CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

As a State of Alaska, First Division, before me, the undersigned, a notary public this day personally appeared Jane Pascoe, who being first duly sworn, according to law, says that she is the Business Manager of the Chilkat Valley News published in Haines, Alaska, in said Division One and State of Alaska and that the advertisement, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in said publication on

April 1, 8 &15 2021

Jane Pascoe

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of November, 2020 21

Krista J. Lampkins

My Commission expires August 29, 2024

KRISTA J. LAMPKINS
My Commission Expires
NOTARY PUBLIC
Aug 29, 2024
STATE OF ALASKA

Received by AMCO 12.2.21

Assembly briefs

By Ceri Godinez

Assembly supports Cascade Point ferry terminal

The assembly voted 4-2 to write a letter in support of a ferry terminal at Cascade Point. Members Caitie Kirby and Carol Tuynman opposed the measure, saying they wanted more information before finalizing a decision.

Last month, Mayor Douglas Olerud was contacted by those involved with Alaska Department of Transportation's Juneau Access Improvements project, who pitched the terminal as a more economically feasible way to improve transportation between Juneau and upper Lynn Canal communities. The proposed project involves constructing a terminal 30 miles north of Juneau's Auke Bay on Goldbelt Alaska Native corporation land.

"Everyone that I've talked to this winter is really, really frustrated about the (ferry) connection between Haines, Skagway and Juneau. This is one option," Olerud said, introducing the topic at Tuesday's assembly meeting.

Olerud said a phone call with Haines' state Rep. Sara Hannan raised some questions about the project's feasibility including its time frame (at least two years out), whether the terminal would be operational in the winter, and whether the Tazlina and Hubbard can complete a Lynn Canal run from Cascade Point in a single, 12-hour timeframe, a limit imposed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Hannan and Haines' other state representative, Sen. Jesse Kiehl raised similar questions during CVN interviews in March.

An alternative proposal under consideration is the renovation of the Tazlina and Hubbard, installing crew quarters to allow the vessels to complete runs that last more than 12 hours. The renovations are estimated to cost $15 million per vessel.

Kirby and Tuynman said it would be better to gather more information before supporting a specific proposal for improving Lynn Canal transportation.

Other assembly members countered that it makes sense to act quickly.

"I think (the Cascade Point terminal) is great for the summer. If we can get more passengers doing the loops… it makes dollars, which makes sense," assembly member Gabe Thomas said. "I would be worried if we wait and don't support it."

Kirby and Tuynman requested the letter of support detail some of their lingering questions and concerns.

Museum grant decision postponed, again

After receiving public comment, the Haines Borough Assembly voted 4-2 to postpone a vote that would instruct the Haines Sheldon Museum board of trustees to return a $350,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant. Assembly members Gabe Thomas and Cheryl Stickler opposed the move.

At a Government Affairs and Services (GAS) Committee meeting earlier this month, assembly members said the borough doesn't have the matching funds the grant requires. The grant has been on the GAS Committee's agenda since last fall.

"In the past several days, we've heard from numerous people that they would prefer to postpone this until our next meeting for a number of reasons," Mayor Douglas Olerud said at Tuesday's assembly meeting.

Former museum director Helen Alten, who originally applied for the grant, spoke in support of an extension during public testimony.

"I've offered to find the money that's needed for the match, and there's more work being done on this issue. I believe it's a little premature to vote on it at this point," she said.

The grant, which would support renovation of the museum's climate control system and requires a borough match, has been a source of strife between the former director and the board. In the fall, trustees said Alten hadn't alerted them to the fact that she'd applied for a grant that committed $500,000 in borough funds. Alten countered, saying she had alerted the board and that, by her calculations, the match required from the borough would be closer to $200,000.

There is general agreement among board members, borough officials and the former museum director that the facility's climate control system is on its last legs and needs to be replaced. The borough has had talks this winter with the Chilkoot Indian Association about purchasing the building.

Expanded Dalton Trail RMSA ordinance introduced

Assembly members voted unanimously to introduce an ordinance that would expand the Historic Dalton Trail Road Maintenance Service Area (RMSA) to include all parcels that are accessed using roads in the zone, not just those located directly on the road.

How to support road maintenance in the sparsely populated RMSA has been a question the assembly's pondered for some time.

"The idea originated with the RMSA. The main crux of this ordinance is that roads that are used to access private properties need to be maintained, and again, it goes back to this idea that cost-causers need to be cost-payers," assembly member Cheryl Stickler said. "There are a number of properties that are accessed on the borough roads that are not members of the RMSA."

The ordinance is scheduled for a first hearing on April 27.

Police Report

Tuesday, April 6

A citizen on 500 Block Main Street reported a lost cell phone.

A caller on Chilkat Avenue reported receiving a suspicious telephone call.

A caller reported being harassed on several occasions.

A caller on 900 Block Mud Bay Road reported receiving a fraudulent telephone call.

HBPD responded to a report of a domestic dispute on 100 Block Main Street.

A 20 day ex parte protective order was served on a Haines resident on 800 Block Highland Drive.

Investigation continues into a forced entry burglary on 400 Block Gruening Drive.

A caller reported two moose on Fort Seward Drive.

Thursday, April 8

A caller requested the road be plowed on Allen Road.

A caller reported receiving a fraudulent telephone call on 100 Block Lutak Road.

A caller requested a message be relayed to the owner of a vehicle at Zero Mile Haines Highway.

Friday, April 9

HBPD investigated suspicious activity on 400 Block Gruening Drive.

A caller on Moose Lane reported receiving a fraudulent message on social media.

Saturday, April 10

A caller reported they struck a moose with a vehicle at Nine and a Half Mile Haines Highway.

A 42-year-old female was arrested near the intersection of Tower Road and FAA Road for DUI (BrAC .190) and was transported to the Haines Rural Jail Facility.

Lost cash was later located.

Sunday, April 11

A lost wallet was later located on 200 Block Main Street.

A caller reported a hit and run at 16 Mile Haines Highway.

A caller reported hearing a gunshot on Fair Drive.

A caller reported someone shoveling snow into the roadway on Small Tracts Road.

Monday, April 12

A 33-year-old female was arrested on South Sawmill Road for assault DV and was transported to the Haines Rural Jail Facility.

A caller reported a violation of a protective order at Three Mile Mosquito Lake Road.

A caller on Main Street reported someone defaced cash.

Two moose were reported in the CIA trails.

An unauthorized burn was reported and extinguished on Fifth Avenue.

There were four 911 hang-ups, one canine, eight EMS calls and eight traffic stops during this reporting period. Additional information is available on the Haines Borough Police Department website and Facebook page.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS Episcopal Church
Shelter-in-Place ZOOM Services
Evening Prayer:
Wednesday 7:00 PM
Morning Prayer:
Sunday 10:30 AM
Rev'd Jan Hotze, Vicar
call for online invitation: 314-0171

New Hope Fellowship
"Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the sunrise from on high will visit us"
Luke 1:78
Come worship with us Sundays at 10 am
Location: 1/4 mile Mosquito Lake road.

VACCINE from page 1

now to help the world move toward reopening.

A number of people in Haines had been waiting to get vaccinated specifically so they could receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to Haines Health Center clinic administrator Stephanie Pattison in a March interview. She said she wasn't clear on their motivations but assumed it had to do with the relative ease of the vaccine.

The other two COVID-19 vaccines approved in the U.S. are the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which require two doses. Nationwide, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires one dose, was being earmarked for people with limited ability to access healthcare facilities.

On Tuesday, Alaska health officials held a press briefing to answer questions about the temporary pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccine use. They said those who have been vaccinated recently should monitor for symptoms, a message echoed by SEARHC officials.

