

THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

March 12, 2021

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

'Just kick them while they're down'

PUA discontinues benefits, requires repayment from some Skagway businesses

By Melinda Munson

Becky McGill, owner and operator of Beyond Skagway Tours, applied for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) in April 2020 when it became clear that COVID-19 would stop cruise ships from berthing in Skagway.

Normally, McGill makes enough money from May to October to support herself through the winter, but with no income and the cold season looming, McGill was relieved when she was approved for benefits.

Designed for self-employed workers, independent contractors and gig workers, PUA kicked off in April 2020. Since McGill didn't qualify for traditional unemployment, the program was her respite from financial ruin, or so she thought.

McGill was dismayed when after checking her on-line PUA account, it showed she owed the state \$14,000 and was denied further benefits. According to McGill, she never received a letter or any explanation. The amount due was suddenly reduced to \$4,600, again with no explanation.

"I'm just tired of fighting it," said McGill who spent countless hours on the phone trying to reach PUA. When she did manage to connect, they had no answers.

It felt like "just kick them while they're down," McGill said.

continued on page two



Photo by Reba Hylton

Participants in the 2021 Buckwheat COVID Classic watch the wooden sculpture made to look like Buckwheat and Aric "Krusty" Baldwin burn at Lower Dewey Lake on Mar. 6. The annual event was moved from Log Cabin due to the Canada/U.S. border closure. Log Cabin Ski Society volunteers ran the event and created the sculpture.

Skagway students in their first Jr. Native Youth Olympics

By Melinda Munson

"I've never coached anything a day in my life," admitted school board member Jaime Bricker.

Nevertheless, Bricker made Skagway history by starting the town's inaugural Junior Native Youth Olympics team (NYO). Practices began Jan. 30 with 15 participants. They meet once a week for 1.5 hours and give fourth, fifth and sixth graders the chance to seal hop, kneel jump and toe kick.

The new coach is joined by Bricker's 15-year-old son, Austin, and Bricker's sister, Savannah Ames, who does have coaching experience. Cindy O'Daniel from Skagway School also volunteers her time.

Bricker, who grew up in Skagway and is the president of the Skagway Traditional Council, never had a chance

to participate in Native Alaskan sports.

Her grandfather, Andrew Mahle, an Aleut, was forcibly relocated to Skagway from Kodiak in World War II. He was "educated and Americanized" at the Pius X Mission where his culture was eradicated.

Bricker was excited when she heard through social media that Sealaska Heritage Institute was sponsoring Native Olympic teams for Southeast. She started training virtually in November. Her instructor, Kyle Worl, is a famous Native Alaskan athlete and youth advocate.

The NYO homepage, found at citci.org, demonstrates all 12 competition skills and describes the purpose of the games.

"For thousands of years and countless generations, survival for Alaska Native

people depended not only on individual strength, skill and knowledge, but also on the ability to work together toward common goals.

Traditional athletic contests and games helped develop these and other skills critical to everyday life in the challenging Alaska environment. Today's NYO Games Alaska carries on in this spirit by encouraging young people to strive for their personal best while helping and supporting their teammates -- even other teams."

The NYO is open to all ethnicities. Sam Munson, a sixth grader whose ancestors are Scandinavian, has been attending each week and learning the cultural significance of the movements.

"They didn't just play the games to play the games," Munson said. "They did them for survival," he ex-

plained, demonstrating the scissor broad jump, a skill used for jumping across ice.

According to Bricker, the program has been well received by Skagway's youth.

"They're excited to try something new," Bricker said. "They're engaged. They feed off of each other's energy."

So far, she is impressed. Particularly with the seal hop.

"Some of the kids can go 40 feet," Bricker said.

Bricker said the decision to start the program with younger children was intentional. After conferring with Worl, they decided to grow the NYO in Skagway starting with lower grades, with the hope the program could eventually extend to high schoolers.

NYO is not a westernized competition.

continued on page three

For the latest news and updates, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

BLOTTER PAGE 7
CLASSIFIED PAGE 7

FREE personal classifieds up to 25 words.
CALL (907)983-2354 for more information.

Skagway's First Newspaper
Christened in 1897, buried
alive in 1904 and resurrected
in 1978, The Skagway News is
currently celebrating 43 years of
reporting in Skagway and Dyea,
Alaska, recording our Centen-
nial years and beyond.

**ADVERTISING &
NEWS COPY
DEADLINES**

Next issue will be published

MAR. 26, 2021

AD DEADLINE:

Please email
sales@skagwaynews.com
All ads and classifieds
by Friday Mar. 19

**COPY, LETTERS,
CALENDAR DEADLINE:**

Please email
editor@skagwaynews.com
All news copy, letters
and calendar events
by Sunday, Mar. 21

Vol. XLIV, No. 4 (897)
March 12 2021

Published on the second and
fourth Friday of
each the month

Phone: (907) 983-2354
www.skagwaynews.com

editor@skagwaynews.com
sales@skagwaynews.com

Publishers
Melinda Munson
Gretchen Wehmhoff

Managing Editor
Melinda Munson

Production Editor/Sales
Gretchen Wehmhoff

Contributors
Reba Hylton

Editor Emeritus
William J. "Jeff" Brady

Submissions

The Skagway News wel-
comes opinions pieces and
letters to the editor. Opin-
ion pieces should be no lon-
ger than 600 words and will
be published based on space
availability and relevance to
current and local events.

Letters to the editor should
not exceed 250 words.

Submit letters and opin-
ions to editor@skagwaynews.
com. Letters may be edited for
grammar and length.

