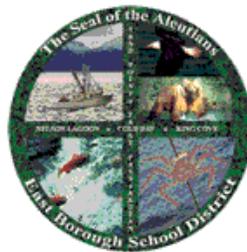
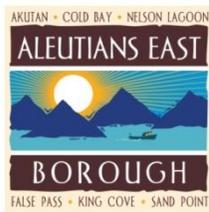


## In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

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### Highlights from SWAMC:

#### Governor's Policy Advisor Provides Administration's Perspectives on Budget

Last month at SWAMC, Ben Stevens, Governor Dunleavy's Policy Advisor, provided the administration's perspective on the proposed budget and discussed what the governor hopes to accomplish during his term. Stevens outlined how government spending and the revenues evolved from 1979 to 2006.

“So take what I call ‘first oil’ in 1979 and go to about 2005, 2006,” he said. “Government spending, population growth and inflation are all about on the same slope. You have some anomalies and some big years with capital spending projects.”

Stevens said there were a couple of spikes when oil prices went up and then a couple troughs when oil prices fell during the 80s, through to about 2013.

“Along with that, justifiably, there were some big capital projects,” he said. “There was spending, that quite frankly, was almost out of control.”

Stevens said what happened during that period of time is that slope on the operating budget was pulled up with revenue.

“So if you stayed on a normal trend, the operating budgets should be somewhere between \$3.4 and \$3.6 billion right now, if it was on that same slope that it had been on for 25 years,” he said. “But right now, the operating budget is between \$4.8 and \$5.2 billion dollars, depending on how you look at it.”



Ben Stevens, Policy Advisor for Governor Dunleavy

Stevens said the governor believes that if you look at historical spending in relation to population and inflation, the state is overspending.

“So what are we getting for that overspending?” Stevens asked. “The governor’s perspective is to look at outputs versus inputs. Because the government is used to having money at a certain level, that doesn’t mean that the outputs they’re producing are worth the money we’re putting in.”

Stevens said the other premise the governor is using is that the budget is built around core services that provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of Alaskans. Additionally, the governor plans to maintain and protect reserves.

“In other words, he doesn’t want to use savings,” Stevens said. “He doesn’t want to have deficit spending any longer. He also doesn’t want to take any more money from Alaskans, be it a tax or via the taking of the permanent fund.”

Stevens said the governor wants the budget to be sustainable, predictable and affordable. “That’s the framework for the proposed budget that the governor put together,” said Stevens. “He’s also attempting to reorganize government to be more efficient, so we can get more with the money we have going toward government.”

Stevens said the governor’s top priorities are public safety, job creation, resource development, protecting the permanent fund and restoring trust in government. He added that the top four drivers of the budget are health and social services, K12 education, the university system and transportation.

“So those four absorb the brunt, in that order, of reductions that the governor’s trying to implement,” he said. “The governor is creating dialogue to say are the services that we’re being provided with worth the money that we’re spending?”

Stevens said at this point, both bodies of the legislature can negotiate and change the budget before it goes back to the governor.

“So it’s a long process and there’s a lot of ability to have input and express concern,” he said.

Stevens added that what we read in the paper (about the budget) is made for us to react.

“They want you to get agitated. They want you to buy more papers,” he said. “But 99 times out of 100, what’s in the media is not really what’s going on. What’s going on in Juneau is everybody’s working and we’re trying to go forward.”

During the question and answer period, several community leaders expressed concerns, stating that the governor’s budget would have harmful consequences to municipalities.



Stevens said the governor is creating dialogue with his proposed budget by posing the question: Are the services that we’re getting worth the money that we’re spending?

“When you go down the list of the governor’s goals, that he didn’t want to put any more tax burden or impacts on residents, some of the proposed cuts do, such as the shared fisheries tax, and cuts to schools,” Unalaska Mayor Frank Kelty said. “You are putting the burden back on local communities. We’re going to have to raise taxes, increase our sales tax and increase the mill rate. So that goal is not accurate.”

Gregg Brelsford, Manager of the Bristol Bay Borough, said he believes his Borough would have the largest impact with the proposed loss of the shared fisheries tax.

“It’s roughly 23 to 25% of our operating budget, so I’d like to join in on the statement from Unalaska that the proposed budget, at least in terms of the fisheries business tax, raises serious questions about shifting tax burdens to local taxpayers.”

Stevens said he has a long understanding of the shared fisheries tax and the importance of it to communities.

“It’s not a change in the taxation mechanism,” he said. “It’s just a change in the funding source. OMB (the Office of Management and Budget) said the funding sources doesn’t go back to the community (in FY20), so the legislature’s going to take a look at it.”

