Bidarki Recreation Center
Visit the Bidarki Recreation Center on Facebook for great recreation ideas.

If there are 4 apples and you take away 3, how many do you have?
(you took 3 apples so obviously you have 3)

Did you know?
Nanomaterials are materials less than about 100 nanometers wide. A nanometer is one millionth of a millimeter. That’s about 100,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Nanotechnology uses nanomaterials (things that are less than about 100 nanometers wide). There is no single type of nanomaterial. Things this small act in some really special and different ways.

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School, Club and Wolvernine Events
If you are attending a school, club or Wolvernine event, please send stories and photos to the Cordova Times. We know you are taking them cause we seem ‘em on Facebook. A photo with a caption is easy to do and folks love it! Please send them in to editor@thecordovatimes.com.

Today’s Kid Corner is sponsored by Cordova Telephone Cooperative.

Students teams build remotely operated vehicles designed to detect oil spills and gather data

BY CATHY PEGAU
For The Cordova Times

A few weeks ago, Paul Bednarz’s sixth graders were at the pool, but none of them got wet. No, they weren’t in the pool, their ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles) were, performing a series of tasks to show well they could maneuver and clean up a simulated oil spill.

Through the Prince William Sound Science Center’s Discovery Room Education Program, the students participated in bi-monthly sessions on ocean technology. Starting in October, science education director Kara Johnson and education staff Marita Kleioster and Lindsay Rutherford gave them in-class instruction about the variety of technology used for things such as oil spill detection and response and gathering data from the ocean environment.

Cordova’s Jr./Sr. High Drama Club performed Curse You, Jack Dalton! an Old-time Melodrama.

BY WENDY RANNEY
For The Cordova Times

Boo. Hiss. What are these sounds coming from the CHS Gym? A town meeting gone awry? A bad call at a sporting event? All the dinners sold out at a local fundraiser? No, it’s ok, relax Cordova. It is just the audience reacting to the deep-eyed villain in the CHS Drama Club’s performance of Curse You, Jack Dalton! An Old-time Melodrama. Wiktionary defines a melodrama as abounding in romantic sentiment and agonizing situations, or anything that is blown out of proportion. Last week, Cordova was treated to two performances by the talented members of the Cordova Jr./Sr. High Drama Club with some random kids and dogs thrown in for good measure. Three Olio acts warmed up the audience before the play. Olios, defined as a collection of various musical, theatrical, or other artistic works presented before or between the main acts of a show, showcased a wide range of local talent. Weather it was Magic Mapli searching for water, Katie Baier with musical help from Megan Reggiani showing that she was not overwhelmed in...
Students deployed their ROV models in the Bidarki swimming pool.

ROV

From Page 2

In March, the students designed their own ROVs. The class was split into five teams and given the parameters of the tasks their vehicles would need to accomplish. Armed with the knowledge of how the ROVs would operate and a materials list, the teams designed their ROVs to skim the water for “oil” (in this case, ping pong balls), maneuver through hoops, and corral or hook other objects. But ideas on paper didn’t necessarily translate into function. They quickly learned what would and wouldn’t work, modifying their vehicles as they built them.

The Discovery Room ROVs consisted of five parts: the frame, the motor, the tether or umbilical, the control unit, and the battery. Each basic kit included PVC pipes and connectors, foam for flotation, tape, netting, and a pre-built motor/control unit and batteries. The teams were allowed to add extra pieces if they wished; one group included a small underwater video-camera.

Lessons in ocean technology gave the sixth graders an idea of the kinds of research happening today, and why math, science, and engineering are the subjects of the future. They discovered that experts in the field have an important but difficult job to do. “I learned that cleaning up oil is hard, and we’ll never get it all out of the water,” said Jamille Esquerra.

“Working with the other people was tough,” was a common response when the kids were asked about the most challenging aspect of the program. But they listened to other members’ ideas and suggestions and got the job done together. Since they only had one session in the water, operating the vehicles was the next most challenging thing, and also the most fun. “I liked seeing ours flip around,” said Josi Moffitt.