Subscriptions

Sign up online at
www.skagwaynews.com

or call us at 907-983-2354
Mail checks to:
The Skagway News
PO Box 244,
Skagway, AK 99840

All print subscriptions
include online access.

Skagway (local) \$30
Out-of-town \$45 (periodical rate)
First class \$55
Overseas \$65
Online Only \$25

USPS 697130 ISSN 0745-872X
Periodicals postage paid at
Skagway, Alaska 99840 and
additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER send address
changes to: The Skagway News
PO Box 244,
Skagway, AK 99840

Business owners appeal to Kiehl regarding PUA

Dear Senator Kiehl,

My name is Thomas D. Pickerel. I've been a resident of Skagway since 1985 and I own a home here in Skagway.

I am the owner-operator of a small tour company called Skagway Yukon Custom Van Tours since 2017. I have worked in Skagway as a tour guide since 1992.

During the two seasons I operated (2018-2019), things went very well. I quickly rose in the ranks of tours in Skagway on the all-important Tripadvisor, which you can see if you look me up (only five-star reviews, 75 in total).

I am the only employee, I haven't needed to hire anyone else, so it's a one-man operation.

When the COVID pandemic began, it was especially unfortunate as I had to issue about \$7,000 in refunds for tours that had already been booked and paid for. I had to borrow that money because I had already spent it getting

my teeth fixed, so my tour guide smile was improved.

I applied for unemployment/PUA and I put the start date as March 15, 2021, because that's when I had to begin issuing the refunds for the tours that never happened in 2020.

Recently, I was informed by PUA that I had to repay \$5,962 since my business was determined to be "seasonal" and our cruise ship season for 2020 was supposed to run from April 23 to early October 2020.

Senator Kiehl, I did not attempt to commit fraud with PUA. Just prior to being told that I owe \$5,962, I had a phone call from the PUA people, and it seemed to go fine. I explained my reasons for claiming the dates as follows:

As the owner-operator of Skagway Custom Van Tours, I actually work on the business 12 months of the year. This involves extensive communication via phone and email with potential cli-

ents, planning and developing new tours, and in the case of 2020, issuing refunds.

If I'm not available 12 months per year, my tour company would not function -- that's why I put the dates as I did.

Is there anything that you can do to help get this decision reversed? As you know, Skagway is looking at little or no business for 2021. Since my tour crosses the border into Canada, even if we get some small ships, I sincerely doubt that Canada will be opening the border, thus we are looking at around 31 months with zero income in Skagway. Which, whether we like it or not, is a cruise-ship based economy.

There are several other tour operators here in Skagway who are in the same situation, and I know several have already contacted you.

In addition to being asked to repay, I am also being denied further benefits, so I have zero income at this time, with no prospects in

the foreseeable future, unfortunately.

Senator Kiehl, thanks for your hard work and dedication to Alaska. I know you're one of the good guys, and your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I do not have the money to repay that amount, and I'm not sure how I will survive until May of 2022, when hopefully things might be back to normal. I don't want to have to sell my house and leave Skagway as it's been my home for nearly 40 years. I first came in 1981, and became a resident in 1985 when I registered to vote. I have not maintained residence in any other state since 1985.

Last year pretty much ruined my town and we are all very worried about what will be left if we ever get rolling again. Many families have already left, and it's not a large town.

Sincerely,
Thomas D Pickerel

Business owners grapple with repayment demands

from FRONT page

Owner and operator of Skagway Private Tours, Sherry Corrington, is having a similar experience. She was the first business owner in town to learn that her benefits had been withdrawn and she had a balance due.

According to PUA, she owes them \$2,600. It's money that Corrington can't spare. She now relies on Skagway's food bank and was devastated when her PUA payments suddenly ceased in October.

"That's not living. You're constantly being nagged and burdened by begging for this money," Corrington said.

She thinks the PUA program doesn't account for Skagway's unique business model where owners typically work face to face with visitors during the tourist season, and spend the rest of the year planning and preparing for the next season.

Corrington said PUA's denial of benefits left her feeling "betrayed and sabotaged."

She reached out to Sen. Jesse Kiehl's office and described his response as supportive.

In a town hall meeting, Kiehl said Corrington's woes were "the tip of the iceberg."

"We've had more specific cases from Skagway than per capita," he said.

PUA appeal hearings begin this month, with Corrington's scheduled for March 16. She thinks the appeal would have been pushed back if not for Kiehl.

Thomas Pickerel, owner and operator of Skagway-Yukon Custom Van Tours, also finds himself in an untenable situation. Like McGill and Corrington, he was forced to refund tour deposits when visits were canceled.

Expecting a normal season, Pickerel spent his deposits on dental work.

"...I had already spent it getting my teeth fixed, so my tour guide smile was improved," Pickerel said.

His tour guide smile faded further when his PUA benefits stopped and suddenly he owed the state thousands of dollars.

"I was informed by PUA that I had to repay \$5,962 since my business was determined to be 'seasonal' and our cruise ship season for

2020 was supposed to run from April 23 to early October 2020," Pickerel said.

McGill, Corrington and Pickerel all say they provided thorough and honest answers to PUA representatives and on all applications.

"I did not attempt to commit fraud with PUA," Pickerel said.

There are approximately

twelve individuals in Skagway who openly discuss owing money to PUA. If you would like to speak to The Skagway News about your experience with PUA, please email melinda@skagwaynews.com.

PUA did not respond for comment by deadline.



Photo by Melinda Munson

Becky McGill stands with her tour van on Ore Dock. McGill's vans sat idle all of 2020 without cruise ship customers.

Wetz named Klondike Gold Rush National Park superintendent

By Melinda Munson

Angela Wetz, acting superintendent at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was named permanent superintendent. Wetz, a 10-year veteran with the National Park Service, was previously superintendent of Fossil Butte National Monument in Kemmerer, Wyoming and Nicodemus National Historic Site in Nicodemus, Kansas.

