

THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

November 25, 2020

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

Students of the month

Get to know our Skagway School stars **PAGE 10**

Thanksgiving gratitude

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Shop in Skagway

See who's open for holiday customers **PAGE 5**

Food bank predicts lack of funds by spring

By Melinda Munson

Skagway's food bank was better funded this year than any previous year with a \$125,000 grant from the municipality and record-breaking donations from companies and individuals. Still, Skagway faith leaders worry the increased funding might not be enough to get needy Skagwegians through to the much anticipated 2021 tourist season.

Pastor Ryan Mendeville from Skagway First Presbyterian Church is board president of the Community Care Committee, a collection of various church representatives who run the food bank.

"At the current rate of disbursement, our account will run dry the last week of March or first week of April ... Many are forecasting that demand will go up once the emergency assistance funding disappears that has helped Skagway keep steady this year. So my timeline is probably optimistic," he said.

The Skagway food bank is not a physical location, rather it's a bank account which church leaders use to give credit at local stores.

See the article below. <https://skagwaynews.com/2020/05/22/we-dont-want-anyone-to-be-hungry-skagway-food-bank-compared-due-to-generous-donations/>

While the food bank credit (\$150 for individuals, \$200 for families) used to be redeemable only at Fairway Market, they can now also be used for toiletries and groceries at Grizzlies General and Skagway Radio Shack, Klon-

see page two



Photo by Melinda Munson

Morgan Valenzuela works weekends as a test technician at the Skagway Traditional Council/SEARHC COVID-19 testing site.

Two new COVID cases, community takes action

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

It started as a favor. Would Cynthia Tronrud and her family host their neighbor's children when the parents flew out of town? Of course.

The Tronrud family began preparing. No more playdates, start distance learning and get the entire family tested for the coronavirus at Skagway Traditional Council(STC)/SEARHC.

On Nov. 16, Tronrud received partial results via email. Her husband and two of her children's tests came back negative. But it was the next call from a Sitka number that changed the Tronrud family plans, and the town. Thirteen-year-old Kaitlyn's test results were positive for COVID-19. Skagway's tenth case.

"My mouth literally dropped to the floor," said Tronrud. "It

was so out of the blue. We did not expect that whatsoever."

She immediately called Dahl Memorial Clinic (DMC). They put her in contact with a state health nurse who walked them through the steps.

In October, Mike O'Daniel decided to go public to help with contact tracing after he tested positive for COVID-19. The town was already in a seven-day shelter-in-place. School classes had gone to distance learning, businesses either closed for the week or modified hours and delivery methods and Skagwegians stayed home. It took one more week of shelter-in-place and by Halloween, Skagway seemed to have stopped the spread.

Tronrud's move to go public in a Facebook post was a family decision. The response to her post was overwhelm-

ing. Comments brought well wishes, willingness to bring food, games and offers to run errands. Skagwegians were appreciative of the family for sharing the information and offered help.

"There were a few not-so-nice people out there that got me down just a little bit, but the overwhelming response by the community overshadowed them," Tronrud said.

Tronrud says she's heard some people were concerned her husband, Drew, had brought COVID-19 to the family. She doesn't think that's possible.

Drew boarded a medevac flight with his mother to Juneau in the first week of October. He took tests -- testing negative in Juneau, and again when he returned to Skagway. He tested recently with his family and received an-

other negative result.

After Tronrud reached out to DMC, the Emergency Operations Center ordered another seven-day shelter-in-place. School was cancelled, businesses modified their hours and services and Skagwegians, once again, hunkered down.

School restarted in the red zone for the three days before Thanksgiving. Normally, Skagway School would take the entire Thanksgiving week off, but in order to recover the missed days from the week before, the school offered distance instruction Nov. 23-25.

According to Superintendent Dr. Josh Coughran, the school will follow the Smart Start program adopted by the school board to determine when school will return to

see page three

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Letters and Opinion**Alaska's election success credited to workers, voters**

By Kevin Meyer

This year has been one for the record books, and this month's election was no exception. Turning out in numbers that haven't been seen in over decade, more than 350,000 Alaskans exercised their sacred right to vote. I'm pleased to report that the Division of Election's continued careful review of each and every ballot is on track to confirm that this year's general election was conducted fairly and without any trace of fraud.

My thanks go out to every Alaskan who chose to participate in our democratic process. For many of us, this was the most challenging election of our lifetimes. The Division of Elections worked hard to accommodate the comfort levels of all Alaskans.

Your response was tremendous. Nearly 100,000 voters chose to mail their ballots in, while almost 12,000 received their ballots online. Another 27,000+ voters chose to vote

early in-person. Never before have so many Alaskans utilized election day alternatives, and I'm grateful for your dedication to protecting your families, election workers and communities.

For those who chose to vote on election day, a safe environment was provided at over 400 polling locations across Alaska. Precautions were taken, social distancing was followed, and even in villages under lockdown protocols, residents were provided the means to vote through in-person absentee voting.

Thanks to the diligence of voters and our hardworking election workers in taking all available COVID-19 precautions, no known outbreaks occurred as a result of in-person voting. With over 20% of Alaskans choosing to vote in this manner, this is truly a monumental achievement that we can all be proud of.

