



Wrangell, Alaska  
January 23, 2020

# WRANGELL SENTINEL

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## Fish and Game Advisory Committee elect officers, review moose harvest, discuss potential elk hunt

By CALEB VIERKANT  
*Sentinel writer*

Wrangell's advisory committee for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game met last Thursday evening, Jan. 16, to cover several important topics. The first of which was the election of new officers to lead the committee. The committee is made up of six seats, along with two alternates. Bruce Eagle, the vice-chair of the committee, had opted to not seek re-election. Nominations for the seats, otherwise, were completely open. Many people were nominated, with Wrangell resident Mike Lockabeey nominating all of the current committee members as a group, at least those of whom wanted to serve on the committee again. Other nominations included Susan Wis Eagle, Jordan Bunes, and Janice Churchill. Votes were tallied, and the new makeup of the advisory committee was decided as follows:

Chris Guggenbickler, Chair, Tom Sims, Vice-Chair, Dave Brown, Secretary, Jason Rooney, Otto Florchut, and Jordan Bunes. Janice Churchill and Brett Stillwaugh were appointed to the committee, as well, by Guggenbickler.

Once elections were out of the way, guest speaker Frank Robbins was invited to give a presentation on the recent moose harvest in the area. Robbins is the area biologist for Petersburg, and his presentation covered the moose hunt in RM038, an area that extends east to west from the mainland to Kuiu Island, and north to south from Point Hobart to Meyers Chuck. This region covers three hunting "units," Unit 3, Unit 1B, and a portion of Unit 1C in the north. According to Robbins, 127 moose were harvested in the 2019 season, the highest in the past 24 years. The previous record was in 2017,



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/WRANGELL SENTINEL

### Wrestlers recognized for exceptional season

During the previous assembly meeting, on Jan. 14, the Wrangell Wolves wrestling team was recognized. Among several accomplishments this season, the Wolves claimed the 2A regional championship for the sixth time in their school's history, and also achieved the regional team sportsmanship award. Eleven members of the team qualified for the state tournament this year, and six of them came home with placement medals. During the season, several wrestlers earned individual recognition: Liana Carney, Ryan Rooney, Jamie Early, and Hunter Wiederspohn won individual titles in regionals. Hunter and Rowen Wiederspohn earned sportsmanship awards in regionals, as

well, while Carney earned the outstanding female wrestler award. Carny also earned distinction in the state tournament, becoming the first female wrestler in Wrangell's history to win an individual state title.

Pictured here is the Wolves wrestling team (left to right, back row): Leroy Wynne, Hunter Wiederspohn, Jake Eastaugh, Jamie Early, Steven Bales, Rowen Wiederspohn, Ethan Blatchley, (middle row): Logan Ritchie, Devlyn Campbell, Liana Carney, Jacen Hay, Elias Decker, Jonah Comstock, James Shilts, Randy Churchill III, (front row): Ryan Rooney, and CeAirra Glaser.

with 119 moose harvested. The majority of these moose were killed in Unit 3, mainly consisting of Wrangell, Mitkof, Kupreanof, and Kuiu islands. Over 90 moose were harvested in this unit, Robbins reported, continuing an upward trend of harvest numbers. Over 30 moose were harvested in Unit 1B, largely consisting of mainland area. This number is higher than last season, about 25, but this is continuing a general flatline trend for

harvest numbers. Unit 1C numbers were very low, less than 10 moose harvested, but Robbins said that this is the norm.

Another interesting bit of information from Robbins' report is that there were only 12 illegal moose killed this season, or about 9.5 percent of the harvest. This is following along trends for the past five seasons, according to Robbins, with illegal moose harvests generally staying around the 10 percent range.

"I gotta tell you, to be honest with you, this isn't bad," Robbins said. "There's registration hunts in other parts of the state where they have 40 or 50 percent illegal harvests."

In Alaska any illegal moose that are killed are confiscated and donated to charities and those in need. Guggenbickler as on the committee that helped decide how best to divide up the confiscated moose meat this past season. In an email to the Sentinel in December, he said that Wrangell ended up with 136 packages of roasts, and 296 packages of moose meat burger to divvy up among the community. Guggenbickler said that they made up a list of about 120 people to deliver meat to, as well as several organizations around Wrangell.

"We set some moose aside for Head Start, we set some meat aside for the community potluck, we set 8 or 10 roasts aside for a hat dedication that the natives are going to put on this spring," Guggenbickler said, naming some of the groups that received moose meat. "We ended up giving two packages of burger and a roast to about 120, for the most part, elderly or disabled people

in this community."

Another big topic during the committee meeting was the potential to reopen Zarembo Island for an elk hunt. Elk hunting has not been allowed on Zarembo Island since 2005, according to Robbins. The general consensus among the committee, and those attending the meeting, was that there were plenty of elk on the island and they wanted to hunt them. Robbins said that the main issue with getting an elk hunt reopened was the lack of information about the island's elk population. He flew over the island a few days ago, and said he managed to count about 23 elk. Many other people attending the meeting attested to seeing elk on the island, as well, but the question remained of how many there actually were. Robbins added that to have an elk harvest, it had to be sustainable. Before anything could be done, they needed as much information on the elk population and their habitat as they could gather. This could involve flying more surveys over the island, setting up cameras, and putting tracking collars on some of the elk.

After the meeting, Guggen-

Continued on page 8

### AP&T to cease printing phone books

By BRIAN VARELA  
*Sentinel writer*

Due to the rising costs of production and numerous electronic options, Alaska Power & Telephone will stop printing phone books after the 2020 edition that is coming out in March.

According to Mary Jo Quandt, vice president of customer operations with AP&T, state legislation in 2015 removed the requirement for telecom companies to produce physical phonebooks. AP&T has still been printing phone books over the past five years but now production costs are just getting too steep.

"Many telecom companies, which now includes AP&T, have opted out of producing phonebooks," wrote Quandt in an email.

