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PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Behavioral health trip

Four students from Wrangell High School will be heading to Juneau Jan. 27 to Feb. 1 to learn more about behavioral health and potential careers in the field. While in Juneau, they will be touring health care facilities, shadowing people, and learning more about the field. Pictured from left to right: Zoe Affholter, Donna Massin, Tasha Massin, and Jing O'Brien. Donna Massin will be chaperoning these three students and Elizabeth Johnson (not pictured).

Assembly approves tail insurance policies for medical center

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The borough assembly held a short special meeting last Friday night, Jan. 11. The purpose of the meeting was to approve of two tail insurance policies for the Wrangell Medical Center.

Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga explained that tail insurance is designed to cover something that happened in the past, but had consequences that only become apparent in the future.

"So rather than insuring operations that 'are', you're insuring things that occurred in the past," she said. "So if someone should file a claim against operations, or a decision, or a procedure or something that was done at the hospital when it was open previously, tail insurance covers those items ... When a child is born at a hospital, there are all sorts of things that can go wrong with childbirth that present later on. So the professional liability insurance here

covers the hospital if that person should come back when they're 25 and say 'I'm having a problem because the cord got wrapped around my neck when I was born at Wrangell Medical Center 25 years ago.'"

The assembly approved of two tail insurance policies. The first was a five-year policy with RSUI Indemnity Company in the amount of a total of \$53,554. This policy, according to a summary statement attached to the meeting's agenda, protects the liability of senior hospital staff and members of the board of directors. The second was a continuous professional liability policy with National Fire & Marine Insurance, protecting the liability of hospital operations, for a one-time payment of \$60,280.

During the meeting, the assembly also adopted a resolution to amend the FY 2019 budget by accepting \$136,382.96 in revenue from Wrangell Medical Center transfer activities.

City meets to discuss priorities for future cruise seasons

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The 2019 cruise season is just around the corner. Starting in April and ending in October, about 57 cruise ships are scheduled to stop at the city dock. To get ahead of the upcoming busy season, city officials and businessmen all came together on Wed. Jan. 9 to discuss what the city's priorities should be for the upcoming and future cruise seasons.

The largest of these ships is Holland America's *Maasdam*, 719 ft. in length and capable of carrying 1,258 passengers. According to a draft schedule provided by Carol Rushmore, Wrangell's economic development director, an estimated 20,000 tourists will visit Wrangell via cruise ships this year. This is an increase from the roughly 16,000 tourists who came to Wrangell last year. The cruise ships are an important part of Wrangell's tourism economy.

A large portion of the discussion revolved around ways to improve Wrangell's appearance for people stepping off the ships. The city's "presentation" needs work, said Sylvia Ettefagh with Alaska Vistas. She suggested some beautification projects around city dock like putting up some flower gardens, or park benches.

Other ideas raised in the

meeting included better signage to help direct people through town and the construction of bathrooms near the dock and out by Petroglyph Beach. Renovations to the boardwalk up to the Mt. Dewey trail were also discussed.

Ettefagh suggested the city see about getting trash picked up more regularly in the parking lot at Reliance Harbor. Borough Manager Lisa Von Barga agreed that the trash in the parking lot was a problem, and said that the city was looking into updating their nuisance abatement codes to help enforce cleanliness around the city.

Besides beautification projects, improving the staging area by city dock seemed to be another big priority for people at the meeting. The cul-de-sac at the dock grows very crowded during the cruise season, with tourists, vendors, tour buses, and charter companies all crowding into a compact area.

There were various proposals on how to create more room, or some semblance of organization. One that garnered a lot of popularity was the construction of a covered area on the dock itself, leading from the ship to shore. This covered area would work as booths for vendors, on one side of the dock, while tourists could pass by with relative ease on the other half. This would also allow for more space in the

cul-de-sac for tour guides to meet their customers by pushing the vendors up ahead onto the dock itself.

Another idea that was widely approved of by those attending the meeting was the addition of another float to city dock. An

extra float would allow more room for charter boats to dock and meet up with the tourists hiring their services.

It was agreed that the ideas for an extra float, and a covered area for vendors on the dock were worth researching further.

Von Barga explained that this was just a brainstorming and discussion meeting. More meetings for further brainstorming and concrete planning of goals and priorities for future cruise seasons will be announced as the season draws closer.

Planning and Zoning Commission approve "Curleyville" replat

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell's planning and zoning commission met last Thursday evening to review and approve of the rezoning of several lots owned by Armstrong Rents, LLC.

Robert Armstrong came before the commission to give some history on the lots, which are located on a stretch of land between Front Street and Church Street to the west and east, and Episcopal Avenue and Case Avenue to the north and south. These lots came into his family's possession over many years, Armstrong said, when his father first came to Wrangell. "Curley" Armstrong came to Alaska on May 7, 1927, the same day that Charles Lindbergh landed his plane in France after his historic transatlantic flight. He began buying property in Wrangell after serving in WWII. The lots in question came to be known as "Curleyville."

There are now several buildings on this stretch of property, some of which sit across multiple lot lines. Armstrong wants the lots rezoned and combined, from 10 lots to five, to have each building sit on its own lot. This would make development of the area easier, he said, and be a more efficient

use of the land.

"So you can see I got lots of lot lines. If anything happened, or I wanted to develop it, you guys would be here for a year trying to figure out the motion for it," Armstrong said.

There was some brief discussion among the commissioners, but the rezoning was approved of unanimously.

During the meeting, the commissioners also approved of a conditional use permit for the creation of a borrow pit, at the request of SEARHC. This pit will be located on Lot 1, Health Care Subdivision III. Rock will be blasted from this area to assist in the construction of the new hospital next to the AICS clinic.

They also discussed a rezoning of land owned by the Presbyterian church. The church wanted to carve off a slice of property where a neighbor had a parking area. They want to give this land to the neighbor's property.

Other items covered in the meeting included the combining of smaller lots on Etoin Avenue into larger lots, and a land swap agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Thursday, January 17: Kyle Davidson, Tracy Allen, F. Iver Nore, Tammy Hay, Marina Wooden, Ryan Hayes. **Friday, January 18:** Elizabeth Castle, Hunter Wilson. *Anniversary:* Ronan & Mary Rooney. **Saturday, January 19:** Tom Nore, Terri Stark, Jim Rinehart, Laura Paulsen, Ken Davidson, Sr., Megan Talburt. *Anniversary:* Chris & Dixie Booker, Steve & Helen Keller. **Sunday, January 20:** Shelby Eyre, Yvonne Stough, Syler Webster, Pam Wiederspohn, Denae Reeves. **Monday, January 21:** James Stough, Jr., Joshua Davidson, Jessica Rice. **Monday, January 22:** Todd Torvend, Riley Blatchley, Lisa Messmer. **Wednesday, January 23:** Jean Petticrew, Madison Blackburn, Shawna Buness, Chris Ottesen, Nicole Fuerhelm. *Anniversary:* Steve & Terri Henson. **Thursday, January 24:** Keith Appleman. *Anniversary:* Michael & Denae Reeves.

