



25	60° 48°	26	62° 49°	27	61° 49°	28	58° 48°
----	------------	----	------------	----	------------	----	------------

DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

www.sitkasentinel.com • A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • sitkasentinel

WEEKEND EDITION

75 Cents

Volume 80 No. 100

Sitka, Alaska

Saturday, May 25, 2019

10 Pages

House Panel Thumped Over Dividend Proposal

By BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press

JUNEAU (AP) — House lawmakers heard angry reactions Thursday to a bill that would pay residents a full Alaska Permanent Fund dividend this year but seek to change the dividend formula going forward.

The House Finance Committee bill is seen as an attempt to break a legislative logjam. Disagreement over how to handle the dividend has been a major stumbling block in efforts to finalize a state budget. The bill is an effort to separate the two issues.

Committee Co-chair Tammie Wilson, a North Pole Republican, said the bill could allow more time for discussion on the dividend while enabling the budget to advance. She noted an urgency to complete work on the budget. The new fiscal year starts July 1.

The bill ties payment of a full dividend — estimated around \$3,000 to each eligible Alaskan — to passage of a law changing the dividend formula. Wilson said she's open to ideas for a future formula.

Dividends traditionally have been paid using earnings from the Alaska Permanent Fund, a nest egg of sorts seeded with oil money and grown over time through investments. The bill proposes using \$1.4 billion in fund earnings and \$500 million from a state savings account that requires support

from three-fourths of each the House and Senate to pass.

A law seeking to limit what can be taken from fund earnings for government and dividends calls for a \$2.9 billion withdrawal for the next fiscal year. The proposal anticipates that would go toward the budget and the \$1.4 billion for dividends would be in addition to that, according to Wilson's office.

The maneuvering could result in several hundred million dollars leftover from the budget that would be able to go into the budget reserve, according to Wilson's office.

Little time was spent discussing the bill's mechanics before testifiers in some cases lit into committee members and spoke against the proposal. Some said they voted for Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy because he campaigned on paying a full dividend after three years of reduced payouts amid a budget deficit.

A spokesman for Dunleavy has said the governor will not accept changes to the dividend formula without a vote of the people.

Joe Geldhof, a Juneau attorney and member of a group that supports the historical calculation, said the Legislature is in a tough spot, in part due to past legislative actions and because "other politicians" won't consider other options for a sustainable budget.

Continued on the Back Page



Moving Up

Blatchley Middle School eighth-graders sit on the bleachers with family and friends sitting around them Thursday during the annual Rights of Passage ceremony at the school. Students gave speeches and received certificates

from Principal Ben White during the program, which marks the students' transition to high school. Thursday was the last day of classes in the Sitka School District. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Climate Protesters Rally As EU Picks Parliament

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Protesters — many of them too young to vote — took to the streets today across the European Union to demand tougher action against global warming as the 28-nation bloc elects a new parliament.

From Portugal to Finland, from Italy to Britain, students followed the call of Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg to stage 'school strikes' against climate change.

The issue has come to the fore ahead of the elections that began Thursday and end Sunday for the EU's 751-seat assembly. The vote is expected to boost the influence of parties that have a strong environmental message.

In Berlin, thousands of mostly young people rallied in front of the German capital's landmark Brandenburg Gate waving banners with slogans such as "There is no planet B" or "Plant trees, save the bees, clean the seas."

Clara Kirchhoff said although she's

not yet allowed to vote, she's been pressing family members and older friends to consider the world's long-term future when they go to the polls Sunday.

"I think, particularly at the European level, it's an important issue to create a level playing field, because there's no point in Germany doing a lot for the climate and others not pulling their weight," the 17-year-old said.

Fourteen-year-old Parvati Smolka said she and her fellow students felt an obligation to attend the Berlin rally on behalf of future generations.

"We've got a chance to go on the streets here and make our voice heard," she said.

A few thousands of people, mostly high school and university students, marched Friday in the streets of Paris in a joyful atmosphere to demand action against climate change. Some sang "One, two, three degrees, that's a crime against humanity" and waved posters reading "No nature, no future."

Thunberg, who was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, said she consciously chose to run-up to the EU parliamentary vote to organize another continent-wide protest.

"We think that it spreads a message that this is a very important election, and that it should be about the climate crisis," she told Sweden's TV4.

Le Pen Says Macron Party Mustn't Win in EU Vote

PARIS (AP) — French far-right leader Marine Le Pen says that the nation's European Parliament elections amount to the referendum "French asked for but didn't get."

Le Pen said before a final rally Friday that President Emmanuel Macron's party "must not be first Sunday night."

France has 34 lists but polls consistently show Le Pen's far-right and Macron's centrist parties battling for first place.

