

THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

February 12, 2021

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

Canada extends cruise ship ban

By Melinda Munson

The news Feb. 4 shattered Skagway's hopes for a partial 2021 cruise ship season after COVID-19 wiped out what was supposed to be a bumper 2020.

Canada announced an extension of its ban on ships carrying 100 or more passengers for another year until Feb. 28, 2022.

The U.S. Passenger Vessel Services Act, which extends the century-old Jones Act's requirements for cargo vessels to passenger vessels means foreign-flagged Alaska-bound cruise ships required to stop at a foreign port before reentering the U.S. are now stymied.

"Obviously this was a blow that nobody was expecting," said Mayor Andrew Cremata.

"At the moment, the narrative is indeed that this does put an end to the possibility of having a cruise ship season. There is still a chance that the planets could align, so to speak, and some portion of a cruise ship season happens -- but it is a very, very long shot."

According to Cremata, Alaska has lobbied since spring 2020 for a waiver from the federal law requiring the ships to stop in Canada, but to no avail. Another idea, in which cruise ships make port at an uninhabited Canadian island, seems unlikely as Transport Canada's new guidelines prohibit large passenger ships from operating in Canadian waters.

With Skagway's financial future even more dismal than expected, Borough Manager Brad Ryan is revisiting the

continued on page three



Photo by Ryan Ellis

Ryan and Megan Ellis sport mittens made by Jen Ellis, Ryan's sister in Vermont. Jen's mittens took the national spotlight when Sen. Bernie Sanders wore a pair to the presidential inauguration in January.

The mitten maker's brother - a Skagway connection

By Melinda Munson

"My sister made Bernie's mittens!" boasted Ryan Ellis in a Jan. 20 Facebook post.

He was referencing the chunky brown and white mittens Sen. Bernie Sanders wore to President Joe Biden's inauguration.

The handmade mittens, a gift from Ryan's older sister, Jen Ellis, stole the spotlight from more refined fashion choices such as Vice President Kamala Harris' all-purple ensemble and former first lady Michelle Obama's mauve pantsuit.

Since the inauguration, memes of Sanders, sitting in a chair with his arms crossed, sporting the cozy mittens and a medical mask, have made thousands of appearances, including the bridge of the Starship Enterprise and more locally, inside Skagway Brewing Company's dining

room.

Jen, a second grade teacher in Vermont, sewed the mittens out of old sweaters. She knew a relative of Sanders, and asked that the repurposed textiles be passed onto the senator.

"That's something that Jen would do," Ryan said. "I wasn't surprised." He described his sister as "a strong, creative personality."

"I was proud of her. She's talented. She works hard."

Ryan first came to Skagway 12 years ago as a seasonal employee for White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad.

"I come from a family of train fans," he said. The allure of working for an Alaskan railroad attracted him to Skagway, the people keep him coming back each year.

"It's adult summer camp," Ryan said. He and his wife,

Megan, spend their winters in Montana and frequently travel. Their last trip was to Florida, where they met up with Jen, her wife and their young daughter.

Since the inauguration, Jen has received 18,000 requests for mittens, many of the messages asking for multiple pairs. The response was so overwhelming, Jen had to shut down her email account.

Unwilling to stop teaching, Jen partnered with Vermont Teddy Bear, which will produce the hand apparel, with a portion of the proceeds going to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Vermont.

"I want my collaboration to have some kind of charitable component. I already have a job," Jen said, noting that getting report cards out was her current priority.

Jen now has a manager to oversee media requests and

is planning to write a book. She has auctioned off several pairs of mittens for charity and was thrilled when Sanders' mitten merchandise raised \$2 million for Vermont's Meals on Wheels, an organization the Ellis' grandmother once utilized.

An island of blue in a deeply red state, Skagway supports Bernie like few Alaskan towns. In the 2016 presidential caucus, Sanders garnered 105 votes while Hillary Clinton received just four, according to KHNS. The Bernie mitten memes inundated Skagway Facebook groups, giving joy to a town burdened with Alaska's highest unemployment rate.

While Ryan might not be back this summer due to COVID-19, he's planning to return in 2022. Skagway hopes he brings his mittens.

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First Alaska state ferry sinks at Anacortes



(Photos courtesy of the Alaska Marine Highway System)

The Chilkat was built for the Territory of Alaska, entering service less than two years before statehood. This photo shows the ferry at sea in May 1957. The photo below is the Chilkat after updates. The Chilkat sailed into Skagway for years until it was decommissioned.

Courtesy of the Wrangell Sentinel

The first ship built for what would become Alaska's state ferry system sank Jan. 13 in a windstorm and dock collapse in Anacortes, Washington, where the decommissioned Chilkat had been moored to a concrete floating pier.

The ship sank about 85 miles north of Tacoma, where it was built in 1957 at a cost of about \$300,000 to provide daily service between Juneau, Haines and Skagway.

