



Wrangell, Alaska
November 9, 2017

WRANGELL SENTINEL

Volume 115, Number 45

Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in Alaska

12 Pages

Hospital costs could see city looking for managing partner

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

In a special workshop at City Hall on Monday, administrators at Wrangell Medical Center and members of its governing board met with the City and Borough Assembly to discuss the cost of a new facility.

The municipally-managed hospital has been interested in constructing a new facility for at least a decade, with its current building in use already for the past four decades posing a number of maintenance and compliance issues. The Assembly had directed WMC staff a year ago to seek architectural and financial consultation for a replacement facility.

Plans for the proposed facility were drawn up by architectural firm Jensen Yorba Lott. WMC CEO Robert Rang explained the new facility would encompass around 55,000 square feet of space, almost double the present facility's 27,000 square feet. The building's size was also considerably larger than estimates given to the WMC Board last November, where around 40,000 square feet had been suggested.

A new facility would be larger to both improve patient flow and to meet new codes, making restrooms more accessible and providing separate rooms for patients. While no new services are being considered, the addition of four new beds to long-term care would bring its total capacity to 18 under the proposed design.

LTC is a significant earner for the hospital, already costing around \$780 a day for residents. Speaking Monday, Rang anticipated reimbursement for those facilities would be increased with a new facility – at the moment, he estimated WMC's program is the second lowest paid nursing home in the state, due to a lack of depreciation to draw on.

More than its size and number of rooms, prospective costs for a new facility would also be larger, increasing significantly since the previous concept was abandoned in 2012. At that time, a price tag of \$26 million had been expected for the building, and at last November's meeting Rang had been hopeful a more streamlined design could bring down costs.

Mike Congedo, director of BDO Center for Healthcare, presented his firm's cost estimates for the new facility on Monday. Based on the Jensen Yorba Lott project design, it provided estimates for two construction models. A "stick-built," on-site construction model would cost around \$52 million, while a modular option meeting the same design specifications would cost \$41 million.

"Both options seem to be feasible," Congedo said of the designs. But of the two, the modular options would be "more financially advantageous, both for the hospital and the town."

For the modular option, BDO assumed that at a 6.25-percent rate of interest the hospital would need to repay around \$3 million a year on both the principal and interest, over a period of 30 years. The projection also assumes that WMC would preserve cash throughout the life of the loan, particularly in the initial half of its life when reimbursements include compensation for depreciation on the new facility's value. He pointed out that Wrangell's hospital is a critical access facility, with its primary reimbursement coming from federal coverage such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Congedo explained a 1.25-percent portion of the hospital's earnings before interest would likely be allotted to cover its debt payments. In the BDO feasibility study's projections, the building's debt service coverage ratio – a measure of an organization's cash flow available to pay current debt obligations – would most likely be tripped in 2036. At that point, discussion with the lender could be taken to renegotiate financial covenants or restructure the debt for the loan.

Alternatively, the more expensive stick-built option would see annual repayments of closer to \$4 million, with the debt service coverage ration tripped in 2031. Wrangell's financial position in that scenario would likely be weaker than with the modular option.

Congedo pointed out that many factors and assumptions could change over such an extensive period, and there are additional considerations that would be explored in greater depth should a next-phase evaluation be pursued.

Rang explained these estimates also included costs for new equipment and other hospital necessities to replace most of the ones currently in use. Speaking Monday, he said esti-



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Assistant executive John Lubbers with the BSA's Great Alaska Council out of Anchorage helps prospective Cub Scouts try on gear for size during a recruitment drive on Monday at Evergreen Elementary. The Great Alaska Council is the product of a merger between the Western and Southeast Alaska councils back in 2006, and oversees Scout programs over most of the state.

Cub Scouts to start dens in Wrangell

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The Cub Scouts held a recruiting drive at Evergreen Elementary School on Monday evening, with a number of boys and their parents stopping by to express interest.

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to promote youths to do things for themselves and for their communities, instilling among other things values of patriotism, courage and self-reliance. Part of the broader Scouting movement, Cub Scouts is geared toward elementary school boys from kindergarten through fifth grade. A pack is broken up by grade into dens, in ascending order Lions, Tigers, Wolf, Bear, and finally Webelos for fourth and fifth graders. The latter is a backronym for "We'll be loyal scouts," thought to have derived earlier in the 1950s from the first letters of the Wolf, Bear, Lion and Scout ranks.

Scouting in Wrangell has seen a bit of a lull, with the last members of Cub Scouts Pack 39 moving up to the Boy Scouts six years ago. Troop 40 has also been on hiatus for a couple of years, with last member Curtis Wimberley having to earn his Eagle Scout status through a

separate program in 2016.

Leeann Martin wanted to see the program return, now that her own son is the right age for scouting. In her view, the program keeps kids busy with constructive projects, while teaching useful skills, building good relationships between friends, and involving parents in activities.

"I'm hoping in a year or two we'll bring back the troop," commented Shirley Wimberley, Curtis' mother and a scoutmaster for Troop 40. Along with assistant Scout executive John Lubbers with the Great Alaska Council, Wimberley and Martin gauged interest among potential participants Monday evening with an informative presentation and some activities.

Wimberley explained that Scouting is not only for youths, but that a key component to having a successful program is parental involvement. The Wrangell group will be looking for leaders and committee members, and each den will require at least two registered adults in order to operate.

Those interested in learning more about the program can visit the GAC page at www.scoutingalaska.org, or can contact Martin at wrangellmartins@gmail.com for details on taking part.

mates for a modular design and equipment a decade ago had ranged from \$32 million to \$35 million.

"We have outlived the life expectancy of every piece of equipment in that facility," he said, save for pieces bought within the past two years.

Total costs for both interest and the principal amount over 30 years would be more than double the construction estimates, Congedo added. Over the life of the loan the modular option would end up costing around \$90 million, while the stick-built one would total \$115 million.

Because it is an entity of the city, Wrangell's municipal government would be on the hook for any debts in the event of a default, a fact which was not lost on members of the Assembly. The ability of the hospital to continue paying its bills at the present has also been a source of recent concern, with WMC approaching the city's assembly on October 18 for an emergency advance of \$250,000 to make its payroll and other operating expenses.

Though its financial situation has stabilized since, and the hospital anticipates federal reimbursements to the tune of a

quarter-million dollars in January, slight cuts to Medicaid spending and a freeze on LTC rates leave room for continued concern.

Assembly member Dave Powell raised the question of whether the city ought to consider either seeking a partner in the hospital's management, or to leave the healthcare business altogether.

"Given the hospital's financial situation, it seems the word 'feasible' wouldn't even fit," commented fellow member Patty Gilbert.

Assembly member Stephen Prysunka likened pursuing a loan for the new hospital independently to a "\$90 million bet," one which depended on a financial model which will likely change in unforeseeable ways.

City manager Lisa Von Barga said Southeast Alaska Rural Health Consortium had expressed some interest in possible partnership. The regional healthcare provider has already had a presence in the community, which expanded significantly earlier this year when it acquired

Continued on page 12

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

Thursday, Nov. 9: Kimberly Szczatko, Sawyer Rooney. **Friday, Nov. 10:** Alora Wigg, Austin Sun, Erika Hansen. **Anniversary:** Jason and Megan Clark. **Saturday, Nov. 11:** Rob Dailey, Heather Stevens, Daniel Powell. **Anniversary:** Lucas and Lisa Messmer. **Sunday, Nov. 12:** Alan Frank, Ruby Brock, Joe Stover, Andrew Feudner. **Anniversary:** Ken and Krissy Smith. **Monday, Nov. 13:** Levi Powers, Eleanor Larabee, Ken Lewis, James Leslie II. **Tuesday, Nov. 14:** Jake Mork, Brent Mill, Tai Brown, Dalton Reeves, Olga Norris, Barbara Hommel, Annette Younce, Jordan Bunn. **Wednesday, Nov. 15:** Dick Angerman, Steve Ramsey, Floyd Ramsey. **Anniversary:** Sean and Brandy Sebastian, Ryan and Rhonda Edgley, Laura and Winston Davies. **Thursday, Nov. 16:** Irene Buethe, Lorri Angerman, Hannah Armstrong. **Anniversary:** Jack and Terree Pino. *If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary at no charge please call the Sentinel at 874-2301.*

Senior Center Menu

Thursday, Nov. 9

A-1 meatloaf, mashed taters with gravy, peas, creamy cole slaw.

