

Lady Kings play Soldotna



• Kayhi to kick off on Thursday, See page 6



Tlingit teacher helps local students find their voices
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KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

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14 PAGES

SB to finalize budget

Vote on a new board member

By SAM ALLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

The Ketchikan School Board will make final adjustments to the district's proposed budget at its meeting Wednesday before submitting it to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for review.

The current proposed budget reflects a 3% decrease in cuts, a reduction of about \$1.25 million over last year. Compared to a flat funded budget, there is a measurable \$1.9 million difference over last year, according to Ketchikan School District Business Manager Katie Parrott.

This \$40.4 million budget includes a projected \$10.7 million in funding from the borough, \$5.7 million of which could be adjusted as the Ketchikan Borough Assembly sees fit.

The Alaska House and Senate have both proposed budgets that reflect flat funding for K-12 education, but Gov. Mike Dunleavy is still expressing his intention to exercise his veto power. The budget Dunleavy proposed on Feb. 13, contains a 23% reduction in K-12 funding.

In advance of the budget discussion, the board will vote on a new board member to fill the vacancy left by Glen Thompson, who notified the district of his intent to resign on Feb. 25. So far there are three applicants: Leslie Becker, Gianna Flanery and David Timmerman.

"The first thing we will do (Wednesday) is appoint the person and they will be seated and can participate in voting," said School Board President Matt Eisenhower.

In other business, the board will consider a motion to ratify a negotiated labor contract between the district and the Ketchikan Education Association Classified Educational Support Professionals.

KEA and KGBSD representatives met several times in February and March to negotiate a new agreement. KEA has already ratified the new agreement. The See 'School Board,' page 2

Traffic flow causes berth swap



SECON crew member Stewart Meeks uses an excavator to back fill and make sidewalk grade on Tuesday at the intersection of Front and Mission streets.

Staff photo by Dustin Safranek

Project, traffic flow issues result in first ship location change

By SCOTT BOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

The Ruby Princess is set to be the first large cruise ship to visit Ketchikan during the 2019 season — but it will pull up to a different berth than originally planned when it arrives at 7 a.m. on Saturday.

The 952-foot-long ship will dock at Berth 4 instead of Berth 2, according to information presented to the Ketchikan City Council on Monday evening.

The decision to switch berths was made Monday afternoon due to a set of circumstances indicating that Berth 4 could accommodate pedestrian and bus traffic better than Berth 2 on Saturday.

"The whole thing just led to Berth 4 being the right thing to do," Steve Corporon, director of the city's Port and Harbors Department, told the Council.

Part of the situation involves the road work on Front Street at the Mill Street curve, where Front Street continues onto the Berth 1 area near Dwyer's Crab and Fish Company restaurant.

SECON, the contractor involved with the ongoing Alaska Department of Transportation's Front, Mill and Stedman streets renovation project, is working on that area and anticipates that it will be closed to traffic on Saturday, according to SECON Project Manager John Logsdon.

A potential traffic rerouting on Spruce Mill Way, which runs between the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center and the Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show area, would be affected by a planned closure of Bawden Street between the Discovery Center and the Ketchikan Fire Department's Station 1 for a safety

See 'Berth swap,' page 2

Major issues persist

As legislative session's final weeks near

By BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU — The biggest issues heading into this year's legislative session remain unresolved in the session's final weeks, with Gov. Mike Dunleavy facing resistance to pieces of his agenda.

Lawmakers have yet to finalize a budget. The size of the check residents will get this year from the state's oil-wealth fund, the Alaska Permanent Fund, is unsettled, as is the debate over the program's future.

The Republican governor wants lawmakers to pass his package of bills related to crime and act on proposed constitutional amendments pitched as part of his fiscal plan. But he faces pushback, with a key House member wanting to focus initially on issues related to public safety with the broadest level of support and other lawmakers arguing that the push for constitutional changes may not be realistic.

While voters years ago approved a 90-day legislative session, that mark came and went with little acknowledgment earlier this month. Legislative leaders early on cast doubt on whether their work could be completed in 90 days, with Dunleavy releasing his budget a month into session and the House failing to organize until around that time. The constitution permits 121-day regular sessions, with an option to extend for another 10. The 121-day mark would be hit May 15.

