

THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

December 11, 2020

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

Helen B. Clark Award

A busy family is honored **PAGE 9**

Mural Mania

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Santa

The trials of believing **PAGE 4**

Traveller testing resolution postponed

By Melinda Munson

Assemblymember Reba Hylton presented her first resolution at the Dec. 3 assembly meeting, proposing new testing requirements for travellers to Skagway. A motion to move the resolution to the next assembly meeting passed with a vote of four to two, with Hylton and Assemblymember Dustin Stone voting against the delay.

Resolution 20-44R would require travellers to Skagway to be tested twice for COVID-19 or “follow strict social distancing” for 14 days.

Most of the assembly members who voted to hold off on the legislation made it clear they support testing for Skagway arrivals but wanted more time for public comment and to work on the resolution’s wording. Assemblymember Steve Burnham expressed concern the resolution might unintentionally hamper efforts of the Skagway Emergency Operations Center.

The resolution was originally scheduled to be heard at a Public Safety Committee meeting which was cancelled due to severe weather.

In its draft state, 20-44R would require travellers to take a molecular COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering Skagway, then test again within five to seven days of arrival. Those who do not test before reaching Skagway should schedule a test within 48 hours of disembarkment and undergo a second test within five to seven days of arrival.

Social distancing would be required until a second nega-

see page three



Photo by Hillery Lesh

Dyea resident, Jeff Brady, works to pump water out of his basement. The deluge of rain caused flooding, diverting a creek through the edge of the structure.

Record rain, snow create slides, avalanches, flooding

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

December slammed into the northern Lynn Canal with record breaking rainfall, multiple rock and mudslides and heavy snow in the passes.

Multiple storms pounded the panhandle with tropical moisture and heavy winds. Skagway saw over five inches of rain just on Dec. 2, during a month that averages 2.4 inches over 31 days. Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 each received over two inches of precipitation.

As the rain drenched the terrain, mudslides blocked portions of Dyea Road, sending Department of Transportation (DOT) crews to create a passable lane for emergency vehicles. For nearly a week, the road was closed to back and forth travel.

Dyea resident, Jeff Brady,

was too busy pumping water out of his buildings to be driving the road.

An underground river started running through the southeast corner of his basement on Wednesday.

“There was a huge amount of dirty water running down West Creek road and then

into a little side road that connects with our driveway. I had to ditch a bit in that area so it would flow right into West Creek instead of back toward us. We didn’t need any more water!” said Brady.

The event started Tuesday, Dec. 1 with the closure of the Klondike Highway between

Skagway and the Fraser, BC customs. Excessive snow and blizzard conditions made it impassable.

The weather reports warned of a series of storms headed one after another into the area.

Tuesday saw a rock slide

see page three

Three Skagway residents die within a 12-hour period

By Melinda Munson

Dec. 8 was a tragic day for a town already struggling with a pandemic, an economic downturn and a natural disaster. Three residents, not connected to each other, died within a 12-hour period, all apparently from natural causes.

According to Skagway Fire Chief Joe Rau, his staff received a report of a non-responsive female at 8:06 a.m.

Around 8:30 a.m., Fire Chaplain Cindy Rau was called to assist the deceased’s family members.

A second call came at 1:12 p.m. This time the victim was an unresponsive male found by an IGA employee. Rau estimates the male had been dead “no more than a day.”

A third call came at 4:42 p.m., an unresponsive female.

“We’re approaching Christmas, it’s just heartbreaking

for families,” Rau said.

All three deaths are still under investigation but “appear to have died from natural causes,” Rau said.

In total, the fire department has four responders with some additional volunteers.

“They really stepped up to the pressure and stress of yesterday. I’m very proud of them,” Rau said.

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Letters and Opinion

"It's okay not to be okay"

By Reba Hylton

As his voice cracked, Mayor Doug Olerud from Haines offered these words of comfort to those listening to KHNS.

"It's okay not to be okay," he said.

Hearing Doug brought me to tears. It wasn't the first time I cried over the devastating loss my friends in Haines are currently experiencing. Their pain is my pain because just like Skagway, once you are part of the community, the community is a part of you.

There's definitely some truth behind the belief that most people who move to Alaska are running away from something. It was true for me initially when I moved to Haines in 1996. Reflecting back on my 24 years of living in Alaska, I now know that I was finally in an environment that suited me so that I could become me.

Haines embraced me and I embraced it right back. The wildlife, the pristine environment, the people, the way of life. Oregon is where I grew up and where

my family still resides, but Alaska is my home.

I remember Jenae Larson as a young child. Her incredibly blonde hair was often disheveled and her clothes always a little dirty. Dirty in the best way, like a badge of honor from a happy childhood.

I remember her mother, Kim. She had a solid bat, played a mean first base, always made you smile and had a jovial, infectious laugh because she prioritized fun and displayed great sportsmanship.

It's been years since I've seen either of them -- years. But as a lot of you know, a child in our community belongs not to just one family, they belong to us all. Mothers have an unspoken solidarity with one another, a common heart. I can feel the pain from the community of Haines wafting over me, through me, being blown over to Skagway in this strong south wind that showed no mercy and brought immense loss on so many levels. Loss of life, loss of homes, loss of security.

I can't help but think what if the devastation had happened here in Skagway. The possibility of that reality has been too much for my heart to handle this past week and I feel broken.

This has been quite the year. As I write, I just became aware of the third death to occur in Skagway in the past 24 hours. Grief will linger over this holiday season just as ornaments do on the tree. The uncertainty of what 2021 may hold in store for us as a community and as individuals takes my breath away. I long for a full night's sleep and a day of blue skies and no anxiety. It will happen. I know it's just a matter of time.

I can see the acts of kindness, generosity and the overwhelming community outpouring of support and togetherness.