Friday, Nov. 10

VETERANS DAY

CLOSED

Monday, Nov. 13

Sloppy Joe on bun, potato salad, steamed carrots.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Chicken noodles, pasta, broccoli and cauliflower, 3 bean salad.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Turkey Dinner, mashed potato with gravy, green beans, Cranberry fruit salad, hot roll.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Taco salad, re-fried beans, chips and salsa.

Please call Wrangell Senior Center at 874-2066 by 10 a.m. for reservations. Milk, tea and coffee will be served with meals.

FERRY

Departures

Northbound

Sunday, Nov. 12
Columbia 4:45 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 14
Kennicott 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18
Kennicott 7:00 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 19
Columbia 8:45 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, Nov. 15
Columbia 3:30 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 17
Kennicott 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 20
Kennicott 6:45 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 22
Columbia 8:30 a.m.

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

TIDES

Nov. 9 - Nov. 16



High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
Nov. 9	4:30	14.5	4:18	15.7	10:03	3.8	10:50	-0.4
Nov. 10	5:39	13.9	5:31	14.3	11:14	4.5	11:59	0.8
Nov. 11	6:56	14.0	6:59	13.6	12:39	4.6
Nov. 12	8:06	14.6	8:20	13.7	1:14	1.4	2:07	3.8
Nov. 13	9:05	15.6	9:27	14.3	2:26	1.6	3:20	2.5
Nov. 14	9:55	16.5	10:23	14.9	3:29	1.5	4:17	1.0
Nov. 15	10:39	17.3	11:12	15.4	4:21	1.4	5:03	-0.2
Nov. 16	11:19	17.7	11:56	15.6	5:04	1.4	5:41	-1.0

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Thursday, Nov. 9

SAIL Class: 10:00 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) free class is a strength, balance and fitness class for adults 65+. For more info call 874-3375.

Healthy Eating Demo on Healthy Food Preparation: 11:30 a.m. Senior Apartments Atrium. Free class. Learn how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious food. Samples will be available. For more info call 874-3375.

Yoga: 5:30 a.m. AICS Medical Clinic. Yoga for everybody, please come and join.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Pioneers of Alaska: Men's Igloo # 21 Lunch meeting 12:00 p.m. St. Philips Parish Hall.

Is the attendance at your meeting or event low? Call Adrienne at the Sentinel to have it placed here, 874-2301.

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 gChurch Parish Hall, Study Materials provided. Wed. M & M 12 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Hall, use back entrance.

NA Meeting: Wednesday, We Do Recover, 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.

November 22, 1917: The Wrangell chapter of the Red Cross raised \$104 for Christmas packets for soldiers. By Christmas the United States will have 1 million men under arms. The Red Cross has, in addition to its many other labors in humanitarian work, undertaken the task of sending each American soldier a Christmas packet filled with good things and good will. It was possible to have Christmas packets made up for \$41 each. When the Wrangell chapter received notice of the undertaking, the time was so limited that it had to hurry and transmit the money by cable as soon as it was raised.

November 20, 1942: The Navy will pay \$5 for every acceptable mine fragment or bomb fragment which may be discovered by the fishing fleet. Such fragments are useful to the Navy for study and when such are found they should be sent with a letter of transmittal to the Mine Disposal Officer, 13th Naval District, Exchange Building, Seattle.

November 17, 1967: Will Rogers Jr. of Beverly Hills, Calif., assistant to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was in Wrangell this week. He was with Warren Tiffany of the Juneau BIA office. They met with superintendent of Wrangell Institute, Lillian D. Walker, and Principal Fred Fisher. The plan is to make visits to all the BIA and Indian schools in Alaska that a tight schedule will

allow them. Rogers entertained the Institute children at a school assembly with rope tricks that his father had taught him. He plans to visit the site of the Barrow plane crash that killed his father and aviator Wiley Post many years ago.

November 12, 1992: A task force composed of Southeast Alaska troll fishers will meet Nov. 18-20 in Juneau to discuss ways to solve some of the problems trollers fishing the Panhandle have faced in recent years. The Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Task Force was established last March by the Board of Fisheries. Its mission is to identify ways to extend the short summer season trollers have had in recent years and to minimize the inci-

dental mortality of king salmon caught when the troll fleet is targeting coho salmon.

POSTED FUEL PRICES

WRANGELL

L N M: \$3.80

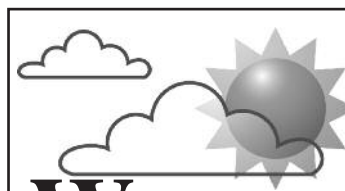
Alpine Mini Mart: \$3.80

PETERSBURG

SE Island Fuel: \$3.72

Petersburg Motors: \$3.62

Unleaded gas prices posted Tuesday, November 7



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Oct. 30	43	37
Oct. 31	48	39
Nov. 01	47	35
Nov. 02	41	30
Nov. 03	35	28
Nov. 04	44	30
Nov. 05	39	30
Nov. 06	43	34



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Nov. 09	7:09 am	3:53 pm	8:44h
Nov. 10	7:11 am	3:51 pm	8:40h
Nov. 11	7:14 am	3:49 pm	8:35h
Nov. 12	7:16 am	3:47 pm	8:31h
Nov. 13	7:18 am	3:45 pm	8:27h
Nov. 14	7:20 am	3:44 pm	8:24h
Nov. 15	7:22 am	3:42 pm	8:20h
Nov. 16	7:24 am	3:40 pm	8:16h

Business Cards • Posters • Raffle Tickets • Wedding Invitations

For all your Printing Needs! The Sentinel

PHONE: 874-2301 FAX: 874-2303 EMAIL: wrgsent@gmail.com

Extinguisher company issues widespread recall

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

A wide-ranging recall of fire extinguishers produced by Kidde has been issued, after a device failure led to a death and multiple injuries.

Announced last week by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in conjunction with its Canadian counterpart, the recall involves 134 different models of extinguisher manufactured domestically and in Mexico between January 1, 1973, and August 15, 2017. The extinguishers were sold in red, white and silver, and are either ABC- or BC-rated. In all, around 40.5 million devices sold in both countries are included in the recall.

The common feature among them is their plastic handles, which can fail to activate in instances where excessive force is required to discharge, such as

when extinguishers become clogged. Additionally, the models' nozzles can detach with enough force, posing an impact hazard. Also, push-button Pindicator fire extinguishers are among those being recalled.

CPSC reports the North Carolina-based firm is already aware of a 2014 death involving a car fire following a crash. Emergency responders at the time could not get the recalled Kidde fire extinguishers to work. There have also been approximately 391 reports of failed or limited activation or nozzle detachment with the affected models, resulting in 16 injuries that include smoke inhalation and minor burns, and approximately 91 reports of property damage.

Fire extinguisher owners are advised to inspect their models to see whether they might be

subject to the recall. A comprehensive list of affected models are available on the CPSC site at www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers-with-plastic-handles-due-to-failure-to-discharge-and, as well as where and what identifiers to look for.

Consumers should immediately contact Kidde to request a free replacement fire extinguisher and for instructions on returning the recalled unit, as it may not work properly in a fire emergency. Those whose models are subject to the recall can get their replacement unit from the company by calling Kidde toll-free at 855-271-0773 during weekday working hours, Eastern Standard Time, or between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the weekend. A recalled device can also be reported through the www.kidde.com website, under its "product safety recall" tab.



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

Potentially affecting 40.5 million units in the United States and Canada, the Kidde fire extinguisher recall has repercussions in Wrangell, too, with one at the Sentinel office among those to be returned. Residents are advised to check extinguishers at home, work and even on board vessels to see whether theirs may likewise be impacted.

Wasted buck reported on Nemo Loop

Alaska Wildlife Troopers were called out to the 10-mile point of Nemo Loop Road late last week, after a slain buck was reportedly unsalvaged.

Trooper David Bozman drove out to the scene on November 3, where a spike buck lay at the roadside. It was likely the deer was killed on or around the day.

"This is the second wasted deer this year that I know of," he commented. Another deer, this time a doe, had reportedly been shot and abandoned at a gravel pit near 3-Mile Zimovia Highway on or around September 23.

Under Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations, wanton waste of big game meat is considered to be "an extremely serious offense," punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and one year in jail. Anyone having information about the incident is asked to contact AWT at 874-3215. Those

wishing to remain anonymous can additionally provide information at the Wildlife Safeguard hotline at 1-800-478-3377.

As the area deer season progresses, hunters are reminded to punch their harvest tags before they begin moving or preparing the carcass for processing. Bozman said that, along with shooting from the road, these are the two most common issues troopers tend to see.

