About 20 Haines athletes qualified for the state championship. Lori Giddings photo. Story, page 7.

CHAMPIONSHIP STYLE -- Haines High School senior Patrick Henderson clears the high jump bar at last weekend’s regional track meet. Henderson won the event among small schools with a 5'-6” leap. About 20 Haines athletes qualified for the state championship. Lori Giddings photo. Story, page 7.

Championship Style -- Haines High School senior Patrick Henderson clears the high jump bar at last weekend’s regional track meet. Henderson won the event among small schools with a 5'-6” leap.

About 20 Haines athletes qualified for the state championship. Lori Giddings photo. Story, page 7.

Skateboarders at odds with police

By Karen Garcia

Clashes between skateboarders and police over legal riding turf are heating up and may bring a push to change the law.

Skateboarders claim police are unfairly profiling and harassing them with the threat of citations, while Haines Borough cops say they’re only enforcing the laws on the books.

Interim police chief Simon Ford said dispatch receives three to four calls a week from people complaining about skateboarders weaving in and out of traffic and riding down the sidewalks in front of downtown businesses.

Ford said he also gets calls from residents chastising cops for hassling the boarders.

“We get a lot of calls like, ‘You need to stop hanging out and skateboarding and leave these kids alone. They’re doing something good and there are a lot worse things they could be doing.’ And then we get a lot of calls from people: ‘You got to get control of these skateboarders,’” Ford said.

Ford, officer Jason Rettinger and officer Josh Knore responded to the Port Chilkoot Dock on the evening of May 9 to break up a group of about 10 youths, some of whom were skateboarding around the dock parking lot.

The officers told the skateboarders what they were doing was illegal, passed out copies of the borough code regarding skateboarding, and warned them to stop.

Fourteen-year-old skateboarder Dawson Evenden was among those warned. Mom Leslie Evenden took issue with the show of force and asked why skateboarding isn’t allowed in an empty parking lot.

“No Skateboarding signs are posted there,” Bower said.

“The officers said skateboarding is not a crime,” Leslie Evenden said.

“Why did they feel like it was important to harass those teens?” Dawson asked.

They weren’t bothering anybody. They weren’t doing anything dangerous,” Leslie Evenden said.

How much savings do towns need?

By Karen Garcia

A Haines Borough Assembly member on Tuesday pulled from the agenda an ordinance aimed at changing assembly and school board election procedures.

The ordinance, which was spearheaded by assembly member Debra Schnabel and scheduled for introduction Tuesday, would eliminate the current system in which candidates run against one another for designated, individual seats.

Under the change, all candidate names would appear together on a single ballot. If two seats were to be filled, voters would be instructed to vote for any of the two candidates.

“Assembly member Jerry Lapp removed the ordinance from the current agenda, saying he couldn’t support allowing the measure to move forward because the method hasn’t been vetted by a committee and would end up costing more money due to an increased incidence of run-offs.

“If this was to ever go forward, I would want to give it to the voters,” Lapp said.

Assembly member Steve Vick agreed with Lapp’s concerns, saying that if the system isn’t broken, it doesn’t need to be fixed. “What is it we’re not accomplishing that this would do?” Vick asked.

Assembly members Lapp, Vick, Joanne Waterman and Norm Smith voted to send the matter to the Government Affairs and Services committee for further research and discussion.

Assembly members Dave Berry, Charlie Bower, and Schnabel were absent.

In a phone interview after the meeting, Schnabel said she was “very disappointed” with the ordinance’s removal from the agenda, but that she would put more work into the issue to advance it.

See EDIT page 9

See SURVEY page 12

See SAVE page 9

Volunteers poke into condition of lighthouse

By Tom Morphet

The leader of a local effort to restore the Eldred Rock lighthouse said she was encouraged by a Saturday “survey” of the facility.

About two dozen volunteers photographed and documented the condition of the four buildings there, research that will go toward a restoration plan being written by a Sheldon Museum subcommittee.

“With a couple good work trips, we could have people going out there as early as a couple years from now. The second floor (of the lighthouse) isn’t that far from being usable. You could make that habitable fairly easily,” said Pam Randles, president and chair of the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association.

The nine-room second floor of the octagonal structure was the structure’s living area, and included bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a living room. The structure being restored.

Randles last visited the lighthouse a decade ago. She said
Town’s real beauty is in its people.

I would like to thank the community of Haines for the support they have given me during this unbelievable time.

I moved to Haines partially because of the beauty and serenity of the mountains and sea, but I now discover the real beauty is in the people. I have no work to thank you enough. You are all amazing, beautiful people with the power to help.

Leslie Corless

Help the effort to stop the giveaway

Help stop the giveaway.

Money is everything, and the Alaska Legislature just substantially reduced taxes on the oil produced in the state, in Senate Bill 21 (SB21). The state’s own economists project a loss of revenue to the state of about $1 billion a year. Oil prices are big because oil production is an important source of oil production enough to make up for the loss, but the oil industry gave absolutely no commitment in return for the reduction; the bill has been called “a crony.”

There’s a bipartisan effort afoot to push the law on the next ballot so that the people of the state can vote it up or down. After all, as Wally Hickman, a full-blooded Tlingit representative from Juneau, Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka. Senator Stedman called SB21 “a flimflam.”

So please sign the petition that is circulating around Haines. There are booklets at The Bubblegum, Alaska Buckcountry Outfitter and Buckshot and Bobby Pins; most mornings there is someone at Mountain Market with a booklet. Or call me at 766-3849 and I can tell you who else has a booklet or send someone to get your signature.

