts, each swimmer took part in six events. Renee Roberts was in the top 16 in three of her events, and Siekawitch made the top 16 in two events. Coach Roberts added that Baggen and Jack Roberts both swam close to their personal bests in their events. This means that they were about as prepared as they could be for the tournament.

“Their performance was a good reflection of the training that we tried to do, to prepare ourselves for long course swimming,” she said.



COURTESY OF JAMIE ROBERTS

The four Wrangell participants in January’s Senior Championship, in Anchorage. Left to right: Renee Roberts, Jack Roberts, Jimmy Baggen, and Nikolai Siekawitch.

On Feb. 14-16, three Wrangell swimmers went to Ketchikan for the Alaska Age Group Championship. This tournament is for swimmers between the ages of 9 to 14. Wrangell’s swimmers were Lucas Stearns, Christina Johnson, and Jack Roberts. They joined about 225 swimmers from 22 different teams. Johnson competed in 12 swims, according to Coach Roberts, and earned 11 personal best times. This was the first year for Stearns to compete in the Age Group Championship. He took three personal bests out of his seven swims. Jack Roberts earned four personal bests in 13 swims. In all of his events, Coach Roberts said, he



COURTESY OF THE KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

Wrangell Swim Club member Jack Roberts, competing in the Alaska Age Group Championship in Ketchikan. According to Coach Jamie Roberts, he finished in the top four of all his events.

placed in the top four.

“Next up for the team is an open swim meet in Juneau in early April, followed

by the Alaska Junior Olympics in late April,” Coach Roberts wrote. “The team will be holding its annual Lap-a-Thon in

March to earn money to attend the open meet and for general operating expenses.”

## “Ayyam-i-Ha” party by Baha’i community

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell’s Baha’i community will be hosting a party at Evergreen Elementary school this Friday at 6 p.m., to celebrate Ayyam-i-Ha and is open to the Wrangell community. The Baha’i faith operates with a calendar of 19 months,

made up of 19 days each. This means the Baha’i calendar has a total of 361 days in it. To keep their calendar aligned with the Gregorian calendar, Baha’is celebrate several “intercalary days.” This year, being a leap year, has five intercalary days for the Baha’i community.

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# Alaska Fish Factor By LAINE WELCH Fisheries columnist

## Alaska's Dutch Harbor Top Fishing Port in US for 22nd Year in a Row

Dutch Harbor remained the top fishing port in the USA for the 22<sup>nd</sup> year in a row with 763 million pounds crossing the docks in 2018 valued at \$182 million. And Naknek ranked as the nation's second most valuable port for fishermen with landings worth \$195 million. (Naknek also ranked #8 for landings at \$191 million.)

Empire-Venice, Louisiana held the second spot for fish volume (569 million). The "Aleutians" was close behind (539 million), thanks to Trident's plant at Akutan, the largest processing facility in North America. Kodiak fell to fourth place with landings dropping from 530 million pounds to 391 million in 2018.

Those are just a few of the gems in the annual Fisheries of the U.S. Report, described as "a yearbook of fishery statistics on commercial landings and values, recreational fishing, aquaculture production, imports and exports and per capita consumption" by Cisco Werner, chief scientist at NOAA Fisheries who gave highlights at a Friday press conference.

"U.S. fishermen landed 9.4 billion pounds valued at about \$5.6 billion, an increase of \$150 million, or 2.8% from 2017. That's on par with recent years with economic benefits both up and down depending on the seafood supply chain," Werner added.

New Bedford, Massachusetts claimed its 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive title of bringing in the

most valuable catch at \$431 million, due mostly to the sea scallop fishery.

Other Alaska related highlights: Alaska provided 58% of U.S. wild seafood (5.4 billion pounds), more than all the other states combined. Alaska also led all states in the value of landings at \$1.8 billion, 32% of the total U.S. value.

Alaska accounted for 97% of U.S. salmon landings; the average Alaska price per pound for all species was 99 cents, an increase of 34 cents from 2017.