Under ADFG regulations, harvest tickets must be carried in the field and must be validated by cutting out the month and day immediately upon killing game. Each validated harvest ticket must be kept in the hunter's possession until that animal has been delivered to the location where it will be processed for human consumption.

Also in the regulations, shooting on, from or across the drivable surface of any roadway or highway is strictly prohibited in the state.

Trooper report

October 29

William Knecht, 58, of Wrangell, was cited for shooting game from a roadway. Knecht was contacted after he was observed shooting at a deer from the roadway on Zarembo Island. He was issued a \$300 citation in the District Court at Wrangell.

Paul McIntyre, 52, of Wrangell, was cited for shooting game from a roadway. McIntyre was contacted after he was observed shooting at a deer from the roadway on Zarembo Island. He was issued a \$300 citation in the District Court

at Wrangell.

October 31

A summons was issued to Leroy Hughes, 55, of Wrangell, for driving with a revoked license. Hughes had been previously contacted by troopers during a patrol while he was driving the Wrangell road system. Investigation determined his driver's license had been revoked for 99 years per court order from a previous felony DUI. Hughes was issued a summons to appear in District Court at Wrangell for driving with license revoked.

Police report

Monday, Oct. 30

Report of Trespassing.
Bear sighting.
Arrested Tasha McColloch, 32, on charges of DUI.
Suspicious circumstance.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Parking complaint.
Report of trespass.
Citizen Assist: Officer unlock vehicle.
Report of gunshots: Officer UTL.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Welfare check.
Criminal mischief.
Disturbance.
Agency Assist: WMC.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.
Suspicious smell.

Friday, Nov. 3

Disturbance: Criminal mischief.
Citizen Assist: Civil stand-by.
Agency Assist.
Found property: Firearms: Returned to owner.
Hazardous play: Juveniles throwing rocks at library.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Agency Assist.
Citizen Assist: Found property: Returned to owner.

Sunday, Nov. 5

Citizen Assist: Unlocked vehicle.
Hazardous play: Kids playing on top of storage containers.
Agency Assist: Harbor & PD 911: Boat stuck in mud.
Trespass: Caller reported someone had been in their house while they were gone. Officer responded. Traffic Stop: Verbal warning for driving habits.

There were two ambulance calls and one dog complaint in this week.

HOLIDAY BAZAARS

HOSTED BY:
WRANGELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AT THE STIKINE INN

HARVEST FEST SHOPPING BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOV. 18TH
10 AM - 6 PM

MIDNIGHT MADNESS BAZAARS
FRI. DEC. 1ST SAT. DEC. 2ND
3 PM - LATE 10 AM - 6 PM

JOLLY SHOPPING BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DEC. 23RD
10 AM - 6 PM

Metal scrap fees waived through end of month

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell Public Works announced Monday it will be extending a window for free disposal of metal waste at the local scrapyards through the month's end.

The department had initially opened a month-long period for residents to get rid of household scrap without fees on October 11. An expectation of a barge arriving in mid-November to take excess salvage off the city's hands had prompted the move, with the hope that residents might be encouraged to clean house a bit. Following a lengthy, expensive and still unresolved cleanup of severely contaminated soil at the former Byford scrapyards, the Borough Assembly this fall has renewed focus on enforcing local code concerning accumulated

junk and abandoned vehicles that are left out in the open. The police department has been tasked with dealing with objects left on public property first, but starting in May private property owners are led to expect more stringent policing as well.

The Juneau-based firm Channel Construction had this spring arranged to take on ferrous and salvageable scrap from the municipal junkyard at no cost to the city, in exchange for its waiving the usual compensation for recyclable items. The arrangement had been a boon for Public Works, whose yard had been stockpiled with vehicles and other junk to capacity after years of depressed commodities prices made transport off-island unaffordable. The tons of material Channel Construction collected was then transported south to

Oregon for reprocessing.

In the scrap business since the 1960s, the company has provided such services to most communities in Southeast Alaska over the years. But while it still offers a charter service for moving solid waste items, continuing its informal arrangements with those communities over the last five years has been limited by the continued decrease in value of commodities like scrap iron and other metals.

As a result, such transfers have by necessity become more opportunistic, and the offloading of Wrangell's scrap earlier this year was possible because the firm had a barge with space in the area. Another barge was expected to stop in to Wrangell later this month, but that has since been pushed back to December.

"They will be coming back," said Amber Al-Haddad, Wrangell's Public Works director.

Because of this, the initial November 11 cut-off for free disposal at the Wrangell yard has been extended through the rest of the month. "We might extend that as well," added Al-Haddad.

Any scrap metal brought to the transfer station for disposal during this time must be from a household source and free of all attached contaminants, such as wood, rubber, plastic and fabrics.

NOTICE: Garbage normally scheduled for pick-up Friday will instead be collected the following Monday, as city employees will be taking Friday off for Veterans Day. The public is asked to place garbage cans next week on the roadside by 8 a.m. for pickup. Public Works' offices and the Solid Waste Transfer Facility will both be closed tomorrow as well for the holiday. The transfer yard will be open on Saturday, with its regular schedule. For garbage schedule questions call 874-3904.

To qualify as "scrap metal," the item for recycling must contain a minimum of 85 percent metal.

Large household appliances will be accepted, but must be cleaned out and free of garbage. Washers and dryers, stoves and ranges, hot water tanks, microwaves, dishwashers and other white goods with metal housing apply. Fuel and propane tanks must be empty of all materials and a hole must be cut in the bottom to ensure they are empty.

Old automobiles are also covered under the arrangement, though all vehicles and small engines should be drained of all fluids by the customer beforehand, including fuel, engine oil,

antifreeze and transmission fluid. The waste transfer station has drums available for customers to dispose of vehicular fluids at regular disposal fees.

Batteries must also be removed before turning in a vehicle, and will be accepted for free. Tires must be removed too, but will be accepted at the regular disposal fee of \$3 apiece. Ownership title for each vehicle must be presented at the time of disposal.

For more information about the free scrap metal session, or to discuss options for commercial operations' scrap metal disposal, contact Wrangell Public Works at 874-3904.

Kennicott taken out of service temporarily, sailings halved

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities reported that the M/V Kennicott has been temporarily taken out of service.

After completing its southern run to Ketchikan on November 4 it entered dry dock for repairs.

"It's got a leaky seal on its port-side propeller," explained Aurah Landau, public information officer for Alaska Marine Highway System's South Coast office.

She estimated repairs should take until mid-month to complete, and the ferry may return to service later next week. In the meantime, service in Southeast has been reduced to regularly scheduled stops on the M/V Columbia, servicing Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Haines and Skagway twice each week. In the interim, service to Prince Rupert has been suspended until the Kennicott returns.

AMHS has already contacted affected passengers, either accommodating them on the Columbia or recompensing them their fare.



Your favorite office supply chain just got longer.

The Sentinel can help! We now have in stock

- Colored Paper
- Copy Paper
- Rite in the Rain Products
- Marking Pens
- Gel Pens
- Tape
- Post-It Notes

...And So Much More!

WRANGELL SENTINEL
We welcome Custom orders

205 Front Street • 907-874-2301 • wrgsent@gmail.com

Correction

In last week's issue of the Sentinel, the time of day for the October 28 fire at Freeman and Sons was misreported. Rather than happening that evening, firefighters arrived to the scene shortly after 11 a.m., wrapping up their response during the lunch hour.



NOV. 17TH - 19TH

HARVEST FEST SHOPPING

DROP OFF REWARD CARDS AT THE STIKINE INN LOBBY
WIN \$500



WITH RESPECT

HONOR

AND GRATITUDE

THANK YOU VETERANS

ANGERMAN'S INC

VETERANS DAY SALE

NOVEMBER 10TH & 12TH

CLOSED THE 11TH

25% OFF STOREWIDE

EXCLUDES XTRA TUFF BOOTS, GRUNDEN'S BOOTS AND FIREARMS

Oldest continuously published paper in Alaska



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 1902

Published Weekly By: Pilot Publishing, Inc.

207 North Nordic Dr., PO Box 930 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Phone 907-772-9393 • Fax 907-772-4871

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Wrangell Sentinel, P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929

Sentinel Staff:

Co Publishers Ron & Anne Loesch
Reporters..... Dan Rudy
..... Ben Muir
Front OfficeAdrienne McLaughlin
Production Ola Richards

The Wrangell Sentinel (USPS - 626480) is published every Thursday. Periodicals mail postage paid at Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Offices at 205 Front St., Wrangell, Alaska 99929; phone 907-874-2301; Fax 907-874-2303; email wrgsent@gmail.com; website: www.wrangellsentinel.com

© Copyright 2017

Subscription Rates

Single Copy.....\$1
Local.....\$42
Other Alaska.....\$57
2nd class/Lower 48 & HI.....\$67
First Class.....\$96

Assembly approves project grants, narrowly drops hospital housing bid

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

The City and Borough Assembly authorized a pair of grants to be applied for in its name while narrowly nixing a third.