I would like to also thank the candidates who patiently waited for election results in

the weeks following election day. The unprecedented number of mail votes required a special approach to prevent duplicate ballots from being accepted. With several races decided by just a handful of votes, it was critical that we eliminate these double votes before the mail ballots were added to the tally. Given that 82% of Alaska's communities have no road access and many are serviced by plane only once or twice a week, time and good weather was needed to gather and scan each of these absentee ballots.

As I've said from the beginning, I will always prioritize accuracy and fairness over speed. Alaskans deserve to know that every legal vote was counted, and no unfair advantages were had. There can be no compromise when it comes to the foundation of our democracy.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the thousands of election workers

who showed up, many for the first time, when we needed them most. Between the global pandemic and this year's tumultuous national political climate, the hype preceding this election was unprecedented. Alaska's election workers gave of their time and, given the pandemic, accepted a level of personal risk to ensure each of us could have a say in the future of the state and republic we cherish.

There's no doubt 2020 has challenged all of us in unexpected ways, but amidst the chaos, elections are a chance for us to come together – to demonstrate our shared commitment to democracy while expressing our hope for a better tomorrow. Facilitating that process was the honor of a lifetime, and I thank every Alaskan who made this election such a success.

Kevin Meyer is Alaska's Lt. Governor.

Food bank could run out of money in March, or sooner

from front page

dike General Store and You Say Tomato.

Pamela Mckown, a 13-year resident, returned to Skagway in February after visiting family in Nebraska. Ready to work the season, she was financially overwhelmed when the tourists and cruise ships never materialized due to the pandemic. Her unemployment benefits ran out in July.

"When a friend and co-worker reached out mentioning the food bank, I of course, as many, don't like to ask for help," Mckown said.

The community helped her feel comfortable enough to contact one of Skagway's food bank facilitators.

"I am very thankful ... I am very fortunate," Mckown said.

Mckown's willingness to ask for help is exactly what Mendeville is hoping for. He

posts periodically on Facebook, reminding people there is no need to go hungry.

Donations to the food bank can be mailed to P.O. Box 200, Skagway, AK, 99840 or paid online at <http://www.easytithethe.com/fpskagway>. Select the food bank option.

Food Bank Facilitators

Ryan Mandeville:

907-973-2042

rmandevi@gmail.com

Ginny Cochran:

907-612-0313

grandmaginny309@yahoo.com

Paul Taylor:

907-347-2683

Karla Ray:

907-612-0901

Tim Steidel:

907-983-3163

Ray Leggett:

907-612-0332



Photo by Jaime Bricker

Bear tracks in the Skagway snow

A grizzly sow and her cub were seen multiple times in and around Skagway in October and November. Jaime Bricker came upon these paw prints between 14th and 15th, east of Broadway.

Send us your name and email to receive a PDF version (sales@skagwaynews.com).

Alaska's gasline: the time is now

By Bill Walker

I am pleased to be a founding member of the newly formed Alaska Gasline & LNG, LLC (AGLNG) alongside Alaska Laborers' Local 341, longtime Fairbanks businessman Bernie Karl, and former Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) President Keith Meyer. With AGDC recently completing critical permitting and a lowered cost estimate, it declared the Alaska gas line project competitive, confirmed the market as the Asian market, and approved a plan to transfer the project to a private entity to be selected by the end of 2020 with transition to that entity by June 2021.

We will be seeking other interested parties and individuals, from across Alaska and beyond, to participate in the ownership of the company. We also plan to reimburse AGDC its expenditures from

inception, at the project's financial close.

Bringing our vast experience from LNG project development and market engagement, industry, and labor, we believe in the commercial viability of the project, know first-hand the receptivity to the Alaska LNG project we received from the global arena based on our presentations at the highest levels to Asian companies and governments, realize the economic impact to all Alaskans, and are ready to move forward. With construction in Alaska, gas for Alaskans and decades of reliable service ahead, there is no other project that will do more for the state's deficit, Alaskan businesses, job creation and low cost clean energy for Alaskan homes and businesses than this project.

Over the past two years, AGDC has focused successfully on reducing the project

costs, completing the permitting process and has determined the project is competitive. Now that AGDC has taken action to transition the project to private control, we stand ready to move it across the finish line.

There is no time in Alaska's history when our need for this mega project has been greater. It's been over half a century since Alaska has had a project of significance. In the federal government's recent award of the final LNG export license, it referenced the 19,000 construction jobs the project would create. Moreover, the one thing every growing economy in the world has in common is low cost energy. Conversely, the one thing every struggling economy in the world has in common is high cost energy. A large volume gasline would create long-term value-added jobs rather than shipping out

of state raw materials along with Alaskan jobs. We could fuel our state ferries with LNG like the B.C. ferries and the list goes on.

