



Wrangell, Alaska  
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# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Coliforms bacteria detected in roadside pipe

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Cooperative Association's environmental office this month began notifying the public of the presence of coliforms in a popular off-grid water source.

The pipe just to the north of the Mile 10 marker on Zimovia Highway has supplied Wrangell residents with fresh water for decades, a fixture well before the logging road had been paved. For those living beyond municipal water sources, options for potable water are fairly limited, and for those without a water catchment or well system set up, the pipe provides relatively easy access to supplies.

WCA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) office began testing samples from the pipe in May, since drinking water safety was named as one of the top five environmental priorities by residents surveyed by the Tribe in 2015. Acquiring a laboratory incubator and other testing equipment for the task, the program's intent was to test for coliforms in local freshwater sources on a monthly basis. After making its detection earlier this month, IGAP began testing the pipe site on a weekly basis.

Coliforms are bacteria, which when found in drinking water can indicate the presence of other pathogens. IGAP technician Kim Wickman explained she tests for general coliforms – which themselves are unlikely to cause illness – and for *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), strains of which can be harmful and fatal.

"General coliforms are what we have seen," she said.

To test for the presence of these bacteria, Wickman adds to samples a nutrient-laden product called Coliscan Easygel. "We take a 5 mL sample and we add it to an array medium," she explained. These samples are

then kept at a relatively high, stable heat for a 24-hour period, priming conditions for coliforms present in the water to reproduce and colonize.

Enzymes present in the Easygel react with enzymes released by coliforms as they ferment lactose, which set off distinctive splashes of color visible to the unaided eye. The greater hazard to water safety, the medium is formulated so that E. coli produces a different, bluish hue than other coliforms, which show pink, making it more easily distinguishable. Other bacterial colonies do not show up.

So far the last three 10-Mile samples have shown swatches of pink, meaning only general coliforms have been detected. What caused their recent appearance is still unknown, and could be due to a number of factors such as recent rainfall. Their presence could be seasonal, or it could just come and go.

"We haven't quite found a rhyme or reason for it," said Wickman.

IGAP coordinator Chris Hatton explained she believes the pipe draws its water from the ground, rather than from surface sources. Though testing only began this spring she said she has been scrutinizing the pipe since the previous year, testing it for flow rate and clarity. Output can vary, taking a minute and a half or two to fill a five-gallon bucket, but even during extended freezing conditions Hatton noted the pipe still flows.

"I've only ever seen it clear," she added. "I think that's why people rely on it and trust it."

Since discovering the microorganisms, IGAP has made efforts to inform residents of their presence. Taking to the radio, posting updates on Facebook and pinning notices on local bulletin boards, the office has

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Number one this year

Wrangell Assembly member Julie Decker, with Southeast Conference president Chelsea Goucher and Rain Coast Data analyst Meilani Schijvens, accepts an award at last week's annual summit naming Wrangell the region's community of the year. "The accomplishments over the years, that Wrangell has transformed itself through a lot of hard work and community action, was noted by our membership," commented SEC executive director Robert Venables. In a special award for outstanding public service, retiring Alaska Municipal League director Kathie Wasserman was also commended for her contributions to the region.

## Ferry reform package presented as budget snafu threatens summer service

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

At Southeast Conference last week in Haines, Alaska Marine Highway Reform Initiative presented its draft report assessing the state ferry system

SEC had been tasked by the governor's office in May 2016 with organizing a statewide planning process to improve the ferry service's long-term viability. The 12-person steering committee subsequently formed to direct that effort has since moved into its second phase, preparation of a proposed organizational model which would better meet the state's transportation needs in the longer term.

The report was prepared for the committee by consultancies McDowell Group and Elliott Bay Design Group, and first presented on September 12. One of the report's key findings was that a public corporation might make a good business model for the system. A public corporation is a government-created institution which op-

erates much like a private company would, such as a municipal utility provider.

Such a move would maintain some existing benefits, allowing AMHS continued access to federal funding and shared state services while allowing it to address existing limitations, including indirect labor negotiations, a short-term scope for operations and political influence. The expectation is that the new mode of governance would allow the ferry system to reduce labor costs, better incorporate the expertise of its board, and operate in a more businesslike manner. Becoming a public corporation would also enable the service to issue revenue bonds, leveraging its fares and other revenue.

Under the proposed structure, a seven-member board would be proposed, appointed by the state governor and confirmed by legislators. Its membership would consist of five people with expertise in business operations, transporta-

	Baseline Model	Standard Fleet & Public Corp Model	Minimized Fleet & Public Corp Model
Weeks of Service	350	350	282
Operating Costs	\$ 116,933,315	\$ 82,262,423	\$ 63,661,716
Shoreside Costs	\$ 28,553,897	\$ 32,473,678	\$ 27,590,168
Overhead Costs	\$ 3,280,900	\$ 3,166,080	\$ 2,902,510
Revenue	\$ 42,318,537	\$ 36,548,192	\$ 33,476,686
General Fund Need	\$ 106,449,575	\$ 81,353,989	\$ 60,677,708

A table presented to last week's Southeast Conference measures annual expenditures for the state ferry system, comparing the system as it now operates to two hypothetical models proposed in a new report.

tion, finance and economic development, a member of the employees union, and a DOT commissioner or designee. The setup would continue to seek public input through annual budget and legislative processes, as well as through the corporation's board and various other public meetings.

A major part of the reform initiative is finding a balance for the system's finances while maintaining its services. The ferry system currently operates nine vessels and 37 terminals, with service schedules varying throughout the year to accommodate maintenance needs and respond to seasonal demand.

