

THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

August 14, 2020

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

Meet the new chamber president

Floridian transplant found home **PAGE 14**

The line that separates us

Yukoners, Skagwegians foiled at borders **PAGE 5**

Fish This

Understanding anglers **PAGE 6**

Assembly considers mask requirement

By Melinda Munson

On Aug. 6, the Municipality of Skagway Assembly proposed Ordinance 20-16, which would require cloth face coverings in all municipal facilities, including the school, when social distancing of six feet is not possible. If passed, the ordinance would continue as long as the March 16 declaration of emergency, a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, is in effect.

“The way that this ordinance is written is to cover one thing and one thing only and that is liability,” said Mayor Andrew Cremata, who put forth the ordinance.

“...Very clear mandates were coming down from multiple sources including the CDC, the World Health Organization, the state governance, the governor, Dr. Zink and even the president of the United States -- all saying the same thing which was to wear masks,” Cremata said.

According to Cremata, neither the municipality nor the school have insurance to cover claims related to COVID-19.

Cremata said he started working on the ordinance before the school board's Aug. 4 vote which encourages but does not require masks in school as long as social distancing can be maintained and there are no cases of COVID-19 in the community.

In a letter to the assembly on behalf of the school board, Superintendent Josh Coughran wrote, “When it comes to governance of the school and any claims of li-

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A grizzly bear enjoys a fat humpy (pink salmon) in Nelson's Slough on the Dyea tidal flats.

Photo by Jeff Brady

Business grant program passed, some owners disappointed

By Melinda Munson

After more than two months of discussion and planning, Skagway's business grant plan, Resolution 20-32R, was passed unanimously by the assembly on Aug. 6. The program, administered by the Skagway Development Corp. (SDC), will distribute \$1 million in funds to local businesses.

SDC initially requested \$2.5 million for Skagway's business owners. After the municipality received a high volume of applications for the \$1,000 monthly CARES payments, they decided to grant \$1 million to the business program.

Each qualified business can expect to receive between \$1,000 to \$6,000, depending on the number of owners who

apply. Kaitlyn Jared, executive director of SDC, estimated 250-300 businesses will meet the municipality's criteria.

Initially, the Finance Committee discussed giving businesses that employed residents year-round an additional \$250 for each part-time worker and \$500 for each full-time worker. That plan was dropped when it no longer seemed supported by the amount of funding. Most of Skagway's year-round business owners testified at the continuation of the finance meeting, held Aug. 6.

Assemblymember Orion Hanson, owner of Hanson General Contracting, described the decision as “heartless.”

Glacial Coffeehouse owner Shelly O'Boyle was also perturbed.

“It's extremely upsetting to hear that this per employee (payment) was removed ... It's something to say that I recognize that not only are you here for 12 months out of the year but you employ people who are also here,” she said.

Brad Ryan, borough manager, asked the citizens present if they would consider an abatement of water, sewer and trash as compensation for the loss of the proposed employee payment. Most agreed and the committee voted to direct Ryan to present a proposal at the next meeting.

“When you say small businesses were forgotten about

or left behind, it's not incorrect because we should have had all of this all at once. Instead, it's second when we've already committed money to something else,” said Steve Burnham, finance chair.

The \$1 million for business grants, originally expected to be funded from the \$7.4 million Skagway received in CARES money, was taken from the municipality's sales tax fund. Ordinances 20-14 and 20-15 allowed the municipality to put \$1 million of CARES funding towards public safety, freeing \$1 million in sales tax so businesses don't have to abide by CARES rules.

“One of the reasons this has taken us too long is trying

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Letters

Dear Editor,

I was so sad to read today of the passing in 2019 of Buckwheat Donohue. He left a lasting impression on me when I visited Skagway in 2005 as a member of The Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale. My wife and I had visited Alaska in a 2004 cruise and Skagway was one of our stops. However, in 2005 the "Philly" Boys Choir (90 boys and 25 men) made their first visit to Alaska (also a cruise.)

We were all so impressed with the spirit and friendliness of your own ambassador of goodwill, Buckwheat Donohue. While there, we took a short hike to a quaint quiet location by the river where Buckwheat mesmerized us with his excellent dramatic recitation of several adventure poems about fictional Alaskan characters. He had us all in the palm of his hands. We also had a terrific spaghetti lunch in the local Presbyterian Church and then did something I do not believe the choir had ever done before-- we marched down the main street and sang a few patriotic songs as we headed to the main square. There we sang a few more songs, exchanged pleasantries with Buckwheat and presented him with a small souvenir Liberty Bell, sent with us from the mayor of Philadelphia. Buckwheat promised to put it on his mantel next to The Holy Bible.

I heard later that he was planning a walking trip from Florida all the way to Alaska to raise funds for a clinic in Skagway, and I often wondered if that ever happened. Today I found out that he did make it all the way to Alaska, and I also sadly read of his passing last year. He was a fine human being who certainly won the hearts of The Philadelphia Boys Choir in 2005, and we will never forget this fantastic experience with Buckwheat Donohue. He certainly loved Skagway, as did we.

L. Bruce Smith, Baritone Singer in Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale



Buckwheat Donohue circa 2015

Skagway News file photo

The Skagway News welcomes opinion pieces and letters to the editor. Opinion pieces should be no longer than 600 words and will be published based on availability and relevance to current and local events. Letters to the editor should not exceed 250 words.

Submit letters and opinions to editor@skagwaynews.com.

Letters may be edited for grammar and length.

Considering masks for all municipal buildings

continued from page one

ability therein, we are a sovereign entity. The Skagway School Board respectfully asks the assembly to remove the inclusion of the school building from this ordinance."

He added that "expecting an athlete to complete a practice in a mask is both untenable and potentially dangerous."

"This is not a school board related issue," Cremata told the chambers. "The school board is autonomous, we respect that autonomy and will continue to do so."

The assembly voted unanimously to move the ordinance to a second reading with no discussion or amendments. The ordinance's second reading is scheduled for the next assembly meeting, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

"We wanted to vet this thoroughly through the commu-

nity so that the assembly has every weapon at their disposal to make an informed decision," Cremata said.

Community member Kellie Curtin started a petition on change.org requesting that the municipality include private businesses in the mask ordinance. As of deadline, 332 residents had signed the petition and many wrote to the assembly in support of the plan.

Casey Sheridan disagreed with the petition, saying a mask mandate would "rob the citizens of their right to choose whether or not to wear a mask and also businesses of their right to enforce their own policies for their own stores."

Sheridan said he started his own petition and collected 51 signatures.



photo by Melinda Munson

Alaskan Fry Bread and The Local Jeweler are among many stores operating at significantly reduced hours in the absence of a cruise ship season.

Business grants on the way

continued from page one

to eliminate red tape so that we're not making businesses jump through hoops and bend over backwards to qualify for CARES funding," Burnham said.

It will be at least a few more weeks until applications for the business grant program are available.

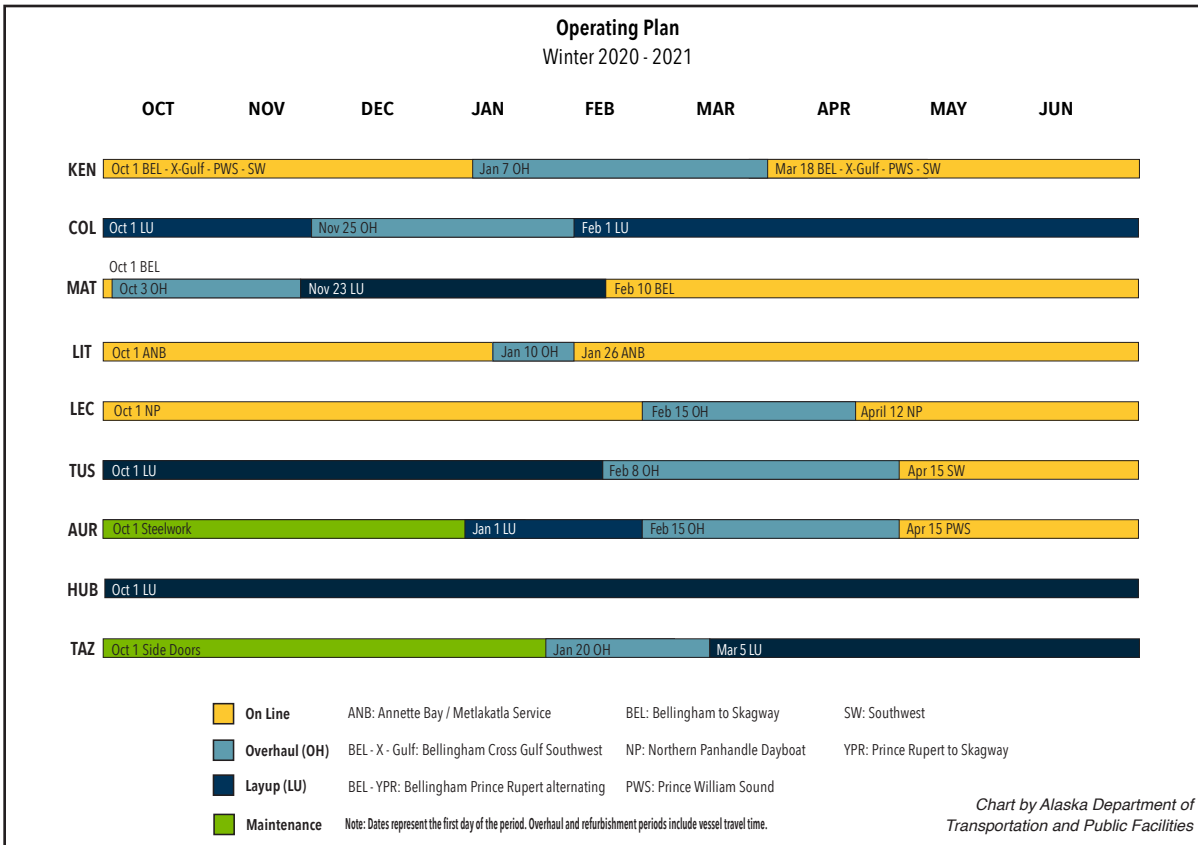
"...The scope of work for SDC to manage the program was not on the Aug. 6 agenda and that still has to be approved by the assembly. This

means we must wait until the next assembly meeting on August 20," Jared said.