The 2018 average price paid to U.S. fishermen across the board was 59 cents per pound compared to 55 cents per pound in 2017.

The six highest valued U.S. seafoods were lobsters (\$684 million), crab (\$645 million), salmon (\$598 million), scallops (\$541 million), shrimp (\$496 million) and Alaska pollock (\$451 million).

The value of U.S. farmed seafood totaled \$1.5 billion in 2017, about 21% of the value of total seafood production. The top marine aquaculture species were oysters, clams and salmon.

As much as 85%-95% of seafood consumed in the U.S. comes from elsewhere. For 2018, the U.S. imported \$22.4 billion worth of edible seafood and exported \$5.6 billion, a \$16.8 million trade deficit.

Production of U.S. seaweed increased 186% from 2016-2017 to (just) 69,053 pounds valued at \$68,698. Data indicate the rapid rise in farmed seaweed pro-

duction will continue. (Kelp production from Kodiak reached nearly 90,000 pounds in 2018.)

Americans ate slightly more seafood - 16.1 pounds, the highest per capita consumption since 2007 and a 0.1 pound increase from 2017, but still well below the government's recommendation to eat two seafood meals every week.

**Kodiak kelp goes retail** - Dried kelp from Kodiak is the first Alaska seaweed poised to make a splash at hundreds of retail stores across the U.S. It's the debut product for Kodiak growers in their partnership with Blue Evolution, the California-based company that has pioneered the kelp industry in Alaska.

The strips of dried ribbon and sugar kelp can be rehydrated or broken up and tossed in salads, rice or broths. The new product's snazzy, biodegradable packaging promotes the nutritional power and purity of Alaska kelp and support for local, family owned farms. Founder and CEO Beau Perry said of all Alaska regions, Kodiak fits the bill.

"Geography, currents, growing space, local stakeholder attitudes, the large fleet, logistics capacity - and we want to be accessible to processing for fresh delivery of raw material. Kodiak ended up ranking the best despite it being very remote, even by Alaska standards," Perry said.

Kodiak growers will expand from 40 acres to 100 acres this year with more in the works around the island. Perry said drying kelp is a challenge in Alaska because large volumes are landed in short periods of time and the bulk of the pack is going into a completely new market.

"I would say well over 90% of our product is going into a blanched frozen product that you may not see on the shelves, but that we're starting to move to high end restaurants, food service and manufacturing down in the Lower 48," Perry said.

Alaska's fledgling kelp industry faces a lot of organizational challenges in the short term, Perry added, but he believes the possibilities are limitless.

"I think Alaska can be one of the great seaweed producing regions on the planet and that it will have a transformative effect within the state," Perry said. "That's the vision we're pursuing. I'm sure we won't be alone in that, but we definitely have put ourselves in a leadership position and we want to spread that vision and build a business around it. Because if we do it right, it could be a very big deal indeed."

Find store locations or order the Alaskan dried kelp online at [BlueEvolution.com](http://BlueEvolution.com)

**Hatchery updates** - Salmon that get

*Continued on page 7*

## Classified/Legals

**JOB**  
WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS is accepting applications for the following position for the 2019-2020 school year: Paraprofessional: This is a part-time instructional aide position working with students, 5.75 hours per day in small

groups and one-on-one at Stikine Middle School. This position is paid on column B of the Classified Salary Schedule. An associate's degree or equivalent is preferred but not required. For a complete job description and salary schedule, please contact the district office at 874-2347.

Positions: Open Until Filled. It is Wrangell Public School District's policy to not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex or disability. 1x2-27b102

**FOR SALE:** Property at 1104 Peninsula Street Wrangell (Sourdough Lodge). The land and building ONLY, some furnishings, no business. The property has been appraised at

\$900,000.00. We are asking \$800,000.00 for the land and building ONLY. For information please call Bruce Harding at 907-305-0108. 2x2-27b48

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### CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB ANNOUNCEMENT WRANGELL POLICE DEPARTMENT Administrative Assistant/DMV

The Wrangell Police Department will accept applications for the position of **Administrative Assistant** through February 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. This is a permanent position with all City & Borough benefits.