A couple of other SWAMC attendees brought up concerns about proposed cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System, and said the governor needs to recognize the economic contribution made by coastal communities served by AMHS.

Stevens said he appreciated the comments, but added that the administration wants to look for a third party group to come up with options on other ways we can serve the communities.

“I think to interpret it that it’s just a cutoff and that it says we’re not going to pay any attention to the needs of coastal Alaska is a misinterpretation,” he said. “I think the discussion has to say we know there’s a systemic issue and we need to find a solution.”



Stevens said the governor’s proposal surrounding the shared fisheries tax isn’t a change in the taxation mechanism. He said it’s a change in the funding source.

Stevens said the debate has begun now that the governor’s proposed budget is in the hands of the legislature.

“The legislative body can change the budget,” he said. “They can add, or subtract, but they have to find a funding solution. Then the governor has the ability to reduce that spending. The legislature then has one more ability to override the governor’s reductions if they choose. So it’s a long process.”

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## Legislators provide Update on Budget During SWAMC

Alaska legislators representing Southwest Alaska provided an update on what’s going on in Juneau during SWAMC and provided their thoughts on the governor’s proposed budget. Lawmakers have a package of sweeping cuts to consider from the governor, including reductions to health and social services, education, the university system, the Alaska marine highway system, and the shared fisheries tax.

Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the Alaska State House, addressed SWAMC attendees via Skype. He told the crowd that many proposals are still in the formative stages.

“I don’t think it’s lost on anybody that we’re in unprecedented times,” he said. “We have a governor who really has set the legislature with impossible political choices. When you look at the cuts in sort of a cumulative fashion, it’s nothing short of breathtaking.”

Edgmon said the one silver lining in all of this is that these proposed budget cuts are waking up many Alaskans.

“We’ve seen engagement at community town hall meetings in Anchorage, Eagle River, the MatSu Valley and Fairbanks at unprecedented levels,” he said. “In Juneau, it has also acted to unify both Republicans and Democrats.”

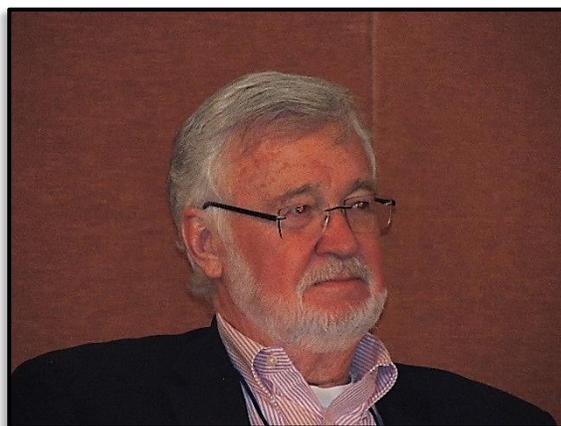
Edgmon said a case in point would be the new coalition in the House that’s comprised of 15 Democrats, 8 Republicans and a couple of Independents.

“We’re seeing a working relationship between the House and the Senate in a way that we haven’t seen before,” he said.

Edgmon said this session is going to be built largely around a responsible budget, which will include a hard look at all of the governor’s proposed cuts.



“We have a governor who really has set the legislature with impossible political choices,” Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House, told SWAMC attendees via Skype.



“My concern with this whole thing is it’s dumping onto the locals,” said Senator Gary Stevens.

Senator Gary Stevens said the governor’s reductions would affect mostly agencies to the tune of \$650 million dollars.

“That’s a lot of money,” he said. “There’s still a billion dollars unaccounted for – a billion dollars that has to come out of something. And where does that come from? From you. Some will come from savings, but mostly it’s going to come from pushing those costs onto municipalities.”

The School Bond Debt Reimbursement is one of the programs that’s part of the proposed reductions.

“The legislature has helped out on school bond debt reimbursement,” Stevens said. “That’s \$100 million. What’s the solution to that? The answer to that in the governor’s budget is, that’s not our

problem. It's your problem. You backed the bond issues. You will have to pay for them. How do you pay for them? Well, you'll have to raise your taxes in some way. My concern with this whole thing is it's dumping onto the locals. What I'm seeing is absolute chaos in this budget," he said.

Stevens said we have lived with the shared fish tax for a long time, which provides a variety of services for communities, but now the governor is proposing to keep those revenues for the state general fund.

"He's clawing back the fish tax that has been so important to us," he said. "Municipalities got half of it. Now the state gets the entire amount."

Rep. Louise Stutes said the fish tax makes communities that receive it a livable place for fishermen and their families.