"SEARHC patients who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine do not need to take any special precautions; however, patients experiencing symptoms of concern should contact their healthcare provider for follow-up. Symptoms of concern include severe headache, abdominal pain, shortness of breath or leg pain within two weeks of receiving the… vaccine," spokesperson Maegan Bosak said.

According to state health officials on the Tuesday call, MRIs are the best tool for assessing whether a patient displaying these symptoms is suffering from the blood clot condition. The Haines Health Center doesn't have an MRI machine.

Tuesday afternoon, roughly 24-hours out from the vaccine, Rayner said she was feeling okay for someone who just received a COVID-19 vaccine.

"It feels like my body is tired and exhausted, achy and stiff, but nothing drastic," she said.

State officials said they don't know how long the pause will last, and that it was done "out of an abundance of caution." They clarified that the other two vaccines are considered "extremely safe and effective." There's some concern among health experts that the Johnson & Johnson announcement could increase vaccine hesitancy. Haines has seen a recent decline in it's vaccination sign-up rate as most adults who want a vaccine have received one.

To date, SEARHC has administered 271 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in eight communities. In Alaska, as of April 12, there had been 11,178 Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses administered out of 35,500 doses allocated in the state.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Dandelion, LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #29266, doing business as Dandelion, located at 1053 Haines Hwy, Haines, AK, 99827, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. at jana@jdwcounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Haines Borough • Request for Bids

Haines Harbor Bulk Water Fill Station Concrete Work

The Haines Borough is seeking bids to create a concrete pad for a new bulk waterfill station at the Haines Harbor. To view the contract specifications and documents, you will need to register at www.publicpurchase.com. Instructions for how to register with Public Purchase and access the documents can be found by visiting the link above.

HAINES BOROUGH

Public Notice

Port Chilkoot Dock Pile Cap Repair

The Haines Borough is seeking a contractor to provide a structural welder, materials, and equipment necessary to repair welds and add stiffener plates to the remaining ten undamaged pile caps as shown on the engineered drawings. Drawings and other project-specific information are only available on www.publicpurchase.com.

HAINES BOROUGH

Public Notice

2021 Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Upgrade

The Contractor shall replace the existing 240-volt delta configured, three-phase service and distribution system and the 208Y/120-volt standby-generator with a new 480Y/277-volt three-phase system and equipment. The work includes upgrading the 240-volt system to 208Y120 volts as shown in the Plans and Specifications. For more information and to view the project documents, please visit the Borough website and click "Bids & RFPs." You will need to register with Public Purchase, and all correspondence regarding the project and the bid must be submitted through Public Purchase.

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Laborers wanted immediately for the upcoming construction season across Southeast Alaska.
Work is outside and physically demanding. Great wages and benefits.
If interested contact Laborers Local 942 @ 907-586-2860
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FAIRBANKS, ALASKA LABORERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 942

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Quality materials & paint, great prices, and excellent service.
Open six days a week, across from the Port Chilkoot Dock.
SPRING HOURS
Mon - Fri, 8am - 5pm • Sat, 9am-4pm

For more info, call the terminal 766-2111
Recording 766-2113

FERRY SCHEDULE

NORTHBOUND			Arrive from JNU	Depart to SGY
Friday	**16**	**AURORA**	**11:30am**	**12:00pm**
Sunday	18	LECONTE	11:30am	12:00pm
Monday	**19**	**MATANUSKA**	**7:45am**	**9:15am**
Friday	23	LECONTE	11:30am	12:00pm

SOUTHBOUND			Arrive from SGY	Depart to JNU
Friday	**16**	**AURORA**	**3:00pm**	**4:00pm**
Sunday	18	LECONTE	3:00pm	4:00pm
Monday	**19**	**MATANUSKA**	**1:30pm**	**3:30pm**
Friday	23	LECONTE	3:00pm	4:00pm

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Chilkat Valley News

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Assembly supports Cascade Point terminal - page 4

Woman arrested for assault - page 3

Assembly opens Beach Road neighborhood

By Ceri Godinez

The Beach Road neighborhood will open to the public for the first time since Dec. 2 after the Haines Borough Assembly voted Tuesday to rescind a resolution limiting access. At the same meeting, assembly members formed a Beach Road task force to consider short-term and long-term access issues.

On Dec. 2, a landslide on Mount Riley killed two residents, destroyed several houses and left most homes on Beach Road Extension separated from town. The Haines Borough limited neighborhood access while awaiting the results of a geotechnical study.

The findings report from the study was published in Tuesday's assembly packet. It attempts to answer questions including why the Dec. 2 landslide occurred where it did, the likelihood and risk level associated with various geologic hazards threatening the neighborhood, how to mitigate risk when accessing the neighborhood, and next steps for the borough.

"Going into when they first revealed (the report) to us, I was extremely nervous that we wouldn't get much to move forward on, but after the first presentation, (interim manager) Alekka (Fullerton) and I came out of the office and said, 'Did we just hear all the good news we thought we heard?'" Mayor Douglas Olerud said.

In each section of the report, engineers from Landslide Technology were careful to emphasize the preliminary nature of the findings.

"The preliminary findings provided herein are based on desktop studies of available information and observations gathered during a snow-hindered winter reconnaissance. Until completion of a more detailed/unhampered (above-ground) reconnaissance and subsurface investigation, these findings should be considered preliminary and incomplete," reads the second paragraph of the executive summary.

Despite the findings' preliminary nature, Beach Road property owners and borough officials said it gave them hope.

"I felt really encouraged by it. They outlined what they thought were the main causes of the slide.

See BEACH page 6

Borough equipment plows Second Avenue Friday morning after 16 inches of snow fell on April 8 and 9. Kyle Clayton photo.

Local annual bike relay to go virtual

By Kyle Clayton

The Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay Board (KCIBR) voted to hold a virtual race where participants can cycle along routes of their choosing, anywhere in the world.

"I might do it in Washington state," said KCIBR board member Richard Clement. "We have one woman already committed. She's already picked out her route in Germany."

Clement said the board explored other virtual races when deciding on whether to host a relay this summer. Similar to past years, the relay will be divided into eight, 30-kilometer legs. Individuals can ride the entire race length or divide into teams. But this summer, riders can cycle through their legs over a span of nine days between June 12 to June 20. E-bikes will also be allowed.

"You could stretch it out and sign up with a bunch of your buddies and you have two weekends and a week in between to do your leg," Clement said. "It's up to people on an honor system to ride their leg and then take a picture and send it to us. We trust people's honesty."

Participants will be entered into a prize drawing. Registration opens May 7.

While the race traditionally has a limit of 1,200 racers, who come from as far as Germany and England, this year registration is unlimited.

"There won't be any time keeping. There won't be any judging," Clement said. We're just trying to get people on their bikes and give them something to look forward to after a tough winter."

More information can be found at www.kcibr.org.

SEARHC halts Johnson & Johnson vaccinations

By Ceri Godinez

The Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) has temporarily paused use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in Haines and other consortium communities, in accordance with a Tuesday recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

The organizations recommended the pause while they review data associated with six reported cases of a rare blood clot condition developed after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. All six cases occurred in women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms appeared six to 13 days after vaccination.

Approximately 60 Johnson & Johnson vaccines have been administered in Haines and Klukwan, so far. They were administered on Monday at a Haines Health Center drive-through clinic, the first time the vaccine had been offered to Chilkat Valley residents. Those who participated in the clinic were given a choice between the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines.

Madeleine Rayner, who opted to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Monday's clinic, said she heard about the blood clot cases prior to receiving her vaccine.