Make no mistake, the road ahead will not be easy but Alaska has significant advantages over the competing LNG projects. We have the gas that is perhaps the largest stranded reservoir of conventional gas without additional wells drilled (not from fracking) in North America. We have close proximity to the markets; 70 critical federal permits and the Pre-FEED (Front End Engineering and Design) is complete. Alaska has the longest tenure of LNG contracts with the Asian markets in LNG history. At one time Alaska had nearly 100% of the Asian LNG market but today we have 0%. That must change.

We are greatly encouraged by the outreach we have received from Alaskans and others on the formation of AGLNG. It is time for Alaska to get back in the LNG market and put our people and resources to work. We know this project, the market, and Alaska's opportunity very well. With aggressive, experienced leadership, it is an opportunity within our grasp and we are ready, willing and able to lead it to completion.

Former Governor Bill Walker is a municipal and oil and gas attorney who resides in Anchorage with his wife, Donna.

Locals share information, assist contact tracing

from front page (COVID)

onsite learning.

Teachers were tested on Friday at DMC so they could get back in the classroom and prepare for the next week.

Coughran said junior high students and additional staff were encouraged to test at STC/SEARHC.

"Honestly, I'm encouraging everybody to get tested. Especially with the incredible resources we have with SEARHC and STC and their capacity. The more we know the better position we'll be in to make a better decision for the community," said Coughran.

On Nov. 20, another Skagway resident was surprised with a positive COVID-19 result. According to a Facebook post on Nov. 24, Sally Stevens had suffered "an episode of heart failure" and contacted DMC where she also received a rapid test - it was negative. Stevens traveled to Anchorage for medical care for her heart. When she arrived at the Anchorage airport, the driver took her to a testing site where, after a three-hour wait in line for the test, she was told the results

would be ready in a few days.

Stevens received a negative result from the rapid test prior to surgery. It was while Stevens was in recovery from her procedures that she got news of a positive result from her test a few days earlier. She was Skagway's eleventh case.

Like O'Daniel and the Tronruds, Stevens' friend, Eva Griffin, shared as much information about Stevens' movements as she could via the Facebook page, Skagway Swap. If Stevens' didn't know the name of who she spoke to, she offered details of the conversation to help identify them. Like O'Daniel and Tronrud, the responses from the community were supportive with offers of prayers and assistance as well as appreciation for the transparency.

On Nov. 23, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services sent out a call for Alaskans who test positive to notify their own close contacts. The surge in Alaska cases has strained the public health response, creating a backlog in case and contact investigations.

As of Nov. 26, the Alaska

COVID-19 case count had risen to 28,892 along with 1,210 nonresident cases. Eleven of those cases were in Skagway.

If no more cases are reported, Skagway will be back to a cautious normal after Thanksgiving.

And Kaitlyn? She never saw anything more than mild symptoms, a runny nose and a sore throat. Once the symptoms appear, the isolation period starts over. If all goes well, Katlyn will be out of isolation two days after Thanksgiving. She doesn't seem to mind the isolation.

"She likes it, she's being served her food. She's thirteen so she's in her room a lot anyway," said Tronrud.

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By Melinda Munson

The Nov. 5 assembly meeting was epic, the kind of event that makes writing the front page story easy. It started with Cindy Godbey chastising Borough Manager Brad Ryan and moved on to Mavis Henriksen refusing to leave the witness chair when her three minutes were up.

"I'm 87-years-old and I'm going to have my say," she said.

The two-hour testimony,

following the resignation of Ray Leggett on Oct. 20, was emotional. Leggett said he was forced by the municipality to resign or be fired. It was a titanic loss for the community, depending on how you looked at it.

A city lost their police chief in the midst of a shelter-in-place mandate. Congregation members will soon lose their pastor and close friends when the Leggetts move on to a different community. And according to those who support the removal of Leggett, Skagway will lose a police chief with no police certification and a history of making inappropriate remarks.

Because I'm forced to faithfully and frequently follow Facebook as part of my job, I expected the Nov. 5 meeting to be dramatic. The mayor, Andrew Cremata, along with several assembly members

who don't regularly partake in Mark Zuckerberg's double-edged invention, might have been a little surprised.

According to Cremata, not one person called him or came into his office to discuss the matter. Only one letter to the assembly addressed Leggett's resignation. A petition to reinstate Leggett, with about 40 signatures, has yet to be delivered to City Hall.

Shortly after Leggett's resignation, rumors filtered through town that Fire Chief Joe Rau would be next to get called into the manager's office and lose his livelihood. Cremata says that as far as he is concerned, Rau is performing his duties well.

In the absence of information (the muni won't comment on human resource issues and Leggett has made few public statements) a vacuum has ap-

peared which Skagwegians are filling with "facts" that aren't attributable.

Our local government only works when communication between citizens, elected leaders and borough employees is intact.

In a town this small, you don't have to be a reporter to meet with local officials. See the contact information below for opportunities to air grievances and ask questions.

With Skagway's future so precarious, now is the time to attend assembly and finance meetings and read both the mayor and borough manager's bi-monthly reports which can be found at skagway.org under meetings/view details. <https://www.skagway.org/bc-ba/page/assembly-whole-committee-15>

While Borough Clerk Emily Deach doesn't interpret

municipal code, she can point interested parties to relevant sources, answer questions about open meeting laws and miraculously perform other clerkish duties.