But today. Today I am not okay. And that's okay.



Photo by Reba Hylton

Reba Hylton pays tribute to the community of Haines on the beach at low tide near Skagway Airport. On a clear day, Haines is visible to the south.

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Record rains pound the northern Lynn Canal area, Haines receives the brunt of the storms

from front page - floods

on the Dyea Road near the Longbay area and The National Park Service reported that heavy snow and fallen trees hindered any chance of plowing, so the road to the Dyea townsite was closed.

The weather caused the drive-thru COVID testing at Dahl Memorial Clinic to close and by Wednesday, the Municipality of Skagway (MOS) closed the roads to the Gold Rush Cemetery and Seven Pastures recreational area citing slide and flash flood concerns.

Residents on Dyea Road and Nakhu Road were told to stay put and call dispatch if they needed assistance.

Avalanches continued to plague the Klondike and the weather service warned of flash flooding.

Toilets and sewer lines started to back up. The MOS Public Works Department moved to a schedule of four hours on, four hours off and then changed to a six hours on, six hours off rotation to allow workers more time to accommodate the demands of the emergency situation caused by the rain.

Trails around Skagway were closed due to ongoing mudslides. Lower Dewey Lake trail was actively sliding.

Both the Haines Highway and the Klondike were closed. The Haines Highway had at least six slides as of Tuesday, according to a DOT spokesperson in Juneau.

Darren Belilse of AP&T said their teams were working to keep the power on as trees became heavy with wet snow.

Belilse wasn't ready to fully comment on Tuesday due to predicted weather conditions.

"The story's not over," he said. "We still have tonight."

By Tuesday, Dec. 3, the National Weather Service reported 6-10 inches of rain had fallen in the Haines and Skagway areas. A flash flood watch was issued. On Dec. 4, the MOS closed the incinerator due to conditions on the Klondike Highway.

Twenty miles to the south, the neighboring community of Haines was being hit hard

with a record breaking inundation of rain. Roads started to wash out and residents were cut off from town due to slides. Several individuals had to be rescued by boat.

On Tuesday, a piece of Redinsky Mountain came tearing down the slope. The mud and rock took out homes and portions of Beach Road as the 600-foot slide ruthlessly rushed into Lynn Canal.

Two Haines residents living in the slide's path have not been found. Haines resident Janea Larson, 23, was in her first year of teaching Kindergarten at Haines Elementary School. David Simmons, 30, was the executive director of the Haines Economic Cooperation. On Dec. 7 the search was suspended for the two missing residents and the community gathered around the families of Larson and Simmons.

Searching for the two victims had become treacherous as the mountain continued to rumble and give way. Geologists, delayed by weather, determined the area was still unstable for search teams and dogs until the land had been dry for at least four days.

The community did what they could in boats and from the edge of the slide area. Coast Guard and private helicopters were dispatched to survey the slide.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy declared Haines was in a state of emergency, opening doors for state and federal assistance. Some communities near Haines were advised to boil water as the wastewater treatment plant was over capacity.

Haines residents evacuated from unstable areas, seasonally closed hotels opened up and the Red Cross set up commands. The Alaska Marine Highway ferried truck loads of volunteers, medical help and food trucks from Juneau. The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians Tribes and the Skagway Traditional Council arranged for the gathering and transportation of supplies and donations to Haines.

Alaska Seaplanes waived freight charges for emergency supplies Skagwegians pe-

riodically donated through STC. GoFund me accounts sprung up.

On the afternoon of Dec. 12,

Resolution

from front page - testing

Positive test result is confirmed. Individuals not wishing to be tested would be asked to social distance for 14 days.

Hylton does not want to add any legal ramifications to the resolution.

"I see it as a solid foundation, a firm statement and acknowledgment that Skagway takes the health of our residents seriously and visitors need to act responsibly while in our community," she said.

Several public testimonies and letters to the assembly were in favor of strict guidelines for Skagway arrivals, including Annie Matsov who noted that Alaska's hospitals were in the red zone. According to the Anchorage Daily News, there were only five adult ICU beds available in Anchorage as of Dec. 4.

"Please consider requiring a quarantine period, in keeping with the latest CDC recommendations, to help protect this town," Matsov wrote.

No correspondence or public testimony presented at the Dec. 3 meeting opposed the resolution.

In closing remarks, Stone expressed frustration with the outcome.

"I'm especially disappointed that anybody at this table would actively work to undermine, sabotage or delay this issue," he said.

Resolution 20-44R was assigned to the next Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting, held on Dec. 9, and added to the Dec. 17 assembly agenda. Visit <https://www.skagway.org> for the most up to date version of the proposed resolution.

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Haines held a vigil for their town and the two friends who were lost.

And at the same time, twenty miles to the north, at the end of Lynn Canal, their friends in Skagway held a candle-

light vigil for their neighbors and friends in Haines.

Perhaps both communities could see the light so far away, or in the very least, feel the love.



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Long live the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and Santa



By Gretchen Wehmhoff

I've always known the Easter Bunny didn't lay eggs. That was a no-brainer. But it took me several years to accept that the giant bunny didn't hide the eggs.

My realization was tough for Dad who loved finding new and challenging hiding places. My siblings and I, like many kids, were given a basket and told how many eggs we could find. I seem to recall that I was always the last to finish. Maybe I was slow, but I like to think I found the most difficult hiding places.

Dad liked to think he did, too.

Dad belonged to the Anchorage Kiwanis Club, so coloring eggs for the annual Easter egg hunt at Goose Lake was a family affair. When we were younger, we never tired, but coloring 30 dozen eggs eventually became a chore. It was kind of cool that we were able to write words like GOLD or BIKE or SLED to designate prize winning eggs, but other than that, we stuck to coloring the eggs we wanted the Easter Bunny to hide. Dad colored the rest in large batches.