"It made me think, I need to research it more," Rayner said. She looked into it and concluded the risk was worth it. "From my understanding, there are (a few) cases out of seven million people, so that's a pretty low number to me."

To date, 6.8 million doses of the vaccine have been administered nationwide.

Rayner said she opted to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine over the Moderna because of its convenience. She's a U.K. citizen visiting Haines for several months.

"(The Johnson & Johnson vaccine) is a one-jab wonder. I wasn't sure if I was going to be here long enough to get a second shot," she said, adding that while injecting something foreign into her body gave her slight pause, she thinks getting vaccinated is the best thing she can do right

See VACCINE page 4

Bladesmith's TikTok ploy pays off

By Ceri Godinez

On April 1, local bladesmith Trevor Barrett set out on a quest to gift celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay a custom-made knife, posting a video to social media platform TikTok. To Barrett's surprise, the gamble paid off.

"I bet you like knives, right? Probably use them quite a bit? Well, I'm going to make one for you right here in my forge in Haines, Alaska," Barrett said, addressing Ramsay in the opening of the April 1 TikTok video.

Barrett ended the minute-long video with a plea to his audience for help bringing the offer to Ramsay's attention, asking them to comment @GordanRamsayOfficial.

The video was a marketing Hail Mary for the knife business Barrett's trying to grow.

"I was thinking of ways to try and expand a little bit, but it can be difficult with trends online, so I thought, let me try reaching out to someone who uses knives a lot. Well, who do I know that's influential and uses knives? Chefs use knives, more than hunters. I thought, who's the most famous chef I can think of off the top of my head?" Barrett said.

He said Ramsay was the first name that occurred to him. "I thought, there's no way this is going to work. He's a straight up celebrity, and I'm a small-town guy in Alaska. But I also thought, this won't hurt me if I try."

Barrett watched several Ramsay videos and tried to model the knife on the types the chef was using. The knife he ended up making would normally sell for roughly $400, he said.

The day Barrett posted the video, it went viral, logging 1 million views in 24 hours.

"It's super weird because it was a complete accident. I'm thirty-three. I'm not a TikToker. I'm not into that stuff. If I had it my way, I'd just be working all the time, but you need to market yourself if you want to have a product," he said.

A week after Barrett posted the video, he was scrolling through TikTok and noticed that Ramsay's account had followed him, allowing the two to send direct messages to each other. Barrett messaged Ramsay and received a response from the chef's team.

See KNIFE page 5

Dusty Trails slated for summer remodel

By Kyle Clayton

Dusty Trails Apartments is finally being remodeled after a new owner purchased the property early last year.

Six years after improvements were first planned for the 27-year-old low-income apartment buildings, structural issues and at least one attempted sale of the building had stalled progress.

Colorado developer Scott Niblack assumed ownership in March 2020. The purchase enabled the use of federal low-income housing tax credits to incentivize the sale and remodel.

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation administers the low-income housing tax credits in an effort to incentivize developers and investors to create and operate affordable housing. Developers receive federal income tax credits over a 10-year period in exchange for rehabilitating or constructing low-income housing. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDARD) provides loans to developers who receive the tax credits.

The first 2015 deal failed after Seattle-based affordable housing developer GMD Development and USDARD failed to reach an agreement on how to mitigate moisture issues in the crawlspace of one of Dusty Trails' buildings, said a GMD executive. The company planned to spend $3 million on the renovation project.

Building "E" has long been plagued by moisture and rot issues, according to local real estate broker Jim Studley who was familiar with a 2015 project that first aimed to rebuild the apartment complex.

Southeast Roadbuilders is responsible for demolishing building E and will do civil engineering work on the parking lot and drainage. Contractors will begin work on Monday, April 19. Building E will be completely demolished and rebuilt. The new apartment building will house six ADA compliant units.

The three other buildings will be completely renovated, said Dusty Trails manager Jason Ghan.

"They'll be demoed down to the studs and there's going to be new flooring, new cabinets, new appliances, new sheetrock," Ghan said. "Those are going to be done one after the other."

Many tenants will be housed at the Aspen Hotel and others will stay with friends and family. Ghan said contractors hope to have the project complete by September, estimating that it will take 30 to 45 days to renovate the three other buildings.

"It's very ambitious. As long as the supply lines hold up and all that good stuff, it sounds like the contractor has everything lined up pretty well," Ghan said.

Orion Construction out of Wasilla is leading the project.

Tenants were notified in February that the project was in the works and

See DUSTY page 2

Deputy clerk to help shoulder Fullerton's burden

By Ceri Godinez

The Haines Borough will hire a deputy clerk to assist clerk Alekka Fullerton, who is currently also serving as borough manager.

The Haines Borough Assembly asked Fullerton to serve as interim after firing manager Debra Schnabel last May. At the time, Fullerton said she would serve in the interim position as long as needed. The assembly approved a 20% pay increase while she worked the two jobs.

After a series of delays, the assembly finally advertised the manager position in January 2021. Fullerton applied, along with 30 other candidates. The search ended with the assembly extending a job offer to Tennessee real estate investor George Zoukee, who turned down the offer in late March, citing the complicated logistics of moving.

On April 2, Fullerton, the only other finalist for the position, withdrew her application, saying she felt like her hire had become a point of division for the community. At the same meeting, the assembly agreed to restart the hiring search and said it would be beneficial to hire someone to assist Fullerton with her dual duties.

"The three options that we looked

See CLERK page 3

Jeff Moskowitz, Rachel Saitzyk, Andrew Cardella, Madeleine Rayner and Liz Landes cross-country ski near the Klehini River and Glacier Creek Saturday, April 10. Kyle Clayton photo.

Received by AMCO 12.2.21

Letters to the Editor

We have a qualified manager in town

After all the time and money spent on a new manager hire, I humbly ask that our elected leaders take a fresh look at what to me seems obvious. Of all the finalists selected for the manager position, not one had the education, experience, and local knowledge of our previous manager. What's more, every one of those candidates turned down the job, necessitating another round of time and expense to find someone perhaps even less qualified for the job.

For the good of the community, I ask that the mayor and assembly sit down with Ms. Schnabel, air whatever real or perceived grievances they might have, and work out a solution like adults. And, if she is even willing to resume her duties, I request we all move past blame and retribution and get on with a functioning government.

Larry Larson

Fix the damn road

We own a home past the Beach Road landslide. We have closely followed the decision-making affecting the ongoing closure of the road.

This started with computer modelling by DGGS of possible failure of a "block" of material at the head of the slide path. We have been given the assumptions that went into this modelling, but these assumptions were a worst-case scenario. The possible outcomes from the model included a future major landslide. This future slide was by no means certain or even likely.

Somewhere someone decided that this all constituted an "imminent" danger of a "catastrophic landslide," and Beach Road has remained closed based on this interpretation.

We are now informed by Landslide Technologies that failure of this block is a "low- to moderate-risk event with moderate likelihood of occurrence." Landslide Technologies predicts no high-risk events with high likelihood of occurrence. The only high-risk event they discuss is reactivation of the existing slide material, and they deem the likelihood of this to be low.

I want to point out that this much-more-moderate potential of risk for Beach Road has been the educated opinion of many Beach Road residents all along. And most of Haines is at moderate risk of various geologic problems, but we don't close all of Haines. And we don't close Anchorage just because there is a low likelihood (but actually a long-term certainty!) of another megathrust earthquake.

Frankly this is getting ridiculous. Fix the damn road and put in power. Enough said.