"It's just my opinion that if those dollars are clawed back, next year you would see a new fish tax from the administration," she said. "If you'll recall, when the governor was in the senate, he proposed a 12% fish tax. So you kind of have to look down the road and see the writing on the wall, and that's very concerning to me."



Rep. Louise Stutes said rural Alaska is disproportionately affected by the governor's proposed cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Stutes said impacts to the Alaska Marine Highway are a huge issue.

"Rural Alaska is disproportionately affected by these cuts," she said. "It will never be able to be privatized and service the communities that need to be taken care of by the system. It just can't happen."

Stutes said there is already a bill, sponsored by the transportation committee, for a public – private partnership that the Southeast Conference has worked on. She said the legislation was pre-filed this year, and the committee is in the process of fine-tuning it.

"Of course, it would still have to remain subsidized, but not to the degree that it is now," she said.

Stutes said as a result of the governor's proposed budget, no more reservations are being taken after the end of August.

"So it's already started the downhill slide," she said. "The revenue is already dropping off."

The same is occurring within the university system.

“The University of Alaska enrollment has already started to take a drastic dip, and this is only a proposed budget,” she said. “But it has certainly had its scare effects to the State of Alaska.” Stutes then focused on public safety and the governor’s proposal to cut \$3 million from the VPSO program.

“Why anybody would think that rural Alaska wouldn’t need public safety any more than urban Alaska is beyond me,” she said.

Stutes said she understands we have to trim the budget, but she said they have to be strategic cuts.

“When you ask OMB, so you’ve cut this department by these many millions of dollars, do you have any idea of the effect these cuts will have? They don’t know,” she said. “They just figured it was too much, so they cut it. They don’t know the bottom line effects, and that’s really quite disconcerting.”



**Sen. Stevens said the budget that the governor has presented is not going to be the one that the legislature approves. He said it will change and will be a common-sense budget.**

Stevens said what annoys him the most with this whole process is the fear that it has placed in so many people’s minds.

“It’s just unnecessary,” he said. “This budget that the governor has presented is not going to be the budget that the house and the senate will come up with. It will be changed, and it’ll be more common sense. But to just strike fear in everyone, it just does not make sense at all.”

Stevens said the PFD, as proposed by the governor, is 37% of the state’s revenues.

“I really have come to believe that this is the budget you get when you give \$3,000 to every person in Alaska,” he said. “I hope it’s not the budget we’re stuck with.”

Stutes echoed Edgmon’s comments that the up side to all of this is that everyone in the House and the Senate is working together.

“We’re moving in the right direction,” she said. “We know what the people of Alaska want. They want services. They want their children to be educated. They want to have public safety and a marine highway system. If you have to pay for your services by way of a smaller dividend, then people are willing to do that.”

During the question and answer period, Candace Nielsen of Cold Bay talked about how she and her family would be impacted by the cuts.

“I have two small children,” she said. “I am currently taking classes through UAF, the distance education program. All the proposed cuts are so life-impacting for me. I can’t even explain the scope of how much it’s going to affect my future and my family’s future in Cold Bay. What I want to know is what is the most practical way to get my point across that this is detrimental for our communities?”

Stutes said her response is to make sure she and others are heard. She said people can send an email to every legislator.

“We read them, and we pay attention,” she said.

“I recommend that all of you, at the municipal level or organizations you might be representing, give thought to making your presence known in Juneau,” Edgmon added. “I think you all have a story to tell.”

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## **Business, Health Leaders Discuss Community Resilience at SWAMC**

Business and health leaders tackled the topic of community resilience and what it means, especially during challenging times, such as with the proposed state budget cuts. Doug Johnson, with Professional Growth Systems moderated the panel. Johnson said, by definition, resilience is the ability to bounce back.

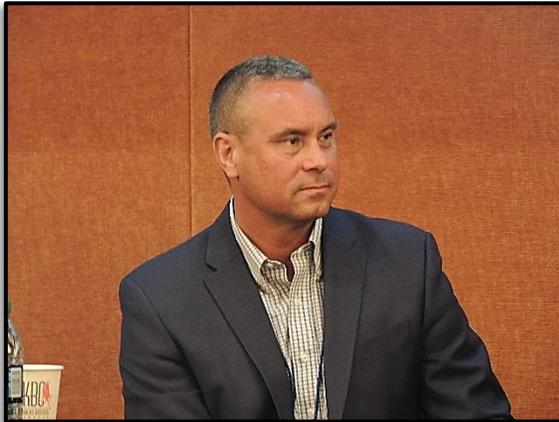
“So how do you adapt to change?” he asked. “With what we heard about the governor’s budget, we know there’s change in the air. So, the question is, what are we doing to do about it and how are we going to be responding?”



