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Ketchikan Natives fight to retain burial grounds

The Associated Press

KETCHIKAN — Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mayor Carol Fader on Thursday vetoed a move by the assembly to relinquish its claim on a portion of Pennock Island that has been a traditional Native burial ground. Fader said the assembly's measure will not achieve the desired goal of

gravesite protection.

The assembly voted 6-1 earlier in the month to give up its claim after several residents described the history behind the 400-acre parcel on the southern tip of the island across from Saxman.

"My grandfather is buried there, and my grandmother is buried there. And my

uncle," Joe Williams told the assembly. "I respect Pennock Island. A lot of my people and some of your people respect that island. Leave us that piece of ground."

Mike Tavoliero, Saxman city manager, said the area was used as a cemetery from the early 1890s to the 1950s. He said community leaders

have produced the names of at least 121 people buried there.

But Fader said most of the identified gravesites are on less than 25 acres and already are designated as Native burial grounds by the federal government. And most of the rest of the graves are on private lots, he added.

"The action of relinquish-

ment did not in any way protect graves on private property," Fader said at a news conference Thursday. He said the state thinks 400 acres is too much to ask for a cemetery.

He said if his veto is sustained Monday night at the assembly's next regular meeting, he will propose a three-

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Native woman seeks to become Iditarod racer

By Martha Upicksoun

Special to the Tundra Times

"Dogs just got the best of me," Rose Albert will tell you with a shrug of her shoulders and a smile.

Albert, at age 25, is an Athabascan Indian from the Yukon River village of Ruby who has set her dog-mushing sights on the ultimate dog driver's dream: racing in Alaska's grueling 1,049-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The route to attempting such a goal has been circuitous for Albert, but there are common threads woven in the tale.

Albert is a dreamer, a doer and an achiever. Several years ago her younger brother, Howard, first raced the Iditarod. He trained at their family trapping camp, 50 miles north of Ruby on the Nowitna River, where Albert was born.

Dog mushing immediately caught her fancy and captured her heart, she says, and she went so far as to save money and sponsor her brother. Even then, Albert was telling herself, "I want to race those dogs" and with a little luck she will do just that when the Iditarod starts on March 6.

As with many things, dog mushing skills are not acquired overnight. Albert will be the first to tell you that while her brother's dogs are in really good shape, the musher needs a little finesse to boot. "The dogs are good," she reasons, "but it's me that's got to be able to handle them."

The confidence Rose Albert possesses and a vigorous training schedule, will, most likely, once again carry her through. After all, confidence, with a dash of determination, helped Albert graduate from the Institute of American Indian Art in New Mexico, where she majored in art, and specialized in oil painting.

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Max F. Gottschalk receives a hug from his daughter, Betty Taylor of Anchorage. Gottschalk, 96, was removed from his home in Naknek by military police during World War II and placed in a detention camp in North Dakota.

WWII internment also took Germans in Alaska, Aleuts find

By BILL HESS
Tundra Times Staff

Add German Americans to the list of Alaska citizens who were removed from their homes during World War II and placed elsewhere. Philemon Tutlakoff, the chairman of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association and a key figure in bringing to light the plight of his Aleut people during World

War II, disclosed the information recently after hearing of it from Richard Wamser of Kodiak.

Wamser is the son of an Aleut woman and a naturalized citizen who emigrated from Germany. Although his mother was not among those Aleuts of the Western Aleutians who were relocated to Southeast Alaska, his father,

August Peter (Charlie) Wamser, was removed from his home in Naknek and shipped Outside.

A young boy at the time, Wamser has little personal recollection of the event, but remembers his father telling him of the incident while he was still alive.

At the time, the elder Wamser owned and operated a com-

bination general store, ice cream parlor, liquor store, cafe and gambling parlor in South Naknek. One day in the winter of 1942, an M.P. from King Salmon, came by with orders to arrest the elder Wamser. Also arrested were Max Gottschalk and Henry Fisher.

The younger Wamser was

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