Michael and Maggie Balise

Thanks for keeping Hot Shots shooting

The Haines Hot Shots would like to thank the American Legion Post 12 for their recent donation to our club. We also want to thank them for housing our weekly indoor laser practice sessions. We look forward to returning to the shooting range once the road has been repaired, but this space has kept our team practicing their skills through this past winter. Thank you!

Susan Weerasinghe on behalf of the
Haines Hot Shots and Haines Glacier Bears shooting teams

Those who fail to learn from history

The April 8 CVN "This Week in History" section included a story from 1996, when Coeur Alaska withdrew its state-of-the-art treatment plan for contaminated wastewater at the Kensington project because members of the public demonstrated it would lead to violations of state water quality standards and the federal Clean Water Act. Soon after, the Bush administration devised a work-around: they redefined the word "fill" to include toxic mine tailings to make it legal for the mine to dam and fill a natural, fish-bearing lake with mine waste. Fast-forward 25 years to the back-page story in last week's paper about DOWA/Constantine's withdrawal of its state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plan. Two years ago, members of the public clearly and correctly asserted, according to a 2018 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision and a 2020 U.S. Supreme Court decision, that DOWA/Constantine's treatment design and DEC's discharge permit based on that design would lead to a violation of State water quality standards and the federal Clean Water Act. Last August DOWA/Constantine withdrew their design and said it will resubmit a new plan at some point in the future. Will our "watchdog" regulators change the ground rules again? Both cases unfortunately required members of the public to challenge the treatment design plans of the would-be dischargers and the permitting decisions of the regulating agencies before they ran afoul of the law, and common sense. Why must so many proposals to pollute public waters be carefully scrutinized and are often challenged? Because history keeps repeating itself.

Gershon Cohen

A fix for Southeast transportation

Prior to statehood, Southeast was serviced by single engine float planes then by twin-engine WWII surplus seaplanes. In the 60s, the ferry system started serving Southeast from Haines to Prince Rupert. In the 70s, they built airports throughout Southeast except in Haines and started jet service. They also moved the Juneau Ferry Terminal to Auke Bay, thus saving seven hours on the Haines and Sitka runs, and started building the North Juneau Highway to the protected ice-free port in Berner's Bay. In the 80s, they built the Klondike Highway to Whitehorse, greatly reducing Skagway's dependency on Juneau and the ferry system.

Since Haines didn't qualify for jet service or a new paved runway it was serviced by small wheel planes. That finally changed years later after many problems. Then Seaplanes started operating modern 10-seat jet-prop IFR aircraft with generous cargo capacity. With jet and prop jet service our state capitol is no longer dependent on the ferries except for moving vehicles. Since Haines is dependent on Juneau and not the reverse, we need to access Juneau's markets by noon for $60, not two days and $120, basing the ferry in Haines and Juneau passengers for one day service. Terminating at Berner's Bay would cut travel and state costs by half.

Dave Werner

'Don't it always seem to go?'

"Son this ain't a game no more, it's the real thing." - Bob Dylan. Former President Trump referred to poor undeveloped nations as "shithole countries." Agree or not, the cause of their poverty is that they were all resource extraction colonies for the "great nations of Europe" who plundered ivory, diamonds, hardwoods in Africa, tin, silver, gold, hardwoods in South America. Today it's multinational corporations - Mitsubishi, Rio Tinto Zinc, Chevron - entering regions by force or subterfuge, promising economic salvation, ripping off the resources and leaving social and environmental devastation behind.

Two CVN front page stories made me wonder if we're next. Multi-billion-dollar Japanese smelting company DOWA now owns the Palmer Project. NWFP Inc. is high bidder on the Baby Brown 1,000-acre timber sale. NWFP is Oregon-based but owner Stan Runnels' Facebook page shows him loading logs onto the freighter Xing Ning Xu. Guess where those logs are headed. DOWA doesn't promise us anything, but they will certainly leave behind a toxic legacy. Mr. Runnels' former company Astoria Forest Products promised "a good deal for Haines" in 2016, but never explained what was good about the deal. If Stan sticks around to log 6,000

See LETTERS page 6

DUSTY from page 1

were given official notice in late March, Ghan said. Various community organizations and businesses have helped move tenants.

"We've had a couple partners like Haines Presbyterian and Haines Christian Center. IGA and Olerud's have provided boxes," Ghan said. "Those two churches have spearheaded efforts to help elderly and disabled residents pack. They've been pretty instrumental in helping us out."

Dusty Trails is fully occupied and has a waitlist.

Save the Date

If you would like to list your event or learn of any virtual events occurring in town please email the CVN at chilkatnews@gmail.com or call 766-2688.

Thursday, April 15

Tai Chi Part 2, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Free Tai Chi classes for people over the age of 60 and for unpaid caregivers of older adults. For those with prior Tai Chi experience. Every Monday and Thursday through June 10. Call (907) 463-6147 to register.

Solid Waste Working Group meeting, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For more information see the Borough website.

Haines Public Library Board meeting, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. See Borough website for login information.

Friday, April 16

Library Radio Show, 8:45 a.m. on KHNS, 102.3 FM.

Hamburger feed, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion. Every Friday.

Saturday, April 17

Women's Christian Fellowship meeting, 1:00 p.m. at the Port Chilkoot Bible Church. Original meeting on April 10 was postponed to this date.

Monday, April 19

PRAC meeting, 4:30 p.m. For more information see the Borough website.

Tuesday, April 20

After School Nature Hikes, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the front of the school. Every Tuesday until the end of the school year.

School Board Workshop, 6:30 p.m. in the School cafeteria. Open to the public.

Commerce Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. For more information see the Borough website.

Wednesday, April 21

Nature Hikes, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for third through fifth graders. Meet at the fairgrounds.

Public Safety Commission meeting, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. For more information see the Borough website.

Thursday, April 22

Earth Day.

Ports & Harbors Advisory Board meeting, 10:30 a.m. For more information see the Borough website.

Friday, April 23

Earth Day event: Reduce our waste in the Chilkat Valley, 6:00-7:00 p.m. via Zoom. See www.hainesrecycle.org to learn more and for the meeting login. Call 766-2185 for more information.

Saturday, April 24

Bear Safety training course, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Takshanuk Watershed Council's pavilion at the end of Sawmill Road. This is an in-person presentation by Takshanuk Watershed Council with ADF&G wildlife biologists. There will be an electric fence demonstration, a bear spray demonstration and practice, and educational stations to learn more about wildlife safety in Haines. Call 766-3542 for more information.

Annual Hospice of Haines Rummage Sale and Treasure Hunt, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be sale locations in the Haines Townsite, the Small Tracts and Mud Bay area, and the Lutak Inlet Roads. Also on Saturday, May 1. A "treasure map" of sale locations will be posted three days prior to each sale. For more information and how to participate, call 766-3669 or 766-2852 or visit www.hospiceofhaines.org.

Spring Fling, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. SEAK State Fair's Annual membership and spring kick-off!

Sunday, April 25

Chilkat Tower Open House, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the new short term rental on Main Street. Presented by the BoB and Joanie Sundstrom.

Tuesday, April 27

Personnel Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. For more information see the Borough website.

Assembly meeting, 6:30 p.m. For more information see the Borough website.

Saturday, May 1

Rescheduled Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration, 10:00 a.m. at the American Bald Eagle Foundation. View day-long activities at www.cvorchardproject.org. Call 314-0331 for more information. Presented by the Chilkat Valley Historical Society.

Giselle Miller receives Arts Educator Award

By Avery Williamson

Haines School art teacher Giselle Miller received the 2021 Arts Educator Champion Award on April 7. She will officially be announced the winner on April 15 at the "Alaska's Heart through Student Art Show." In past years, the event has been hosted in-person in Juneau, but this year it will be virtual.