Operationally, the fleet is set back by funding uncertainties for planning, scheduling and marketing. To address these, the committee's recommendation for promoting revenue growth would be through advance budgetary planning, forward-funding by about 18 to 24

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

**Thursday, Sept. 28:** Elmer Mork, Tyler Danison, Michael Brock, Patrick Mayer, Bryan Paulsen, Carisa Atkins, Darrel Gross, Wayne and Kathleen Harding, Jake and Rachel Harris. **Friday, Sept. 29:** Jozlyn Privett, David Taylor, Kylee Kvernvik, Brandy Grina, Mark Armstrong, Gary Lewis, Matt Nore, Daniel Wickman, Michael McLaughlin. **Saturday, Sept. 30:** Krystal Larabee, Rick Churchill, Rachel Coblentz, Trinity Nore, Cami Bakeberg, LeAnn Bryner. **Sunday, Oct. 1:** Mark Cummings, Scott Phillips, Fern Seimears, Peter Wilson, Georgia Lewis, Dean Bakeberg, Adalyn Angerman. **Monday, Oct. 2:** Mariah Mork, Jim Gunderson, Alana Harrison, Rory Prunella, Max O' Keefe Kay, Jabusch, Jenny Neyman, *Anniversary:* Ben and Audrey McCandless. **Tuesday, Oct. 3:** Scott Elmer, Jeremy Maxand, David Mork. **Wednesday, Oct. 4:** Bill Privett, Connor Dilg, Akira Lewis, Thane Ellsworth. **Thursday, Oct. 5:** Gerrit Southland, Tony Byford, Gracie Richard, Tara Stutz, Deraven Rawlins, Kari Massin, Autumn Bakeberg. *If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.*

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

**Thursday, September 28**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

**Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation:** 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375. **Yoga:** 5:30 p.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join

**Tuesday, October 3**

**SAIL Class:** 10 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults.

*Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here.*

## Continuing Events

**PARKS & REC ACTIVITIES:** **Lap Swim:** M, W, F 6:00-7:30 a.m. & 5:00-6:00 p.m., M-F 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., S 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; **Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class:** at the Pool: M, W, F, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; **Water Aerobics:** M, W, F 10:00-11:00 a.m.; **Family Swim:** F 6:00-7:00 p.m.; **General Swim:** M & W 6:00-7:00 p.m., F 7:00-8:00 p.m., S 1:00-2:00 p.m.; **Weight Room:** M-TH 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-7:30 p.m., F 6:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3:30-8:30 p.m., S 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Extra 2 Lane Lap Swim:** M-W-F 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**OTHER MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:**

**AA Meetings:** Tu. 7 p.m., Toss Off Th. 7 p.m., Smoked Fish F 8 p.m., Step Study Sat. 7 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

**NA Meeting:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, We Do Recover, 8 p.m. at the Episcopal Church Parish Hall. **Bridge Social:** F, 1 p.m. at th Island of Faith Lutheran Church 874-3440, 874-3507.

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

## The Way We Were In the Sentinel 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago.

**October 4, 1917:** War was declared on Wrangell Saturday night by Oscar Weston, who, after mixing drinks too freely, became en-

raged over imaginary offenses. Weston went aboard a gas boat tied to the slip of the Columbia and Northern dock and opened fire on the town with a 280 Ross high power rifle. Fortunately he aimed a little too high to do any harm, but the whistling of bullets overhead was not very welcome music. The officers, knowing that Weston was insane for the time being, and wishing to take him alive, permitted Charlie Olesen, who knew Weston pretty well, to undertake his arrest. Through a clever subterfuge Olesen succeeded in getting aboard the boat and disarming the madman. Monday morning Weston was arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Weber on a complaint sworn to by H.J. Wallace, charging him with firing into the populated section of Wrangell. At the trial Weston appeared sober and contrite, and freely pleaded guilty to the charge. The Commissioner gave Weston the light sentence of six months.

**October 2, 1942:** Although the regular flight birds have only started to show, duck and goose hunters are returning to town these days with good bags. Waterfowl thus far, they report, are mostly local although some flight birds are showing on the Stikine flats. White geese will be along about October 7 and usually reach their peak after part of November. Deer hunters also report success, with the supply of bucks apparently plentiful. U.S. Commissioner R. J. Suratt reported that 242 licenses have been issued thus far, 88 hunting and trapping permits and 154 straight residents hunting licenses.

**September 29, 1967:** A campaign has started to get the Wrangell airport paved. The airport, which is under construction will be a 5,000 feet gravel runway in the first phase. City Administrator Clayton Schmitt told City Council members this week that the second phase of the state's plan for the field would include lengthening it to 6,500 feet and its paving. He said a group of Cham-



Former President Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy Reagan are presented a garnet by Mindy Asay on July 30, 1992, during the couple's visit to Wrangell. Pulling up their 110-foot yacht Silverado to the main dock, the Reagans stopped into several stores that morning during their brief stay, before resuming their first visit to Southeast Alaska.

ber of Commerce members were planning to seek paving the airport immediately. Originally, Schmidt said, the state had allotted \$2.4 million for the project. The contractor's fee and engineering costs are expected to be \$1.6 million, he said. Proponents of the paving project are expected to ask the state to put the \$800,000 saving back into the fund to pay for the surfacing the administrator explained.

**October 8, 1992:** The Stikine River moose hunt is proceeding slowly, with only 12 bulls shot as of Tuesday morning. With just a week left in the season, the count is only half of last year's total harvest of 24 moose. The 1991 total was the lowest since 1977. A report from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Petersburg said, "The river has been raging over the past few days keeping hunters at a minimum."

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, Sept. 28**

A-1 meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, perfection salad.

**Friday, Sept. 29**

Halibut caddy ganty, peas and carrots, honey orange salad, oatmeal rolls.

**Monday, Oct. 2**

Tomato soup, half tuna sandwich, cucumber/onion salad.

**Tuesday, Oct. 3**

Chop suey, rice, spinach salad with mandarin oranges.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4**

Chicken enchiladas, black beans, calico corn salad, orange slices.

**Thursday, Oct. 5**

Lasagna, peas and carrots, spicy fruit cup, garlic bread.

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, Sept. 30**

Matanuska 5:15 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 1**

Kennicott 5:45p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 3**

Matanuska 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 4**

Matanuska 12:15 a.m.

#### Southbound

**Thursday, Sept. 28**

Matanuska 8:30 p.m.

**Monday, Oct. 2**

Matanuska 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4**

Kennicott 5:45 a.m.

**Friday, Oct. 6**

Matanuska 8:00 a.m.