She said there are some independent companies that still produce phone books, and AP&T

would be supportive if one of those companies began producing a physical phone book in one of its areas.

Over the next couple of years, Quandt said AP&T will continue to research options to help its customers adjust to the change. The company will be printing a hefty reserve of the 2020 phonebook that will be distributed to local offices throughout the state to allow customers to pick one up in the years to come.

All AP&T customers will also receive a copy of the 2020 phone book in the mail in March. The company suggests customers use an old phone book, search the internet or dial 411 when looking up phone numbers in the future.

"Hopefully, everyone will read the information in the book regarding this change and hold on to their 2020 book," said Quandt.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**Thursday, January 23:** Anniversary: Steve & Terri Hanson, Jean Petticrew, Madison Blackburn, Shawna Bunes, Chris Ottesen, Nicole Feuerhelm. **Friday, January 24:** Keith Appleman. **Saturday, January 25:** Eric James, Erin Melton Anderson, Ruth Stough, Shannon Barnett. **Sunday, January 26:** Savannah Smith, McKenna Campbell, Ryker Shilts, Gina Simonek. **Monday, January 27:** Dacee Gustafson, Mary Shilts, Devyn Johnson. **Anniversary:** Wayne & Marty Kaer. **Tuesday, January 28:** Rebecca Mork. **Anniversary:** Ed & Minnie Kalkins. **Wednesday, January 29:** McKinley Kellogg, Dawn Mill, Ronan Rooney, Colten Speers, Jeff Valarma, Freddie. **Thursday, January 30:** Audra Netro.

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

## Senior Center Menu

**Thursday, January 23**

Pocupine Meatballs, Vegetables, Pear Raisin Salad, Pasta

**Friday, January 24**

Oven Fried Cod, Peas, Sunshine Salad, Rice

**Monday, January 27**

Hungarian Goulash, Corn Broccoli, Casserole, Mix Salad and Rolls

**Tuesday, January 28**

Turkey Sandwich, Split Pea Soup, Potato Salad

**Wednesday, January 29**

Crispy Chicken, Sweet Potatoes and Apples, Danish Salad, Corn Bread

**Thursday, January 30**

French Dip Sandwich, Peas, Mix Salad, Roll

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

**Friday, January 24**  
Matanuska, 7:45 p.m.  
**Friday, January 31**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 7**  
Matanuska, 6:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 14**  
Matanuska, 4:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 21**  
Matanuska, 6:45 p.m.  
**Friday, February 28**  
Matanuska, 4:15 p.m.

#### Southbound

**Monday, January 27**  
Matanuska, 07:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 3**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 10**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 17**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, February 24**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.  
**Monday, March 2**  
Matanuska, 6:30 a.m.

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



## TIDES

January 23-January 31

#### High Tides

#### Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
January 23	11:41	17.6	.....	.....	05:31	3.5	06:17	-2.1
January 24	12:43	15.0	12:25	17.6	06:15	3.2	06:55	-2.1
January 25	01:23	15.3	01:05	17.3	06:53	3.1	07:29	-1.9
January 26	02:00	15.3	01:42	16.9	07:29	3.1	08:00	-1.4
January 27	02:33	15.1	02:16	16.2	08:04	3.1	08:31	-0.7
January 28	03:05	14.9	02:50	15.4	08:39	3.3	09:01	0.1
January 29	03:36	14.6	03:25	14.4	09:16	3.4	09:33	1.0
January 30	04:08	14.3	04:03	13.3	09:57	3.6	10:08	2.0
January 31	04:43	14.0	04:49	12.2	10:43	3.7	10:47	3.0

## Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Monday, January 20

**Public Hearing re: Report Card to the Public:** EES Room 101, 7pm

**Regular School Board Meeting:** EES Room 101, 7 pm

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.

**January 22, 1920**  
Lester D. Henderson, Commissioner of Education for Alaska, arrived on the City of Seattle Saturday. He had expected to reach Wrangell Friday morning and spend the day visiting the local school, but bad weather caused the boat to be a day late. However, it was possible for Mr. Henderson to visit the school Monday morning before leaving on the Jefferson. On Saturday night Mr. Henderson attended a meeting of the school board. He expressed himself to the Sentinel reporter as pleased over the organization of a Parent-Teachers' association in Wrangell.

**January 19, 1945**  
The annual "March of Dimes" campaign to raise funds for the fight against infantile paralysis opened on January 14 and will continue until the end of the month, according to an announcement made today by Mrs. Frank Barnes, local chairman. Jars will be placed in business houses around town, and shoppers are asked to remember to contribute. President Roosevelt is national chairman and started the campaign soon after his first inauguration. The drive will culminate in a "President's Ball" in many cities in the states and in Alaska. Chet Steear and E.R. Sharnbroich will assist Mrs. Barnes in the drive here.

**January 22, 1970**  
A delivery truck ran into a house Saturday afternoon. The rare occurrence took place about 5 p.m. when the brakes on the truck failed while backing down an icy driveway. The panel truck belonged to City Market and was driven by Pat Rooney, an employee of the store. He, Ben Curtis and Chet Powell, age 11, were making deliveries to customers and were about to bring groceries to the Ferguson residence. Rooney said that his brakes failed as he was backing down the driveway. The back end of the truck hit the house where

double doors opened into the game room. The truck smashed open the doors and caught a panel of the outside wall bending it inward. Mrs. Ferguson said the rear quarter of the truck was inside the house before the truck came to rest. Ferguson estimated damage at \$600. The panel truck suffered minimal damage.

**January 19, 1995**  
Tent City Days will receive an added boost when Wrangell's American Legion, Merlin Elmer Palmer Post No. 6, is host to the 40th annual Southeast District Convention Feb. 2-4. Legionnaires, as well as members of American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion, from throughout the area will be on

hand for meetings, election of officers and entertainment.



