

Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Haines and Klukwan, Alaska

Chilkat Valley News

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WOMEN'S CHAMPS AT MEDAL



Girls' basketball team wins state championship Saturday at Juneau Douglas High School. Back row, from left, Tiffany DeWitt, Alisa Beske, Jaime (Stanford) Bentley, Ledgerhead, Krista Kielsmeier, C.C. Elliott, Christine Hansen, Sabrina Hinderberger, Sam Clay. Tom Morphet photo.

Girls win 2 of 4 brackets

Girls' basketball team won the state championship Saturday at Juneau Douglas High School. In the first game of Thursday's game, Haines dominated Haines, 59-16, a combination of inside and outside scoring. On Thursday, Vanessa James led the team with five 3-pointers and 19 points.

In the championship, Haines won from a zone to a man-to-man defense, and Lynch and sister Krista Kielsmeier glued on to James,

two points, Haines fell behind by 10 points early, then rallied. Beske hit two free throws 11 minutes into the first half to cap a comeback that put Haines ahead, 17-16. Haines got a break when a collision between Lynch and James resulted in an Achilles tendon pull for the Craig star, and the local women led 29-21 at the half.

The Haines women extended their lead as wide as 37-22 late

Legislature targets public health nurses Future of local office uncertain

By Tom Morphet

A planned 17 percent cut by the Alaska Legislature to the state public health nurse program will change services and close some offices, but it's not yet clear how the reduction would play out in Haines.

"The proposed reduction would necessitate an unprecedented decrease in service groups; the age range for provision of services will focus more on the youth and children of Alaska," said Dawnell Smith, spokesperson of the Department of Health and Social Services.

There are 22 state public health offices statewide, including one in Haines.

A 6 percent cut last year resulted in the elimination of 10 positions – including seven that were vacant – closure of the longtime public health nurse office in Seward, and reduced public health grants to communities and tribal health care providers.

The 16.7 percent cut to personnel – about \$3.75 million – has been designated by both the state House and Senate in the coming year's budget "and is expected to stand at this time," Smith said in an email.

Library's Internet in the crosshairs

- page 12

The public health nurse office based in Haines serves Klukwan and Skagway additionally and includes a full-time nurse and a full-time clerk position.

Linda Worman, chief of the department's Public Health Nursing section, said this week she couldn't say which or how many offices would be closed by the cut. But she said she would try to maintain services by using itinerant nurses and partnering with other health-care providers in communities.

"We're looking for ways to still provide what communities need, but delivering them in a different way. There are other ways we could partner with other providers in the community, but (our service) would look different," Worman said.

Prioritization of programs serving youths and children doesn't mean a nurse wouldn't

See NURSE page 12

State rejected 2 sites

NURSE from page 1

see patients over a certain age, but it may limit immunizations such as for the flu vaccine, or cause the agency to find a different way to provide flu shots, she said.

The decision to close an office would include several factors, including agency internal information, county health ranking figures, the local poverty rate, and the availability of other health-care providers, including a school nurse. The relative isolation of the Haines office also would factor in, Worman said.

"We don't have fluff but I don't want to give up being geographically dispersed throughout the state. I'd like to remain present in all the communities but in some places we may not have a physical office and somebody living in the community," Worman said.

Spokesperson Smith said the public health nurse office is "a safety net provider" and that it would "continue to partner with all tribal, private, and public health care providers to collectively develop the strongest health care delivery system in Alaska." Besides immunizations, public health

nurse offices work on control of diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis, and conduct developmental assessments of young children.

The offices use a sliding scale for payments and can help clients apply for Medicaid.

If budget cuts eliminate some offerings, the agency would work with clients to identify other providers, but those may be more expensive, Worman said. "We accept what a person can pay us. That's understandably not something a private practice can provide on a regular basis."