Wetz arrived in Skagway last August. The normally bustling town was mostly shuttered as the city dealt with the absence of cruise ships and the ramifications of COVID-19.

Wetz shared her thoughts about the experience with The Skagway News.

What are you looking forward to the most now that you'll be staying in Skagway?

"I think like almost everybody, I am excited to see visitors in Skagway again. While huge visitation doesn't seem on the horizon for this year, I am eager to capitalize on the visitation we do get to provide outstanding visitor experiences and continue in the digital outreach so people can learn about Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and want to come

visit in the future."

What has been the most challenging aspect of the position so far?

"Managing during a pandemic has been the most challenging aspect of the position. The pandemic requires all of us to be very flexible and learn new ways to accomplish our work. Whether it is converting to telework, trying to flex schedules or do work in ways that promote social distancing, or using virtual means versus face to face, it has required all of us to adjust the way we do work. This shift has inspired all of us to think creatively and adjust frequently, and all the staff have done such a great job of doing all they can to keep themselves and their co-workers safe."

What has been a great thing about living in Skagway?

"I can't say enough about the amazing opportunities and community in Skagway. My daughter, Rocky (our dog) and I have enjoyed hiking the trails, exploring Dyea, riding bikes and enjoying the local businesses. The community events around Christmas were fun and we can't wait to experience them during a normal

year. I have really enjoyed the quilting club this winter, and the incredible ladies that helped me graduate from making masks to making progress on a small quilt. Skagway is an incredible place and everyone from the staff at the school to the employees at the grocery stores have been super helpful in the transition to living here."

What has been a challenging aspect of living in Skagway?

"For me the most challenging aspect of living in Skagway is the isolation brought on by the pandemic. Not being able to go home for the holidays was especially difficult. I am looking forward to being able to socialize more, travel getting easier and the border opening. I have lived in quite a few small towns that require planning and creative procurement of goods, but Alaska has sharpened my skills."



Photo provided by Angela Wetz

Angela Wetz will continue permanently in the post of superintendent for KGR.

Love that Crow serenade at 6 AM, Spring is not far behind.

Everyone stay safe and hang in there. We are almost through the bad parts.

Bolton Data aka Sharon Bolton

This space is yours for \$26.50

5-10% discount for multiple postings

What a deal!

BILL JOINER, P.E., DEE
Water & Wastewater Systems
Computer Modeling . Arctic Engineering
Inspection . Municipal Works

JOINER ENGINEERING

Civil and Environmental Engineering
PO Box 295, Skagway, AK 99840
Phone: (907)314-3242
Email: bjoiner@gci.net

Chilkoot-Gateway Insurance Agency
Our office is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Due to the size of our office, we can only accommodate one person or family unit at a time so PLEASE make an appointment. Masks are REQUIRED

If you feel strongly about the use of a face mask, give us a call as we can do most things electronically, if necessary.

Agent Debbie L. Ackerman, CISR
PH: (907) 983-2240 251 State Street

Fourth through sixth graders practice for NYO

from FRONT page

"They're not competing against each other. It's about encouraging your teammates to perform their best ... As long as they're progressing each time they're on the right track," Bricker said.

Due to COVID-19, athletes will not travel to Anchorage in April for the yearly NYO. Instead, their entries are taped and submitted.

Bricker is coaching her own son, 10-year-old Waylon.

"It feels like a great honor," she said. "He and I are getting exposure to something we were denied."



Photo provided by Jaimie Bricker

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade athletes meet at Skagway First Presbyterian Church as part of the town's first Junior Native Youth Olympics team.

YOU SAY TOMATO STATE ST. & 21ST AVE.

WINTER HOURS
Tues.- Fri. & Sun 2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
CLOSED MONDAY AND SATURDAY

ALASKA SEAPLANES
FLYING AT A HIGHER STANDARD

CURRENT SCHEDULE

SKAGWAY TO JUNEAU:

FLT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES
404	9:35 A.M. MON - SAT	10:15 A.M.
410	2:30 P.M. MON - SAT (VIA HNS)	3:35 P.M.

JUNEAU TO SKAGWAY:

FLT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES
403	8:15 A.M. MON - SAT (VIA HNS)	9:20 A.M.
409	1:30 P.M. MON - SAT	2:15 P.M.

THROUGH APRIL 3, 2021

ALWAYS THE LOWEST FARES

ONLINE AT WWW.FLYALASKASEAPLANES.COM
OR CALL - SKAGWAY OFFICE (907) 983-2479 - AK 1 (800) 354-2479

Editors Column

When your favorite gift is a pocket knife



By Gretchen Wehmhoff

March 12 is National Girl Scout Day. It marks the anniversary of when Juliet “Daisy” Gordon Low registered the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia. There’s even a patch for that.

I joined the Girl Scouts in 1966 as a second grade Brownie. My mom was our troop leader. Girl Scouting gave me more skills, independence and leadership opportunities than I could list, but I want to talk about one. The pocket knife.

When I was eight, my parents bought me my first

pocket knife in preparation for Girl Scout Day Camp. It was an official, four-blade Girl Scout knife with a long blade, short blade, screwdriver/bottle opener and a can opener.

I was so proud of my knife. We learned about safety circles where we took our closed knife and, with both arms outstretched, make sure no one was in the virtual circle of space. My brother and nephews have since told me that they called it a “blood circle” in Boy Scouts. Yeah, I’m going with the preventative term.