### Star Wars : The Rise of Skywalker

Rated PG-13, 2hr 22min  
Action, Adventure, Fantasy

**Showtimes:**  
**TWO WEEKENDS**  
Fri. Jan. 24 - Sun. Jan. 26  
Fri. Jan. 31 - Sun. Feb. 02  
@ 7pm



## Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Jan. 13	20	10
Jan. 14	16	10
Jan. 15	18	8
Jan. 16	20	17
Jan. 17	24	17
Jan. 18	38	24
Jan. 19	37	28
Jan. 20	34	29



## Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jan. 23	8:00a	4:00p	08:00h
Jan. 24	7:58a	4:02p	08:04h
Jan. 25	7:57a	4:04p	08:07h
Jan. 26	7:55a	4:06p	08:11h
Jan. 27	7:53a	4:09p	08:16h
Jan. 28	7:52a	4:11p	08:19h
Jan. 29	7:50a	4:13p	08:23h
Jan. 30	7:48a	4:15p	08:27h

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# Court report

**Nov. 25:** Andrea Marrero pled guilty to a charge of theft. Another charge of unauthorized use of an access device was dismissed by prosecution. She was sentenced to 60 days imprisonment, with 60 suspended. She was also ordered to make restitution, write a letter of apology, and to pay a \$100 police training surcharge. She will be on probation for one year.

Andrew Twyford pled guilty to driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. Another charge of violating conditions of release was dismissed by prosecution. He was sentenced to 60 days imprisonment, with 60 suspended. He was ordered to pay a \$50 initial jail surcharge and a \$100 police training surcharge. He will also be on probation for one year and is ordered not to drive unless licensed and insured.

Judge Kevin Miller signed an order to modify or revoke probation for Andrew Twyford. It is ordered that he serve a jail term of 15 days, and shall report to the Wrangell Police Department on

Jan. 7, 2020. He must also pay a previously suspended \$100 jail surcharge.

**Dec. 9:** Dylan Franks pled guilty to a charge of resisting/interfering with an arrest. Another charge of tampering with property was dismissed by prosecution. He was sentenced to 240 days imprisonment, with 210 suspended, and is ordered to participate in a SEARHC AICS treatment program. He was ordered to pay a \$100 police training surcharge and a \$50 initial jail surcharge. He will be on probation for two years.

**Dec. 14:** Alan Lee Cummings was arraigned on charges of unlawful contact and violating conditions of release. He was released on his own recognizance, with an electronic monitor. A trial call was scheduled for Jan. 21, 2020.

**Dec. 15:** Theodosia James was arraigned on charges of violating conditions of release and disorderly conduct. She was ordered to pay a \$250 performance bond and will be under PED supervision during the pretrial period.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Snowy weekend

Wrangell got some more snowfall over the weekend, along with slowly rising temperatures. According to weather reports, there will be mixed snow and sleet every day into next week. Pictured here is the nature trail, by Volunteer Park, on a sunny morning last Sunday.

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Further proceedings were scheduled for Dec. 17.

**Dec. 17:** Charges against Tangles Ray Hilton of assault, criminal trespass, and criminal mischief were dismissed by prosecution.

Theodosia James pled guilty of theft. Two additional charges of violating conditions of release were dismissed by prosecution. She was ordered to make restitution, to pay a \$100 police training surcharge, and a \$50 initial jail surcharge.

Charges against Theodosia James, of violating conditions of release and disorderly conduct, were dismissed as a result of a plea agreement.

Theodosia James pled guilty to a charge of misconduct involving a controlled substance. She was ordered to serve 60 days imprisonment, with 60 suspended. She was also ordered to pay a \$100 police training surcharge, a \$50 initial jail surcharge, and a \$100 suspended jail surcharge with \$100 suspended. She will be on probation until Dec. 16, 2020.

Judge Kevin Miller ordered that a pre-sentence report be prepared for Ismael Angel Morales, found guilty of vehicle theft. A sentencing hearing was scheduled for Jan. 31, 2020. The report will be due 10 days before sentencing.

A change of plea hearing was held for Theodosia James, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. The hearing will be continued on Dec. 31, 2019.

**Dec. 20:** A change of plea hearing was held for Valerie Nakamura, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license and driving in violation of license limitation. The hearing was scheduled to continue on Jan. 21, 2020.

**Dec. 31:** Solvay Gillen was arraigned on a charge of giving a false report of a crime occurring. The charge was dismissed by prosecution and the case was dismissed.

A change of plea hearing was held for Theodosia James, charged with driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended li-

cense. The hearing was scheduled to continue on Jan. 27, 2020.

A decree of dissolution was granted for Brian and Deanne Cooper.

**Jan. 7:** Robert Johnson was arraigned on a charge of driving with a cancelled/revoked/suspended license. He pled no contest, and was ordered to pay a fine of \$75 with a \$20 surcharge.

A trial was held for Kale Pastel, charged with a minor offense regarding a commercial fishing license. However, Pastel was listed as a missing person recently, presumed dead, and searches for him have been suspended. The court decided to enter a default judgment, followed by a separate order vacating said judgment.

**Jan. 10:** A bail hearing was held for Alan Cummings, charged with unlawful contact, violating conditions of release, and assault in the fourth degree. The hearing was scheduled to continue on Jan. 27.

**Jan. 14:** A further proceedings hearing was held for Richard Scott Phillips, charged with driving under the influence, failing to stop at the direction of an officer, and criminal mischief. A calendar call was scheduled for Jan. 21.

Theodosia James was arraigned on a charge of knowingly entering a premises licensed to sell alcohol while restricted from purchasing alcohol. A trial call was scheduled for March 17, and a jury trial for March 24.

Jerry Knapp was arraigned on a charge of improper use of registration/title/plates. He pled guilty to the charge, and was ordered to pay a \$100 surcharge and a fine of \$250. He will also be on probation for six months.

Andrea Marrero was arraigned on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident. A calendar call was scheduled for March 17, and a jury trial for March 24.

The court heard a request to modify a civil protective order in a case of Vanessa Aitken vs. Duke Aitken. The motion was withdrawn.