SDC will process the grant applications and make recommendations to the municipality, which will be in charge of disbursing checks and handling denials and appeals.

Along with possibly forgiving city utilities, the municipality is also considering some form of property tax abatement for small businesses.

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AMHS public comments due today

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposed Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) winter operating plan is now available for public review, but only through today, Aug. 14.

AMHS says the plan is based on expected funding levels for fiscal year 2021, citing significantly lower than expected revenues they credit to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan includes minimal essential service to most communities. Service gaps will still impact the plan due to vessel overhauls and layups as a result of available funding for specific repairs and maintenance.

In the plan, the Matanuska will cover Bellingham, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Haines, Skagway, Sitka and Kake, beginning Feb. 10, 2021.

The LeConte will cover

Lynn Canal to Haines and Skagway as well as intermittent trips to Sitka and Kake until its overhaul starting Feb. 15 through April 12, 2021. There will be service gaps for Hoonah, Gustavus, Angoon, Pelican and Tenakee during the overhaul.

The Kennicott will cover Bellingham/Cross-Gulf, Prince William Sound, Homer and Kodiak through Jan. 6, resuming service March 18, 2021. Ports included in the schedule are Bellingham, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Whittier, Cordova, Homer and Kodiak on a two-week cycle. Prince William Sound, Homer and Kodiak will see service gaps during the overhaul.

Liuya will continue to cover Ketchikan and Annette Bay, stopping for its two-

week overhaul from Jan. 10 through Jan. 26, 2021.

Homer, Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Chain will be served by Tustumena beginning April 15.

DOT&PF said there will be no service to Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Valdez, Seldovia, Ouzinkie and Port Lions. There is an indefinite hold on service to Prince Rupert.

Communities and interested people can review and submit comments on the proposed operating plan through Aug. 14. There will not be a public teleconference during the comment period. Written comments are being accepted via email at dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov and by fax at (907) 228-6873.

The operating proposal can be found [HERE](#).

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LeConte crewmember tests positive, vessel skips port call

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

An Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) crew member on the LeConte tested positive for COVID-19 last Saturday, initiating tests for every crewmember on the same shift. AMHS has since reported that all 23 crew results came back negative.

The two-week crew scheduled to arrive on the LeConte Aug. 14 have been tested prior to sailing per AMHS policies requiring each crewmember to show proof of negative results within seven days of starting their shift.

According to an AMHS press release, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Epidemiology section determined that an infectious person with COVID-19 may have traveled on the LeConte sometime between July 21 and July 31, but whether or not that person was a passenger is unknown.

The testing and fatigue of the crew due to the incident was the primary reason Capt. John Falvey, AMHS general manager, chose to postpone the Sunday sailing to the

upper Lynn Canal ports of Haines and Skagway.

According to an AMHS spokesperson, high seas and strong winds were reported over the weekend, but the only route to have been affected by the weather was the Juneau to Pelican trip, normally scheduled for Monday. AMHS pushed the round trip to Pelican to Aug. 11, a day the LeConte is normally in port.

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By Gretchen Wehmhoff

In 1981, after college, my friend Marcus and I drove home to Alaska. The adventure is a story in itself, but the relevance today is that it was my first lesson in what not to say to border officers.

Traveling from Chicago and Denver, we met up in Tacoma where my duplicate driver's license would be mailed to my grandmother's home. The license arrived a day after we planned to leave, causing us to lose our ferry reservation to Haines then travel standby during tourist season.

We crossed into BC as two twenty-somethings with no money, his uncle's VISA and my new driver's license with the words "valid without photo" in bold letters substituting for my face.

After tent camping for three days in the rain and not moving up the ferry standby list, we decided to park and sleep in the vehicle boarding line. The last night of camping was so miserable that when we packed the tent, we just shoved it in with the wet tarps and jumped on the hatch. The car, a small Datsun F10, was stuffed to the seams with the tent, sleeping bags, wet tarps, a guitar, saxophone, a record collection, suitcases and my turtle traveling in a small red tackle box. The back seat was down and the contents were pushed against the roof and our backs. Forget using the rearview mirror.

A U.S. customs agent worked his way up the ramp of cars headed for Alaska. He stopped at our vehicle and asked the standard questions: where are you going, where do you live, any weapons?. I answered each question calmly until the last question.

"Do you have any pets?"

I froze. My turtle. Was the

The day I learned about border agents - 40 years ago

turtle illegal? Would I have to give her up? Instead of answering yes or no, I threw out a mouthful of stupid.

"Yeah, there's a German Shepherd in the back seat," I smirked. Obviously we didn't have any pets. Just look at this car.

The agent didn't see the humor. They never do. Don't try.

"Ma'am, I need you and your passenger to step out of the car."

We stepped out. Marcus didn't see the humor either.

"Why did you say that?"

"I dunno. I panicked."

The officer took our IDs, looked at the car and told us to empty it. All of it. Everything.

For the next ten minutes we pulled our lives out for display. The guitar, saxophone, tent, clothes, and yes, the small red tackle box with air holes drilled into the sides.

We stood there waiting in the rain. The agent came back, handed us our IDs and, without even looking at the contents of the car, told us to pack it up and move forward in the line. He made his point. To this day I don't mess with customs agents. Ever.

So when on July 21 I headed towards the Alaska/Canada border during a pandemic, I did my research to make sure I had all my ducks in a row.

My business partner, Melinda, and I took ownership of The Skagway News on March 3. Within a week the world went wild: a global pandemic, cancelled cruise ships, hunker down orders and on March 21, the closing of the U.S./Canada border. I had planned on leaving Skagway later, but with no assurances that I would be able to cross the border, I headed home to Chugiak early. The plan was to return in the summer when we would finish setting up the business and roll through the tourist season.

The border remained closed and the cruise ships never came. Eventually, I needed to get back to Skagway. Melinda's life was stressful enough with several children with special needs and cancelled school. She needed a break and I had work to do on the

computers. We had decisions to make and tasks to accomplish.

I planned carefully. My 2017 Chevy Sonic held boxes of specific food to meet my allergy needs, a sewing machine (rather than a kitchen sink) and items I needed in Skagway. My door pocket held disposable gloves for fueling the car, sanitizer and bug repellent. I had camp chairs, a coffee pot for propane cooking and a 5-gallon honey bucket with plastic liners. I was self-contained.

Athena, my 12 ½ year old dog was coming, so add dog food in a 5-gallon container, extra water and the modified front seat. She had been on practice drives for the past two months, usually a four-hour drive to our cabin on the Kenai Peninsula where she was rewarded with endless exploring and sniffing on our property.

In addition, I had paperwork showing I was a Skagway business owner, the required vet documentation for Athena and a smile.

With construction and pilot cars, the trip to Tok took longer than I had planned. We stopped to stretch our legs and get water several times. On my own, I would have driven straight through, but with Athena, we needed to take more breaks. At one point we stopped in a sunny area for a rest. I let Athena do her thing then returned to the car to retrieve my camp chair. As I approached the car, I saw swarms of black bugs around the car. Flies. Dozens of biting flies. Scrapping the chair idea, we jumped back into the car. I pulled out a few of my solar shades. It was hot even with the sun blockers, but opening the window brought in the flies, so we turned on the AC and took a nap.

By the time we made it to Tok it was 9 p.m. I found an open campground and set out to rearrange the car for the night. I planned to relocate items from the rear up to the front seats, clearing the back so we could stretch out. I had the first window shade up when they attacked - masses of mosquitos in squadrons. They came from all sides. I sprayed my clothes and they

flew into the car. Forget rearranging. I set the empty honey bucket outside my door, put up the last shade and we jumped back into the car.

I swatted, swore and slapped. Athena fought beside me, her head twisting, jaw snapping. We were in a battle for our blood. Eventually, with significant carnage, the buzzing subsided and we settled down, too tired to care anymore.

I pulled a blanket over me, Athena curled up in the passenger seat and we slept - until I had to go pee.

It was 6 a.m. when my bio alarm woke me - time to head across the border. In my sleepy daze I noticed what appeared to be seven or eight pregnant mosquitos. No. They weren't pregnant, they were full. Satiated stomachs filled with blood slowed them down. Killing drunk mosquitos is easier, but messier. I spared a few who flew out the door. A scan of my arms showed that Athena took the brunt of the nighttime feast.