The Alaska Arts Education Consortium hosts this competition annually. The AAEC has four designated categories for artists. The AAEC describes the winner of this award as a teacher who "exemplifies the impact arts education can have on children and youth."

Administrative assistant Tiana Perry-Traudt nominated Miller for the award.

"Giselle is an amazing teacher and artist," said Perry-Traudt, "And the students and staff in Haines love her."

Perry-Traudt provided the AAEC with many examples of how Miller spreads the importance of art. Perry-Traudt said one of Miller's greatest accomplishments was her organization of the origami cranes after December's landslide. More than 1,000 colorful cranes were hung throughout the school–they could be found taped to walls or hanging from ceilings.

"We did origami right after the landslide and well into January," said Miller. "All levels of students were doing the origami and they were put up all in the school as a remembrance for Jenae (Larson) and David (Simmons)."

Miller was also recognized for creating an online art show and making artistic videos last spring during the COVID-19 lockdown. She said she created these videos to help explain art projects for students stuck at home. These can be found on her YouTube channel Glacier Bear Art Room.

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, Miller tie-dyed the white cloth masks the school was providing for students.

"We tie-dyed so many masks. I don't even know how many we did," said Miller. "All the students were given three masks and I did it with students first through twelfth grade. I did this at the beginning of the year."

Miller said she plans on publishing a website in May to display students' work from this school year. The website will be accessible through hbsd.net.

Miller is the second Haines teacher to receive the Arts Educator award. The previous art teacher Linnus Danner won the award her final year of teaching in 2019.

More information about the AAEC can be found at https://akartsed.org/.

Duly Noted

By Sarah Elliott

The **Olen Nash** Memorial Big Air Competition was held on Sunday, Apr. 11 at 36 Mile Haines Highway. Organizers were middle and high school students **Leo Wald, Arik Miller, Dalton Henry, Griffin Culbeck, Hayden Jimenez** and **Willow Oakley**. Arik, Willow, Dalton, and Leo camped out on Friday night and worked all day Saturday to build the jumps with help from Hayden and Griffin. More than 50 adults and kids came out on a bluebird day to support the skiers and snowboarders. **Amanda Painter, Jordan Baumgartner** and **Jen Talley** judged the three divisions.

In the Beginner Division, **Juniper Brownell** took first place, **Makayla Henry** placed second, and **Sydney Salmon** third.

In the Intermediate Division**, Hayden Jiminez** attempted a single ski jump and a reverse 360 for third place. **Camelia Bell** stuck a high-flying ski grab to tie with **Griffin Culbeck**. Griffin earned first place by landing a massive jump that got the most air of his division.

In the Advanced Division, **Arik Miller** took second place. Arik's jump got about 10 feet of air while completing 360s and jumps with twists and grabs. **Leo Wald** sealed first place in the advanced division by completing a backflip.

Other jumpers were **Koa Doddridge** and **Dalton Henry.** Honorable mention went to 5-year old **Zephyr Cox** as the youngest jumper.

On Tuesday Koa won a Never Summer snowboard that was donated by the company after a prize drawing.

Doris Peck celebrated her 92nd birthday on March 30 with tea at The Assembly of God Church and a get together in the commons area at Senior Village where she lives independently. She said it was the first time anyone at the village gathered together in more than a year, and she and her eight neighbors and friends enjoyed chatting together again. Doris said, "I am grateful for another year."

Doris came to Klukwan in 1985 with her husband as he was hired to be the pastor in the village. She said Haines and Klukwan have been home to her ever since. Her husband passed away in 2005. Doris said, "I am grateful for the years the Lord has given me and for blessing me with a clear mind. I want to continue to be a blessing to this community. I've had a good life and I had parents that loved me. You don't always realize that when you're young. My parents really loved me and I am grateful to the Lord for their love."

Joe Ordonez recently recorded a few **Robert Service** poems with the assistance from **Zac Hudson** of Skagway who is cutting the records. Recordings include a rap version of Service's classic "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Ordonez's daughter, **Stella Ordonez**, will produce the original art for the album cover. Other poems on the record are "The Spell of the Yukon" and "the Shooting of Dan McGrew" as well as a more traditional version of "The Cremation of Sam McGee."

"I give a little spoken introduction to each one," Ordonez said. They are 14 minutes per side. Henry Leasia helped with recording the poems.

Ordonez said he will give KHNS a record soon and he is hoping the rap version will get a little air time from volunteer DJs. Eventually, he will have the records available to purchase on his website www.tourhaines.com and he can also be reached at joe@joeordonez.com.

Chilkat Valley News

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The CVN is hiring a full-time reporter!
Salary negotiable.
Email editor.chilkatnews@gmail.com for more information or to apply.

Received by AMCO 12.2.21

Professional skier heliskis in Haines

By Sarah Elliott

American professional big mountain freeskier Lexi DuPont is currently in Haines heliskiing with SEABA. She is an athlete for BLANK collective films and on Eddie Bauer's First Ascent guide team.

DuPont started out on skis at the age of two. Her mother, freestyle skier Holley DuPont, was one of the first females to land a backflip on skis. Her parents (Holley and Chris DuPont) along with other members of her family visited Haines about two weeks ago with Stellar Adventure Travel.

Growing up in Sun Valley and Boulder, she pursued ski racing, competing on the Sun Valley ski team. She attended Endicott College in Massachusetts on a sailing scholarship but after a year decided to transfer to the University of Colorado and join their Freestyle Ski Team. She entered the Freeskiing World Tour in 2009 at the age of 20. DuPont lives in Sun Valley in a 500-square foot geodesic dome when she is not traveling the world. She is eight generations out from Éleuthère Irénée DuPont, a French chemist who brought gunpowder to the U.S.

"I've struggled with having this household name and being connected to such a powerful family built on so much destruction. It has been a huge conflict my entire life, knowing that they've created these really harmful chemicals that have had a negative impact on the environment," DuPont said. I've accepted it and learned how to take some of those daggers and evil things and turn them into positives. Here I am coming from the family that invented plastic, yet I'm plastic free and living in a fully passive home. There are no more excuses; we can all do the right thing."

DuPont has been skiing in Alaska for more than 10 years and has been called one of the best big mountain female skiers in the world.

"Alaska is real scary," DuPont said. "It demands all of your attention and all of your practice and all of your history."

This is her 12th time visiting Haines and skiing the big lines complements of some of the highest coastal mountains in the world. You can watch her recently-released ski movie, "Shaped by Descent" about her time in Haines on iTunes.

CLERK from page 1

at were hiring a deputy clerk, finding a full clerk to step in temporarily and having a new interim manager," Mayor Douglas Olerud said in an interview Monday. He said locals with clerk experience were unavailable, as were the previous managers the borough contacted.

Olerud said he didn't reach out to Schnabel.

"Hiring a deputy clerk is the most feasible option," Fullerton said. At the April 2 meeting, she advocated for that option, saying the position should be filled regardless of whether the borough brings on an interim clerk or manager, as borough staff are already overburdened.

The borough hasn't had a deputy clerk since 2018 when Fullerton was promoted to clerk after Julie Cozzi retired.

The application deadline for deputy clerk is April 26.

Assembly to consider Beach Road tax exemption

By Ceri Godinez

Beach Road property owners cut off from electricity and road access may receive a reduction in taxes for the current fiscal year.

The assembly at a meeting Tuesday asked interim manager Alekka Fullerton to draft an ordinance that would allow the borough to offer tax relief to disaster-impacted property owners by retroactively revising assessed property value.