When Alaska entered the union on Jan. 3, 1959, the Chilkat became the first Alaska state ferry, later joined by four larger vessels that were built after voters later that year approved a bond issue to pay for construction of the fleet, according to the Alaska

Department of Transporta-
 tion website.

The Alaska Marine High-
 way System sold the 99-foot-
 long vessel in 1988 to a sea-
 food company that used the
 ship as a scallop fishery ten-
 der.

The Chilkat capsized

shortly after 55 mph winds
 and strong tidal forces sank
 the pier, the U.S. Coast
 Guard said, as reported by
 KOMO TV news in Seattle.
 No injuries were reported,
 and two other vessels tied
 at the dock were saved from
 sinking. The Chilkat is under

40 feet of water, the station
 reported.

The ferry could carry 59
 passengers and 15 vehicles,
 and was built with a bow
 ramp that allowed passen-
 gers and vehicles to offload
 on an unimproved beach as
 well as a dock.



CVB gets name change, permission to use new slogans

By Melinda Munson

The borough assembly
 voted Jan. 21 to change the
 Convention and Visitors
 Bureau's name to the Skag-
 way Visitor Department.
 The Convention and Visitors
 Board will now be known
 as the Skagway Visitor Ad-
 visory Board. All assembly
 members voted yes on the
 legislation, Ordinance 21-
 01.

In its original form, Or-
 dinance 21-01 would have
 changed the bureau's name
 to the Skagway Tourism De-
 partment.

Assemblymember Steve
 Burnham proposed the word
 tourist be replaced with vis-
 itor, pointing out that many

people, such as truck driv-
 ers, pass through Skagway
 and spend money but aren't
 tourists. His amendment was
 unanimously approved.

Resolution 21-01R also
 passed, giving the visitor de-
 partment permission to use
 branding other than the mu-
 nicipality's official slogan.

"Shedding the tagline
 'Gateway to the Klondike' is
 critical in our path forward.
 As a premiere travel destina-
 tion, we don't want to be the
 gateway to somewhere else.
 It diminishes our status in
 the marketplace to potential
 visitors," tourism director
 Cody Jennings said.

Jennings first approached
 the assembly in October of

2020, hoping for more flex-
 ibility with marketing cam-
 paigns.

With the fallout of cruise
 ship travel and the border
 to Canada still closed due to
 COVID-19, Skagway is ex-
 pected to start focusing on
 independent travellers.

"We're not even the gate-
 way to the Klondike right
 now. We've got some false
 advertising going on," joked
 Mayor Andrew Cremata.

Burnham was the only no
 vote for Resolution 21-01R,
 stating he wanted the assem-
 bly to have more oversight
 of the visitor department's
 marketing strategies than the
 language provided.

Assemblymember Reba

Hylton disagreed, saying she
 would like to grant "as much
 leniency as we can give to
 this department, because I
 fully trust them."

Assemblymember Ori-
 on Hanson added that "be-
 ing nimble is an important
 thing," and would be made
 difficult by frequent check-
 ins with the assembly.

Resolution 21-01R per-
 tains only to the visitor
 department and does not
 change the municipality's
 seal or motto.

Skagway distributes 617 COVID-19 doses, thanks to Haines

By Melinda Munson

While a majority of the country waits their turn for a COVID-19 vaccine, Skagway opened vaccination clinics to anyone over 18. Nearly every adult who wished to be vaccinated received the first of a two-part series.

As of Feb. 8, 617 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been distributed. A clinic scheduled for Feb. 12 will give second doses to approximately 100 individuals. Sixty health care providers and essential workers have already received their second doses.

“We came up a little bit short,” Borough Manager Brad Ryan said. A handful of people who wanted the vaccine will have to wait for their first dose.

The high vaccination rate is a turnaround from just a few weeks ago when Haines

invited all its residents to be inoculated as Skagway waited for its first doses.

SEARHC in Haines, which received its vaccines from Indian Affairs, donated surplus supply to Skagway. That, in combination with vaccines received from the state, allowed the town with no hospital and a population of approximately 800 to cover nearly every adult resident.

“It’s incredible how well we’ve been taken care of,” Ryan said.

Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being utilized. The “ultra cold temperature requirements” for storing the Pfizer vaccine don’t immediately come into effect, Ryan said, after initial concerns that the company’s vaccine could not be safely held in Skagway.

“You have five days from the day you crack open the



Heidi Fairbanks receives her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Provided by Heidi Fairbanks

case in Anchorage to use it,” he said.

The vaccination clinics were held in the Skagway Public Safety Facility. After receiving shots, residents waited 15-30 minutes in a circle of socially distanced chairs by the fire engines, under the supervision of

EMTs.

There were no reports of severe side effects.

Heidi Fairbanks reported extreme fatigue and said she fell asleep in her bathtub. But, she noted, she’s a teacher and it was a Friday.

Charity Pomeroy said her side effects were “hope, grat-

itude and love for everyone in 99840.” She also experienced fatigue and a “mildly sore arm.”

Anyone over 18 interested in getting their first COVID-19 vaccine should call Dahl Memorial Clinic at 907-983-2255.