After yesterday's battle with bugs, I was willing to forgo making a pot of coffee. If we left right away, we could make it to Beaver Creek in just over two hours, arriving around 9 a.m. Yukon time.

It took longer. The frost heaves from the Tok cut-off were bad enough, but the miles of potholes on the

Alaska Highway beyond Tok resembled driving through a video game. At a reduced speed and with my eyes glued to the road, we dodged, swerved and maneuvered through some of the worst potholes I've seen in years. Many of the pits were six to eight inches deep - enough to blow out a tire or mess up an axle. The last few times I had driven the road it was winter - no potholes, no frost heaves and definitely no mosquitos or flies.

The Canada border station is about 20 minutes past the U.S. station. I slowed and waited for the border agent to wave me to the window.

I gave him my passport and a handful of papers.

"The papers for my dog are on the bottom," I said.

"I don't need those," he said, handing the veterinarian papers back.

"Where are you headed?"

"Skagway. I'm part-owner of the newspaper there."

"Why are you going now if it's been doing fine without you being there?"

Whoa. I didn't expect that. There was no warning, just a shot across the bow that made me sit up.

"I need to train my partner on new software and finish setting up the business," I said.

"Wait here." He shut his window.

After a few moments he

see next page



Athena, as my co-pilot near Glenallen.

photo by Gretchen Wehmhoff



photo by Gretchen Wehmhoff

Athena curls up for the night in the front seat after the mosquito battle.

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opened the window and directed me to park.

I pulled ahead to a staging area. Another border officer wearing a mask and holding a notebook approached me. He explained that his job was to determine whether or not it was necessary for me to transit Canada to get to Skagway.

He had an answer for everything. When I said I needed my car, he said that wasn't essential. I told him my health and age put me at risk for flying. He asked for a medical note, which I didn't have. I told him I wanted my dog with me, but of course, I didn't have anything to prove that bringing her was important. She wasn't a therapy dog, but she was important to me.

I told him my business partner and I were learning about new software for billing and ads, but he said the software company could train us separately.

He was nice, and actually tried to help me come up with an honest argument that he could accept, but in the end, he said he couldn't deem my trip essential enough to need to drive through Canada.

"I'm going to have to send you back to Alaska."

I tried to bring up the long drive.

"Have you seen the road conditions I just traveled?"

"Yes, and it's like that for the next 200 miles that way," he said, motioning in the direction that was now off limits to me.

I'm normally successful at negotiating my way through tough situations, but this was a border officer and I learned

40 years ago to give them their space.

I asked if my dog could pee on their lawn. He said yes.

When Athena was finished, we returned to the car. He handed me my passport and other documents including a Refusal of Entry paper telling me not to take it personally, that he had turned others around that morning. He emphasized that trying to cross again without significant changes in the purpose could be bad. Those were his words,

"It could be bad."

A little research revealed it could be nearly \$750,000 or the permanent denial of entry into Canada.

I didn't want to jeopardize my ability to enter Canada again. I was out of honest answers, so I drove around the grassy area and headed back to Alaska and the 400 plus miles we had just traveled.

I texted Melinda. The next place I could call from would be Tok. I'm sure those two hours drove her nuts. We passed the pothole minefields, kept our breaks quick, followed the same pilot cars and pulled into my driveway by 8 p.m. that night.

I looked at my packed car. Melinda and her daughter had planned on helping me carry everything up the stairs to the office in Skagway. Now I had to empty it myself. I grabbed my phone, my dog and left it in the driveway. It still isn't totally unpacked.

Athena was confused. We had just spent two days in the car and never made it to the cabin.

Yukoners want to check their boats, border closure rules don't define that as essential

By Gabrielle Plonka
of the Whitehorse Star

More than 20 Yukoners whose boats are harbored in Skagway are seeking a single-day pass to cross the U.S. border and perform maintenance on their vessels.

"All we're trying to do is be able to go check on our boats, make sure they don't sink," Mike Martin told the Star Tuesday.

"All the boats need maintenance to make sure they don't sink or deteriorate or get mold, all these kinds of things."

Martin hasn't visited Skagway in six months.

In a normal year, he would have taken about 10 trips over that six-month period to replace the zincs, check the ropes and top the batteries on his boat. In pre-pandemic summers, Martin would be sailing around Alaska at this time.

Martin's boat isn't insured, and he can't get it surveyed while the border is closed. He worries his vessel may be deteriorating without regular maintenance.

"It might be an inanimate thing, but it actually becomes a friend, and a lot of people feel that with their boats," Martin said.

"You do get bonded to your boat, so it becomes more than just a thing, it's not just a monetary issue, it's

more for a lot of us."

David Storey is another Yukoner concerned about his boat sitting unattended in the Skagway harbor for an unknown period of time.

"I spoke with the border about three months ago and asked if we could come down for a day ... they said that unless the boat was floating free in the harbor and running into other boats, we couldn't come down," Storey told the Star.

"It was rather heartless, I'm afraid."

Storey recruited a friend from Juneau to top his batteries with water, but there are numerous other concerns.

"There are otters in the harbor that get into the boats every now and again, and they'll totally trash your boat if they do," Storey said.

"There are winds that can wreck the canopies and things; all boats leak through their decks, that's kind of what we worry about."

Storey has kept his boat at the Skagway harbor for about eight years.

"A boat is a huge liability and has to be attended to regularly and loved," Storey said.

"You are – forgive the expression – kind of married to them; they require that kind of attention, I guess."

Martin has been in touch with more than 20 Yukoners in a similar situation.

Everybody is trying to find a way down to Skagway, he said. The community is seeking a single-day allowance to drive directly to the harbor, spend three to four hours there, and return home.

"Of course, if any Skagwegians have any problem with this, then we don't want to pursue it at all because it's their country," Martin said.

"We feel that what we're asking for is not going to put anyone at risk if it's done properly."

Travel across the U.S. border is restricted to "essential" purposes only.

A spokesperson for U.S. Customs told the Star those rules won't bend for Yukon boat owners.

"Travel for the sole purpose of checking on a boat is not deemed essential under the temporary travel restrictions," Jaime Ruiz, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Branch Chief, said in an email Wednesday.

"However, if additional circumstances make the travel essential, the traveller may be admissible into the United States."

Some boat owners who corresponded with the Star said they're considering chartered or private flights to Skagway.

They were optimistic that

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Skagway fleet at the small boat harbor.

Photo courtesy of Matt O'Boyle

An elemental essay on the angler

Fish this!



Nicole finds success as a willing angling initiate.

Photo by Andrew Cremata

By Andrew Cremata

At first glance, learning the art of fishing seems like a good idea. Not only does angling reveal a window into nature's most compelling mysteries, it often includes good company, cold beer and the procurement of fresh food. While the latter is only possible when the tools of the trade are rigorously employed to test one's comprehension of natural forces, mastery remains impossible for anyone immune to self-deception.

Indeed, the angler is eager to brag about success but often quickly runs out of beer when plans go awry. This is unfortunate for a variety of reasons and may explain why so many fishermen are notorious alcoholics.

Madness is another very

real threat that any aspiring angler must acknowledge. Consider the following:

A buddy calls and says that coho are running and it's the best run in years. You both meet at your favorite spot at the mouth of the river and you immediately see schools of salmon so large that the water itself is vibrating. Over the next two hours, your buddy catches a dozen dime-bright coho and you catch none.

Now imagine how your mental faculties deteriorate over this short, two-hour-long period of time. At first, you're optimistic and perhaps even a bit giddy. When your buddy catches their first fish and throws friendly jibes in your direction, you quickly laugh it off because it's mere-

ly a promise yet to be fulfilled - i.e., the fish are biting, so you will certainly catch fish.

After 30 minutes and a few missed strikes, you register the first tinge of self-doubt. Your mind tries in vain to suppress its subconscious hesitation, but uncertainty has taken root and is already feeding upon your fragile angler's psyche. After an hour, you begin to question the very nature of luck, karma and other mystical notions of random universal fairness. Your buddy's taunts become daggers and with every stab, you feel the scales of justice teeter toward oblivion.

During the following half-hour, everything goes silent. Even your buddy stops taunting you because they recognize your rapidly deteriorating mental state. They then move further away from your location, obviously afraid that bad mojo is contagious. As the last 30 minutes unfold, time itself stands still. Within this infinite space beyond mortal comprehension, you feel a sense of betrayal but can't pinpoint which divine entity to blame. Scorned by fate itself, you internally vow never to fish again and know immediately that it's a lie.

Sounds fun, right?

The tenuous mental conditions of fishermen are well documented. However, individual case studies involving angler psychosis are far too bleak for a small-town

newspaper column. Medical professionals dedicated to this unique branch of science all agree that fishermen are if nothing else, masochistic, compulsive, obsessive and prone to exaggeration.

If one imagines a graph that compares residency to angler psychosis, Alaskan fishermen are undoubtedly in the upper percentile group. This is a lonely place of abject desperation because, as we all know, the weather in Alaska sucks.