On March 10, the borough mailed notices of value to all property owners. Assessed values are based on property condition as of Jan. 1 and, combined with mill rate, determine how much a person owes in property taxes for the upcoming fiscal year.

After receiving the notifications, several Beach Road residents asked for a moratorium on taxes while their properties remained cut off from the rest of town.

"How are you going to charge me taxes for a piece of property you won't let me go to? We're asking that from December 2 on, all taxes be prorated until services are returned," Beach Road resident Todd Winkel said in an interview with the CVN in late March.

In response, borough officials looked into the issue.

"This was a lot more complicated than people first thought it was," interim manager Alekka Fullerton said, breaking the issue into taxes for the current fiscal year (FY21) and taxes for the fiscal year that begins July 1 (FY22).

"FY22 taxes should not truly be at issue since the properties have been reassessed as of January 1, 2021. The property owners have been made whole since the value of the property was reduced," Fullerton wrote in a memo to the assembly. On April 13, the assembly voted to reopen the neighborhood, a first step in restoring services to the area.

For the purpose of FY22 taxes, land value for homes in the Beach Road "green zone" was reduced by 35%. Land value for homes in the mandatory evacuation zone was reduced by 50%, and land value for properties destroyed by the Dec. 2 landslide was reduced by 95%. The value of structures on the properties was reevaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Property taxes for Beach Road homes in the current fiscal year is a separate issue, Fullerton said.

"In November, the Beach Road residents paid property tax for FY21 based on their January 1, 2020 assessment. The borough, like many other jurisdictions, currently does not allow a reassessment based on a tragedy which occurs during the tax year," Fullerton said. Offering a reduction in property taxes for the current fiscal year would require changing code.

Lowering property taxes would require adjusting either the mill rate or the assessed value of the property. Fullerton said after some research, the borough determined a change to the mill rate would be a "very bad idea."

"There are all kinds of protections in terms of taxpayer protections, constitutional protections, equal protection under the law. There's all kinds of other issues involved with disparate property tax," Fullerton said. She pointed out that completely exempting Beach Road property owners from property taxes doesn't make sense since the tax covers borough services like the school.

The other option involves reassessing home values midyear. Under current state law, tax adjustments are allowed for properties affected by disasters.

"The municipality may by ordinance provide for assessment or reassessment and reduction of taxes for property destroyed, damaged, or otherwise reduced in value as a result of a disaster," the statute reads.

Fullerton noted that passing such an ordinance would mark a change in borough policy, which could open the assembly to criticism.

"There are undoubtedly people who will say that this is unfair because they personally had a disaster, they personally had a house burn down and this was not done for them," Fullerton said at Tuesday's meeting.

Assembly member Paul Rogers said despite the concern, he thought the change had merit, making a distinction between individual tragedies like a structure burning down and a disaster impacting an entire neighborhood.

"We would have to clearly define what we mean by disaster. My desire would be for us to pursue the opportunity that the state has afforded us and to apply it to a large-scale disaster, something along the lines of what we experienced in December," he said.

The assembly directed Fullerton to draft an ordinance for consideration at the next regular meeting on April 27.

Woman arrested for hitting, cutting a man with broken glass

By Kyle Clayton

Police charged a 33-year-old woman Monday morning with domestic violence assault, a class B felony, after she allegedly hit her boyfriend in the head with a glass jar in a home on South Sawmill Road.

Police chief Heath Scott arrived at the scene where he noticed "a large amount of blood" on the kitchen floor and near the doorway.

The man also sustained a deep cut to his thumb.

"He believed it was cut when he placed his head down and raised his arms in a defensive posture," Scott wrote in a probable cause statement. "(He) said she was hitting him with the glass when he felt blood dripping down his arm."

The man was transported to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium clinic where he received three surgical staples to close the wound on the back of his head. He was prepped for a medevac because doctors thought his hand would require surgery, according to the probable cause statement.

The man told police the woman possessed methamphetamine along with "scales, baggies and needles."

The woman, who sustained a small cut to her hand, was searched at the clinic and no drugs were found.

Her vehicle was also searched. No drug charges were filed as of Tuesday afternoon.

She was arraigned in court Tuesday. The judge held her on a $2,500 cash bond and she later posted bond. The woman was ordered not to have contact with the man or use controlled substances.

The woman has an arrest warrant on her in Montana in connection with a misdemeanor violation, Scott said.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 23.

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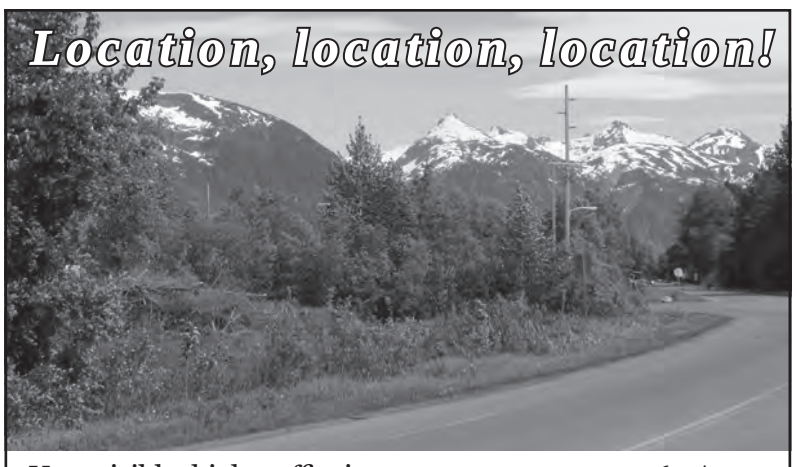
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RE-SCHEDULED
Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstrations
Orchard Project "Pruning Day" re-scheduled to **Saturday, May 1**
BEGINS: 10am at the American Bald Eagle Foundation.
View day-long activities at www.cvorchardproject.org; info at 314-0331.
(A program of the Chilkat Valley Historical Society, Inc)

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For applications contact: www.hbsd.net "Counselor's Page"
Deadline is April 30, 2021

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Want to reduce your waste?
Recycle, Re-Purpose, Re-use!
Want to save money?
How can we extend the life of the landfill?
EARTH DAY
Join us for an **Earth Day Zoom Conference** on **Friday, April 23rd from 6-7pm. Learn about "Reduce Our Waste Together"** a joint effort between Haines Friends of Recycling and the Borough Solid Waste Working Group.
Visit **EarthDay.org** for more information about Earth Week events.
April 20th- Global Youth Climate Summit
April 21st- Teach for the Planet
April 22nd- Restore Our Earth
Meeting ID: 988 2783 6193
Passcode: 99827
For more information call 766-2185.

☺ *Gather Your Goods for the Annual Hospice of Haines*
Rummage Sale and Treasure Hunt
You can help us provide services by hosting your own backyard sale tables and donating any percentage of your choice to Hospice. ☺
☺ Saturday, April 24th, 10 am -2 pm — Participant sale tables will be: in the Haines Townsite, Small Tracts Rd., Mud Bay Rd. & Lutak Inlet neighborhoods
☺ Saturday, May 1st, 10 am- 2 pm — Participant sale tables will be: in the Haines Townsite & the upper Chilkat Valley
A "Treasure Map" of participating sale locations will be posted 3 days prior to each sale.
***To be added to the map*, please call by 5 days prior to the sale days.**
For more information and the "how to" details", call 766 3669 or 766 2852 or visit www.hospiceofhaines.org or the Hospice of Haines Facebook page.