2021 cruise season looks bleak

from front page

2021 budget. The original budget anticipated 25% of the sales tax revenue from 2019. The revised budget is based on 6% of 2019 revenue.

On Friday, one day after Canada’s announcement, White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad announced the “abolishment” of 27 jobs. Since then, Cremata has heard from multiple Skagwegians who say they can’t stay.

Assemblymember Dustin Stone described Canada’s new extension as a “gut punch.” But he did see a silver lining.

“Now we have a better idea of what we’re facing ... we weren’t unprepared for this,” he said.

Cremata, the borough assembly and the visitors department have been working on campaigns to attract in-

dependent travelers should cruise ships not materialize.

“We need jobs. Especially the year-round residents. If we lose people it will become a cascading effect,” Cremata said.


A town hall, dubbed Save Our Skagway, was scheduled for Feb. 10. The meeting will focus on tourism strategies and pulling Skagway through to 2022. (The Skagway News will report on the meeting in its Feb. 26 edition.)

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the 2022 tourist season is expected to thrive due to pent-up travel demand. The question is, will Skagway have enough residents and businesses left to cater to visitors.

Tom Cochran, chair of the Ports and Harbors Advisory Board, thinks the answer is yes.

“Skagway’s been a boom-or-bust town since the gold rush. We’ve been through ups and downs before and we always come through ‘em -- and we will again,” he said.





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409	1:30 P.M. X7	2:15 P.M.

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Paper dolls and valentines

Editors Column

A few minutes later she looks up.

“Thank you for doing this with me.”

“Of course,” I say, “This is nice. Thanks for coming over.”

That, to this day, will always be my most cherished Valentine’s Day.

Our relationship started when I met her father on a “kinda” blind date. The first thing he said after our greeting was, “Do you want to see my daughter?”

He pulled two well-loved photos out of his inside jacket pocket. I could tell they were always with him.

Bri, like her dad, loved quiet and peace. The bus rides were too loud, so Joe

drove her to school every day. She would spend hours cutting up magazines and pasting the photos in a collage on numerous shoe boxes where she kept her treasures. She created order.

As Joe worked, either I or his mother, Suzan, would pick up Briannan from her mom and spend time doing arts and crafts. My mother always did crafty things with us. Our moms were from a generation that didn’t need fancy new things, just a little bit of creativity and a dash of fun.

Suzan was a talented artist. Drawing with ink, her favorite medium, she created one-of-a-kind greeting cards and stationary notes, neatly wrapping each one and its envelope with plastic wrap. At times, she dabbled in water color, painting images of children, often her own, in happy places such as hiking with each other or dancing in Alaska Native parkas.

Ask any of her many children and grandchildren and they will tell you her favorite talent was making paper dolls. Not the kind that string together, but individual dolls with individual outfits.

Sue quickly sketched a doll on card stock. While Bri or later, Bri’s daughter, Alivia, cut out the form, she skillfully drew clothes for each doll. The clothes could be colored with crayons or pencils, but they always fit and they always brought joy to whichever child was with her.

Bri shared the love of

making gifts and valentines with her daughter. Like Suzan, Bri wasn’t flush with extra money. She was a single mother of two children in an unsteady world where young fathers became overwhelmed and disappeared or took a break.

Bri gathered supplies from family or found paper and pencils in thrift stores to help her kids create their own valentines.

Joe once told me there were days his mom quietly wished she could buy the store bought valentines, but with 11 children over the years, it was the homemade valentines that came to classmates and teachers.

Homemade valentines are the best.

We lost our valentine this past December - a few days after Christmas. One never really expects a child’s life to end so early. She was 30. We are devastated.

Briannan left her two beautiful children with poignant memories such as the love of hiking, being outdoors and creative family time. Her youngest child, Doug, can build thoughtful and functional creations with Legos or Tinker Toys. He also loves art. His gifts to us are usually “made by Doug with love.”

Alivia has become a painter and a detailed artist, using the long pandemic hours to teach herself new drawing skills with YouTube videos. She loves to dance and spends more time than I can clock dancing in our living room, asking Alexa to repeat

a song until her routine is just right.

Suzan, eventually, with the onset of dementia, lost the ability to draw or write in her signature calligraphy style. She still smiled at stories of children or lit up when she heard a child enter the room. In January she started to get tired. Her body began to fail and she spent the last two weeks under palliative care in the hospital.

I liked to think that Briannan kept her company in the room, reminding her she was loved.

Alivia’s birthday was this weekend and I’m sure that Bri was saying, “one more day, Grandma, one more day.”

Suzan made it to her 83rd birthday on Feb. 4, and Alivia, who had just lost her mom a month ago, celebrated her 12th birthday on Sunday.

On Monday, Suzan left us. She left us with visions of helping those in need and her ability to remember every child’s birthday. She gave of herself humbly and with strong faith in God.

She left us with memories of spending time with the children she loved, enjoying peaceful moments, picking peas from her garden, hiking to the creek or sitting quietly in the living room making art.