BUDGET AND DIVIDEND

The version of the state operating budget passed by the House and the one the Senate is working on reject the level of cuts proposed by Dunleavy. The House-passed budget did not include a permanent fund dividend

See 'AK-Legislature,' page 3

Putin-Kim summit set for Thursday



By NATALIYA VASILYEVA and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a much-anticipated summit Thursday, the Kremlin said, ending weeks of speculation about the meeting's timing and venue.

Preparations for the meeting in Vladivostok, a

This combination file photo shows Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, in St. Petersburg, Russia on April 9 and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Feb. 28.

AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky, Evan Vucci, File

Russia city on the Pacific, were held in secrecy because of North Korean security concerns, Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov said Tuesday.

Ushakov said the talks would focus on the stand-off over the North's nuclear program, noting that Russia will seek to "consolidate the positive trends" stemming from U.S. President Donald Trump's meetings with Kim.

Kim left Pyongyang by his special train at dawn Wednesday as he heads to Russia with top government and military officials, according to the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency. It said officials and residents gathered at Pyongyang's train station to see him off.

See 'Putin-Kim summit,' page 2

Alaska eyes adding new ferry terminal

JUNEAU (AP) — Alaska is considering adding another terminal to accommodate the short range of a new class of ferries, officials said.

The administration of Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy may propose a new Juneau terminal 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of an existing terminal for the new Alaska Class ferries, CoastAlaska reported Friday.

The terminal proposal is part of a plan to ensure day boats can connect Juneau with Haines and Skagway.

The Alaska Class ferry Tazlina is expected to embark upon its maiden

See 'Ferry terminal,' page 2

Watchdogs open 2nd ethics probe of top Interior officials

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department's internal watchdog confirmed on Tuesday that it is investigating allegations of ethical misconduct by senior political appointees at the agency, an announcement that comes a week after the disclosure of a similar investigation of newly confirmed Secretary David Bernhardt.

Both investigations by the Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General were prompted by allegations that senior Trump administration appointees at the agency had been involved with department decision-making on issues

'We hope this investigation will answer whether these officials are working on behalf of the American people, or on behalf of the interests that used to pay their salary.'

—Delaney Marsco, Campaign Legal Center

involving former employers or lobbying clients.

"We hope this investigation will answer whether these officials are working on behalf of the American people, or on behalf of the interests that used to pay their salary," said

Delaney Marsco, ethics counsel at the nonprofit, nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center, which asked for the new probe.

Citing Interior appointment calendars and other docu-

ments, the group asked the agency's internal investigators to look into whether a half dozen senior agency officials were involved in Interior actions dealing with their former employers, including a conservative Texas think-tank and the National Rifle Association.

For example, the group cited calendar items that it said showed Interior assistant secretary Doug Domenech met with his former employer, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, on litigation between the think-tank and Interior over endangered-species protections.

Trump administration ethics pledges limit dealings on

See 'Ethics probe,' page 2



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Page 8: Study finds Americans are becoming more inactive

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Today's Trivia:
How many city officials attended the Seatrade expo in Miami earlier this month?
Answer, Page 2

Berth swap

expo on Saturday.

"The way that the buses were just going to have a really tough time with this new traffic plan, ... it's just a much safer thing for the buses and the passengers to have them work out of Berth 4 this Saturday," Corporon told the Council, adding that an announcement on the berth assignment change was going to occur Tuesday morning.

There was some discussion Monday evening about the status of the road project and the potential for further changes to port access.

Corporon noted that, in addition to the structural issues being addressed in the Front and Mill street curve area, SECON earlier had encountered structural issues in the area of Mission and Front streets.

Logsdon told the Daily News on Tuesday that "we have had a couple of things that we ran into unexpectedly. (We) took a ... portion of the sidewalk there at Mission Street off and there was nothing underneath it but a big hole."

A retaining wall was installed to hold the fill upon which the new sidewalk is being built.

"They're the kinds of things that you run in to then when you start taking the top off of this road around these 100-year-old buildings and stuff," he continued. "So we've had a few issues with that kind of a thing that have delayed us a bit."

Logsdon anticipated that, with fair weather, they should be "pretty much done with those sidewalks"

by the first part of next week."