Michelle Rountree, who is serving as interim public health nurse in Haines, said many smaller public health nurse offices are concerned about the proposed cut, particularly because the closed Seward office was a busy one and was the sole provider of some services not offered by a hospital there.

"A busier office was closed, and that is a cause for concern. Every health center is on pins and needles right now. Nobody knows what to expect. There's a lot of speculation and people are going home at night not

knowing the future of their jobs," Rountree said.

(Agency chief Worman said the Seward closure was made in part because clients could be served by another office in Kenai, a two-hour drive away.)

Rountree said people she has spoken to about the proposed cut are surprised. "People rely on public health. They may not always use us, but they're glad we're here. They understand what we do here is important."

Figures provided by the agency show that during the nine months beginning July 2014, services by the Haines office included 673 individual visits, 208 immunizations, 264 visits by children (including ones not able to access other care), 58 visits related to sexually transmitted diseases and 47 individual visits to address tuberculosis. (There is no active tuberculosis in Haines.)

Broad-based work included participating in 15 community events to promote health and prevent disease, and responding to 22 referrals from community providers. The office also assists schools with TB testing, vision and hearing screening.

Action delayed on trailer committee

Three months after the Haines Borough Planning Commission recommended Mayor Jan Hill appoint a committee to dig into the issue of commercial trailers, the group has yet to be formed.

At its December meeting, commission chair Rob Goldberg raised the issue because of the recent proliferation of trailers and the lack of guidance on how to properly permit or otherwise address them in local law. "We don't have anything in code addressing them right now," he said.

Three weeks ago, Goldberg brought up the December recommendation and asked Hill why a committee hadn't yet been set. Hill said she hadn't received Goldberg's previous email about the recommendation, but would work with him on putting the

group together.

Two weeks ago, Hill said in an interview she hadn't finalized the committee but planned to name the members early last week. That hasn't happened, and the matter didn't come up at this week's assembly meeting.

Hill didn't respond to an email this week asking for an update.

Commissioners Heather Lende and Lee Heinmiller volunteered to

be on the committee.

The borough has struggled to deal with commercial trailers, which were once prohibited but more recently have been allowed with issuance of temporary use permits. Some of the confusion comes from interpretation of code and questions of whether a "temporary use" should be indefinitely extended.

Budget libraries

By Karen Garcia

Dozens of libraries across the state, including the Seward Borough Public Library, are concerned about the House and Senate committees that would cut funding used to pay for libraries in rural areas.

The two committees zeroed out funding for Online with Libraries or OWL, which provides for Internet, video services and digital training for libraries.

Library directors said if OWL is cut, some libraries will "go dark," or lose capabilities because of local funding. It would change dramatically.

"It won't be like we have any Internet and we wouldn't have video capabilities and we won't have Wi-Fi. So they have gotten used to using their computers and using their computers that is something unaffordable for us."

Internet speed on their own devices was reduced, she said.

The library cost about \$1,900 a year for service. OWL provides a little over \$10,000 in funds are eliminated would start pay

Therapeutic Massage & Craniosacral Work
303-7036 Liz Marantz-Falvey - LMT

Lutak Lumber
ACE Hardware



Car Hoodies for New Alaska
Tons of new products in three lines of hoodies coming this
Mon - Fri 12-6

who have contributed to the last 15 years at HARK. You are part of something great.

Tara Bicknell for the HARK board and staff

Nash family grateful for loving hearts

Helping out in a tragedy is something our town always gets right. Once again we have been the recipients of an outpouring of hugs, prayers, cards and gifts of housing, food, flowers and finances. We will be forever grateful for your loving attempts to help heal our broken hearts.