Meeting Tuesday, the first item the body considered was participation in the Community Development Block Grant pro-

gram offered by the Department of Agriculture. An application put forward to the program for \$304,297 in funding would fund just over half of rehabilitation work to the building envelope of the Public Safety Building. A recently revised cost estimate for the project put together by Jensen Yorba Lott totals \$589,728.

Per the limitations on how CDBG funds can be used, if approved the grant portion would go strictly toward the fire station's portion of the remodeling. The city would provide the remaining \$292,113 needed for the law enforcement portions of the building.

Responding to a question from the Assembly, Public Works Department director Amber Al-Haddad explained that exterior rot and an infestation by carpenter ants has already displaced one staff member with the courthouse from her office space. City workers have already stripped the walls of its gypsum sheeting, and now that the scope of the project has been ascertained will make repairs ahead of the larger project so she can be returned to her workspace.

"We will go back in and make

those repairs to that interior office space," said Al-Haddad. Options for moving forward on rehabilitating the building without grant funds were also put forward, with different available funding sources identified from other allotted maintenance funds. These were primarily set aside in the current budget for repairs to the swimming pool roof and temperature upgrades.

Assembly members also approved a resolution in support of an updated coordinated transportation plan for seniors. Catholic Social Services, which manages Wrangell's Senior Center, last month held a meeting with community partners to discuss its various transportation needs. High among these is a replacement van with wheelchair accessibility, for which the organization will be applying for a grant through the Alaska Department of Transportation.

The van in question would cost \$90,000, which under the grant terms would require an \$18,000 match. Describing the arrangement, Wrangell's city manager Lisa Von Barga said she was still waiting for details from CSS on where it would get

the funds from. The city already provides the center with \$11,000 each year to support disability meal and transportation services, but Von Barga reported that those funds could not be considered an in-kind match under the terms of the grant.

The application is due on December 1, and as the Assembly only has one meeting scheduled for the month Von Barga explained the resolution of support would go toward helping with the organization's application.

The third grant item considered on Tuesday was from Wrangell Medical Center, seeking permission to apply for a Teacher, Health Professional and Public Safety Housing (THHP) grant through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. The goal would be to finance construction of a four-plex apartment designated primarily for traveling medical staff. Hospital chief executive Robert Rang explained to Assembly members that the move could help the hospital save on housing costs for transients, which he estimated at \$35,000 per year.

However, Assembly member Dave Powell singled out the potential costs of its construction as one cause for concern. In the item packet it was explained WMC would apply for the maximum grant award of \$550,000, which could come in the form of a grant or as a combination of grant and loan funds. However, a cost estimate for the apartment structure would not be available until November 20. Given those details, Rang suggested the hospital would not have to accept the grant if offered, and would anyway have to bring any amount back to the Assembly for a decision before it could be accepted.

Calling back to Monday's meeting (see hospital story on Page 1) where the financial independence of the hospital itself was in question, Powell felt it would be best to wait before jumping into a new construction project.

"I feel we should put this on hold," he said. "It's kind of up in the air here. I think a lot of

stuff with the hospital should be on hold until we know where we're going."

Assembly member Stephen Prysunka also wondered whether the apartment units would be rented out when transient staff did not require housing. Rang said that had been the intention, opening up the housing to permanent staff at the hospital, but also to newly arrived educators and law enforcement officers. Prysunka worried that arrangement would in effect pit the city against private enterprise, competing for renters.

With those two considerations at the fore, members narrowly voted the item down in a 3-4 decision.

Lastly, Von Barga sought the Assembly's feelings on what to do with material dredged from Shoemaker Bay Harbor once renovation work begins next year. She and finance director Lee Burgess are already in communication with the Alaska Bond Bank regarding the financing of the project, which was greenlit this summer for \$5 million in DOT matching funds. The full project is expected to cost around \$11.4 million, though Von Barga pointed out that disposal of the old floats and dredged material had not been taken into account in the plans.

Given recent concerns among the public about a proposed monofill for treated but lead-contaminated soils from the reclaimed Byford junk site, she suggested that the city pay to have dredged material tested for contaminants, though storage at a suitable upland site would not require such by either the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of Environmental Conservation.

"I think it's not a bad idea if we figure out what it is," said Prysunka.

Assembly member Patty Gilbert said she would like to see a dollar figure at the next meeting, which has been rescheduled for December 5. Von Barga will also present a list of potential sites for the dredged material.

Castle Mountain Entertainment Presents

There will be no movie this weekend, our next film will be the weekend of November 17-19

'Like' us on Facebook for the most up to date info!

Tickets:
\$5 for 12 & under,
\$7 for 13 & up

Buy movie gift certificates at the Museum gift shop
Movie info: www.imdb.com

ACT TODAY
and we will waive the documentation fee and title insurance*

HOME EQUITY LOANS

AND LINES OF CREDIT

RENOVATING

INVESTING

CONSOLIDATING



Whether you're renovating your home, investing in property, or consolidating expenses or bills, First Bank can help you pay for it all!

Apply online at
www.FirstBankAK.com



FIRST BANK

The one who's here.

874-3363

* Title insurance will be waived on Home Equity Loans and Home Equity Line of Credit up to \$50,000. Offer expires 12/31/2017.

Job:


Wrangell Cooperative Association is seeking an:
ANA Project Manager & ANA Project Assistant/ WCA Receptionist

Complete job descriptions and applications are available at the Wrangell Cooperative Association office @ 104 C-2 Lynch Street. Contact Esther Ashton at 907-874-4304 with any questions.
Closing date: November 15, 2017 at 1:00 P.M



DON'T DANCE AROUND THE ISSUE!

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE A SMART ADVERTISING CHOICE



They cost as little as
\$9.00 for up to 15 words.
40¢ for additional words.
7% city sales tax additional.

Ask us about our classified ads!
PHONE 874-2301
FAX 874-2303
The deadline for classified ads is
12 pm Tuesday

EMAIL - wrgsent@gmail.com WEB SITE - www.WrangellSentinel.com 205 FRONT STREET

Energy costs

Continued from page 6
for free.

The recipients, Paul and Becky McIntyre, were thrilled. Becky explained the family had previously tried oil and electric heat in

their home, but without much success. "We've been cold for several years," she recounted. Her sister and mother each got an air-to-air pump for their homes over the past couple of years and had spo-

ken well of the results, she said.

Currently there are few incentives available to help residents improve their household energy efficiency. Up until March 2016, a home energy rebate program

through AHFC did offer participating homeowners rebates of up to \$10,000 for making improvements to existing structures. However, the corporation does offer cost coverage for weather-

ization services for individuals meeting certain income limits. For more information on that program, visit www.ahfc.us/efficiency/energy-programs/weatherization.

2017/2018 DDF & Music Schedules



Drama, Debate & Forensics Team Schedule

November 10-11	@ Haines
December 8-9	@ Mt. Edgecumbe
January 19-20	@ Ketchikan
February 22-24	State @ Anchorage

Clockwise from back left:

Devin Till, senior; Erik Ottesen, senior; Jean-Luc Lewis, junior; Max Voltz, senior; Sierra Reill, program director; Morgan Torvend, junior; Levi Padgett, sophomore

Music Band Schedule

April 12-14 Music Fest @ Juneau

From left to right in the back row:

Program director Tasha Morse, Aria Chase (choir), Savannah Smith (choir), Devin Till (choir), Jacob Allen (jazz band), Alex Rooney (band), Adriana Larrabee (jazz band), Skylar Larrabee (band and jazz band), Laura Helgeson (band and jazz band), Jean-Luc Lewis (jazz band), and Max Voltz (band)

From left to right, front row: Steven Larson (choir), Danika Smith (choir), Hannah Brown (band and jazz band), Jing O'Brien (band and jazz band), Robyn Booker (choir, band and jazz band), and Terra Hoyt (band and jazz band)



High School musicians and DDF are proudly supported by these Wrangell businesses

56 Degrees North

AP&T

Bobs' IGA

Breakaway Adventures

City Market

Elks Lodge #1595

First Bank - Member FDIC

JAW Technology LLC

Johnson's Construction & Supply

Michelle's Taste of Asia

Ottesen's True Value

Petro Marine Services

Sea Level Seafoods

Sentry Hardware & Marine

Stikine Drug

Stikine Sportsmens Assoc.