Now imagine yet another graph, this one solely dedicated to Alaskan anglers. As you've already likely guessed, Skagway fishermen somehow occupy space above where the graph ceases to exist. Lack of fish combined with unyielding wind, torrential rains and closed borders makes Skagway a veritable fishing purgatory.

If you are a fisherman that lives in Skagway, ask yourself, "What angling sin have I committed to deserve such cruel and unusual punishment?" Actually, it's better not to ask because atonement for your unknown transgressions is entirely impossible. Angling mystics are in short supply and often preoccupied with conjuring fish for Alaska's commercial fleets. After all, the job pays well and there are many verifiable perks.

It is often said that the last time a fishing guru passed through the Skagway area

was just after World War II. I cannot verify the veracity of these colloquial stories but I can say that Skagway is in dire need of a modern-day fishing mystic with the ability to manipulate weather, control fish movement and power to influence the Canada Border Services Agency.

At this moment in time, nothing in the Trinity of fishing's holy books (see: "The Old Man and the Sea," "A River Runs Through It," and "The Complete Angler") offers any tangible hope. There is no angling prophet scheduled for return that is capable of turning two five-inch-long Lower Lake brook trout into anything more than an unsatisfying snack. Much less feed any gathered throngs of hungry Skagwegians. Have you seen these people eat?

Science is even less helpful. Weather reports are nothing but more "bad news," filled with dire predictions concerning the same elemental forces from which Skagway earned its very name. Gale force winds? Record rainfall? Early winter? Predictions of doom, all!

My advice is to avoid weather reports entirely. Even pondering the tide chart can lead to depression and lunacy if the most advantageous phases of the moon's gravitational pull fail to coincide with one's work schedule.

You may be saying, "But did we not see a small pink salmon run in Dyea?" Indeed we did but greedy bears have staked claim to all of the good fishing spots and I would rather eat boiled hot dogs on a stale bun than become food for any *Ursus* species.

There is one possible caveat. September often brings schools of coho salmon and a buddy tells me it's going to be the best run in years. Will the weather cooperate? Say a prayer for those you know in the Skagway fishing community. If you are unsure whether the fishing gods reward supplicants who do not partake of the holy angler's communion, you are always free to buy any local fisherman a beer.

To this final suggestion, I say, amen.

SKAGWAY HARDWARE

is

OPEN

We offer curbside service.

Give us a call.



907-983-2233

SPRING HOURS

M-F 8 am - 5 pm • Sat. 10 am - 4 pm • Closed Sunday

4th & Broadway

Finance Committee responds to community pleas to help child care providers

By Melinda Munson

Skagway's three for-profit child care centers will receive financial relief from the municipality. The Finance Committee voted Aug. 5 to extend a maximum total of \$25,000 to the day care centers to help get them through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm not anticipating that the economy comes back up right away but we would like the community to try and stay whole while we're waiting for that," said Steve Burnham, finance chair.

The care centers are accustomed to being subsidized by the municipality. Little Cherubs Daycare, which can serve up to 10 children, has received municipal funding since 2011. Mighty Munchkins Daycare, with a capacity of 12, has received funds

since 2016. Little Buck-a-roo Daycare, which operates only during the summer and has a capacity of 12, has been awarded grants since 2016.

Those subsidies disappeared with the passage of Resolution 19-23R in June of 2019. In the past, any community organization could apply for municipal funding. The resolution changed how the municipality processed grants, qualifying only non-profits.

Due to COVID-19, providers were left with fewer working parents and fewer clients. That, along with an absence of funding from the municipality, put the centers in danger of shutting down or raising rates.

The assembly was flooded with letters and testimony in support of funding the child

care facilities.

The money to bail out the centers comes from Skagway Deal funds as all of the CARES funding is already allocated. Little Cherubs and Mighty Munchkins will receive \$750 per child. They will be paid for maximum capacity, not current enrollment.

Buck-a-roo, which operates approximately five months a year, will be awarded \$350 per child.

The emergency fund falls under the purview of the Finance Committee and Borough Manager Brad Ryan and does not need to be approved by the full assembly.

The funding is a temporary measure as the for-profit day care centers, per Resolution 19-14R, will not qualify for municipal funding next year.



photo by Melinda Munson

One of Skagway's two year-round day cares takes a winter walk.

School board passes plan for in-person school starting Aug. 27

By Melinda Munson

The Skagway School Board voted Aug. 4 to implement the 2020-2021 Smart Start to School Coronavirus Plan, declining the ad hoc committee's suggestion that students wear face masks at all times except lunch.

In a vote of four to one with board president John Hischer voting against the mitigation plan, the document looked much the same as the original version presented June 30. While in the green zone (no COVID-19 cases), students are required to wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible. When six

feet of distance can be maintained, students may choose to remove their masks.

Should the school move to the yellow zone (minimal COVID-19 cases), masks would be mandatory. According to the smart start plan, "anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face coverings without assistance" is exempt from the mask policy.

The final draft was a relief to parent Valerie Spurlock.

"While we're in green, it's not healthy or sensible to wear masks all day," she said.

Language about discipline was removed as was the

no-travel policy, with trips left up to the discretion of Superintendent Josh Coughran.

Parents are encouraged to leave their children at the health screening checkpoints instead of escorting them to class. Visitors must wear a mask at all times and undergo a temperature check. Anyone with a temperature of 100.3 or above would be rechecked then sent home. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom and recess will have no more than 30 students.

School board vice president Jaime Bricker suggested that classes start in the yellow zone as an "extra safety mea-

sure" with the possibility of easing back to the green zone if all goes well.

Coughran announced Aug. 4 that as long as there continues to be no COVID-19 cases in Skagway, school will start in the green zone.

"I felt it would have been confusing to start somewhere we're not," Coughran said about his decision to open school in the green.

Parents have the option of sending their child to in-person classes, signing up with Alaska Statewide Virtual School -- an online platform provided by the state which will provide some interaction with a child's local teacher -- or pursuing home school options. The average number of children enrolled at Skagway School in a four week period from late September to late October will determine how much funding the school receives from the state. Those enrolled in the virtual school will count as Skagway students, those who choose home school options will not.

"I hope you give the Skagway School District the opportunity to deliver that curriculum," Coughran said.

Hischer, the lone vote against the smart start plan, would have preferred a more

conservative approach.

"I'm always going to err on the side of caution when it comes to student safety," he said.

Despite his disappointment, Hischer reminded parents to be civil.

"Don't be careless with your words when you disagree. When all is said and done it's going to be the relationships that we have here that get us through this," Hischer said.

Skagway School asks that parents email the office (skg-schoff@skagwayschool.org) or call 907-983-2960 to indicate which option they will pursue for fall quarter. High school students who enroll in virtual school should complete the quarter online. Middle schoolers and elementary aged children may have more flexibility to return to in-person class prior to quarter end.

"We're going to work with students," Coughran said, indicating the school will be as flexible as they can while still following state guidelines.

"This is a deeply personal choice for all families ... Parents should feel no pressure to defend themselves one way or another," Coughran said.



photo by Melinda Munson

School board members John Hischer, Jaime Bricker and Heather Rodig at the Aug. 4 meeting.