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



## TIDES Sept 21 - Sept 28

	High Tides				Low Tides			
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
<b>Sept. 28</b>	7:47	11.0	7:35	12.2	0:46.	3.3	12:56	6.2
<b>Sept. 29</b>	9:10	11.4	9:00	12.5	2:02.	3.5	2:21	6.3
<b>Sept. 30</b>	10:12	12.4	10:06	13.3	3:20	3.1	3:44	5.5
<b>Oct. 1</b>	11:01	13.6	10:59	14.4	4:24	2.2	4:47	4.3
<b>Oct. 2</b>	11:41	14.8	11:45	15.4	5:13	1.2	5:33	2.8
<b>Oct. 3</b>	.....	.....	12:18	15.9	5:53	0.4	6:13	1.3
<b>Oct. 4</b>	0:26	16.3	12:51	16.8	6:29	-0.3	6:49	0.0
<b>Oct. 5</b>	1:06	16.9	1:24	17.6	7:04	-0.7	7:25	-1.2

### Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Sept. 18	54	46
Sept. 19	52	46
Sept. 20	52	44
Sept. 21	57	44
Sept. 22	55	50
Sept. 23	57	53
Sept. 24	57	51
Sept. 25	55	51

### Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Sept. 28	6:43am	6:34pm	11:51h
Sept. 29	6:45am	6:31pm	11:46h
Sept. 30	6:47am	6:28pm	11:41h
Oct. 01	6:49am	6:26pm	11:37h
Oct. 02	6:51am	6:23pm	11:32h
Oct. 03	6:53am	6:21pm	11:28h
Oct. 04	6:55am	6:18pm	11:23h
Oct. 05	6:57am	6:15pm	11:18h

**THE PFD SALE HAS LANDED**

Your favorite cities are on sale now through October 12.



# Coliforms

Continued from page 1

been advising users of the 10-Mile pipe to exercise caution. It recommends boiling, filtering or chemically treating water until the system is cleared. The office will continue taking samples from the site on a weekly basis until giving the all-clear, with the most recent sample results expected late Tuesday.

In letting people know about present risks, Wickman explained the office has been wary of causing too much of a stir. The ad hoc water source is unmanaged but on state land, and a similar arrangement in the Anchorage area has led the state to remove such structures. Alaska Dispatch News in April highlighted one pipe at Mile 109 of the Seward Highway which draws visitors and residents alike to drink from it. Despite its popularity, the article reported the pipe has previously been removed by Department of Transportation staff due to concerns it affects traffic. It reappears, but its future existence remains tenuous.

"We don't want this issue here," said Wickman.

Other issues IGAP has been focusing on include detecting contaminants in subsistence food sources, such as the presence of saxitoxin in area shellfish; solid waste issues and recycling accessibility; outdoor and indoor air quality; and threats to water quality posed by Canadian mining operations along transboundary river systems.

# AMHS

Continued from page 1

months rather than being tied so closely to legislative budget cycles as done currently.

The report found costs to the fleet are largely personnel driven, with staff and travel accounting for 69 percent of operating expenses and 54 percent of overall expenditure. Capital improvements on facilities and maintenance for the aging fleet account for another 16 percent of operating expenses, while fuel amounts to 14 percent.

In its revenue findings, the report found AMHS has limited maneuverability. The system lately generates around \$50M in revenue each year, 44 percent of which is accounted for through the ferry's Bellingham service. Non-resident travel accounts for 42 percent of the system's revenues, and continuing service to ports in Canada and Washington are an important component of the service's viability. Lowering fares is not expected to garner new ridership in sufficient numbers to compensate for the loss in revenue. Raising fares strategically could conversely bring in more revenue, while lowering overall traffic. But the ferry system's revenues by any estimation cannot cover its own costs, and at present it receives considerable support from the state general fund. \$89M was allotted to the system for the 2017 fiscal year, while cuts to that over the past five years have come to a 28-percent reduction overall, or a loss of \$35M.

The report compares the "baseline" or current business model to the public corporation in terms of service weeks and cost. The latter model factors in the same 350-week service schedule, but with the different governance model and replacement of all current vessels with a mixed-use fleet. This would consist of three mainline vessels to facilitate the Gulf, continental and Southeast routes, three day boats, two 24/7 feeder vessels, and one ocean-going vessel. The crew costs would be scaled down to suit the new fleet, and while overhead would be slightly higher vessel maintenance costs would be lower.

Comparing the two models, the report anticipates the new governance and vessels would save just

under 24 percent of costs from the system's general fund needs, bringing them down to \$81M. A third, pared down model operating just seven new vessels on 282 service weeks would bring that down even further, to \$60.6M.

The committee's next steps will be to prepare a document and transition plan for consideration by the state, and to prepare an actionable plan that could be taken up by the State Legislature.

"We ask folks to give comment," said Robert Venables, SEC executive director and member of the reform committee.

A complete overview of the second phase report and reform initiative timeline is available online at [www.AMHSreform.com](http://www.AMHSreform.com). There is also a tab through which feedback can be provided. A comment deadline on the new draft has been set for October 6.

Finding a solution to AMHS' budget uncertainties has taken on renewed urgency, with the Office of Management and Budget issuing a letter last week warning that

Noise Complaint: Disorderly conduct: Warning given for loud music.

Domestic: Arrested Jason Lee Garringer, age 46 on charges of domestic disturbance..

**Thursday, September 21**  
MVA.  
DVO.

**Friday, September 22**  
Suspicious circumstance.  
Subpoena Service.  
Driving Complaint.  
Suspicious Noise.

**Saturday, September 23**  
Found Property.  
Civil: Custody Issue.

Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for tail lights not working.

Suspicious circumstance: Car alarm set off.

**Sunday, September 24**

Agency Assist.  
Noise complaint.  
Report of Theft.  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Civil Issue: Child Custody.  
Citations issued to Dixie Booker, age 36: Dog at large and license required.

There was one animal complaint and three ambulance calls during this reporting week.

# Police report

**Monday, September 18**

Agency Assist.  
Agency Assist: Parks and Rec.  
Reckless Driver.  
Suspicious circumstance.  
Civil standby.  
Suspicious circumstance.

**Tuesday, September 19**

Agency Assist: Alarms.  
86 letter.  
Hit and Run accident.  
Subpoena Service.

**Wednesday, September 20**

Noise Complaint: Person shooting off seal bombs: Officer responded.

an oversight in the state's adopted supplemental budget meant the ferry system would lose \$30M from its allocated budget.

"There was a legislative mistake," explained Aurah Landau, public information officer for AMHS Southcoast.

For the past two years the Legislature has been shifting spending from upcoming budget cycles to the prior year, in order to make spending cuts appear to be greater. A supplementary budget adopted by the Legislature then retroactively covers money already spent by drawing money from state savings.

"This year's supplemental budget had some language that if the budget needed more than \$100M from the Congressional Budget Reserve the ferry system would be the first thing cut," said Landau. As this had been the case, the allocation to AMHS would be forgone.