When all is said and done, we may not agree with the borough's decision, but at least we'll understand how we got there.

Mayor Andrew Cremata

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Monday, 4-6 p.m.
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New members join planning and zoning, ports and harbor board formed

By Melinda Munson

Rocky Outcalt served on Skagway's Zoning and Planning Commission so long he's not exactly sure when he started. He said it's been 10 or 11 years. He estimated he attended about 50 meetings in the last year as the municipality crafted the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

As his most recent three-year term came to a close, Outcalt said he told Mayor Andrew Cremata, "I'd be willing to serve if they needed it."

With interest from several community members who had never been on Zoning and Planning, Cremata decided to appoint two new members to replace Outcalt and Fire Chief Joe Rau, whose term also expired.

Cremata said he was grateful for Outcalt and Rau's time and dedication and was looking forward to working with new commission members Raniyah Bakr and Jaimie Lawson.

"Sometimes it's good to bring new blood into any committee," Cremata said.

Another factor in his decision was how often Rau would need to be at the meetings representing the fire department.



Photo provided by Raniyah Bakr

Raniyah Bakr and Jaimie Lawson are sworn in by Emily Deach.

partment.

"I'd like department heads to focus on being department heads," Cremata said.

Skagway also has an entirely new board. The now defunct Port Commission was replaced by the Ports and Harbor Advisory Board, created by the assembly in September, and headed by Assemblymember Sam Bass. Tiffanie Ames, Tom Cochran, Liz Lavoie and John Tronrud were appointed to the new organization.

The mayor's newest appointee, Courtney Ellington, was assigned to the Recreation Board with her term ex-

pediting in 2023.

The zoning commission and port board contain more women members than Skagway has seen serve in recent years.

"I'm really glad some females have stepped up," Lawson said. It's going to be better for the community to bring all sides to the table."

Lawson has been studying "Roberts' Rules" and attending zoning meetings in preparation for her new role.

Outcalt's advice for the new members is simple.

"Just serve well," he said. "Serve the people."

Thole fills empty school board seat

By Melinda Munson

Cory Thole was appointed to fill Chezare Leipold's vacant Skagway City School Board seat in a special meeting on Oct. 20. He was the only applicant to submit a letter of interest.

"I think Cory will be a great addition to the board," said Superintendent Josh Coughran.

Thole is currently the buildings and utilities supervisor of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and has two children who attend Skagway School. He has been a member of the Dahl Memorial Clinic Board for almost 20 years. He taught middle and high school science for three years.

Thole said "he's very proud of the school that we have" and is looking forward to his



Photo by Cory Thole

term.

Leipold reluctantly resigned from the school board after plans to relocate for new employment.

"It's a gratifying position that takes time and patience. Knowing that you're working hand in hand with teachers, administration, staff and a su-

perintendent that wholeheartedly love this amazing facility makes it all worthwhile," Leipold said.

Thole's term will expire in October 2021.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

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10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name: **TAIYA Communications, LLC** Complete Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 672395 Chugiak, AK 99547**

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Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

13. Publication Title: **The Skagway News**

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

16. Newspaper - subscribers

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Total Number of Copies		400	800
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)			
(1)	Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	150	
(2)	In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	80	
(3)	Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4)	Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	15	
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		245	
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)			
(1)	Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	
(2)	In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)		
(3)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail, nonrequestor copies mailed in excess of 10% limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services rates)		
(4)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)		
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)		245	245
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3))		200	200
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		445	445
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15h x 100)			

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Requested and Paid Electronic Copies		151	151
b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		445	151
c. Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		445	151
d. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15h x 100)		95	95

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are legitimate requests or paid copies.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the **October 23, 2020** issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Gretchen Wehmhoff** Date: **9/30/2020**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

These numbers reflect current situation due to COVID-19 and the border closure - GW

Unpopular opinion: I am grateful for COVID-19

By Meg Mullins

Not the virus itself. A virus, after all, is inherently villainous; snatching away somebody's very favorite person, like a swindler's parlor trick, magically reducing *their* chair into *a* chair.

I am truly gutted for every single soul's loss and every doorway darkened by its effects. So, more accurately, I'm grateful for the awakening; the monkeywrench Covid has thrown into the cogs and gears of a bustling merry-go-round. The sudden screeching halt; a timeout called in the middle of the game, allowing the players a moment to notice the golden, warm sun on their face, a second to breathe in fresh, cool air and to wave at the people who show up for them.

There are a wealth of uncertainties that come with a pandemic, but there can also be technicolor clarity. Those who look hard enough are given the opportunity to examine the bare bones of their lives and to take an inventory of essentials, beyond toilet paper. We can carefully

inspect every day pre-covid, like a prospector panning for gold. What useless, insubstantial silt and rubble rises to be discarded, and more importantly, what or who are our gleaming flecks of gold?

I'm hoping the next chapter is the one where the pendulum swings the other way; a renaissance featuring such a resounding resurgence of love and tender human connection. A period that historians will someday say could only have come after the lonely isolation and stark separation.