Stough Family Trust

Sunrise Aviation

The Bay Company

Tongass Federal Credit Union

Tyee Travel

Wrangell Medical Center

Wrangell Sentinel

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

Shrimp holds number one spot for America's seafood favorites, followed by salmon

Alaskans pull home packs of fish from their freezers all year round and know it will cook up nutritious and delicious. Yet there is still a perception that fresh seafood is always better than frozen.

A Sitka fishermen's group has set a course to counteract that stereotype, and prove that properly frozen fish has clear advantages over the 'fresh' fish sold to consumers.

More than 80 percent of the fresh fish/shellfish enjoyed by Americans are imports and can sit for a week or more before being purchased at retail counters. And most people don't know that a boat may be out at sea for days or weeks before it comes in with fish.

"We want to tell consumers exactly what that fish went through from being caught to being frozen, or being flown fresh to you," said Alyssa Russell, Communications Manager for the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association.

ALFA has been promoting the merits of flash-frozen fish since 2009 when it launched Alaskans Own, a Community Supported Fishery where customers can pre-order local catches.

"As we started expanding our CSF program and selling our fish in bulk to the Lower 48, we realized it is still a stereotype in many places that fresh seafood is better quality than frozen," Russell said.

The fishing group decided to get backup to prove what most Alaskans know: unless you've just pulled a fish out of the water, the

next best option to preserve its goodness is to freeze it.

ALFA partnered last summer with Ecotrust and Oregon State University to put the truism to the test. Aided by a \$100,000 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture grant from the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion program, the team conducted a blind taste test with more than 100 subjects who sampled portions of never frozen and flash frozen salmon and black cod.

"We found that customers liked frozen fish as much or more than they liked the fresh fish from the local grocery stores," Russell said.

The study also utilized a new device by Seafood Analytics called a Seafood Certified Quality Reader (CQR) that uses an electric current to measure fish freshness.

"Not only did consumers prefer the frozen fish, but the flash-frozen products also rated higher in quality and freshness, as measured by the CQR," said the Ecotrust Fresh Look at Frozen Fish report, which called the results "telling."

Nearly one-quarter of all fresh seafood at supermarkets goes to waste, the report says, a figure that would be reduced if more Americans accepted frozen choices.

Armed with the fresh vs. frozen results, Russell said ALFA will create a multi-media outreach campaign including materials for industry members and other seafood stakeholders. The campaign also will highlight how choosing frozen fish directly benefits Alaska fishermen because it

gives them more market options.

"It takes a lot of the risk out of the market," Russell said. "They can choose to target a different kind of fish or wait to sell until the market changes, or choose not to fish when the weather is bad because they have more flexibility as to how their fish will be stored."

"The ultimate goal," she added, "is to support small boat communities, fishermen and sustainable fisheries. We feel that one way to do that is to build recognition that frozen fish is high quality."

Seafood Super Power - Alaska is the nation's super power with five Alaska ports ranking in the top ten for seafood landings and values.

"Dutch Harbor keeps its long-time title, 20 years strong now, as our nation's top fishing port for the amount of seafood landed (770 million pounds), and New Bedford, Massachusetts is hanging strong claiming for the 17th consecutive year the highest valued catch (\$327 million) mostly due to the highly valued sea scallop fishery," said Ned Cyr, director of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, referring to the annual Fisheries of the U.S. report for 2016.

Other Alaska ports making the top 10 list are the Aleutian Islands at #2second, thanks to the Trident plant at Akutan, the largest seafood processing facility in the U.S.

Kodiak dropped a spot to fourth place, followed by the Alaska Peninsula at #7 and Naknek at #9. Other Alaska ports

making the top 50 ports for seafood landings and/or values are Ketchikan, Sitka, Bristol Bay, Petersburg, Seward, Cordova, Kenai, and Juneau.

Alaska led all states in seafood volumes at 5.6 billion pounds and values at \$1.6 billion.

Alaska pollock accounted for 30 percent of U.S. fish poundage, and 21 percent of the value. Nearly 97 percent of all U.S. salmon landings were from Alaska.

The U.S. continues to import most of its seafood - 5.8 billion pounds in 2016, up slightly. Whatever its source, Americans are eating less of it.

U.S. seafood consumption fell last year to 14.9 pounds per person, down from 15.5 pounds in 2015.

Seafood favorites - Shrimp held onto the number one spot for America's seafood favorites, followed by salmon. The Top 10 list is compiled each year by the National Fisheries Institute based on per capita consumption in the U.S. Fisheries report data.

Canned tuna, farmed tilapia and Alaska pollock rounded out the top five, followed by farmed pangasius, cod, crab, catfish and clams.

Almost all of the drop was attributable to salmon, pointed out John Sackton of seafood.com.

"Alaska landed 300 million pounds less salmon, mostly due to a shortfall in pinks. When converted to edible weight, this accounts for almost all the drop in salmon consumption," he said.

The biggest winner is cod, Sackton said, as it has taken an increased share of the whitefish market over the past five years, going from 0.52 pounds per capita to 0.66 pounds.

Pacific Marine Expo will top the half century mark when the trade show doors open later this month in Seattle.

"Fifty-one years and still growing. We are looking at having 550 exhibitors this year, which is an increase of 30 more companies," said Denielle Christensen, Expo Director for Diversified Communications, which produces marine

events and publications around the world.

The Pacific Expo is her favorite, she said, because it has a "strong community feel."

"A lot of folks only see each other once a year at this event. It's just the happiest group of people," Christensen added.

The trade show has broadened over the years to include all mariner needs and interests, but organizers have "never forgotten that commercial fishing is where we came from and that is the group that helped the show become what it is today," Christensen said.

New this year is an expanded Alaska Hall that will house nearly 50 companies, Expo's main stage, the Fishermen of the Year competition and daily happy hours.

Also debuting - the Alaska Symphony of Seafood will hold its annual new products competition and tasting, along with a hall of fame displaying 25 years of past Symphony winners.

Pacific Marine Expo runs Nov. 16-18 at the Century Link Center in Seattle. All events are free with pre-registration.

"Before the show opens on Thursday if you use the code FISH you will be guaranteed free registration," Christensen said, "and that includes educational programs, the key note and everything happening on the floor."

IFISH Calls - The call is out for participants in the IFISH 5 conference, the largest international gathering of fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industry safety and health professionals.

"We are looking for session proposals for round table talks or panel discussions, as well as abstracts," said Jennifer Lincoln, Director of the Maritime Safety and Health Studies Center at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Lincoln said it is the first time in a decade the conference has reconvened. Deadline to apply is November 15. IFISH 5 is set for June 10-13, 2018 in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Questions? Contact ifish@mun.ca.

New public defender finds Sitka a good fit

SITKA, Alaska (AP) - There's a new public defender in town.

Nathan Lockwood has taken over from Jude Pate, who is now a state appellate attorney. Pate is still in the Sitka office but will be handling appeals from across Alaska.

Lockwood's journey to Sitka began with a revelation in Colorado and ended with a move last month from Kenai, where he has been in the public defender's office the past four years.

In an interview with the Sentinel, Lockwood, who grew up in Soldotna, said he became a lawyer after skiing for most of his 20s in Vail, Colorado.

"I was in Vail and I turned 30," he said. "I realized if I close my eyes again, I'll turn 40 and still be a ski bum."

He moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where his sister was a public defender. He attended her alma mater there, William Mitchell School of Law, but had no plans to follow her professional path.

"The idea was that I would learn the law and work for Fish and Game as an environmental lawyer," Lockwood said. But then he took a skills class in trial advocacy, and he was hooked.

"I didn't know I would love trial work so much," he says. "Being a public defender is the essence of being a lawyer."

Public defenders are assigned to cases; they don't get to pick and choose their clients, which in a small town means they might work with defendants they've known for years. That was Lockwood's experience as a public defender in

Kenai, just down the road from his old home town.

"I got to know a totally different side of the town I grew up in, which had been right there all along. I was representing some of the people I went to high school with." He added: "I have no problem defending anyone I'm assigned to," he said. "I'm defending constitutional rights. Everyone has constitutional rights, and I feel honored to defend them."

Lockwood said amidst his work in Sitka - and the Kenai cases he's still finishing - he hopes to explore his new surroundings.

"I'm very outdoorsy - hiking, fishing, camping, kayaking," he said. He brought his kayak and skis along when he moved here last month, which was the first time he had seen Sitka.

"I was super excited when I got here because it was so gorgeous," he said. "I really like Southeast. I'd never been here, but I heard great things from Dan Poulson." He worked with Poulson, who grew up in Sitka, when they were both public defenders in Kenai.

