



Ex-Kayhi stars go one-on-one, Page 6

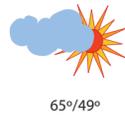
Murkowski: Didn't know aide signed plea deal, Page 3

Today's Trivia: Who created the Association of Village Council Presidents? Answer, Page 2

CDC defends salmonella response, Page 8



KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS



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KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

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14 PAGES

No pellets for new fire hall

Future installation possible, though

By LEILA KHEIRY
Daily News Staff Writer

The Ketchikan City Council voted 4-2 Thursday to install the infrastructure for a future wood-pellet boiler at the new downtown fire station, rather than spend an estimated \$550,000 to switch the planned heat source from a combination of oil and electric boilers to a wood-pellet boiler.

Council Members Bob Sivertsen and Dick Coose voted no, each arguing that the city should install a wood-pellet boiler to save money over the long term. They also said they didn't believe the switch would cost as much as the project manager estimated. Council Member Matt Olsen was out of town and tried to participate telephonically. His connection was poor, however, and he had to hang up in the middle of the meeting.

According to a memo from Project Manager Kent Crandall of RISE Alaska, it would cost an additional \$550,000 to switch to a wood-pellet system, partly because the building is about 35 percent complete.

In addition, he wrote, construction would be delayed at least two months, and to accommodate the wood-pellet boiler and its pellet-storage silo, the site would lose two required parking spaces. Those spaces would have to be made up elsewhere through a redesign of the parking lot, which would eliminate a turn-around area. Drivers parking at the station then would have to back into Bawden Street when leaving.

In addition to the new up-front costs of a wood-pellet boiler, Crandall wrote, annual maintenance costs for the city would increase by an estimated \$12,000. See 'Council,' page 9

Shell drilling plan for Arctic gets OK

By BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU — A key federal agency gave conditional approval Thursday to Shell Oil Co.'s plans to begin drilling in Arctic waters off Alaska's coast as early as next year.

Approval by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation, or BOEMRE, is contingent upon Shell securing drilling, air quality and other necessary permits and authorizations. But it represents a huge step toward Shell being allowed to start drilling in the Beaufort Sea.

Shell plans to drill up to four wells over two years in the Beaufort, beginning next year.

Michael Bromwich, BOEMRE's director, said the agency bases its decisions surrounding energy exploration and development in the Arctic on the best scientific information available. "We will closely review and monitor Shell's proposed activities to ensure that any activities that take place under this plan will be conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner," he said.

But conservationists criticized the decision, saying they do not believe the technology or infrastructure exists — in the case of Shell or any other

company — to sufficiently respond to a spill in the Arctic. BOEMRE hasn't yet fully signed off on Shell's oil spill response plan though a company spokesman, Curtis Smith, said conditional approval is expected as early as next week.

Rebecca Noblin, Alaska director of the Center for Biological Diversity, said the nearest Coast Guard station is more than 1,000 miles from where Shell plans to drill. She said the agency's decision Thursday flies in the face of "promises of reform" made by the administration after the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year.

"This Administration is as willing as ever to rubber stamp dangerous drilling plans in the Arctic Ocean," she said.

Shell, in responding to critics, has said that if necessary it's prepared to deploy "the most robust Arctic oil spill response system known to industry." The company has said its oil spill response capability exceeds its "calculated worst-case discharge volume" for the wells proposed.

BOEMRE, in evaluating various aspects of Shell's plan, said in its decision that while "large and very large oil spills could result in impacts that would rise to the level of significance, See 'Shell drilling,' page 2

Kids create submarine gliders

By DANELLE LANDIS
Daily News Staff Writer

Corrie Embree stood chest-deep in the aqua pool water near her underwater glider, frowning as it hovered a foot under the surface.

"It's pushing water out right now," she said, smiling as the glowing blue water-bottle robot made a graceful curving dive.

Seven Ketchikan middle-schoolers participated in the "Build an Underwater Glider" camp last week at the University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan campus Roberts Building on Stedman Street.

The Juneau Economic Development Council and the U.S. Department of Defense coordinated the camp.

The National Defense Education Program funded the camp, engineer and NDEP pre-engineering program educational outreach coordinator Toby Ratcliffe said.

Ratcliffe, an ocean engineer, was one of three engineers from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in Washington, D.C. who worked with the students for the week-long camp, and local Bill Harney also volunteered.