My knife went to camp with me every summer, and eventually, it stayed in my purse. My purse went to school, to work, on trips and to college. Dad always had a knife on him. Maybe because he grew up in the North Cascades, or maybe because he spent four years in Europe during WWII, but I’m pretty sure it was because he learned to carry one

as a Boy Scout.

So, carrying my knife was normal. My sister had one, too. We whittled together. We made walking sticks, marshmallow sticks and slingshots. Dad would get out his oil stone and we’d sharpen knives together. A dull blade is more dangerous than a sharp one.

I learned how to use the can opener and it felt so freeing. In college, a person would hold up a can and ask if anyone had a can opener. Most people just shrugged or offered to drive somewhere.

“I got it,” I said.

I pulled out my knife, opened the can opener and started on the lid.

“Where did you learn that?”

“Are you doing that with a knife?”

Afterwards, I’d wipe off the blade and put it away. I thought I was cool. I later learned that it is kind of an Alaska thing.

Traveling in Europe when I was 29 (I had promised myself I would get there before I was 30) I created a shopping list. You can guess what I wanted in Switzerland. I purchased a brand new, made in Switzerland, Spartan Swiss Army knife. Oh yeah.

The red knife with blades, screwdrivers, a corkscrew, toothpicks and the cherished can opener was my new companion. Years later my husband gave me a Swiss-Champ version -- the one with everything -- a saw, file, magnifying lens, compass, scissors, tweezers, fishing blade, pliers and more.

“Are you sure you don’t want perfume or something like that?” he asked.

“Uh-uh. This is perfect!” (He also gave me winter

wipers and I was elated.) The magnificent knife became my new companion. Until society changed some rules.

After the Columbine tragedy, I couldn’t carry my knife to school as a teacher.

After the Sept. 11 attack, I couldn’t carry my knife on the plane.

So I bought a can opener for my teacher desk at school and used scissors instead of my knife. As for traveling by plane, I checked my knife in my luggage.

This was all great until I flew to Columbus, Ohio for the Arnold Sports Festival to play table tennis. I planned to travel light, so I packed a small backpack with competition clothes and my racket. I cleared my bag of all things not accepted by security and paused briefly when I realized I had to leave my knife at home.

Once there, other players and I stopped at a grocery store for food. I picked up a few things, including a can of black beans. With my allergies, I knew I wouldn’t be able to buy from the food vendors, but I knew I would need some complex fuel.

I took my break between matches on the first day, reached for my beans and headed to the food vendors to have them open my can. This is about the time I started to feel like Crocodile Dundee in New York.

“No, we don’t do that.”

“I don’t think my boss would let me.”

“Did you want to order something? No? Next.”

I can think of vendors all over Alaska who would have said, “Just a sec,” and bring back my opened can. Of course, vendors in Alaska would also take time to work

around my allergies. These people were all about fried food, energy supplements and money. Besides that, the lines were long.

I decided to take my request to the other participants. It was a gigantic hall with a few thousand people walking around. Someone would have a pocket knife.

“Hi. You wouldn’t have a pocket knife handy, would you?”

Responses ranged from a shake of the head, a polite no, a strange look and a “nah, sorry.” One woman moved her kids away from me.

I moved on with my can of food. I felt eyes following me. “There’s that lady with the beans.”

I must have asked over 40 people. No one had a pocket knife.

I asked the man next to me. He didn’t have one.

“I wonder why people don’t carry pocket knives,” I mullied out loud.

“I don’t want to get in trouble,” he said.

It was then that I realized that Alaskans are really, really different. I didn’t think twice about asking to borrow a pocket knife, yet most of those I asked looked at me like I wanted to borrow their car or commit a crime. Not only that, but it seemed there was a sense of “breaking a rule” by even having one. It made me appreciate where and how I live.

A good statistical sample is 10% of the group size. So, if there were 4,000 people at the Arnold, then my sample was statistically significant. No one carried pocket knives.

I finally found a vendor who handed me a can opener after the lunch rush. From then on, I carried a small can opener when I traveled without checked luggage.

I still carry my Spartan knife everywhere. My SwissChamp is in the glove box of my car. I’m not sure I can wrap my head around not having the satisfaction of knowing all the tools you could possibly need are in your pocket or glove box -- but I’m sure the folks at the festival were trying to figure out why I would.

Skagway Student of the Month

January Positivity

Photo provided by Skagway School

Sam Munson, Lupine Anderson and Ryder Calver on the computer screen are Skagway’s January students of the month.

SKAGWAY HARDWARE

March Red Hot Buys

Home plus 7pc tool \$12.99

Tailgate speaker \$29.99

Bug-A-Salt \$34.99

HOURS

M-F 8am - 5pm . S&S 10am - 4pm . 4th & Broadway . 907-983-2233

AP&T

AP&T YOUR SOURCE FOR:

Phone & Power Service
Internet - DSL & WiFi, Faxing,
Copying, Laminating,
Notary Public

Open: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
5Th & Spring . (907)983-2202
Toll Free: 1-888-983-2207

SAVE THE DATE:

Clean Sweep will be held
Saturday, April 17
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration & Bag Pickup, will be at the Chamber Office on 7th and State beginning at 9am. We hope you will all join us for this Spring Event.

Mon. - Fri. 7am - 3pm • 907-983-1898
F: 983-2031 • chamber@aptalaska.net
www.skagwaychamber.org

SKAGWAY
Trail of '98
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P.O.B. 194
7th & State

Karl De Haven April 3, 1936 - Feb. 5, 2021

Karl De Haven, beloved husband to Mary De Haven and dedicated father to John (JP) and Shawn De Haven, passed away in his sleep on Feb. 5, 2021 in Arcadia, California.