Panel members discuss what it means to have community resilience during challenging times.

Gary Ferguson, a consultant and naturopathic physician is originally from Sand Point. He said he believes community ownership is one of the answers.

“I feel that it’s about looking within rather than outside,” he said. “I think communities have their own answers. We’ve got folks who are very gifted and have incredible solutions in our own communities that we’re failing to recognize. We, especially as a region right now, need to look at what our assets are.”



**Gary Ferguson, a consultant and naturopathic physician, said we need to remember that we have communities with hundreds of years of resilience and sustainable living.**

Ferguson said bringing in consultants can be helpful. However, he said it’s about owning the issues.

“How do we come up with a local solution that can help answer these challenges that we’re facing right now? We’ve got thousands of years of history and resilience. There were hundreds of years of sustainable living on Sanak Island, where my grandparents are from. There was stewardship of the land. We have amazing resilient communities, and we need to remember that. We need to remember our strengths, rather than just focusing on our weaknesses.”

APICDA CEO Luke Fanning said when he thinks of community resilience, he thinks about what it takes to get investment in the region.

“What does it take to make businesses, families, municipal entities to be successful?” he asked. “At its base level, it’s very difficult for businesses to make investments when there’s instability. Businesses have to look at the level of risk when they go in. What are they getting out of it when they put more in? So finding ways to stabilize these dynamics so that businesses can be confident making those investments, whether it’s the Trident plant in False Pass, or Icycle Seafoods, that’s the key.”

First National Bank Regional Manager Julie Woodworth said resiliency is about unifying and supporting each other. Woodworth spent ten years living and working in Dillingham.



**First National Bank Regional Manager Julie Woodworth said it’s important to look to the wealth of experiences that we have around us to help us weather the storms.**

“It’s important that we use our resources,” she said. “Like Gary mentioned, we have such a wealth

of experiences right around us, people who have gone through a business cycle and have weathered a tough storm. It's important to tap into each other and to support one another because a rising tide raises all boats. That's really important when it comes to resiliency and overcoming life's adversities."

The panel members also discussed ways to diversify.

"Whether it's communities or your businesses, the importance of having some diversification of revenue streams and program support is imperative," Fanning said. "You are going to go through inevitable downturns. So how do you diversify in a manner that is consistent with the resources and strategy that you have? I think it's a little different for everybody."

Ferguson said often it's about thinking outside of the box.

"The AEB has a pilot project with mariculture," he said. "That's outside the box. It's an income stream as well as technical training."

Woodworth recommended using other communities and agencies as examples.

"What worked for them? What didn't work? How can we mirror that success and have success in our communities? It's about collaboration and tapping into the expertise that's right in our community neighborhoods."



**APICDA CEO Luke Fanning said it's important to have diversification of revenue streams and program support.**

During the comment period, several SWAMC attendees offered their thoughts on the governor's proposed budget. AEB Assembly Member Carol Foster said she's been thinking about the budget cuts and is very concerned.

"Even if you took one little amount from every area, most of the smaller communities aren't going to survive because there's going to be such a little piece of the pot left," she said. "There aren't going to be communities if you take the ferry service or revenue sharing away."

Foster said even just a tiny bit taken from communities makes a big difference.

"With education being cut, what are we doing to do, board all our children in a different community? If revenue sharing is done, what's going to happen to the municipalities, the Boroughs, the cities?" she asked. "What's going to happen to the fishermen and to the people?"

AEB Assembly Member Ingrid Cumberlidge said she believes we have a strong opportunity and a lot of partners in the room that are living in municipalities.

“It’s not just the resolutions that make a difference,” she said. “It’s also our individual stories. The resource issue was mentioned. The resources are in rural Alaska. All of us, individually, have to take those resolutions that we passed and continue the conversation. We have to work together to get that message out there.”

Cumberlidge said it’s important to educate municipalities, legislators and the governor about how important is to maintain these resource areas.

“There needs to be letters and people in person,” she said.

Cumberlidge said the governor has four years to deal with the budget crisis.

“If we were going to have a reasonable discussion, it would have been to take a piece this year and move forward with some sort of discussion. Then take a piece next year, and move forward with it,” she said. “But when you take 50 percent of the university system, you’re not having a discussion. You’re attacking. I know our legislators support us, but I really want to encourage everyone to help educate the legislature about how these cuts will impact us.”



AEB Assembly Member Ingrid Cumberlidge said it’s important for everyone to educate legislators about the impacts of the proposed cuts.