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 17

Chili w/ Beef & Cheese, Spicy Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad, Cornbread

Friday, January 18

Baked White Fish, Beets in Orange Sauce, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans

Monday, January 21

CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Tuesday, January 22

Baked Chicken, Potatoes, Triple Bean Salad, Biscuits

Wednesday, January 23

Six Layer Dinner, Green Beans, Peach Salad, Rice

Thursday, January 24

Porcupine Meatballs, Mixed Veggies, Cabbage/Pear/Raisin Salad, Pasta

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, January 20

Columbia 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

Columbia 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 3

Columbia 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, February 10

Columbia 4:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 17

Columbia 7:15 p.m.

Southbound

Wednesday, January 23

Columbia 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday, January 30

Columbia 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 6

Columbia 6:45 a.m.

Wednesday, February 13

Columbia 5:45 a.m.

Wednesday, February 20

Columbia 6:15 a.m.

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



TIDES Jan. 17 - Jan. 24

High Tides

Low Tides

	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft	Time	Ft
January 17	9:18	15.7	10:25	13.1	2:42	4.4	3:52	0.3
January 18	10:11	16.9	11:18	14.2	3:46	4.0	4:47	-1.3
January 19	11:01	17.9	---	---	4:44	3.3	5:35	-2.8
January 20	12:07	15.3	11:50	18.8	5:35	2.5	6:21	-3.8
January 21	12:53	16.2	12:38	19.3	6:23	1.8	7:05	-4.3
January 22	1:37	16.8	1:25	19.4	7:10	1.2	7:48	-4.2
January 23	2:21	17.2	2:13	18.9	7:58	1.0	8:32	-3.5
January 24	3:04	17.2	3:01	17.8	8:48	1.0	9:17	-2.4

Wrangell Roundup: Special Events

Saturday, January 19

Baby Raven Reads: Wrangell Head Start, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Theme: Raven Loses His Nose.

Saturday, January 19

Community Roots Meeting: Stikine Inn, 3 p.m.

Thursday, January 24

"Friends in Grief" workshop: AICS Medical Clinic, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tips to help those who have experienced loss. Open to all.

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: M-F 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 23, 1919

The people of Wrangell enjoyed a treat Saturday evening when Richard Surratt's motion pictures of the Stikine River and its wonderful scenery were shown at the Rex Theatre. The pictures are so real that if any one who knows the Stikine should suddenly awaken from a snooze while the pictures were being shown he would think he was aboard the Hazel B III bound for Telegraph Creek landing, at the head of navigation. From Wrangell to Telegraph Creek the voyage is one continuous panorama of scenic grandeur, of which Mr. Surratt's pictures are a marvelous reproduction. The writer once attended a "movie" in Portland where "A Trip to Alaska via the Famous Inside Passage" was shown. The pictures were entertaining, but they had one big disadvantage - the mountains were too far away to be seen to best advantage. But Mr. Surratt's pictures are free from this fault, for when one is skimming along the Stikine he is on speaking terms with mountains and glaciers. These films will be shown in the east and in various parts of the United States where it is generally supposed that dog teams are the only means of transportation in the far north.

January 21, 1944

Back in years gone by, long before the cloud of war with Japan gathered into a thunderhead and broke over our heads there was a particular phrase, which was our pet anathema. It said: "Made in Japan." We'd read of industrialists in Japan paying laborers the equivalent of 10 or 12 cents a day to compete with the American market. With Wrangell's latest quota of draftees called to service, this community will have well over a hundred of its men serving Uncle Sam. That's a lot of potential money makers and spenders to take out of a community this size. Where other Alaska towns, through war industry or activity, have enjoyed a definite "war prosperity" period, Wrangell,

untouched by such, has experienced somewhat of a let-down. Wrangell has always been a tight, co-operative "all for one and one for all" community. Opportunities for development after the war will be numberless. Now is the time we should be "making hay" to take advantage of them. Our first line of "offense" in the battle should be - "buy in Wrangell."

January 16, 1969

In one of the longest cold spells in recent years, temperature readings registered ranged from a low of 1 degree Sunday to a high of 14 on Tuesday. Coldest time during the recent snap was at the end of December when temperatures dipped below zero. Lowest temperature reading recorded here in recent years was 10 below in January of 1947.

Cold was not the only problem for Wrangell residents this week. The city power plant had its share. It started when a bearing burned out on Friday night. When the unit went out, repairmen had a second engine apart. Then on Sunday morning as crews began to put one of the en-

gines into operation, they found that the radiator was frozen. As workmen tried to thaw the frozen radiator and lines, fuel oil had been spilled onto the floor and caught fire. The fire blackened the back wall of the building and damaged the rear door. Firemen stopped the blaze before the damage could spread.

January 13, 1994

The Wrangell School Board intends to open a newly designed high school in the fall of 1995, and a group of 20 community members began the redesign process December 7 with an introduction to the task and the formation of five committees. The committees were set up to develop exit learner goals, curriculum, organizational structure, instructional strategies and learning assessment methods. Evergreen Elementary Principal Dave Dirksen heads the goals committee, which has met three times to complete work toward a clear definition of what all students should be like as the result of their education in Wrangell schools.



Wrangell Weather

Date	High	Low
Jan. 07	26	19
Jan. 08	34	21
Jan. 09	33	28
Jan. 10	34	28
Jan. 11	41	32
Jan. 12	39	32
Jan. 13	44	35
Jan. 14	43	35



Daylight Hours

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
Jan 17	8:08 am	3:48 pm	7:40h
Jan 18	8:07 am	3:50 pm	7:43h
Jan 19	8:05 am	3:52 pm	7:47h
Jan 20	8:04 am	3:54 pm	7:50h
Jan 21	8:03 am	3:56 pm	7:53h
Jan 22	8:01 am	3:58 pm	7:57h
Jan 23	8:00 am	4:00 pm	8:00h
Jan 24	7:58 am	4:02 pm	8:04h



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Borough assembly hears hospital update, approves legislative priorities

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

The Wrangell borough assembly met last Tuesday night to hear an update on the transition of the Wrangell Medical Center to SEARHC control. The regional healthcare consortium took over the medical center late last year and is in the process of building a new hospital in Wrangell. In the meantime, the WMC will be run by SEARHC until the new hospital is ready to receive patients, reportedly in 2021. Dan Neumeister, with SEARHC, said the transition has been very smooth for the hospital's employees.

There have also been some technological and infrastructural upgrades to the hospital. Some of these upgrades include IT improvements, new clocks, telephone systems and computers. The most recent upgrades, he said, were some generator transfer switches that were installed this past weekend. Most of these upgrades, he added, are to ensure the hospital can continue functioning while the new hospital is built over the next two years.

"Currently, about \$440,000 investments are currently being made," said Neumeister.

Neumeister also said that the hospital met its budget after the first month of

management. \$130,000 has already been transferred back to the city, he said, from outstanding legacy bank accounts. They are anticipating about another \$375,000 will be available to return to the city within six to eight months.

As for the new hospital, Neumeister said that things are moving fairly smoothly. They are on track to stay within five percent of their budget for the new facility, he said. Some big requests for contractors will be going out in February, he was told by Wold Architects. Start time for construction is planned for April or May, and the move from the medical center to the new hospital is planned for

December of 2020.