That's not the end of the project, however. The project will move into the roadway along Front Street, Mill Street and Stedman Street to the bridge over Ketchikan Creek. Beginning May 1, the work hours will shift to start at 3 p.m. and continue to 1 a.m. — avoiding having active work zones during much of the times of day that cruise ships are in port. No work is being planned on Fridays, which is nearly always the busiest cruise ship day of the week.

"It gets a little more tight as we move into the first part of the season, and then hopefully we can get some of these areas that we've had a little bit of delays all closed up and get traffic at least, keep it moving through there as best we can," Logsdon said.

The project is intended to be complete by the end of August.

Council Member Dick Coose on Monday voiced a concern about the potential for impacts such as will occur on Saturday to happen at other points in the season.

"I think that our (city) staff and the SECON staff and the two (tour) bus companies, the big ones, need to have maybe some type of a get-together to make sure there are no more of these things that we can't work out," Coose said. "Because pretty soon you don't have a choice. ... We just need to work it out before it's a problem."

City Manager Karl Amylon replied that the city

would be doing that.

"But I can tell you, based on conversations that I've had with the (city) public works director, as this work progresses, SECON is finding things that were not represented on the plans so they are being confronted with changing conditions," Amylon said. "And it's going to be hard to plan with certainty between now and the rest of the season, so we'll do our best."

Logsdon said SECON will be in close communication with the city.

"We are going to have to work closely with the city and the Port and Harbors guys, not only for the traffic control around that area, but also for the pedestrian control," he said. "Our flaggers and their crossing guards are going to have to work together ... to make all that happen."

Corporon on Monday noted that the Saturday's berth change for the Ruby Princess would not be popular in some quarters downtown, but didn't elaborate much further.

However, it's long established that downtown businesses are keenly interested in ship berthing assignments because the closer a ship docks to a given business, the more passenger foot traffic flows past — and into — that business. As such, the city attempts to have an annual cruise ship calendar that distributes the ships relatively evenly across the four berths.

Continued from page 1

Today's Trivia answer:

Six



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Hydrangeas are here!

School Board

Continued from page 1

contract would be in effect from affect July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

For discussion, the board will review revised board policy concerning sexual harassment. The board formed a task force to review policy. The task force met with the Association of Alaska School Boards and plans to make the board's policy language closer to AASB's.

The School Board also will consider approving the purchase of 200 Chromebook laptops. The amount for these computers is \$44,500 or about \$225 per unit. According to school district documents these computers would be issued to incoming seventh graders and replace the last of the Apple student laptops at the high school level.

The School Board meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Borough Assembly chambers at 1900 First Avenue. There is time at the start of the meeting for public comment.

Ethics probe

Continued from page 1

regulatory matters that senior political appointees can have with former employers.

Spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo of Interior's Office of the Inspector General confirmed that another investigation had begun, but declined to identify the officials under scrutiny or say how many were now under investigation.

Interior Department spokeswoman Faith Vander Voort said in an email that the agency's ethics office had "re-

viewed each matter, and provided materials to the chief of staff, who has taken appropriate actions."

She declined to elaborate on what actions were taken.

Democratic senators had sought the earlier-announced internal investigation of Bernhardt. Their complaint centered on allegations Bernhardt was involved in Interior Department deliberations with former lobbying clients, including a politically influential California water agency.

Ferry terminal

Continued from page 1

voyage next month, but a March 26 Department of Transportation & Public Utilities memo made public Friday says the Tazlina will not be able to make its connections.

"There is insufficient time to conduct a round trip from Auke Bay to Haines and Skagway in less than 12 hours' time," wrote Kirk Miller, a transportation department engineer.

The \$27 million measure would include a new seasonal terminal farther north at Cascade Point to keep short-

run ferries viable.

"With the reduced travel time, there can be double the frequency of trips," transportation department spokesperson Meadow Bailey wrote in a statement. "The project would result in a shorter ferry run, therefore reducing the cost of operating and reducing crew costs."

Democratic state Rep. Sara Hannan, whose district includes Haines, Skagway and downtown Juneau, said she had not been briefed on the proposal.

Putin-Kim summit

Continued from page 1

Kim will be the first North Korean leader to travel to Russia since his late father, Kim Jong Il, visited in 2011.

Kim Jong Un had two summits with Trump, but the latest in Vietnam in February collapsed because North Korea wanted more relief from sanctions than Washington was willing to give for the amount of nuclear disarmament offered by Pyongyang.