Photo by Kari Rain



Photo by Melinda Munson



Photo provided by Pam Joy

Skagway

Life



Photo by Sherry Corrington

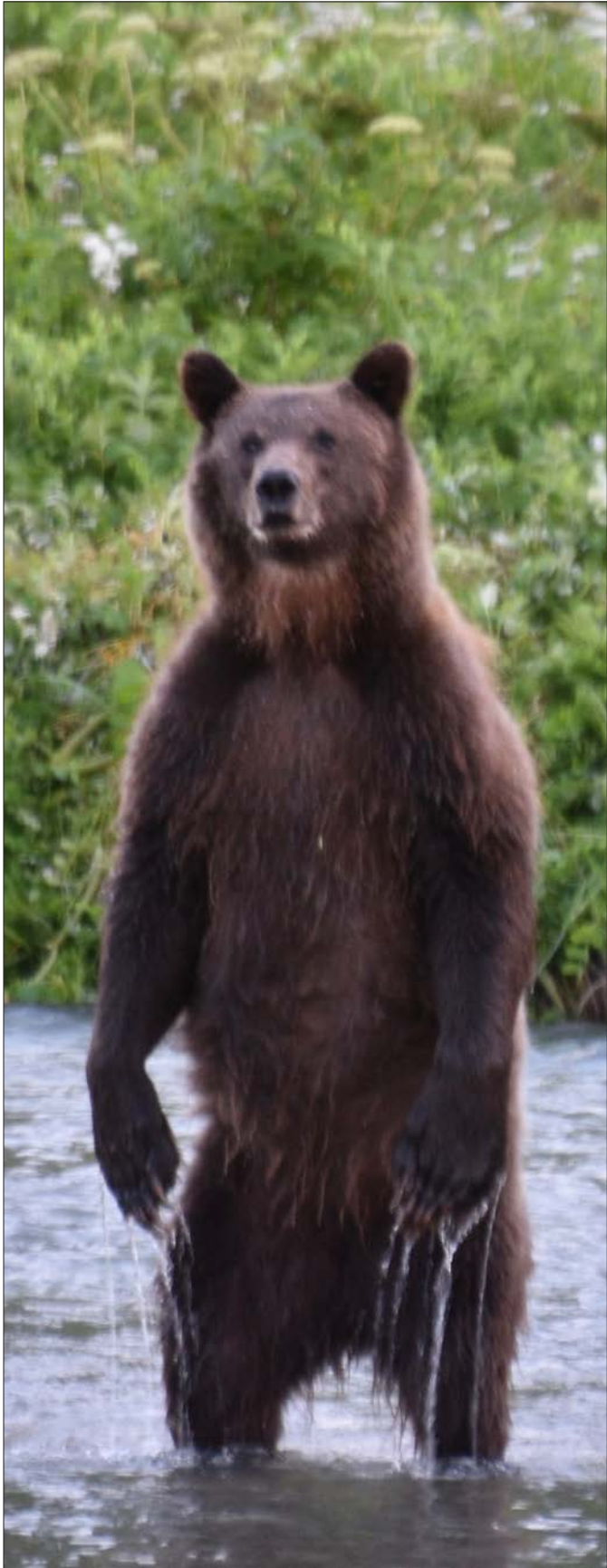


Photo by Jeff Brady



Photo by Kari Rain



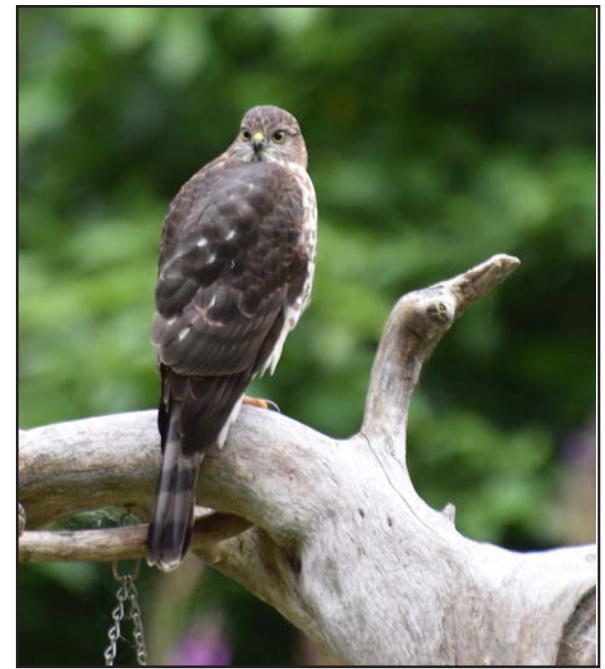
Photo by Melinda Munson



Photo by Heidi Fairbanks

A young sharp-shinned hawk perches on a piece of driftwood art in a garden at Alderworks in Dyea, eyeing a squirrel at a nearby feeder. Several jays ran interference at the feeder and the squirrel survived to live another day.

Photos by Jeff Brady



SKAGWAY NEWS DEPOT & BOOKS

Virtual North Words was a hit!

WE STILL HAVE BOOKS!

Keynote author Bill Streever (*In Oceans Deep, Cold, Heat*) and titles from Dr. M Jackson, Heather Lende, Eva Holland, Caroline Van Hemert, Bryan Fierro, and Nicole Stellon O'Donnell. Proud sponsor of North Words since 2010 - see nwwriterss.com



Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

July 27

Police helped a resident regain access to their house.

Fire department responded to several alarms triggered by another power outage.

EMS responded to a medical emergency on 3rd Avenue.

Dispatch assisted a resident who found an injured crow by calling the bird rescue group.

July 30

Police responded to a noise complaint on 4th Avenue.

Aug. 7

Fire department personnel responded to several alarms triggered by a power outage.

July 31

Fire department responded to several alarms triggered by a power outage.

Aug. 9

Dispatch assisted a resident who found an injured bird by calling the bird rescue group.

Aug. 2

Fire department responded to several alarms triggered by a power outage.

Fire department responded to an alarm on Broadway Street.



MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**, there will be held in the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska, a **REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION**.

The following offices are on the ballot:

- Two (2) Assembly seats - for three (3) year terms each;
- Two (2) School Board seats - for three (3) year terms each.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Any person qualified to vote in borough elections may have his/her name placed on the ballot for election as a candidate for any borough elective office. No person may serve simultaneously as mayor and assembly member.

FILING DATES

Interested persons wishing to file for an elected office may file a **DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY** with the Borough Clerk between **August 3, 2020** and **August 17, 2020**.

ELECTION HOURS

The polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and will close at 8:00 p.m. on the same day.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

The deadline to register to vote in the October 6, 2020 Regular Municipal Election is Sunday, September 6, 2020.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

A person may vote in a municipal election only if the person:

- is qualified to vote in state elections under AS 15.05.010;
- has been a resident of the municipality for 30 days immediately preceding the election;
- has registered before the election as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING

Voters are able to vote absentee/early as follows:

- Early in-person in the Assembly chambers between **Monday, September 21, 2020**, and **Monday, October 5, 2020**;
- Absentee by-mail. Please submit an absentee ballot application to the Borough Clerk **EARLY** to allow for mailing time. The deadline to request absentee ballots by mail is 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, September 25, 2020**. Absentee ballot application forms are online at www.skagway.org/clerksoffice/page/election-information or by request.

For more information contact the Borough Clerk at e.deach@skagway.org or 907-983-9706.

Melinda's Kick-Butt Low-Sugar Raspberry Jam

Submitted by Melinda Munson

This recipe is straight from the SUREJELL pectin insert with a few changes that make the process less time consuming. Make sure the pectin is labeled "for less or no sugar needed recipes." Makes about seven cups.

- 10 cups raspberries (rinsed, don't de-seed or crush)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 SUREJELL pectin (low sugar)
- small pat of butter
- vinegar
- glass jars with bands and lids



Photo by Paul Munson

Boil a large pot of water and sterilize jars for 10 minutes. To avoid burns, the jars should be covered by just a few inches of water. (Keep the water boiling for later.) At the same time, boil bands and lids in a saucepan for 10 minutes. *Add a dash of vinegar to the water in both pots to keep the jars and lids shiny.

Combine raspberries, one packet pectin and a small pat of butter in a large pot. Continuing mixing the ingredients until the jam starts to boil, even when stirred. Continue mixing for one minute.

Add sugar. Continuing mixing the ingredients until the jam starts to boil, even when stirred. Continue mixing for one minute.

Ladle the jam into the sterilized jars, leaving a small amount of room at the top. Put on lids and screw them shut. Place filled jars into boiling water for 10 minutes.

Once jars have completely cooled, press on the top to make sure they have sealed. If there's a popping noise, the jar needs to be reboiled for 10 minutes.

Obituaries

Reverend Perry Eugene Hart

March 16, 1945 - July 1, 2020



Reverend Perry Eugene Hart, age 75, of Mena, Arkansas died July 1 at the Riverside Health Services in Arkoma, Oklahoma. He was born on March 16, 1945 to

the Reverend M.L. and Leatrice Katherine Baughn Hart in Blossom, Texas but he always let you know that he was born AGAIN on Dec. 4, 1964.

At the age of 20, Perry entered the ministry. He served as youth pastor, evangelist, senior pastor, had a prison ministry and served as chaplain at DFW Airport. In 1981, he moved his family to Alaska to serve as a missionary to Minto and Kake, Alaska and various native villages there for 16 years. He was adopted into the Wolf Clan by a Tlingit chief, Richard

King of Klukwan. In 1997, Perry moved to Mena, Arkansas to pastor Faith Center Ministries (now known as Canaanland Church).

Perry's joy in life was serving the Lord. He always looked around for someone (usually total strangers) hurting or in need, shared the Gospel with them and prayed for them. He also found great joy in his family. Everything he did was done with his wife, children and/or grandchildren in mind. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle,

friend and pastor and will be missed by all who knew him.

Perry is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Charles Hart and daughter Lydia Charlie of Minto, Alaska.

Perry is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Sue Emmons Hart of Mena; three sons, Joey Hart and wife Kjari of Fairbanks, Alaska, Brandon Hart of Mena and Billy Joe Hart of Mena; three daughters, Dianna De La Garza and husband, Eddie of Los Angeles, California, Julie Moe and husband,

Mike of Mena and Katherine Hart of Mena; two brothers, Joe Hart and Ronnie Hart of Detroit, Texas; two sisters, Delores Mitchell of Detroit, Texas and Nina Delaney of Hutchins, Texas; twenty two grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cremation services are entrusted to Bowser Family Funeral Home in Mena, Arkansas. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Sign the online guestbook: www.bowserffh.com

Louis Dean Selmer

Aug. 12, 1938 - July 25, 2020



Louis Dean Selmer had a love of the outdoors and meeting new people. That love led Louis and his wife of 38 years, Robin, to spend much of their time traveling the country in their RV. When they retired they be-

came snowbirds, living half the year in Arizona. The other half of the year they spent as camp hosts in many parks in Washington, or at their cabin in Cle Elum, Washington. Louis made friends everywhere he went.

Louis was born in Haines, Alaska to Alice & Louis Selmer Sr. on Aug. 12, 1938. He grew up as an only child in Skagway, Alaska, the Gateway to the Klondike Gold Rush. He and his pals enjoyed the freedom that came with living in a small town. They spent much of their day bicycling around town, playing kick the can, or

as they got older, hiking up to Lake Dewey. They have fond memories of trick-or-treating on Halloween and the Skagway Fourth of July celebration. His gang became lifelong friends.