"Nobody caught the problem before the budget was signed into law," she continued. Gov. Bill

Walker is expected to expedite the issue in the special session expected next month. If the funds are not restored, the ferry system will run out of funds before the fiscal year is through, with April a best guess.

"The question of when the ferry system would run out of money depends on a variety of factors, like fare revenues that aren't down. We know that there's not enough through the end of the fiscal year, but we don't know exactly how long they will last," Landau explained. The likely effect would be disruption to statewide service, which given the timing, could play havoc with the summer season.

"Certainly the summer is a time when we have a lot of passengers, a lot of revenue generated, a lot of cargo moving, and we're well aware that people are relying on the ferry system for businesses, for families moving, for tourists moving through Alaska," Landau said. "It's an absolutely essential bit of transportation. It would be like digging up the Seward Highway."

## Correction

In the last's issue's coverage of the Michael Stephens charges, it was erroneously reported that the defendant shared residence with one of the plaintiffs. The criminal complaint lists Rosemary Ruoff as the owner of the property where Stephens' trailer is located, but she resides on a separate property at a local trailer court.

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## SE Alaska King Salmon sport fishing reopened

JUNEAU, AK- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is announcing the reopening of the Southeast Alaska and Yakutat sport fishery for king salmon. The following regulations will be effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, October 1, 2017 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2018. The regulations are:

### Alaskan Resident

The resident bag and possession limit is two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

### Nonresident

The nonresident bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

The nonresident annual limit is three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length. Nonresident anglers shall immediately record, in ink, all king salmon harvested either on the back of their sport fishing license or on a nontransferable harvest record.

**From October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; resident sport anglers may use two rods when fishing for king salmon. Resident anglers using two rods may only retain king salmon.**

Southeast Alaska wild king salmon stocks are experiencing a period of low productivity and production. In 2016, postseason escapement estimates from the king salmon stock assessment program in Southeast Alaska indicated 9 of the 11 king salmon index systems missed the lower bound of spawning escapement goals. This trend of low Southeast Alaska wild king salmon productivity and abundance was expected to continue and in 2017 conservative management actions began in April to reduce Southeast Alaska wild king salmon harvest in the Yakutat, Haines/Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg/Wrangell and Ketchikan sport fisheries. Then in early August, initial escapement surveys of

Southeast Alaska king salmon index systems indicated that Southeast Alaska wild king salmon productivity and production was lower than anticipated and the decision was made to prohibit the retention of king salmon in all Southeast Alaska fisheries August 10 through September 30, 2017. Given that effort and the subsequent harvest of king salmon in the sport fishery from October through the end March is low; the Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery is being reopened under the management prescriptions outlined in general regulation and the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*.

The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan prescribes management measures based upon the preseason abundance index determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission. The preseason abundance index for the 2017 season is 1.27. At this abundance index level, the plan specifies a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; a nonresident annual limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and the opportunity for resident anglers to use two rods from October through March.

Conservative king salmon regulations for the Haines, Skagway, announced on March 6, 2017, are still in effect in order to protect wild Alaska king salmon stocks until December 31, 2017.

For further information regarding sport fisheries in Southeast Alaska, contact the nearest ADF&G office or visit: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.eonr](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.eonr)



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# Moose harvest so far on par with historical average



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Derek Meissner has plenty of help carving up a moose he'd shot priver on the season's opening day, September 15. The family brought it down to Reliance Harbor's dock the next day to prepare their harvest for the freezer.

By DAN RUDY  
*Sentinel writer*

Undaunted by pouring rain, hunters in the Wrangell and Petersburg areas have been bringing in their fill of moose for the 2017 season.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported a total of 47 bulls have so far been shot since the season's opener on September 15. Of these, only three have so far been confirmed as noncompliant specimens.

"We've got a couple that we're looking at," ADFG wildlife biologist Rich Lowell added. The department investigates the carcass in conjunction with the State Troopers, and the two agencies tend to consult one another before making a ruling. "It's nice to have a number of different eyes looking at it."

The number of illegally harvested moose is so far lower than last year's which saw seven of 35 flagged in the first week. About 10 percent of the total harvest is what is typically seen for RM038.

The midway point for the season will be on Friday, and already

the 47 moose taken so far are just one shy of the eight-year average, Lowell pointed out.

Most moose have been taken from the Stikine River area, at 18. Hunters on Kupreanof Island are just behind them with a count of 16; last year the island saw the lion's share of the harvest, with 50 of the record season's 110 total.

Other counts include six moose on Mitkof Island, three around Thomas Bay, and one apiece from Farragut Bay, Wrangell Island, Zarembo Island and Kuiu Island.

Since 2009, the annual harvest has averaged 92 moose per season, and has included the three highest

years on record for the local hunt.

All hunting permit holders are reminded to complete and submit a report, even if they did not participate in hunting. Reports can be filed at the nearest ADFG department offices in Wrangell, Petersburg, Douglas, Kake or Sitka, or online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>. Failure to do so can result in ineligibility for permits next year.

The department encourages hunters who have already taken a moose but do not plan to hunt for the remainder of the season to turn in their hunt reports sooner rather than later, while the information is still fresh in their minds.

## Dan's Dispatch: *Why We Need a Capital Budget*

By Representative  
Dan Ortiz

Last week, I wrote a letter to the editor outlining specific funds in the capital budget allocated to southern Southeast Alaska. District 36 fortunately received millions of dollars for local infrastructure projects. That being said, the state's overall capital budget is still minuscule in comparison to previous years. Since 2013, it has been cut by over 55%.

You may be wondering, how is it possible to cut the capital budget by more than half? Many of these cuts are not long-term budget reductions, but are instead deferred maintenance costs that we currently cannot fund while in a deficit. We are simply postponing most infrastructure maintenance.

The effects of a nearly non-existent capital budget are starting to show. Buildings and projects that we originally invested millions of dollars into are now falling into disrepair. Roads are riddled with potholes, for example, South Tongass Highway. As these conditions worsen, the costs associated with them increase.

The state maintains over 2,200 facilities and current postponed maintenance costs equals \$1.84 billion. Without consistent funding, overall costs are expected to increase, departments cannot plan, and uncertainty leads to emergency-only spending.

The economy is also negatively affected by a small capital budget. Private construction groups have fewer projects to bid on, forcing people within the building industry to find work in other states. ISER estimates that for every \$100 million in capital budget expenditures, nearly 1,000 jobs are generated.