Sometime in my 30s, before I met my husband, I arrived for Easter dinner at my parents home. Dad handed me an egg carton. "There are twelve plastic eggs. All in the living room," he said.

I started looking. Dad stayed focused, waiting to

see which eggs I found first. I'm not sure who enjoyed it most. I had fun looking, but I know he found joy in hiding them for me. My mother was amused watching the two of us do our thing.

While the Easter Bunny myth fell with a bit of emotion, the tooth fairy truth was disclosed in the dark when Dad accidentally swore at a hanger he stepped on as he tried to exchange the tooth for a quarter without waking me. I opened my eyes. Dad said he was just helping the tooth fairy out, but I got the idea.

So with Dad assisting the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy, it only made sense that he was tight with Santa Claus.

Dad was more than tight with Santa, he was a bonafide Santa replica and stand-in. Growing up with your dad as Santa's go-to guy was cool. We had to keep it a secret in the neighborhood. I remember an afternoon Santa (Dad) walked down the street, crossing yards and handing out candy canes. My sister and I followed along with him feeling proud and important, but we had promised not to tell anyone. Dozens of wide-eyed kids ran alongside him in awe that Santa was on their street.

I was in awe the night Dad saved Santa's life.

I must have been about six years old when Dad and I were driving home from an evening errand. The car radio blasted an emergency alert. NORAD had detected an object that appeared to be propelled by reindeer. They were scrambling jets to get a better look.

"Daddy! Daddy! It's Santa Claus! They're going to shoot down Santa Claus. We have to stop them!" I screamed.

He tried to assure me that it would be fine, but I wasn't calmed. I knew we lived near an air force base and they would get to Santa quickly.

"Hurry Daddy. Drive faster! We have to stop them."

We pulled into the driveway and I practically dragged him into the house and to the phone.

"Call them! Hurry!"

Dad picked up the phone and pretended to dial. I hung

on every word.

"Yes, general, this is PFC Wehmhoff," he said, using his rank from WWII. "Yes, my daughter wanted you to know that the unidentified object is Santa. Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. I'll tell her."

Dad let me know that they had figured it out and were going to keep the skies clear for him.

I relaxed. Whew.

A few years later, my first argument that almost turned into tears and fists happened defending Santa in second or third grade. Some kid was telling everyone that Santa wasn't real. I about lost it.

"He is too real."

"No, he's not."

"Yes, he is"

"No, he's fake"

"I've been to his house in North Pole. He's real!"

I think the volume increased as did the crowd around us. I was furious that this kid was spreading lies. Our teacher finally broke us up.

It wasn't much later that Mom had to sit me down and break the news. My older brother had known for years, but as long as he kept the secret, he got an extra present from Santa. My younger sister had run across presents in a closet, then saw the same presents under the tree labeled from Santa. As usual, I was the last to figure it out. Actually, I had to be told.

Just because his children were in on it, didn't stop Dad from spreading cheer at hospitals, children's homes and occasional private events. Mom made a perfectly-sized, authentic costume for him with Santa glasses and a beard. Dad did the rest. He was a natural. If you needed a Santa, you called George. He walked into events with a bag filled with candy canes and Mandarin oranges. If it was Christmas Eve, the clients left the presents outside the door. He would place them in the bag and the joy of believing was passed on to another generation.

One December, the U.S. Secretary of Interior, our former governor, Wally Hickel, was at home with some bug or flu. Dad decided to swing by as Santa and cheer him up.



Photo by Merle Wehmhoff
Santa (George Wehmhoff)

He pulled into the Hickel driveway and left his car running. Ermalee greeted him, took him back to see Wally for a good laugh, then Dad headed back outside. As he approached his car he heard two ominous clicks.

"Identify yourself," a voice commanded.

"I'm Santa Claus," said Dad.

"Hands above your head." The guns made another click.

This is a common theme with my father and I -- I learned later on that joking with the border patrol was a bad idea. Dad learned the same lesson with the U.S. Secret Service.

Dad told them who he was, why he was there, and said Ermalee could vouch for him.

He stood still in his Santa outfit, hands raised, gun aimed at him in the headlights of his own car while an agent went to the door to verify his story with Ermalee. She did, with some laughter.

It turned out that the agents had been in the back of the house working on a broken garage door. When they came around the corner they saw an unfamiliar car haphazardly parked with the engine running and driver's door open. Nothin' happenin' here.

Dad made sure Santa visited countless children and adults. From nursing homes to children's homes, from hospitals to private homes, Santa, my Dad, kept the magic alive. He was full of life with a jolly laugh and a memorable twinkle in his eye.

It helped that he had a custom made costume and a deep ho, ho, ho. But what made him real was his ability to look at a child, call them by name and let them believe.

Santa was real and I knew him firsthand.



Photo by Merle Wehmhoff (Mom)

Santa with my sister, Karen, me and my brother, Steve. (circa 1962-63)



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Clean Sweep program to assist substance abusers, prosecute dealers

By Melinda Munson

Mayor Andrew Cremata sees a challenging winter ahead. That's one reason he partnered with Dahl Memorial Clinic and Skagway Police Department to combat substance abuse.

The 2020 Skagway Addiction Clean Sweep is a new program "designed to help residents suffering from addiction and identify and eliminate illegal drug trafficking within the borough."

Cremata is intensely aware that drug use and suicide attempts in Juneau have substantially increased with the onset of COVID-19.

"When times are tough and people don't have anything to do ... that can be an open door to drugs," Cremata said. "We can't let it destroy this community."

Cremata said the first goal of the program is to get help for "people who are having problems." He noted that individuals who are dealing illegal substances "don't get the same courtesy."