In the 50s the family moved to another small town, Bainbridge Island, Washington, where Louis continued to make friends that lasted a lifetime. They all have good stories to share of those teenage years. His favorite thing to do on the island was camping at Faye Bainbridge State Park, fishing and crabbing.

Louis was a NAPA salesman which is how he met his

wife, Robin. It was always his dream to own his own auto parts store. Louis and Robin owned and ran the NAPA Auto Parts store in Woodinville for many years. He thoroughly enjoyed making sales calls, working behind the counter helping customers and building friendships along the way.

Louis had four children with his first wife, Sharon: Dean Selmer (Traci), Michelle Hogg (Walter), Lisa Steilen (Joe) and Laurie Selmer who died at birth.

He has five grandchildren: Beck Selmer, Bret Hogg, Marissa Tullis (Kaleb), Kayla

Steilen and Courtney Steilen. The grandkids enjoyed the outdoors with their grandpa. Camping, swimming, sledding, riding in his golf cart, jet skiing or snowmobiling -- it was never a dull moment with Papa Louie.

Louis passed away on July 25. The staff at Prestige Post-Acute and Rehab Center in Ellensburg cared for Louis like he was family with compassion and kindness. Louis would always greet other residents with a smile or a wink. His love of people never ended.

EAES check pickup to span three days, August check adjusted

By Melinda Munson

The municipality has a new procedure for distribution of monthly Emergency Assistance & Economic Stimulus (EAES) payments. Checks are no longer being mailed out and in-person pickup with ID is required.

Pickup will occur from Aug. 19 through Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., depending on the last name of the primary applicant.

Last names A-H:

Wednesday, Aug. 19

Last name I-P:

Thursday, Aug. 20

Last name Q-Z:

Friday, Aug. 21

Upon arrival at City Hall on the assigned day, the primary applicant should text their full name to 907-612-0623. Participants are asked

to wait in their car if others are being helped and to avoid forming lines. City Hall will be locked and social distancing should be maintained. Applicants will show their ID and pick up their check from a table. There will be no person-to-person contact.

According to the municipality, "Alternative arrangements can be made if the applicant is unable to pick up checks on their scheduled day." The program administrator can be reached at cares@skagway.org or 907-983-2297.

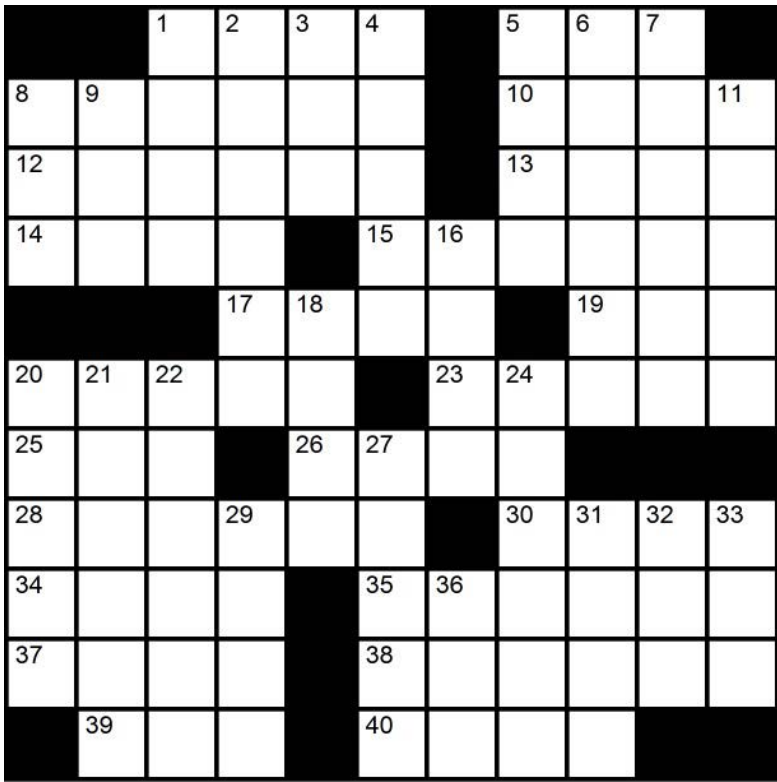
August's payment, \$500, is half the usual amount in an effort to keep the program funded through December. September's checks are expected to be \$1,000 per qualified resident.



Photo by Paul Munson

The Skagway News
 The best paper in town
www.skagwaynews.com

Family Fun Page - print and share



Across

- 1 Competitor of Bloomingdale's
- 5 Annoy by persistent faultfinding
- 8 Bathroom
- 10 Conscious minds
- 12 Heart problem
- 13 "At what time?"
- 14 Communist leader after Mao
- 15 Revolve
- 17 Wind instrument
- 19 Rider Haggard classic
- 20 It is sold in bolts
- 23 Speak
- 25 Pastor, for short
- 26 Avoid

- 28 The most famous Waugh
- 30 React to something hilarious
- 34 Region of the Moon
- 35 Three-legged support
- 37 Finishes
- 38 Airs again
- 39 Nipper
- 40 Plumps

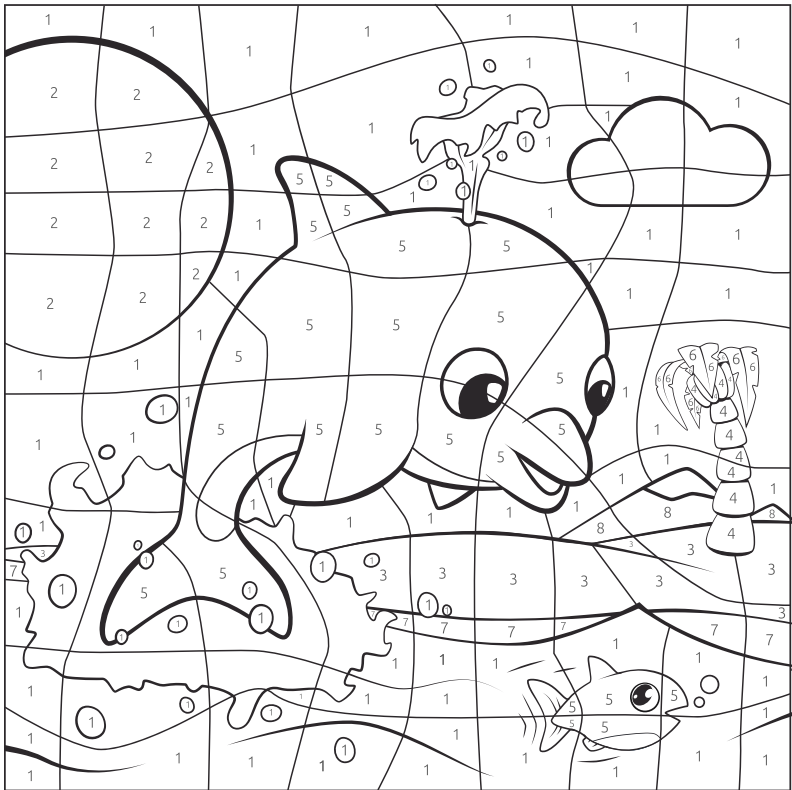
- 8 Tiny bit
- 9 Unity
- 11 Scoff
- 16 Disagreeable necessity
- 18 Expression of alarm
- 20 Cupcake filling
- 21 East Mediterranean region
- 22 Try too hard
- 24 Vacation souvenir, maybe
- 27 Short beginning
- 29 In case
- 31 Literary work
- 32 Succeeded
- 33 Denom. of many Utahans
- 36 Agent, commonly

Down

- 1 Agree formally
- 2 Dismount
- 3 Range of vision
- 4 Whitewater figure
- 5 Water-loving salamander
- 6 Horrified
- 7 German writer and dramatist

The keys will be posted in the next issue.