"As long as we don't have the mother of all snowstorms for a long time, we'll be okay," he said.

During the meeting, the assembly also approved of a list of legislative priorities for the year 2019. These priorities listed are of projects and items that the assembly felt are important to Wrangell, and which require action above the local government level. Some of the legislative priorities include researching the feasibility of bringing a boarding school to Wrangell, reinstatement/filling of local state positions like a public nurse, magistrate, and child welfare caseworker. Other priorities listed include an emergency

generator for the airport.

The assembly also approved of a resolution creating a "special investment committee" to explore potential investment opportunities for the borough. Assembly members Anne Morrison and Jim DeBord volunteered to sit on this committee.

The next regular assembly meeting will be on Jan. 22. Another meeting, scheduled for Feb. 12, has been cancelled, and another meeting in April was rescheduled for April 30. During this meeting, the assembly also agreed to hold a special meeting on Friday, Jan. 11 to discuss the borough's insurance policies in regards to the Wrangell Medical Center.



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FRI. JAN. 18 - SUN. JAN. 20
7PM NIGHTLY

SHOWING NEXT WEEKEND:
Aquaman

Alaska's population declines for second consecutive year

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Alaska's population has declined for a second consecutive year, dropping by 1,608 people to a total of 736,239, according to a state report.

A report released Thursday by the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development shows 7,577 residents left as Alaska gained 5,969 people from July 2017 to July 2018, the Juneau Empire reported.

Some residents left to pursue job opportunities outside the state as unemploy-

ment rates in the state have consistently topped 6 percent in the last two years. Alaska has the highest unemployment rate in the country at 6.3 percent as of November.

The national average was 3.7 percent in November, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many residents tend to head to Washington state, where the unemployment rate was at 4.3 percent in November.

The decline was slower than the year before. The state's population decreased

by 2,629 people from 2016 to 2017, marking the first decline in 29 years.

The largest population losses were recorded in Anchorage and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Anchorage's population fell by 2,386 people, bringing the total down to 295,365. The Fairbanks area lost 734 people, bringing the population to 97,121.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to be the fastest growing region of the state, adding 1,355 people. It now has 105,743 residents.



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Court report

Jan. 8 - Dylan L. Barger was found guilty of theft at a value between \$250 and \$749. He has been sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, with 30 days suspended. He will also pay a total of \$100 in surcharges, and will be fined an additional \$100 if probation is revoked. He has also been ordered to pay restitution, and will be on probation for one year.

Police report

January 7

Agency assist: Fire alarm.
Traffic stop: Citations issued to Israel Comstock, 23 for driving while license revoked and failure to provide proof of insurance.
Civil issue.
Summons service.
Extra patrol.

January 8

Hazardous play: Report of children waiting for the school bus, playing in the roadway.
Agency assist: OCS.
Agency assist: Fire department.
Parking complaint.
Suspicious circumstance.
Traffic complaint: Vehicle ran through school bus stop.
Welfare check.

January 9

Report of theft.
Alarm.
Civil issue.
Missing items.
Summons service.
Driving complaint: Person driving on sidewalk.
Deer hit.
Harassment.
Traffic hazard: People plowing into roadway.
Traffic stop.
Two summons services.

January 10

Traffic stop: Verbal warning for driving without headlights on, verbal warning for not having residence information updated and Z tabs.

January 11

Citizen assist: Vehicle unlock.
Agency assist: Parks and Rec.
Traffic stop: Citation issued: Omar Nagaya, 29. Failure to provide proof of insurance.
Hit and run accident.

January 12

Traffic stop: Citation issued to Duane Ihnat, 68 for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for failure to stop at stop sign.
Citizen assist.
Traffic stop: Citation issued to Ray Rogers, 66 for failure to provide proof of insurance. Insurance provided citation voided. Verbal warning for faulty equipment.
Traffic stop: Citation issued to Holly Padilla, 33 for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for faulty equipment and not carrying drivers license.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for no headlights during hours of darkness.
Citizen assist: Civil matter.
Traffic stop: Verbal warning for faulty equipment.
Traffic stop: Citation issued to Joe Younce, 35 for failure to provide proof of insurance. Insurance provided and citation voided. Verbal warning for failure to signal.
Traffic stop: Citation issued to William Shanks Jr., 58 for failure to provide proof of insurance and verbal warning for no headlights.

January 13

Welfare check.
Theft/Civil issue.
There were three ambulance calls and one dog complaint this week.

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Lady Wolves dominate in first home games of the season

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

Wrangell High School hosted their first home games of the basketball season last weekend with Craig. The games on Friday and Saturday were hard-fought, but the Wrangell Lady Wolves came out victorious.

Both teams had a strong defensive game on Friday. The first quarter saw a lot of fouls from both teams and many of the points made came from free throws. Wolves player Julia Mitheth (#1) received an leg injury during this quarter, too.

The second quarter, and most of the third quarter, saw lots of back and forth between

the teams. The Lady Wolves would pull ahead, then the Craig Lady Panthers would catch up and take the lead.

By the end of the third quarter, however, Wrangell was able to hold on to a narrow lead, 41 to 37. The final quarter was a tough fight to maintain that lead. Craig tried catch up, but the Lady Wolves were able to keep them at bay. Friday's game went to Wrangell with a final score of 57 to 47.

Wrangell had a much stronger start to Saturday's game. The Lady Wolves were able to take the lead early and hold on to it throughout the game.

Craig fought hard and made

some impressive shots. They opened the third quarter with two baskets in a row. However, it was not enough to take the lead. The Lady Wolves were able to match them almost point for point.

Wrangell was confident enough in victory that they called out their B-team to play in the final minutes of the last quarter.

Craig was able to make a buzzer-beating three point shot at the end of the game, but the win still went to Wrangell. The final score was 61 to 40.

"Friday night was definitely rough for us," said Coach Laurie Brown. "We really had to battle through; we got into foul

trouble early, so we had to have a lot of our non-starters in the game. But they got some good game experience, learned to fight through that. Tonight [Saturday] was much smoother. We were able to contain those fouls, pull down the rebounds,

and just able to keep a nice, smooth game. The girls showed a lot of composure."

The Lady Wolves will be travelling to Haines this weekend. Their next home games are scheduled for Jan. 25 and 26, against Metlakatla.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Maddy Harding (#10) running the ball down the court.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

The Wrangell Lady Wolves played against the Craig Panthers last weekend. Friday night's game was a struggle, according to Coach Laurie Brown, but the team was able to come out victorious in both Friday and Saturday's games.

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Wrangell Medical Center
SEARHC CARE NETWORK

Visiting Physician Schedule
Dr. Kelly Moxley, Podiatrist, January 25-27, 2019

Call 874-7194 for Information & Appointments
www.wrangellmedicalcenter.org
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Strong opening for Wolves basketball season

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

After going three-to-one in the Rally the Regions tournament earlier this month, the Wrangell Wolves played their first games of the regular season last weekend. Wrangell hosted the Craig Panthers, opening the basketball season with a pair of home games. The Wolves made a very strong showing, winning both games against the Panthers.

