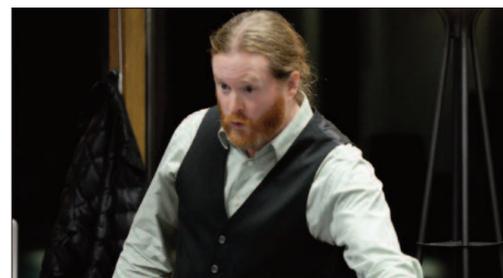




Day at the gym
Gymnasts gather for Turkey Tumble in Ketchikan, A-6

Music in progress
Grant helping UAS professor complete first album, B-4



KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

WEEKEND EDITION

48°/41°
Weather, page A-3

\$1.75 SATURDAY/SUNDAY, NOV. 21-22 2015 TWITTER.COM/KDNNEWS WWW.KETCHIKANDAILYNEWS.COM 34 PAGES

Forest Service releases TLMP draft EIS

Reaction to proposed Tongass plan

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — Reaction to the proposed Tongass land management plan amendment from representatives of various industry and conservation organizations was, at best, mixed on Friday.

Owen Graham, executive director of the Alaska Forest Association, said in a phone interview Friday evening that he was out of town and hadn't had a chance to read the See 'Reaction,' page A-4

By MATT ARMSTRONG
Daily News Staff Writer

The U.S. Forest Service, on Friday, released for public comment a draft document that could change how the Tongass National Forest is managed over the next 10 to 15 years.

The Tongass National Forest proposed amended land and resource management plan and draft environmental impact statement in-

cludes several proposals that are aimed at helping smooth the transition from old-growth to young-growth timber, according to Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart.

Stewart, in a Nov. 16 letter to participants in the planning process, wrote that an amendment to the 2008 Forest Plan "is needed to accelerate the transition to a young-growth forest management program, and to do so in a way

that preserves a viable timber industry that provides jobs and opportunities for residents of Southeast Alaska."

The required transition to young-growth timber comes from a July 2013 memo from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, which directed the Tongass to move toward a more "ecologically, socially and See 'TLMP,' page A-4

Charges dismissed against Kookesh

High court rules in overharvesting salmon case

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Supreme Court has dismissed charges of overharvesting salmon against a former state senator and two other fishermen.

The justices in a decision issued Friday ruled fishing regulators did not follow state law before lowering the harvest limit of sockeye near Angoon, in southeast Alaska.

A wildlife trooper in July 2009 arrested then-state Sen. Albert Kookesh, D-Angoon, and three other fishermen after watching them harvest 148 fish with a seine net from Kanalku Lake on Admiralty Island. Their subsistence permits

See 'Kookesh,' page A-5

Marijuana 'first' written into rules

By BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

JUNEAU — The board tasked with writing rules for Alaska's recreational marijuana industry voted Friday to allow for people to use pot at certain stores that will sell it, a first among the four states that have legalized the drug.

The 3-2 vote by the Marijuana Control Board also changed the definition of the term "in public" to allow for consumption at some pot shops, none of which are open yet. Colorado, Washington and Oregon have legalized recreational marijuana but ban its public use, including in pot stores.

"This would put, I think, Alaska in the forefront on this issue," said Chris Lindsey, a legislative analyst with the Marijuana Policy Project.

On-site consumption was a hot topic during the public comment process in Alaska. Board chairman Bruce Schulte, who offered the amendment, said there appeared to be a public demand for such facilities.

Voters last November passed the state's initiative legalizing recreational

pot use by those 21 and older. The initiative banned public consumption but didn't define "public."

Regulators adopted an emergency regulation earlier this year when the law was taking effect that defined "in public" as a place where the public or a substantial group of people have access.

Some initiative supporters thought that definition was too restrictive, saying it would seemingly even bar pot consumption at weddings or office parties.

The board amended the definition to allow for consumption in a designated area at certain licensed pot stores. It had previously said it lacked the legal authority to create a type of license permitting public use.

Cynthia Franklin, the board's director, said she expects another round of regulations detailing exactly what will be allowed at those stores, such as the types of marijuana.

Tim Hinterberger, a sponsor of the Alaska initiative, said allowing retail establishments to be licensed for on-site

See 'Marijuana,' page A-5



People and pets benefit

A bar graph representing donated food stands near a pile of food inside Fawn Mountain Elementary School on Friday.

Students brought 2,677 items, which will be given to The Salvation Army, to the school's lunchroom.

The food is divided into separate piles for people and pets.