Lockwood may not have much time for kayaking, but he says the rewards of his job are worth the hours.

"I love my job because I get to help people," he said. "They're my clients because they're having one of their worst times. I get to be there and help them and protect their rights. And it feels really good when you get a positive result for someone who hasn't had a lot of wins."



Call me today to see how much you can save with Allstate's good student discount.

907-874-2359

Veronica Maldonado

Petersburg Wrangell Insurance Center
220 Front St., Wrangell, AK 99929
inquiry@p-wins.com



Rec department looking for more lifeguards

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

At last week's Park Board meeting, the department head reported the lack of qualified lifeguarding staff has been causing problems.

Parks and Recreation director Kate Thomas explained last Wednesday that Wrangell's public pool operates 63 hours per week, requiring 105 lifeguard hours to operate. While 10 available staffers would be ideal, the department currently only has four to try and cover shifts. Both herself and the assistant director have been spending up to half their time filling in at the pool.

The pool is the most heavily used amenity at the recreation center. Over the past calendar year, the highest proportion of users has been in the wintery months of January and February, reaching a peak of

over 1,300 users in March. While usage dips to about half that by July, pool use remains by far the most popular pastime for facilities users.

Managing this asset safely has therefore been problematic. In her report, she identified some factors contributing to the staffing situation. One is low starting wages for pool staff, which when coupled with odd hours makes lifeguarding positions less enticing to would-be applicants. Long-term lack of a swimming program for school-age youths and an inconsistent lesson plan program has also led to a lack of qualified applicants within the local population.

In the shorter term, Thomas proposes increasing wages, which at the moment starts at \$9.80 an hour. Comparatively, this is lower than neighboring communities' pool programs, with those starting out in Craig

earning \$10.55 an hour, in Petersburg at \$11.41, and in Haines at \$12.63. The opportunity for raises in those communities is also higher, with Wrangell's table topping out for regular lifeguards at \$13.40 and its head lifeguard at \$13.80.

She would also like the department to redouble its recruiting efforts, in part by adjusting the shift schedule to allow for longer hours. Both that and a wage increase would require a budget amendment to be approved by the Parks Board and Borough Assembly.

Additionally, all incoming staff members would be either encouraged or required to obtain a lifeguard certification. Some shifting of duties would be involved, reducing some programming to allow for a better balance on aquatics and other recreational activities. Put before the board, a re-

vised schedule reducing evening hours on Fridays and adding time to operating hours on Mondays and Wednesdays was adopted, to be put into practice at a later date.

In the longer term, building on swimming programming at the school levels could increase available lifeguard candidates. Wrangell Swim Club already has several dozen participants from among elementary and middle school aged children, and reached a point where it was able to begin swimming competitively late last year.

The cultivation of a swimming group for the high school would be a next step, and Thomas suggested seeking a cooperative arrangement with the school district to develop such programming. Developing a sustainable water safety program aimed at youth was also listed as a goal.

Small Wolves squad makes Anchorage competition

By DAN RUDY
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's wrestlers headed up to Anchorage over the weekend to participate in Anchorage Christian School's 2017 Lime Solar Invitational.

Taking place beyond the usual regional play, the ACS invitational is often touted as a midseason preview into the state finals, with schools from around the state sending teams. This year's tournament was also the first featuring an all-girls bracket, which had 27 teams participate.

In the boys varsity 106-pound weight bracket, Wrangell senior JD Barratt finished in fourth place overall. After a first-round bye, he bested Mt. Edgecumbe wrestler

Dayton Hoblet by fall in 1:12. Afterward he faced Jude Merriner of Grace Christian, winning by fall in 3:28. He at last met his match in the semifinal round against Bethel's Jarius Allain, who won by 9-3 decision. In the consolation bracket's finals, ACS student Caleb O'Hara won by major decision over Barratt by 14-2.

Competing in the 145, senior Ian Jensen won his first round over Sitka's Gavin Hammock by 7-2 decision. The next round was won over Travis Castle of Redington Senior-Junior High School with a pin in 46 seconds. Nome student Ben Cross won the next match in a hard-found round, by 9-5 decision. Back in the consolation bracket, Jensen rematched

Cross for third place, this time winning by 5-3 decision.

In the 152 bracket, Hunter Wiederspohn won his opening match over Lane Guim of Houston, by a close 10-7 decision. Afterward he came out in a quick pin over ACS's Cole Smith, finished in 23 seconds. In the semifinal round Bethel student Mian Alexie-Leonard came out with a decisive 8-1 win. Competing for third now, Wiederspohn won by decision over Koleman McCaughey of Nikiski, 8-2.

Competing in the 182 weight bracket, Dillon Rooney started with a win by pin over Houston's Spencer Norquist in 56 seconds, followed by another win in equal time over Jonathon Rogers of

Grace Christian. In the next, Rooney was relegated to the consolation bracket by Kotzebue's Ethan Roetman after winning by fall in 3:30. In the back-bracket semifinal, Eileson student Nephi Tidwell came up with fifth place over his Wrangell opponent, after a tightly contested match. He won by 12-11 decision, with Rooney finishing the bracket in sixth.

Jonah Comstock dislocated his elbow during the tournament, still completing his 98-pound weight bracket. After winning over New Stuyahok wrestler Ivan Blunka in a pin in 3:59, Comstock was beaten by fall in 4:20 by eventual bracket winner James Paris, of Redington Senior-Junior High School. In the finals for third

place, Seward's Clay Petersen won by injury default at 5:45.

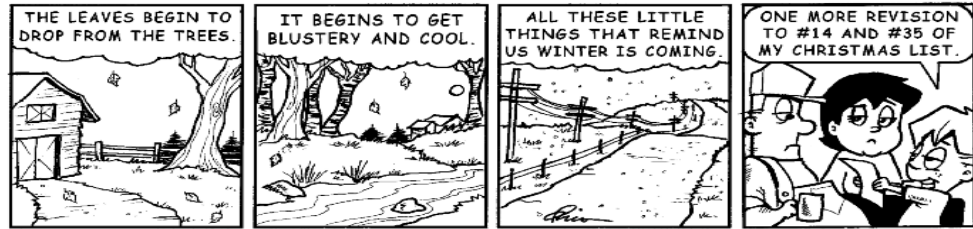
Still out on an injury of his own, senior Caleb Groshong was unable to compete in the Varsity 220.

Jenson led the team for points, scoring 21, followed by Barratt with 20, Wiederspohn and Comstock with 18 each, and Rooney with 17 points. Together, the Wolves came out with an eighth-place showing, of 33 schools in all.

"It was a phenomenal tournament," commented Wrangell coach Jeff Rooney. Though the team was only able to field five wrestlers, it still outperformed a number of contenders for this year's state championships, set for Anchorage on December 15.

Comics

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



Just Like Cats & Dogs



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Resorts
- 5 Sch. org.
- 8 Branch
- 12 Hide
- 13 Rowing need
- 14 Heap
- 15 Great Lake
- 16 Boxer's ploy
- 18 Cheap
- 20 Glove material
- 21 Halves of 38-Across
- 22 Coffee, slangily
- 23 Mixed metal
- 26 Barber's task
- 30 Fish eggs
- 31 Intent
- 32 Bobby of hockey fame

- 33 Pirate's sword
- 36 Nuts
- 38 Type squares
- 39 Started
- 40 Sports venue
- 43 Relief print of a sort
- 47 Curtail
- 49 Troubles
- 50 Chills and fever
- 51 Collection
- 52 Albacore, e.g.
- 53 Egyptian fertility goddess
- 54 With 55-Across, 365 days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30					31			32		
33			34	35			36	37		
				38			39			
40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47					48			49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

- 55 See 54-Across

DOWN

- 1 Detail, briefly
- 2 Lima's land
- 3 Settled down
- 4 Not mono
- 5 Sulks
- 6 Recording
- 7 Dadaist artist
- 8 More agile
- 9 Twitches
- 10 Hebrew month
- 11 Apportion (out)
- 17 "The Time
- 19 Whatever number
- 22 Bread spread
- 23 Curved line
- 24 Brock or Gehrig
- 25 Allow
- 26 That man's
- 27 Bill's partner
- 28 Grecian vessel
- 29 Have a go at
- 31 Fool
- 34 Contacts, e.g.
- 35 Asian nursemaid
- 36 Zodiac sign
- 37 Fodder for Ripley's column
- 39 Singer Lenya
- 40 Antioxidant berry
- 41 Carpets
- 42 Needle case
- 43 Small songbird
- 44 Hint
- 45 Arm bone
- 46 Despot
- 48 Bear, in Barcelona

© 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Puzzle answers on page 10

Cody Litster: from alternate recruit to trooper of the year

By **BEN MUIR**
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG – Trooper Cody Litster was about to pack everything he needed for the day into his truck one Thursday morning when he got a phone call about a shooting in his jurisdiction, 50 miles away.