John Hischer, licensed clinical social worker for Dahl Memorial Clinic, will help with the most important aspect of the program, get-



Counseling entrance at the Dahl Memorial Clinic. Photo by Paul Munson

ting resources to individuals struggling with drug abuse. Hischer can "provide insight into the recovery process." He can assist clients with making safety plans, coping with urges, enrolling in counseling and finding in-patient programs if necessary.

While drug and alcohol abuse happens year-round in Skagway, Hischer said he observes "more harm done during the winter."

"My goal for the program is for people to reach out for help," Hischer said.

In January, the Dahl Memorial Clinic will sponsor a free substance abuse workshop. Interested parties can be screened by Hischer and referred to medical providers if appropriate.

Hischer hopes participants will "look at their substance use behavior and see if they need to change it."

Another high priority for Hischer this winter is suicide prevention.

"I am worried about the potential for suicide. Especially if we start getting some bad news in February," Hischer said.

He urges community members to ask direct questions to individuals they might be worried about. If someone is struggling, don't be afraid to ask if they have thoughts of suicide, he said.

Hischer can be reached at the clinic at 907-983-2255, extension nine, or j.hischer@skagway.org.



Photo by Melinda Munson

Duff's is holding its annual gingerbread house contest. Customers can vote at Grizzleys on the creations displayed at Kone Kompany.

We'd like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. Let's make 2021 a year of unity, community awareness, and universal kindness.

It's never too late to join our other members in ushering in Local Loyalty. Once again, Happy New Year!

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The town Christmas tree at Fifth and Broadway. Photo by Melinda Munson



A gingerbread house entered in the kids division on display at Kone Kompany. Photo by Melinda Munson

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About those Murals



Social Distancing -- Otter Style! - by Linda Chase

It was challenging to design the mural because I work mostly with glass and I had never produced a work so large. The hard part was creating the correct scale and proportion. I wanted to paint otters because they make people smile and we all need more of that! I thought kids would like it. It was a really good experience! Loved working around the other artists and seeing each mural develop!



Braille - by Melinda, Gloria, Maruthi, Sam, Justin, Summer and Elijah Munson with Madison Ewald

Skagway has a handful of individuals who are blind, two of them are my offspring. This was a unique opportunity to share the concept of braille with the municipality, and to allow my children, most of whom have severe special needs, to participate in a major community endeavor.

I didn't have a problem sketching out the mural, but when it came to painting, it was a disaster. I asked Madison to do what I couldn't, and she accomplished it beautifully. Each of the Munson kids added a border, representing their favorite parts of Skagway.

This was both a delightful and stressful experience. The kids love to run to the recreation center and revisit their artwork. Let us know when you decode the message.



The Alaskan Summer Mountains by Aidric Solfisburg, 7

What inspired you or gave you the idea for your mural?

A picture I drew for my friend.

What did you like most about this project?

Painting the multi-colored waves.

Is there anything you would do differently next time?

I would add a river.



Peace in Connection - by Brooke Jasky-Zuber

The whole point of the painting was to inspire peaceful reflection. With so much turbulence around us and the greater political scene aimed to divide, I wanted to portray a message of calm, peace and connection that is available to all of us. It's as simple as being still and letting go.

The most difficult part of this painting was designing it for the dimensions. I'm used to doing square and vertical paintings that are a bit smaller. However, I really enjoyed having new dimensions to play with.

The inspiration came from my desire to cultivate peace. I designed the mural to remind us/me to nourish our foundation (root chakra-- thus the red hearts) of physical stability, health, harmonious home and well-being. We let that foundation give us strength to bring stability to all aspects of our being so we can ultimately experience clarity, peace and connection, and bring that gift to our community and world in a time of uncertainty. The trees symbolize our energy body, rooted firmly to the ground reaching to the sky; connected to all life force, the roots tapped into the same life-giving waters, the crowns connected in tranquil expansion.



Neon Mountain by Rebecca Hollander



Beauty Beneath Our Feet - by Annyssa Franks

As COVID-19 impacted the accustomed order of my year, I was forced to slow down and in that process, began to take notice of the beauty blooming all around me. I spent a good portion of spring learning and identifying our native species and was overwhelmed with the diversity right outside our doors. This piece is a celebration of that diversity and curiosity, with which I hope to educate and inspire locals and visitors alike to seek.

This piece was quite the undertaking, and definitely a first. I learned a lot about myself and what drives me during the 265 hours it took to complete. Outdoor painting in Southeast Alaska is not for the faint of heart, and adaptability is crucial.

Raven Steals the Light by Lybbie Brown

This painting is my own interpretation of the Tlingit tale of Raven stealing the light back and bringing it out into the world. The houses get brighter as Raven passes over, finally bringing the sunrise to the far right of the painting.

This mural is dedicated to the town of Skagway and the Tlingit community.

The hardest part of doing this mural was remembering how to blend outdoor paint! It is so hard.

I loved doing this piece because it is more expressive than I am used to, with big broad-brush strokes and a clear line of motion. I am used to fine detail and it was a relief to work BIG.

There is nothing I would do differently; I had a ton of fun painting this. Maybe bring more bug spray.

I used to do large murals, so I have worked big before, but it has been several years, so it was very cathartic to do a large outdoor piece.



Love is All Around by Atlin Ryan, 10

I have never painted anything this big before. It was really hard to draw the arrows but painting it all was really fun. What I learned is that never think you can't do something. If you try hard, you can do it.

The Hydrant by Benjamin Burnham

I was inspired by simplicity. With all this crazy stuff going on, some simplicity would do fine-- so I chose a simple object. The hardest part was starting the outline of the hydrant and trying to make it symmetrical. If I could change anything, I would change the color of the hydrant to a darker red and the lowest layer of the grass.



The Water is Watching Me Think About You by Tessa Franz Healy

Have you ever painted anything this big before?