If you or anyone you know wants to know more about what the bill does, give me a call and I can send you some information. Thanks!

Deborah Vogt

Hooray for the birthday calendar

Thanks to Kim Larson and the Venterour Scouts, we have a new, 2013 Birthday Calendar for the Superman’s Club. Did anyone see one earlier than 1974? Happy birthday.

Doris Ward

Carbon reading is a grim milestone

Last Thursday, the atmospheric monitoring station on Maunou Lake reported an increase to 400 parts per million (ppm) in the carbon dioxide level. This is a grim milestone—carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Every day, it’s getting worse. Already, the Maunou Lake station’s calculations indicate that 550 ppm was the safe upper limit for the planet to sustain human life. Glaciers sample data indicate that the 400 ppm level has not been exceeded in over three million years. As we continue to burn fossil fuels we continue the steep upward trajectory of CO2 levels.

Isn’t there too much at stake to ignore the risk or call it a hoax? It’s like you’re about to put your kid on a flight to Seattle and the Alaska Airlines guys say, “We’ve got a potentially serious problem with the plane. But our mechanics say we won’t crash, but we figure maybe they’re wrong or maybe we can fix it on the way.” Would you put your kid on that flight?

Our children and grandchildren may think us foolish for agonizing over the legacy of leaving them too many treacherous notes to pay off. We should be ignoring a much more life-threatening legacy—leaving them a planet that is much less able to sustain human civilization.

As Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, said of the 400 ppm milestone: “The only question now is whether the relentless rise in carbon can be matched by a relentless rise in the activism necessary to stop it.”

George Figoig

Principal’s award was a team effort

In response to the award I have recently received, I am compelled to admire my teammates who tirelessly serve our school community. As you are well aware, it takes an entire team to move a child from kindergarten to graduation. As Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, said of the 400 ppm milestone: “The only question now is whether the relentless rise in carbon can be matched by a relentless rise in the activism necessary to stop it.”

George Figoig

Hospitality showed at Culture Days

On behalf of Mosquito Lake School, I would like to thank the people of Klukwan for their warm hospitality during Klukwan Culture Days. It is important for us to understand the history of the land we are standing on. Thank you all for sharing your rich cultural heritage with us. We are very pleased to have been part of the Whole House and the Thunderbird House. We also were able to watch the students from Angoon perform traditional Tlingit dances at the Whole House. We were welcomed into the clan houses was a rare privilege and we are very grateful for it.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making Klukwan Culture Days a success. I know that a lot of planning and preparation went into this two-day event. I would especially like to thank Mr. David Kattzke for reminding us that we are all precious children of the earth.

Kathy Holmes

MORE LETTERS PAGE 3

Letters to the Editor

Save the Date

Thursday, May 16

Kindergarten registration at the Haines School. Please bring a birth certificate and immunization records. Also Friday.

AP&T Customer Appreciation Open House, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at AP&T.

Head Start Graduation, noon at Head Start building.

Strong & Fit Class, noon to 1 p.m. at the Chilkat & Silver lobby. Same time Tuesday.

Burger Night, 5 p.m. at American Legion.

Tourism Community Night, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Klukwan SEARHC office.

Second Grade Concert, 6:30 p.m. in the elementary gym.

Friday, May 17

“Help Keep the Senior Center Afloat!” 3 to 5 p.m. at the senior center.

Sling Shot Sonic, 3 to 4 p.m. at public health nurse office. Answers to questions on topics important to teen health, including contraception, Confidential and safe environment. Every Friday, 766-3630.

After-School Games, 3:30 p.m.; Home work help desk open on the library. Also Monday and Wednesdays.

Klukwan School Graduation, 7 p.m. at the vanguard.

Saturday, May 18

First Aid: CPR Class, 8:30-a.m. at the fire hall. Cost $25. For more information, call 766-2122.

Haines Try-athlon, 9 a.m. at the Haines School.

HARK Spring Cleaning, 10 a.m. to noon at HARK. Contact 766-3334 for more information.

Spring Opener Motorcycle Poker Run, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Misty Fjords.

Museum Volunteer Appreciation Party, noon at the Old Library Center lobby. Also Sheldon Museum volunteers and families invited.

Haines Sportsman’s Association annual meeting, 7 p.m. on the foundation.

Sunday, May 19

Walk and Talk with Eric Holle, Paul Swift and Annie Boyce, carpool noon at the museum.

Tlingit Park Playground 10th Birthday Party Celebration, 1 p.m. Tlingit Park.

To list an event in Save the Date, phone 766-2688 or email cmv@chilkatvalleynews.com.

Monday, May 20

Ports and Harbor Advisory Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m. in assembly chambers.

Mother Goose Story Time for newborns to 3-year-olds, 11 a.m. at the library.

Senior Exercise Class, 11:15 to 11:55 a.m. at the senior center. Also Wednesday.

Love and Logic: Raising Responsible Adults, 6 to 7 p.m. at the library. Presented by Lynn Canal Counseling. Child care provided.

Haines High School graduation, 7 p.m. at the high school.

Tuesday, May 21

Taco Tuesday, 5 p.m. at the American Legion.

Tlingit Language Class, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Klukwan SEARHC office.

2013 Board of Equalization second meeting, 6 a.m., in assembly chambers.

Music in the Stacks with Jeff Alvine, 7 p.m. at the library.

Eighth Grade Promotion, 7 p.m. in the elementary school gym.

Wednesday, May 22

Last day of school, Haines School. Time for Tots, ages 4 and under, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at elementary school gym. 766-2152.

Haines Port Development Steering Committee, 5 p.m. in chambers.

