

HAINES *Alaska* NEWS

FREE—TAKE ONE

All the news the other paper forgot to print

FREE—TAKE ONE

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Haines Energy Sustainability Fair

Energy, Food, Recycling and more...

By Gary Lidholm

Devany Plantovich was impressed. An Alaskan for only five months and new to her job as Biomass Project Manager for the Alaska Energy Authority, she journeyed to the Haines Sustainability Fair, not only to see it but to participate. Devany, speaking about biomass heating projects underway throughout the state, was one of many presenters at this year's Fair, which focused on renewable energy, recycling and food production. Like many others, she was impressed with the commitment that Haines is making to sustainability.

The Haines Energy Sustainability Commission (ESC) partnered with Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR) for the second annual Fair held this year on April 24th. Melissa Aronson,



Tending the Flowers

Gary Lidholm photo

from HFR said she requested the late April date based on the 40th anniversary of "Earth Day." With HFC's participation this year, the

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Snowmachine Accident Claims Local

By Roger Maynard

Rick Markee, age 37 of Haines suffered fatal injuries when he apparently fell from the snowmachine he was riding, ending up under the machine for an undetermined length of time before rescuers found him. Markee was not breathing when found, and was pronounced dead by EMT's at the scene.

According to Trooper Josh Bentz of Haines, Markee was riding in the 7-mile area of the Porcupine Trail with two other friends who were snowboarding — Charles Peep and Ryland Bell, also of Haines. Peep and Bell planned to leave their snowmachine at the top of the slope and snowboard to the bottom where they would meet Markee, for a ride back up the mountain.

When Peep and Bell reached the bottom of the

hill, they did not see Markee, so they returned to the top of the slope, found his track and followed it down the mountain. The snowmachine was located in a ravine and when they looked under it they found the victim face down in the snow.

"It appears he went over a very steep slope," said Bentz, "and went over the front of the machine."

One of the snowboarders performed CPR while the other went for help; EMT's were notified at 6:33 p.m. Volunteers from Klehini Valley Fire Department responded with snow machines and sleds, and the Haines Volunteer Fire Department ambulance crew was dispatched with a doctor aboard. Markee was pronounced dead at 8:20 p.m.

The accident is still under investigation. Markee is survived by his parents, Chuck and Betty Markee, and his brother, Mike who live in Minnesota.

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Cohen to Take Another Run at Cruise Industry

Activist plans to challenge relaxed discharge rules

By Roger Maynard

House Bill 134, passed in April of last year, allowed the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to write permits with standards that are more reasonable than that set by a voter initiative in 2006.

Last Thursday, the Alaska DEC released relaxed discharge rules – but everyone isn't happy.

According to the Juneau Empire, Gershon Cohen has announced that he

and his friends are preparing a legal challenge.

“(Gershon) Cohen said he would file a request for an administrative review early next week, the first step in a legal challenge he plans to file under the Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters, a project of the Earth Island Institute.”

-Kim Marquis / JUNEAU EMPIRE



The World docked in Haines.
Gary Lidholm photo

ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

Fair theme expanded to include recycling and food sustainability.

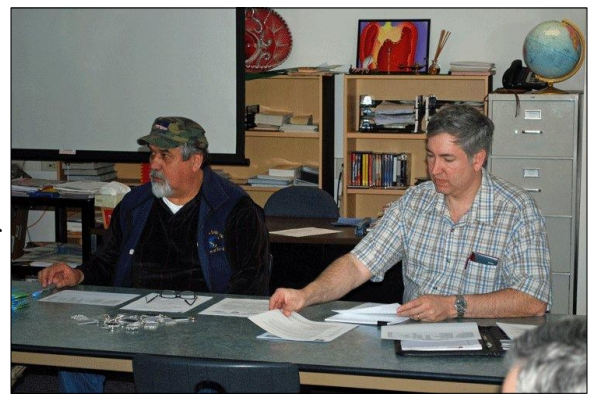
Demonstrations, exhibits and programs for all ages made it an informative and fun time for the good-sized crowd that visited the school campus where the Fair events were scattered inside and out. ESC Coordinator Stephanie Scott said all of the Fair visitors she contacted rated this year's Fair an improvement over 2009. Both Melissa and Stephanie deserve thanks from the community for the planning and hard work they put into the Fair.

The favorable visitor response was due to the variety of events and participants including:

- Student involvement with science projects and models related to energy production.
- Presenters speaking on issues and projects like global peak oil, greenhouse construction, composting,

home energy audits and biomass heat potential.

- Representative Bill Thomas, Jr. and Southeast Conference Energy Coordinator Robert Venables briefing an audience on the status of energy legislation and initiatives underway in Southeast Alaska.
 - Creative demonstrations by local people on energy saving devices such as electric cars, solar water pumps, etc.
 - Exhibits by the Farmer's Market and Chilkat Valley Farms and others encouraging the production of locally grown food. It was a good place to buy your spring garden plants.
 - Library and Museum participation with emphasis on kids activities.
- Fair goers could even check out a bicycle free for the day courtesy of Sockeye Cycle - why burn gas when you can pedal around town on a nice day!



(Above) Rep. Bill Thomas and Robert Venables with legislative information. (Below left) Sockeye Cycle — ready for the road. Gary Lidholm photos

Devany was right to be impressed. Haines deserves credit for being energy conscious and concerned about sustainability. Let us not have short memories about the high fuel prices of a few years ago and may we keep forging ahead with renewable energy projects that our town can develop to the envy of other places in the world. Besides the small steps that we can all take to conserve, let us take advantage of the topography, climate and ecosystem around Haines to fully develop our hydro, biomass and other renewable resources.



The Haines Alaska News is a grassroots community newspaper project sponsored by the Alaska Alliance for Commerce, Inc.

If you would like to comment or contribute, please contact the Haines Alaska News editor by email:
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