The first game, on Friday, Jan. 11, went very much in the Wolves' favor. Wrangell took

the lead early in the first quarter and held it through the whole game. The Panthers were not able to get on the board until the final four minutes of the first quarter. Both teams made some impressive scores. Brett Abrahamson (#45) made a buzzer-beating shot just before halftime.

In the fourth quarter, the Panthers rallied and narrowed the lead, but were unable to overtake the Wolves. Wrangell won Friday's game with a score of 56 to 48.

Saturday's game was more



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Trevor Miller (#34) working to get past a player from Craig High School.



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Riley Blatchley (#12) jumps for the ball in the opening of last weekend's games against the Craig Panthers.

of the same. The Wolves took the lead early. The Panthers put themselves on the board in the first quarter with an impressive three-pointer. However, the Wolves held on to their lead. Saturday's game differed from Friday's by a large number of fouls. Wrangell had 10 fouls listed by their players by halftime. The Panthers, once again, were able to gain momentum and attempt to catch up in the fourth quarter. It was not

enough, however. Wrangell claimed another victory with a final score of 68 to 36.

"I'd say we're getting better, for sure," said Coach Cody Angerman. "Our defense was really good, we had some real highlights."

Angerman said that everyone on the team performed very well. It was good, he said, to be able to call up any player from the bench and expect them to play well, and not rely too heavily

on a few players of exceptional skill level.

Some players he pointed out for an especially good performance this weekend include Abrahamson, Stone Guggenbickler, Trevor Miller, Riley Blatchley, and others.

The Wolves are scheduled to play against Haines next weekend, on Jan. 18 and 19. After that, the following weekend, Wrangell will host more home games against Metlakatla.

Blood Bank of Alaska opens permanent facility in Juneau

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - The

Blood Bank of Alaska has opened a permanent center in Juneau.

The Juneau Empire reports the facility has operated for a week and plans a grand opening Jan. 17.

Blood Bank of Alaska chairman Chris Mello says organization representatives have conducted mobile blood drives

in Juneau for years. The organization has about 2,000 registered donors.

Two phlebotomists from Anchorage are staffing the center and the facility is looking to hire two locally.

Blood Bank CEO Robert Scanlon says none of the organization's collected blood currently is used in Juneau. Bartlett Regional Hospital receives blood from the Lower 48.

However, the Blood Bank of Alaska supplies blood to 21 different hospitals throughout Alaska and to the military.

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2018: A year in review, Part 2; April -December

By CALEB VIERKANT
Sentinel writer

April

The Department of Transportation is finally able to get started on a major Wrangell road repaving project. Perforated by potholes, the borough's Evergreen Avenue will be resurfaced and repaired, with pedestrian improvements and other fixes. The major project has been on hold for half a decade, surviving rounds of budget cuts to capital funding elsewhere in the state along the way. Two local right of way issues which had lately been holding up the project were wrapped up in February, allowing the project to move along.

Speaking at a public meeting late Monday evening, SEARHC COO Dan Neumeister fielded questions about a possible partnership between the regional health provider and Wrangell Medical Center. Facing formidable financial challenges, the city-run hospital is in need of an alternative management structure to continue operating.

Wrangell Cooperative Association began work on renovating new office space last week. Workers began knocking down walls and pulling up old materials from a multiplex apartment at the corner of Wood Street and Zimovia Highway last Tuesday. Sale of the two-acre lot had been finalized in December 2016, and architects have since designed what will be about 2,500 square feet of office space for the Wrangell tribe.

There's a new face behind the big desk at Wrangell Senior Center. Leeann Martin took over management at the local center on March 19, having previously worked IT for the school system. Originally from the Seattle area, Martin has lived and worked in Wrangell for five years. The Center primarily caters to residents aged 60 years and older. Last year, staff at the center provided 3,391 meals at the center, while another 4,009 were delivered to seniors at home. The center's shuttle bus provided 2,077 rides.

May

The city is inching toward a planned purge of the island's abandoned vehicles and assorted clutter. The unsightly problem has been a longstanding issue in public parking spaces such as at Shoemaker Bay Harbor, with unroadworthy vehicles left there to the elements. But under municipal code junk vehicles on private property are not allowed, and the rule extends to other collections on display deemed to be a "nuisance" by authorities which includes disused vehicles like cars and boats, rusting piles of scrap or broken equipment, and other items. The Assembly touched on the issue last September and in December, tasking city manager Lisa Von Bargen with raising its importance on her list of priorities. To that end, Public Works had offered incentives for scrap metal disposal and other dumping, and letters had been dispatched to 20 property own-

ers out of compliance with municipal code and zoning. The assembly's stated intent was to see action by the beginning of May, and at last week's meeting raised the issue again.

Wrangell's water situation seems stable heading into the summer, with both reservoirs "overflowing" according to the latest update from Public Works. A combination of factors led to the enforcement of conservation measures through the month of March, including low precipitation, a lengthy winter and high demand. During the winter, demand by the first week of February had spiked to 1,151,000 gallons per day, which for the previous year was second only to a summertime high the first week of July, at 1,227,000 gallons daily. More recently, demand by the

end of April ebbed to half what it had been in February, on average around 563,000 gallons per day.

Money appears to be available for Wrangell's Byford yard cleanup that would allow remaining contaminated soil to be shipped off-island rather than disposed of in a local monofill. At the behest of Gov. Bill Walker, the Alaska Legislature approved \$5 million of additional funding to be allotted to the project in its FY19 capital budget. A capital and operating budget had both been passed by the Alaska House and Senate on Sunday.

A group of Tlingit residents had a unique opportunity for an historical site visit with state archaeologists last week at Anan Creek, revisiting a traditional fishing ground.

After a series of meetings and public presentations last week, a proposed acquisition of Wrangell Medical Center by SEARHC looks more probable. While an infusion of \$250,000 by the city has been needed to stabilize its condition, the age of hospital's facilities and the cost to maintain them is a more intractable concern. A feasibility study examined WMC's financial standing, questioning whether taking on the organization and construction of a new hospital would be doable for SEARHC. Whether a possible arrangement between the regional health concern and local hospital might be reached would depend on how the numbers played out.

June

A pair of Australian kayakers navigated their way to

Wrangell over the weekend, part of a three-month excursion down the Pacific Ocean's northeastern coastline. Starting in Glacier Bay National Park and terminating in southern British Columbia, their trip is one with two purposes: to raise funds for marine conservation and to raise awareness about the impact of plastics on the world's oceans. Lucy Graham and Mathilde Gordon come from Cairns, a seaside city in Australia's northeastern province of Queensland. Much as Wrangell is to the Stikine River and Anan bear observatory, Graham explained their community is the primary gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

Following an estimated 14 hours of discussion over three separate workshops, members

Continued on page 7

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2018: A year in review, Part 2

Continued from page 6

of the Wrangell City and Borough Assembly approved a budget for the 2019 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Getting there has not been an easy process, mulling over among other things a restructuring of how public facilities maintenance and the Public Works Department are arranged, proposed by the city manager as a cost saving measure. Under

this proposal, Lisa Von Barga envisioned a separate division within public works tasked with public maintenance and equipment upkeep. The department head would then be able to focus more directly on capital projects and non electrical utilities, while maintenance routines would be better directed. In the end, a \$21M budget was approved for the coming year, covering all city

expenditures, including large-scale capital projects. In all unrestricted reserves, around \$8.4M would be maintained, with another \$20.6M in restricted funds also held in reserve.