I like to think Sue and Briannan are in a place filled with peace and quiet as they make endless paper dolls and valentines. Maybe my mom has joined them at the craft table. We miss you all.

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

Carly Simon’s “My Romance” softly fills the air in my downtown apartment. Four-year-old Briannan, my future stepdaughter, and I are coating heart-shaped sugar cookies with canned frosting and colorful candies. We talk quietly, mostly to ask for the pink or the white decorations. The song ends and Simon’s gentle voice sings “My Funny Valentine.”

“I like this song,” Bri says. We smile at each other.

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Health

Beer



photo by Cindy Rau

Fire Chief Joe Rau and EMS Director Emily Rauscher honored Skagway City School high school students who earned their emergency trauma technician patch and certificate at the Feb. 4 assembly meeting. Pictured left to right: Joe Rau, Benjamin Burnham, Austin Bricker, Silas Myers, Zoe Whitehead, Tessa Murphy, Emily Rauscher.

Haines COVID case cleared, basketball tournament approved by school board

By Melinda Munson

The Skagway School Board voted Feb. 2, four to one, to move forward with the proposed highschool basketball tournament. It will be the first time Skagway athletes get to play another team in-person since COVID-19 disrupted student life in March 2020.

Around two dozen students attended the board meeting, many in uniform, anxious and excited at the prospect of travel and competition.

“This night is the most important night of the season for us,” said Nate Jennings, basketball girls coach.

The school board approved the competition, scheduled to take place in Haines on Feb. 5-6 and tentatively in Skagway on March 5-6. Only immediate family members will be allowed into the gym to view the games.

The students will travel by ferry, wear masks while playing and sitting on the bench and follow other strict measures laid out in the mitigation plan found at <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1CKb-DOp13Gp-t50b1ohPTI3sX-KA4qImQP>

Dr. Liz Ohlsen from the



photo by Melinda Munson

Nathan Ozuzun and Silas Myers, high school basketball players, listen at the school board special meeting on Feb. 2.

Division of Public Health, was available to answer questions at the start of the meeting. She noted that adolescents are less likely to exhibit symptoms of coronavirus but can still spread the disease, and long term effects for asymptomatics and symptomatics are still unclear.

According to Superintendent Dr. Josh Coughran, Haines most recent case of COVID-19 was cleared on Feb. 1. There are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in both Haines and Skagway. All but one of the testimonies at the board meeting were in favor of the tournament. Parents talked about mental health and a return to normalcy.

Boardmember Jason Verhaeghe said while he personally supported the competition, he heard from enough concerned families that he felt compelled to vote against the measure.

Basketball player, Iraida Hisman, pleaded with the board to give the teams an opportunity to compete.

“This is my senior year this year and it seems to be disappearing before my eyes,” she said.

“For right now, all we want to do is go beat Haines.”

**Update: The boys team lost both games to Haines at the Feb. 4-5 tournament with scores of 34-82 and 36-76. The girls team also lost both games, 16-55 and 13-45.*

In the Spotlight



November Students of the Month

Gratitude

Emerlee Jared (1st), Calvin Miller (8th)



December Students of the Month

Generosity

Gloria Munson (12th), Adaila Deach (10th), Julia Flores (3rd)

Photos provided by Skagway School

Skagway School Semester One

High School Honor Roll

Superintendent Honor Roll, GPA of 3.76 or higher

- Benjamin Burnham*
- Adalia Deach*
- Charlie Deach*
- Callia Fielding*
- Gloria Munson*
- Maruthi Munson*
- Chloe Miller*
- Peyton Rodig*
- Jake Sager*
- Tatum Sager*
- Athena Smith*
- Paige Turner*

