

### Services Pending For Julie Hughes

Memorial services are pending for Julie Christine Hughes, 31, who died Sunday at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle.

Julie had been receiving treatment for leukemia for the past two years. On Jan. 17 she was given a bone-marrow transplant, with her mother as donor.

Her many friends held several fund-raising parties during the past two years, including two walks that drew hundreds of participants.

The body has been cremated, and the girl's family — her parents Bill and Carol Hughes and sister Susan — were to return to Sitka today. A memorial service is to be held here this week arranged by Prewitt Funeral Home.

Julie was born August 13, 1953, in Rochester, N.Y. The family lived in New Hampshire before coming to Sitka in 1977.

An active student, she was a member of the cross country team, the High School Swim Team, Baranof Baranofski Swim Club, the Sitka High Drill Team and the High School Choir. She played the role of the Tin Man in a production of "Wizard of Oz" that



Julie C. Hughes students look on for her.

Survivors include her parents and sister, Sitka; her paternal grandparents Helen King and Van A. Hughes and maternal grandparents Frank and Helga Smith, all in Pennsylvania.

### Peel Defense Sees Indictment Errors

SEATTLE (AP) — The complete case of a Bellingham man accused of killing eight people aboard a fishing vessel in southern Alaska is nearly a year into trial, but the defense argues it might not come to that because of errors.

Trial is scheduled for Jan. 6, 1986. Ketchikan District Attorney Mary Anne Henry, who filed the charges against John K. Peel, said the expected trial to last three months, and that she would try to have the jury sequestered.

However, attorneys for the boat-builder and commercial fisherman argue that the case may never get to a trial.

"It is one of the worst indictments I've ever seen," said Phillip Wedmore, an Anchorage attorney representing Peel. "It's not worth the paper it's written on."

grazing aid will be difficult to prosecute because so much of the evidence is circumstantial.

But Wedmore said the evidence is clear, and that he intends to ask the court to dismiss the indictment.

Two witnesses who invoked the Fifth Amendment at a bail hearing when asked if their grand jury testimony would have been intimidated by people working on the prosecution.

— Evidence showing that two witnesses who failed to pick out Peel as the suspect when he was seen in a Craig bar was kept from the grand jury.

### Foster Dad Convicted Of Abuse

PALMER (AP) — After just 4½ hours of deliberations, a jury convicted a Palmer man of sexually molesting a foster child staying in his home last year.

Michael Daniels, 31, faces an eight-year presumptive sentence for trying to rape the 13-year-old girl as she slept in her room last March.

The state had a good case," Assistant District Attorney Gene Cyrus said Friday. "An accumulation of a lot of little evidence did it."

Defense attorney M. Ashley Dickerson said Superior Court Judge Bonshar's pre-trial ruling suppressing any information about the victim's past sexual activities "put me in a predicament making any reference to it."

Daniels' wife, Deborah, was jailed for 30 days last year on a contempt to court charge for refusing to testify before a grand jury about her husband's case.

### Murderer Wants To Change His Plea

ANCHORAGE (AP) — In a bid to have his conviction and 6½-year prison sentence set aside, Louis Hastings is asking a jury later in his claim that toxic poisoning prompted him to murder six people in the Wrangell Mountains community of McCarthy.

In papers filed in Anchorage Superior Court, Hastings says copper residue in the almost abandoned mining town caused a psychosis that may have contributed to the murders.

In December 1982, Hastings pleaded no contest to killing six McCarthy-area residents and was sentenced to the almost abandoned mining town for a maximum penalty on each count last July.

The 49-year-old Hastings now wants to withdraw his plea, and have the question of his sanity determined at trial.

His former defense attorney failed to pursue the "copper toxicity" defense. "A thorough investigation of this claim may have explained the defendant's criminal conduct as being the product of a psychosis, or at the very least, it may have nullified the mental state necessary to prove first-degree murder," Hastings says.