This position serves as the administrative assistant to the Police Chief and Police Lieutenant as well as managing the DMV Office. They will prepare and maintain case files, reports, correspondence, and other related material for outside agencies, departments, and the District Attorney's Office. Assists with purchasing, revenues, and budget expenses for the Wrangell Police Department.

This position also manages the DMV Office with a part-time employee. Administers licenses tests, both written and driving, titles and registrations, fingerprinting, TWIC cards, HAZMAT, and TSA Precheck.

The position requires a high degree of confidentiality and organization. Due to the nature of the position a criminal background check and drug test will be required prior to hire. Additional certifications and background checks through state and federal agencies will be required post-hire.

This is a full-time, hourly position with full benefits, paid at Grade 18 with a starting wage at \$23.19 per hour.

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained and returned to Aleisha Mollen at City Hall, 205 Brueger Street (P.O. Box 531), Wrangell, AK 99929 or via email at [amollen@wrangell.com](mailto:amollen@wrangell.com).

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

Lisa Von Bargaen  
Borough Manager

**Publish February 20 and 27, 2020**

## Call for Proposals to Change Federal Subsistence Fish and Shellfish Regulations Deadline: April 20, 2020

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting proposals through April 20, 2020 to change Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for the 2021-2023 regulatory years.

### Submit proposals by any of the following methods:

1. By mail or hand delivery:  
Federal Subsistence Board,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121; Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. A current list of meeting dates and locations may be found at:

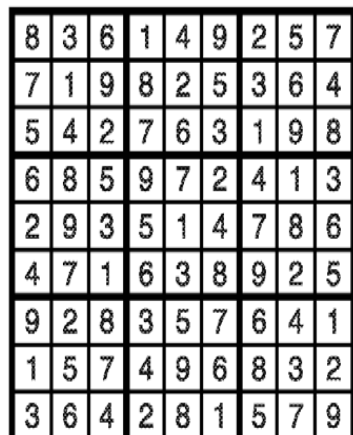
[www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions)

3. Online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for FWS-R7-SM-2019-0092, which is the docket number for this proposed rule.

You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov) with your questions.



## Puzzle answers from Jan. 20 Edition



# Lady Wolves go 1-1 in homecoming games

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Lady Wolves held their annual homecoming games last weekend, playing against the high school's rivals, the Petersburg Lady Vikings. After two hard-fought games, both teams walked away with one win.

The first game, on Friday, opened with Wrangell taking a narrow lead at 10-8. This lead extended in the second quarter, 23-18, and in the third quarter, 34-25. The fourth quarter saw the Lady Wolves push their score up even higher, despite a tough defense by the Lady Vikings. The final score was 50-38, a win for Wrangell.

Saturday's game went in the opposite direction. The Lady Vikings opened the game with a score of 6-19. The second quarter ended with a score of 17-28. The Lady Vikings fought hard and narrowed the gap in the third quarter, setting the score at 30-36. Despite their best efforts, however, it was not enough to overtake Petersburg that night. The

final score of the game was 41-53, a loss for Wrangell.

"Friday was definitely a better game for us," said Coach Laurie Brown.

Brown said she was very proud of the Lady Wolves' defensive game on Friday. Saturday's game saw them struggle defensively, she said, and in making baskets. Saturday's game also saw one of their players, Emma Martinsen, tear some ligaments in her knee. She will be out for the remainder of the season, Brown said, which is an unfortunate blow. Despite the team's struggles on Saturday, Brown said they will be going into Regionals as the second seed team, just behind Metlakatla. Brown said they will be playing Petersburg again, the third seed, first off in Regionals.