Fanning said the budget discussions are “forcing us to all dip our paddles at the same time.” Ferguson added that it’s important to come from a place of hope.

Fanning said if there’s a silver lining, it’s that these conversations are being forced throughout Alaska and throughout our communities. He said we need to concentrate on the process.

“Let’s focus on what we can be doing, the role we have within the

process,” he said. “This is forcing us to all dip our paddles at the same time.”

Ferguson said it’s important to have a unified voice.

“We need to show up,” he said. “We need to write letters and educate. Our stories are crucial. Those stories are going to be the ones that change peoples’ minds. We need to come from a place of hope. Together, we truly are strong.”

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## **Hundreds of People Provide Testimony to House Transportation Committee about Proposed Cuts to AMHS**

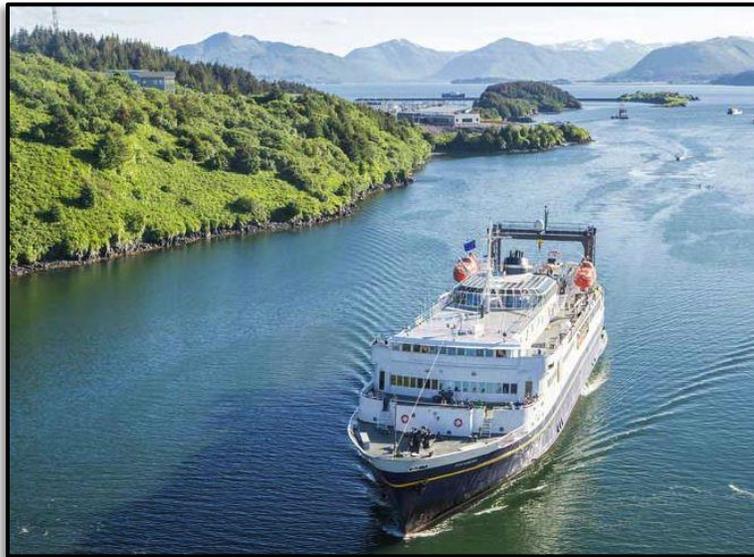
More than 600 residents provided testimony to the House Transportation Committee earlier this month regarding Governor Dunleavy’s proposed reductions to the Alaska Marine Highway System. The governor is proposing to cut \$97 million from the ferry system’s \$140 million-dollar budget in the fiscal year that begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. If those cuts go through, the system would not have enough money to operate beyond Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Overall, the testimony presented to the House Transportation Committee was overwhelmingly opposed to the reductions.

“This is irrefutable evidence that Alaskans are unwilling to accept dramatic cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System,” said Rep. Louise Stutes, a Kodiak Republican who co-chairs the House Transportation Committee. “For many coastal communities, especially in winter when seaplanes get weathered out, the blue canoe is the only way to access affordable food, healthcare and move timber, fish and other Alaskan products to market.”

Ingrid Cumberlidge, a member of the Aleutians East Borough, spoke on behalf of herself via the phone, during the hearing.

“Any cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway would be devastating to Southwest Alaska and the Aleutians,” she said. “We are not supporting any reapportionment allocation to the replacement money for the Tustumena.”

Cumberlidge said she would like to see the Alaska Marine Highway funded at the 2016 level.



**Rep. Louise Stutes, Co-Chair of the House Transportation Committee, said the testimony from hundreds of people is irrefutable evidence that Alaskans are unwilling to accept dramatic cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway System.**

“It’s just vital for our communities,” she said. “It’s our only connection to all of the villages within the Borough, with the exception of one. We use it for mobilization of equipment for construction activities. We use it for transportation and a number of other things. I sure hope you really consider other options.”

Ernie Weiss, the Natural Resources Director for the Aleutians East Borough and a former 25-year resident of King Cove, spoke on behalf of the AEB.

“I know the value of the ferry system to Alaska’s coastal communities and how critical is to their survival,” he said. “The ferry is our road – a road that’s only open every two weeks from May through September, but it’s a lifeline. Closing this road doubly impacts our schools that have activities scheduled around ferry runs.”

Weiss said the Borough supports transitioning to a public – private venture that could make the ferry system sustainable. He said the AEB also supports the ongoing Alaska Marine Highway System reform initiative championed by the Southeast Conference.

“We do not support closing down the marine highway while we study the issue,” he said. “We need to move forward, not backward.”



During his testimony, Carl Broderson of Pelican said to cut AMHS any further would strangle the communities that depend on it for groceries, medicine, access to health care and basic transportation.

Several residents who testified said they would be willing to give up a portion or all of their PFD and/or support an income tax to help fund all necessary government services, including the ferry system.