Staff photos by Taylor Balkom



Hiring concerns cause VA changes

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two high-ranking officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs were demoted Friday in response to allegations that they manipulated the agency's hiring system for their own gain.

The VA said in a statement that Diana Rubens and Kimberly Graves were demoted from senior executives — the highest rank for career employ-

ees — to general workers within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Rubens was paid \$181,497 as director of the Philadelphia regional office for the VBA, while Graves earned \$173,949 as leader of the St. Paul, Minnesota, regional office.

The VA's acting inspector general said in a report this fall that Rubens and Graves forced lower-ranking regional managers to accept job transfers against their will. Rubens and

Graves then stepped into the vacant positions themselves, keeping their pay while reducing their responsibilities.

Rubens and Graves refused to testify to Congress earlier this month, telling lawmakers they were asserting their Fifth Amendment rights to protect themselves against self-incrimination.

Before taking the regional jobs, Rubens was a deputy undersecretary

at the VA's Washington headquarters, while Graves was director of VBA's 14-state North Atlantic Region.

Rubens and Graves kept their top-level salaries in their new positions, even though they had less responsibility and a lower pay range than their previous positions.

Rubens grew up near Philadelphia, while Graves has family in Minnesota. See 'Veterans,' page A-2

Extremists launch attack on Mali hotel

By BABA AHMED
Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali — Heavily armed Islamic extremists seized dozens of hostages Friday at a Radisson hotel, but Malian troops, backed by U.S. and French special forces, swarmed in to retake the building and free many of the terrified captives. At least 20 people, including one American, were killed along

with two gunmen during the more than seven-hour siege, a Malian military commander said.

An extremist group led by former al-Qaida commander Moktar Belmoktar claimed responsibility for the attack in the former French colony, and many in France saw it as a new assault on their country's interests a week after the Paris attacks.

While French President Francois Hollande did not

link the violence at the Radisson Blu hotel with last week's bloodshed in Paris, he declared that France would stand by the West African country.

"Once again, terrorists want to make their barbaric presence felt everywhere, where they can kill, where they can massacre. So we should once again show our solidarity with our ally, Mali," he said.

See 'Mali,' page A-12

Drone registration includes toys

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An aviation industry task force is recommending that operators be required to register drones weighing as little as a half a pound, a threshold that could include some remote-controlled toys, industry officials said.

Federal Aviation Administration officials who convened the 25-member task force on drone registration have said they want to avoid requiring the registration of toys. But the consensus of the task force is that the weight threshold that triggers registration should be set at 250 grams or above, which is about a half-pound, said people familiar

with its deliberations.

The threshold is based on the potential impact a drone that size would have if it fell from the sky and struck a person or if it collided with a helicopter or plane, they said.

The recommendations were expected to be submitted to the FAA by Saturday. The FAA then can modify them, and hopes to issue the rules before Christmas to begin registering some of the thousands of drones expected to be purchased over the holidays. One industry official said the target date is Dec. 21.

Four people familiar with the advisory group's deliberations described the conclusions to The See 'Drones,' page A-10



Ketchikan, Alaska
© 2015
VOL. 87 NO. 274
(USPS 293-940)

SPORTS • WORLD • ALASKA • NATION

Page A-10: Quirky book gift ideas

www.ketchikandailynews.com

Today's Trivia:

Why did Judge Philip Pallenberg reject the 'Bush People' plea in their PFD case?

Answer, Page A-2

Southeast Log

By DAVE KIFFER
For the Daily News

the area.

— THE NORTHERN VIEW

No preschool in school building

HAINES — The school board has reversed its earlier proposal to house the currently homeless Chilkat Valley Preschool in the Haines School Building. The board voted 5-2 last week to rescind the early offer.

— THE CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

Historic district remodel planned

JUNEAU — A major remodel of Front and Franklin streets may be in the offing. Planning staff is looking at preserving parking, replacing and widening sidewalks, adding benches and improving canopies. The plan is only in the concept stage for now.

— THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Vet continues to serve

PETERSBURG — Last week, Tom Lewis celebrated his 94th birthday. Since it was Monday, the World War II veteran did what he does every Monday. He delivered a pie to the residents of Long Term Care.

— THE PETERSBURG PILOT

Former Chamber head dies

HAINES — Former Haines Chamber of Commerce president Jeff Shields has died in Wisconsin. Shields, 60, was a familiar figure in Haines, owning the Haines Street Car Company and the Glass Onion record shop.

