



## Need gift deas?

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — Procrastinating holiday shoppers might appreciate the Coast Guards helpful gift ideas for the mariners in their lives.

Distributed earlier this week, the Coast Guard list recommends a variety of safety gifts and stocking stuffers, reminding Alaskans that "being prepared for the unexpected is essential in our unforgiving waters."

Among the suggested items are:

- A Marine GPS navigation system.
- A 406 Mhz EPIRB.
- A Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- A handheld VHF marine radio.
- A Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher
- A first aid kit in a watertight container
- A signaling kit (mirror, whistle and day/night flares).
- Nautical charts for the areas frequented by your favorite mariner.
- Clothing that is warm and water resistant and appropriate for Alaska.
- A seamanship book.
- A Boating Safety Course.
- Life raft with a survival kit
- Vessel Safety Check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## Shrimp areas closing

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The commercial pot shrimp fishery is scheduled to close in Districts 6 and 8 at 4 p.m. Dec. 31, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The department believes that keeping the areas open for the rest of the 2010-11 season to harvest the remaining guideline harvest levels could result in negative long-term effects to the shrimp stocks, based upon analysis of the fishery performance and available biological data, according to Fish and Game.

Fish and Game does not anticipate reopening Districts 6 and 8 for the summer season.

For further information, contact Fish and Game.

## Rockfish areas to open

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The 2011 winter directed fishery for demersal shelf rockfish is scheduled to open in the Southern Southeast Inside and Northern Southeast Inside subdistricts at 9 a.m. on Jan. 5, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The harvest quotas for each sub-district will be 37,485 pounds, according to the department. The areas will remain open until 4 p.m. on the day before the start of the 2011 commercial halibut fishery, unless they are closed earlier by emergency order.

A substantial portion of the Ketchikan area and an area near Craig and Klawock are closed to directed fishing for demersal shelf rockfish, according to the department.

There are seven species of rockfish included in the demersal shelf rockfish group. These species include yelloweye, quillback, canary, copper, china, tiger and rosethorn rockfish.

Other restrictions apply. For further information, contact Fish and Game.

## Cup to Rhode Island?

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Islands top economic development official says representatives of BMW Oracle Racing have expressed an interest in holding the next Americas Cup in Newport but havent made a final decision.

Newport is vying with San Francisco for the right to host the worlds largest sailing competition in 2013.

Negotiators have spent the last week in Rhode Island. State Economic Development Corporation executive director Keith Stokes told The Associated Press on Sunday they've been impressed with Newport's proposal.

Stokes on Monday will present to the EDC board a letter from BMW Oracle and Golden Gate Yacht Club expressing their interest in See Ship to Shore, Page B-12

## Carnival 4th quarter profit hits \$248 million

Company predicts stronger year in 2011 after netting nearly \$2 billion in 2010

MICHELLE CHAPMAN  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Carnival Corp.'s fourth-quarter net income climbed 29 percent, the company reported Tuesday, with revenue improving as an economic recovery allowed cruise operators to demand higher prices.

People are again feeling safe enough to plunk down thousands to travel at sea with the recession's harshest effects beginning to fade for many.

"All-in-all, 2010 was an encouraging year with improved business trends from a gradually recovering economy," Carnival Chairman and CEO Micky Arison said.

The cruise operator earned \$248 million, or 31 cents per share during the quarter, compared

with \$193 million, or 24 cents per share, a year ago.

Miami's Carnival cautioned last month that a fire that left the Carnival Splendor adrift off Mexico's coast for three days would lower its earnings by 7 cents per share.

Still, the results met the expectations of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. Analysts' estimates normally omit one-time items.

Carnival's stock gained \$1.37, or 3.2 percent, to \$44.62 in Tuesday morning trading after reaching a 52-week high of \$45.26.

JPMorgan analyst Kevin Milota said the performance was a strong barometer for cruise demand.

Chief Operating Officer Howard Frank said during a conference call that overall demand for

cruises continues to be strong, with the company pleased with booking trends and pricing — even though neither have reached pre-recession levels.

"At the present time across the company fleetwide ticket pricing for all business booked for 2011 is nicely ahead of 2010 with higher local currency pricing for both North America and EAA brands," Frank said, according to a conference call transcript provided by the financial website Seeking Alpha.