For the first time since 1995, Wrangell will be hosting the annual shareholders' meeting for Sealaska Corporation this weekend. Scheduled for Saturday at the Nolan Center, this

year's shareholders' meeting will be the corporation's 45th annual.

After 30 years on the bench, Wrangell's district magistrate will conclude her legal career today. Chris Ellis has served as a magistrate judge for First District Court in Wrangell for 14 of those years, with most of her preceding tenure spent in Craig.

July

During Sealaska Corporation's annual shareholder's meeting, held in Wrangell late last month, the Native organization bestowed ownership of an important local landmark to its hosts. Totem Park lies at the bottom of Episcopal Avenue, where it joins with Front Street. Prior to its becoming a park, the property had been the site of the Sun House, or Gagaan Hít, one of the houses belonging to the Tlingit Kiks.ádi clan. A totem dedicated to the clan's Chief Kahlteen was created by noted carver William Ukas, or Yiika.aas, and raised on the site in 1895.

On Monday organizers of the regional business development competition Path to Prosperity announced their 12 finalists for 2018, three of which come from Petersburg and Wrangell. Among this year's finalists is Angie Flickinger of Gathered & Grown Botanicals. Among this year's P2P finalists from Petersburg is John Murgas of Petersburg Marine. Fellow finalist Marja Smets also calls Petersburg home, operating Farragut Farm with husband Bo Varsano at Farragut Bay.

On Tuesday, new reporter Caleb Vierkant arrived from his hometown of Bullard, Texas. After four years at the Sentinel's desk, Dan Rudy will be heading back to school to pursue his master's degree in journalism, at Columbia Journalism School in Manhattan.

Members of the Wrangell and Petersburg police departments collaborated on active shooter training on July 19 and 20. About four members of the Petersburg police department joined five members of the Wrangell police for the training which was lead by Jeff Hall. Most of the training on July 19 was on the theory of stopping a shooting. Hall said that the goal is to locate the target as quickly as possible and eliminate the threat. In a shooting situation, he said, there's no time for discussion. All the theories were put into practice on Friday at the shooting range. Hall showed the participating police officers some basic military tactics on how to advance and retreat under fire. He said that when he was younger these would have been considered advanced tactics for police to know, but they have become necessary in recent years.

August

In his 32nd year of teaching, David Macri has a lot of experience behind him working as an industrial arts teacher, a 5th-12th grade principal, a school business manager, and district business manager as well as having worked as a superintendent for schools in the Middle East and Asia and two years in Tuluksak as a principal. Macri said that part of the reason he came to work as the principal of the middle school and high school in Wrangell is the people and their work ethic.

Last weekend was the annual Rally For Cancer Care golf tournament, organized by the Wrangell Medical Center Foundation. The tournament on Saturday was less of a serious

Continued on page 8



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2018: A year in review, Part 2

Continued from page 7

competition and more for fun and socializing. Several holes on the 9-hole course had a different, fun challenge to compete in.

Lead by Jaime Roberts, members of the new Wrangell High School swim team and their families held their first meeting. This is the first time that the high school has ever had a swim team, to Roberts' knowledge, and she said that this year the team was being funded by a "student support and academic enrichment" grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Roberts said there are currently 11 swimmers on the team, but they have until August 24 to get new members signed up.

The Wrangell Planning and Zoning Commission met last Thursday evening to discuss potential changes to the city's code regarding nuisance activities. Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director for Wrangell, explained to the commission that Wrangell City Manager Lisa Von Bargen had presented the borough assembly a rough draft of a rewritten nuisance code. Copies of this draft were also being presented to the planning and zoning commission for their input, to ensure that any new codes would comply with existing zoning codes. In the proposed noise ordinance it would be unlawful to produce noises that exceed 60 decibels from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. This limit would be lowered to 50 decibels outside of the previously mentioned times.

September
Wrangell's coho salmon derby has come to a close. According to Alicia Holder, with the chamber of commerce, 106 coho were weighed in over the four weekends of the derby. The chamber of commerce also sold 240 derby tickets. The overall winners of the derby were determined by the combined weight of the three

biggest salmon fishers were able to reel in over the entire derby. The overall winners are: First place: McKinley Ward, 37 lbs; Second place: Lynsie Powers, 36 lbs; Third place: Marilyn Mork, 35.1 lbs.

The Nolan Center was littered with maps of the Tongass National Forest Sept. 5. Members of the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger districts held a public meeting on the Central Tongass Project, a series of proposed long-term renovations in the area. Dave Zimmerman, with the Petersburg Ranger District, explained that the Central Tongass Project covers both the Petersburg and Wrangell districts, an area that stretches across the Wrangell, Mitkof, Kupreanof, Kuiu, Zarembo, and Etolin islands, as well as a section of the mainland. According to documents provided to the public at the meeting, the project is looking to improve things in four broad categories: Watershed restoration and improvement, vegetation management, access management, and sustainable recreation management.

Residents of Wrangell were invited to attend a viewing of "Paper Tigers" at the high school last Tuesday. BRAVE, a local organization advocating for building healthy relationships in the community, put the event together. BRAVE member Kay Larson addressed the audience before beginning the film. She said that the documentary was meant to help form a "continuing conversation" on how the Wrangell community could help their children succeed.

Bob Robbins managed Wrangell's IGA store for 11 years before taking ownership in 2000. Now, this year, the store will come under new ownership. Mike Ward said that he and Robbins have been in talks of buying the grocery store for some time, but that there was finally some light at the end of the tunnel. Robbins added that, tentatively, the transition will take place this



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Snowy Days in Wrangell

Wrangell got quite a bit of snow last week. Here, Hannah Bunes and Vincent Mitchell can be seen building a snowman outside of Stikine Middle School.

winter.

October

Liana Carney, Wrangell High School freshman and member of the cross country team, ran in the State competition at Bartlett High School this past Saturday. Carney qualified for State in the regional competition at Juneau on Sept. 22. She came in fourth place at Regionals with a time of 25 minutes and 51 seconds in the race. Carney placed 26th in last weekend's run with a time of 22 minutes and 9 seconds.

Renovations to Evergreen St. are nearing completion, accord-

ing to Steve Mielke with the Department of Transportation. The project to improve the street involved many aspects, including paving the road, the addition of a sidewalk from the ferry terminal to Petroglyph Beach, the construction of six retaining walls for the sidewalk, and the construction of various culverts and drainage improvements.

A young moose was found dead on Nemo Loop Road on Sept. 25. According to Sgt. Robert Welch, with the Alaska State Troopers, the moose was shot and killed one to two days

before its discovery at about mile 4.5 of the road. The moose was not legal to kill, he said, and they are searching for the shooter. Further information could not be made available to the public, as the investigation is still ongoing.