Karl started his life in Skagway on April 3, 1936, as the son of Jim Hartley and Urania Larson. As the grandson of Karl and Edith Larson and the great-grandson of John Feero, a man who, like many in the late 1800s, came north to find his fortune (eventually running a pack train business), Karl was the fourth generation of

his family to call Skagway home. After a rough start in which his mother, Urania (Rainie) divorced Jim and got remarried to Vernon "Tex" De Haven, the family of six (including Karl's older sister Joyce, younger brothers Roy and eventually Pat) moved to Anchorage in 1945 with Tex working for Alaska Railroad.

Karl would go outside to University of Western Kentucky where he graduated with a bachelor's degree (later he would also earn a master's degree at USC). To support himself during this time, he worked at fish canneries in the summers.

After many interesting jobs, Karl began his teaching career at Ursa Major Elementary School in Anchorage. It was there he met his future wife, Mary Hennessy. After marrying, the two made the long trek down the Great Alaska Highway, all the way to Southern California, eventually settling in Arcadia, a suburb of Los

Angeles.

Karl would end up teaching science and mathematics at Madison and Wilson Middle School in Pasadena until his retirement. He was also extremely active in the MESA program at Cal State LA. The MESA program helps educationally underprivileged kids, helping many become the first in their family to go on to college. For many years, he would run into his former students working somewhere. To them, he was always known as "Mr. D."

As a person, he was a very friendly, talkative guy. To him there were no strangers, only friends he hadn't met yet. This habit of striking up conversations with anyone and everyone could be sometimes embarrassing for his children (his mother, Rainie, and grandmother, Edith, were the same way). The family would often joke that someday he might accidentally start a conversation with a serial killer with a line like, "That's a nice knife you've got there." He was good natured and warm, never hesitating to express

his feelings of love towards his children. He also loved to laugh.

Karl worked hard to create many memories with his two sons by helping out with Little League, taking them to see the Dodgers, Kings, and even the Olympics. In his later years, Karl loved it when his grandsons would visit from Japan (where his son Shawn lives). Unfortunately, due to the corona pandemic he was robbed of a chance to meet his granddaughter, Willow, in person but he loved to show off pictures of her to anyone he could.

Despite moving away from Alaska in 1968, he visited when he could, kept in touch

with friends and always showed pride in his birthplace. He often jokingly said that his small hometown of Skagway was the kind of place where people would talk for a week about a guy after he fell off his barstool. His older son John now lives in Anchorage.

Karl is survived by Mary, his wife of 54 years, his two sons (John and Shawn), his older sister Joyce Lange, younger brother Pat De Haven, and three grandchildren (Yuzuru Alistair, Fumito Sebastian, and Sumire Willow) and other loving family. He will be missed dearly by all who knew him.



Karl De Haven, as a boy in Skagway.

Skagway police activate anonymous tip line

By Melinda Munson

Acting Police Chief Jerry (J.J.) Reddick says he and his two officers can't be everywhere and see everything. In an effort to combat drug use and other crimes in Skagway, an anonymous online tool, called a P3 Tips line, is now available. The effort coincides with a recent program to help drug users and prosecute drug dealers.

The municipality, in collaboration with Dahl Memorial Clinic, started the Skagway Addiction Clean Sweep campaign in December 2020 to "help residents suffering from addiction and identify and eliminate illegal drug trafficking within the borough."

Mayor Andrew 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."

According to Reddick, a recent overdose was the first physical evidence

he's seen of heroine in Skagway since he started working on its police force in 2018.

Reddick, who has been a police officer for 22 years, became a narcotics investigator in 2009 and continued until his move to Skagway in 2018.

"The Skagway Police Department plays a vital role in helping people who are suffering from addiction," Reddick said. "It is a well-known fact that opioids are in our community and we cannot stand idly by while our friends and loved ones suffer."

"We're here to help. We're part of the community," Reddick said. He added a caution. "We will go after you if you're bringing the stuff to sell it."

Online tips can be made at:

https://www.p3tips.com/Tip-Form.aspx?ID=543&C&T&fbclid=IwAR2Z3tK3pfvKS-rjXjNkwFdmkI5z5BP-stiMW6fWnMYBa2arTrIG-PLWIF0e_s.

Swasey is Skagway's voice on KHNS



Mike Swasey

By Melinda Munson

Mike Swasey, the newest member of the KHNS team, has a smooth voice, but according to Kay Clements, KHNS general manager, there were several other reasons he was hired to report Skagway's news.

"He's got a great background in broadcasting," Clements said, describing Swasey as "smart" with a "great personality."

The KHNS staff already knew Swasey as he has been a volunteer DJ on Flashbacks and Fresh Tracks on and off for 12 years.

Swasey, a Skagway resident since 2009, is normally a tour guide "driving around looking for bears." He said he loved his pre-pandemic job but needed employment to be able to remain in town.

He stumbled across the reporter position while visiting KHNS.org to

look up the number to the Frasier Border Station.

Swasey, who has a bachelor's degree in communications, started his master's degree but quit when he was offered a radio job he couldn't turn down.

"I'm a grad school dropout," Swasey joked.

The full time reporter position is a new role for Swasey who has production and broadcast experience, but is relatively new to the news.

Swasey said he will rely on the mentorship of KHNS veteran reporter Henry Leasia and will be "dogged

about getting information correct."