In college, most of my senior project was painting. I have not painted anything quite this big in one go, but I had a few pieces that were fairly close. I never had to battle the elements to paint them, though!

What did you like most about this project?

Doing this project was a great catalyst to getting my paint brushes back out! It has been far too long since I have taken the time to paint and I am excited to dive back in again.



Endless Summer by Jasmine Flew Held

Summer is hands down my favourite time of year-- I never want it to end! I am in love with the colourful energy of Alaskan summers, drawing inspiration from the joy blooming that fireweed and bees bring.

I have painted several large-scale paintings throughout my life, the biggest being 6 x 33 ft. I am thankful I have parents who fostered my creativity early on, allowing me to paint murals throughout our family home from the age of 12.



Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

Bear killed at incinerator

By Melinda Munson

The Skagway Police Department (SPD) received a report that a bear broke into the ash fill pit at the incinerator on **Nov. 23**. After consulting with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, SPD attempted to haze the bear, but was forced to kill the animal when it started coming into the facility through an access hatch.

"We were very fortunate that city workers weren't injured," said J.J. Reddick, acting police chief.

Borough Manager Brad Ryan emphasized that the dispatched bear was a male, not the sow or cub that have been spotted in town earlier this winter.

Nov. 24
Fire department personnel responded to a fire alarm on 3rd Avenue.

Police officers assisted the Department of Transportation with the removal of a fallen tree blocking Dyea Road.

Nov. 25
The Klondike Highway was closed for an avalanche on the Canadian side.

Dec. 2
Police officers responded to a large mudslide with debris several feet thick blocking Dyea Road.

Nov. 27
Fire department personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.

Dispatch assisted Skagway Public Works and the Department of Transportation with the removal of several cars interfering with plowing operations.

Dec. 1
Fire department personnel responded to several fire alarms caused by a power outage.

Police officers assisted with the closing of all hiking trails, Seven Pastures and the Gold Rush Cemetery access road due to the threat of flooding and mudslides.

The Klondike Highway was closed due to blizzard conditions.

Police officers assisted a motorist whose car was stuck in the snow.

Police officers assisted Alaska Power & Telephone with identifying two downed power lines.

Police officers responded to a small rock slide on Dyea Road.

Fire department personnel responded to several fire alarms caused by another power outage.

Dec. 4
EMS personnel responded to a medical emergency on State Street.

Police responded to a two-vehicle car accident on Dyea Road.

EMS personnel assisted the Coast Guard with a medevac from the clinic.

Police officers assisted a motorist who was locked out of their car.

Dec. 5
Police officers responded to a report of a deer carcass with its antlers cut off washing up near the Ore Dock.

Designed - by Adalia Deach, painted by Adalia, Callia Fielding and friends

What inspired you or gave you the idea for your mural?

I was recently a part of a nuclear disarmament art project and it was themed a lot around Japan, so I had lots of ideas centered around Japanese culture that I didn't get to use as part of the installation, one of them being koi fish.

What was the hardest part of doing the mural?

The hardest part for me was making the lines clean and nice. I'm not used to doing simple art like this on such a large scale, so making it look neat and organized was super difficult. I'm a lot better at messy and detailed painting.

What did you like most about this project?

I really liked getting to work with all my friends to create something cool. Designing it digitally was also lots of fun-- I got to turn my sketch into a finished piece of art, which was exciting.

Have you ever painted anything this big before?

No! It was tons of fun though, and it is really cool to step back and admire it from afar.



Kandinsky Revival by Steve Colley

What inspired you or gave you the idea for your mural?

I taught high school art for eighteen years. One of my favorite projects was when we studied color theory culminating in a project that was a painting inspired by Wassily Kandinsky's Colorful Circles in Squares. I chose my own interpretation for this mural. I thought it would be happy and colorful yet not trapped by a message.

Is this mural in dedication to anyone? Why?

I dedicate it to Wassily Kandinsky who was a wonderful abstract painter and art teacher credited with being the pioneer of abstract art.

What was the hardest part of doing the mural?

Estimating the amount of paint needed. I purchased more than twice the amount needed! Now I have lots of acrylic paint for more paintings. Some will be abstract in nature and some landscapes of this beautiful place.

What did you like most about this project?

The part I liked most was actually executing the painting. Applying the paint is often trying and sometimes less than rewarding. This was mostly a joy. Mixing the paint on the 4x8 plywood was most satisfying.

Grow in Skagway - by Jessica Callies

The mural was (clearly) inspired by all the ways you can grow and all the things that do grow in Skagway. The obvious is the plants, vegetables and flowers. The implied is the spiritual and emotional growth many experiences while residing in Skagway. It is an extraordinarily unique town that has certainly opened my mind and my heart in many ways.



The hardest part was sitting on the ground. My back did not like that!

My favorite part was getting to be involved and included in such a beautiful project with other artists I admire.

I have done many other large-scale projects, so I knew what I was in for!

What a lovely project. I am honored to be a part of

Tronruds named winners of 2020 Helen B. Clark Award

By Jeff Brady

The volunteer team of John and Jan Tronrud are the recipients of the 34th annual Helen B. Clark Award for Skagway Community Service.

In this unusual COVID year, the award was announced today via Facebook Live by Jeff Brady at Skagway News Depot & Books with the Tronruds present via Zoom from their home, where they have been quarantining after a doctor trip to Juneau.

Jaime Tronrud Bricker, who set up the Zoom surprise, had nominated her dad and step-mom a year ago. In her nominating statement, she said, "John and Jan Tronrud have been instrumental in the health and happiness of Skagway for many years and in many ways."

With the help of others, she noted their individual and collective volunteer work:

- John has been a member of the Elks for 41 years, serving as exalted ruler and district deputy and helping with scholarships, burger feed fundraisers, hoop shoots, summer camps and more. He served on the Skagway City Council from 1987-1996, was Economic Development Commission chair, and a member of the Port Commission, Port Governance Committee, Tidelands Lease Negotiating Team and Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Board. He also is a past president of the Southeast Conference.