Thursday, May 23

Haines Chamber of Commerce Bingo, 6:30 p.m. at the ANB Hall.

Friday, May 24

Last day of school for Klukwan School Summer Reading Program Kick-off, 11 a.m. at the library. Wear your pirate attire.

Thursday, May 30

“Creating Contagious Content: How to Build Your Social Media Audience” by Jonny Hopper moderated by Steve Vick, 2 p.m. at the library.

Monday, June 3

Positive Psychology, 6 to 8 p.m. at the library.

Sunday, June 9

Jerrie Clarke’s Farewell Open House, 4 to 6 p.m. at the museum.

Save DULY page 10

Chilkat Valley News

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Vol. KL1 #15 May 16, 2013

By Sara Callaghan Chapell

Brian and Jacqui Clay of Haines are proud to announce their engagement.

McKinley Grace Elizabeth Jones was born 8:11 p.m. Friday, May 9, 2013, at the Juneau General Hospital in Juneau. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Six Haines High School graduates were among the graduates of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., last weekend. Ryan Olsen earned a degree in engineering science. Ryan returns home to Haines this summer to fish with his friend Chris Olsen, and is applying to physical therapy graduate programs for the fall. Parents Tina and Ben Olsen attended his graduation.

Rayson Schnabel graduated with a management construction management. Parents Nancy and Roger Schnabel attended the graduation.

John Schnabel and aunt Debra Schnabel are proud to announce their son, John Schnabel, has earned a degree in hotel and restaurant management, and will be entering a management program at Mgm Grand in Las Vegas.

Dad Randy Miner was among the graduates who received a bachelor’s degree in environmental science. Will plans to work for the Department of Fish and Game in Haines this summer.

Ryan Smalley earned his degree in physics and astronomy. Parents Kathy Friedle and John Brown attended her graduation.

Greg Rigbybig spent the weekend in Seattle with his friend where he saw the Rolling Stones playing at the MGM Grand as part of their “50+ Years & Counting” Tour. Greg last saw the band in 1964 in Seattle with his friend Jim Taylor. He also joined him for the Vegas show. “It was just amazing,” said Greg. “They put on a great show and I enjoyed the complimentary MVP seating in the second row of the 15,000-seat arena.

Mayor Stephanie Scott presented prizes for the inaugural Mayor’s Energy Award. The private sector energy project was awarded to George Figoig for his electric car, converted from a diesel-powered Volkswagen Rabbit, and his off-grid home powered by wind and solar generators. The public sector award went to the collaboration between the Haines Borough School District, Seven Mountains, Anchorage State and Alaska Arts Confluence to develop the “Small Scale Green-Living Design Awards”.

To list an event in Save the Date, phone 766-2688 or email cmv@chilkatvalleynews.com.
We’re publishing a story this week on Haines Borough fund balances to shed light on an element of the annual budgeting process that doesn’t get much attention—how much in savings our local government should keep in its warehouse before paying its bills.

Keeping some money in savings seems like a good idea, but the rub is the money the government keeps in savings is your money, cash that you might rather have returned to you in the form of reduced taxes or improved services.

Government officials say they need to keep a cushion for a rainy day. That sounds prudent. However, unlike you and me, our government already can raise money at any time—through taxation.

It seems odd for our local government to scrimp while maintaining savings equal to such a high percentage of its budget when it plans to spend in the entire coming year. It’s a safe bet that most families and businesses here manage to get by without a cash cushion equal to half their annual spending.

One reason Haines Borough has money. It’s planted general fund balance of $484,000 for a $5.5 million budget compared to a fund balance in Sitka of $400,000 for a $19 million school budget. Further, Haines keeps a “facilities and equipment” fund balance of a $330,000. Sitka’s school district doesn’t even have such a separate fund for improvements.

The amounts of our school district’s fund balances are relevant because the borough pays about $1.78 million into school operations. If the school district could get by on, say, a $1.3 million general fund balance, the borough would save enough money to keep open its pool and museum, facilities currently proposed for seasonal closure.

School district officials would likely resist such a reduction. They say their fund balance may need to cover expenses for school teachers and Debra Schnabel were absent. Assembly members Dave Berry and Vick flip-flopped on the issue, Smith said budgets are a give-and-take process. “They wanted the fire district reimbursement at the state level. We’re the people who elect you, and I’ll vote for yours,” he said.

Waterman said her perspective is the money the government keeps in savings is your money, cash that you might rather have returned to you in the form of reduced taxes or improved services. “I would like to see the manager amend this budget ordinance to include the assembly chairs appropriation of $2,300. And if we do that, then I’ll vote for this,” Smith said.

By Karen Garcia

Haines Borough Assembly member Norm Smith on Tuesday leveraged his vote needed for several capital improvements to get $2,300 of new chairs for the assembly members added to this year’s budget.

Smith declined to vote for an amendment that would appropriate $150,000 for a new fire truck and other equipment unless other assembly members agreed to pay $2,300 into the current year’s budget for new dias chairs in the assembly chambers.

Smith’s vote was critical, as only four assembly members attended the meeting and all four were required for official action. Assembly members added to this year’s budget.

Chairman Courtney Culbeck with Friends of Tlingit Park & LAWN EQUIPMENT.. HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Stephen Ellenwood was arrested for being a fugitive from justice on May 9. Whether Ellenwood will challenge extradition to Utah is still unknown. “If he wants to waive extradition, then we can come pick him up ASAP. If he chooses to fight it, then we’ll have to go through that judicial process,” she said.

