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FBI Releases Photos Of 2 Bomb Suspects

By ADAM GELLER and DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The FBI released photos and video Thursday of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, zeroing in on the two men on surveillance-camera footage less than three days after the deadly attack.

The photos depict one man in a dark baseball cap and the other in a white cap worn backwards. The men were seen walking together in the crowd,

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and the one in the white hat was seen setting down a backpack at the site of one of the blasts, said Richard DesLauriers, FBI agent in charge in Boston.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members of the suspects. Though it may be difficult, the nation is counting on those with information to come forward and provide it to us," DesLauriers said.

Within moments of the announce-

ment, the FBI website crashed, perhaps because of a crush of visitors.

The images were released hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral in Boston to remember the three people killed and more than 180 wounded in the twin blasts Monday at the marathon finish line.

The suspects are considered armed and extremely dangerous, DesLauriers said, and people who see them should not approach them.

"Do not take any action on your own," he warned.

The break in the investigation came just days after the attack that tore off limbs, shattered windows and raised the specter of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil. FBI specialists have been analyzing a mountain of surveillance footage and amateur photos and video for clues to who carried the attack and why.

Generally, law enforcement agencies release photos of suspects only as a last resort, when they need the pub-

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Industrial Park Busy, Needs More Staffing

By TOM HESSE
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Sawmill Cove Industrial Park Board of Directors passed a motion Tuesday that will provide more management support for the park during the period when the park will be busiest with dam construction.

For the first time since the City and Borough of Sitka took ownership of the old pulp mill site and created the industrial park, every piece of leasable raw land at the 30-acre site is contracted out, which has put a larger burden on park executive director Garry White.

The park had a site manager for 10 years, but the position was never filled after the previous manager left. White told the board that a site manager is needed to act as a "point of contact" with the companies leasing the space and also to take care of basic maintenance and day-to-day management of the park.

White, who is also executive director of the Sitka Economic Development Association, is currently the only manager at the park. The position is contracted through SEDA and funded through the SCIP fund, which is currently experiencing a windfall from

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SEDA Director Garry White, at right, gives a tour of the Sawmill Cove Industrial Site Wednesday. Also pictured are, from left, Steve Reifensuhl, Grant Miller, Aaron Wilkinson and Charles Horan. (Sentinel Photo)

Sitka Marathon Runner's Good Deed Goes Viral

By TOM HESSE
Sentinel Staff Writer

After news of Sitka resident Brent Cunningham's generosity went national, Cunningham now finds himself with a new friend, new fans, new air-line miles and a new medal.

"It's been really special, that's how I would describe it. It's just one of those moments in your life where you have one little act and you just have no idea what one little event can do for someone," Cunningham said today in

a phone interview with the Sentinel.

Cunningham ran the Boston Marathon on Monday, and it was about 30 minutes after he finished when the bombs went off. In the aftermath Cunningham, along with his wife and teenage daughter, came upon Laura Wellington, a runner from Cambridge, Mass., sitting on a curb in tears.

Wellington had been a half-mile shy of the finish line when the bombs went off, and she was distraught over

the attack. While comforting her, Cunningham handed over his Boston Marathon medal, which is given to all runners who finish the race.

Cunningham hoped his small gesture would provide some comfort to a stranger, and assumed they wouldn't cross paths again. The Cunninghams returned to Sitka the following day, and Brent continued on to Anchorage for a previously scheduled business meeting. Upon arriving there he found, via Facebook, that Wellington

was looking for him, and she wasn't the only one. Wellington's story about the kindness of a stranger had zipped around the world, and now a national television network was asking him to return to Massachusetts.

"ABC actually just snuck me out of Alaska for an interview back in Boston," said Cunningham said. Cunningham's good deed will be featured on the ABC program 20/20, which will air Friday at 6 p.m. local time.

"It was great because I actually just had a reunion with this gal," Cunningham told the Sentinel. "It was really wonderful. It was just like meeting up with a really good friend that you just met. You have this really special reunion."

The publicity has done more than foster a reunion and add a silver lining to a grim event. Cunningham said he had just learned that he'll have to find a place to display his medal after all.

"The Boston Globe called me and said the Boston Athletic Association is going to come forward and is going to mail you another medal for the race," Cunningham said.

He said the medal means less to him than the friend he made, but he appreciates the gesture.

"It's been a blessing, but certainly neither of us signed up for this," Cunningham said. "It's been 36 hours of continual communication with me from everyone in the world to just say thank you."

Cunningham said he'll have dinner with Wellington and her family tonight and then fly back to Anchorage Friday morning and then to Kodiak for Young Life. When asked if he was earning frequent flier miles for all the trips back and forth Cunningham said it wasn't the first time he'd heard the question.

"Only Alaskans think like that," Cunningham joked. "A friend of mine already told me 'and you're getting all those miles.'"

Tax Break Wasteful Say Sitka Legislators

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

Sitka's legislators cited the change in the oil tax — and loss of billions of dollars to the state — as a major low point in the legislative session that ended on Sunday.

But they were also able to cite a few bright points.

"Watching the oil tax cut pass the Legislature, that is a tragedy for Alaska, that's the best way to describe it," Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins said this week. "It was close to failing, and I was hoping. If one person had changed their mind, this tax cut wouldn't have passed."

Sen. Bert Stedman said the existing tax did need to be overhauled, but the bill that passed unnecessarily gave away billions to oil companies, with no guarantee they would devote any resources to exploration and development.