This was the final homecoming of their high school careers for two members of the Lady Wolves. Seniors Kaylyn Easterly and Maddy Harding will be part of the graduating class of 2020.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Lady Wolves player Ashlee Olson (No. 43) trying to get past Lady Viking Allie Davis (No. 25).



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

Wolves player Trevor Miller (No. 34) taking the ball down the court.

## Wolves fall in narrow homecoming losses

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School celebrated its homecoming this past weekend. People from all over Wrangell, and the school's rival Petersburg, came together for a weekend of intense basketball games. While the Wrangell Wolves did not come out of the games victorious, the games were hard-fought and very entertaining.

"I'm still recovering, trying to get my voice back," said Coach Cody Angerman. "They were intense."

The first game was on Friday, Feb. 21. Both teams went back and forth in a high-energy first quarter. The Wolves held a narrow lead at 16-15. The Petersburg Vikings and Wolves both continued to rack up points,

Wrangell barely staying ahead in the second quarter, with a score of 26-25. The Vikings caught a second wind in the third quarter and pulled ahead to 41-47. The game was far from over, however. Wrangell fought hard to catch up, which they did successfully. Both teams continued to fight as hard as they did at the start of the game, though, and neither could pull ahead. The fourth quarter ended in a tie, 54-54 and went into overtime. Once again, both teams stayed neck-and-neck. The game was decided in the final seconds, when Petersburg made one last basket to pull ahead by two points. The final score was 61-63, a loss for the Wolves.

Saturday's game was also intense. The game started with

Petersburg taking the lead in the first quarter, but Wrangell overcame them in the second quarter. The final score for the first half was 29-25, in favor of the Wolves. The Vikings came back to take the lead in the third quarter, 36-38. While the Wolves played hard, the Vikings managed to maintain their lead. The final score was 45-52, another loss for Wrangell.

"As always, there's ways to improve," Angerman said. "I'm obviously super proud of the effort that we gave."

This was the final homecoming for several members of the basketball team. Senior players on the Wolves team include Makai Allen, Jonah Comstock, Sean Gillen, Skyler Lofftus, Trevor Miller, Austin Reid and Ryan Soetember.

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

their start in Alaska hatcheries are intended to enhance wild runs and the program will again be featured during the Board of Fisheries final meeting next month in Anchorage.

A hatchery committee was formed last year to better inform the Board on operations of the state's 25 private, nonprofit facilities.

"It's to educate themselves about the hatchery program and if hard decisions have to be made about allocations or where fish can be released or harvested, it's to their benefit to understand the program and the science behind it so they can make informed decisions," said Steve Reifentstahl, general manager of the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> a 12 member science panel will present to invited board members and to the hatchery committee, which will hold its meeting the following day. Reifentstahl said most of the presentations will come from state managers on regulations and oversight and what the hatcheries produce each year.

"For the coastal communities the hatchery program is a lifesaver for many of the people who fish for a living. It gives about 25% of the

salmon harvest and that supplementation is a critical component for their business model," he added.

Critics of the hatchery program claim that too many tiny salmon are released each year and pose threats to the purity and health of wild stocks. The science panel will update research that has been underway since 2013 on pink salmon in Prince William Sound and chums in Southeast that aims to answer those questions. Reifentstahl said the salmon study runs through 2024.

"Why it takes so long is that we are looking at two full life cycles of chum salmon, which is roughly five to six years, and we're also doing two full life cycles of pink salmon which just ended last year. Those results should be out by year's end," he said.

Alaska's hatcheries in 2018 contributed 34% of the statewide commercial salmon harvest and 30% of the dockside value. The hatcheries are funded by a fishermen's tax and sales of a portion of the returning fish and receive no state dollars.

You can tune in online to hear both the March 6 presentation and the hatchery committee meeting on March 7.

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## School board adopts budget revisions, receives letters on swim team funding

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell School Board adopted some revisions to the FY 2020 budget at their Monday night meeting. The district's budget, originally, set revenues at a little less than \$5.5 million, and expenditures at around \$6.1 million. With the revisions however, revenues have been bumped up to around \$5.7 million.