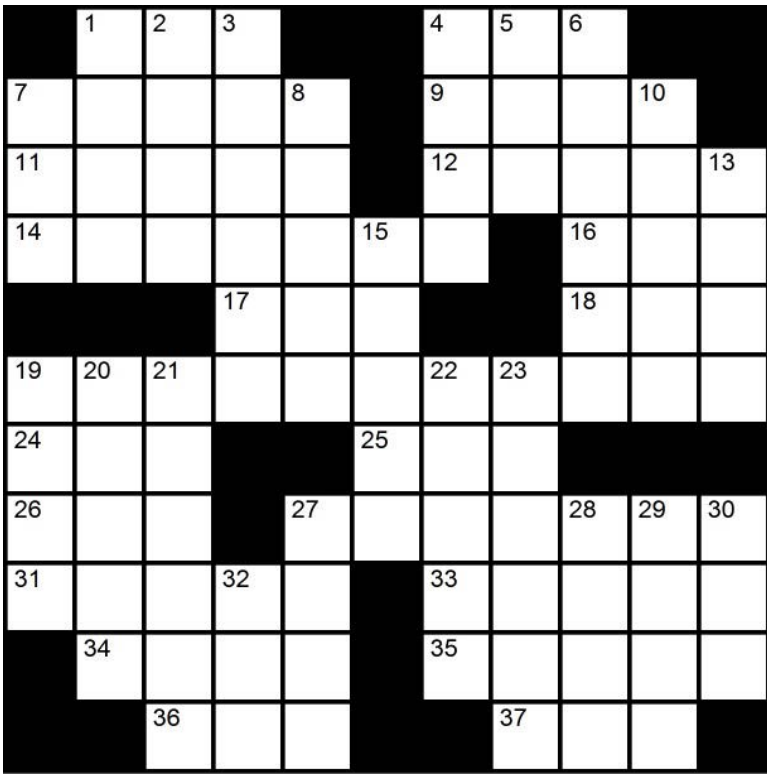
Honor Roll GPA 3.0 or higher

- Austin Bricker*
- Jeremy Burnham*
- Isaiah Moseley*
- Tessa Murphy*
- Ava Myers*
- Nathan Ozuzun*

Questions about COVID vaccines?

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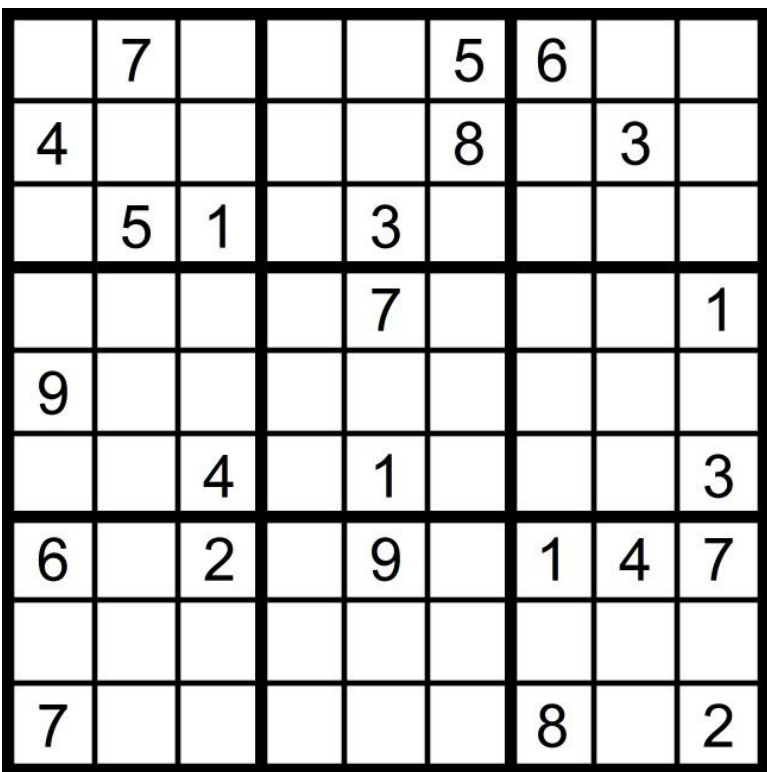
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- Across
 1 Plea at sea
 4 Acquire
 7 Units of electromotive force
 9 "A Little Bitty Tear" singer Burl ---
 11 The ---, Dutch seat of government
 12 Essayist --- Waldo Emerson
 14 Infinitely repeated geometric pattern
 16 Narrative song
 17 Senior army rank
 18 Eccentric
 19 Morning must-have, f or many
 24 Your choice

- 25 Belonging to us
 26 Source of gas at the track
 27 Meet expectations
 31 --- Merman
 33 Nimble
 34 Up-and-down toy
 35 Colossus
 36 Beak
 37 Society newcomer
 Down
 1 Rise higher
 2 Bond girl --- Kurylenko
 3 House finish
 4 Vermeer's wore a pearl earring
 5 "Desperate Housewives" actress ---Longoria
 6 Spread the word about

- 7 From 30 to 300 MHz
 8 Words before keys or wheels
 10 Dashiell Hammett's gumshoe
 13 Twinned with Jekyll
 15 Aluminum producer
 19 Sleeveless cloak
 20 Togetherness
 21 Squeezing snake
 22 --- the elbows, or down-at-heel
 23 Icy
 27 No neatnik
 28 Set of pages
 29 Excess fat
 30 Hankering
 32 Inspect