— THE CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

Harbor project gets high rating

WRANGELL — A proposal to renovate Shoemaker Harbor is getting high marks from the state government. The Alaska Department of Transportation matching grant program has the harbor project second on its statewide list.

— THE WRANGELL SENTINEL

Canfisco cuts back local plant

PRINCE RUPERT — Canfisco is reducing operations at its Oceanside cannery. Company officials said that there would be layoffs, but declined to say how many. It blamed the cutbacks on several years of declining salmon runs in

Flanders Field filchers

TERRACE — Charges are pending against a 20-year-old man and youth following the theft of a "poppy donation box" at Safeway last week.

— THE TERRACE STANDARD

Appropriate location for a tiff

HAINES — Police received a report of an argument on Battle Road. The dispute was over when they arrived.

— THE CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

Officials wade into sludge transport

JUNEAU — Local officials are looking at alternatives to barging sewage sludge south. The incinerator that used to burn the sludge was taken off line five years ago, and it could cost up to \$36 million to replace it. Shipping the sludge south costs \$2.2 million each year.

— THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Dog tethering may be banned

TERRACE — The city is looking at banning the outdoor tethering of dogs. Current law allows for a dog to be tethered outside for up to an hour, but official say requiring dogs to be in a fenced yard would be better for the dogs and the community.

— THE TERRACE STANDARD

Electric rate study turned off

WRANGELL — The borough assembly recently pulled the plug on a study of electrical rates. The Assembly decided the proposed \$24,000 study was too expensive, particularly in light of similar study in 2010.

— THE WRANGELL SENTINEL

Grizzly Adams?

HAINES — A resident reported finding human skeletal remains near the Mud Bay spring. Police responded and determined the remains were that of a bear. They notified the troopers.

— THE CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

Sacred Chilkat robe returned

JUNEAU (AP) — A Chilkat robe that left Alaska after the Yukon gold rush is making its way back to Juneau.

KTOO-FM reports that the robe was set to be auctioned on eBay Wednesday, but seller George Blucker gave the Sealaska Heritage Institute a special price of \$14,500 when he learned it was a sacred item.

The robe's clan of origin is unknown, but it is a Raven

design and appears to be a funerary object.

Similar objects can fetch upwards of \$30,000. Blucker says he bought the robe at an Illinois flea market 25 years ago from a man who found it at an estate sale and said it was brought back after the Yukon gold rush.

Blucker says he knew the robe had to return home when he learned it had a "spiritual presence."

TLMP

Continued from page A-1

economically sustainable" forest management program, according to Stewart's letter.

In a phone interview Friday morning, Stewart said that the Forest Service took draft recommendations approved in May by the Tongass Advisory Committee — a federal committee tasked with drafting a plan to help ease the transition from old-growth logging to young-growth — and "sought to interpret and clarify" them and create a proposed amendment to the 2008 Forest Plan.

The Forest Service, with the proposed amendment, is focused on the transition from old-growth to young-growth timber, and it seeks to support the Southeast Alaska logging industry in a viable way, according to Stewart.

The amendment also includes a renewable energy component and seeks to recognize the economic value of other Southeast Alaska industries, such as fishing, Stewart added.

"The TAC did an amazing job in looking at challenges (related to the transition) ad representing diverse groups," he said. While the transition was intended to take 10 to 15 years, Stewart said the "current assessment pushes that timeline to about 16 years."

"It's not as quick as what was originally targeted, but that would be to full transition," Stewart said. "In the intervening years, you would have more young-growth coming in to fulfill the industry."

However, Stewart added, that "brings a lot of questions," including how the financial problems associated with the timber industry switching to young-growth trees — which aren't as valuable for the industry as old-growth — and how to meet the volume product need of timber industry. "There are a lot of questions yet to be resolved, but (the proposed amendment

is) a step forward to get to a better understanding," Stewart said.

Following the 90-day comment period — during which the Forest Service will hold public meetings and subsistence meetings in various communities — the proposed amendment will move into the objection period. The Forest Service then will try to incorporate comments from the public and the TAC — which is meeting in early December in Ketchikan — into the proposed amendment, according to Stewart.

He added that a final decision on the proposed amendment likely is at least a year away.

The public comment period is open through Feb. 22. Comments can be mailed to: Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Amendment, 648 Mission Street Ketchikan, AK 99901, and emailed to: comments-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us.

Additional information on the proposed amendment is available online at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/R10/Tongass/Plan Amend.

Juneau Foot & Ankle Clinic

FRANK F. MESDAG D.P.M.