Prices for Alaska, Mexican Riviera and European itineraries of Carnival's North American brands are running "nicely higher," said Frank.

"It's fair to say that the overall demand for cruises continues to be strong clearly evidencing that with the economic indicators turning posi-

tive that North America and European consumer confidence is returning," Frank said.

Revenue for the period ended Nov. 30 rose 7 percent to \$3.5 billion from \$3.28 billion, topping Wall Street's \$3.36 billion.

Net revenue yield, which measures the amount a cruise company makes from its passengers after removing expenses, rose 3.9 percent in the quarter, surpassing Carnival's outlook of 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent.

Fourth-quarter capacity rose 5 percent, with most gains coming in Europe, Chief Financial Officer David Bernstein said.

For the year, Carnival's net income increased 11 percent to \$1.98 billion, or \$2.47 per share, compared with \$1.79 billion, or \$2.24 per share,

See 'Carnival profit,' Page B-12

## FERRY SPIRIT



The Alaska Marine Highway System ferry Columbia, seen moored at the Berth III dock, is lit up during this time exposure taken Monday evening. The vessel was recognized by the Ketchikan chapter of AARP for its use of lights during the Christmas season.

Staff photo by Hall Anderson

Deadly  
crocodile  
attack

Kayakers  
recount events

By JEFF BARNARD

The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — For weeks, three kayakers exploring a series of rivers through the heart of Africa came together in a close formation designed to ward off hippo and crocodile attacks whenever they paddled the quiet green glides between thundering stretches of whitewater.

The boaters — two Americans and a South African — traveled some 1,000 miles of river this way, through some of the densest concentrations of man-killing wildlife in the world. They were on a quiet stretch of the Lukuga River in Congo, paddling just 4 or 5 feet apart, when a crocodile slipped up from behind and ripped trip leader Hendri Coetzee from his red plastic boat.

With no time to do anything but say "Oh, my God!" Coetzee was gone, hauled beneath the green water never to be seen again.

"The crocodile just pulled him right underwater," Chris Korbolic told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Reno, Nev., where he was visiting his brother. "I think we both were just in complete shock and disbelief, and absolutely horrified at what had just happened."

Ben Stookesberry, 32, of Mount Shasta, Calif., and Korbolic, 24, of Rogue River, Ore., are world-class kayakers who have gone where no boat has gone before to navigate the melting snows of the Himalayas in Northern Pakistan and India, towering waterfalls in Brazil, and boulder-stewn creeks in Costa Rica, California and British Columbia.

With primary sponsorship from Eddie Bauer Inc.'s First Ascent line of outdoor gear, they had partnered with Coetzee, a top whitewater guide based in Uganda, to document the whitewater of the White Nile and Congo, and be the first to boat the whitewater of the Lukuga River. They also hoped to bring attention to the crisis of millions of people dying from poor water quality in a region overflowing with water.

Though they knew Coetzee's giant reputation in the tiny world of extreme kayaking, and spent months planning their expedition together, Korbolic and Stookesberry didn't meet Coetzee until they flew into Entebbe, Uganda, in October. From his base in Jinja, he started showing them the ropes of African kayaking.

"He wanted to take us from the snowcapped peaks into the deepest, darkest, steamiest jungle," said Stookesberry. "He wanted to prove to us that in this place considered by Western media as one of the most dangerous places on Earth, we would find some of the nicest, most hospitable people we ever met."

For two days Coetzee took them down the Murchison Falls section of the White Nile. He taught them to tap their boats to make noise, stay out of the eddies where hippos might attack them, and keep clear of the banks where crocodiles sunned themselves.

Stookesberry and Korbolic were used to whitewater that could kill them, but the idea that something unseen and alive in the water could kill or eat them was new.

By the time they got to the Lukuga, they were comfortable with their skills.

The day Coetzee was attacked — Dec. 7 — they saw three little crocodiles on the water, just 3 feet long. It

See 'Croc attack,' Page B-12

## Thomas scores success during trip

By SCOTT BOWLEN  
Daily News Staff Writer

Ketchikan's Tanner Thomas racked up the miles and smiles this summer during a long West Coast road trip that saw the 18-year-old watercraft rider competing and riding with some of the biggest names in watercraft sports.

Thomas was making a name for himself along the way, placing well in three events and winning first place in the Pro/Am Moto-Surf category at the 2010 Blowson Surf Slam competition in Oregon.