# Assembly opposes whale habitat proposal, considers plastic bag ban, approves “social fabric” resolution

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Borough Assembly met last week, Jan. 14, to discuss the potential establishment of critical habitat areas for humpback whales in Southeast Alaska.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association is proposing these habitat areas be set up all along the Pacific coastline, from Alaska to southern California. NOAA officials held a meeting in Petersburg on Jan. 6 to discuss this proposal. According to a report by the Sentinel’s sister-paper, the Petersburg Pilot, these habitat areas are meant to protect the feeding areas for three distinct groups of humpback whales. Lisa Manning, with NOAA, said in the Petersburg meeting that the establishment of these habitat areas, covering 175,000 square nautical miles, would only affect federal activities. A full summary of NOAA’s proposal can be found in the Jan. 9 edition of the Petersburg Pilot.

Wrangell resident Chris Guggenbickler was present at the Petersburg meeting, and shared his opinions on the proposal. A lot of people are concerned about how establishing these whale habitats could impact Southeast Alaska, he said, especially the fishing industry. He said that the whale populations NOAA is trying to protect do not really spend a lot of time in Southeast, and the populations that are struggling only spend a small percentage of their time in the area. The majority of humpbacks that feed in Southeast Alaska spend their

winters around Hawaii, Guggenbickler said. However, there is also a population segment of humpbacks that winter in Mexico. This population is struggling, with numbers around 2,800, he said, and of these only a small percentage feed in Southeast.

“They figure about 2 percent of that population feeds in Southeast Alaska,” Guggenbickler said. “So 2 percent of 2,800 animals that we’re trying to protect that could potentially be threatened are here in the midst of, competing for food with these Hawaiian whales that are doing just fine.”

On top of that, Guggenbickler added that many fishermen are concerned about the economic impact these habitat areas could have. While the habitats themselves would present a relatively low cost, according to Guggenbickler around \$800,000 over 10 years, additional costs could trickle down to those trying to work in the area. There could be potential costs for trying to drive a piling, for example, or laying a hydropower line through these habitats, and it would just add to the burden of cost and red tape for those trying to make a living in the region.

Mayor Steve Prysunka added to this concern, saying that these habitats could impact more than just fishermen in the region. The establishment of these whale habitats could make important work for the Wrangell community that much harder.

“Fisheries is one element of this,” he



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

## Meet Wrangell’s newest resident

**Braven Hunter Gillen was born on Jan. 7, 2:39 p.m., at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center. He was the first baby to be born in Ketchikan in 2020 and is also the newest addition to the Wrangell family. His birth weight was 9 pounds, 1 ounce.**

**According to the medical center’s press release, Braven’s family received a handmade cradle, made by Ketchikan Police Sergeant Bob Cheatam, as well as baby gifts donated by the medical center. They also received a baby box featuring native designs by Tsimshan artist Ken Decker.**

**Pictured here is Braven with his parents, Micaelah Larsen and Tyler Gillen. They arrived back in Wrangell via ferry last week.**

## Police report

**Jan. 13**  
Summons Service.  
Agency Assist: USFS.

**Jan. 14**  
Agency Assist: Hoonah.  
Unlocked Premise.  
Theft of Services.  
Citizen’s Assist: Vehicle unlock.  
Driving While License Suspended or Revoked.  
Citizen Assist.

**Jan. 15**  
Suspicious Calls to 911.  
Missing Dog.  
Extra Patrols.  
MVA:Hit and Run.  
Agency Assist: Practice Drill FD.  
Agency Assist: Hospital.

**Jan. 16**  
Agency Assist: USFS verbal warning given for parking vehicles on USFS property.

**Jan. 17**  
Dog at Large.  
Traffic stop citation issued to Rudolph Briskar, age 56, for Expired Registration.  
Dog at Large.  
Criminal Mischief.  
Agency Assist: AICS/Mental Health.  
Agency Assist: USFS.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for

faulty equipment.  
Agency Assist: Welfare check.  
Agency Assist: USFS.  
Animal Complaint.  
MVA/DUI: Caleb Padgett, age 21, charged with DUI.

**Jan. 18**  
Citizen Assist.  
Citizen Assist: Broken water pipe.  
Agency Assist: Public works.  
Warrant Charge: James Vandebunte, age 57, charged with theft in the 3rd.  
Traffic Hazard.  
Citizen Assist: Unlock Vehicle.  
Agency Assist.  
Agency Assist: Alarm.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.  
Noise Complaint.  
Warrant Charge: Anthony Guggenbickler, age 23, charged with failure to report to jail.

**Jan. 19**  
Agency Assist: Alarm.  
Suspicious Circumstance.  
Damaged Property.  
Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.  
Extra Patrols.

During this reporting period, there were 5 EMS calls.

said. “There is an industrial component that is almost immeasurable.”

After some minor discussion amongst themselves, the assembly decided to approve a formal stance opposing the establishment of these humpback whale habitats. A draft of a letter outlining the assembly’s stance, attached to the meeting’s agenda packet, states that the economic lifeblood of Southeast Alaska is tightly tied to the ocean, and urges officials to take a “common sense” approach to the proposal without any unnecessary regulatory burden on Southeast Alaskan communities.

Another topic brought up during the meeting, by Assembly Member Julie Decker, was a potential ban on plastic bags in Wrangell. Plastic pollution in the ocean is a serious issue, she said, and plastic bags make up a lot of it. The problem with plastic bags, she said, is that recycling plants do not accept plastic bags because they gum up their machines. With the ocean being so important to Southeast Alaska, Decker wanted the assembly to begin considering a plastic bag ban. Several other communities across the state have already implemented plastic bag bans of their own, such as Anchorage and Unalaska.

“I would like to consider looking at what other communities in Alaska have done, there’s about eight or ten of them, that have either implemented or are working on implementing a single-use plastic bag ban in their communities,” Decker said.