Clinic dates:

November 14
December 12

Sports injuries* Orthotics* Ankle Sprains* Fractures* Diabetic & Arthritic Foot Care* Children Foot Disorders* Comprehensive Foot Care* Ingrown and Fungal Nails Skin Diseases* Wart Removal* Bunions* Hammer Toes* Reconstructive Surgery

Please call (907) 789-0405

for an appointment

120 Carlanna Lake Rd.

Day of Clinic 247-1431

IN BRIEF

Building put up for sale

JUNEAU (AP) — A historic building in downtown Juneau has a "For Sale" sign out. The Juneau Empire reports the nearly 100-year-old Hellenthal Building is being sold by the current owner, First National Bank Alaska.

Luke Fanning, the bank's vice president in southeast Alaska, says the core of the bank's business is no longer in downtown Juneau. Instead, it's on West 10th Street, where the bank just opened a new building.

The L-shaped Hellenthal Building, which has frontage on both Front and N. Franklin streets, was built in 1916. The three-story, 6,000-square-foot building on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is a lot of vacant space inside, and officials say it will require major investments to bring the building up to current standards. That need for work is being reflected in the sale price. The building and land are assessed at \$1.7 million, but the bank has set the sale price at \$600,000.

ATTENTION KETCHIKAN PROPANE CONSUMERS

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY.

AmeriGas recently sent out promotional mailings, however we no longer service your area.

As of March 2015, AmeriGas sold its assets and business in Ketchikan to Petro Marine Services.

We sincerely apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this has caused.

Reaction

proposed amendment.

However, Graham said he did not support a package of recommendations adopted in May by the Tongass Advisory Committee, which the U.S. Forest Service took into account when drafting the proposed amendment.

Graham criticized both the TAC recommendations and the federal government's transition mandate for trying to end old-growth logging in the next 15 years. That won't be enough time for current young-growth trees to be profitable enough to sustain logging and mills in Southeast Alaska, which will result in almost all of the timber being exported to mills in Asia, Graham said.

"A plan to end the timber industry in the next 15 years is not one I'm going to support," Graham said.

TAC Co-Chairwoman Lynn Jungwirth did not return an email seeking comment on the proposed amendment by deadline Friday.

Several environmental and conservation organizations on Friday issued news releases regarding the draft amendment. They read, in part:

• Southeast Alaska Conservation Council: "The Forest Service's preferred alternative, Alternative 5, proposes key improvements like putting salmon strongholds of longtime concern to Southeast Alaskans like Port Houghton, Poison Cove and Ushk Bay, Castle River, Broad Finger Creek, and East Kuiu (No Name, Reid and Alvin bays) off limits to logging. "We are disappointed, however,

that despite announcing a rapid transition away from Tongass old-growth logging by the USDA in 2013, the Forest Service missed the opportunity to take a hard look at ending the conflict and controversy associated with clearcut logging of Tongass old-growth more quickly.

"In many ways, the Forest Service is still trying to catch up with how most people in Southeast Alaska use,

enjoy and value the forest today. Focusing logging on irreplaceable old-growth forests for another 10 to 15 years is too long and, given that Tongass old growth is a world-class buffer against climate change, undercuts U.S. leadership on this global issue."

• Dan Kirkwood, rainforest program manager, Alaska Wilderness League: "We have advocated for a faster end to old-growth clear-cuts because of the serious ecological consequences of this logging. The volume of cuts is simply too high and has gone on for far too long. Continued old-growth harvest means continued controversy, and for the good of the Tongass the outcome of this planning process must be a rapid end to old-growth clear-cuts.

"The Forest Service has recognized important places like the Tongass 77 salmon watersheds, inventoried roadless areas, and conservation lands identified by the National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy where other valuable resources exist and logging should not be allowed to occur. These salmon watersheds, for example, represent some of the best salmon habitat in the Tongass and the Forest Service must prioritize protecting the resources that sustain our communities and jobs.

"Any successful transition away from clear-cutting old growth must protect the unique and valuable natural resources of the Tongass including the abundant wild salmon, scenery and wildlife that are the backbone of the region's economy. If the Forest Service wants to support economic opportunity in Southeast Alaska it should look to the programs that support the tourism and fishing jobs that drive \$2 billion of economic activity into the region each year."

• Jim Adams, policy director, Audubon Alaska: "Audubon Alaska is glad to see that the Forest Service's preferred alternative protects some of

the highest-value conservation lands on the Tongass from the impacts of old-growth clearcutting. Setting aside T77, Audubon/TNC conservation lands, and roadless areas was a unanimous recommendation of the Tongass Advisory Council and would be a step in the right direction for forest management.