It was a long meeting for the Wrangell Borough Assembly on the evening of Oct. 23. A large portion of the meeting was devoted to a proposed amendment to the municipal code, which would remove the invocation as a mandatory part of

Continued on page 9

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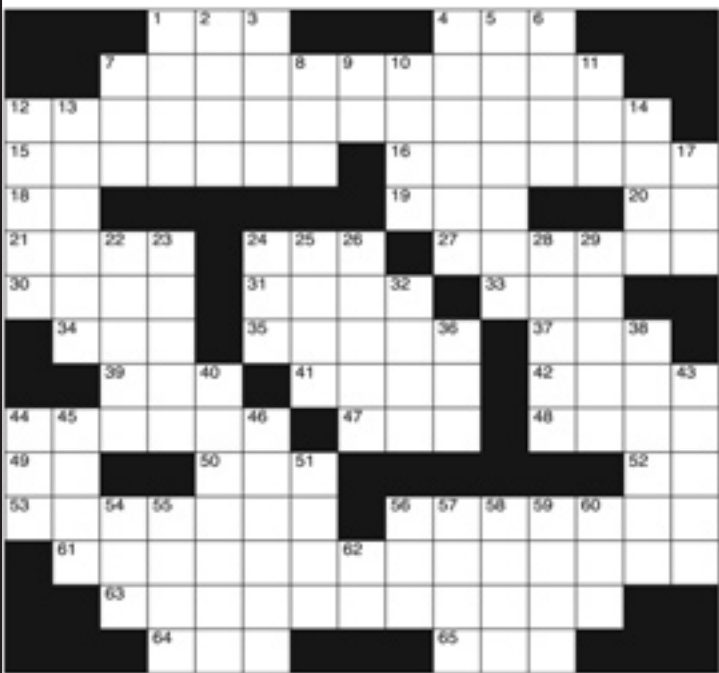
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Comics



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. One point north of due east
- 7. Marital
- 12. Religious building
- 15. Intrinsic nature of something
- 16. Safe to drink
- 18. Letter of credit
- 19. Single Lens Reflex
- 20. Keeps you cool in summer
- 21. Monetary unit
- 24. The Eye Network
- 27. Moving with a bounding stride
- 30. Figures
- 31. Of the pia mater
- 33. Male offspring
- 34. Indicates near
- 35. Calvary sword
- 37. South American plant
- 39. Doctor of Education
- 41. Something to take
- 42. Remove the edges from
- 44. Inattentive
- 47. Pick up
- 48. Latch for a window
- 49. Region of the U.S.
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- 53. Be permanently present in
- 56. Novice
- 61. Pirate novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. Where one sleeps
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. Egyptian Sun god
- 3. Predatory semiaquatic reptile
- 4. Register formally
- 5. Eating houses
- 6. Japanese port
- 7. Genus of rodents
- 8. Nigerian city
- 9. Milliwatt
- 10. Mistake!
- 11. Women's __ movement
- 12. Greeting
- 13. Songbirds
- 14. An arrangement scheme
- 17. Heartbeat test
- 22. Push back
- 23. Intended for the audience only
- 24. Cycles per second
- 25. Impartiality
- 26. Polio vaccine developer
- 28. Bowel movements
- 29. South American Indian
- 32. Queen of Sparta
- 36. Confederate soldier
- 38. Emerged
- 40. Death
- 43. __ and flowed
- 44. Folk singer DiFranco
- 45. Email folder
- 46. Throbbled rhythmically
- 51. English rockers
- 54. Disaster relief operation
- 55. American model and TV personality Katherine
- 56. Potable
- 57. Tough outer layer
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Negative
- 62. Camper



COURTESY OF TYLA NELSON

Girl Scouts give to Little Free Library

Members of Girl Scout Troop 31 gathered together some gently used books this week and made a donation to Wrangell's Little Free Library. They also handcrafted some bookmarks to donate alongside the books. Pictured in no particular order are Kaiya Brevick, Charlie Nelson, Shailyn Nelson, Lily Stearns, Mara Heller, Kara Heller, Maddilyn Gillen, and Violet Allen. The troop leaders are Tyla Nelson and Beth Heller. The Little Free Library is located on Case Avenue.

2018: A year in review, Part 2

Continued from page 8

assembly meetings. Mayor Steven Prysunka explained that this has been brought up because of a recent ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court, when they found that the invocation policy of the Borough of Kenai Peninsula was unconstitutional. The court recently ruled that an assembly cannot codify an invocation. As the municipal code requires that certain items always be present on agendas for assembly meetings, City Manager Lisa Von Bargen explained, keeping the invocation would set Wrangell up for legal trouble.

November

Alaska State Representative Dan Ortiz visited Wrangell last week on the campaign trail. Ortiz is seeking re-election to the state house. He has represented District 36, which covers towns like Wrangell, Ketchikan, Hydaburg, and Metlakatla.

Renee Roberts, a freshman at Wrangell High School, set a new personal best time at the ASAA swim and dive state championship last weekend. The tournament took place in Anchorage, where 289 swimmers from 29 different schools competed. Renee was the sole member of the Wrangell swim team to advance to the state competition. She competed in two events, the 50-yard Freestyle and the 100-yard Freestyle. She took 11th place and 14th place, respectively. In the 100-yard Freestyle, she also set a new personal best time, completing the swim in 56.64 seconds.

Out of 1,904 registered voters in Wrangell, according to preliminary election results for the 2018 midterms, there was a local turnout of 733, a percentage of 38.5 percent. Kim Lane, Wrangell city clerk, said there were 175 early ballots that were not yet counted. Statewide, Alaska had a voter turnout of 41.9 percent, or 239,604 votes cast out of 571,851 registered voters. Alaskan voters had the opportunity to vote for a new governor and U.S. Representative. The "Stand For Salmon" ballot measure one was also voted on. Wrangell, a part of District 36, also got to choose a new state representative.

Students at Evergreen Elementary School have spent the past few days making Christmas ornaments. Some students drew pictures of Alaskan wildlife, others made miniature wreaths, and another class made poinsettias. All these ornaments will be travelling to Juneau in the coming weeks to hang on the governor's Christmas tree. Tory Houser, with the Forest Service, said that the Wrangell district of the

Tongass National Forest has also been selected to donate the tree itself.

Jessica Whitaker will be stepping down for what she says is "hopefully" a temporary retirement from coaching the high school volleyball team.

December

After a long and hard-fought season, the Lady Wolves came home for the last time this year. After taking second place in Regionals at Metlakatla last November, the high school volleyball team went to Anchorage last week to compete in the state championship. The competition at State was fierce, according to Coach Jessica Whitaker. While the team did not come out of the tournament victorious, she said that she was proud of how her team conducted itself.

It was cold, the evening of Dec. 7, and at times rainy. That did not deter many Wrangell residents from coming out for Midnight Madness which has been a Wrangell tradition for about 30 years, according to Stephanie Cook with the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce. Front Street was crowded as people hung out, shopped, and sang Christmas carols. Many stores stayed open late so people could get their Christmas shopping done. Several organizations also set up shop in the downtown pavilion.