The assembly agreed that this was

worth looking into, and decided to begin researching a potential bag ban. If the assembly decides it is worth going forward, Decker said she would like the item to be put on a ballot for the voters to decide on.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved of a resolution in support of community partnerships to strengthen Wrangell’s “social fabric.” According to the meeting’s agenda packet, the Wrangell School District approached the borough back in December, concerned about students struggling with their mental health for various reasons. In response, the borough developed a calendar of activities for people to enjoy over the holiday break. A high turnout to these events highlighted the need for the Wrangell community to come together even more. They adopted this resolution to indicate their support for helping the school district, and other community stakeholders, in further collaboration to strengthen Wrangell’s “social fabric.”

“I think about what was pulled off in basically a week ... It was amazing how people came together. That’s Wrangell, it really is.” Prysunka said. “I agree that we need to open this wide open.”

Among other topics covered in the meeting, the assembly approved a motion to join the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, approved the purchase of a dump truck at no more than \$80,000, and approved the use of maintenance funding by the school district for brick work repairs at the cost of \$9,500.

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### Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers ..... Ron & Anne Loesch  
News Editors..... Caleb Vierkant  
..... Brian Varela  
Front Office .....Trisha Schwartz  
Production .....Ola Richards

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# Parks and Rec Committee review winter activities, discuss HOP Project

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee met last week, Jan. 15, to discuss the recent series of winter activities, as well as to continue planning for the upcoming Helping Our Parks Project. Over winter break, the city and other community organizations came together to put on a series of events to give Wrangell youth stuff to do while school was not in session. According to Committee Member Haig Demerjian, the events were quite successful.

"I was just reading the director's report, there, and it sounds like the youth activities

were a real smashing success," Demerjian said. "There were 560 participants or something?"

"Not 550 different people but 550, sorry 560, acts of participation," Parks and Recreation Director Kate Thomas clarified. "I would say that only includes the efforts that were organized, or at least managed by parks and rec in the media release. That doesn't include things like the Legion Christmas party, any bazaars that happened at the Nolan Center, or even the numbers for the Nolan Center's regularly scheduled movie 'Frozen'. I'm sure that there were other events facilitated in

town during that time. If you counted the Nolan Center's regular hours, the school, or the library's regular hours, I'm sure that we're upwards of 1,000 acts of participation."

During the meeting, the committee also talked about the upcoming Helping Our Parks Project. The HOP Project is an annual tradition for the parks and rec department, bringing together community volunteers each spring to renovate and clean up one of Wrangell's parks. Last year, the third annual HOP Project, saw 61 volunteers donate a combined total of 211 hours to renovate Volunteer Park, doing jobs from cutting down alders, to cleaning dugouts, to installing bird spikes on bleachers, to installing a new net at the batting cage.

This year, Thomas said she had hoped they could use the HOP Project to take down old playground equipment at Angerman Park by the library. The problem is scheduling, she said. She was not sure they could get the new playground equipment, to replace the old equipment, into town in time for the HOP Project.

"I am almost certain that we won't be ready to do that in April, because I don't want to decommission the play equipment before we are ready to mobilize construction," Thomas said. "Something that would be far worse than an old playground is no playground."

The committee agreed that it was best to stay flexible about what the 2020 HOP Project would be dedicated to. Some of the other ideas tossed around included just having a more "low-key" event this year dedicated to cleaning the parks instead of renovation work, or brush clearing at the

viewing platform at Petroglyph Beach, or touching up Shoemaker Park, or even cleaning up the cemetery.

Thomas said they should try to aim for a final decision on the HOP project in February.

## Reflections

### The Death of a Deputy Sheriff – Why?

I am currently in the fourth year of my assignment to Wrangell/Petersburg. By now I suppose many people know that prior to becoming a Roman Catholic priest, I worked for 30-years as a police officer in Washington state. My grandfather was an officer and his son, my uncle, was a deputy and was killed by a gunman – ambushed on Easter Sunday, 1949, three years before I was born. I have a brother who recently retired after 32 years in law enforcement and I have a few cousins in L.E. For the most part, other than my uncle, we all got through it with only some minor scrapes and bruises. We are all Catholics and service to others has always been our calling.

Have you ever considered the role of God and the spiritual life in our American police? Did you know that our police officers "work for God?" St. Paul's Letter to the Romans speaks to this: "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God . . . For the one in authority is God's servant for your good . . ." (Romans 13:1-6 – NIV).

This, for some, is kind of hard to swallow, isn't it? But let us consider the human condition and the call all of us have to servanthood or, loving thy neighbor. Mother Teresa, probably the modern world's most well-known saint said, "I am but a pencil in the hand of God." St. Francis starts his famous prayer for peace, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace."

This, and who we are called to be, is something the modern mind does not seem to reflect on much anymore. So many of us are long past due in our obligation to renew our minds. Maybe it's time we really stop, think, and ask ourselves; "Who am I? Why did God make me? Am I being the servant God has called me to be?" Or am I just one of the many, lukewarm, spiritual zombies walking aimlessly through our God-given life trying to figure out what I'm supposed to do?

Paul's letter to the Romans speaks to this: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2 – NIV). Don't take Paul's reproof lightly.

I wonder what would have happened to my Uncle Gilbert if the person who shot and killed him on Resurrection Day, had taken the time to stop, think, and renew his mind in Christ long before going berserk and killing so many police officers on that holiest of days.

It is time for all of us, every single one of us, to quit conforming our thinking process to the pattern of today's world and start the God-ordained process of renewing our minds in Jesus Christ. Playing Russian roulette with our souls and the souls God has entrusted to us must stop.

Proverbs 3:5 states it very clearly: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and rely not on your own thinking." Please, consider consecrating your life and your will to God through Jesus Christ and let us pray as he taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy WILL be done.

Pray for our law enforcement – They are here to serve.

Fr. Steve Gallagher  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church



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# Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH  
Fisheries columnist

## Payments should soon be sent to Alaska fishermen, processors and coastal communities hurt by 2016 pink salmon run failure

It's been a long time coming but payments should soon be in hand for Alaska fishermen, processors and coastal communities hurt by the 2016 pink salmon run failure, the worst in 40 years. The funds are earmarked for Kodiak, Prince William Sound, Chignik, Lower Cook Inlet, South Alaska Peninsula, Southeast Alaska and Yakutat.