Carl Broderson of Pelican said AMHS has already been reduced to survival levels of operation.

“To cut it any further would kill it,” he said. “That would strangle communities in southeast Alaska that depend on it so much for groceries, medicine, access to

health care and basic transportation. We need services like ferries. I don’t feel entitled to a check from my government. I feel entitled to have a government and the services it provides, like ferries.”

Andrew Sloane of Cordova said during the campaign, Governor Dunleavy proposed cutting the fat out of the state budget.

“This is not an unreasonable message for a conservative Republican to spread during the campaign,” he said. “However, his proposed budget tells a completely different story. It’s not

conservative. It's extreme and radical. The governor wrote his campaign promises into his budget that addresses nothing more than a crisis of his own making."

Shawn Biessel of Homer said he spends his time between Homer and Gustavus and is an extensive user of the ferry.

"I want to echo what everybody else has said. The ferry is our highway system," he said. "This is crucial. I feel that this governor's budget is a betrayal to rural Alaskans, and I hope Dunleavy is listening to his constituents today."



Ellie Hoblet, a third grade student from False Pass, testified that the ferry is important because "it brings people together from different communities, and we need to see family."

Unalaska Governor Frank Kelty said the Aleutians have only partial service as it is.

"I am almost beside myself with what's going on," he said. "The Aleutian Chain is zeroed out in the governor's budget. The ferry is our road system. I don't see why our communities should be treated any differently than communities on the road system. I think it's terrible that we're going through this."

Several students from False Pass also provided testimony via the phone. They explained why the ferry is so important to them.

"In some communities, that is the only way people can get in and out of town," said nine-year-old



"I hope they do not shut down the ferry because then people may not be able to see the beauty of the Aleutians," said 11-year-old False Pass student Rylee Mulkey.

Ellie Hoblet, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in False Pass. "I think the most important thing is that it brings people together from different communities because we need to see family. Please keep the ferry."

"We need the ferry to move people," said 11-year-old John Murphy, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student in False Pass. "It is important to us, and we like visitors to come to the region."

Murphy said during the summer, the ferry brings an influx of visitors.

“The ferry brings the population up to about 150 people,” he said, “but if the ferry shuts down, then the population will go down. That is not good for False Pass.”

Fifteen-year-old Makena Sandel, a False Pass tenth grade student, testified that ferry service should not be cut because it provides important transportation and is more affordable than flying.

“This transportation brings us the things that we need and takes us to places we need to go,” she said. “Some of our vehicles have stopped working out here. How can we get our new vehicles (if the service is cut)? Without the ferry, people wouldn’t visit the Aleutian Islands because airfare out here is so expensive.”



Fifteen-year-old False Pass student Makena Sandel said the ferry system provides important transportation, is more affordable than flying, and carries new vehicles to her community when they’re needed.

Eleven-year-old False Pass student Rylee Mulkey, a sixth grader, reiterated the sentiments of others about how important the ferry is in terms of transportation and allowing them to see family and friends in neighboring communities.

“The ferry is also important to us for income,” he said. “For example, we had a bake sale (on the ferry) to raise money for our field trip. I also hope they do not shut down the ferry because then people may not be able to see the beauty of the Aleutians, like seeing a bear with cubs or a pod of whales and maybe even some porpoises passing by.”

Rep. Stutes thanked everyone for testifying.

“I want to comment again on how pleased I am with the support we are receiving for the Alaska Marine Highway System,” she said. “We broke records in both of the previous hearings on the



Rep. Stutes said she is pleased with the support demonstrated by those who testified. “This sends a loud and clear message to our administration that our marine highway is every bit as critical as our land highways,” she said.

number of testifiers. You are making it very clear that our ferries are important to us. This sends a loud and clear message to our administration that our marine highway is every bit as critical as our land highways.”

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## King Cove Fire Chief Teaches Kids Life-Saving EMS Skills

Most preschoolers are focused on playtime and learning their ABCs. However last year, when Dorothy Craig's mother collapsed and fell unconscious onto the floor, the Texas 3-year-old immediately called 911 for help.

Dorothy's mother, Miranda, suffers from narcolepsy, a chronic neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to control sleep-wake cycles and can cause people to suddenly fall asleep. It can also include loss of muscle control and paralysis.

When paramedics arrived, they found Dorothy's 2-year-old brother unattended and playing in a sink full of water. Her baby sister was strapped in a car seat on the floor. Dorothy's mother was unresponsive at first, until paramedics were able to revive her.

Learning how to call 911 at a young age can end up being the difference between life and death. Thanks to the little girl's fast thinking, paramedics arrived quickly, and everything turned out alright.