The first revision to the budget adds the Wrangell borough's contribution. The revised budget takes into account a contribution of \$610,329 from the City and Borough of Wrangell. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster explained in an email that this was the minimum mandated contribution that was listed in the revision. The remainder of the city's total contribution, \$1.3 million in all, was put as "pass through SRS funds." This was done for auditing purposes, she said.

Foundation support for the budget was also revised, increased from \$3,701,530 to \$3,756,369. \$2,000 of federal impact aid grants were also removed from the revenues of the revised budget. Lancaster explained that the application process for these grants were very labor-intensive, and just not worth the trouble.

"Our business team and school support teams had already exhausted more in labor than the grant was worth in trying to get the information required," she wrote. "As the application deadline approached, we made a decision to not spend any more hours working on it and just let it go. I contacted Robin Gregory in Washington DC and informed her that we would not be submitting an application this year. We can try again if they streamline the process down to a manageable time frame."

Expenditures in the revised budget remain the same, \$6.1 million. There were some revisions to how that money is expected to be spent, however. Total expenditures for certified salaries, uncertified salaries, and employee benefits were decreased from about \$4.8 million to about \$4.75 million. Money set aside for professional and technical services decreased from \$291,000 to \$256,000. Money for the "supplies, materials and media" category increased from \$258,436 to \$307,436. Student travel costs were decreased from \$151,675 to \$146,675, while staff travel was increased from \$50,500 to \$70,500. A full list of the budget revisions can be found online, by going to the "Board Docs" link at [www.wpsd.us](http://www.wpsd.us).

During the meeting, the board also reviewed two letters they received regarding funding for the Wrangell Swim Team. Jamie Roberts, coach for the swim team, wrote to the board about some concerns she had. In 2018 the swim team was approved for creation by the school board, but with no dis-

trict funding allowed for it, and Roberts was offered an extracurricular contract to coach the team. Her letter reads that the district applied for a grant to fund the team, but she is not sure on the amount. In May 2019, she wrote, she was informed that she had overspent for the 2018 season by about \$3,700. Roberts also wrote, in her letter, that anticipated expenses for the team have been underestimated, and that she feels left out of the loop on how the team gets funded, and that they struggle to meet expenses even with numerous fundraisers. She would like the board to answer several questions for her, she said, including how swim team expenses are tracked, what the 2018 grant amount was, and how to get the swim coach position added to the list of school-funded extracurricular activities.

"I have been patient for two years, but I do not want to continue to operate in the blind," Roberts wrote in her letter. "I feel it is fiscally irresponsible to do so. It also created unnecessary frustration and confusion. I am formally requesting that a workshop be held to discuss funding a swim team and adding a swim coach to the extracurricular pay scale."

The board also received a letter from Kristy Woodbury, voicing similar concerns as Roberts'. Her highest concern is the lack of expense reports from the district, she wrote, though they have been repeatedly asked for since the beginning of the swim program. Too much time has elapsed without properly resolving questions of how much was spent, and how, she said. Another concern of hers is that the team continues to be sanctioned by the district, but does not receive support from it. She advocated for adding the swim coach to the list of funded coaching contracts. Or, she said, the district should consider removing all activity contracts from the negotiated agreement.

"The program has proven to be successful, with membership increasing the second year, and a high level of satisfaction from stakeholders," Woodbury wrote.