I'm grateful for the awakening in my own spirit, a reminder of how precious life is: a crowded dance floor of rhythmic breathing, the laughter and clatter in the local cafe, the joyful noise that fills the room when loved ones gather, cackle and snort, the softest cheeks of the people you love, a long hug, a simple handshake. The time will come when we embrace again, and I believe we will all hold on, just a little bit tighter. So for that, I am grateful for COVID-19.



Meg Mullins

Photo provided by Meg Mullins

Gratefulness is hard to fit in 500 words

By Valerie Henson

This season, even with all the pandemic madness and the inconsistency and frustration it brings at times, I am grateful for my family, my beautiful children and grandchildren, my loving

parents, my Skagway friends who have become my family, a roof over my head, food, warmth and a wonderful new job that brings joy and happiness to my heart.

I am grateful we have the technology to see and speak

with the family we are isolated from, even when they are thousands of miles away. I am grateful that we still have our liberties and freedoms, when so many do not. I don't know how to limit my gratitude to 500 words! We truly have so

very much to be thankful for.

I am most grateful that because my Lord and Savior, the God of Heaven and Earth, is with me, I do not have to live in constant fear. Even when I am feeling alone, sad, and frustrated, facing the un-

known circumstances ahead, I am comforted knowing that I am truly never alone, as He is always with me. This is very comforting.



Photo by Jeff Brady

UNDER THE BOARDWALK

Thankful the wave is back

By Jeff Brady

When I saw the newspaper was asking what people of Skagway are thankful for this year, I immediately thought of family and friends and relatives far away who are just thankful to be together and alive right now.

It actually was a sobering and somewhat depressing thought: thankfulness, for maybe the first time, being expressed as a false positive or negative.

But I couldn't say that, not in a newspaper seeking real thanks. I needed something more uplifting. And it came to me on a drive to town this week. Actually it's something I've noticed about Skagway since COVID began to dominate our lives.

Almost everyone waves now.

This hasn't been the case in recent years, but it used to be the norm. When I first came to town in the 1970s, waving, even to passing strangers and tourists, was what everyone did. It was an Alaskan thing, a Skagway thing. It meant that you had some small connection to everyone on the road or boardwalk.

People developed their own wave styles. Right hand, left hand, on the wheel, off the wheel, elbow out, elbow in, peace sign, Vulcan sign, full on out the window full arm rotation, you name it. Mine was two hands on the wheel, thumbs cradling the column, eight fingers flashed up and down, quick on the wave draw. Maybe do it twice for effect, or finish with a pantomimed toast if it was someone you were meeting later for a beer.

I kept it up over the years, but around the turn of the millennium I definitely started noticing that fewer people were waving back. This could be blamed on any number of causes: the tourism boom, our too busy lives, shorter attention spans, more distractions, smartphone watching, or just not caring. I suspected that younger people thought old people waving was weird.

I still waved, but it didn't bother me as much after a while that people didn't wave back. And then I pulled back as well. Why wave to someone I don't really know?

I think COVID came at just the right time.

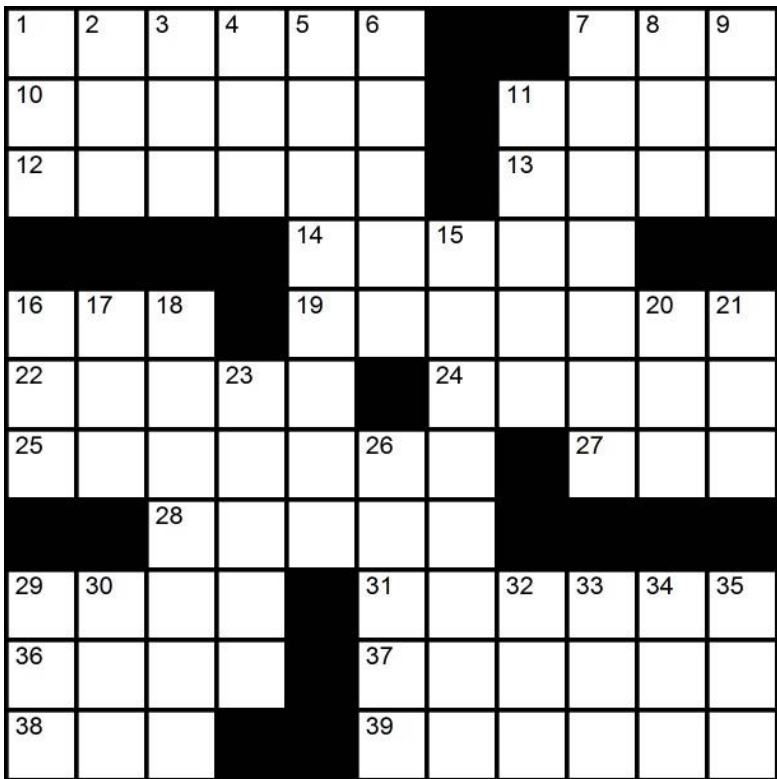
As soon as we were forced to live safely, yet alone and oftentimes in fear, I started noticing more people waving when they got out of the house. It started about the time those signs started popping up in people's driveways around Skagway: various hearts and rainbows drawn by children, and the more adult "Maybe Swearing Will Help" and "Butt Seriously, Stay Safe."