Harney, the site director for SEAFAC, the Navy's acoustic measurement facility on Back Island, took the students on a tour of the laboratories on the island Tuesday. See 'Gliders,' page 2



Above: Jordan Anderson, 12, works with the wiring on his underwater glider recently before launching it in the Mike Smithers Community Pool.

Left: Corrie Embree watches her glider cruise in the Mike Smithers Community Pool during recent testing of the underwater gliders.

Staff photos by Hall Anderson

Below: Toby Ratcliffe, second from left, an educational specialist with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Md., watches a recent test run of an underwater glider at the University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan Robertson Building with students, from left, Nicole Embree, Dillon Coville, Alex Wick, Owen Hillbery and Jordan Anderson.



Dow Jones drops 512 in single day

By DAVID K. RANDALL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Gripped by fear of a new recession, Wall Street suffered its worst day Thursday since the financial crisis in the fall of 2008. The firestorm of selling that erased more than 500 points off the Dow Jones industrial average then spread overseas.

The sell-off wiped out the Dow's remaining gains for 2011. It put the Dow and broader stock indexes into what investors call a correction — down 10 percent from their highs in the spring.

In Friday trading in Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average was down more than 3 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 4 percent.

"We are continuing to be bombarded by worries about the global economy," said Bill Stone, the chief investment strategist for PNC Financial.

Across the financial markets, the day was reminiscent of the wild swings that defined the financial crisis in September and October three years ago. Gold prices briefly hit a record high. Oil fell even more than stocks — 6 percent, or \$5.30 a barrel. And frightened investors were so desperate to get into some government bonds that they were willing to accept almost no return on their money.

It was the most alarming day yet in the almost uninterrupted selling that has swept Wall Street for two weeks. The Dow has lost more than 1,300 points, or 10.5 percent. By one broad measure kept by Dow Jones, almost \$1.9 trillion in market value has disappeared.

For the day, the Dow closed down 512.76 points, at 11,383.68. It was the steepest point decline since Dec. 1, 2008.

Thursday's decline was the ninth-worst by points for the Dow. In percentage terms, the decline of 4.3 percent does not rank among the worst. On Black Monday in 1987, for example, the Dow fell 22 percent.

Two weeks ago, investors appeared worried about the deadlocked negotiations in Washington over raising the ceiling on government debt. As soon as See 'Wall Street,' page 13

Reid: Compromise done to reopen FAA

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress has reached a bipartisan compromise to end a two-week partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration that has idled tens of thousands of workers and cost the government about \$30 million a day in uncollected airline ticket taxes, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said Thursday.

The deal would allow the Senate to approve a House bill extending the FAA's operating authority through mid-September, including a provision that eliminates \$16.5 million in air service subsidies to 13 rural communities. Passage of the bill is expected Friday.

Senators have scattered for their August recess, but the measure can be approved if leaders from both parties agree to adopt it by "unanimous consent."

Republicans had insisted on the subsidy cuts as their price for restoring the FAA to full operation. But the cuts may become moot.

The bill includes language that gives Transporta-

tion Secretary Ray LaHood the authority to continue subsidized service to the 13 communities if he decides it's necessary.

Democrats said they expect the administration to effectively waive or negate the cuts.

"I just know that the White House has provided assurances that they (the communities) will be held harmless," said a Senate Democratic leadership aide who asked not to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the deal.

But Adam Jentleson, a spokesman for Reid, said that "only LaHood can decide how he will use his waiver authority."

If President Barack Obama signs the bill over the weekend, FAA employees could return to work and payments for airport construction projects would resume on Monday, transportation officials said.

The shutdown began when much of Washington was transfixed by the stalemate over raising the government's debt ceiling. During that time, the FAA furloughed 4,000 workers but kept air traffic controllers and most safety inspectors on the job. Forty airport safety inspectors worked without pay, pick-

ing up their own travel expenses. Some 70,000 workers on construction-related jobs on airport projects from Palm Springs, Calif., to New York City were idled as the FAA couldn't pay for the work.

But airline passengers in the busy travel season hardly noticed any changes. Airlines continued to work as normal, but they were no longer authorized to collect federal ticket taxes at a rate of \$30 million a day. For a few lucky ticket buyers, prices dropped. But for the vast majority, nothing changed because airlines raised their base prices to match the tax.