He also says his original attorney, John Schemm, mistakenly believed he was on one of Hastings' hit lists, and, therefore, was unable to defend Hastings wholeheartedly.

According to testimony at his sentencing hearing, Hastings planned to kill all of the less than two dozen people in McCarthy, hijack a fuel truck and crash it into the town.

Hastings claims laboratory tests after the murders showed he had high levels of copper in his body. In the summer of 1982, Hastings says, he found fumes, while applying preservative to logs at his McCarthy cabin. He also says that during the winter he had inhaled a substantial amount of dust while scraping paint off the cabin windows.

Hokerman said. Almost all are on private land "that is being developed at a pretty good pace."

Hokermann and the citizens' group have proposed creating a 18,000-acre critical habitat area that includes parts of the Anchor River and Fritz Creek drainages.

Population densities as high as 25 moose per square mile will be covered by the proposal, belongs to the Department of Fish and Game.

### GOP, Demos Fight Over DEC Nominee

JUNEAU (AP) — Democrats and Republicans are squaring off over Gov. Bill Sheffield's nomination of a self-described socialist to a Cabinet post with the GOP condemning the move and Democrats supporting the nomination.

Meeting in Juneau on Saturday, the GOP Central Committee said the appointment of Bill Ross to head the Department of Environmental Conservation "would send an unwelcome and hostile signal to private industry and business throughout Alaska."

The Democratic Central Committee on Saturday passed a resolution supporting Ross. "Efforts to discredit Mr. Ross based on his personal beliefs are counterproductive to the Democratic ideal of a just society," the resolution said.

Sen. Charles R. Williams, D-Juneau, said today he was "a little upset" at Sheffield's remark following passage of the GOP resolution to the effect that Kelly and other Republicans were "out looking for communists" in Kelly's words.

Revised Community Resource Guide are now available for the public. They may be picked up at the Community School Office, Room 114 of Halesley Junior High.

### Protection Urged for Moose Feeding Area

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Continued destruction of critical winter moose feeding habitat by subdivision and agricultural projects could decimate the animals on the southern Kenai Peninsula, state biologists warn.

One of the biologists and a citizens' group has asked that an area of the Kenai be set aside to protect the moose. Once the feeding areas are wiped out, they cannot be replaced, said Dave Hokermann, director of the Department of Fish and Game.

None of the winter feeding areas south of Tashumana Lake lies within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Hokermann said. Almost all are on private land "that is being developed at a pretty good pace."

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"This is the last opportunity to set aside a big portion of public land for the benefit of the wildlife populations on the southern Peninsula," Hokermann said.



### Native Corp. Accountant Gets 10-Year Sentence

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A Pukitan accountant, who admitted stealing \$581,000 from a North Slope state corporation, was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison.

Mohammed Ali Nisani, 56, pleaded guilty in December to four counts associated with illegal transportation of stolen money and mail fraud. His wife, Goldenweh Tarmeh, 46, pleaded guilty to two similar charges and was sentenced Friday to 18 months in prison.

Approximately \$340,000 of the stolen money has been recovered, Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah Smith said. Nisani's sentence includes a provision that he pay back the rest.

U.S. District Court Judge Russel Holland said he gave Nisani a harsh sentence because he has not cooperated fully with investigators looking for the rest of the cash.

every nickel in that he stole from his employer."

Nisani was hired in March 1982 as financial director for the Kupuk Corp., based in the village of Nuiqsut, about 50 miles west of Prudhoe Bay. According to prosecutors, he soon began diverting company funds to banks accounts belonging to him and relatives. His wife admitted funneling the stolen money into these bank accounts. Smith said.

Nisani was arrested in 1983 and released on \$100,000 bond. Almost immediately he and his wife fled the country. The FBI tracked them around the world.

Respect for Human Life Board of Directors will meet 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Pregnancy Aid Office, 319 Kaitian St.

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