COVID was making us learn to wave again. Your vehicle was your freedom chamber away from home. Waving wasn't awkward like the elbow bump or the socially distanced air hug. A wave could be a full-on recognition that you cared about the person coming into focus. And you could wave to everyone and they'd wave back. As if to say, we are all in this together. Give me a wave, it's just as good as a hug.

And for that, I am thankful.



Family Fun Page - print and share



Across

- 1 For some time
- 7 Convert hide into leather
- 10 Stimulating drink
- 11 Harbor
- 12 Quaint love letter opener
- 13 Creep
- 14 Frothy concoctions
- 16 LA summer setting
- 19 Holy threesome
- 22 Get-well treatment
- 24 Salk's conquest
- 25 Type of show, such as Anne Hathaway's "Grounded"
- 27 Hill VIP
- 28 Same here!
- 29 Well-informed about

31 Alters formally

- 36 Niagara has a Maid of this
- 37 Tempestuous
- 38 Big Apple aria spot
- 39 Pull into

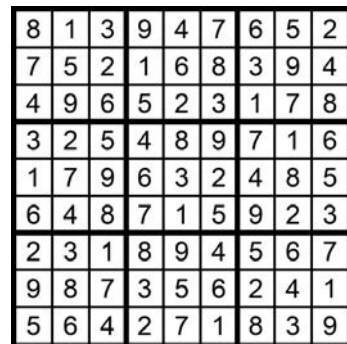
full-size

- 15 Old Dodge
- 16 In favor of
- 17 Lair
- 18 Beyond all others
- 20 Railroad cross-member
- 21 Way over there, poetically
- 23 Representative
- 26 Bellows
- 29 Now let me think ...
- 30 Chart variety
- 32 Self-esteem
- 33 Pinch
- 34 Material studied by Watson and Crick
- 35 USMC noncommissionist ---Turner
- 33 Shooter ammunition

Down

- 1 Rocket interceptor
- 2 Sardonic
- 3 Suckered
- 4 Apply a cake's top layer
- 5 Tiniest amount
- 6 Mistake
- 7 Oft-removed throat tissues
- 8 Curve
- 9 Utmost
- 11 It has 88 keys when

Last issues's answers

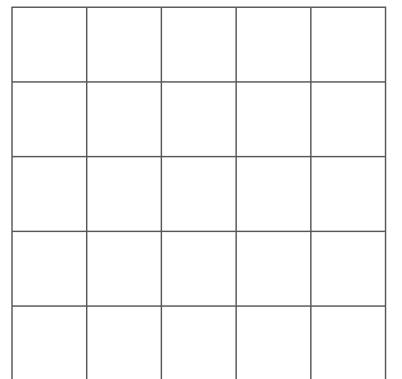
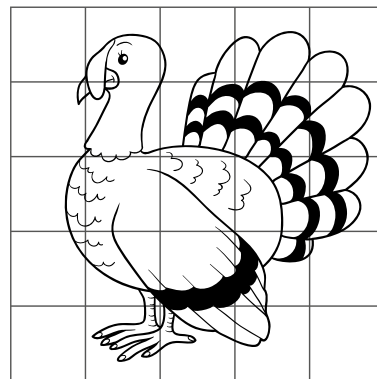


Thanksgiving

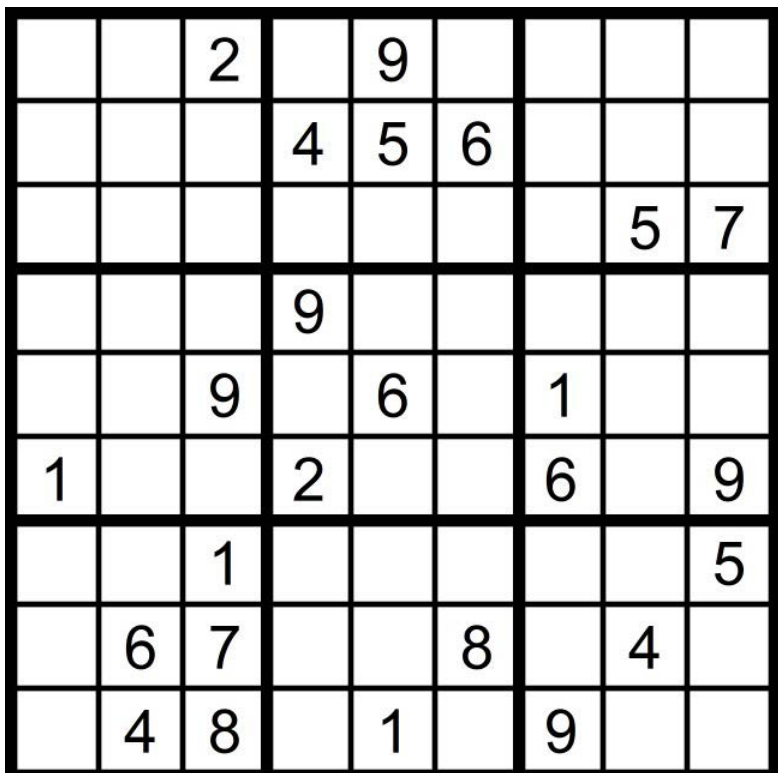


- APPLE PIE
- AUTUMN
- CORNUCOPIA
- ~~FAMILY~~
- HARVEST
- MAYFLOWER
- NOVEMBER
- PILGRIMS
- POTATO
- PUMPKIN
- SETTLERS
- THURSDAY
- TOM TURKEY

Copy the turkey



Sudoku



Color me

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. 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.