Ellenwood’s fugitive from justice case is being handled by public defender Timothy Ayer.
Stacy worked every job at local Head Start

By Tom Merphet
Anneliese Stacy has done so much in 26 years at Haines Head Start, it’s difficult to imagine the program without her. Director Karen Bryant told a crowd of about 60 parents, teachers and program workers at a retirement party for Stacy Friday.

Hired in the mid-1980s, Stacy has worked every job in the program — including cook, classroom aide, teacher, bus driver, bus aide, maintenance specialist and program director, Bryant said.

She also has donated countless hours after school and on weekends to make the program a success, including butchering donated moose, decorating the school and counting each year knitting hats for students.

“I don’t know anyone more dedicated to her job, nor anyone more devoted to this town’s children. And the children love her,” Bryant said.

Ironically, Stacy almost wasn’t hired, said resident Pat Warren, a member of the board when Stacy first applied to be program cook. Some board members were concerned over the strong German accent and sounding first name would throw anyone off.

“I said, ‘Don’t judge her by her accent. Kids can figure things out. You may be passing up a good applicant if you don’t look at all their qualities,’” Warren recounted. Stacy’s interview and resume (she had operated a daycare facility in Oregon) showed a concern for children that proved true, Warren said.

“Teacher Anneliese has raised a lot of our children. This is where their foundation is and where their future is,” Warren said.

Parent Committee Chairperson Krystal Lloyd of Haines Head Start with a cake she made for the retirement of Anneliese Stacy, at right. (Photo by Karen Garcia)

SEABA fined for landing at fatal accident site

By Karen Garcia
The Haines Borough fined Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA) $500 last week for operating on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property without a permit during the March 3 heli-skiing accident that killed a guide and injured two others.

Manager Mark Earnest, who can fine heli-skiing companies up to $1,000 per violation, said he decided to fine $500 because the company wasn’t improperly landing on the border of the allowed area.

“I just looked at the circumstances and felt that was justified... It rose to a higher level than being just a little outside of the map. So that was the decision,” Earnest said.

The accident occurred in the Kicking Horse drainage on a ridge near Garrison Glacier.

SEABA co-owner Scott Sundberg said this week he hasn’t yet spoken with Earnest about the fine, but he intends to. Sundberg said while he probably won’t appeal Earnest’s decision, he did not agree.

“I think it’s a little much. I think it was an error due to some confusing and conflicting maps. In my opinion, it was more of a minor deal. $500 is halfway to $1,000,” Sundberg said.

Earnest fined SEABA $200 each for two out-of-bounds landing violations on March 19, bringing the company’s fine total for the season to $900.

Sundberg has been in conversations with Department of Justice attorneys and BLM investigators for the past month regarding the March 3 unpermitted landing. Sundberg said he doesn’t get the impression the matter will become criminal or result in charges.

“They haven’t really dug too hard or done anything dramatic. They’ve just been more than anything doing an informative investigation. It’s not a criminal or litigious thing at this point. That is where it stands,” he said.

Department of Justice attorneys and BLM officials would not elaborate on the investigation.

“We are continuing to investigate the matter in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney’s office, and given that this is an ongoing investigation, it’s inappropriate for us to comment any further,” said BLM public information officer Tom Jennings.

Sundberg speculated BLM involved the Department of Justice because a fatality occurred during the unpermitted landing, so BLM is trying to minimize any liability. “They are worried a little bit that might come back to the feds,” he said.

Sundberg said he has emphasized during the conversations his desire to maintain a good working relationship with BLM, as he doesn’t want to jeopardize SEABA’s ability to get a permit if BLM land around Haines is reopened to heli-skiing.

All BLM land in the Haines area has been closed to heli-skiing for the past several years, pending approval of the department’s Ring of Fire Draft Resource Management Plan.

Sundberg said SEABA is presently collaborating with Alaska HeliSkiing representatives to identify problem areas in the hikers’ heli-skiing map. The two companies are working together to bring an amended map to the Department of Justice for consideration.

The assembly can amend the heli-skiing map annually by resolution. Proposed map amendments are due by May 31.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities wants to hear from you!

Rail plans develop a state long-term vision for rail freight and passenger transportation. They identify needs, prioritize potential projects, determine funding needs, and outline future rail policy direction.

We want to hear from you! What is your vision for our rail system? What transportation needs could be met through rail improvements? What opportunities are just down the track?

Future open houses will be in an on-line format. To learn more about the planning process, sign up for e-mail notifications, or send us your comments, visit www.dot.alaska.gov/railplan.

Sign up for our e-mail notification list today!

Floats to buoy center

“Help Keep the Senior Center Afloat” is set for 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Senior Center.

The drop-in gathering is the second fundraising event held by the board of the Haines Senior Center, Inc., the group responsible for operating the center.

Root beer floats will be served for $3, and a drawing in the group’s recent raffle will be held every 20 minutes.

The senior center board launched a fundraising effort earlier this year aimed at meeting expenses to make up for declining rental income. The board also hopes to bolster the center as a hub for senior activities.

A kick-off luncheon March 15 raised $1,200.

To date, the effort has raised enough money to hire an activities coordinator for five hours per week. The position will help organize seniors and develop activities they enjoy. The position also will follow up on board fundraising efforts.

For more information, contact Marjell Dunn at 767-5487.

Len Feldman, M.D.
Family Doctor

Office closed all day Wednesday & Friday afternoons.