"That said, the Forest Service failed to even consider ending old-growth clearcutting quickly enough to protect the Tongass. Portions of the heavily logged Tongass ecosystem are breaking down, as evidenced by the Prince of Wales Island wolf population crash, but the Forest Service outright refused to discuss ending old-growth clearcutting in five years, as Audubon and many other conservation organizations have advocated. It is a sign that the Forest Service remains more focused on subsidizing the outdated logging industry on the Tongass than on protecting the ecosystem that is a national treasure as well as the base for the billion-dollar tourism and fishing industries that employ 17,000 people in Southeast Alaska. The Tongass, the people of Southeast Alaska, and Americans would all be best served by putting the conflict and controversy of old-growth clearcutting behind us."

• Mark Kaelke, Southeast Alaska program director, Trout Unlimited: "While it's clear we need to roll up our sleeves and work to make this the

plan live up to its potential, we would like to commend the Forest Service, the Tongass Advisory Committee and the people of Southeast Alaska for recognizing that at its heart, the Tongass is a salmon forest.

"This amendment gives us the opportunity to put fish and other renewable resources values on a more even footing with timber for the first time, and to chart a sustainable future for our greatest national forest. Commercial fishermen, business owners, conservationists and sport anglers are looking forward to weighing in with the Forest Service to provide substantial conservation measures for the areas within the Tongass 77 and other important areas that are critical to salmon and trout.

"A diverse and growing segment of Americans recognize the Tongass National Forest is a huge salmon factory, and that key rivers and their surrounding lands should be conserved and managed with fish as priority number one. Currently only 35 percent of the salmon habitat in the Tongass is protected.

"That's not good enough. Our fish-based businesses, and future generations deserve better. We applaud the Forest Service for making this strong statement in favor of wild salmon and to making good on its promise to transition to more sustainable and diverse management of the forest during this plan amendment process."

Continued from page A-1



Watch Ketchikan's Christmas Tree light up as you visit with Santa and enjoy cookies, cocoa, and carolers!

Sunday, November 29th
4:00 pm
Downtown Fire Station

Sponsored by the City of Ketchikan, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, CHARR, and the Downtown Steering Committee. Community Christmas Tree generously provided by Alcan Forest Products.

KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS

©2015
(ISSN0274581X)

501 Dock St., P.O. Box 7900
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-3157/FAX (907) 225-1096
Email: kdn@kpunet.net

Website: ketchikandailynews.com

A publication of Pioneer Printing Co., Inc.
Tena Williams and Lew Williams III, co-publishers

Periodicals postage paid at Ketchikan, Alaska. Published every day except Sundays and eight holidays: New Year's Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Member of The Associated Press. Periodical subscription rates payable in advance.

Local: 3 months—\$71; 6 months—\$96; one year—\$155.
Mail rates: 3 months—\$95; 6 months—\$138; one year—\$221.

Senior citizens—10 percent discount

Postmaster: Send address changes to Ketchikan Daily News, P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Newtown Liquor Thanksgiving Savings

BEER

Deschute or New Belgium 6 pk 12 oz bottles \$8.49
Elysian or Sierra Nevada 6 pk 12 oz bottles \$8.99
Stella Artois 6 pk 12 oz bottles, Regular or Cider \$9.99
Coney Island Hard Root Beer or It's Not Your Father's Root Beer 6 pk 12 oz bottles or cans \$10.99
Budweiser, M.G.D., Coors 18 pk 12oz cans, Regular or Light \$17.99

LIQUOR

Bacardi or Evan Williams 750 ml Rum or Bourbon \$14.99
Smirnoff or Fireball 750 ml Vodka or Cinnamon Whiskey \$17.99
Captain Morgan 750 ml Spiced Rum or Kablua Liquor \$17.99
Lorel Calvet or Seagram 7 1.75 lt Whiskey \$19.99
Jameson or Crown Royal 750 ml Irish Whiskey or Canadian Whiskey \$23.99

WINE

Chateau St. Michelle 750 ml Riesling, All Varieties \$6.99
Yellow Tail 1.5 lt, All Varieties \$8.99
Clos du Bois 750 ml All Varieties \$9.99
Freixenet 750 ml Brut, Extra Dry \$10.99
Kim Crawford 750 ml Sauvignon Blanc \$10.99

OPEN THANKSGIVING

9AM-8PM
Sale expires 12/1/15 • Limited to stock on hand.
Pricing excludes Gift Sets