



Schoenbar ballers

Girls A nab No. 1 seed, Boys A take No. 2 at tourney, A-6

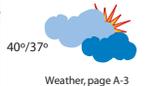
Doing good

Oster, who pulled man from water, becomes officer, B-4



KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND EDITION



\$1.75 SATURDAY/SUNDAY, NOV. 19-20, 2016 TWITTER.COM/KDNNEWS WWW.KETCHIKANDAILYNEWS.COM 34 PAGES

SE Conference floats ideas

By NICK BOWMAN
Daily News Staff Writer

The Alaska Marine Highway System should become a state-owned corporation, says Southeast Conference and the leaders of its effort to reform the state ferry system.

On Wednesday, Southeast Conference released the product of the first phase of its reform project: a report recommending a new governance model for the system, which is currently a division of the Alaska Department of Transportation.

Other examples of public corporations in Alaska include the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, which owns the Ketchikan Shipyard, and the Alaska Railroad Corp.

Southeast Conference formed a steering committee of ferry system stakeholders in Alaska and hired a consultant, Seattle's Elliot Bay Design Group, to draft the reports. The steering committee includes Ketchikan's Dan Kelly and Elizabeth Bolling.

Craig Mayor Dennis Watson, also the general manager of the Inter-Island Ferry Authority, is the committee chairman. Other members of the group come from Petersburg, Juneau, Skagway, Cordova, Anchorage, Kodiak and Fairbanks.

The committee still needs to provide input on Elliot Bay's recommendation, but Watson said it was "pretty much the only recommendation that could have been made."

With a public corporation, the "hope is to create a mechanism that buffers the system itself from so

much politics. You can't totally isolate it, but you can to some degree," Watson said on Friday.

For years, customers and observers of the ferry system have maligned the influence state politics has on the transportation network covering Alaska's southern coast.

Now, Southeast Conference argues that leaving See "SE Conference," page A-2

The Alaska Marine Highway System's Lituya, right, waits to depart the Annette Bay Ferry Terminal on Sept. 6, 2014, on Annette Island. The terminal was completed in spring 2013 and cost \$8.4 million, according to Department of Transportation engineer Kirk Miller. Staff photo by Taylor Balkom



Sober center mulled

City Council addresses inebriate issue

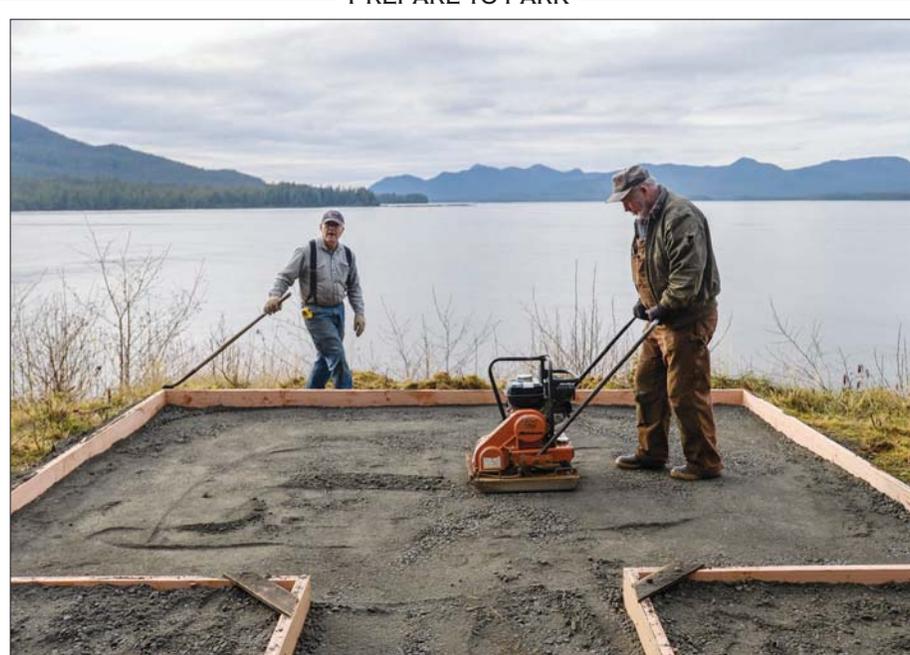
KETCHIKAN (KDN) — A permanent exhibit for the Tongass Historical Museum and a resolution in support of a sobering center at the site of the former Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility are on the agenda for the Ketchikan City Council's Monday night meeting.

Akeela, which operates Gateway Center for Human Services and KAR House, submitted a proposal to the city earlier this month to operate a sobering center at the former KRYF site on Fifth Avenue. The center would "provide a safe and warm spot for people to sober up and be connected to important community services," according to the proposal's concept.