Don and Becky Nash for the Nash family

Dolphins swim team builds character

The Haines Dolphins Swim Team would like to thank the many volunteers and organizations that have contributed to the success of our team. In January, an army of volunteer timers, officials and parents made the Haines swim meet a big success. Swimmers from Whitehorse, Y.T., and Juneau and their families packed the pool. In February, Haines Borough facilities staff remodeled the locker rooms, repairing the showers and stemming a leak that was affecting the school's weight room. Substantial grant support from the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation and the Haines Borough helps the team provide after-school exercise and expert coaching five days per week to 35 swimmers during our nine-month season. In addition, many businesses and individuals support the team as gold, silver and bronze level sponsors. Thank you for your investment in our town's young people. You are helping these swimmers build character, skill and fitness in a lifelong sport.

Richard Chapell for the Haines Dolphins Swim Team

Editorial

→ A plan by Alaska legislators to whack funding for public health nurse personnel seems like a particularly cruel cut.

→ A public health nurse is often the health care provider of last resort for Alaska's most needy residents. As regional nurse manager Sarah Hargrave told the CVN this week: "When people fall through the gaps in the safety net, we try to catch them."

→ Public health nurses also care for the state's young children, another group of citizens with many needs and not much political power.

→ There's an honorable tradition in Bush Alaska of leaving one's cabin open and stocked with food, water and firewood, just in case a stranger needs refuge.

→ The public health nurse program is a refuge in Alaska's health care system. It should be a shining, source of pride about living in the North.

→ Legislators would do well to reconsider this proposed cut. As Alaskans, we're better than this.

- Tom Morphet

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Juneau, AK 99801

National Honor Society Sushi Fundraiser, pick-up from noon to 2 p.m. in the high school kitchen. Email nhs_sushi@hbsd.net with contact information and desired number of rolls.

Sunday, April 3

Ice Cream Social for Seniors, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Haines Assisted Living. First Sunday of every month.

CYD Soccer, 3 to 5 p.m. in the elementary school gym.

Monday, April 4

Mother Goose Stories and Songs, 11 a.m. to noon at the library. Every Monday.

Board Games, 3:30 p.m. at the library. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Homework Help, 4:30 p.m. at the library. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Screening of "Some Thing Else" and local ski film shorts, 8 p.m. at Fairweather Ski Works. Fundraiser for ski hut project.

Tuesday, April 5

Tykes and Trikes, 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the elementary school gym. Every Tuesday and Thursday.

Town Hall Meeting on Minor Offenses Ordinance, 6 p.m. in the Chilkat Center lobby.

Haines Borough School Board meeting, 7 p.m. in the school library.

Duly Noted

By Karen Garcia

Maggie Rae Martin is selling three of the turkeys that have been making mischief around town. Maggie said her family keeps all kinds of birds – ducks, chickens and turkeys – that roam freely at their Beach Road property. The females are trying to nest and have been wandering away from home, and the males have been following them around, Martin said. The fowl have been spotted mating near the Chilkat Center, blocking roadways and wandering through yards. Martin said the turkeys are confined for the time being.

Haines School math and science teacher **Patty Brown** returned from a jam-packed spring break, which started with a trip to Crescent City, Calif., to visit sister **Jennifer Brown** and niece **Time Leon**. In Crescent City, Patty ran a 5K in the "2016 Tsunami Fun Run," where runners had to dodge obstacles like fishing nets and vehicles. The run raises awareness of the importance of getting to higher ground during a tsunami. Patty continued her trip in Portland, Ore., meeting up with friend **David Foster** of

Grand Junction, C a **Bruce Springs**. The two also hiked Anza-Borrego State included a stop in B to visit **Jeanie J** paleontologist and resident.

Musher **Heidi** to Haines to visit **J** last week. Sutter c first Iitarod last y 48th. She is from and is a special edu at Kenny Lake Sch friends drank gre local bar for St. F and explored the to friend **Tim Fairb** their flight back where Tim lives. lollygagging at the A Bald Eagle Preserve

Tyler Andrew Joyce Roberta are be married July 9 in Eggen attended sch from kindergarten th year of high schoo from Sitka High Sch His parents are A **Kathryn Eggen** of is the assistant direct