"It just shows people that I've progressed quite a bit in the sport," Thomas said early this month while taking a break from his work as a Polar technician at Hal's Equipment in Ketchikan. "And by winning this event (at the Blowson Surf Slam), I'm ready to jump up another level in that class."

Jumping to higher levels was Thomas motivation for the trip — literally.

He's particularly keen on surf freeriding, performing tricks like barrel rolls on breaking waves with stand-up style watercraft like Kawasaki Jet Skis and Yamaha Super Jets.

The best surf freeriders can perform back flips, blasting straight up the faces of larger waves and launching themselves high into the air and arching into a full backward revolution before touching back down.

As beach surf is hard to find in Ketchikan, Thomas was looking forward to hitting the waves on the West Coast.

"A huge goal for me this summer was upping my bag of tricks," he said.

And that he did, nailing his first-ever back flip under the helpful eye of fellow freerider Zack Bright while practicing for the 2010 Grayland Open Amateur Freeride Nationals event on the Washington coast.

"I started off the trip, stuck a back flip," Thomas said. "That was real exciting for me."

It was a moment that Thomas had hoped for when he began planning for the trip this past winter.

The 2010 graduate of Ketchikan High School had competed in a limited amount of lake and surf events down south in 2008 and 2009. Based on those experiences, he knew which events he wanted to enter and where he wanted to go in 2010.

Hal's Equipment worked it out so Thomas could travel for almost two months.

"It was pretty nice of them to do that," said the appreciative Thomas.

His road trip goals spanned from Seattle to Oceanside, Calif., with a lot of stops in between.

"It was pretty much just going to be a drive all the way across the western United States, and go do some jet skiing," said Thomas, who coordinated with family and friends for places to stay along the way. "I had three different dates of places I had to be, and other than that it was just whatever happens, happens."

Before he departed Ketchikan in early August, Thomas built an aluminum rack-and-winch setup so he could haul two watercraft on the back of his Ford Ranger pickup.



Tanner Thomas of Ketchikan returns to shore during the 2010 Blowson Surf Slam event that took place Sept. 10-12 in Pacific City, Ore. During the event, Thomas placed third in the amateur freeride competition, and first in the pro/am moto surf competition.

Photo courtesy of Craig Thomas

He took the loaded-up truck to one of his sponsors, Alaska Marine Lines, which transported it down to Washington state.

Thomas picked up his truck there, met up with Bright in Seattle and drove down to Grayland for the Freeride Nationals.

"It was a surf freeride competition," Thomas said. "You're judged head to head with another competitor, ... all on surf riding skills and tricks."

Bright placed second in the stand-up class, while Thomas took fourth place. Thomas got noticed for the event's "Gnarliest Wipeout."

"While performing a trick, Tanner received a nasty electrical shock from his ski, causing him to rapidly eject from it," according to the event's website.

After the Grayland event, Bright returned to California and Thomas headed to the Sherwood, Ore., the location of Blowson, another of Thomas' sponsors. Blowson designs and sells a range of custom watercraft parts and accessories in addition to riding gear and custom paint jobs for watercraft.

After a positive visit at the Blowson

shop, Thomas continued south to visit with his grandfather in Albany, Ore., and then drove on to Pismo Beach, Calif., one of the premier surf riding areas on the West Coast.

"Pismo is a really cool spot because it's one of the last few places in California where jet skiing in the surf is still completely legal," Thomas said. "I spent a lot of time there just practicing."

He spent time at Pismo Beach with pro freerider Stanton High and Jerry Brandon, one of the sport's pioneering freeriders.

"I was lucky enough to be down there on (Brandon's) 43rd birthday, and he went out and did about 27 back flips of all different variations out in the surf," Thomas said. "(It was) pretty incredible to watch him."

For Thomas, one of the best parts of travel and competition is being able to meet and ride with accomplished riders in the sport.

One of his favorite parts of the trip was surf riding outside of Oceanside, Calif., with pros such as Mark Gomez, Jerry Jones, Randy Laine and Ross Champion.

See 'Tanner Thomas,' Page B-12



Tanner Thomas of Ketchikan hoists the first place trophy on the Blowson Surf Slam 2010 podium after winning the event's pro/am moto surf competition in September at Pacific City, Ore.

Photo courtesy of Craig Thomas