Last issues's answers

1	M	O	S	T	5	L	U	G	11	A	P	
8	E	L	M	O	9	I	C	E	C	10	A	P
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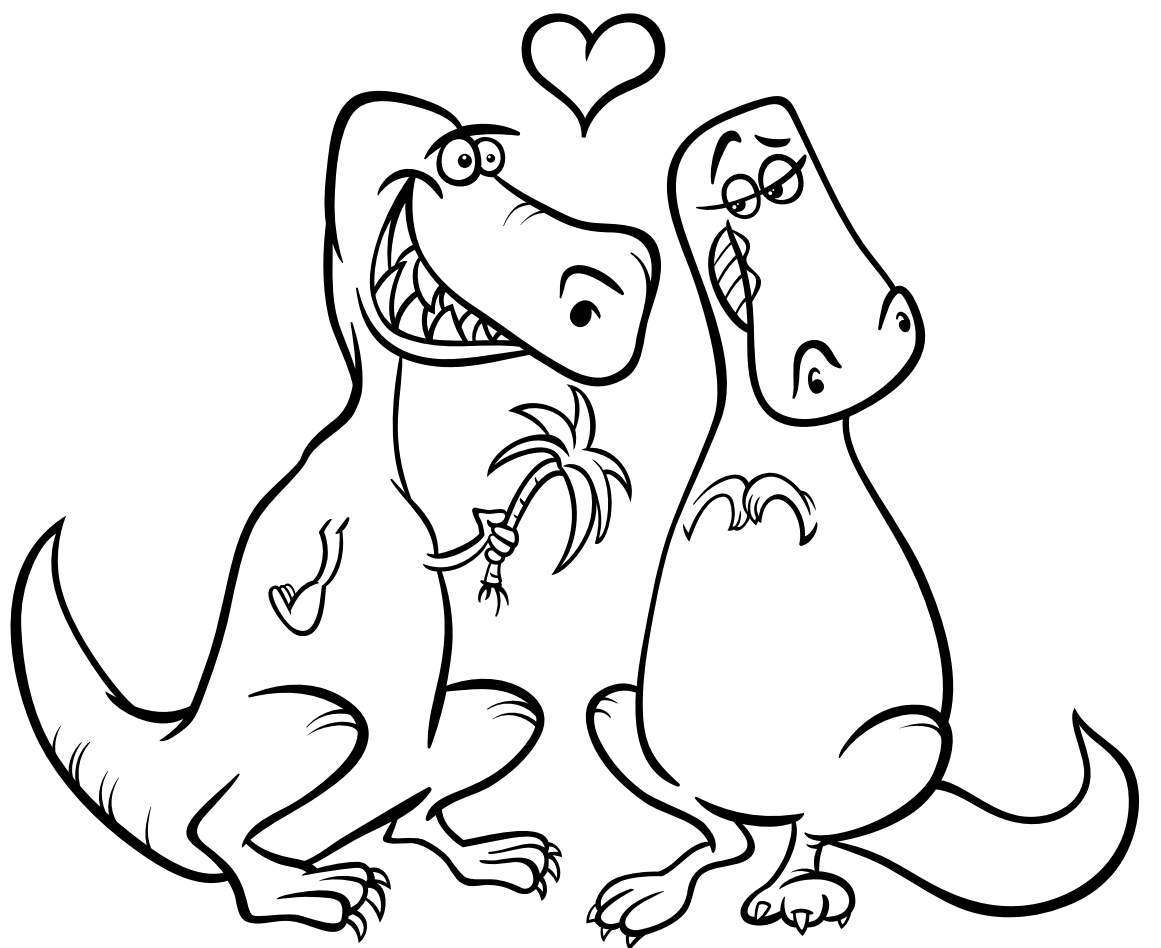
A-Maze me!

Valentine's Day Word Search

G H T F S Z T V W B Z K V G B S
 N K H N W E B H Z A D M I R E R
 D S M B E Q E G H B I M T D U W
 N E Y V E A L C Q A M L F X Q W
 M Q K X T C O L M L I W O A A P
 N H S Z H A V L Q L J R R J E Q
 I Y M U E U E J C O C N E I L U
 T Z O H A B D H X O A G V V O D
 D T O E R K D Q E N R P E L V R
 A L N A T R O S E S D P R X E E
 F E B R U A R Y J Z S K C G I A
 I B B T P I N K Z G Q K D W U M
 N T O R E M C H O C O L A T E S
 I S N Z D O V E S U K E R U J C
 F O U R T E E N T H C U P I D Z
 D L M A I L B O X K M C T V Y R

- ADMIRER
- SWEETHEART
- BELOVED
- LOVE
- CHOCOLATE
- BALLOONS
- FOREVER
- CARDS
- MOON

- CUPID
- DREAMS
- MAILBOX
- PINK
- DOVES
- ROSES
- FEBRUARY
- HEART
- FOURTEENTH



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

YEAR ROUND APARTMENT FOR RENT. 1 bed/1bath, fully furnished with a full kitchen, washer/dryer, and a deck. \$1,200 per month plus sales tax. Heating fuel is included in the monthly rent. Contact Debbie Knorr at 907-612-0197.

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.

FREE Golden Retriever Puppies to Forever Homes! 1 Male, 1 Female. Excellent temperament! House trained with very good trainable natures & perfect for families with children and other pets! I will not re home to just any-one. Please email me at: Josephinemccallum56@aol.com or Text 256-663-8167.