Some experts say Kim could try to bolster his country's ties with Russia and China as he's increasingly expressed frustration at the lack of U.S. steps to match the partial disarmament steps he took last year.

It's not clear how big of a role Russia can play in efforts to restart the nuclear diplomacy. But the summit could allow Putin to try to increase his influence in regional politics and the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ketchikan City Council is seeking to fill a vacancy for the position of Councilmember. Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 334 Front Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901. All applications must be received in the City Clerk's office not later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2019. Applicants must be qualified voters of the City of Ketchikan and must have been a City resident for at least one year.

The City Council will determine which applicants to interview from applications received. The interviews and vote to fill the vacancy shall be open to the public. The Council may either fill the vacancy with the applicant who, from among those interviewed by the Council, are, in the Council's sole determination, the most qualified or, the Council may direct re-publication of the vacancy. The term of the appointment to fill the vacant position will be until the next regular municipal elections which will be held on October 1, 2019. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 907-228-5658.

Kim Stanker, City Clerk

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. 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.

- WEDNESDAY**

Historic Ketchikan: 7:30 a.m., Annabelle's.

Saxman/Ketchikan Senior Center: Noon. Lunch: Creole pork steaks and cauliflower. 2401 Eagle Ave.

Out to Lunch Bunch AA: Noon. St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.

Breastfeeding and infant nutrition cafe peer group: 10:30 a.m., Ketchikan Public Library.

Kayhi Alumni: 1 p.m., Annabelle's, no-host luncheon.

Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee: 5:30 p.m., ADF&G Conference Room, 2030 Sea Level Drive, 2nd Floor.
- Just for Today AA:** 5:30 p.m., 1736 Tongass Ave.

Courage to Change Al-Anon: 6 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 2711 Second Ave., lower level.

Ketchikan School Board: 6 p.m., Borough Assembly chambers, 1900 First Ave.

ELKS LODGE #1429: 7 p.m., 1830 Tongass Ave.

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

NA Never Alone Group: 8 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.
- THURSDAY**

Saxman/Ketchikan Senior Center: Noon. Lunch: Corn chowder and roast

- beef sandwich. 2401 Eagle Ave.

Out to Lunch Bunch AA: Noon. St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.

Klawock Women's Talking Circle: Noon, Alicia Roberts Medical Center in Klawock.

Kayhi Class of 1969 Reunion Meeting: 5:30 p.m., Jeremiah's Pub, Fireside Room.

WISH Positive Discipline Parenting Class: 5:30 p.m., IROCK, 2106 Tongass Ave.
- Tongass Tribe:** 6 p.m., Ketchikan Indian Community.

Warrior Women of NA: 6 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 1200 Tongass Ave.

Craig AA: 7 p.m., Craig Presbyterian Church.

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

NA Never Alone Group: 8 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church undercroft.

THANK YOU!
Mrs. Sheila Klosterman

To Sheila Klosterman, my wife, I am so grateful that for the last three years our son has been able to experience you as his mother and a leader influencing his education. I know his future, as well as all of those students who have passed through the elementary school doors will grow to be the citizens the United States of America needs. For as a Tlingit Native Alaskan, he has the positive cultural role model to lift up to the next generation of leaders.

I have been so blessed to have you as a military spouse and to share the sacrifices we have made for the last 17 years. As I return home from this latest deployment to the U.S. CENTCOM area of operations, I am remorseful. I apologize for not being there by your side for the last three years and more importantly, this last year. I had great hopes to be that supporting spouse and use the skills that God has blessed me with to assist you in making your school better and safer than it currently exists. I apologize.

This time next year we will celebrate Sylvan's graduating in the top 10% of his United States Military Academy class and starting his military service to this great country.

We will celebrate Katlian James, our third son to graduate high school.

We will celebrate the conclusion to my 32 years of uniformed service. We will celebrate.

But today, I want to celebrate you as a mother, military spouse, strong Tlingit leader, and an awesome educator for the last 25 years in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Public School District. I am in deep awe as a deployed soldier; as your ex-spouse is also deployed, and with Sylvan being months away from leading deployed soldiers, away from families and friends, the glue you are to our family. It has truly been consequential.

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