1.5 Mi. Mat. Bay Rd. 760-3009

The Alaska State Rail Plan Community Open Houses

Spring 2013 Open House Dates and Locations

May 21
Assembly Chambers
700 Spring Street, Skagway

May 22
Haines Borough Public Library
111 Third Avenue, South, Haines

May 29
Curts D. Menard Memorial Sports Center
100 South Creek Drive, Waiala

May 30
Seward Community Library
239 Sixth Avenue, Seward

June 4
Lousac Library
3600 Dena’i Street, Anchorage

June 5
North Star Assembly Chambers
809 Pioneer Road, Fairbanks

June 6
Old St. Joe’s Hall
Anvil City Square, Nome

All meetings will be from 5 PM to 8 PM, with brief presentation at 6:30 PM.

Klukwan youths held cards naming deceased villagers who supported the dream of a culture center but didn’t live to see it realized, then helped turn shovels of dirt at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Jilkaat Kwaa’n Cultural Center and Bald Eagle Observatory May 8. These people (on the name list) took a stand for the culture and carried the knowledge of the culture to the next generation. The young people will have to carry it forward when we’re gone,” project leader Lani Hotch said after the gathering.

Hotch told the assembled crowd they were part of an effort for a village museum conceived before Alaska became a state. Documents show members of the Alaska Territorial Legislature tried to get federal funding for such a building, she said.

The groundbreaking included performances by the Jilkaat Kwaa’n Heritage Dancers, acknowledgment of funders, and speeches by Smith Katzeek Sr. representing the Raven moiety and Joanne Spud of the Eagle moiety.

Clearing work started this week at the north end of Chilkat Avenue, where the 12,000-square-foot building is planned to be enclosed by winter. But the project may stop there, as project funding is $5.8 million plan for the center included a $5.8 million structure, plus landscaping, boardwalk and a plaza. The village has replaced that plan with a phased approach that will add items as funding becomes available.

Hotch said the building will include a replica clan house and feature a vaulted ceiling looking out toward the Chilkat River. Plans call for designated spaces for eagle viewing and for classroom instruction, coinciding with efforts to partner with the state Division of Parks and the University of Alaska, respectively. Use of the center for eagle-viewing and for future classes in Tlingit culture would bring in operation revenues, and possibly staffing, under current plans. The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Committee recently ended its partnership between the Division of Parks and the non-profit that will operate the center.

In recent months, villagers have brainstormed about possible museum exhibits, starting with the question: “If you wanted to teach something about Klukwan, what would be the most important thing to share?”

Ideas include the annual cycle of subsistence activities, Chilkat weaving, history of the village site, and the roles of the church, school and ANB/ANS in village life. “You want to keep local interest high by changing out exhibits. To me, it’s going to be a living cultural center, not some thing to share?” Hotch said.

The first two phases of the project included creation of a riverside cultural camp and construction of a “hospitability house” featuring a dining hall, gift shop and bathing facilities. The house is intended for use both by museum-goers and those attending culture camp activities.

Second state trooper expected on job by fall

Alaska State Troopers began advertising a Haines state trooper vacancy May 8, meaning Haines should see a second trooper by late summer or early fall.

Haines wildlife trooper Ken VanSpronsen has worked the traditionally two-man post solo since he arrived in June. VanSpronsen said the arrival of a “blue shirt” will allow him to do his prescribed job as a “brown shirt” more effectively and will result in better service for residents living outside borough police jurisdiction.

Department of Public Safety Deputy Commissioner Terry Monkelien said, as of May 10, she had received one application for the position May 8. The bid closes May 24.

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Tell the Haines High School Class of 2013 You’re proud of their accomplishments!

On May 23, the Chilkat Valley News will publish a special supplement of graduation news and photos, including a portrait of the Class of 2013, which will be distributed FREE to all graduates.

We are offering special discounted prices for congratulatory messages in this keepsake edition. Reserve your space today.

SAMPLE AD SIZES

$20

$40

$60

Fax your ad or content to us at 766-2689, call us at 766-2688, or e-mail us at cvn@chilkatvalleynews.com

DEADLINE: NOON MONDAY, MAY 20TH
Cruise ship makes surprise visit

By Karen Garcia

A surprise cruise ship docking Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at Haines Borough employees, tour company operators, and residents scrambled to accommodate the unexpected influx of visitors.

Haines Borough’s Statendam, a 719-foot vessel with a passenger capacity of 1,266, pulled into Haines Harbor Wednesday morning after its captain decided high winds in Skagway – the Statendam’s planned destination – would make mooring unsafe.

Haines was not scheduled to see its first cruise ship docking until May 22, so too-up crews, port security personnel and other cogs in the hiring and licensing process scrambled to accommodate the unexpected influx of visitors.

Haines Borough Clerk Julie Cozzi estimated the visitors would spend around $2 million during their two-day stay in the town, with a $750,000 influx of visitors.

“It looks really good. Everybody seems interested in getting the work done,” Cozzi said.

In the past, Cozzi said, the borough has spent each year over the past two years for improvements to the trail, rehabilitating about one- quarter mile of trail, Cozzi said.

Vogt said Wednesday morning. His wife Margaret was more anxious about the upcoming trip on the train. I don’t care about Skagway. So it worked out that way. In the long run, I’m rather pleased to come to this little town that doesn’t bring you to that trap stores up and down the street,” she said.

According to a McDowell Group survey prepared for the Borough in 2011, cruise ship passengers spend an average of $85 per person on their trip to Haines, meaning the Statendam’s surprise visit could net an extra $107,000 for the local economy.

Tour company operators sprang into action, setting up extra tours and modifying their schedules. Chilkat Guides director of operations Andy Hendek said because of the Statendam’s late arrival, they scrambled one rafting trip for the day, but rallied extra guides and added another two trips after the opening of the Statendam’s arrival.