Congress ok'd over \$56 million in federal relief in 2017, but the authorization to cut the money loose languished on NOAA desks in DC for over two years.

The payouts got delayed again last October when salmon permit holders, who share the biggest chunk at nearly \$32 million, were finally able to apply to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for their checks.

But when it was discovered that the way in which the payouts were calculated was badly flawed, the PSMFC put on the brakes.

"There was a big snafu because a lot of the crew was under reported by the skippers. So Pacific States said that until everything gets squared away, no one is going to get any checks," said Rep. Louise Stutes (R-Kodiak) who has been watchdogging the payouts since the pink fishery was declared a disaster.

"That was just not acceptable," Stutes said, quickly crediting leadership at the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game for coming up with a better solution.

"With the help of Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker we worked with the Commission and they agreed to send out checks to those in-

dividuals who they had no questions about," Stutes explained, adding that checks should be in the mail by mid-February. "And they are going to send out letters to individuals they do have questions about to give them an opportunity to immediately reply rather than wait till the appeal period."

About 1,300 salmon permit holders are eligible for payments, according to the state Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. "In terms of eligible crew, we can only report the number of crew names submitted on CFEC permit holder applications because no data are available on crew fishery participation. Pacific States received applications from about 850 CFEC permit holders that listed about 2,000 crew names," said ADF&G in a statement to Stutes' office, adding: "We are working to try and follow up with CFEC permit holders that did not submit applications to try and maximize the distribution of payments."

Alaska pink salmon processors will split nearly \$18 million in disaster relief funds.

"They are trying to figure out how to pay their employees and what employees qualify," she said. "So, it's finally moving after three and a half years."

\$2.4 million in disaster funds is set aside for municipalities and nearly \$4 million will go to pink salmon research - \$450,000 to Kodiak's Kitoi Bay Hatchery for its Salt-water Marking Sampling project; \$680,000 to the Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring Survey to help with pink salmon forecasting; and \$2.5 million to the Alaska Hatchery

Research Project that since 2010 has studied interactions of hatchery and wild salmon in Prince William Sound and Southeast.

Fishery disasters also were declared for the 2018 cod collapse in the Gulf of Alaska and the sockeye salmon failure at Chignik. Recipients should fare better if Congress approves a bill introduced last week by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA). The bipartisan bill, called Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act (Fishery FUNDD Act), would improve the federal fishery disaster process and set a strict timeline for payout of funds.

As Rep. Stutes readied for Juneau for the January 20 start of the legislative session, she said she was "optimistic."

"I feel like the people of Alaska have sent a message to the administration and I'm hoping the administration will be a little more willing to interact with the legislature," she said. "That was a big stumbling block last year. We did not have much communication between the administration and the legislature. And you just don't get anything done when you have such a divided body. I'm optimistic that we can come together as a unit and protect Alaskans."

As chair of the fisheries committee Stutes said a top priority will be ensuring a robust ADF&G budget.

"When you cut the Fish and Game budget, you're cutting revenue to the state," she said.

In terms of fishery measures left over from last session, Stutes said a goal is to pass a bill (HB 35) that resolves conflict of interest protocols for the state Board of Fisheries.

"When you have a board member who has expertise in a certain area and is conflicted out and can't even express his knowledge to other board members, what's the point of having him on the board?" she explained. "This bill will allow them to participate in the conversation but will not allow them to vote on the issue. We've been trying to change this for 14 years and this is the closest we've come."

Another Stutes bill (HB 185) aims to rewrite the 2018 Derelict Vessel Act to exempt boats already licensed with the state Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. The new law requires that owners of all boats over 24 feet register in person at a DMV, including those already documented by the US Coast Guard.

"That's kind of a double whammy for individuals who already have registered through the CFEC. It's a duplication of information," Stutes explained. "The idea is not to create additional revenue for the state, but to create a data base so they have access to ownership to vessels that are in Alaska waters."

**Forest fish** - A first ever, 10 year study estimates the numbers and values of what the Tongass and Chugach rivers and streams contribute to Alaska's commercial salmon industry.

The Tongass is the largest national forest in the U.S. at nearly 27,000 square miles and

covers most of Southeast Alaska. The adjacent Chugach at half the size ranks as the nation's second largest forest and covers the Copper River delta, Prince William Sound, and part of the Kenai Peninsula.

The study results showed that from 2007 to 2016 the two forests contributed 48 million salmon on average each year to commercial fisheries, with a dockside value of \$88 million.

These "forest fish" represented 25% of Alaska's total salmon catch for decade and 16% of the total commercial value.

For the Tongass, the most lucrative "forest fish" was pink salmon averaging \$42 million to fishermen each year. Coho came next, averaging nearly \$15 million and chums at almost \$9 million.

For the Chugach, the priciest returns came from sockeye salmon which produced \$10.5 million in local catches on average. Pinks were next at \$6.2 million.

The study said it underestimates the value of salmon produced by the forests, as it only takes into account commercial harvests and does not recreational or subsistence uses. It also counts only dockside value, and not the economic impacts of local fish processing.

The 10 year project was funded by the U.S. Forest Service which is interested in estimating the different activities

Continued on page 7

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### City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska WORK SESSION - PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly and will be holding a Work Session on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** for the following item:  
**Presentation by Vance Jacobsen, Compensation Study**

Although there will be a quorum of the Borough Assembly present, there will be no action taken.

*The Regular Borough Assembly meeting will follow the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.*

The public is welcome to attend.