The ROV and Ocean Technology Program started in Cordova three years ago and was originally funded by an EPA grant that has been expanded through OSRI (Oil Spill Recovery Institute) support. It is being delivered to other communities via the Education Outreach program at the Science Center. Johnson, Kleissler, and Butters have been to Hoonah and Yakutat working with 7th through 12th graders on ROVs, oil spill response, and marine science.

Johnson also introduced the ROV challenge to this year’s National Ocean Science Bowl competition in Seward, the Tsunami Bowl, High school students from around the state enjoyed the opportunity to get away from the serious side of the competition and have some fun, she said, but they’ll also take what they learned about ocean technology back to their hometowns. Some of the kids had never seen ROVs and were a little daunted by the challenge of designing and building one. Once the teams understood what was expected of them, however, they got into it. Despite having only an hour and a half to design and build their vehicles, the high school students impressed Johnson and the other mentors with their ability and execution. She has asked to make the Ocean Technology Program part of the yearly NOSB event, giving the students more information and more time for their vehicles. Some folks are unfamiliar with ocean science and technology and how it aids in gathering important data that impacts local communities. Johnson would like to see students “bringing it home” and discuss what they’ve learned with their families. A major goal is to increase the level of comfort when it comes to science and scientific data so students and adults can make their own interpretations. “What’s the story of the data?” she asks in classes.

By giving students knowledge, hands-on opportunities to create a way to collect their own data, and the skills to interpret data, they are well on their way to answering that question and understanding the world around them.

For information leading to the recovery of our stolen 2000 Caterpillar 950G Loader

We’ve Been Robbed!

Serial # located here: 2JS1038

Driven off a jobsite at MacArthur & Whisperwood Park Dr, Anchorage (Near Turpin & Glenn Hwy) April 2012

Call/Text Roy @ 440-4664 or 349-2107 with any information.

We think it could have been taken as early as the 7th of April.

• The bucket is detachable so it could be seen without it.
• The serial number is 2JS1038 and the tires are Michelins.
• It has the word Zeppelin in white letters on the back cowling.

Please call 440-4664 or 349-2107 with any information.

Cathy Pegau, parent, teacher and author, can be reached at cpegas@yahoo.com.
ROV Challenge Comes to the Tsunami Bowl
by Kara Johnson

At this year’s Tsunami Bowl (Alaska’s regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, Prince William Sound Science Center staff hosted the inaugural ROV (remotely operated vehicle) challenge with the generous support of the PWS Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Twenty teams from mostly rural Alaska were given one and a half hours to construct, test, and operate their ROVs to complete a series of five water-based tasks that simulated an under-ice oil spill. The teams were grouped into sets of five teams to cycle through the build and pool stages. At any given time we had ten teams working on their ROVs! The competition was a success with students commenting on how much fun it was to build the underwater machines, operate technology that is used in oil spill response, and take a break from intense NOSB competition.

Many of the students had never heard of or seen an ROV, much less built one in only one hour. After working through their initial apprehension and with guidance from Scott Pegau (Project Manager for OSRI) and Kris Holderied (Acting Director for the NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory), students were busy joining pieces of PVC together to make their ROV. Scott and Kris floated between groups to insure that students attached the motors correctly, adhered to basic ROV designs, and gave suggestions about what might or might not work. Once the building hour was over, five teams at a time headed down to the pool.

In the pool, Kara Johnson (PWSSC Science Education Director) and Sophia Myers (Cordova high school student) set up the challenge courses that simulated an oil spill under sea ice. Teams had to operate their ROV to perform a scouting mission to find pools of oil trapped under the ice, take a sample of the oil, return the sample to the analysis station, deliver a piece of equipment to an underwater work station, and transport a piece of equipment across the surface. After ten minutes for a test run, the teams had twenty minutes to complete as many of the tasks as they could. Each task was worth points, and the top three teams won cash prizes thanks to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

All students took turns operating their ROVs and showed great teamwork, support, and excitement. Congratulations to the Tiger Sharks (Mat-Su Career & Tech High School), Twilight Zone (Homer High School) and Rock Lobsters (Mat-Su Career & Tech High School)!

The entire event was a huge success. We are thrilled with the invitation to bring the event back for future Tsunami Bowls. Be sure to check our blog for ROV photos: www.pwssc.org/blog