“We scrambled and canceled a first aid class and moved a bunch of stuff around and created a bunch of options for them,” Hendek said.

Hendek said while he welcomes the cruise ship and the additional business it brings, it’s difficult to sell trips to the last minute. “At late notice, it’s often hard to convert a bunch of people, so we picked up only a half-dozen extra sales out of it,” he said.

“About a Nature Tours said the company also scheduled an additional guided tour out to the Chilkat River.

“We just ask our guides if they can work an extra shift and you’ll see them back around,” Egoft said.

The Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry also made a last-minute change of plans and scheduled an 11 a.m. departure to Skagway to accommodate cruise ship passengers needing to get to Skagway for tours already booked, said office accountant DeeDee Hart.

“I only heard a couple people saying, ‘Well, we had to cancel our tour.’ Basically they could still book the train and there were other tours they could do. There was not a lot of complaints at all,” Hart said.

Margaret and Jack Vogt, a couple from Vancouver, B.C., had to alter their Statendam tour plans after the cancellation of the Haines docking. The couple had to cut their original plans short, but was able to book spots on the fast ferry to arrive in time for the train tour.

“We changed the last-minute change of plans “crap.” We should be on that train well off to our way to Canada right now,” Vogt said Wednesday morning.

Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry

Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

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Arrival
Track teams place 2nd, 3rd at regional meet
By Krista Kleinmeier
About Athletics
Three teams represent Haines High School at this weekend’s state track and field championship in Fairbanks.

The Glacier Bears advanced to state through their performances at the May 10-11 Region V championship in Juneau, where the boys finished second among small schools, and the girls were third. Sitka was first in both divisions, and Petersburg was second in the girls’ overall scoring. Angoon, Gustavus, Skagway, Thorny Bay and Yakutat also competed at the event.

“It was a lot different than the two weeks before; everybody was sunburnt,” said first-year coach Lexie DeWitt. “I think the heat beat jumped way farther than I thought they’d jump, so it was unexpected,” said Fowler, who noted he jumped three feet farther than he did last year.

Junior Serena Badgley won the 100-meter dash (11.93) and triple jump (39’01.50), and sophomore Terry Davis won the 4 by 800-meter relay. All were running in their first meet of the season.

“He’s rewarding, because it’s such a hard race to do,” Humphrey said. “As (throwing coach) Jim Strong, had strength in numbers former Haines coach Jeremy Strong, had strength in numbers said. “It was a very close race, so it was a very close race,” said Fowler, who thought they’d jump, so it was unexpected.”

Haines opened its season last weekend at Thunder Mountain High School in a meet that was nearly cancelled due to heavy snowfall. The following weekend’s Haines Invitational was scrapped due to poor track conditions. The Region V championship, though, had one clear day and one rainy day as athletes vied for state.

Each regional champion from throughout Alaska advances to state, as well as select, next-best finishers, regardless of region. Champions for the Haines boys’ team at Region V included senior Patrick K. Franks and Dalton Tuohy and sophomore Terry Davis won the 4 by 800-meter relay.

Henderson, Olsen and Sullivan were also on the winning 4 by 400-meter relay team, along with junior Walker Blair. The Glacier Bear team of senior Zach Rossman, juniors Kai Sato-Franks and Dalton Tuohy and sophomore Terry Davis won the 4 by 800-meter relay. Junior Cheysey Fowler rounded out Haines’ state qualifiers with a second-place finish in the long jump (18’01.75).

“I thought I’d have a good chance at first, and then the two guys who I was trying to qualify for state. It was a lot different than the two weeks before; everybody was sunburnt,” said first-year coach Lexie DeWitt. “I think the heat beat jumped way farther than I thought they’d jump, so it was unexpected,” said Fowler, who noted he jumped three feet farther than he did last year.

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A Day Ashore Eldred Rock

Cheryl McRoberts surveys the condition of an outbuilding.

Gary Gillette and Pam Randles check blueprints from 1905.

Cabinets full of nuts and bolts corrode in the boathouse.

The view facing north from the cupola's balcony.

A boathouse contains two rail cars and a turntable for switching tracks.

A door on the lighthouse's north-facing side was cut from an original window opening.

Logs and marine debris have washed away large sections of a railroad that once brought goods ashore.

The view facing north from the cupola's balcony.
SAVE from page 1

ELECT from page 1

She cited numerous advantages, including attracting more candidates to the candidate pool and creating a more democratic process. Further, designated seats don’t make sense in local elections as all candidates are elected at large and not from designated districts, Schnabel said.

“We do not have representatives by districts or by streets or by areas or by whatever. If we had representation that was designed in such a way that candidates represented a subgroup of the total population, then absolutely there would be a reason that candidates would pair off, but we do not. Our election is for all the people, all large for all candidates,” she said.

Pitting candidates against one another for designated seats is not a voter’s choice of candidates. “For me, the issue is that when I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen and I go to the polls as a citizen, I want my choice. I don’t want someone else’s choice for me,” Haney said.

“Say Jane Doe registers as a candidate specifically for assembly seat ‘A’ and has to run against Bob Smith for that specific seat. At the same time, may Sally Sue is the only person who registers as a candidate for seat ‘B’. At the election, Jane receives 101 votes, Bob receives 145 votes, and Sally receives 60 votes. If the election rules are such that the candidate who receives the most votes for a specific seat wins that seat, Bob would win seat ‘A’ and Sally would win seat ‘B’, even though Sally received less votes than Jane,” Hamburgh wrote.

“This system often leads to candidates strategizing over which seat they’ll run for given who their challengers might be,” Hamburgh added.