Some passengers will now be eligible for tax refunds if they bought their tickets before July 23 and their travel took place during the shutdown.

As the debt ceiling crisis passed and Congress headed home for its August recess without resolving the standoff, Obama spoke out Wednesday and LaHood urged Congress to return to deal with the issues. Obama expressed dismay that Congress would allow up to \$1.2 billion in tax revenue to go out the door — the amount that could have been lost by the time lawmakers return in September. See 'FAA deal,' page 3

Shell drilling

Continued from page 1

the probability of such an occurrence is so low, "that letting the plan move forward "will not result in a foreseeable significant impact" on air and water quality, biological resources and such things as subsistence activities and public health.

Smith said Shell is committed to building an oil spill capping system that would capture hydrocarbons at the source "in the extremely unlikely event of a shallow water blowout." He said a drill bit "will not touch the floor, will not touch the surface" until the capping and containment system is in place.

He also said the company would "employ world-class technology and experience to ensure a safe, environmentally responsible Arctic exploration program, one that has the smallest possible footprint on the environment and no negative impact on North Slope or Northwest Arctic traditional subsistence hunting activities."

Robert Thompson, chairman of Resisting Envi-

'(Shell will) ensure a safe, environmentally responsible Arctic exploration program.'

— Curtis Smith, Shell spokesman

ronmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands, said he has no faith in the company's oil spill response capabilities. Thompson said oil spill training was once moved from near Kaktovik, the coastal community where he lives, because of high waves. He called BOEMRE's decision distressing.

A Shell spokeswoman, Kelly op de Weegh, said the agency's decision added to the company's

cautious optimism that it will be drilling on its Alaska leases this time next year. Op de Weegh said the company expects to submit for approval its applications to drill sometime in 2012.

The company would have a narrow window in which to work, with July-October seen as the open-water drilling season.

There remain a list of authorizations and permits that Shell needs to acquire first to proceed. Smith said typically such permits have fallen in line after a development plan is approved. But he said air quality permits are somewhat different, in that they can be appealed by anyone who commented on them, and hold things up.

The Environmental Protection Agency has released for public review draft air quality permits for Shell projects in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. BOEMRE hasn't yet issued a decision on Shell's development plan for the Chukchi. Shell is eyeing 2012 for work in the Chukchi, as well.

Gliders

Continued from page 1

The gliders that the students created are smaller models of 6- to 10-foot long actual gliders, or "Autonomous Underwater Vehicles." Harney said AUVs are used to collect ocean data by researchers such as biologists, fisheries scientists and engineers.

Like those AUVs, the gliders made by campers were autonomous, and followed programs the students created with "Arduino" kits. According to the arduino website, "Arduino is a tool for making computers that can sense and control more of the physical world than your desktop computer."

Bryce Moss, a camper who will start seventh grade at Ketchikan Charter School this fall was testing his glider in a yellow plastic tank at the Robertson Building's Construction Academy classroom. Moss explained, as the glider dived, then slowly surfaced again, that the machine is controlled by a servo motor run by AAA batteries.

"Nice flight! Swimming like a fish," Juneau Economic Development Council Science, Technology, Engineering and Math specialist Bob Vieth said, watching the glider.

The glider's servo motor turns a large screw that pushes and pulls a syringe inside that sucks in or forces out water, causing the glider to move. Weights inside move as well, which triggers the diving and surfacing.

Each student's glider was contained by a 16-ounce blue water bottle. The students outfitted the bottles with white wings and a tail much like an airplane's, all custom-made.

Two campers were pretty certain about their careers.

"I want to be an engineer," Moss said.

Dillon Coville, another camper entering seventh grade this fall, but at Schoenbar Middle School, also said that he wants to be an engineer.

"I like building," he said. He also is interested in aeronautics and cars, he said. Campers Alex Wick and Jake Newell worked on their gliders, adjusting them, checking solder and sharing advice. They also will be entering seventh grade at Schoenbar.

The students created smaller projects at the camp before tackling the more complex gliders, Vieth said. They learned soldering on a "breadboard," which is a surface to make an experimental model of an electrical circuit. They also practiced programming with a "calculator bot," which used a large Texas Instruments calculator to program its movements.