Making a fiscally responsible decision dictated that those cuts be made, but with our state's unemployment level climbing and our deferred maintenance costs rising, we cannot keep cutting the capital budget. If we want working ferries, up-to-code buildings, safe roads, and well-managed state owned lands, we eventually need to revive the capital budget. However, as I've stated before, we cannot have a sufficient capital budget without a comprehensive fiscal plan that includes a stable and sufficient revenue

source.

For over three years, I have made the tough votes in support of adopting a sustainable fiscal plan, and I'm ready to continue to make the hard decisions and votes during our next special session this October.

**B.P.O. ELKS #1595**  
Meets the 1st and 3rd Wed.  
[www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com](http://www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com)  
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**POSTED FUEL PRICES**

**WRANGELL**  
L N M: \$3.80  
Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.81

**PETERSBURG**  
SE Island Fuel: \$3.76  
Petersburg Motors: \$3.68

*Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, September 26th*

## Stork Report



Leland Dawson Helgeson was born in Seattle on August 20, 2017 to Lauren Simpson Helgeson and Andrew Helgeson. He weighed 7 lbs 2 oz and was 20 inches long. His maternal grandparents are Drs. Duke Simpson and Lynne Dawson of Vancouver, Washington and paternal grandparents are Ginny and Steve Helgeson of Wrangell. His paternal great-grandparents are Frances Ousley and Richard Helgeson of Portland, Oregon.

**POLICY FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

- Letters should be typed or clearly written and no longer than 400 words.
- All letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number and any affiliation with a group which pertains to the letter.

**The Sentinel reserves the right to edit any submissions.**

*The Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 PM for Thursday publication.*

Letters are run on a space available basis.

P.O. Box 798 205 Front Street, Wrangell, AK 99929  
PHONE: 874-2301 • FAX: 874-2303 • EMAIL: [wrgsent@gmail.com](mailto:wrgsent@gmail.com)

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# Meet the Candidates:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Revised Notice FOR ABSENTEE VOTING THAT BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

**DURING BUSINESS HOURS  
FROM 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM  
(Except that there will be no Absentee Voting  
available between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm)**

**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
AT CITY HALL**

**FOR THE OCTOBER 3, 2017 REGULAR ELECTION  
QUALIFIED VOTERS MAY VOTE AN  
ABSENTEE BALLOT UNTIL  
5:00 P.M., Monday, OCTOBER 2, 2017**

For those voters who cannot VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON, you may submit an application to have your ballot mailed or faxed to you beginning Tuesday, September 4, 2017, at 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Please stop by the Borough Clerk's Office to apply.

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

**Publish: September 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2017**

## **CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL JOB BULLETIN: ACCOUNTING GENERALIST FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The City and Borough of Wrangell is recruiting for an Accounting Generalist to join the Borough's Finance Department.

The Accounting Generalist assists and supports all functions of the Finance Department, with primary duties including payroll and human resources, employee benefits administration, property taxes and assessment records, cash receipts management and reconciliation, and customer service. The position requires significantly advanced skills, efficiency and accuracy with computer aided accounting systems, Microsoft Excel, Outlook, Word, Access, Adobe Acrobat, and electronic document management and organization in general. The Accounting Generalist also acts as Recording Secretary for either the Planning & Zoning or the Port Commission, and as Deputy Borough Clerk in the Borough Clerk's absence.

This position will appeal to a candidate who thrives in a fast-paced, collaborative, team-centered work environment and enjoys solving problems autonomously and efficiently. The successful candidate will have experience that demonstrates strong office management and organizational skills to manage large volumes transactions, emails, data and physical and electronic documentation. The position also requires strong customer service skills and abilities including during times of high workflow.

Preferred education and experience include an associate's or bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or closely related field, and four years of relevant and progressively responsible experience in accounting, budgeting, or position closely aligned with the duties, responsibilities and skills required. Additional education may substitute for some experience.

This is a full-time position with full benefits, paid hourly (overtime-eligible) at Grade 18 ranging from \$23.19 to \$29.22 per hour. Some overtime may be authorized and/or required. The full job description and employment application can be found online at [www.wrangell.com/jobs](http://www.wrangell.com/jobs).

To be considered, submit a cover letter, résumé, and completed employment application via e-mail to [clerk@wrangell.com](mailto:clerk@wrangell.com), or in person to City Hall, 205 Brueger St., Wrangell, AK 99929. **Applications will be accepted until end of business September 29, 2017.**

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

Lisa Von Barga  
 Wrangell Borough Manager

**Publish: September 21 and 28, 2017**

## **The Public School Board:**

### **David Wilson,**

*running for unexpired two-year term on the Public School Board*

**Age:** 63

**About:** "I've lived here in Wrangell almost 20 years. I come from the Chicago area originally. We moved to Alaska 26, 27 years ago, and have loved it up here. I think a lot of the community, a lot of the people, a lot of the youth of the community. I have served on other boards here in town before, I've been a baseball coach, a basketball coach, and coached all levels of little league – major leagues on up to senior years – and some high school basketball. I love giving to the youth, I love being involved with them, and I love seeing them develop and grow. My coaching days are limited now, with some of my limitations, but I feel like I can give to the community through serving – the school board is one."

**Why would you like to serve on the School Board?** "Well I would like to give back to the community by serving on the school board, to do whatever I can to help the youth and the school system. Like I say, I have a vested interest in the school system here. I've seen my family graduate, I now have grandchildren in the community, and I've seen some things in



David Wilson

the last few years that perplex me, and I'd like to see what I can do to help, and lend whatever I can to help correct some of the things that are happening."

*Wilson is one of three candidates running for this seat on the school board. Candidate profiles for fellow candidates Caitlin Cardinell and incumbent Robert Rang ran in the preceding two issues of the Sentinel.*

## **The City and Borough Assembly:**

**Stephen Prysunka, incumbent, running for second three-year term on the City and Borough Assembly**

**Age:** 54

**About:** "We've lived in the community for 20 years now. We love living in Wrangell, have raised our kids here, and now they're all off to university."