"She's my little hero," her mother said.

Situations like this one are not uncommon, underscoring the need to instruct children from a young age about when to call 911 and the best way to go about it. King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock recently took the opportunity to teach this and other life-saving skills to kids at the school. The first class, offered on February 14<sup>th</sup>, was focused on students from preschool age up to the sixth grade.

"Basically, I taught them when to use 911 and what's considered an emergency," Babcock said.

Babcock said he presented different scenarios to the students to help get them thinking, including situations that are not emergencies versus those that are.



King Cove School students tour an ambulance and learn that it's like a mini emergency room. Photo courtesy: Chris Babcock.

“I used examples like my dog is hurt,” he said. “Is that a 911 call? Or somebody stole my bike. Is that really a 911 call? No. Those aren’t really 911 calls. 911 calls are mom or dad isn’t responsive, or I cut my hand, and it’s bleeding really bad.”

The other important part of this lesson is for children to determine what kind of emergency it is and providing enough information. Babcock said sometimes kids call 911, ask for help and then hang up. However, dispatchers require more information to provide help, and it’s helpful for the caller to stay on the line.

“When I’m teaching the kids, I tell them that they need to decipher whether they need the police, the fire department or an ambulance, and this is why,” he said.

Babcock then tells them to provide their name, location and phone number, in case the dispatcher needs to get back in touch. Having this information is crucial so EMS responders know what kind of emergency they’re encountering so they can provide the right kind of assistance quickly and hopefully save lives.



King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock teaches shop class students how to control bleeding using a “dummy” arm. Photo courtesy: Chris Babcock.

“I tell them that emergencies are time-sensitive,” he said. “The more information they can give us, the better off we can be to respond and take care of that situation.”

This lesson was followed by a tour of the ambulance, which he brought to the school.

“I had a dummy set up inside the ambulance,” Babcock said. “I told them that an ambulance is like a mobile clinic or emergency room.”

He explained to the students that if they ever ride in the back of an ambulance with a family member who is hurt, there is nothing to be afraid of.

“Everybody working in the back of the ambulance is there to help get that person better and to a higher level of care,” he said.

Babcock recently became a trainer after taking part in an EMS symposium, which instructs first responders on how to properly control a bleeding situation. So on February 18<sup>th</sup>, he also shared these skills with junior and high school students taking shop classes at the King Cove School.

“Basically, it’s figuring out if you can control the bleeding with direct pressure or whether the situation requires packing the wound or using a tourniquet,” he said.

For kids using power tools in the classroom, these skills can be especially important.

“I’m sure the teacher is certified in first aid,” he said, “but if the kids have a general knowledge about what to do when somebody gets cut or something, they can certainly jump into the situation and try to control the bleeding as soon as possible.”

During the three classes, he delivered a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a hands-on lesson, using a dummy arm.



Students learn how to control bleeding by applying direct pressure, packing the wound or using a tourniquet. Photo courtesy: Chris Babcock.

“They practiced packing a wound with hemostatic or regular gauze with a clotting agent on it,” he said. “You just pack the wound until you can’t put anymore gauze inside the wound.”

Babcock said if that doesn’t control the bleeding, the other option is to use a tourniquet.

“Years ago, many people didn’t want to use tourniquets because they were afraid that meant losing a limb,” he said.

However, Babcock said many times, that only occurs in worse-case situations.

While teaching the kids, Babcock was able to simulate the pumping of blood in the dummy arm.

“The kids got a kick out of that,” he said.

The first aid instruction was not only important information for the kids to have, it was also rewarding for Babcock to share the skills that he had learned over the years.

“I appreciate the school allowing me to come in and educate the kids,” he said.



Babcock simulated the pumping of blood in a dummy arm while a student works on controlling the bleeding. Photo courtesy: Chris Babcock.

Babcock said more first aid classes are being planned for the older elementary, junior and high school students. He’s looking forward to visiting the school soon to provide additional educational opportunities and to empower the kids with these important emergency treatment and life-saving skills.

**WELCOME!**

During the Aleutians East Borough *Strategic Planning Session* in December 2018, Assembly and community members in attendance agreed that Climate Change is an issue that broadly and significantly impacts our communities.

Collectively, we agreed it needed a place in our Strategic Plan and the AEB is committed to understanding how Climate Change affects our communities and what role we must take to address these issues.

As part of this effort the Natural Resources Department would like to provide the communities with information that is relevant and timely. It is our hope that by continuing to inform ourselves on Climate Change, we will better prepared to respond as well as anticipate needs to ensure the well-being of our communities.