The campers create "bristle bots" by attaching vibrator motors to toothbrush heads and a battery and strapping them together with a rubber band. When activated, the little robots hummed and zipped around like insects. Some students modified the design by attaching the parts in different configurations, laughing when they veered and bumped in new ways.

Jordan Anderson, another seventh-grader just about to enter Schoenbar, said he had taken apart four old cell phones the night before to salvage the vibrator motors.

"I'll take things apart and use the parts I know about," he said.

Campers, engineers, parents, curious onlookers and Schoenbar science teacher Frankie Urquhart and her family gathered poolside at the Mike Smithers Community Pool Friday.

Campers seemed transfixed by the sight of their creations finally getting the space to stretch the programs they'd labored over.

Anderson said that by adjusting the tail of the glider, the programmer can create different travel paths, even making the vehicle turn in a circle to come back to its starting spot.

Harney said that the AUVs used by scientists can carry any type of sensor, but usually have a GPS unit on board so that after making a long dive, it can be located when it surfaces again, and data read from its sensors.

Common data collected, he said, is temperature, salinity and oxygen saturation. He said there is the possibility the AUVs could even be used to track tagged marine animals.

The AUVs travel in long ocean tracks, using technology very similar to the gliders that the campers made.



Corrie Embree looks at an underwater glider ready to be tested in a tub of water. Tyson Tuchscherer, an Educational Specialist with the Navy Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Maryland holds the glider.

Staff photo by Hall Anderson

Vieth said that the camp is a very special one for Ketchikan, because it is the first camp ever done like this, nationwide.

The Navy's SEAFAC facility made Ketchikan a logical place to start, and Vieth said that they have plans to launch a "Marine Acoustics Camp" next summer, featuring the SEAFAC site.

Tyson Tuchscherer, a microbiologist and U.S. Navy education specialist and Michael Britt-Crane, a mechanical engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center also taught at the camp.

Ratcliffe said that the National Defense Education Program's goal is to educate young people through outreach programs to local communities.

Juneau was hosting its own Underwater Gliders camp this week, Vieth said. The Juneau Economic Development Council's STEM program hosts several camps, workshops and classes each year. Vieth said he is quite eager to teach his own camp next week in Juneau, "Kitchen Science," which will be for elementary-aged students.

Ratcliffe said providing materials and programs is one way of achieving her department's goals, and she will be providing Schoenbar and Ketchikan Charter School's middle schoolers with 10 Arduino Inventor kits each free of charge this year.

She said that training for Ketchikan teachers also is planned, and Schoenbar science teacher Urquhart said she plans to incorporate the Arduino kits into her classes.

Vieth and Ratcliffe said that middle school age seems to be the perfect time for students to be introduced to STEM projects and training. They are old enough to tackle complex tasks, but not so old that their minds are closed to new ideas or career opportunities.

"This has been one of the best group of kids I've ever worked with, and I've been doing these workshops a long time," Vieth said.

AROUND ALASKA

Salazar to visit Alaska

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar plans to return to Alaska next week.

He's coming at the request of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, to assess public lands and resource development issues. Alaska's congressional delegation has been pressing the Obama administration to allow for more oil and gas development in the state.

Salazar is scheduled to participate in a roundtable in Anchorage Monday,

with Sen. Mark Begich and others, on the topic of job and economic opportunities related to Alaska's natural resources. The secretary and Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island are then set to tour the state through Wednesday with Murkowski. The itinerary includes Fairbanks, the North Slope and Denali National Park.

Today's Trivia answer:

Fifty-seven village presidents in the Yukon and Kuskokwim areas voted to create the association in 1964 to work for the benefit of the tribal governments and people of the Y-K delta, according to National Native News.

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SATURDAY 1:40-4:30-7:00-9:40
SUNDAY 1:40-4:30-7:00

X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

FRIDAY 4:20-7:10-9:50
SATURDAY 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:50
SUNDAY 1:30-4:20-7:10

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Pet & Doll Parade 2 pm, Grant/Main St.
Sponsored by Community Connections ELP & Friends of the Library
Best Blueberry Dish 3 pm, 330 Main St.
Juried Art Show Opening 5-7 pm, 330 Main St.
Giggleeft Dance Festival 7:30 pm, Kayhi