City officials, Wrangell Medical Center staff, SEARHC representatives, and many community members were present at the Nolan Center on Dec. 13 as the "future of healthcare" in Wrangell was celebrated. The party commemorated the SEARHC takeover of the medical center. SEARHC agreed to a four year lease of the medical center and to construct a brand new hospital. The new facility is planned to be about 44,500 square feet. Construction is expected to begin next May and is projected to be ready for use by 2021. The entire project will cost approximately \$30 million. The current medical center will continue operations until the new hospital is ready to receive patients.

The Doc Davenport Christmas Boat Parade has been a Wrangell tradition since the 1970s. Fishermen and boat owners of Wrangell, traditionally, deck out their vessels with lights and holiday decorations. This year only two boats sailed up to city dock to show off their decorations. The lack of participation did not mean that the boats failed to put on a good show. One boat piloted up close to city dock to let people get a better look at the decorations, while the other boat shot fireworks into the sky.

SUDOKU

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6	5		2					
1		2	6	7				

Level: Intermediate

Puzzle answers will be in the January 24 edition

Alaska Fish Factor

By LAINE WELCH
Fisheries columnist

A German engineering company planning to farm Atlantic salmon aboard the world's largest sailboats by the year 2023

Eating seafood can save lives.

Premature birth is the leading cause of death for children under 5 years old worldwide, accounting for nearly one million deaths annually. Now there is proof that eating seafood or marine oils can significantly reduce that number.

The lifesaving ingredient? Omega 3 fatty acids.

The conclusion of a new Cochrane Review of 70 studies worldwide on nearly 20,000 pregnant women stated that omega's from marine sources reduces early premature birth by a whopping 42 percent.

"The effect really has to be strong to see it in a Cochrane Review and I am very impressed that it has come out as significant as it has," said Dr. Tom Brenna, a professor of pediatrics, chemistry and nutrition at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas.

Research on marine omega 3's and pregnancy has been going on since at least 1992, Brenna said, who called the formal medical global collaboration and conclusions in the Cochran Review a 'blunt instrument.'

"The number of studies and the number of women studied is large enough so that it is very difficult to imagine that future studies are going to affect these results. We really are looking at something that may well be the final word," he

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BOATS AND MARINE

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ANSEP trip

Kids from Stikine Middle School left for Anchorage on Jan. 11, to attend an ANSEP STEM camp. They're being chaperoned by teachers Winston Davies (top right) and Brian Ashton, and are scheduled to return on Jan. 24. ANSEP, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program seeks to improve academic outcomes and promote a strong background in STEM for Alaskan students. The students attending the camp will get to live on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus and get a small taste of college life. In no particular order: Patton Bania, Zahara Ritchie, Timothy Garcia, Kayla Young, Clara Waddington, Rhianon Wenzel, Daniel Harrison, Jacen Hay, Johnny Allen, Will Ashton, Kiara Harrison, and Ander Edens.

said.

The results also included a 10 percent reduction in low birth weight babies of under 5.5 pounds.

Premature babies are at higher risk of a range of long-term conditions including developmental delay, learning difficulties and visual impairment. Brenna said marine-based omega 3

Continued on page 11

City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska REVISED - Public Hearing - PUBLIC NOTICE

The Borough Assembly will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**, during the Regular Borough Assembly meeting that begins at 7:00 p.m., in the Borough Assembly Chambers on the following item(s):

a. PROPOSED ORDINANCE No 952 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO EFFECT A CHANGE TO A PORTION OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSION RESERVE, BLOCK 16, WITHIN USS 1119, FROM OPEN SPACE/PUBLIC TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL THAT IS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO LOT 1B, BLOCK 16, OGDEN/RATHKE RESUBDIVISION AS PART OF THE PROPOSED PRESBYTERIAN RESERVE REPLAT, CREATING LOTS A AND B

b. PROPOSED ORDINANCE No 953 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO EFFECT A CHANGE TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EXISTING MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BOUNDARIES BASED ON THE PROPOSED CURLEYVILLE REPLAT, A REPLAT LOTS 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 37, 3A, BLOCK 21 AND LOT B, BRIG REPLAT, ZONED MULTIFAMILY AND COMMERCIAL, REQUESTED BY ROBERT ARMSTRONG, FOR CREDIT SHELTER TRUST, SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED NEW LOT 6A WILL BE ZONED COMMERCIAL, AND THE REMAINING NEW LOTS MULTI FAMILY

The Public Hearing process has changed by Assembly Action, (Ordinance 937) so that the hearing will take place during the Assembly Meeting under "PUBLIC HEARING" (item 11), on the Assembly's Agenda.

The Public is **encouraged** to attend.

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

Publish: January 17, 2019



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Fish Factor

Continued from page 10

fatty acids also improves those problems.

"Many of us believe that omega 3s are important for continuing development of the neural system and of the eye," he said. "The brain and the retina in the eye are really omega 3 organs. You can say that as calcium is to the bones, omega 3 is to the brain."

A challenge now, Brenna said, is to translate the marine omega 3 findings on premature birth prevention and other positives into health policy and wider educational outreach.

"I think that we have a major effect here that ought to be heralded from the rooftops far and wide," he said.

Fish smell snuffed - Fish scientists proved years ago that the tiniest traces of copper in water can affect a salmon's sense of smell. New research shows that increasing levels of acidity in the oceans does the same thing.

Fish use their sense of smell to find food, avoid predators,

find spawning areas, even to recognize one another. Losing it could threaten their very survival.

"In the environment that has some serious implications," said Jason Sandahl whose research team at Oregon State University was one of the first to show how contaminants can disrupt the chemical balance of sea creatures, and that copper levels at just two parts per billion impaired small coho salmon's sense of smell.

"If there are predators around and the fish are not able to respond to these danger signals in the water, they would likely be the next snack for these larger predators in the water," he added.

Oceans that are becoming more acidic have the same effect.

Research at the University of Washington and NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center is the first to show that high levels of carbon dioxide impair the sense of smell in salmon.

"We did this study because over the past 10 years there's been a lot of research coming out of Australia on tropical reef fish and other places in the world looking at the effects of elevated CO2 in fish behavior," researcher Chase Williams told KBBi in Homer.

Williams and his colleagues exposed young coho salmon in tanks for two weeks to different acidity levels from today and predicted at 50 and 100 years out. Ground up fish scales were added to indicate a predator attack, which usually prompts the salmon to hide or swim away. The juvenile cohos exposed to the higher acidity levels did not appear to even detect the smell.

The UW team also looked into where in the sensory-neural system the ability to smell erodes, and how it changes fish behavior.

"We found that the salmon are still likely still smelling the odors, so there are no changes in the way their nose is detecting them," Williams said. "But we did pick up changes in the way

that their brain was potentially processing those odor signals. So that's what is likely driving the behavioral changes."

The researchers said they hope their findings on such an iconic fish as Pacific salmon will alert more people to the consequences of carbon emissions being absorbed by our oceans.

Fish watch - Lots of winter fishing is going on and gearing up across Alaska.

Boats have been out in the Gulf and Bering Sea since January 1 targeting cod. Openers for pollock, flounders and various other whitefish kick off on January 20.