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

To inquire about legal ads, contact us at sales@skagwaynews.com

WEATHER WATCH

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

DATE	MAX	MIN	PREC
Weather Watch 1/1 -1/31			
1/1	31	24	-
1/2	31	24	-
1/3	28	24	-
1/4	28	21	.04 in
1/5	34	28	.06 in
1/6	40	28	.11 in
1/7	41	33	.10 in
1/8	36	32	.06 in
1/9	39	31	.02 in
1/10	38	31	.30 in
1/11	35	32	.55 in
1/12	37	31	.13 in
1/13	39	34	.07 in
1/14	39	32	-
1/15	40	32	.24 in
1/16	42	33	.05 in
1/17	37	32	.35 in
1/18	43	34	trace
1/19	39	35	1.57
1/20	39	36	trace
1/21	37	31	-
1/22	31	21	-
1/23	30	22	-
1/24	31	27	.21in
1/25	31	14	-
1/26	30	14	-
1/27	22	14	-
1/28	15	6	-
1/29	17	6	.11 in
1/30	21	16	-
1/31	24	16	-



PHONE: 907-983-2259

BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

- Jan. 12**
EMS responded to a medical emergency on Alaska Street.
- Jan. 15**
EMS assisted the U.S. Coast guard with a medevac from the clinic.
- Jan. 16**
Alaska Dept of Transportation closed the Klondike Highway due to multiple avalanches. The highway reopened Jan. 24.
- Jan. 20**
Dispatch helped a resident who found an injured Stellar Jay get in contact with the bird rescue group.
- Jan. 22**
Dispatch received a report of a dead mountain goat on Dyea Road which appeared to have fallen off the mountain-side. When officers responded, a lynx had already staked claim to the goat.
- Jan. 25**
Police officers assisted a motorist stuck on the Klondike Highway.
- Jan. 27**
Alaska Dept of Transportation closed the Klondike Highway due

- to a snow slide at mile-post 9.
- Jan. 28**
Police officers responded to a report that an ice dam up the Skagway River had broken. Officers observed an immediate three foot rise in water level, but did not notice any flooding or property damage.
- Jan. 29**
EMS responded to a medical emergency on State Street.
- EMS assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with a medevac from the clinic.
- Feb. 2**
Fire personnel responded to a chimney fire on Broadway Street.
- Feb. 4**
Fire personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.
- Feb. 6**
Fire personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.
- EMS responded to a medical emergency on Main Street.

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 •

OPEN regular hours
5:30am-NOON and 4pm -8pm
Please sign up for classes, wt.

SKAGWAY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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

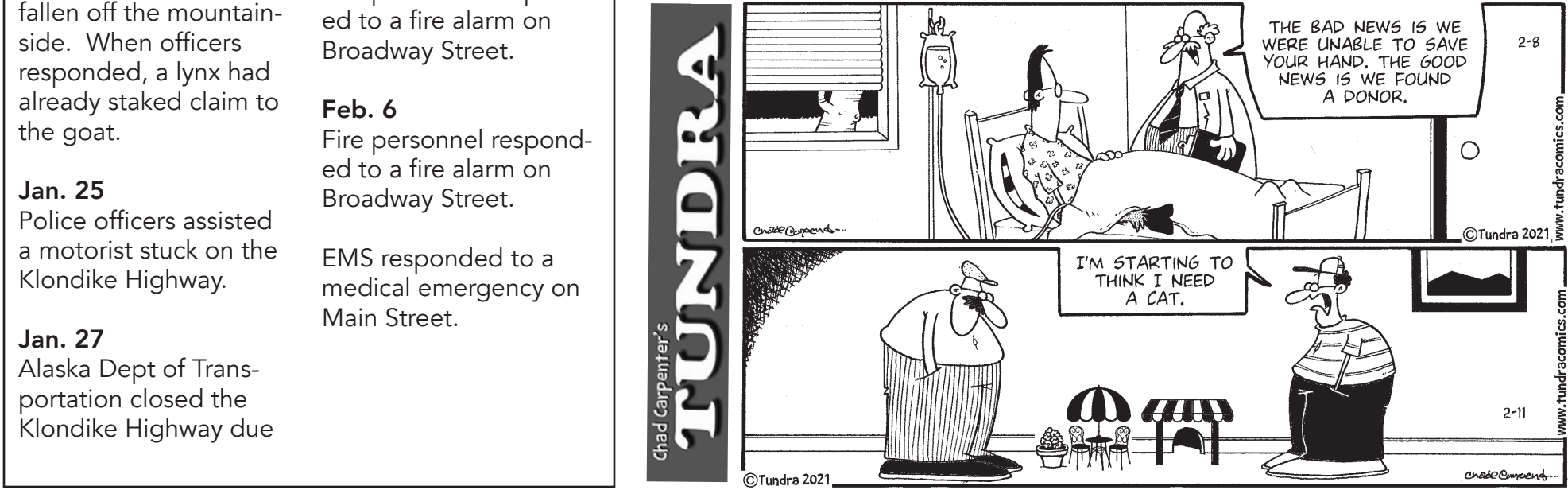
Assembly of God Church
8th & State • 907-983-2350
Sun. Worship.....11 a.m.
Wed. Bible Devotions & Prayer 7 p.m.
Meeting on-line only during shelter-in-place order. Email skagwayag@outlook.com for the zoom link.