**Why do you wish to serve another term on the assembly?** "I really enjoy being on the assembly, and I enjoy working with other assembly members. I'm very excited about our new city manager and where I see her helping to guide the community to go. But I see a lot of financial challenges coming up, and it's going to be imperative that we



Stephen Prysunka

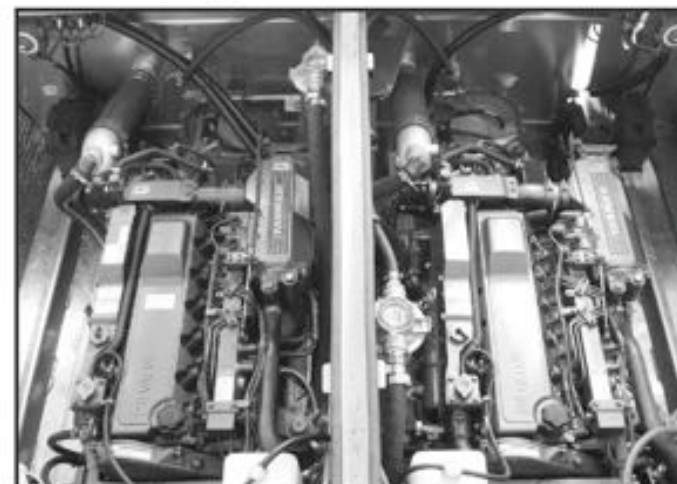
approach these challenges with our eyes wide open and looking

at creative solutions to make sure we don't need to increase fees and taxes and all of that in order to keep the services that we have. So I would like to stay on to provide consistency and support to our city manager, and at the same time help us to create some bridges over some financial, troubling waters."

*Prysunka is one of two candidates running for two open positions on the Borough Assembly. Candidate Rolland C. Howell was unfortunately unavailable for interview prior to the election on Oct. 3.*

## **FOR SALE**

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Equipment new: \$91,000.

Selling for \$59,000.

**Contact Ron at  
(907) 772-9393 or 518-1180**



# Classified/Legals

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

The Canvass Board will meet on **Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 12:30 p.m., in the Borough Assembly Chambers** to canvass the results of the Regular Election held on October 3, 2017.

Kim Lane,  
MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of  
Wrangell, Alaska  
Publish: September 21 & 28, 2017

**BOATS AND MARINE IFQ'S AND FISHING PERMITS,** Alaskan Quota and Permits, 907-772-4000, 1-888-347-4437.....tfn1-3b15

**JOBS WRANGELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS ACCEPTING** applications for the following position for the remainder of the 2017-2018 School Year: Elementary Teacher: This is a full-time teaching position in the primary grades. The position requires an Alaska Type A

teaching certificate with appropriate endorsements in Elementary Education. For more information and a detailed job description, please contact the District Office at 907-874-2347. Position: 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.....1x9-28b86

**FOR RENT**  
2 BEDROOM APARTMENT UNFURNISHED, has washer

dryer hook up, electric stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Call 907-305-0619.....tfn7-13b20

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**SERVICES**  
THE WRANGELL SENTINEL: See us for black and white and color copies up to 11x17. 205 Front St. 874-2301.....tfnhd

FAX SERVICES at the Sentinel. Send or receive faxes. Fax number 874-2303.....tfnhd

## CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL CITY HALL - CHANGE OF HOURS

Beginning on **October 2, 2017**, and continuing until further notice, the City Hall hours will modified as follows:

Monday – Friday:  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kim Lane,  
MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of  
Wrangell, Alaska  
Publish: September 21 & 28, 2017

# SAMPLE BALLOT

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER:** To vote for the issue/candidate of your choice, fill in the oval next to the issue/candidate you want to vote for. Place your ballot inside the secrecy sleeve and then take your ballot to the ballot box.

If you make a mistake while voting, return the ballot to the election official for a new one. A vote which has been erased or changed will not be counted.

---

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL  
OFFICIAL BALLOT  
REGULAR ELECTION  
OCTOBER 3, 2017

Completely fill in the oval opposite the name of each candidate for which you wish to vote as shown:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER THREE YEAR TERM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO</p> <p>Roland C. Howell <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Stephen Prysunka <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR PORT COMMISSION THREE YEAR TERM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE</p> <p>Mark Mitchell <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR SCHOOL BOARD THREE YEAR TERM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE</p> <p>Jessica Rooney <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR SCHOOL BOARD UNEXPIRED TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2019</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE</p> <p>Caitlin Cardinell <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Robert Rang <input type="radio"/></p> <p>David Wilson <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR HOSPITAL BOARD FOUR YEAR TERM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN TWO</p> <p>Jennifer Bates <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Rebecca Christensen <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR HOSPITAL BOARD UNEXPIRED TERM UNTIL OCTOBER 2019</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE</p>

Published: September 14, 21 and 28, 2017

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**SAT • 7 pm**  
**SUN • 7 pm**

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\$7 for 13 & up  
Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop  
Check out more movie info at [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

For the upcoming City and Borough of Wrangell Regular Election of October 3, 2017, the following ordinance applies:

**2.16.030 Write-in Candidates and Write-in Votes.** Individuals who fail to file a declaration of candidacy but wish to run for office as a write-in candidate, must file with the borough clerk, a letter of intent no later than five p.m. on the Friday preceding the election (September 29, 2017) in which the candidate plans to participate.

Write-in votes cast for individuals **who do not file a letter of intent will not be counted.**

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must, in space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the letter of intent filed with the borough clerk. In addition, the voter must mark the oval opposite the candidate's name.

Stickers shall not be used.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
Publish: August 31, September 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2017

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA  
NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 3rd day of October 2017, there will be held in the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska, a Regular Election for the purpose of voting on the following City Offices.

Assembly:	Two – (3 Year Terms)
Port Commission:	One – (3 Year Term)
School Board:	One – (3 Year Term)
School Board:	One – (2 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 2019)
Hospital Board:	Two – (4 Year Terms)
Hospital Board:	One – (2 Year <i>Unexpired</i> Term until 2019)

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
Publish: August 24, 31, September 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2017

**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 Wednesday, September 13, 2017.

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

Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked: **"Surplus Property Sale"**

The City and Borough of Wrangell does not offer any warranty or guarantee on the condition of any equipment. Some items will require a Waiver and Release of Liability.

All bids must be received on or before:  
**Thursday, September 28, 2017 by 2:00 p.m.**  
at the Office of the Borough Clerk. Payment must be received from bidder within one week of bid opening.

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk  
City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska  
Publish: September 21 and 28, 2017



# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## October is National Seafood Month recognizing one of America's oldest industries

October is National Seafood Month, a distinction bestowed by Congress 30 years ago to recognize one of America's oldest industries.