"Although sobering centers are not treatment facilities, this addition to the services available to the Ketchikan community will provide substantive relief from the over-use of the most expensive medical services when a lower level of care can suffice," the proposal continued.

Joel Jackson, regional director of administration for Akeela, said at the See "Council," page A-3

PREPARE TO PARK



Dick Miller, right, and Allen Rockwell help other First City Rotary members build a platform for a future bench and bike rack Friday on South Tongass Highway near Mountain Point. See "Rotary group installing S. Tongass rest areas," on page A-2.

Staff photo by Taylor Balkom

Obama blocks Arctic drilling

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is blocking new oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean, handing a victory to environmentalists who say industrial activity in the icy waters will harm whales, walrus and other wildlife and exacerbate global warming.

A five-year offshore drilling plan announced on Friday blocks the planned sale of new oil and gas drilling rights in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas north of Alaska. The plan allows drilling to go forward in Alaska's Cook Inlet southwest of Anchorage.

The blueprint for drilling from 2017 to 2022 can be rewritten by President-elect Donald Trump, in a process that could take months or years.

Besides Cook Inlet, the plan also allows drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, long the center of U.S. offshore oil production. Ten of the 11 lease sales proposed in the five-year plan are in the Gulf, mostly off the coasts of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama.

Confirming a decision announced this spring, the five-year plan also bars See "Arctic," page A-5

Sioux asked for meeting

By JOHN MONE and BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

DALLAS — The head of the company building the Dakota Access oil pipeline said Friday that it won't be rerouted but that he'd like to meet with the head of an American Indian tribe to try to ease the tribe's concerns about the project.

Kelcy Warren, the CEO of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press that the company has no alternative than to stick to its plan for the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which would ship oil from North Dakota to Illinois and which is nearly completed.

"There's not another way. We're building at that location," Warren said. Warren said he would welcome the chance to meet with

Dave Archambault, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux, to address the tribe's concerns that the pipeline skirting its reservation would endanger drinking water and cultural sites.

Archambault, who was with celebrity sympathizers who toured the tribe's protest encampment Friday, including the actors Shailene Woodley and Ezra Miller, said he'd be willing to meet with Warren but that he doesn't think it would make a difference.

"We already know what he's going to say — that this is the cleanest, safest pipeline ever," the chairman said. "What he doesn't know is that this is still an issue for Standing Rock and all indigenous people."

The 1,200-mile, four-state pipeline is largely complete See "Oil pipeline," page A-4

California drought kills trees

By SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — The California drought has killed more than 102 million trees in a die-off of forests that increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires and other threats to humans, officials said Friday.

The latest aerial survey by the U.S. Forest Service shows there are 36 million more dead trees since May in the state and there has been a 100 percent increase since 2015.

"These dead and dying trees con-

tinue to elevate the risk of wildfire, complicate our efforts to respond safely and effectively to fires when they do occur and pose a host of threats to life and property," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement.

California has endured five years of drought marked by a record low mountain snowpack and warm temperatures. The drought has left trees thirsty and prone to infestation by bark beetles.

Late last year, Gov. Jerry Brown

formed a task force charged with finding ways to remove the trees that threaten motorists and communities.

Vilsack called on Congress to act, saying more federal funding goes toward fighting fires than forestry management, such as removing dead trees to improve forests' health.

Officials are pushing to turn more trees into lumber, burn them in energy plants or dispose of them in incinerators to eliminate them as fuel for wildfires.

See "Drought," page A-4

Trump appointments prompt minorities' concerns

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK
Associated Press

Republican President-elect Donald Trump's choices for leadership posts threaten national unity and promise to turn back the clock on progress for racial, religious and sexual minorities, civil rights leaders and others said Friday

after his nomination of Alabama U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general.

Comments attributed to Trump's picks, also including Stephen Bannon as senior adviser and chief strategist and former Army Lt. Michael Flynn as national security adviser, serve to embolden everyday Americans to lash

out at members of minority groups, they said. Sessions, a Republican, was denied a federal judgeship in 1986 after hearings in which he was accused of making racially charged remarks as a U.S. attorney. According to transcripts, Sessions was accused, among other things, of joking that he thought the Ku Klux

Klan "was OK" until he learned its members smoked marijuana and of calling a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy." During the hearing, Sessions denied making some of the comments and said others were jokes taken out of context. Black Lives Matter activist and Campaign

Zero co-founder DeRay Mckesson said Sessions' "documented racism and previous ineligibility for public office make him unfit to be the standard-bearer for the nation's justice system."