Other items covered in the meeting included an amendment to the teaching contract of Mikki Angerman, providing an additional \$1,621.87 for the assessment, planning, and instruction of 31 kindergarten and first grade students between Feb. 3 and May 21. The board also agreed to a slight revision of the district calendar, moving two inservice days from March 5 and 6 to March 12 and 13. The board also held a discussion on the district's 2020 legislative priorities, which include support for students' emotional, social, and mental health, support for early childhood education, support for the ferry system, and a statement of concern about rising health-care costs in the state.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Members of the Petersburg Vikings basketball team boarding Breakaway Adventures' Ocean Pro, at Banana Point, to travel to Wrangell. Wrangell High School celebrated homecoming this past weekend, and played against their rivals in Petersburg in a series of basketball games. Wrangell resident Eric Yancey, of Breakaway Adventures, said he has been in business since the late '70s. Making runs between Wrangell and Petersburg is almost a daily occurrence for him, he said, as is transporting high school sports teams around the region. Yancey added that he has not noticed any particular uptick in business since the Alaska Marine Highway System shut down. From left to right: Kyle Biggers, Julian Cumps, Aiden Luhr and Tausani Ieremia.

## Ferry shutdown

Continued from page 1

ferry schedule. That might mean that games are played in the middle of the school week, or every other week.

"The days of playing just solely on Friday and Saturday are kind of out the window," said Cabral.

In the short term, the Petersburg School District has been limiting the number of students that are able to travel to away games. With the M/V Matanuska offline through April, Petersburg students have had to travel to games in Wrangell and on Prince of Wales Island using Breakaway Adventures. The Vikings have had to fly to all other 2A schools in their conference.

Regionals, for the high school basketball teams, are scheduled to take place on March 13 and 14 in Juneau. A press release from the Alaska Department of Transportation stated that the Alaska Marine Highway System is looking into alternative service options to get people up to Juneau for regionals. The press release also mentions that Alaska Airlines is working with school districts to help accommodate their transportation needs.

Wrangell Wolves Coach Cody Angerman, and Lady Wolves Coach Laurie Brown, confirmed that the team will be flying to Juneau for Regionals via Alaska Airlines. Lancaster added that the airline has offered the district a low fare for the flight to Juneau, at about the same cost as the ferry would have been. This is a one-time offer, she said, but is very generous and one she is thankful for.

"Wrangell is resilient and always pulls together to be a strong solution oriented community," she wrote. "56 students including both teams, the band, and the cheer squad are able to travel to Juneau for the regional tournament at the ferry rate. This is an extremely timely and generous contribution to offset our financial burden."

Angerman also pointed out another aspect of their schedule the ferries have impacted, in the teams coming to play against them in home games. Wrangell faced off against Haines in two games on Tuesday, Feb. 25 and 26. This was atypical, as games are usually scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays. However, Angerman said that with the lack of ferries the Haines team is

trying to fit as many games into a single trip around the region they could, meaning they played Wrangell on weekdays and moved on to their next set of games on the weekend.

"I think it's really impacted everybody, including us," Angerman said.

Richard Brock, head coach for the Petersburg High School boys basketball team, said players look forward to playing opposing teams and the time it takes to travel to each school, but with the ferry system offline in Southeast Alaska, not all the students are making the trip.

"It's these kids that it's impacting," said Brock. "It's their year. This is their season."

However, basketball is not the only sport that has been impacted. Jack Carney, Wrangell wrestling coach, spoke about how the loss of ferries shifted their plans. Wrangell competed in the Southeast Alaska middle school wrestling championships in Juneau a few weeks ago. Carney said they had already bought tickets to take the ferry up there for the tournament, but then the shutdown occurred and they had to scramble for new means of transportation. He did not remember the exact number, but he said that it was almost double the cost to fly a group of 20 to Juneau.

"The district was nice enough to cover the cost this time, but that's not something we can depend on," Carney said.

During the tournament, the ferries were being discussed by many of the coaches attending the event, he said. Carney pointed out that Haines was expected to participate in the championships, but because of the ferry situation they went to a tournament in Fairbanks, instead. In Carney's opinion, he said, not having the ferry system up and running will completely change life in the region as people know it.

Brock said there have been instances when the team was traveling with Alaska Airlines and the plane was delayed, which resulted in them being stranded because there weren't any other means of transportation.

"In the past, if the plane didn't work, there's typically ferries moving around that can help you get home," said Brock. "You don't even have an option when the plane is broken. You don't have anywhere else to turn in certain communities."



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