- Jan served on the Skagway Chamber of Commerce

Board for four terms and was instrumental in organizing Fourth of July activities and Ducky Derby, as well as the Skagway Business Directory. She still volunteers for the Chamber. Jan also served on the Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau Board and Planning and Zoning Commission.

- Together, John and Jan have worked tirelessly for many years on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church and their patrons. Both have held positions as elder, deacon, and clerk of sessions, represented the church at state meetings and hosted visiting presbytery guests at their White House B&B, which they recently sold. Jan has also prepared sermons and communion when Pastor Mandeville is absent, and John has handled repairs for the church, manse and rental. Jan is in the weekly women's prayer group and led the push to continue the Malawi Crisis Nursery Fundraiser. More recently, she led prayer services for little Danica Taylor and organized the ringing of 100 church bells for Veterans Day. They both help with Vacation Bible School, cleaning, decorating and sorting food and clothing for the exchange.

"Outside of their affiliation with all these organizations, Jan and John have been known to help anyone in need -- family, friends, associates and strangers," Bricker wrote. "Those who are sick, injured or dying. People celebrating weddings,

new babies, graduations and more. They've cooked meals, repaired homes, facilitated transportation, read scripture, sang songs and played games. Five hundred words are not enough to detail all the ways they have added life, love and value to our village."

After the announcement, Bricker delivered the award, an antique wood "T" typeface letter from bookstore owner Brady's collection.

Also recognized this year were new nominees Betsy Albecker, Eric Moseley, Jim Sager and Pam Joy. They will receive certificates and have been added to the pool of nominees to be considered.

The late Helen Clark was the first recipient of Skagway's Community Service Award in 1987 and agreed to have future awards named for her so generations would remember her volunteer spirit.

The award recognizes outstanding volunteer deeds or service to the community.

The award is jointly sponsored by the Skagway Book Co. and The Skagway News, which hosted the Facebook Live event. Every fall, nomination letters are accepted from the public. A committee of past winners then reviews nominations from the previous five years and selects a winner.



Jan, Austin, John and Waylon Tronrud.

Photo provided by Jaime Tronrud Bricker

School building reopens to students, basketball postponed

By Melinda Munson

Skagway City School restarted in-person classes on Dec. 7 after nearly two weeks of Zoom instruction. The Skagway School student diagnosed with COVID-19 made a full recovery and no other positive tests were detected in the school community.

Instruction resumed in the yellow zone meaning masks must be worn at all times, except for when eating and drinking. Field trips are prohibited and the 2021 basketball season has been

postponed until spring. The school will not host any visiting teams through at least March.

"If it is safe to do so, we plan to host games in April and May and hopefully send our kids to a culminating event in Juneau towards the end of the school year," said Dr. Josh Coughran, superintendent.

According to a letter from Coughran to the assembly, the Skagway School Board (SSB) rescinded "resistance to Municipal Ordinance 20-16, which mandates the use

of face coverings in municipal facilities and the school when within six feet of another individual."

The SSB initially bristled at the municipality's mask requirement, expressing concerns that the board should set their own health policies and masks would interfere with sports participation.


"The pandemic has quite literally hit home and as case numbers continue to surge across the state, medical professionals and health experts have advised the use of face coverings in all settings when

physical distancing cannot be maintained," Coughran said.

The Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA), which oversees the state's high school sports and activities programs, issued updated recommendations that masks be worn even during sports.

"Skagway School intends to follow both the municipal mandate as well as the guidance from ASAA and will require the use of face coverings whenever six feet of distancing cannot be maintained, even in situations of

extreme physical exertion," Coughran said.