"If Sessions were to become the attorney See 'Trump,' page A-10



Ketchikan, Alaska
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VOL. 88 NO. 271
(USPS 293-940)

SPORTS • WORLD • ALASKA • NATION
Page B-4: Kids write Trump asking him to be nice

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Today's Trivia:
What is the name of the basketball event at Schoenbar this weekend?
Answer, Page A-2

OBITUARIES

Merna C. Atkinson

Merna C. Atkinson, 85, died Nov. 11, 2016, in Eugene, Oregon. She was born Merna Colleen Booth on Jan. 5, 1931, in Metlakatla, and attended schools in Metlakatla and Newberg, Oregon. She resided in Metlakatla during the 1950s, and was married on Sept. 7, 1951, in Ketchikan. Mrs. Atkinson resided in Seattle during the 1960s before returning to Metlakatla in the 1970s. Mrs. Atkinson was director of TERO for more than 20 years. She was a member of the Congregational Christian Church in Metlakatla. She enjoyed embroidery, visits to the Oregon coast, and an occasional trip to Reno. Mrs. Atkinson was preceded in death by her husband, Harris L. Atkinson; son, Robin Atkinson; father, Wilfred G. Booth; mother, Matilda Nelson Booth; and brothers, Duke Wellington and Raymond Booth. She is survived by her son, Larry D. (Cindy) Atkinson; daughter Lisa R. (Derek Hought) Atkinson; sister, Lorena M. Leask; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, at the Duncan Memorial Church, officiated by the Rev. Larry Emery. Mrs. Atkinson's remains will be interred next to those of her husband at Oceanview Cemetery.

Today's Trivia answer:
The Schoenbar Shootout.

POLICE REPORT

CITY POLICE

Nov. 7
At 9:27 p.m., police responded to a residence in the 2500 block of First Avenue for a report of intoxicated juveniles. Officers contacted a 17-year-old male, who had been consuming alcohol. Based on the investigation, it was discovered that the juvenile stole the alcohol from a liquor store and consumed it. The juvenile was cited for minor consuming alcohol and minor on licensed premises. He also was charged with second-degree burglary fourth-degree theft. The case was forwarded to Juvenile Probation, and he was released to his guardian.
Nov. 8
At 7:58 p.m., police responded to a residence in the 2500 block of First Avenue to a report of a juvenile with drugs. Officers contacted a 17-year-old male, who was in possession of a small amount of marijuana. He was charged with fourth-degree misdemeanor involving a controlled substance. The case was forwarded to Juvenile Probation, and he was released to his guardian.
At 10:46 p.m., police and members of the Ketchikan Fire Department responded to a bar in the 500 block of Water Street for a report of a fight. Officers contacted a 53-year-old man who, while in the care of KFD, became belligerent and physically aggressive. The man was cited for fourth-degree assault and two counts of first-degree harassment. He was left in the care of PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center staff.
Nov. 9
At 8 a.m., police contacted a 30-year-old man with an outstanding arrest warrant for fourth-degree theft in the 100 block of Thomas Street. He was transported to the Ketchikan Correctional Center and held on \$500 bail.
Nov. 11
At 9:29 a.m., police responded to a residence in the 3700 block of Fairview Avenue for a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers contacted a 26-year-old man and, based on the investigation, charged him with fourth-degree assault — domestic violence. He was transported to the Ketchikan Correctional Center and held without bail.

COURT REPORT

DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS

Nov. 10
Dustin D. Army, 31, pleaded guilty to one count of violating a domestic violence protective order, received 30 days, 15 suspended, and was ordered to pay court fees.
Nov. 15
Charlotte R. Cook, 29, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of one count of action of operator immediately after accident, received 10 days, 10 suspended, and was ordered to pay a fine, restitution and court fees.

Nov. 16
Sergio Chavez, 29, pleaded guilty to one count of fourth-degree assault, received 180 days, 144 suspended with credit for time served, and was ordered to pay restitution and court fees. Michelle E. Verney, 24, pleaded guilty to one count of fourth-degree assault — domestic violence, received 30 days, 20 suspended with the remaining 10 converted to 80 hours of community work service, and was ordered to pay court fees.

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GROSS-ALASKA COLISEUM TWIN THEATRES DOCTOR STRANGE UPSTAIRS FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM DOWNSTAIRS SPECIAL THANKSGIVING & BLACK FRIDAY MATINEES 11/24 & 11/25

Rotary group installing S. Tongass rest areas

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — First City Rotary has started work installing two rest areas along the South Tongass bike path. The project was chosen by club President Steve Rydeen, who said at the construction site on Friday that the rest areas will include a picnic table, a bench and bike racks. They'll be positioned at opposite ends of the path facing the Tongass Narrows and should be finished next spring, Rydeen said. On Friday, Rydeen and Bruce King, Dave Valentine, Allen Rockwell and Dick Miller were pouring concrete at the rest area near Mountain Point. When the weather begins warming, Rydeen said the club will install the rest of the equipment. The project will cost Rotary approximately \$7,300.