“It seems like it’s all making sense now that I’ve asked a few more questions,” said Litster, on his first call with a school administrator in Kake, who reported the shooting.

Litster, a wildlife trooper, was in Petersburg when he first heard from Kake, a small village with no local police that’s two hours away by boat. There had been “someone with a gun, maybe threatening people.”

“Maybe the troopers are on their way,” said Litster, now on his third call with people in Kake. “Sometimes I’m disconnected since I’m the only guy over here, but I’m hoping they are because it sounds fairly serious.”

One of Litster’s roles as a trooper is a facilitator. In this case, he is monitoring an alleged shooting that occurred hours away and involves humans — he’s a game warden.

He’s trained on non-wildlife crime as well, though he doesn’t prefer it especially in a native town like Kake, in which he has built ‘kind of’ a good relationship with its residents. As a result they often report crimes to the wildlife trooper.

After all, Litster is the only brown shirt, as they’re called,

within miles. And a state trooper, or blue shirt, who would normally be on the case is about four hours away.

Litster is on the phone with blue shirts deciding who is going to respond to the shooting. The blue shirts talk to him about chartering a plane, but Litster could be there in half that time by boat.

The blue shirts decide they will head to Kake, relieving Litster and canceling a boat ride that would have upended his day tracking the moose hunt in Petersburg.

That was the first half-hour of his day: making six calls and coordinating a possible shooting in a faraway village.

Wasting no time, he grabbed a can of spicy peanuts and went out the road away from Petersburg. He tries not to patrol in town, as his relationship with the local police is good and there’s no reason to, unless someone is demonstrably evading the law or hardly keeping a vehicle straight. “If you’re drunk enough for the game warden to give a DUI,” he said. “You must have been really drunk.”

He has a state trooper ballcap on, thin glasses and tan, veiny hands. His sentences never end with a question and he can’t feel the bulletproof vest that pokes from his abdomen, which he hates but finds convenient.

Litster usually starts the day by calling the local police department to let them know where he’ll be. He checks in with

the state troopers dispatch in Ketchikan and with his supervisor in Juneau, which he calls a disjointed system.

His jurisdiction is the mainland about halfway to Juneau, down to the north end of Prince of Wales Island. His main areas of operation are Wrangell, Kake, Point Baker and Petersburg, his home port.

“It looks huge,” Litster said. “But there is not much population in it.”

Litster got a degree in zoology at Oregon State University, around where he grew up. His career was heading toward biology after years of building contacts and references with most of the state and federal groups in the area. He graduated and was confident a job would follow.

“I barely even got a call back,” Litster said. “I didn’t get squat.”

He was about 24 when he first moved to Alaska to work in construction. After a few years, he decided to pursue the state trooper academy.

He was actually an alternate selection into the academy. A person had dropped out and he was next in line.

“The academy either breaks you or brings you closer together,” Litster said. “One of the guys said, ‘this isn’t for me, I’m out of here,’ and I’m like ‘let’s go.’”

Litster would later be awarded Alaska’s Wildlife Trooper of the Year in 2013.

When he graduated from the academy, he was ready to venture out to the bush or fly planes. However, being the alternate recruit, he ended up drawing the short stick and was stationed in Petersburg.

“When I say I drew the short stick, I just mean that nobody knew about Petersburg,” Litster said. “I thought I was going to move around the state, but I came to Petersburg and never left. It’s a hidden gem. There is no reason to leave this place.”



PHOTO BY BEN MUIR

Cody Litster speaking to a hunter about the no-shooting zone on Mitkof Highway.

Litster said the only reason to leave would be out of boredom, but even that would be selfish.

“I have seen all the fisheries. I have seen all the hunting,” Litster said. “I have seen the stupidest things people can do and I’ve seen the best of people here. But any place I moved to would be selfish. The schools are so great here, my wife can absolutely work anywhere she wants to, and the living is good.”

His first trip to Petersburg was in 2006, and since then he has transitioned into living on an island with less than 3,000 people. The hardest part, he said, is seeing people in public who he might have just given a ticket to.

“The person who you just cited for some crazy fishing or hunting offense is the person I see when I pick my kids up from school or at the grocery store,” Litster said. “But I don’t think anyone really holds it against me.”

But he does know local police officers who grew up in Petersburg who have a hard time interacting with the public.

“Me, being from somewhere else, I don’t have those kinds of allegiances,” Litster said. “I can totally not worry about that.”

It was moose hunting season recently, and his daily patrol

included checking to make sure hunters had correct licensing. There is also a no-shooting zone along most of Mitkof Highway that extends a quarter mile away from the road. If he sees a car pulled over with no one inside, he suspects the driver saw a moose and was tracking it.

On the same day as the Kake shooting, Litster was later driving down the highway when he saw three cars parked alongside the road. They were all empty, so he waited for the presumed hunters to return.

One after another, they told the same story: A moose crossed the road, so they tried to track it but couldn’t find it. When Litster asked them if they were aware of the no-shooting zone, they said yes, but they were going to shoot it beyond the quarter-mile restricted area.

Litster said even that would have been illegal. Any moose that a hunter pursues inside the no-shooting zone may not then be shot outside the zone, he said.

“All my rules and regulations are written down,” Litster said. “Commercial fishermen know what the rules are, too, and if I catch you doing something wrong, you don’t have any reason to complain.”

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

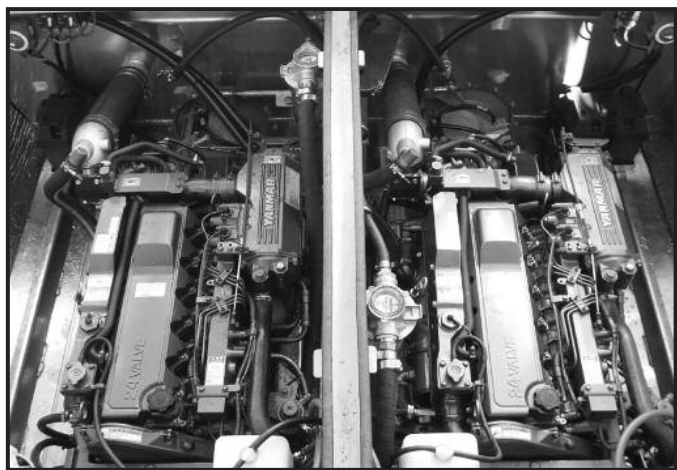
At their Regular Borough Assembly meeting held on October 10, 2017, the Borough Assembly approved canceling the upcoming Regular Assembly meetings on November 14th and November 28th and holding only one Regular Assembly meeting in November, on **Tuesday, November 7, 2017.**

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

Published: November 2, 9 and 16, 2017

FOR SALE

Diesel Engines & Jet Outdrives



Twin 6-cyl Yanmar 6LP high rev diesel engines coupled with 241 Hamilton Jets with turbo impellers. Under 1600 hours. Cruises at 30 knots at 3,500 RPM in current passenger vessel. Fuel burn: 15 gal. per hour.

Equipment new: \$91,000.

Selling for \$59,000.

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

Classified/Legals

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

FOR SALE
7-FOOT STEEL MEYERS SNOWPLOW with hand-held touch control pad. Ready to attach to Chevy Silverado 2500 HD pick up. \$3,500 call Ron in Petersburg 772-9393 or 518-1180..... tfn10-12dh

FOR RENT
2 BEDROOM HOUSE, in town near high school. Available in November. Call 907-305-0619..... tfn10-19b13

JOB
AICS/SEARHC IS RECRUITING for a Maintenance Mechanic to join our Facilities Maintenance team in Wrangell. Individuals with experience in all aspects of building maintenance are encouraged to apply. Salary and benefits and other information are available by calling David Grace at (907) 364-

4596. Knowledge of automobile mechanics not necessary. Please apply at searhc.org.....2x11-16b53

NOTICE
INTENT TO CLAIM abandoned real property known as Lot 17, USS 2827 and Lot 18, USS 2827 at Point Baker, Alaska. If you have, and intend to present a claim to either or both of these properties you must present your claim via

certified U.S Mail to Properties in care of P.O Box 0130, Point Baker, Alaska 99927 on or before December 31, 2017.....3x11-16b64

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

— **King Crossword** —
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	A	S	P	T	A	S	T	E	M		
P	E	L	T	O	A	R	P	I	L	E		
E	R	I	E	U	P	P	E	R	C	U	T	
C	U	T	R	A	T	E	P	L	I	S	L	E
			E	N	S	J	O	E				
A	L	L	O	Y	H	A	I	R	C	U	T	
R	O	E			A	I	M	O	R	R		
C	U	T	L	A	S	S	L	O	O	N	Y	
			E	M	S	L	E	D				
A	R	E	N	A	W	O	O	D	C	U	T	
C	U	T	S	H	O	R	T	I	L	L	S	
A	G	U	E	S	E	T	T	U	N	A		
I	S	I	S	O	N	E	Y	E	A	R		

— **Weekly SUDOKU** —
Answer

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

Crime debate dominates Alaska legislative session

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)— The issue of crime has so far dominated the special legislative session in Alaska.