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.
Sunday Service.....11 a.m.



TUNDRA
Chad Carpenter's

2-8
THE BAD NEWS IS WE WERE UNABLE TO SAVE YOUR HAND. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE FOUND A DONOR.

2-11
I'M STARTING TO THINK I NEED A CAT.

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Governor wants summer advisory vote on PFD

By Larry Persily
Wrangell Sentinel

Gov. Mike Dunleavy is asking legislators for \$2 million in state funds to hold a special election this summer to ask voters their opinion of a Permanent Fund dividend that would average \$2,400 a year for the rest of the decade and beyond.

The governor's proposal is to split the annual withdrawal of Permanent Fund earnings between dividends and public services 50-50. He introduced legislation to call for the special election as an advisory vote, and a few days later promoted the issue in his State of the State speech Jan. 28.

But asking voters their opinion of a PFD about double the average of the past five years is not that useful of an exercise, said several Southeast legislators.

It "would give people the wrong impression that you could afford a 50-50 split," said Ketchikan Rep. Dan Ortiz, who also represents Wrangell.

The governor's 10-year budget plan acknowledges that setting aside for dividends half of the annual draw on Permanent Fund earnings would create an annual shortfall of \$1 billion for public services — a gap exceeding 20% of the state budget.

The 50-50 split would produce PFDs averaging more than \$2,400 this decade and increasing from there, assuming the Permanent Fund continues to grow.

The governor's fiscal plan includes a billion-dollar-plus placeholder labeled "other revenue sources" starting next year to plug the large budget hole. However, he has provided no detailed proposals for where that \$1 billion in other revenue sources would come from for the start of fiscal year 2023, just 18 months from now, other than he supports legalized gambling in Alaska.

Asking voters their opinion of a large dividend could create unrealistic expectations, Ortiz said.

Sitka Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins shared a similar view. "The question may sound simple but the implications of that question

are hugely complex," he said of the advisory vote. Putting more money into dividends at the expense of other needs would affect "the level of state services Alaskans would receive and the level of taxes they would have to pay," said Kreiss-Tomkins, who also represents Petersburg.

Without any context of how a larger dividend would affect public services, an advisory question would be of limited value, he said.

There is a danger in asking the public for their opinion when the state cannot afford to make good on the expectations, said Juneau Rep. Sara Hannan, who also represents Skagway and Haines.

Hannan told the story of growing up in a matriarchal household. Her mom would ask whether her husband wanted chicken or steak for dinner. When he ordered steak and found chicken on the dinner plate, Hannan recalled, mom would answer: "I was just letting you think you had a say in what was going to happen."

The state cannot afford a 50-50 split and still provide reasonable services, such as schools and ferries, she said. When elected officials ask the public their advice but don't follow it, public confidence in government weak-

ens even further, Hannan said.

The Legislature is in its third week of the session. The Senate has yet to hold a committee hearing on the governor's bill for the special election, which would cost \$2 million to hold. The House has not settled on an organization — whether led by Republicans or Democrats or a combination — and cannot hold hearings until the members adopt a leadership team.

The governor's proposal to ask voters their opinion of how to spend Permanent Fund earnings is part of his wide-ranging, multi-billion-dollar push to send more money to Alaskans in the annual PFDs.

Dunleavy is asking legislative approval of his budget request for an additional \$1,900 PFD this spring, and a \$3,000-plus PFD in the fall, at a combined cost of \$3.2 billion from the Permanent Fund. The purpose, he has explained, is to boost the economy and help people hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.

His plan, if approved by voters and the Legislature, would be to reset the dividend starting next year at half the annual draw on fund earnings, about \$2,400. The dividend has averaged about

\$1,250 the past five years after lawmakers debated and decided on what the state budget could afford while still paying for public services.

According to state law, Permanent Fund earnings are general fund revenues which can go toward dividends, the same as schools and other public services.

At a news media briefing after the governor's State of the State speech, Senate President Peter Micciche downplayed the need for an advisory vote. "We have a constitutional provision allowing for referendums to repeal laws, so we don't

need an advisory vote," said the Soldotna Republican, according to a report in the Alaska Legislative Digest report, a private newsletter.

The size of the PFD is part of the overall discussion this legislative session of how the state can afford to maintain services and pay a dividend, avoid spending down the Permanent Fund, and whether a state income or sales tax will be part of the solution.

"We must act this year or we start eating our seed corn," Micciche said of the need for a fiscal plan.



Photo provided by Lisa Mandeville

Skagwegians enjoy a hockey game at the recreation center ice rink.



Photo provided by Erin Letzring

Erin Letzring waves at spectators at the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in Minnesota on Feb. 2. Letzring, the general manager for Alaska Excursions in Skagway, is the first woman in 23 years to win Beargrease.



photo by Reba Hylton

The northern lights made a dramatic appearance over Skagway last week.