Alaska merits special recognition because its fishing fleets provide 65 percent of the nation's wild caught seafood, more than all of the other states combined.

Ironically, there is little to no fanfare in Alaska during seafood month. My hometown of Kodiak, for example, (the #2 U.S. fishing port) never gives a shout out to our fishermen and processors, nor do local restaurants celebrate seafood on their October menus in any way. That's not the case elsewhere in the USA.

To launch Seafood Month, 250 fans across the nation will be holding house parties on September 30 to sing seafood's praises, swap and compete with recipes and, ultimately, get more Americans to pledge to eat more fish. (Join the conversation at #seafoodparty)

The house parties are sponsored by the non-profit Seafood Nutrition Partnership (SNP) which has a single goal: to inspire Americans to include more seafood into their diets for improved health. The SNP operates grassroots programs in large cities in Alabama, West Virginia, Indiana, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Ohio and Georgia.

The group also will hold a series of Heart Healthy Summits during October in five states, sponsored in part by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

"We are celebrating the third year of our public health campaign by coming together with the communities for a half-day session to learn about the progress that's been made in each city, and how we can continue the movement of helping everyone understand the need to eat sustainable seafood," said Linda Cornish, SNP president.

The message is getting across, based on annual tracking in the target cities.

"We're happy to share that one in three Americans over the past year has intentionally added seafood to their diets. That's not

to say they are eating it twice a week, but they've added more seafood to make sure they are eating healthier," Cornish said.

U.S. dietary guidelines recommend eating seafood two times a week, a suggestion followed by only one in 10 Americans. The Partnership's Healthy Heart Pledge program has made a dent in that dismal statistic.

Cornish said 60 percent of the survey respondents signed a pledge to eat seafood twice a week, bringing the total to over 38,000 so far.

"We work in mostly landlocked states and there has been the perception that they don't have access to good seafood," Cornish said. "We've helped to dispel that notion with the facts that there are all kinds of seafood available from Alaska and around the country where it's fresh frozen, easy to prepare and affordable."

The SNP also is taking its 'eat more fish' messages directly to America's kids during seafood month.

For the first time, districts in West Virginia and Oklahoma will feature seafood on their school lunch menus in October. "They are very excited to introduce seafood to their students," Cornish said. "It takes time to build this awareness and also for them to figure out how they can incorporate seafood into their menus more. But it's working."

The SNP launched a program and curriculum at the start of this school year that provides classroom sized aquaponics systems for elementary and middle school grades.

"It helps them understand how fish is grown and can co-exist with growing vegetables, so they can see it all living and breathing right in their classrooms," Cornish said. Learn more at [www.seafoodnutrition.org/](http://www.seafoodnutrition.org/)

**Fish bill lives** - A proposed ballot initiative that aimed to modernize Alaska's 60 year old salmon habitat protection and permitting laws was denied (and quickly appealed) last week, but the move remains very much alive in the Alaska legislature.

Representative Louise Stutes (R-Kodiak) will be holding meeting around the state to build support for the Wild Salmon Legacy Act (House Bill 199) that she introduced last session.

The draft bill says that it "protects the interest of subsistence, commercial, sport and personal use fishermen while creating efficiency and predictability in permitting and enforcement."

"My intent is not to put any resource out of business. We all are trying to make a living here," Stutes said in a phone interview. "My intent is to ensure that our fisheries continue in a sustainable manner with their waterways maintained in a clean, safe way."

The Legacy Act presumes that all state waterways are anadromous, meaning paths for salmon returning from the ocean to spawn in their home streams. It also specifies that the burden of proving a stream is not anadromous would fall to a developer.

Stutes believes that will save the state millions of dollars.

"Let's face it. I think we have all come to the conclusion that we cannot continue to depend on oil as our mainstream income. We have to diversify. And in the meantime, we all have to tighten our belts. The state cannot continue to pay these huge costs," she said. Under current law, each water body must be sampled and added to the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC). The catalog serves as the trigger for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's authority to manage fisheries habitat and issue permits. Currently, less than 50 percent of Alaska's anadromous waters are now listed in the AWC.

"Right there it's going to save millions in labor just by saying that we will consider all waterways and streams are anadromous unless proven otherwise," she said.

Rep. Stutes, who also chairs the legislative Fisheries Committee, will be traveling to Fairbanks, the MatSu and Bethel in advance of next year's session when many hearings will be held on the salmon bill.

**Crab knuckle biter** - Bering Sea crabbers have gotten a first glimpse at how their upcoming fisheries may - or may not - play out. Crab managers and stakeholders met in Seattle last week to review results of the summer trawl surveys for snow crab, Bairdi Tanners and red king crab at Bristol Bay. Overall, the slow growing stocks appear to be declining, but there were several encouraging signs.

For snow crab, Alaska's largest crab fishery, the abundance of mature males, the only crabs allowed to be retained for sale, was at its lowest on record. The number of young male snow crab recruits, however, was the highest since 1995. The numbers of mature and young female snow crabs also showed big increases.

Industry watchers say chances look hopeful that there will be a snow crab fishery, similar to or smaller than last season's 21.5 million pound catch.

For Bairdi Tanners, snow crab's bigger cousin, the number of mature males dropped in both eastern and western fishing districts. The number of female crabs increased significantly, and young male Tanners also appear to be on an upswing.

The Tanner crab fishery was called off last year, following a 20 million pound catch the previous season. An opener this fall is still anyone's guess.

Likewise, a red king crab fishery at Bristol Bay is also an unknown. The fishery produced 7.6 million pounds last year.

The summer survey showed the number of adult males at the lowest point in five years. Young male crabs, however, showed a 10 percent hike and the number of young females doubled, boding well for the future.

Crabbers have their fingers crossed they will get to drop pots in all three fisheries, said Tyson Fick, executive director of the trade group Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers.

"You have to look at these across multiple years," Fick said. "Hopefully, the trends we've seen in this year's survey will continue and that will allow for a little bump up in harvests."

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## Wolves' cross-country season concludes in K-town

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

The high school cross-country team wrapped up its season at Region V last weekend, running five kilometers against a dozen other schools from around the region.

The concluding meet was held in Ketchikan last Saturday, fol-

lowing a meet in Sitka the previous weekend. Among Division II teams, Wrangell's girls finished up in fifth place overall with 115 points. The Lady Wolves powered through several injuries, coach Jenn Davies explained, and seven girls were able to make the meet.