Received by AMCO 12.2.21

(Un)Classified Ads

DON'T WAIT, it is too important for mom or dad. Applications being accepted. Two apartments are open for Senior Assisted Living with a Medicaid Waiver-approved certification. Applications do not guarantee occupancy @ Haines Assisted Living Inc. Medical evaluation is required. Call (907) 766-3616 ext. #1, 9 AM - 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday. (cb)

NURSE: Part-time position 20 hours a week, $30 an hour depending on experience. Working with senior citizens at Haines Assisted Living caring for our elderly. Caring gene required. Call (907) 766-3616 for application, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM M - Th. (cb)

HAINES ASSISTED LIVING, Inc. is recruiting for an individual that can work with elders as a "Personal Assistant" and part-time office help. Training available, please note this is a very demanding position, a background check is required and working night shift may be required. Not everyone will meet this challenge and have the "caring gene" required. $15 an hour is the starting wage. Equal opportunity employer. ((907) 766-3616 extension #4) (cb)

NOTICE OF POSITION VACANCY: Math Teacher/Generalist for FY22. Closes 4/30/21. Please contact Ashley at 766-6725 or ashley@hbsd.net for more info. (14-15b)

HAINES BOROUGH JOB
Deputy Clerk

Temp, FT position which could become regular, FT, Starting salary: $19.87/hr. For more info check www.hainesalaska.gov. Send or bring app to Clerk at afullerton@haines.ak.us - open until filled with first review date 4/26/21. (14-15b)

The Salvation Army Family Store

Winter Hours
Thursday - Saturday
12 pm - 4 pm
Accepting Donations
(by appt. only)

Worship Service
11:00 am
Sunday

5th & Union Street 766-2470

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Shannon McPhetres has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Doris Lou Owen Ward, deceased. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.
Mail claims to:
Shannon McPhetres
P.O. Box 1192
Haines, AK 99827
Published in the Chilkat Valley News, April 1, April 8, and April 15, 2021.

Good advice on taxes: be reasonable

Commentary by Larry Persily

Though the Legislature is not looking to adopt a state sales tax or income tax this year, most lawmakers know it is inevitable. And most Alaskans should know it, too, considering how we have dipped into savings more than half of the past 30 years to pay for services and the revenue gap is only getting worse.

But which tax? Which is fairest to the largest number of people? Which is best (least worst) for the economy? And how do taxes compare with further cuts in public services and the prospect of an even smaller Permanent Fund dividend to balance the budget?

The House Ways and Means Committee, which is trying to better understand the options, the pros and cons for when Alaskans are ready to accept the end of their tax-free life, held a hearing last Saturday to learn from two people who have thought a lot about the questions.

The underlying premises facing Alaskans are: State revenues and spending do not match; overdrawing the Permanent Fund is recklessly irresponsible and would damage the fund long term; more budget cuts hurt communities and people; so, at some point, Alaskans need to pay something toward the services they want and enjoy.

Carl Davis, research director at the Washington, D.C.-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, and Brad Keithley, a former resource law attorney turned founder of the group Alaskans for Sustainable Budgets, ran through economic models, charts and numbers of multiple tax types for the committee.

Aside from all the projections and assumptions and graphs showing who is wounded the most, or least, by a state income tax, sales tax or smaller dividends, Davis and Keithley offered some simple yet sound advice to Alaskans.

"Try to stay clear of any hyperbole," Davis said near the end of his presentation. The risk is that emotional, politicized economic projections can mess up intelligent debate and decisions.

"There is no clear best" tax type for Alaska, Keithley said. It's a matter of balancing the effects on jobs, on different regions of the state and the overall Alaska economy.

"In most places, taxes are a fact of life," Davis reminded lawmakers.

Alaskans will do well to remember those words of advice when we finally summon the political courage to decide how we want to pay for state-funded public services.

Taxes are not popular, but they will not destroy Alaska, and maybe they will even help. Just think of the time elected officials, candidates and the general public could better spend on other issues if we could solve our decades-long tax-free fantasy.

-- The Wrangell Sentinel

KNIFE from page 1

"They said, 'Gordon saw the video, and he loves it and he would love the knife.' We exchanged info, and I sent the knife to him," Barrett said. Ramsay's press office didn't respond to a request for comment by press time.

Barrett said the video has served its purpose, yielding great results for his business. Within a week, his TikTok account had 60,000 new followers, and he's now getting daily requests for custom knives. Most of the requests are for kitchen knives, although he receives the occasional odd request.

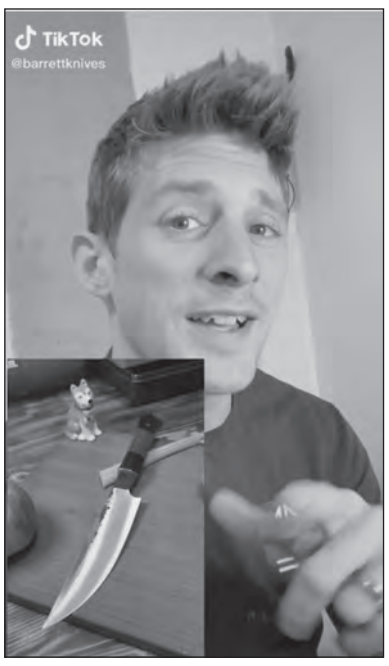
"An eight-year-old kid messaged me the other day, saying, 'Can you make me a throwing star?'" Barrett said. "I thought, uh, you should probably have your dad message me."

Barrett said he's in the process of finalizing paperwork and licensing to make the knife business official. He started bladesmithing five years ago, learning from Google and YouTube, and "lots and lots of trial and error." He said he thought of it as a hobby for many years.

"I did it because I thought it was super cool and very interesting because it wasn't very modern. It's kind of a lost art," he said.

A few months before the COVID-19 pandemic began, Barrett decided to try to make bladesmithing his full-time job, counting on tourists as a big source of his market. And then everything shut down.

"I was super concerned because I didn't know how we were going to keep going. That's what got me to download TikTok. Someone said it was good for exposure," Barrett said. He estimates that, at this point, 90% of his requests come from the platform.



Local bladesmith Trevor Barrett offered celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay a knife in a TikTok video as a marketing ploy. The video paid off, gaining 1 million views in its first day and eventually capturing Ramsay's attention. Photo courtesy of Trevor Barrett.

Local Weather

Sponsored in part by Haines True Value Home Center 766-2595

In Town

Day	Date	High	Low	Precip.
Tue	April 6	37	26	0.15
Wed	April 7	35	18	0.09
Thu	April 8	30	19	1.39
Fri	April 9	29	13	0.00
Sat	April 10	21	9	0.00
Sun	April 11	35	13	Trace
Mon	April 12	40	33	0.15

Dalton Cache Border Station

Day	Date	High	Low	Precip.
Tue	April 6	34	23	0.11
Wed	April 7	32	19	0.00
Thu	April 8	30	22	1.01
Fri	April 9	21	15	0.00
Sat	April 10	35	11	0.00
Sun	April 11	39	35	0.00
Mon	April 12	43	36	0.00

Snow Depth: 29 inches

ALASKA SEAPLANES
FLYING AT A HIGHER STANDARD
Spring 2021 Flight Schedule
April 5 - May 31

Depart JNU	Arrive HNS	Depart HNS	Arrive JNU
7:30am	8:05am	8:20am	9:30am *Daily* via SGY
1:00pm	**2:15pm** via SGY	**2:30pm**	**3:05pm** *Daily*
3:30pm	4:05pm	4:20pm	4:55pm *Daily*

	Depart HNS	Arrive SGY	Depart SGY	Arrive HNS
Daily	8:20am	8:35am	2:00pm	2:15pm

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Received by AMCO 12.2.21

BEACH from page 1

One was the weather, which was the trigger. But for some reason the slide occurred there and not elsewhere," said local geologist Cindy Buxton, who owns property in the "red zone" on Beach Road.