The House on Monday entered its third day of floor debate on amendments to a bill prompted by public outcry over crime that makes changes to a criminal justice overhaul passed last year. Critics said the overhaul was too soft on crime.

The overhaul, based on recommenda-

tions from a special commission, stemmed from concerns about the state's growing prison population and high rates of recidivism. The commission, among other things, recommended limiting the use of prison for lower-level misdemeanor offenders, targeting prison space for violent and more serious offenders.

The bill under debate would stiffen penalties for certain crimes and, accord-

ing to the Department of Corrections, could result in more people being imprisoned.

Debate during the special session has, at times, been heated and intense. Some lawmakers want the overhaul repealed, while others favor modifications and giving the overhaul more time to work.

Whatever passes the House still must go to the Senate, which passed its own

version of the bill earlier this year.

The other issue on the session agenda is a wage tax, proposed by Gov. Bill Walker as a way to help address the state's budget deficit. He faces a tough sell, particularly with the Republican-led Senate.

The special session began Oct. 23.

Special sessions in Alaska can last up to 30 days.



HONORING OUR HEROES



WE THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM NOVEMBER 11

56 Degrees North

AP&T

Bobs' IGA

Breakaway Adventures

City Market

Elks Lodge #1595

First Bank - Member FDIC

JAW Technology LLC

Johnson's Construction & Supply

Michelle's Taste of Asia

Ottesen's True Value

Petro Marine Services

Sea Level Seafoods

Sentry Hardware & Marine

Stikine Drug

Stikine Sportsmens Assoc.

Stough Family Trust

Sunrise Aviation

The Bay Company

Tongass Federal Credit Union

Tyee Travel

Wrangell Medical Center

Wrangell Sentinel

Hospital

Continued from page 1

Wrangell-based provider Alaska Island Community Services. She mentioned that SEARHC is already a close partner with Wrangell's public hospital. Retaining its name after the merger, AICS has subsequently continued its arrangement of sharing medical practitioners and services with WMC. Maintaining four doctors of its own would likely cost the hospital \$1.5 million, and Rang reported the arrangement saves WMC about two-thirds that amount.

At Monday's meeting, SEARHC chief operating officer Dan Neumeister confirmed the non-profit provider was indeed interested in the hospital's future. In exchange for a non-binding letter of intent to collaborate, he offered financial support for planning a unified facility. Assembly members seemed agreeable to the suggestion, and Von Bargen requested from the hospital board what direction its membership would be amenable to take as far as possible partnerships or divestment is concerned.

"Whatever we do we've got to act fast. I feel we're already five years behind," Gilbert commented. The next hospital board meeting is set for November 15, and the Assembly is next scheduled to meet on December 12.

For his part, Rang said he appreciated the change in view among assembly members, which had been strongly in favor of maintaining an independently managed hospital when he was hired two years ago.

"I think the end is near," he said of that model. "Mostly, it's because the building itself is aging."



PHOTO BY DAN RUDY

During a special work session between the City and Borough Assembly and Wrangell Medical Center, director Michael Congedo of the BDO Center for Healthcare Excellence and Innovation presents feasibility findings for the hospital's financing a new facility. Of two different building methods considered, a newly built and equipped hospital could cost between \$41 million and \$52 million, which with interest over 30 years could cost more than double that figure.

Sexual assault response team forms in Petersburg

By BEN MUIR
Sentinel writer

PETERSBURG — Medical staff, an advocacy group and the police station in Petersburg have created a three-pronged approach to sexual assault cases.

"Understanding what sexual assault is, it's kind of eye-opening," said Annette Wooton, the executive director of a Petersburg advocacy group called WAVE, or Working Against Violence for Everyone. "For a lot of people, when you look at the statutes, you realize 'oh, I've been assaulted.'"

The Sexual Assault Response Team, or SART, is headed by local police, medical professionals and WAVE. Wooton said the first step for anyone, let alone investigators, is to believe someone who says they were assaulted.

"Support them," Wooton said. "Don't tell them that they have to report or they have to do this or they can't do this. Connect them to WAVE. Let them know that we are here to support them and we are not going to force them

into doing anything that they don't want to do."

And when a person does report to WAVE, to the police or to the hospital, all three will be prepared with a coordinated response, she said. What's more, those who have been sexually assaulted can report to virtually any Petersburg department, and he or she will be connected to SART with complete anonymity, Wooton said.

"Instead of going to the police to make a report, and the hospital for an exam, and then having to tell the story again at WAVE," Wooton said, "we all meet together and respond together."

According to the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey, 50 percent of adult women in the state have experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence. Jared Popp, a police officer in Petersburg and investigator with SART, said the station gets about one case of sexual assault per year. But with SART created, Popp said it could help those who might be reluctant to report.

"We aren't always able to tend

to the emotional side of the trauma," Popp said on police officers. "Our job is to interview, gather evidence and arrest the bad guy."

Now that WAVE is involved, an advocate could be there to explain the reporting process. And if a report is submitted into the Petersburg Medical Center, Jennifer Hyer, a physician, would likely be the one who responds.

"When that happens, then we say, 'is that a process you want to move forward with?'" Hyer said. "Rather quickly, within 10 to 15 minutes, we can have our team assembled."

Medical staff would complete a forensic exam, while a police officer would ask questions and gather evidence — all with the advocate present, Hyer said.

"As a member of this community, as a mom and a physician, I want this community to be the safest, healthiest

community in Alaska, if not the United States," Hyer said. "A part of that is owning up to what is happening in our community, recognizing it and making this a safe place for people to come forward."

B.P.O. ELKS #1595
 Meets the 1st and 3rd Wed.
www.wrangell-elks-lodge-1595.com
 Exalted Ruler Jack Pino
 Visiting Elks always welcome

Ocean acidification could threaten Alaska crab populations

KODIAK, Alaska (AP) — Alaska researchers warn that the changing levels of ocean acidity could have grave consequences for red king crab populations in the Bering Sea.

The acidity of waters off Alaska could change dramatically over the next 50 years, leading to possible crab stock failure in about 100 years, said Robert Foy, director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Kodiak Laboratory.

A change in pH, the scale of acidity, is occurring as more carbon dioxide is dissolved in the water, Alaska's Energy Desk reported. Researchers expect ocean acidification to occur faster at locations in high latitudes like Alaska.

Through long-term experiments at the lab, Foy has been studying the effects of ocean acidification caused by climate change for about a decade. On tests with red king crabs, Foy said most of the crabs don't make it past early life stages under water conditions similar to what researchers predict for Alaska.

"If the results in the laboratory are accurate, and there's no acclimation, you would see stock failure about 100 years from now," Foy said.

In more acidic water, crabs have a harder time to make and maintain their shells. While some of the crabs survived, indicating there could be the potential to acclimate and adapt, Foy said there might not be enough time for those survival traits to be passed on.

N K ELECTRIC
 Here to serve all
 your electrical needs

**COMMERCIAL
 INDUSTRIAL
 RESIDENTIAL**

874-2770, #21633

Call Ottesen's True Value Hardware for all your building & special order needs.

Featuring:
 Atrium Windows,
 Snap-Loc Roofing,
 Treated &
 Untreated Wood

Phone 874-3377
 Fax 874-3549
 e-mail: ottesenstruevalue@ak.net

Ottesen's
 BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value.

community newspapers

#knowlocal

Trusted and reliable

Now more than ever people want credible news sources they can trust. 54% of respondents in a nationwide survey who read their community newspaper said they trust their newspaper more than any other news source. Plus, 76% of those same respondents said their community newspaper really understands things that are important to their community.

www.knowlocal.news
2017 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

WRANGELL SENTINEL

205 Front St. wrgsent@gmail.com 874-2301