JOBS-OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR for Department of Transportation in Skagway, Alaska. Must have Experience operating Heavy Equipment; Plow Trucks, Graders, Loaders, Dump Trucks. Position is: Part Time for Winter Help Must have CDL-A OR if not at time of hire at least an Alaska CDL-B WITH AIR BRAKES and 90 days after hire to acquire your ALASKA CDL-A. For further information contact Linda @ Local 71 907-586-6993 or linda@local71.com

HOUSING-PROPERTY

FOR SALE - 501 7th Avenue, Skagway, 5 Bdrm, 2 Ba, 1,748 SF house on 1.5 lots, \$350,000, David Brena, ARA, 907-983-2700.

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

FOR SALE - 2202 Main St, 921SF, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, house on a BG (Business General) 7,607SF lot, \$350,000, David Brena, ARA, (907) 983-2700.

COMMERCIAL-PROPERTY

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Gold Digger Mine and Dine For more information see <https://www.skagway.forsale/>

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 Skaguay News Depot & Books.

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 ADS

Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

Nov. 9
EMS responded to a medical emergency on 22nd Avenue.

EMS responded to a medical emergency on 4th Avenue.

Nov. 10
Police assisted a motorist who locked their keys in their car.

EMS assisted with a medevac from Dahl Memorial Clinic.

Nov. 12
EMS responded to a medical emergency on 3rd Avenue.

Nov. 14
Fire department personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.

Nov. 15
Fire department personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.

Nov. 23
Fire department personnel responded to several fire alarms triggered by a power outage.

BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

VALLEY TRASH



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.
Wed. Bible Devotions & Prayer 7 p.m.
Meeting on-line only during shelter-in-place order. Email skagwayag@outlook.com for the zoom link.

First Presbyterian Church

5th & Main • 983-2260
Sunday Worship 10 am
Wed. Women's Prayer 1:30 pm
Thursday Bible Study 3:30 pm
Online Access Available to all events.

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.

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.

RECREATION CTR SCHED

Skagway Recreation Center •
12th & Main • 983-2679
Cardio • Weight Room • Locker Rooms • Showers • Rock Wall
OPEN regular hours
5:30am-NOON and 4pm -8pm
Please sign up for classes, wt. room use and cardio floor use at <https://signupschedule.com/src>
Two brand new treadmills and a Peloton bike. Peloton bike sign up on the online scheduler.
Pandemic User Fee \$2

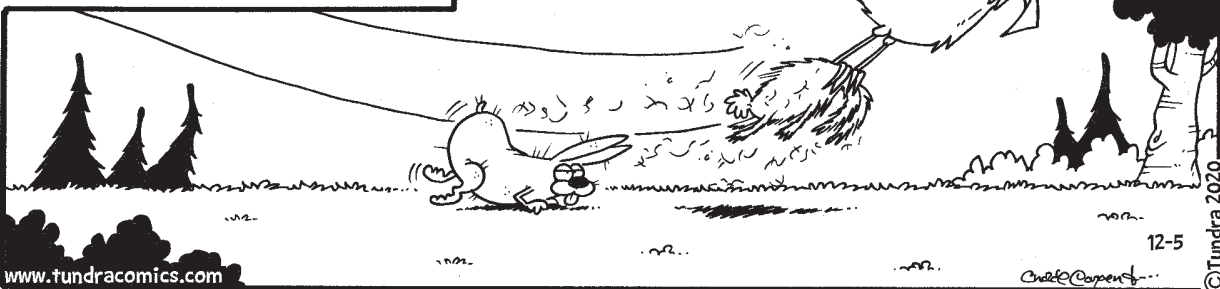
WEATHER WATCH

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

DATE	MAX	MIN	PREC
Weather Watch 10/17 -11/12			
10/29	44	37	.04 in
10/30	45	34	.01 in
10/31	45	34	
11/1	50	26	.15 in
11/2	27	17	.90 in
11/3	22	17	.09 in
11/4	24	17	trace
11/5	23	17	-
11/6	23	7	-
11/7	23	7	-
11/8	29	9	-
11/9	39	27	.05 in
11/10	37	20	trace
11/11	30	18	trace
11/12	36	28	.04 in
11/13	34	32	.28 in
11/14	34	29	-
11/15	33	27	-
11/16	36	29	-
11/17	31	21	-
11/18	26	21	-
11/19	25	21	-
11/20	24	21	-
11/21	27	23	-
11/22	28	26	.09 in
11/23	31	26	trace
11/24	30	28	.28 in

Chad Carpenter's TUNDRA

WARREN SHED HIS WINTER COAT AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT



October Students of the Month - Politeness



Summer Munson, Luna Hischer and Mason Jennings share their awards

Provided by Skagway School

SUMMER MUNSON

This student excitedly approaches others to help them out in all activities. She comes to school each day with enthusiasm and a smile on her

face greeting everyone by name. This greeting is often followed by asking how you are and she sincerely listens to your answers. She always uses her manners and says please and thank you without reminders.