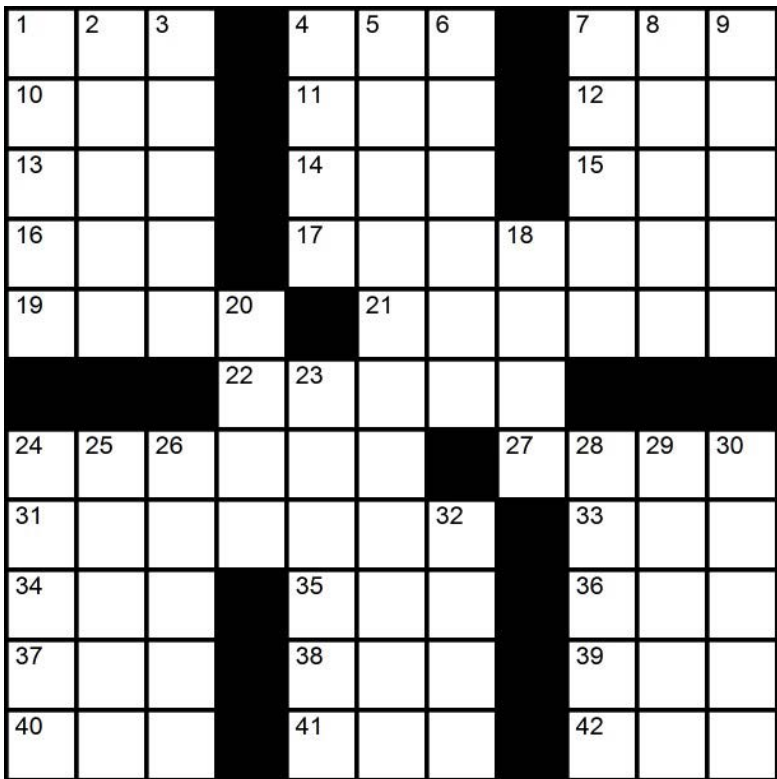


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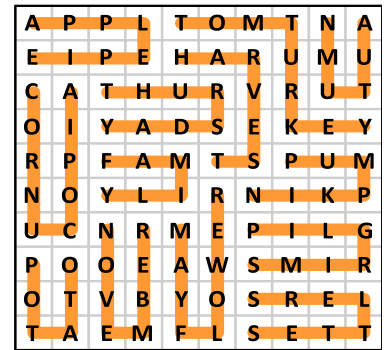
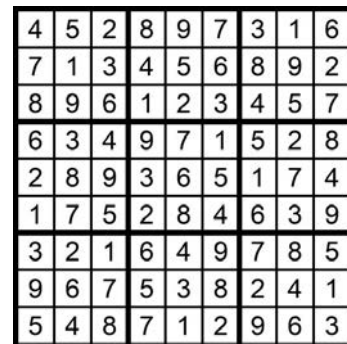
- Across**
 1 Rugged auto
 4 Besides
 7 Print leaver
 10 Startling exclamation
 11 Fish eggs
 12 Instruction to a Mexican hen?
 13 Hogwarts mail deliverer
 14 Outdated computer monitor type
 15 Slender metal fastener
 16 Memory size unit
 17 Condescended
 19 Donkey cry
 21 You and me
 22 "The Treasure of the Sierra ---"
 24 What became of the OSS?
 27 Longest African flower

- 31 Commentary
 33 Gallic refusal
 34 Corporate ending
 35 Program that per forms repetitive tasks
 36 Whale group
 37 Very skilled person
 38 Corroded
 39 Application
 40 Shelter
 41 Breach
 42 Conference and source of online talks

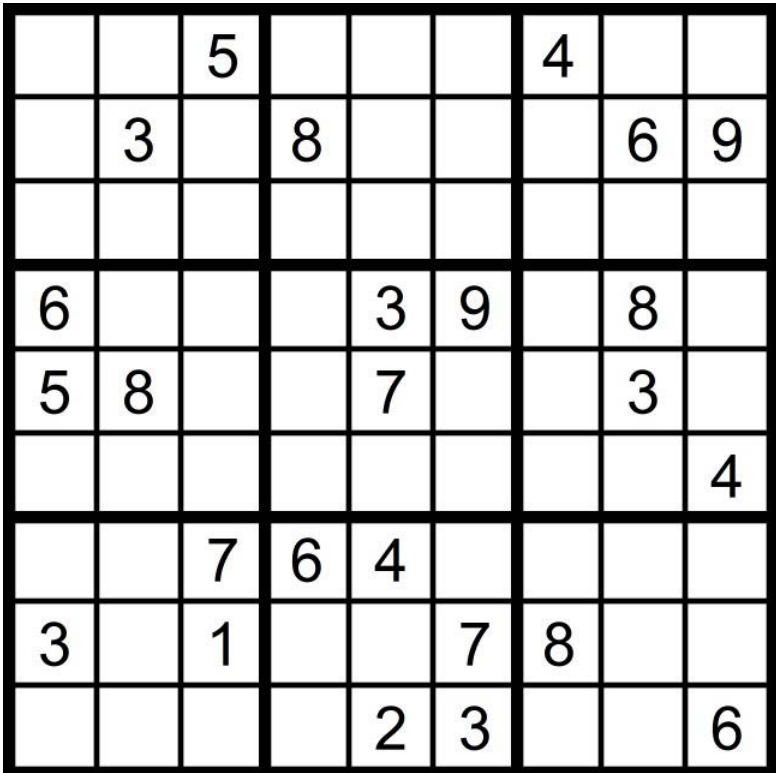
- 6 Inconvenient orange road sign
 7 The old man
 8 Outlander
 9 Proceeds
 18 Augury
 20 Geneva-based youth org.
 23 Car safety device
 24 Experiment
 25 Therefore
 26 Event host
 28 Two cents' worth
 29 Unfettered
 30 Finished
 32 Pace

- Down**
 1 Manhattan Project goal
 2 High building
 3 Its delta lies near Astrakhan
 4 Electrical discharges
 5 Flickertail state

Last issues' answers



Sudoku



MERRY CHRISTMAS

S R T S D C R A A K E D C C R P
 A I F P O I N S E T T I A I N E
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 T M A C L M E R R Y S K E R L C
 A I S H S G R I N C H I E S S E
 A S C N O E E G G N O G S R T L
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 C L S S G S F R U I T C A K E R
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| SANTA | NOEL | CARDS | NORTHPOLE |
| GIFT | POINSETIA | CANDYCANE | COOKIES |
| EVE | FRUITCAKE | SLEIGH | TREE |
| CHRISTMAS | EDDNOG | SCROOGE | PEACE |
| MISTLETOE | SNOWBALL | BELLS | JACKFROST |
| MERRY | DOLLS | CANDLES | DECEMBER |
| CHEERS | NUTCRACKER | CAROL | ANGEL |
| MIRACLE | GRINCH | SNOWBALL | HOLIDAY |



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.

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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

THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM is interested in acquiring information regarding the availability of existing or new leased space to accommodate court functions in the Skagway area. The space must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be located on property within Skagway, Alaska.
2. Must provide at least 1000 contiguous square feet of net usable space for offices, and other support spaces on one floor of a building.
3. Must be able to provide a minimum nine-foot ceiling.
4. Must be able to provide 2 parking spaces by the building and adequate on or off-street parking to accommodate the public and jurors within one block of the building.
5. Meet all applicable codes and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Accessibility guidelines.
6. Provide all utilities, including electricity, heat, water, sewer and refuse pickup.