The report describes a "lobe of material" near the top of the slide path that was observed in pre-slide LiDAR imaging of the zone and is "interpreted to be a significant source of area for the Beach Road landslide." High groundwater pressure, caused by heavy rains, likely triggered movement at the toe of the lobe.

The report hypothesizes that the area where the slide occurred had thicker deposits of "colluvium" (loose, unconsolidated sediment that tends to collect at the base of steep slopes) than the surrounding area because of a fault line running up the hillside on the town side of the slide path.

"The fault would have broken up the bedrock which would have been otherwise solid, allowing water to infiltrate and weather the rock, making it more susceptible to sliding. The other thing noted by (state geologists) was that at the top of the slide, a stream was pouring right into it. You have water, broken rock, a steep slope, and it led to a slide," Buxton said. "I find that encouraging because that means it's localized. It gives you some confidence that the same conditions aren't everywhere else in the neighborhood."

The report lists eight potential geologic hazards that could still pose a threat to the neighborhood, rating each in terms of risk and likelihood of occurrence. Landslide Technology senior associate engineer George Machan, primary author of the report, said he thinks the list encompasses most potential threats.

Scenarios include catastrophic failure of landslide debris, localized failure of debris, loose boulders rolling downhill, crumbling of slopes near the top of the slide path, slumping of the tension crack observed in ground adjacent to the slide, failure of bedrock slopes on either side of the slide, failure of colluvial slopes on either side of the slide, and erosion of the bedrock newly exposed by the slide.

Most scenarios were given low to moderate risk and likelihood of occurrence ratings with the exception of the catastrophic failure of the existing slide debris, failure of adjacent colluvial slopes and erosion of the newly exposed bedrock. The catastrophic failure of slide debris is classified as "a high-risk event with low likelihood of occurrence." The colluvial slope failure is considered moderate to high risk with low to moderate likelihood of occurrence. Bedrock erosion is considered low to moderate risk with a high likelihood of occurrence.

The crack observed in the ground adjacent to the Dec. 2 landslide is classified as a "low-to moderate-risk event with moderate likelihood of occurrence" in the report. Prior to the report, state geologists had flagged the crack as a potentially serious threat to the neighborhood, although they said they lacked the data to accurately assess the risk level and likelihood of occurrence.

Machan said the crack was likely created when the adjacent slope failed on Dec. 2.

"As debris moved downslope, it dragged on the ground to the side, and that dragging effect could cause some of the slope to displace," he said in an interview Tuesday. "We're suspecting it's not very deep and could have a limited amount of material. It's more likely a daily, slow-moving process, not a catastrophic one."

According to the report, if the crack were to give way, it would likely fall into the same slide path as before.

Machan said the hazard assessments, like the rest of the report, are preliminary at this point. "Based on what we know, that's how we'd categorize them right now," he said.

The report recommends conducting spring reconnaissance to verify the preliminary findings. The state is in the process of negotiating this contract. It will likely cost somewhere close to $345,527, the price of the winter reconnaissance, according to state geotechnical engineer Travis Eckhoff, who oversaw the winter project.

Although the assembly unanimously supported opening the temporary access road, which until then had been limited to Beach Road residents on ATVs or on foot, they acknowledged the need for ongoing monitoring, particularly as temperatures warm.

"I would expect as things thaw, that that kind of a road will deteriorate," Machan said, addressing assembly members at Tuesday's meeting.

Assembly member Paul Rogers listed a series of safety measures he would like to see put in place.

"We need a sign there that says, 'Travel past this point is at your own risk.' We need to try to make the road stable enough so that if we need an ambulance out there, we can get an ambulance out there... I also think we need, in addition to that, some weekly observations of the road for the foreseeable future," Rogers said.

Todd Winkel, a Beach Road resident who spoke during public testimony, expressed appreciation for the assembly decision. For the past several months, Winkel and other neighborhood residents have been urging the assembly to restore access and power.

"This has been my favorite assembly meeting of the year," Winkel said, adding that he thinks the borough needs to improve communication with residents moving forward.

The newly formed Beach Road task force will include two neighborhood residents and will take up safety considerations for road reopening at its first meeting on Friday.

In addition to the two Beach Road members who, as of Tuesday evening, had yet to be named, the task force includes construction experts Don Turner Jr. and Matt Boron, public facilities director Ed Coffland, interim manager Alekka Fullerton, assembly members Jerry Lapp and Cheryl Stickler, and safety experts and Beach Road property owners Julie and Noble Anderson.

Juniper Brownell, 7, took first place in the beginner's division at the Nash Big Air Ski and Snowboard competition on April 11. The competition took place at 36 mile on Powder Mountain. She said she won the competition by performing a big-air trick. "I think I went as big as me," said Brownell. Photo courtesy of Julie Vance.

LETTERS from page 2

acres of University land, the sediments from 7,000 acres of stump land will join DOWA's heavy metals in the Chilkat. What will Trump call us then?

What shall we, dear readers, say or do, if anything, about this? "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." -Joni Mitchell

Eric Holle

DOWA's running the show now

Last week, Japanese smelter company, DOWA Metals and Mining took over the majority stake in the Palmer Project joint venture. While locating a mine at the source of Glacier Creek, which feeds the Klehini and Chilkat Rivers, has always been a disastrous idea, this is a game-changer.

Constantine has caused considerable strife in our community, between their misinformation campaigns, a half-baked permit application that even ADEC ultimately decided was inadequate to protect us and our water, taking control of community discussions, refusing access to the area to take water samples, and actively trying to block our community's attempts to protect our clean water. DOWA, on the other hand, refuses to engage with us at all. I'm not sure which is worse.

What I do know is that $8.8 million is small change to a multinational corporation developing a mine in a state and country that lack adequate regulatory systems to protect us from mine pollution and disasters. If that $8.8 million advances the Palmer Project to the point where they go underground, we could be facing the same impacts of a full-blown sulfide mine: heavy metals and acid mine drainage leaching into our clean water forever, acid generating tailings, and a plan of operations that fails to address these risks, among others.

DOWA's investment in the Palmer Project is not an investment in our community, but an investment in destruction.

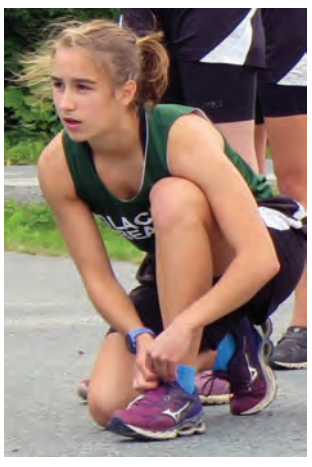
Shannon Donahue

Thanks for helping us soar

The organizers of the Nash Memorial Big Air Contest would like to thank Mike's Bike & Boards, the Alaska Sport Shop, Alaska Backcountry Outfitters, FairWeather Ski Works, AK Heli, Haines Brewing Company, Chilkat Custom Contractors, SEABA, Never Summer Snowboards, and the Port Chilkoot Distillery, as well some individuals such as Dr. Michelle Oakley, Amanda Painter, Jen Talley, and Jordan Baumgartner. Couldn't have done it without any of you! Cheers to a great contest and a super fun day! Thank you all.

Griffin Culbeck

The American Legion Lynn Canal Post 12 would like to Thank and Honor Haley Boron for her courage and dedication, by her commitment to the US Air Force. We are so very proud of you.



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