An important part of this effort is hearing from YOU. If there is a topic or issue you want to hear about or is impacting your community, please contact us.

Thank you!

**International Collaborative Research Expedition to Study Pacific Salmon**

As part of the International Year of the Salmon, an international team of scientists are going on a month-long expedition to study Pacific Salmon in the Gulf of Alaska. The primary objectives of the research is to use genetic sampling to identify stock-specific rearing areas, abundance and condition of all 5 species of salmon.

Salmon stocks in the Gulf of Alaska tend to be highly variable, and although it is generally accepted across the scientific community that juvenile salmon are most vulnerable to mortality during their first year of marine life, the specific mechanisms that contribute to the variability is not well-understood.

During the 2019 Board of Fisheries meetings for the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/AI, there

**Natural Resources Department Updates**

In addition to the Climate Change Corner, we are in the process of developing a survey that will address stakeholder needs, concerns and perspectives with respect to Climate Change.

The survey will be sent to community members in 2019, and will help the AEB in understanding the most pressing concerns for our constituents, and develop appropriate objectives.

was a great deal of concern surrounding the 2018 Chignik run failure. Although there isn't a single explanation to explain the 2018 missed escapement in Chignik, there is general concern that anomalous climate conditions may have contributed.

Scientists on this expedition seek to understand factors that contribute to marine survival, and regulate salmon production. This information could allow managers to more accurately forecast returns, and respond to climate conditions. To learn more, [read here](#).

**The Status of Marine Heatwaves (MHW)**

As of October 2018, Alaska officially entered into another marine heatwave. [Oliver et al. \(2018\)](#) found that MHW have increased in frequency and duration by 34% and 17%, respectively between 1925 to 2016. MHW have farreaching implications in the ecosystem, and in turn AEB communities. Negative impacts include decreases in abundance or changes in the distribution of commercial fisheries stocks, notably the Pacific cod crash in 2017 and the Gulf of Alaska salmon in 2018 may have been impacted by the 2014 MHW. A recent study ([Smale et al. 2019](#)) shows MHW can result in decreased kelp and eelgrass biomass, both of which serve as habitat and shoreline erosion protection in the Aleutians. Scientists at ADFG are currently working to use sea surface temperature data to improve salmon run timing predictions.

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## **E&E Foods to Purchase APICDA's Cannon Fish Company**

*APICDA will use sale proceeds to solidify financial position and fund critically needed projects and programs in CDQ member communities.*

**Juneau, Alaska** – Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is pleased to announce that E&E Foods is purchasing their Kent-based subsidiary, Cannon Fish Company (CFC). E&E is consolidating their Seattle area processing operations into a single 76,000 square foot facility that houses their office, cold storage, and production in Renton, Washington. CFC's manufacturing equipment will be moved to the new location and CFC's staff will help to operate the expanded plant.

E&E has been operating in the Seattle area since 1932 and has a large presence in Alaska with shoreside plants in Egegik (Coffee Point Seafoods), Kenai (Pacific Star Seafoods), and Yakutat (Yakutat Seafoods) and a floating processor (Cape Greig) in Bristol Bay and Kotzebue. CFC, a subsidiary of APICDA Joint Ventures since 2013, is a value-added seafood processing and marketing company that caters to a nationwide network of retailers, restaurants, specialty grocers and institutions.

“We are happy to be selling CFC to a company with deep roots in both Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. E&E Foods is a leader in the seafood industry and will provide continued employment opportunities for CFC's staff,” said Luke Fanning, APICDA CEO. “It is the right time for APICDA to sell CFC. As an organization, we are focused on leveraging resources to maximize benefits to our CDQ member communities in Alaska. The sale proceeds will strengthen our financial position and allow us to build new programs in the Aleutian-Pribilof region that have been identified as high priorities by our board.”

“E&E Foods is a growth-oriented company and we are delighted to have Cannon Fish join our family. Their knowledgeable staff, sales channels, and manufacturing equipment will complement our services that include expertise in fresh and frozen seafood, processing, trading, exporting, importing, and brokering,” reported Randy Patrick, President of E&E Foods.

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## **TelAlaska is Now Accepting Applications for Scholarship Program**

This spring, TelAlaska will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior residing in a community served by Interior Telephone Company. Applications must be received by Thursday, April 18. Eligible communities include Cold Bay, King Cove and Sand Point. More information and an application are available at [www.telalaska.com/scholarships](http://www.telalaska.com/scholarships).

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If you have news you'd like to share or if you'd like to subscribe, please email [ltanis@aeboro.org](mailto:ltanis@aeboro.org) or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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