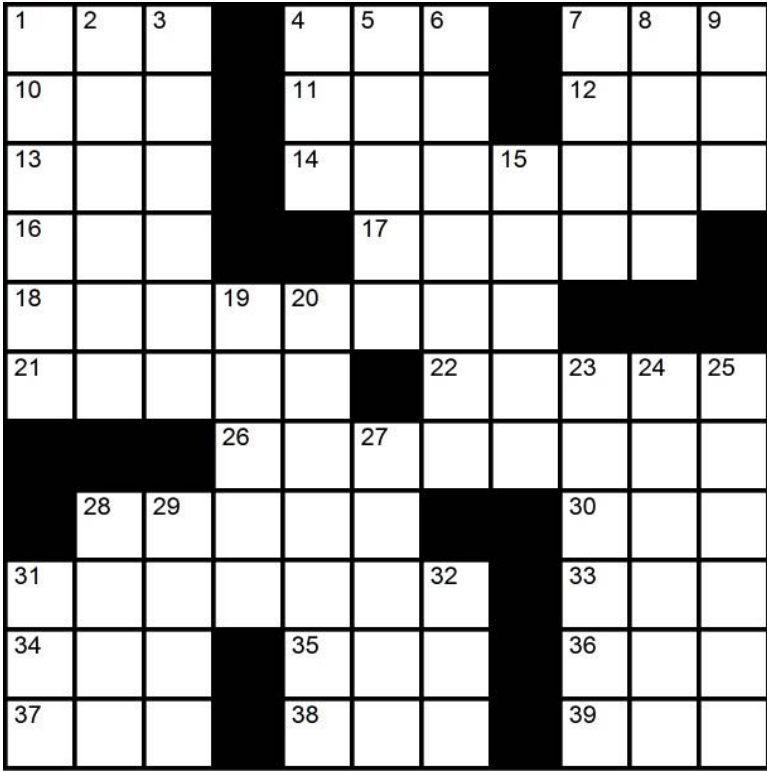
Many in Skagway know Swasey as an event DJ, owner of dog, Charlie, and a frequent disc golf and basketball player. They'll now hear Swasey five days a week on local public radio.

"It's pretty exciting," Swasey said. "They've been looking for someone in Skagway for some time."

Swasey said he's ready for the challenge of the upcoming years as Skagway fights for financial survival amidst a global pandemic and takes control of its port.

Claire Stremple, former KHNS reporter, moved to Juneau's KTOO energy desk where she will also report on health and science.

"It's bittersweet," said Stremple, who resided in Haines and filled Skagway's airwaves for a little over two years. "I'm really excited about the opportunity but it isn't easy to leave a place I care about so much."



Across

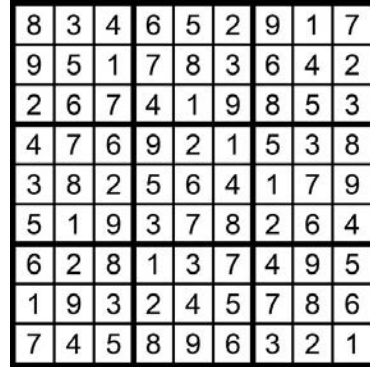
- 1 Label for Elvis
- 4 Trucker's bedroom?
- 7 Youngster
- 10 "Huffington Post" owner
- 11 Undergarment
- 12 Position of a golf ball
- 13 Corn eater's leftover
- 14 Organizations
- 16 Mamie's other half
- 17 Rubbed in during Lent
- 18 787 or MD90
- 21 Admitted
- 22 Some final resting places
- 26 To a certain extent
- 28 Utah's --- Hatch

- 30 Semi-formal evening jacket
- 31 One is super every four years
- 33 Pismire
- 34 Bill dispenser
- 35 Ram's dam
- 36 Fifth sign
- 37 Howl
- 38 Steep
- 39 Wrongdoing

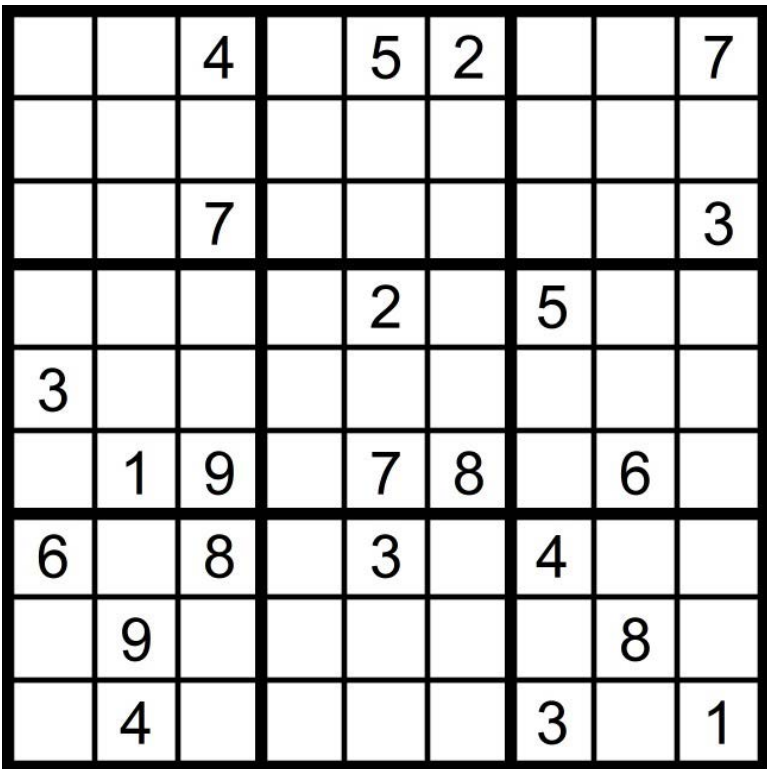
Down

- 1 Kind of discrimination
- 2 A website might send you one
- 3 Queen Victoria's consort