Schnabel agreed that the current system does encourage manipulation and strategizing. Candidates will file their paperwork for a seat then withdraw when they are made aware of who they are running against, and then refile for what they might perceive is an “easier” seat against a “weaker” candidate, Schnabel said.

Mayor Scott said in an interview, Tuesday she supports the change, as it would promote fairness and put all candidates on equal footing.

“The focus is on the role, the fulfilling of the duties of a member of the assembly. You don’t have to talk about how this person or that person will do it... Basically, you’re making the job. The pack and everybody gets to be evaluated,” Scott said.

Scott said Craig, Ketchikan and other communities use the roster method and she is researching how that system is working out for them.

Assembly member Norm Smith also said in an interview Tuesday he would support the change. “I think it’s a great idea. It will encourage more people to run,” he said.

In an interview, manager Mark Earnest said he was predisposed judgment on the matter until he sees more information, but said he doesn’t see a problem with the current system.

The ordinance’s passage is on a time crunch if it is to be used in October municipal elections, as it must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department, Schnabel said.

Earnest pointed out at Tuesday’s meeting that election policies usually don’t take effect until the following year to avoid a perception of an attempt to alter the public’s influence the upcoming elections.

Seats currently held by Vick and Smith will open in October. Vick said he didn’t intend to run again this fall. Smith would not reveal who he supports.

The Government Affairs and Services committee will discuss the proposed change in election procedures at 4:30 p.m. on May 23.

SAVING from page 1

Support it.

Wrangel’s finance director Jeff Jabusch said three to six months is low for a reserve account. Wrangel’s reserves nearly match in Smith, often in general fund expenditures.

“One person’s hoarding is another person’s financial stability,” Jabusch said.

Like the Haines Borough, the City of Wrangel owns a school, water, sewer, harbor and other facilities which have their own funds. “Although none of these have adequate reserves, others do not and if for any reason our general fund reserve is the bank,” Jabusch said.

Jabusch said by echoing many of Earnest’s explanations for keeping a hefty reserve, including fluctuating revenues from state and federal funding sources like Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Secure Rural Schools, supplemental revenue sharing, and fish tax. Due to the absence of supplemental revenue sharing and the underfunded state of Secure Rural Schools, Jabusch said reserves will be insufficient to meet the fund balance, but said it is

The federal issues are not doing this, your taxes would go up

We are all going to want all the money that we need to visit,” Rodig said.

The data will be valuable in indicating pool usage numbers. “We saw the downturn, we paid attention to it, we managed our expenditures, and we managed to get through the downturn without laying off staff or having massive cutbacks,” Eades said.

Haines Borough Assembly members have expressed over the past several years that while they would love to sit on a big chunk of change, they still want to maintain a “rainy day fund,” said borough fiscal officer Jilea Stuart. That way, in the event of fluctuating revenue sources or major capital emergencies like the Lutak Road slump, taxes don’t need to be raised significantly and there is still a source of money for service,” she said.

Stuart isn’t denying that money technically exists to keep it open year-round.

Stuart said she is looking forward to work being provided by pool manager RaeAnn Galasso allowing pool usage numbers.

The data will be valuable in determining how many people would be affected by a three-month cutoff in the summer, Stuart said.

While both Stuart and mayor Stephanie Schneck agreed a six-month rule on fund balances is a windfall, Stuart and Scott both said keeping 18 months of operating expenses in the townsite fund was essential.

Scott said she would like to see some of the townsite money, which comes primarily from property tax and sales tax, used for Third Avenue repairs and other capital improvements.

Earnest is proposing to transfer about $400,000 out of the townsite fund to the borough’s budget to maintain a “rainy day fund,” said borough finance director George Eades, who assumed the position at the beginning of April, and would like to see the borough’s budget. Eades said in his previous job as finance director for a 7,800-person California town, the city council voted to keep the fund balance at a three-month level.

Eades said a six-month fund balance in the late-2000s indicated the borough was weathering a pretty tough economic climate. “When we saw the downturn coming, we paid attention to it, we managed our expenditures, and we managed to get through the downturn without laying off staff or having massive cutbacks,” Eades said.

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A health care agency requested an 8- by 10-inch, wheelchair-bound individual from the ferry terminal. An ambulance driver was contacted to assist.

Dispatch put out a caller seeking information on how to prepare to seal a bear skin in touch with a valid license.

A man reported being threatened by two other men while walking on the street. The man did not provide specifics about the threat. He advised the man on how to maintain a protective order.

A reported an illegally parked vehicle on Main Street. Police investigated and determined the vehicle had been moved after loading groceries. Police responded and determined there had been loud yelling and arguing, but nothing criminal. Nothing was found in regard to the child services.

A traffic stop resulted in a verbal warning for speeding.

A caller reported an unattended vehicle near the fairgrounds. Police contacted the owner, who confirmed the vehicle to be unoccupied.

A police officer assisted in traffic control on the Haines Highway near Allen Road while the highway was closed for several minutes. The area was re-opened and found the horse been placed back in its stall by the responsible party.

A borough employee reported a vehicle that had been seen in the boat harbor parking lot for two months. The owner was contacted and the vehicle was moved.

A caller reported locks had been placed on his doors without his permission and he wished to have them removed. Police determined the matter involved foreclosure and directed the Texas family to file suit in a Texas court.

A traffic controller reported a plane that was supposed to land in Haines had not closed its landing gear. Police determined there was a communication error and the plane had landed in Hoonah.

A traffic stop resulted in a verbal warning for failure to stop at stop sign.