"If that number was significantly smaller, my comfort range would be a lot better," he said. "For those that are convinced that if you lower taxes you get more production, they have not been able to produce any documentation from the industry that that's going to happen. ... From the testimony we heard, the industry is better off doing what they've been doing the last 20 years, and that's to pump oil."

Stedman represents Senate District Q, covering Sitka, Ketchikan, Wrangell and smaller communities in Southeast. Kreiss-Tomkins is the District 34 representative, covering Sitka and smaller communities in Southeast from Metlakatla to Haines.

Stedman said the shift in power in the Legislature toward the Railbelt meant less for Southeast, and overall very little for rural areas.

He said he worked with other senators in early April to form a "Senate

coastal caucus" to help those outside the Railbelt become more effective.

"That's a positive (from the session)," Stedman said.

The new oil tax structure will result in tough times ahead, and huge cuts in both the capital and operating budgets, he said.

Stedman said with fewer dollars available for Southeast from this session he and other legislators were unable to secure funding for large projects, including the shipyard in Ketchikan and the Blue Lake hydro project.

Stedman said he had been hoping to secure some of the \$6 million water filtration plant needed for the Blue Lake project.

"A lot of areas of the district got nothing," Stedman said. "We'll try to balance that over time."

Stedman said he is committed to working on plans to mitigate the overpopulation of sea otters. Commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen and Southeast communities have asked the Legislature to take action, arguing that the increase in otters is resulting in a crash to the crab and shellfish populations.

The U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the capture or killing of marine mammals, including sea otters. There is an exception that allows Alaska Natives to hunt marine mammals for subsistence purposes or to create artisanal handicrafts.

"There are some challenges there, but we made a successful first step," Stedman said.

Stedman said he is working on a resolution to make land selections available in Southeast, from the national forest.

Stedman said he may talk to city officials about changing their strategy in seeking funding from the state, since

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Brent and Karin Cunningham after the marathon Monday, moments before the bombs went off. (Photo provided)

Tax Break in Hand, Conoco Plans to Drill

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Just days after the Alaska Legislature lowered taxes on the oil industry, ConocoPhillips announced plans to boost investment on North Slope fields.

ConocoPhillips is planning to bring an additional rig to the Kuparuk field this spring and working with co-owners to fund a new drill site on the Kuparuk River field, the company said in a Wednesday announcement.

It's also beginning the regulatory and permitting stage and starting engineering for the Greater Moose's Tooth unit in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

"These are some examples of the activities ConocoPhillips plans to kick off in the near future to help bring new investments and produce more oil from legacy and satellite fields," ConocoPhillips Alaska President Trond-Erik Johansen said in a release.

How much this would cost the company wasn't immediately clear and probably wouldn't be until the company completes its planning and engineering process.

"We don't have hard numbers yet, but we are on a path to bring these for approval, and that's good news," company spokeswoman Natalie Lowman

told The Associated Press.

The announcement came after lawmakers approved SB 21, championed by Gov. Sean Parnell as a way to address the trend of declining production on the North Slope. High oil prices the past few years have helped mask the decline.

Parnell's third attempt to upend the former tax system, known as ACES, championed by former Gov. Sarah Palin was approved by lawmakers Sunday.

Parnell said he was encouraged by the announcement.

"We are seeing the first steps in Alaska's oil comeback," he said in an email to the AP.

"By creating a more competitive, stable tax system, Alaska is now positioned for a resurgence in investment. Alaskans will benefit from this increased investment announced by ConocoPhillips Alaska and its working interest owners in these fields," Parnell said.

The new plan approved by lawmakers removes the progressive surcharge that has been credited with helping fatten state coffers and revamps offered credits with a goal of focusing them on new production. Oil companies had complained that the surcharge trig-

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Earth Day Events Crowd Friday's Calendar

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

Outfits made of recycled materials, kids in Halloween costumes and festively dressed pets will take to Sitka's downtown streets Friday for the annual Earth Day Parade of the Species.

The 12th annual event will start at 3 p.m., with lineup at 2:30 p.m. at Totem Square.

Sitka Conservation Society organizes the event in conjunction with a number of lectures, work parties and discussions around Earth Day. Earth Day is celebrated April 22, but celebrations here and elsewhere are commonly extended into a full Earth Week.

The Parade of the Species is a highlight for many, with kids marching down the street in costumes depicting real and mythical creatures, as well as fauna or sea creatures.

Wendy Alderson and her daughter participate every year, although only her daughter, Grace Gjertsen, 10, dons a costume.

"When she was little, I would make the costume," Alderson said. "Now that she's older, she's insisted on making her own. She loves it."

In a new twist on the event, the Alaska Way of Life 4H club sponsored a recycled costume making class Monday and Wednesday at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, in preparation for the event.

Grace used her class time to cre-

ate a sea horse costume using recycled grocery store bags and recycled milk jugs.

Prizes will be given for best use of recycled material, most creative, most

realistic and best local animal. The parade runs from Totem Square, and down Lincoln Street to the Rasmuson Student Center, where activities have been organized by local agencies.

Alderson said she volunteered to host the SCS information booth.

"I like that the Parade of the Species brings the kids' attention to recycling," she said.

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Participants in the 2012 Parade of the Species march down Lincoln Street. This year's event takes place Friday beginning 3 p.m. at Totem Square. (Sentinel file photo by James Poulson)