COLOR BY NUMBER

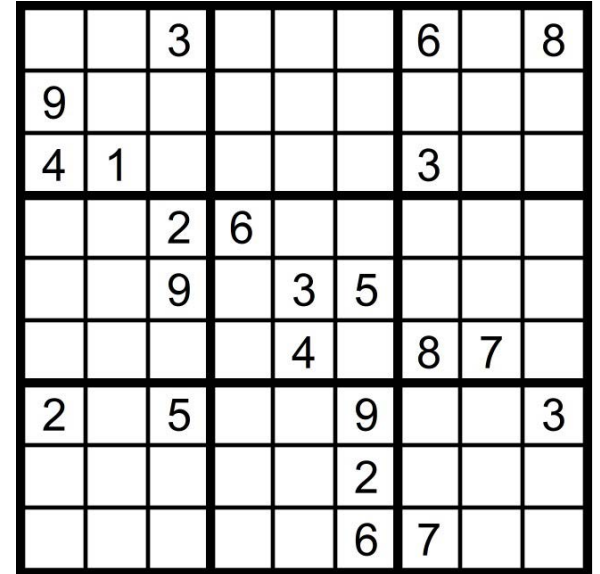


- 1 Light Blue
- 2 Yellow
- 3 Light green
- 4 Brown
- 5 Navy blue
- 6 Dark green
- 7 Sand color
- 8 Gray



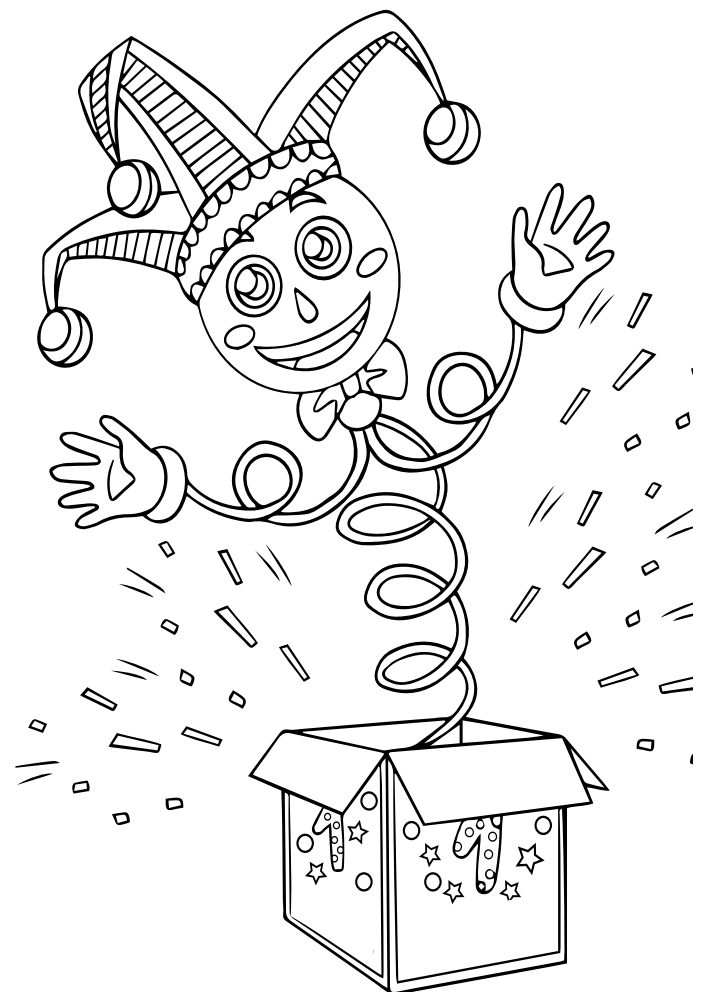
Wordsearch - Boats

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| Ark | E-Boat | Proa |
| Barge | Gig | Punt |
| Brig | Hoy | Raft |
| Buss | Junk | Scow |
| Car ferry | Ketch | Ship |
| Cat | Liner | Skip |
| Dandy | Lorcha | Smack |
| Dhow | MTB | Tug |
| Dory | Pink | Yacht |
| Dredger | Pram | Yawl |

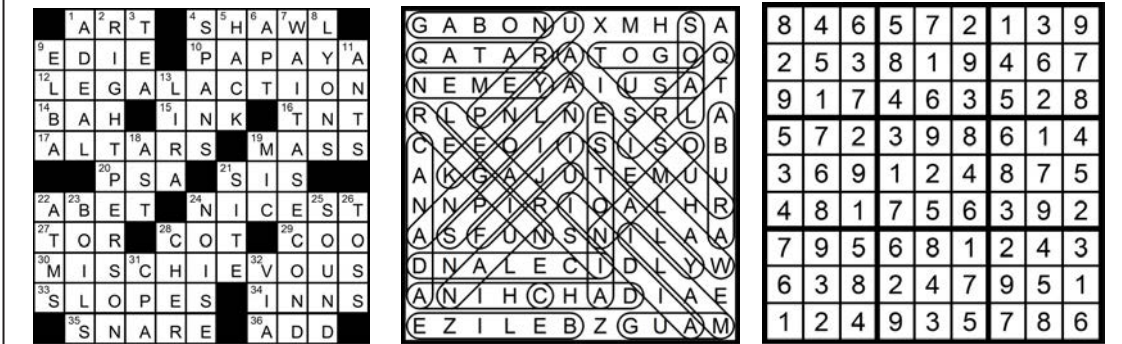


Sudoku

Color Me!



July 17 answer keys



CLASSIFIEDS

News Classified Ads cost 40 cents per word, \$4 minimum. Ads must be pre-paid unless advertiser has a business account with the newspaper. Skagway residents may drop off ad and payment at the News Depot. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. Out-of-town ads must be pre-paid with a credit card and should be phoned in to 907-983-2354. All ads appear in our on-line edition for a minimum of two weeks. Next deadline: Sunday, July 26, 2020

FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS up to 25 words!
CALL (907)983-2354 (restrictions apply)

JOBS-OPPORTUNITIES

CAREGIVER NEEDED - 5 Days / Week - 5 Hours/ Day - Salary \$20 per Hour. For more details about the position, email Mr. Patrick (patdolan18@gmail.com)

HOUSING-PROPERTY

FOR SALE: 2001 Main St, 2 Bdrm, 1 Ba, Pan Abode cedar house, w/800 SF detached, heated garage on a fenced corner lot. Priced to sell at \$235,000. Contact, ARA, David Brena, (M) 425-306-2020, dbrena5@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: Three parcels of land. First time on the market. One 40 ac. parcel on AB Mountain (the Skyline Trail goes through the NW corner), One 83.4 ac. parcel in Dyea along the Chilkoot Trail in the vicinity of the old Hosford sawmill, and one 2.18 ac. parcel below the incinerator near the Skagway River. Call for further details, ARA, David Brena, 907-983-2700. (11cb)

Year Round Apartment For Rent: 2 bed/2 bath, newer construction, fully furnished, deck, heated garage, energy efficient. No pets, no smoking. \$1,900/month + electric. Contact info@skagwaybrewing.com

FOR SALE: Duplex, three bedrooms and two baths on each side. Constructed 2019. Fridge, range, washer/dryer included, partially furnished. Call 907-723-2931.

COMMERCIAL-PROPERTY

DOWNTOWN SKAGWAY SPACE available for lease: 1200SF retail space next to Eagles Hall. Great location in the heart of Skagway's Historic District between 5th and 6th Ave. on Broadway. This is for the south retail in the Kelly Block Building. Contact jimjewell@gmail.com or text Jim at 907-612-0114.(1cb)

RETAIL SPACE ON BROADWAY for lease. See info at: www.skagwayrealestate.net. (1cb)

MARKETPLACE

CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS & WHITEHORSE STAR available at Skagway News Depot & Books. (1cp)

PERSONALS-MISC. SERVICES

FOOD BANK DONATIONS WELCOME. Donations may be sent to the Food Bank, PO Box 200, Skagway, AK 99840. The local Food Bank helps those in need with groceries. If you need assistance, or know anyone who needs assistance, at any time of year, call any pastor or 907-612-0313. (1cp)

LEGAL AD

As required by the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS Act) reauthorization, P.L. 115-141, signed into law on March 23,

2018, and following the initiation of Title III funds for this use by the Borough Assembly on July 2, 2020, the following is the public announcement of the Municipality of Skagway's intent to use Title III funds: The municipality is proposing to use Title III funds to Purchase radio repeaters that simultaneously receives a radio signal and re-transmits it at a higher power so it can

cover greater distances. This enables communication between radio users where obstructions or distance are a problem. The current equipment is over 12 yrs old and are reaching obsolescence. This advertisement will be published for the required 45-day period. Please contact the Borough Treasurer with comments at 907-983-2297 or h.rodig@skagway.org.



~ All units fully furnished
~ NO PETS, No Smoking
~ Lease now through March 31, 2021

Studio Apt: \$500/Month + Electric
2 Bedroom/2 Bath: \$1000/Month + Electric
4 Bedroom/4 Bath: \$1200/Month + Electric
*these units not available until Sept. 1

Contact info@skagwaybrewing.com

BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY

COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION AVAILABLE

The Municipality of Skagway has established a Community Funding Grant Program that provides funding for not-for-profit, non-profit, and charitable community organizations.

Applications for the funding period July 1, 2020 – December 30, 2020 Will be accepted on an open-ended basis.

The Community Funding Grant application is available online at www.skagway.org/forms, by request by emailing h.rodig@skagway.org.

July 14, 2020 Public Notice



Because of the surge in coronavirus cases in Alaska, the clinic recently received state approval to expand rapid testing to all travelers. If you traveled outside of Skagway to an Alaskan community with a known active case of COVID-19 we recommend you test for COVID-19 once you return to Skagway. We also recommend a second test 7 to 14 days after the first result. Patients should minimize interaction per state guidelines until results of the second test are received. Out of state travel still falls under State Travel Mandate 10. See www.covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/ for details.

As of July 29, 2020 The clinic has been extremely busy with COVID-19 testing recently. Currently we are scheduling appointments from 9am to 3pm Monday through Friday, and we book up very quickly. Please plan accordingly and schedule your appointment ahead of time. Call the clinic at (907) 983-2255 to make an appointment.