- 4 TV network with eye logo
- 5 From eastern old Iran
- 6 Droopy-eared hound
- 7 Turn tail
- 8 Outer edges
- 9 Triumphant cry
- 15 Deliberately lose
- 19 Kind of poker
- 20 Person with special access
- 23 Mercury and others
- 24 Sultanate in Borneo
- 25 Churchyard gravedigger
- 27 Dumbfounded
- 28 "--- sight!"
- 29 Cognac bottle name
- 31 Check
- 32 Nevertheless

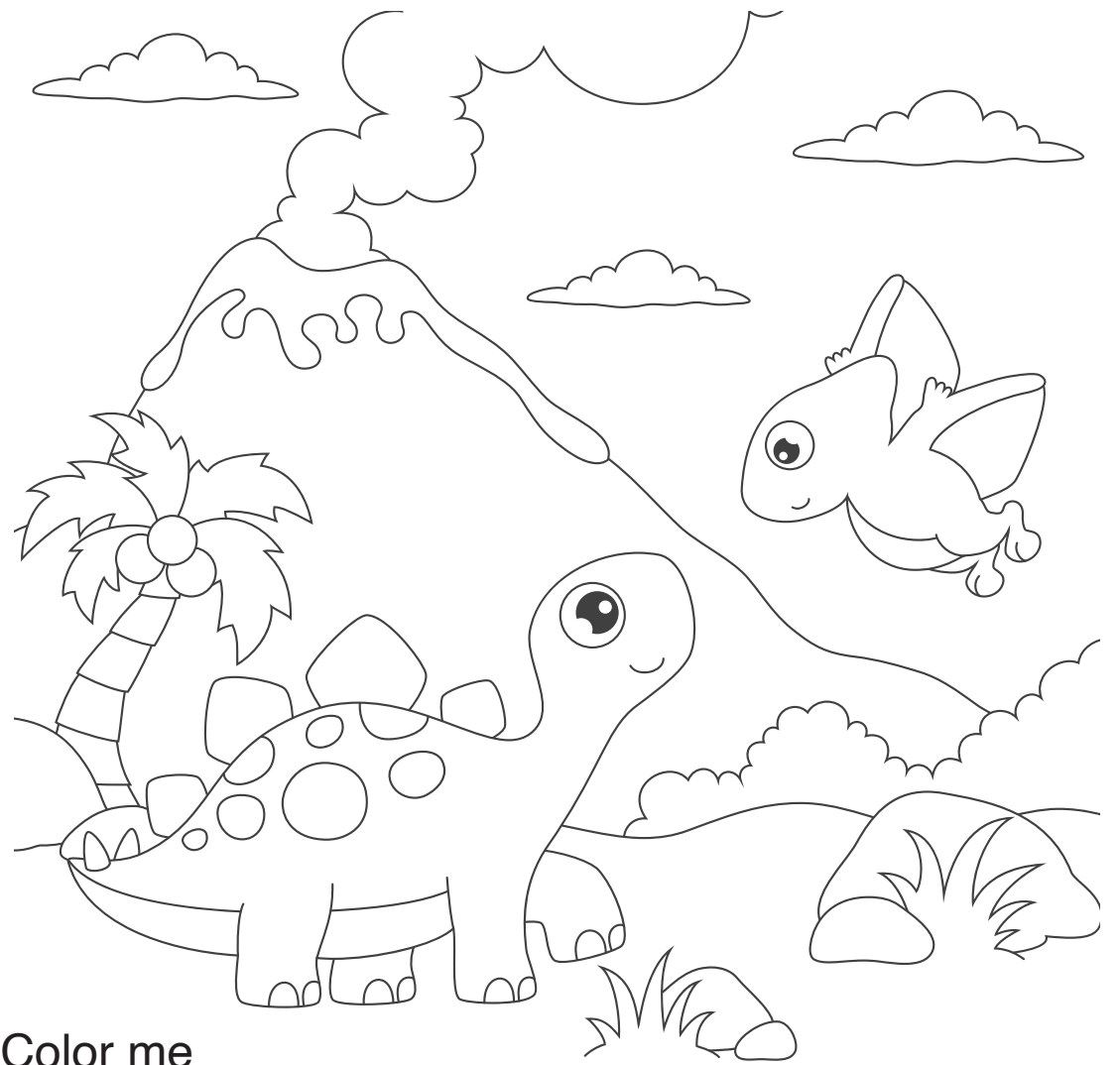


Last issue's answers



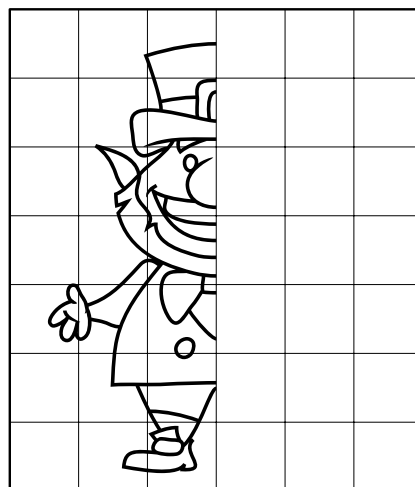
Elements

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Argon | Lead | Silver |
| Bismuth | Manganese | Tin |
| Carbon | Mercury | Wolfram |
| Copper | Neon | Xenon |
| Gold | Nickel | Zinc |
| Iodine | Osmium | |
| Iron | Oxygen | |
| Krypton | Radon | |



Color me

COMPLETE THE PICTURE



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

Skagway Brewing/Healy Construction is now hiring for the following full-time positions, lasting approximately 6 months. Start dates are flexible, varying from immediately to early April. All

positions have the potential to become full-time, year-round. Experience is a must. Benefits include discounts on food at the Skagway Brewing Company. Please send resumes to mike@skagwaybrewing.com or call (907) 973-2337. - **Maintenance:** \$22-\$30 per hour DOE. Maintenance experience required; **Construction Foreman:** \$30 to \$40 per hour DOE. Experience leading a construction crew required; **Carpenter:** \$25 to \$35 per hour DOE. Carpentry experience required.