SATURDAY, August 6

Blueberry Fun Run & Walk 9 & 9:30 am
Slug Weigh-in 9:30, Slug Race 10:30 am
Arts, Crafts & Food Booths 10-5 pm
Juried Art Show 10-5 pm, 330 Main St.
Pie-eating contest 11:30 am
Battle of the Bands 12-5 pm, sponsored by GCI
Bear Totem Pole Raising 1 pm
Spelling Bee 1 pm
Trivia Contest 2 pm
Great Blueberry Roll 3 pm
Beard Contest 4 pm, Mike's Elbow Room
Dancing on the Dock 6-9pm, Berth 3
CHAR Summer Beer Festival 6:30-8:30 pm, Lumberjack Show

SUNDAY, August 7

Poetry Slam 3 pm, Ketchikan Coffee Co.
Giggleeft Dance Festival 7:30 pm, Kayhi

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MEETINGS

"Meetings" is a public service column the Ketchikan Daily News provides for use by individuals and nonprofit organizations to announce free 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, fundraising 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.

FRIDAY
Senior Services: 10:30 a.m., exercise class; noon, salmon burger with oven-fried potatoes lunch; 12:30 p.m., card games; 1:30 p.m., shopping. Story Time: 10:30 a.m., Ketchikan Public Library. Out to Lunch Bunch AA: Noon,

St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.

Parenting support group: Noon, WISH conference room, 2002 First Ave. Childcare provided.

Borough-City Cooperative Relations Committee: noon, Assembly chambers, 1900 First Ave.

Borough Lobbying Executive Committee: 1 p.m., Assembly chambers, 1900 First Ave. Review, prioritization of FY13 capital project priorities for submission to governor.

ANB/ANS Camp 15: 6 p.m., Salvation Army Church in Saxman, 301 Wolf St.

Friday Evening AI-Anon: 7:30 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 2711 Sec-

ond Ave., lower level.

Just for Today AA: 8 p.m., 1736 Tongass Ave. (Speaker meetings on second and last Fridays of the month.)

WEEKEND
Out to Lunch Bunch AA: Saturday, noon, St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.

Just for Today AA: Saturday, 8 p.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.
Just for Today AA: Sunday, 10 a.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.

Save the Goose: Sunday, 1 p.m., North Tongass Highway and Pond Reef Road.

Just for Today AA: Sunday, 8 p.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Lunch Program and Eligibility

Information on the school district's school lunch program and eligibility for free and reduced (price) lunches for the 2011-2012 school year is now on the school district's website. Go to: www.kgbsd.org; and click on "2011-2012 School Lunch Program" under Latest Updates.

Summer Lunch for Children

The School District continues to offer free lunch to children on weekdays this summer through August 19. (Available to any child up to age 18. Parents may purchase a lunch for \$4.00). The lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Schoenbar Middle School. These meals will meet National School Lunch standards. The program is fully funded through federal sources.

Ketchikan School District is an Equal Opportunity Provider

August 31 is the first day of school for students in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District.

As the school year approaches, if you have questions or concerns about school bus service, or the school lunch program, please call 247-2116.

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CRUISE Ship Schedule

Saturday, July 30
NO SHIPS

Sunday, July 31
Carnival Spirit 7:00a-1:00p
Millennium 7:00a-3:00p
Infinity 7:00a-4:00p
Disney Wonder 12:00p-8:00p
Total: 8,600

Monday, August 1
Coral Princess 6:30a-2:00p
Norwegian Star 7:00a-3:00p
Volendam 10:00a-6:00p
7 Seas Navigator 12:00p-6:00p
Total: 6,290

Tuesday, August 2
Sapphire Princess 6:30a-4:00p
Sea Princess 7:00a-3:00p
Statendam 7:00a-3:00p
Regatta 7:00a-7:00p
Silver Shadow 1:00p-6:00p
Total: 6,882

Wednesday, August 3
Amsterdam 7:00a-10:0p
Radiance of the Seas 9:00a-6:00p
Total: 3,560

Thursday, August 4
Golden Princess 6:30a-12:30p
Westerdam 7:00a-1:00p
Zuiderdam 10:00a-6:00p
Diamond Princess 10:00a-6:00p
Total: 8,896

Friday, August 5
Norwegian Pearl 6:00a-1:30p
Oosterdam 7:00a-1:00p
7 Seas Navigator 7:00a-4:00p
Zaandam 11:00a-7:00p
Century 2:00p-8:30p
Total: 8,014

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