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

**Publish: January 23, 2020**

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

During the Regular Borough Assembly meeting on **January 28, 2020 (beginning at 6:00 p.m.)**, there will be a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the following item(s):

**a. ORDINANCE No 973 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 14.03.040, REGULAR MEETINGS, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE (second reading)**

**The Public is encouraged to attend.**

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

**Publish: January 23, 2020**



# School board discusses bus contract, review first budget draft

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

While not originally on the agenda for the night, the Wrangell School Board discussed the potential future of their contract with Etolin Bus Company during their meeting Monday, Jan. 20. The item was brought up by School Board Member Patty Gilbert, who requested an amendment to the agenda. Etolin Bus Company is contracted by the school district to deliver Wrangell's children to school in the mornings, and take them home again in the evenings. They had a three-year contract with the district, from 2016-2019. However, the contract was given a one-year extension in 2019, according to an article in the Wrangell Sentinel dated June 20 of last year. The current contract with Etolin Bus Company is set to expire at the end of June this year. Renewing the contract was not the topic of the discussion, however, it was about a potential change of ownership.

"I was getting closer to retiring, which I have from Arrowhead, and of an age where we just decided we're not going to continue doing this," Greg Mc-

Cormack, owner of the bus company, explained. "We're in negotiations with John Taylor and his wife on taking over our school bus business. In the contract language it states that we can't transfer an existing contract to another entity without district approval."

McCormack said that to move forward with negotiations, he requested the board provide a written document stating they are all right with the bus company moving in this direction. Superintendent Debbe Lancaster said that they had sent all this information over to their legal team to make sure everything was happening above board and, after some discussion, the board agreed they would do their best to get back to McCormack with a formal response as soon as possible. Assembly Member Beth Heller clarified for the public that this was not a promise to sign another contract with Etolin Bus Company when the current contract expired or when there was a change of ownership.

"We're just trying to set up things as expediently as possible so that when the trigger's pulled, if he [John Taylor] does get the contract, then things can go bang-bang-bang-bang and we can move about our way," McCormack agreed. "To be honest, we want to take off and go on vacation and this is kind of holding us up."

The school board also got to look at the first draft of the district's budget for FY 2021. For the next school year, revenues are currently set at roughly \$5.5 million. A little over \$4 million is

expected to come in from the state, according to the budget draft, and \$617,700 is hoped to be drawn from local sources, as well as \$852,000 from federal sources of funding. Expenditures meanwhile are a little less than \$6.3 million. The largest costs listed include about \$2.7 million under the instruction category, including salaries, employee benefits, and supplies, about \$671,000 for administration support services, and about \$877,000 for operations and maintenance. In all, the first budget draft leaves the district with a deficit of \$446,599.

Lancaster explained that during this budget making process, they had gone to the district's stakeholders to try and get realistic numbers for what they needed to function next year. They were going to have to do their best to close that deficit in future drafts, and she added they would be holding community meetings about the budget in the near future, with a district-wide staff meeting planned for Feb. 3, and a public meeting later that evening.

"What this is doing is this is showing all of our groups of stakeholders about what our needs are, the realistic needs of this district," Lancaster said. "The community has a certain level of expectation of what they want from the district and how they want the district to provide education for their students. They want music, they want art, they want social-emotional counseling, they want activities, not just athletic but academic as well. They have a very fairly high level of expectation and I

## Fish Factor

Continued from page 6

and services that national forests provide. Find Quantifying the Monetary Value of Alaska National Forests to Commercial Pacific Salmon Fisheries in the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

**Fish updates** - Cod and a mix of groundfish kicked off the fishing year on January 1 in the Bering Sea and throughout the Gulf of Alaska. Boats also are targeting black rockfish in Southeast, around Kodiak, Chignik and the Alaska Peninsula and along the Aleutians.

Lingcod also is open in Southeast, where divers also have wrapped up a 2 million pound sea cucumber fishery and are still tapping on giant geoduck clams. Over 100 Southeast trollers are still out on the water fishing for winter king salmon.

Alaska pollock opens on January 20 in the Gulf and Bering Sea where the catch will again top three billion pounds. Prince William Sound also has a 5 million pound pollock fishery.

Bering Sea crabbers are still out on the grounds pulling up 34 million pounds of snow crab, a 24 percent increase.

Kodiak's January 15th Tanner crab fishery was pushed back a day due to high winds. Tanner and golden king crab fisheries open in Southeast on February 17, and Tanners open on March 1 at Prince William Sound.

Winter is the busiest time for Alaska fish meetings.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council meets January 27 through February 2 in Seattle.

Halibut stakeholders are bracing for 2020 catches when they are announced in two weeks. The International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting is at the Captain Cook in Anchorage this year from Feb. 3 through 7.

The Board of Fish put in an extra day at Kodiak and heads next to a marathon meeting on Upper Cook Inlet fishing issues. More than 170 management proposals are on deck from Feb 7-19 at the Anchorage Egan Center.

The 40th annual ComFish Alaska trade show is set for March 26-28 in Kodiak.

The fourth annual Bristol Bay Fish Expo is scheduled for June 12-13 in Naknek.

don't think we need to reduce any of that ... We need to hear what everybody has to say. Then we need to take our input and we need to make some choices."

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# CVB continue drafting best management practices, hear Truly360 report

By CALEB VIERKANT  
Sentinel writer

The Convention and Visitor Bureau met last Thursday, Jan. 16, to continue discussing their rough draft of their tourism best management practices document. The TBMP document, as covered in previous articles, is a collection of guidelines that tourism-related businesses agree to abide by. This is meant to help minimize the impacts tourism can have on the day-to-day life of a community, as well as to help settle disagreements between tourist organizations.

Wrangell has been working on making a document of their own since November of 2019. Different members of the bureau have been workshopping this document, adding items they think are important, discussing what categories of the document would be most important to Wrangell, and trying to decide

## Gearing up for next games



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Lady Wolves had a bye week last week, after a pair of intense games against the Metlakatla Miss Chiefs on Jan. 10 and 11. Despite not having any games this past week, they are continuing to practice for the rest of their upcoming season. The Lady Wolves will be playing against Haines this weekend, Jan. 24 and 25. Pictured here are Lady Wolves players Liana Carny (left) and Kendra Meissner (right) going through drills.