The snow crab fishery gets going in earnest around this time of year in the Bering Sea.

In Southeast Alaska, mostly small boats using jig or hand troll gear are targeting black rockfish and lingcod.

Divers are still tapping away on the last bits of Southeast's 1.7 million pound sea cucumber quota in just one open region. Divers also are still

going down for more than 700,000 pounds of giant geoduck clams.

The winter king salmon season for Southeast trollers opened on October 11 and it's been slow going. Fewer than 6,000 kings have been taken since the fishery opened on October 1; the five year average is closer to 16,000 fish. Based on new treaty agreements with Canada, Southeast's winter troll catch rate will determine the takes for commercial and sport users this year and that will likely mean more cutbacks.

The state also has announced a full closure for king salmon in the Northern Cook Inlet region and Susitna River due to extremely poor returns.

Boats at Kodiak, Chignik and the South Alaska Peninsula are fishing for rockfish and a half million pound Tanner crab fishery opens at Kodiak on the 15th.

Turning to fish meetings - the state Board of Fisheries will meet from Jan. 15-19 in Anchorage to take up more than 60 proposals.

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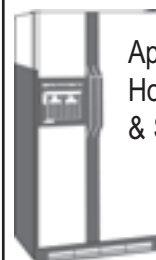


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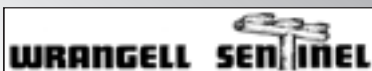
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Kiteboarding is a Southeast recreation option

By NOLIN AINSWORTH

Juneau Empire

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - The two objects were unmistakable from the Egan Drive traffic.

Large kites, similar in appearance to the ones used by paragliders in the summer, sailed gently above Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge on a rainy December afternoon. Below the flying instruments were two black dots, kiteboarders, grasping a small bar to steer themselves across the watery landscape. As the kites cruised across the top of the channel, so too did the dry-suit-clad bodies some 60 feet below.

"Did you see my air?!" Rob Cadmus said to his kiteboarding companion after unclipping from his kite.

As winter seems to be arriving later and later with each passing year, Cadmus and others turn to kiteboarding as a way to get turns in before Eaglecrest Ski Area opens.

"There's a small group of guys in town who do it," Cadmus said. "It's kind of like when the skiing's not good and it's windy, we go kiteboarding."

Thatcher Brouwer was still learning the ropes, literally, from his friend by steering the kite. For that he didn't bother strapping on a short, twin-tipped board; instead, he sat in the water while fiddling with the kite, getting a sense for how it reacts to the wind.

"I did a little practice dragging myself through the water, just down on the water and having the kite pull you through the water," Brouwer said. "It's pretty easy to go straight downwind, it's not too easy to (go) side-to-side, or up-wind."

James Alborough, 52, is one of the foremost authorities on water and snow kiteboarding in Southeast Alaska. Alborough, who lives in Haines and created his own kiteboarding website, recommends beginners accompany a more experienced rider when starting out. Kiteboarding videos on YouTube are helpful, but not as much as a real-life instructor.

"You're going to get thrashed if you do it yourself, literally," Alborough said in a phone interview. "There's so many nuances to it when you're first starting off that you need to have an experienced person. If you rig the kite wrong, it's going to act erratically, and it's going to hurt you. All of us who are self-taught have been thrashed."

One of the common misconceptions about kiteboarding, according to Alborough, is that it requires a lot of upper body strength. But it doesn't.

"You're attached to the kite with a harness, so you're upper body is mainly for steering, you're not actually holding the kite," he said.

Alborough took up his wife's suggestion to try out kiteboarding over 10 years ago and is now one of the roughly 100 people who do it across the state.

Even though he grew up



PHOTO BY CALEB VIERKANT/ WRANGELL SENTINEL

Hoop Shoot winners

The winners of the Elks' Hoop Shoot contest were recognized at halftime during the Lady Wolves' Friday night game against Craig High School. The contest let local kids between the ages of 8 to 13-years-old shoot free throws to see who could get the most baskets. Pictured here (from left to right, starting at the top row) are: Rock Guggenbickler, Trevyn Gillen, Mindy Meissner, Ian Nelson, Keaton Gadd, Cody Barnes, Paige Hoyt, Hailey Cook, Alana Harrison, Sawyer Larrabee, Casey Whitaker, Aadyn Gillen, Clara Carney, Jenna Eastaugh, and Alexis Easterly. Guggenbickler, of Wrangell High School, helped organize the hoop shoot as a senior project. Not pictured are Kiara Harrison, Zahara Ritchie, Daniel Harrison, and Nick Allen.

surfing in California, he was reluctant to try it out, but ended up being glad he did. He found the sensation of kiteboarding was very similar to surfing, "but you don't have to wait for waves, or jostle with any crowds." In Haines, where it snows often, he can kiteboard practically all year, either in the Chilkat Inlet, or any place with snow and winds between 10-30 mph.

"As a beginner, I think snow is easier because you don't have to worry about staying afloat," Alborough said.

"But I prefer the water myself because it's more dynamic and it's softer and less fickle. All you need is wind, you don't have to worry about wind and snow."

Here are five more tips for beginning kiteboarders

1. Get a lesson from someone who knows what they're doing.

2. Get a trainer kite, which is a fraction of the size of a full-size kite, to learn on. "It allows you to understand how it flies without endangering yourself," Alborough said.

3. Don't just buy the cheapest gear you find. "The sport has evolved so fast . it's worth spending a little extra to get a newish kite," Alborough said.

4. Spend lots of time on a board. "Wakeboarding is probably the very closest sport to kitesurfing, but if you're a snowboarder, or surfer, or skateboarder, any of those board sports leave you well prepared," Alborough said.

5. Buddy up. "If you lose your board or your kite crashes and you can't relaunch it or something, with a buddy, you can just be dragged back to shore really easily."

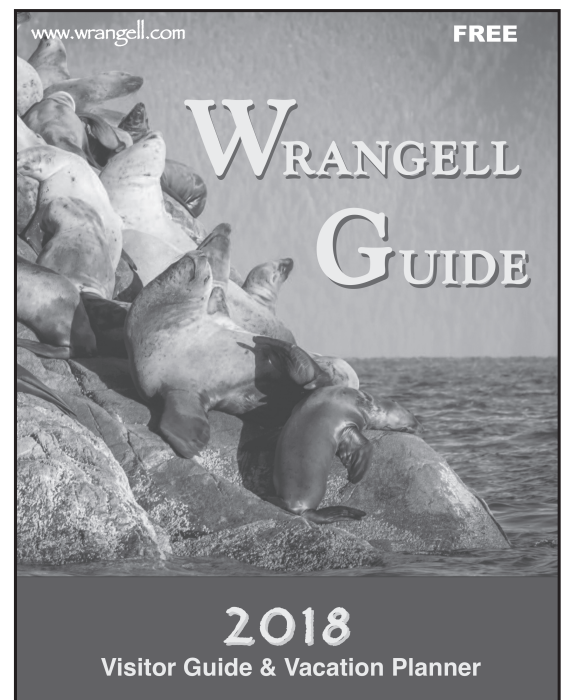
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