Le Pen's lead candidate, Jordan Bardella, made a stark call for voters backing three other opponents to give his party their ballots so as not to waste them on potentially losing causes.

Le Pen said that "May 26 is the popular referendum the French asked for but didn't get," referring to demands by the yellow vest movement she has courted and other social discontent.

The Daily Sentinel will not publish Mon., May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

64th Sitka Salmon Derby Kicks Off Saturday

By Sentinel Staff

Anglers head out Saturday for the 64th annual Sitka Salmon Derby, vying for thousands of dollars in prizes.

The first weekend of fishing in the Sitka Sportsman's Association event begins at 7 a.m. Saturday and runs through 7 p.m. Monday, Memorial Day. The derby will resume at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 1, and wind up at 7 p.m. Sunday June 2.

"We're hoping for best fish, warm weather, and everyone safe," said John McCrehin, derby chairman and Sportsman's Association president.

The weather forecast calls for sunny weather Saturday and cloudy weather the rest of the first weekend.

McCrehin and other Sportsman's Association volunteers were setting up the weigh-in barge at Crescent Harbor today. Derby tickets can be validated and fish entered at Crescent Harbor and at the two remote stations — Kalinin Bay where Eric and Sarah Jordan will be on their F/V I Gotta, and Goddard Hot Springs where Mike and Kim Svenson will accept entries on their F/V Partisan.

Once a ticket is validated it is not necessary to validate it again for the rest of the weekend. From 7 to 8 a.m. Saturday officials will be at the Starigavan boat ramp and the Sitka small boat harbors, except ANB Harbor, to validate tickets. On the final days of both weekends fish must be turned at Crescent Harbor.

Coho are not eligible for entry. The grand prize, for the largest king caught in the derby, is \$4,000.

The derby goes back to 1956 when Connie See caught a 73-pound, 6 ounce, king salmon that set a record that still stands.

The average weight of winning Chinook has declined over the years; the last king over 60 pounds was Sharon Gillispie's 66 pounds, 8 ounce,



Buzz Brown, a 10-year Sitka Sportsman's Association Sitka Salmon Derby volunteer, left, and John McCrehin, a 19-year volunteer, stand on the weigh-in dock at Crescent Harbor today. (Sentinel Photo)

winner in 2002. Vicki Baggen won last year's derby with a 33.5-pound fish.

The number of kings entered in the derby has also gone down, McCrehin said. Currently the bag and possession limit is one king salmon a day for Alaska residents and nonresidents, and fish must be 28 inches or greater, Fish and Game said. Nonresidents have an annual limit of three kings, Fish and Game said.

The largest king turned in each day of the derby wins \$250 if the entrant

is a member of the Sitka Sportsman's Association, McCrehin said.

Association memberships, entry tickets, fishing licenses and brochures with full information on derby rules are available at Orion Sporting Goods and LFS Marine Supplies.

Ticket prices are \$20 for one day, \$25 two days, \$30 three days, \$35 four days, and \$40 for all five days. There is a \$70 family ticket that covers two parents or grandparents, and their children or grandchildren between the ages of 6

and 17. The derby is open to entrants as young as six, but children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult when fishing.

All Fish and Game sport fishing rules are in effect during the derby. Except those exempted and children under 18 all entrants must have a valid Alaska sport fishing license and king salmon stamp. And the Sportsman's Association is urging all contestants to

Continued on the Back Page



NEXT SHIPS

SATURDAY, MAY 25

* STAR LEGEND
OLD SITKA DOCK
9 AM - 6 PM

* QUEST
INNER OLD SITKA DOCK
6 AM - 6 PM

* WILDERNESS DISC.
CITY PORT WALL
6:30 AM - 6 PM

* SEA BIRD
PETRO

7 AM - 6 PM

* BARANOF DREAM
499 Passengers

SUNDAY, MAY 26

* ALASKAN DREAM
* CHICHAGOF DREAM
116 Passengers

MONDAY, MAY 27

* QUEEN ELIZABETH
OLD SITKA DOCK
8 AM - 5 PM
2,092 Passengers



Ketchikan sophomore first baseman Dyllan Borer puts out Thunder Mountain freshman runner Riley Harp (13) during the Lady Kings' 5-2 opening game win over the Falcons in the 2019 Region V Softball Tournament at Sitka's Moller Field on Thursday. (Sentinel Photo by Klas Stolpe)



Sitka sophomore Tyla Gleason (6) attempts a bunt as Juneau-Douglas catcher senior catcher Skylar Hickok reacts to the pitch during the Wolves' 13-5 win over the Crimson Bears during the opening day of the Region V Softball Tournament at Moller Field on Thursday. (Sentinel Photo by Klas Stolpe)