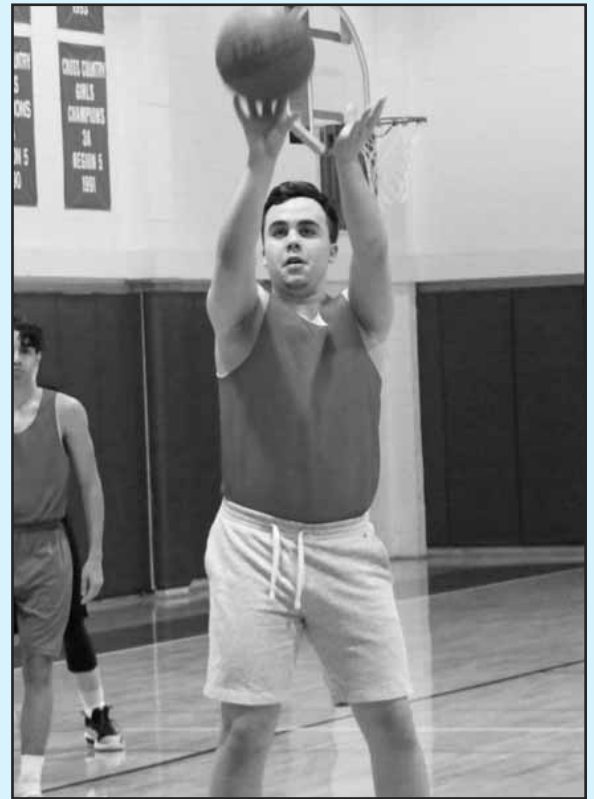


PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Wolves enjoyed a little time off last week, not having any games scheduled following their games against Metlakatla on Jan. 10 and 11. They've used their bye week to continue practicing and working on coming more tightly together as a team. They will be playing against Haines this coming weekend, Jan. 24 and 25. Pictured here is Wolves player Leroy Wynne shooting a basket.

## Fish & Game

Continued from page 1

bickler said that they had set up an email address, where people can start sending pictures and videos of elk they see on Zarembo. These can be sent to zaremboelk@aol.com. This will help them start a database to put together information on the elk population and their habitat, he said.

During the meeting, the advisory committee also decided to oppose a proposal by NOAA to establish critical humpback whale habitats in the Southeast Alaska area. They are also drafting a letter in support of keeping Wrangell's Fish and Game office open, as proposed budget cuts by the department threaten its closure.

how extensive the document would really need to be.

A rough draft, provided at the meeting, has a table of contents that covers topics such as transportation and vehicle guidelines, hiking trails, docks and harbors, "flightseeing," and other items. For example, one of the guidelines in this draft document reads "sightseeing vehicle drivers agree not to impede normal traffic flow by slowing down or stopping in driving lanes for sightseeing opportunities." Other sections of the guidelines state that visiting

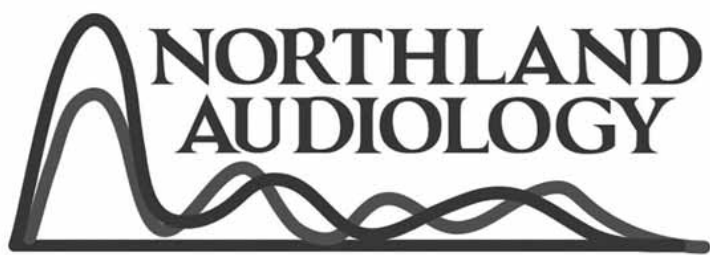
cruise ships will agree to comply with visible emissions standards, and will minimize P.A. announcements, whistle signals, and outdoor entertainment while docked in town.

Bureau Member Brenda Schwartz-Yeager said that they should try to hold some meetings with local operators on the document, to get their input, sometime in April or May. Economic Development Director Carol Rushmore said they should try to hold it sooner rather than later, if they want the document in place in time for the summer tourist season.

Another of the major topics in the bureau's meeting was a report from Truly360, a com-

pany the bureau decided to make an agreement with for search engine optimization. Truly360 worked with Wrangell and its businesses to utilize Google better, such as getting their websites higher up in listings and creating virtual tours of important locations around town. Truly360 provided the bureau with a report of how Wrangell has been doing online for the past four months, from August to December of 2019. In the past four months, according to the report, locations in Wrangell have been viewed over 95,000 times online, the majority of which came from Google Maps. There were 51,483 searches for Wrangell locations

on Google, as well, an increase of 140.64 percent from the last four months of 2018. About half of these were "direct searches," which Rushmore explained was when people knew specifically what they were looking for when they went to Google. The other half were "discovery" searches. This meant that they were searching for general terms like "things to do in Wrangell," or "parks in the Wrangell area." These searches and views resulted in 1,143 actions, an increase of 22.12 percent. These actions included things like customers visiting a business's website, asking for directions, or giving the business a phone call.



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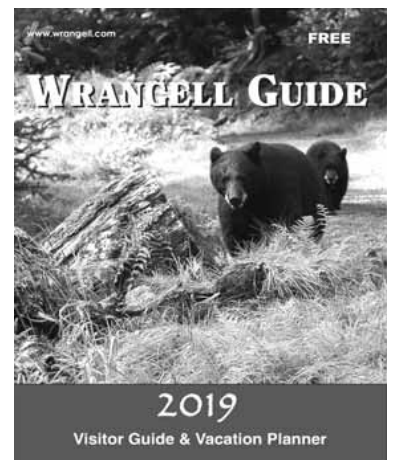
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#### FEATURES IN THE GUIDE INCLUDE:

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- RECREATION MAP
- WRANGELL WALKING TOUR



The Guide is filled with photos, stories and information about Wrangell and the surrounding area.

It makes a great resource for tour operators, travel planners and independent travelers.

**WRANGELL SENTINEL**

P.O. Box 798 • Wrangell, AK 99829  
Email: wrgsent@gmail.com

**907-874-2301**