HOUSING-PROPERTY

FOR SALE: Duplex, three bedrooms and two baths on each

side. Constructed 2019. Fridge, range, washer/dryer included, partially furnished. Call 907-723-2931.6120197

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.skagwayforsale/>

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

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

MARKETPLACE

CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS & WHITEHORSE STAR available at Skagway News Depot & Books

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 2/7 -3/5			
2/7	23	9	-
2/8	missing	5	-
2/9	13	-5	-
2/10	3	-4	-
2/11	missing	-4	-
2/12	15	6	-
2/13	22	14	-
2/14	26	14	-
2/15	20	12	-
2/16	19	4	-
2/17	33	5	.08 in
2/18	36	26	.01 in
2/19	39	31	.51 in
2/20	38	31	.07 in
2/21	35	24	.28 in
2/22	38	28	trace
2/23	38	27	.02 in
2/24	36	27	-
2/25	36	30	trace
2/26	37	22	-
2/27	35	22	-
2/28	36	31	.70 in
3/1	38	32	.02 in
3/2	39	35	.05 in
3/3	38	25	.07 in
3/4	39	27	.10 in
3/5	40	30	trace



PHONE:907-983-2259

BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

<p>Feb. 22</p> <p>The Fire Department responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.</p> <p>Feb. 23</p> <p>The Klondike Highway reopened after being closed for two days due to avalanche mitigation.</p> <p>Feb. 27</p> <p>The Klondike Highway closed due to an avalanche on the Canadian side. The highway reopened that afternoon.</p> <p>Feb. 28</p> <p>The Klondike Highway closed due to an avalanche near Carcross. The highway reopened that afternoon.</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>The Klondike Highway closed due to four avalanches and white-out conditions on the Canadian side. The road was still closed as of March 5.</p> <p>March 2</p> <p>The Police Department received a report that a stop sign along the Dyea Road was shot at. Upon further investigation, officers found three bullet holes.</p> <p>March 3</p> <p>Emergency Medical Services responded to a medical emergency on 9th Avenue.</p>
---	--

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Library Hours:

by Appointment
M-F 11am-6pm
Sat 1pm-5pm
Closed Sunday
8 patrons max.

(COVID-19 mitigation practices are in place)

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

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.

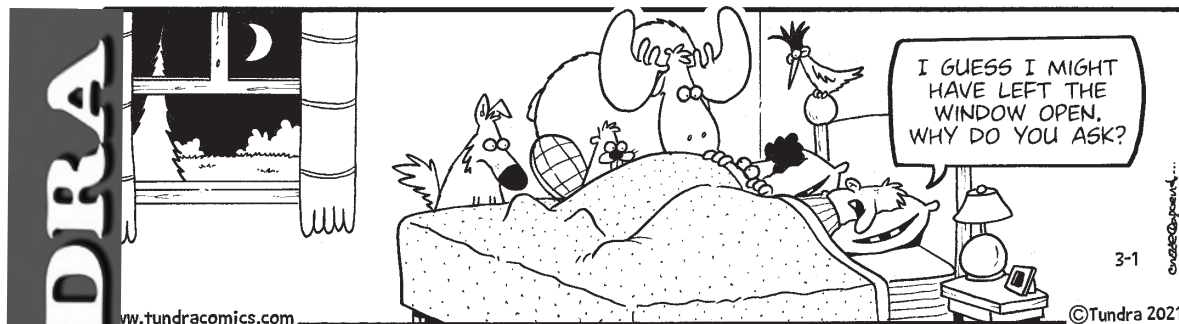
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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)

THE PACK



Students wax poetic, head to state competition



Adelia Deach



Callia Fielding

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

It started out as an extra credit assignment. Now two Skagway sophomores have found themselves on the list of finalists for the Alaska State Poetry Out Loud (POL) competition. The winner will compete nationally.

POL is a national poetry recitation competition for high school students.

Adelia Deach and Callia Fielding each memorized and recited a poem for the Skagway City School competition in February. As the local winners, Deach and Fielding competed in the Southeast regional competition by recording their performances and sending them on to the judges who decided the Skagway teenagers should head to the state competition.

The POL website states that one poem must be 25 lines or fewer, and one must be written before the 20th century. One poem may be used to meet both criteria and may be the student's third poem.

While Deach has participated for three years, she hasn't had the chance to compete beyond the school event due to illness. This will be her first competition.

"I like poems I can connect to," said Fielding.

"I connect with more modern poetry," said Deach.

The experience has led to friendships over the years. Fielding, a Skagway debater, and Deach practice online with friends and fellow competitors from other parts of Alaska that they have met over the years.

POL state level adjudication will be held Mar. 11-15. The winner and runner-up will be announced by March 15.

Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and competes in the national finals. The state's winning school/organization receives \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials. The first runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for their school/organization. At the national finals, a total of \$50,000 in awards and school/organizational stipends is awarded annually.

POL is a partnership of Juneau Arts & Humanities Council, Alaska State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Buckwheat 2021 COVID Classic

Photos by Reba Hylton



SKAGWAY NEWS DEPOT & BOOKS

Loving you back, Skagway!

Check out the latest titles from near and far...

All you need is BOOKS

Open 12:30-4:30 M-F for Safe Shopping
907-983-3354 • www.skagwaybooks.com • 252 Broadway