Continued from page A-1

SE Conference

state ferries subject to the will of the Alaska Legislature threaten the sustainability of the system, which has an aging fleet and — in the midst of the state budget crisis — both declining state funding and ridership. With the first phase of the project almost completed — with the new governance structure being the largest piece — Robert Venables, Southeast Conference's employee organizing the effort, said "there's hope" for the system. "There's a statewide effort underway that is looking at many, many facets of how this very critical piece of transportation infrastructure can make it into the next generation," Venables said on Friday. A public corporation has the widest support and best suits the system, according to the Elliot Bay report, and would bring a "businesslike approach to running the system and the inclu-

'You would have an empowered board that would be able to engage in partnerships.' — Robert Venables, On a public corporation

tion of private sector expertise, leadership and accountability." Such a corporation would still require a subsidy from the state, and Alaska DOT would still own all of the system's infrastructure and vessels. "There's a portion of [its funding]

that would be just as vulnerable with the legislative appropriations, but you would have an empowered board that would be able to engage in partnerships and make other revenue streams possible that just aren't an option right now," Venables said. Leaving the vessels in DOT's hands would keep the system eligible for state and federal capital funding through the statewide transportation improvement program, according to the report. However, creating a public corporation will take time and support of the Alaska Legislature. The legislation required to change the Alaska Marine Highway System from a line item in DOT's budget to a public corporation would be "likely substantial," Venables said. Exactly what that legislation looks like will be part of the second phase of Southeast Conference's project,

which will take place next year. Phase two includes the creation of a long-time operating plan for the system and the suite of legislation needed to convert the system to a corporation. In the upcoming 2017 session, Venables said he's hoping Southeast Conference can succeed in getting a hearing on its work so far and collect input from lawmakers and the public. The group will also push several short-term reforms in the meantime, including forward funding of the state ferry system. The first phase of the project will be discussed by the Marine Transportation Advisory Board on Monday and the Southeast Conference steering committee on Tuesday. The committee will meet via teleconference, and the contact information is available from Southeast Conference at www.seconference.org. nbwman@ketchikandailynews.com

MEETINGS

"Meetings" is a public service column the Ketchikan Daily News provides for use by individuals and nonprofit organizations to announce meetings that are open to the public. The deadline for copy is 2 p.m. the day before the first day the notice is to be published, with a 2 p.m. Friday deadline for Saturday, Sunday or Monday meetings. Meeting announcements will be published only twice. No guarantee of publication accompanies acceptance of the notice and on occasion the column must be shortened because of limited space. Telephone numbers, fund-raising events and for-profit activities will not be published. The column may not be used to satisfy advertisement of public meetings. When submitting a notice please include the organization name, meeting time, date and location. Please provide a contact name and telephone number for the Daily News to verify information.

WEEKEND
Out to Lunch Bunch AA: Saturday, noon, St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.
Overeaters Anonymous: Saturday, 3 p.m., Ketchikan Pioneer Home.
Just for Today AA: Saturday, 8 p.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.
NA Never Alone Group: Saturday, 8 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.
Just for Today AA: Sunday, 10 a.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.
Save the Goose: Sunday, 1 p.m., North Tongass Highway and Pond Reef

KIC Tribal Health Clinic 2016 Mural Contest Calling All Artists! KIC Tribal Health Clinic is seeking artists to design eight (8) 3' x 4' murals to be painted on the landings of the clinic stairways. Entry Forms are available online at www.kictribe.org OR in the Clinic Lobby Areas. Participants must be 18 years of age or older at time of entry. All Mural entries should follow one of the five (5) themes listed below: > Wellness—1 Design will be chosen > Heritage In Unity—2 Designs will be chosen > Healing Hands—2 Designs will be chosen > Nature Resources—2 Designs will be chosen > Generations—1 Design will be chosen All entries are due by 4:30pm on 12/01/2016. Winners will receive \$2,000 for each winning entry! Entries can be submitted to beauty@kictribe.org OR drop your completed entry packet in the "Contest Entry Submissions" box located in 2nd floor Lobby Entrance. **There is NO limit on the number of entries that may be submitted.** Contest winners will be announced on 12/15/2016 by public vote using Social Media and the KIC website.

BE A PART OF THE HOLIDAY MAGIC AT OUR ANNUAL Christmas Bazaar PICK YOUR SPOT ~ CHOOSE YOUR DATES DECEMBER 2-3-4 DECEMBER 9-10-11 DECEMBER 16-17-18 DECEMBER 23-24 We will close at 3:00 p.m. on December 24. \$50 per table (one table and two chairs are provided) if you are bringing your own display in addition to a table, add an extra \$50. All tables should have a suitable table covering. Tables must be manned during Plaza hours: Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm and Sun. Noon-5pm Only hand-dressed items are permissible. The Plaza 2417 TONGASS AVENUE • 225-7000

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