Skylar Larrabee finished her

race in 24<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 24:18, about eight seconds behind the sophomore's personal best set in Sitka. Shortly behind her, freshman Mercy Mikkelsen and sophomore Jing O'Brien finished in 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> places within a second of each other. The time of 24:53 was Mikkelsen's personal best, and O'Brien's time was a season-best run.

Helen Decker came in at a time of 26:05, finishing in 37<sup>th</sup> place. Kira Torvend was the next behind at 26:12, with classmate Robyn Booker in 40<sup>th</sup> at 26:19. Adriana Larrabee concluded her last run for the year in 28:29.

"They ran their hardest, and a lot of them hit their personal records," Davies commented.

With five of its runners taking the top five spots in the race, Petersburg finished Region V with a perfect score of 15. Scores in cross-country are tallied by adding the placements of a team's top five athletes, making theirs the lowest possible score. Front-running Petersburg freshman Maia Cowan completed the

race in 20:13, her personal best for her starting season.

Also hampered by injuries late in the season, Wrangell's boys were two runners short of a talliable roster. Three were in Ketchikan to participate, with senior JD Barratt concluding in 36<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 19:42. Jonah Comstock finished in 46<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 20:30, a personal best. In 53<sup>rd</sup>, Kellan Eagle also finished with a personal best time of 21:23.

"They powered through it," said Davies.

Sitka's boys very nearly had as good a score as the Lady Vikings, with four of its runners taking top placements. Junior classman Joe Pate's first-place time of 16:44 was a season best, coming just under four seconds short of a personal best set in Wrangell during the 2015 season.

Division leaders are set to head to the State Championships in Anchorage this weekend, held at Bartlett High School.



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WRANGELL SENTINEL

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wrgsent@gmail.com



# Wrestling team starts season with service project

By DAN RUDY  
Sentinel writer

Wolves Wrestling began its impending season with a community service project, cleaning up the firing range off of Spur Road.

“It was really a mess,” recalled Jeff Rooney, the team’s coach.

An assortment of junk and debris had accumulated around the site, including small plastics, glass, and “rotten stuff from the last 15 years,” added Jack Carney, assistant coach.

As in past years, Wrangell High School is encouraging its students to take an active role in bettering the community. One way to do this is through the various extracurricular programs, which are being encouraged to arrange at least one service project as a way of saying ‘thank you’ to the town for its support.

“They changed up our community service this year, and wanted it to be more of a team thing than an individual effort,” Rooney explained.

“It won’t be our only thing, but that’s the official one,” Carney added.

With a lot of avid hunters in the program, cleaning up the range seemed like a good fit for a project. Before getting into their busy raining schedule, after school on Monday the group headed out the road to get to work.

“We took our whole team and did a quick workout out there,” said Rooney. After a weight session and a quick run, wrestlers grabbed bags and began collecting debris.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF ROONEY

Stephen Larsen, JD Barratt, Leif Larsson, Hanna Brown, Jonah Comstock, Ryan Rooney, Ian Jenson, Hunter Wiederspohn and Dillon Rooney take a moment to celebrate after a workout and clean-up at the Spur Road shooting range.

“We filled up my truck pretty good,” their coach said.

The team’s first bout will be here at home, with an invitational scheduled for October 13 and 14. The high school could potentially field 11 or 12 wrestlers, though the roster is still being assembled this week. Last year the team graduated four of its members, but Rooney said the rest appeared to be on board again for another season.

“We’re always optimistic. There’s a great group of kids,” Rooney commented. “We’re

really looking at some good finishers again this year.”

The program is looking for new officials as well, with a training clinic still being arranged.

Rooney said the goal is to have at least two referees for each host community this season. Those interested in assisting can contact activities director Trisa Rooney at the high school by calling 874-3395.

In addition to public service, Wrangell High School this year has been encouraging

its various programs to arrange fundraisers for themselves to help defray costs for travel and other necessities. By now a local tradition, Rooney said the wrestling team will be holding its annual halibut dinner and silent auction next weekend, October 7. Those interested in attending need only look out for wrestlers plying tickets around town, or can contact Carney at the school by calling 874-2525.

“They should be out in force,” Rooney said.

# No write-ins for upcoming election, polls open October 3

Polling booths and complimentary cookies are being prepared for next week’s municipal elections, set for October 3 inside the Nolan Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee voting has already been underway, and early ballots can still be submitted inside City Hall until 5 p.m. Monday.

Most of the seats up for election have at least one candidate, with a two-year position on the Wrangell Medical Center Board attracting no interest. In the event it passes the election cycle unfilled, clerk Kim Lane explained the city will advertise for the position until an appointment is made.

Only one position is in con-

tention, with three candidates vying for a two-year unexpired seat on the Public School Board. Incumbent Robert Rang is seeking a new term, running against residents Caitlin Cardinell and David Wilson. A full three-year seat has one candidate running unopposed, Jessica Rooney.

Assembly member Mark Mitchell has opted not to run for another term, instead putting himself up for a three-year term on the Port Commission. Fellow member Stephen Prysunka will be running unopposed for reelection, and resident Rolland Howell has put himself up for consideration to replace Mitchell on the coun-

cil. Two additional, four-year

seats on the hospital board have two candidates running for them

unopposed, Jennifer Bates and Rebecca Christensen.

# LTC programs snag federal awards

Long-term care programs for a pair of regional hospitals have been recognized for their quality of care.

Federal organization Mountain-Pacific Quality Health named the LTC programs at Petersburg Medical Center and Wrangell Medical Center as two of its four recipients for the “Quality Achievement Award,” the other two being in Fairbanks and Ketchikan.

Facilities considered for the recognition participated in a nationwide Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services collaboration, which scores programs based on their practices, resident satisfaction and complete reduction of healthcare-acquired conditions. For their awards, PMC and WMC each received at least one 7.0 percent or less composite score during the 2016 calendar year.

WMC’s program also received its second five-star rating in two years on the Center for Medicare Service’s Nursing Home Compare website. The government website gave the LTC program an overall five-star rating, reflecting perfect scores in staffing and quality measures, and a three-star health inspection rating.

“Not only am I proud of the great work that is being done within these walls, but the surveyors have recognized it again as well,” commented WMC head Robert Rang in an emailed release. He congratulated staff on a job well done.

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