SKAGWAY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Please contact each worship location for their updated COVID-19 schedule

Assembly of God Church
8th & State • 907-983-2350

Sun. Worship.....11 a.m.
Thu. Intercessory Prayer:6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
5th & Main • 983-2260

Sun. Morning Worship10 a.m.
Sun. Sunday School.....4 p.m.
Wed. Women's Prayer7 a.m.
Thur. Celebrate Recovery.....6 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
11th & State • 983-2518

Sun. Sacrament Meeting...10 a.m.
Sun. School/Primary ...11:10 a.m.
Relief Society/Priesthood...12 p.m.

St. Therese Catholic Church
9th & State • 983-2271

Sun. Mass.....5 p.m.
Mass Mon. & Tues.....12:10 p.m.
(when a priest is available)

Life Link Fellowship Bible Church

11th and Main • 907-612-0121
Sat. Night Worship7 p.m.
Sunday Service.....11 a.m.

RECREATION CTR SCHED

Skagway Recreation Center •
12th & Main • 983-2679
Cardio • Weight Room • Locker Rooms • Showers • Rock Wall

The Recreation Center is closed for repairs and construction.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Library Hours:

by Appointment
W, Th, F 12 - 6 p.m.
Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.
Call 983-2665 or email library@skagway.org

Dahl Clinic Winter Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sat. and Sun. For after-hours emergencies, please dial 911.

Incinerator Hours

T, Th, Sa. 1 - 3 p.m.

Skagway Museum

Closed for the season

Border stations:

7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Call each station for specifics.

Ferry Terminal Hours

M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See www.skagway.org for borough meeting updates.

Email Updates & New Events:

editor@skagwaynews.com

SKAGWAY WEATHER WATCH

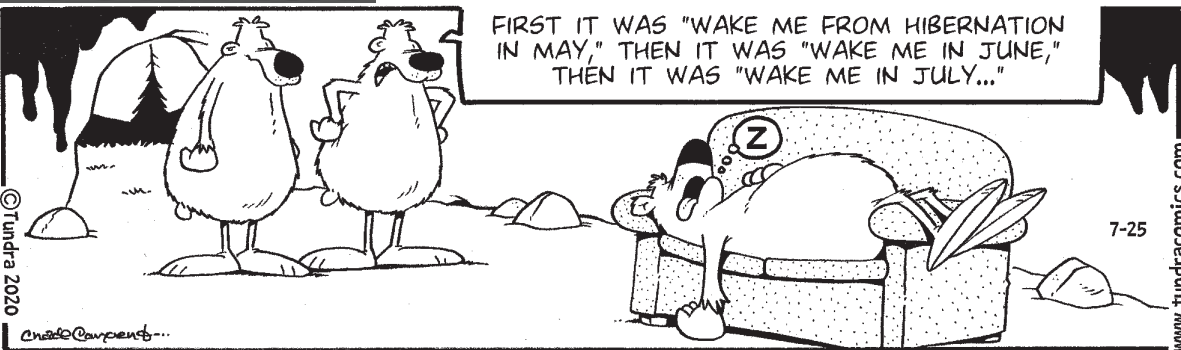
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OBSERVATIONS FOR PREVIOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD BEFORE 7 A.M.

DATE	MAX	MIN	PREC
Weather Watch 7/15 -8/12			
7/15	58	52	.40 in
7/16	71	51	-
7/17	68	52	-
7/18	64	53	.40 in
7/19	63	54	.02 in
7/20	60	55	.20 in
7/21	64	55	.02 in
7/22	67	55	trace
7/23	62	54	trace
7/24	67	55	trace
7/25	63	57	.02 in
7/26	64	52	.66 in
7/27	66	52	.01 in
7/28	65	55	-
7/29	67	56	-
7/30	78	51	-
7/31	81	52	-
8/1	82	53	.21 in
8/2	70	55	.34 in
8/3	65	54	.14 in
8/4	65	54	.02 in
8/5:	58	52	.16 in
8/6	63	53	trace
8/7	65	53	.07 in
8/8	60	53	.07 in
8/9	60	52	.29 in
8/10	60	52	.63 in
8/11	60	51	trace
8/12	60	51	trace



PHONE:907-983-2259

Chad Carpenter's TUNDRA



New Chamber president holds vision to help Skagway businesses

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

When Nicole Goodman and her husband, George Butt, pulled their trailer into Skagway after driving cross-country from Florida, they knew they were home as soon as their heads hit the pillow.

“This is where we both wanted to be,” she said.

Goodman, the new president of the Skagway Chamber, came to Skagway the way millions of people do, on a cruise ship in 2015. But it was during a Panama Canal cruise that they met a young couple who lived and worked in Juneau. The pair was using their employee cruise benefit and shared their experiences working for a cruise company in Southeast Alaska.

“Our husbands had a bus driver connection,” said Goodman.

Butt had been driving buses for Disney in Florida. He put in his application to drive in Alaska for Holland America and their lives changed.

Goodman and Butt started as seasonal workers in Skagway for the first three years, but the months stretched out as he became a trainer for the company. Four months became eight months. She worked for Corringtons while he drove buses. The couple was living in their trailer in Skagway with a home in Florida until they cut their southern roots and became northerners.

Goodman said they bought a house in 2019 and prepared to start their business, Klond-

ike Electric Bicycles to debut with the 2020 season.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed their expectations, but she has a positive outlook.

“We’ve worked out a lot of kinks,” she said.

Goodman says the move to Skagway was the best decision they could have made.

“Everyone is so welcoming, so kind and so willing to lend a hand.”

She said Skagwegians helped her figure out new terminology foreign to having lived in a warm state all her life.

“At first I didn’t understand what it meant to winterize a trailer,” she said. “We didn’t have to worry about that.”

She also learned about furnaces, heating oil and pellet stoves and staying warm.

“We had the [air conditioning] on 95% of the time back home,” she laughed.

Goodman is excited to bring some new energy to the chamber.

She hopes to make upgrades to the website and help chamber businesses create more of a digital presence where they can sell their products online as well as on social media. She believes that people still want to come Skagway and will search on the internet for Skagway businesses. Returning visitors may contact stores they visited in the summer.

Goodman hopes to inspire the business community to get back some normalcy, even

if it is local and not cruise driven. To start the fall, the chamber is adding an event.

Fall Frolic is designed to bring businesses and residents out for a fun day for shopping and eating. Businesses are encouraged to offer a drawing for an item and all entries will be put into a drawing for an event prize.

The Fall Frolic happens on the last Saturday of the month, Aug. 29. While stores and vendors may extend their hours, the targeted shopping window will be 11-3.

September will bring the Fall Round-up, an annual event for cleaning up the town before winter with some added fun.

The popular holiday event, Shop in Skagway, will be held November 27 through December 24.

As for Klondike Electric Bicycles, they are here for the long haul. The couple hope things will settle down in a few years so they will be able to get some traveling in during the winter.

After celebrity Simon Cowel seriously injured himself, there were rumors that e-bikes were in trouble. However, Forbes Magazine confirmed that Cowel was riding a more powerful electric motorcycle, a SWIND EB-01 electric motorbike, that reaches speeds up to 80 miles per hour, a vehicle not used in the United States right now. Klondike Bicycles use Rad Power Bikes that top off at 15-20 miles per hour.



Photo provided by Nicole Goodman

Goodman says her bike business has been offering 50% off rentals to locals. She says it’s nice to see them used and hopes people enjoy them enough to

help with referrals next summer. She and her husband love to get on the bikes.

“I just can’t ride them without smiling,” she said.

Whitehorse boat owners enlist Skagwegians to check on vessels

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customs agents might allow them to land and make the quick trip to their boat.

Ruiz told the Star that border rules shouldn’t apply differently to those who fly versus those who drive.

“Without speculating the rule is technically the same – travellers arriving on private aircraft would need to request landing rights – or landing authorization,” Ruiz said.

“Approving their arrival will depend on the totality of the circumstances.”

Martin contacted Larry Bagnell, the Yukon’s MP, late

last month.

Bagnell told Martin in an email July 21 that he’s received numerous inquiries about visiting boats Alaska-side.

“This appears, on the surface, to be a very simple exercise, but unfortunately Canada does not treat any border crossings differently, at any time,” Bagnell wrote to Martin.

“I will continue to raise this problem, but I am not aware of any solution that is evolving in the near future.”

Bagnell said he estimates

“hundreds, likely thousands” of Canadians and Americans are facing similar problems with their boats and properties on the other side of the closed border.

He said both federal governments are likely aware of the situation.

Matt O’Boyle, Skagway’s harbormaster, told the Star there are approximately 49 Canadian-owned boats at the harbor. Twenty-nine of those are in the water.

“Harbor staff do walk the docks daily, but we aren’t allowed on the boats unless we

see something that’s alarming,” O’Boyle said.

A local contractor has towed at least two Yukon vessels to the Fraser border crossing for the owners to pick up from the Yukon side.

Some boats are too large to be trailered, however, so this isn’t an option for everybody, O’Boyle said.

He said he’s been in regular contact with several Yukoners who are concerned about the state of their boats. Some have enlisted friends in Skagway to take over the maintenance this summer.

“It’s been kind of a community effort to help out those people who aren’t able to come down,” O’Boyle said.

The collective of boat owners in Skagway is tight-knit, he explained.

“Right now, basically, we kind of miss our Whitehorse boating family,” O’Boyle said.

“There’s a good camaraderie between everybody who comes down from Whitehorse to use the small boat harbor, so it’s like having a little bit of your family missing.”