A person reported an abandoned vehicle at the fairgrounds. Police contacted the owner, who confirmed the vehicle to be unoccupied.

A police officer assisted in traffic control on the Haines Highway.

A suspect was wanted for a felony arrest warrant on a warrant from the Lower 48.

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The Chilkoot Indian Association is seeking an energetic, capable person to provide housing-related services to the Tribal membership. Qualifications: 1. Will have a working knowledge of office procedures and experience with clerical functions. Experience in developing and submitting documents for grants/contracts. 2. Administer the grants and contracts for studies, programs, and activities pertaining to the department including, but not limited to, planning of new housing units, rehabilitation of housing units, creation of rental units. This non-exempt job pays $19 per hour. The tribe offers a generous benefits package including health insurance fully paid by the tribe, a six percent match in the 401(K) 29 days paid time off in addition to 13 paid holidays, and paid professional development for the first five years of experience in office or housing related operations required. Interested individuals should forward their resume and cover letter describing their relevant experience to: The Chilkoot Indian Association P.O. Box 490 Haines, Alaska 99827 Native Preference shall apply to this position. Applications will be accepted until June 01, 2013.

NOTICE OF POSITION VACANCY: The Haines Borough School District is looking for an elementary teacher. Position closes May 22. Please contact Jenn Einspruch, Box 56, Haines, AK 99827 or email Ms. Einspruch, 1000 Seward Drive. for more information.

Haines Senior Center Site Manager and Cook
Southeast Senior Services is seeking two caring, energetic people to serve as the site manager and cook at the Senior Center in Haines. Site Manager duties include oversight of meal transportation and support services, preparing program reports, and supervising staff and volunteers. Communication skills, the ability to work independently and operate basic office equipment, including a computer, are required. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. Cook duties include preparing meals according to program guidelines, serving meals in the Dining Hall, and maintaining the kitchen. Knowledge of food service practices and strong interpersonal skills required. Job applications and descriptions available at the Haines Senior Center or at www.ccsjuneau.org. Fax application and resume to (907) 463-6144 or e-mail to jobs@ccsjuneau.org. EOE.

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Email: info@hainaskara.com
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Chilkat Valley News

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HOUSE FOR RENT: Three bedrooms on Helms Loop with long race and garage $525 month plus utilities. Call Dave at (907) 272-3778, (14c)

Northern Construction, Inc. is looking for a full-time professional carpenter. Must possess the necessary skills to act as an agent on jobs. Wage DOE. (14c)

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LOOKING FOR REDWOOD: If you have more than you need, please contact Fred Einspruch, Box 56, Haines, AK 99827. (7c)

Next page
Call (907)789-0555

Gary Gillette, a Juneau architect who worked in historic preservation and is helping to restore a lighthouse on Eldred Rock, said Saturday’s event will include the kind of on-the-ground information that McRoberts said is needed if the lighthouse is going to cost a lot of money.

"There are lots of pieces to put together," she said.

"There was no flush toilet or oil heater and lights, and a propane heater and lights, and a lighthouse’s south door. Two rail tracks that ran on the track.

"It’s in serious condition, and would be easy to remove, but restoring the building to its original features would probably be prohibitively expensive, she said.

Randles said she envisions being used. People are staying at the facility as a kind of hostel for for fluorescent lights, and modern structure today includes fixtures

"That’s a long-range explanation. Randles said that will have to be made over time.

"There are some grant programs that will have to be replaced to some degree or another. It would be nice to be able to have the historical aspect of a rail system to see and use, but that would be left up to engineers. Those are the kinds of decisions that have to be made over time.

"Volunteers on Saturday discovered cemented supports, anchor rings and discarded metal debris that defied quick explanation. Randles said deciphering the history of improvements on Eldred Rock as well as making sense of what is there may require reading 70 years of logbooks kept by lighthouse keepers now stored at the National Archives. ‘That’s a long-range process to put together some of those pieces.’

One example is the lighthouse doors. The original structure had three doors, including one to the first-floor coal room. Over time, two doors were sealed up but another was added by expanding a window opening. Curiously, it appears the railroad stopped next to a side of the lighthouse that didn’t have a door. It also appears that one first-floor room was sealed and used as a cistern, Randles said.

Two men who worked at the lighthouse may also be able to shed some light on operations, Randles said.

Bill McRoberts, who made the trip as an amateur photographer, said he thought the lighthouse should be preserved for its historic appeal, and some of the equipment might be tremendous. There are also steep challenges for it to become a lodge or other staffed facility for kayakers. An unpredictable weather on the exposed island would make scheduling visitors challenging, and a full-time caretaker would likely need to be paid, McRoberts said.

"I think you can find volunteer help to clean it up, but how would you get the money to maintain it?" McRoberts said. The railroad is a ‘disaster’ that would require huge amounts of concrete to restore, he said.

"It would be nice to find a Bill Gates to give us millions of dollars for something like this, but short of that…," McRoberts said. ‘If Pam can pull it off, my hat is off to her.’

The Glacier Bear Try-athlon will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, starting in the Haines pool. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

The event will include swimming in the pool, bicycling the state fairgrounds loop and running on the track. The event is open to teams, individuals, students and adults. Teens and adult competitors will swim 20 lengths in the pool, pedal five laps on East and West Fair drives and run three laps on the track. Participants ages 9-12 will complete 10 pool lengths, three fair loops and two laps on the track.

Bicyclists must have helmets and only team times will be recorded. For more information, contact Janzy at 766-6710 or jhansen@bkfd.net.

In Haines: Call Glenda Gilbert 766-3511 or 321-3512

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