7. Provide all services, such as: janitorial and snow removal.

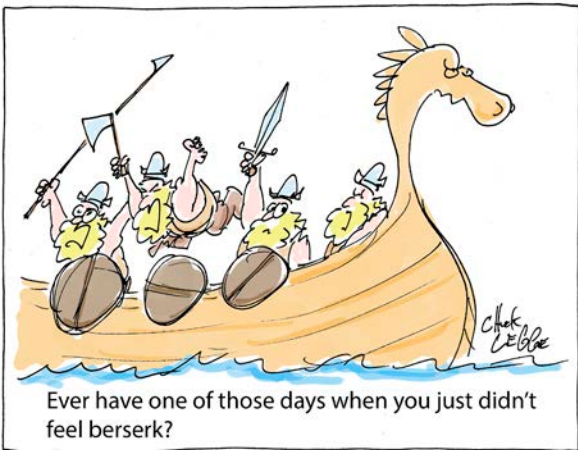
If interested, and you meet the above criteria; please respond in writing no later than December 10, 2020. Written responses must address each of the criteria items listed above and include a contact name and address for the respondent as well as the physical address for the space offered.

There is no intent to award a contract for lease space as a direct result of information received from this solicitation. No prices are required in response to this Request for Information. A subsequent Invitation to Bid may be issued to obtain a contract for the lease space. This Request for Information does not obligate the court system to award a contract nor to pay any costs incurred in preparation of a response to this Request for Information. Respondent names and addresses will be kept on file for any future Invitations to Bid.

Written responses must be sent to: Dawn Molina, Facilities Project Manager
820 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

BARBARIANS ink.



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

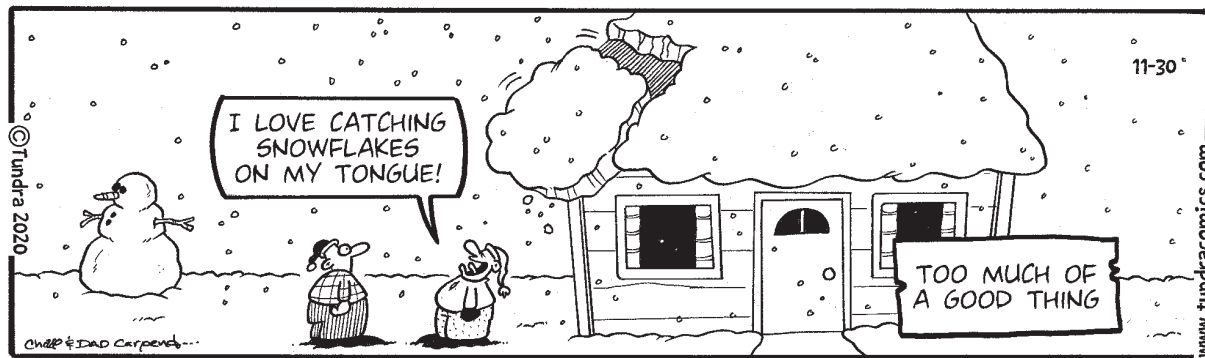
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OBSERVATIONS FOR PREVIOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD BEFORE 7 A.M.

DATE	MAX	MIN	PREC
Weather Watch 11/21 -12/10			
11/21	27	23	-
11/22	28	26	.09 in
11/23	31	26	trace
11/24	30	28	.28 in
11/25	32	14	-
11/26	41	20	.14 in
11/27	39	32	trace
11/28	37	30	trace
11/29	40	32	.92 in
11/30	40	32	.02 in
12/1	39	32	2.40in
12/2	43	32	5.37in
12/3	42	35	2.15in
12/4	42	32	.35 in
12/5	44	32	.51 in
12/6	37	31	.80 in
12/7	43	32	.35 in
12/8	42	37	.32 in
12/9	43	37	-
12/10	38	29	trace



PHONE: 907-983-2259

TUNDRA



Skagway Blooms by Adriane, Avelyn, 5 and Finnley, 7

What inspired you or gave you the idea for your mural?

We had several ideas before settling on our sunflowers. I realized Finnley, Avelyn and I, all have multiple sunflower sketches and watercolors, so this was an object we could come together on. All three are different. I liked this idea of having three unique sunflowers and bringing them together in one painting. Our different styles and abilities along with our love of sunflowers were our inspiration.

Is this mural in dedication to anyone? Why?

We dedicate this to each family in Skagway. We celebrate your differences. Let these cheerful flowers bring you light.

What did you like most about this project?

The girls designed their flowers, but I did most of the painting. I became very familiar with each of their little designs. I found myself connecting their personalities to their flowers. Finnley has such an open and bright heart, she cares for everyone. Avelyn is tiny, sometimes fragile, but determined and clever. I wanted my flower to be like the sun, hopefully, nurturing their flowers to grow in love. This was what I liked most, daydreaming while painting and thinking of all these connections.



Garden Party in Bird Town - by Donna Griffard and Tina Cyr

While parts of our mural were preplanned and inspired by past art we have done, many features were also added during the painting process.

When not working on the panel, we hiked areas surrounding Skagway and observed colorful mushrooms, birds flitting about and other small life forms on the trails. Many of those things lodged in our minds, came back with us, and ended up captured as new parts of the mural.

Painting is meditative and throughout the process we found our minds drifting and shared many memories with each other. A simple walk around the mural space, visiting with other artists that were simultaneously creating, frequently brought changes in color or inspiration to our own work.

Mostly it was just plain fun, and it was truly hard to know when to stop-- like the addition of bugs toward the end, because what outdoor party is complete without ants?

Photos and commentary for the display of murals were provided by the Skagway Recreation Center.

LIFELINE Program for Low-Income Consumers

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet. You can only use Lifeline for either phone or internet, but not both.

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- **Tribal-specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) & Tribal Head Start.**
- **Income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline**
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assist Prog (SNAP)**
- **Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)**
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
- **Veterans Pension & Survivors Benefit Prog.**
- **Medicaid**



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