MASON JENNINGS

This student greets his teacher and any other teacher he sees along the way each morning and throughout the day. What's most impressive is he always remembers to ask how they are doing.

During PE he goes out of his way to run up to other students to explain the rules of the game for the day. He encourages others to join in and watches out for them while they're playing the game. He is able to make others feel welcome because he is kind and has a positive attitude that is contagious. When conflict arises, he likes to be the one to jump in and help solve the problem.

LUNA HISCHER

For starters, this student is always on time and usually the first one to show up to class each day exemplifying

a motto she learned from her mom, "If you're not 20 minutes early, you're late." She greets her teacher on a daily basis with a smile and asks her how she is doing. Not only that, she engages in rich conversation with her teacher while out hiking or biking.

This young lady brings her knowledge and fighting passion for people, different cultures and the environment with her wherever she goes. She isn't afraid to share her differing opinions in a respectful way and listens to others' ideas with an open mind. This student chooses to do the right thing, and teachers and her classmates notice her as a role model and leader because of her respectful nature towards herself and others.

ADRIAN EFERGEN

Our secondary student of

the month is always polite and respectful to teachers and peers. This student pays attention in class, asks thoughtful questions and never talks out of turn. This student always displays good manners with both adults and students alike, he is someone who genuinely listens to what you have to say rather than just waiting for his turn to talk.

His observational sly sense of humor is also a great attribute, he can make everyone laugh without making anyone feel uncomfortable.



September Students of the Month - Confidence

Provided by Skagway School

TAYLOR WISHON

Many times, a student will possess a particular talent or ability that is hidden or untapped. Though they may be aware of such talent, they are reluctant to share it with others. Performing music, and in particular, singing, can leave a person feeling vulnerable and exposed. It takes a certain level of confidence to stand, surrounded by your peers, and sing into a microphone. This student has grown in confidence over the past two years. So much so, that he is now playing the bass, motivating other students in music class to be more confident and to take risks.

Another way this student is confident, is his values and beliefs. They may not be popular or possessed by the majority of the people around him, yet he confidently stays true to his ideals. After graduation, he has a desire to serve his country through the U.S. Air Force. I believe the confidence he demonstrates will take him far and will inspire others to take risks and stay true to their convictions. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else

is the greatest accomplishment."

NATHAN OZUZUN

Nathan's growth in the classroom started last spring when working at home and reading "To Kill A Mockingbird." Since then, his English work is all on time and he comes after school to ask what homework he might have and to seek help if he needs it. His writing has also improved. Recently he wrote an essay comparing two stories by characters and theme.

You can see the confidence in this young man in how he carries himself down the hall in school, as well as out in public spaces. He sets the bar high for himself, knowing he can achieve those goals. As someone who was once not sure of himself, or what he needed to do, he has become someone who is very confident in the direction they are going in both life and in school. I am so incredibly proud of the growth he has made since the spring, and look forward to witnessing all the amazing things this confident young man will accomplish.

VINYA MATSOV

The first elementary student of the month shows confidence in his academic work



Millie Myers, Nathan Ozuzun, Taylor Wishon and Vinya Matsov share their certificates.

as well as in his interactions with fellow students and school staff. He offers ideas in class even if he isn't sure of the correct answer.

He's willing to try new things and is confident in his ability to do difficult tasks; his confidence shows his peers that it is alright to be risk-takers and be confident in your own abilities.

MILLIE MYERS

Our second elementary student of the month, who exemplifies confidence, is a well-rounded confident leader and individual. The conviction she holds in the belief that she can succeed is clear on the court and in the class-

room. She doesn't expect perfection -- but expects the best to be put forth in herself and others. In the face of a challenge, it is clear she believes in herself and gives it her best "shot" no matter the opponent or the assignment. Her growth mindset is

solid. When the going gets tough, she always keeps going because she knows she will eventually succeed with enough hard work and practice. With her classmates, she seeks to include everyone and build others up -- the true virtue of a confident person.

ShopSmall on Saturday, November 28th!

For **ONEDAY ONLY**, play Shopper's BINGO when you shop at, or from a participating **Skagway** store. Enter into drawings with every BINGO earned for a chance to win prizes!

Shop in-person OR online with participating stores!

Find where to shop & how to play at www.skagwaydevelopment.org

To be COVID safe, SDC is offering free delivery to Skagway households for residents who don't want to shop in-person & a limited shipping rebate for out-of-town shoppers

Hosted By **SDC** Skagway Development Corporation Remember to Shop Small.