Girdwood Alliance

By Emily Maxwell
Associate Editor

Girdwood Alliance, A Community Ally

Back in January, Girdwood 2020 announced it had a new name—Girdwood Alliance (GA). The new moniker certainly fits what and how the non-profit group does what it does, which is to gather community members from many different areas together to advance Girdwood’s interests by supporting “activities that enhance our valley through infrastructure and recreation.”

While the mission seems general, the organization is responsible for achieving many concrete goals, often working closely with Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS)—most recently by sending GA member and advocate Dave Parish to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) in Juneau, which resulted in the forthcoming improvements to the safety of the bike path along Alyeska Highway.

Outgoing Chairman Eric Fallenstein spoke to GA’s role in the swoops solution.

4th Girdwood Trails Marathon, 1st Half Marathon

By Marc Donadieu
Glider City Gazette

The fourth Girdwood Trails Marathon and the inaugural half marathon were held on October 5, with the start and finish at Alyeska Resort’s Daylodge. Hannah Lafleur won the marathon with a time of 3:41:13, while Miles Rainey won the half marathon with a finish of 1:47:23.

“This is the only looped trail marathon in the state of Alaska,” said race organizer Brian Burnett. “Every year we switch directions on it. This year the challenge was not having the hand tram. The course is all wonky this year, and it’s all up and back. It’s completely different.”

With the hand tram closed, organizers had to create a new route. Starting at the Daylodge, marathon runners completed the 5K Nordic Loop to continue up Winner Creek Trail to an Upper Winner Creek Trail alpine turnaround, leading to the closed hand tram and back to the start.

The half marathon’s route is the second part of the longer race. Going downhill from the Daylodge on Alyeska Highway, the route cuts through New Town Square and onto Girdwood Way School, taking the Blueberry Trail to Crow Creek Road and continuing up Beaver Pond Trail. Runners ascend California Creek Trail and descend on Abe’s Trail back to Beaver Pond to the Bird to Gird Trail and onto Iditarod Trail. Then it’s up Egloff Drive and back up Alyeska Hwy to the Daylodge finish.

“I’ve run the Crow Pass race before, so I knew a little bit about Girdwood, but I never ran any of the trails,” said marathon winner Lafleur. “It’s so beautiful going up into the forest. The Winner Creek Trail was spectacular. One of my favorite parts was going up California Creek. It was a fun climb. I loved the soft underfoot. You’re in this big hemlock, spruce forest. There’s not a lot of undergrowth.”

Lafleur said she ran most of the race with Lia Simeons and then moved ahead on Iditarod Trail to gain on the unseed race leader. By the time she reached Rightway Avenue, Lafleur passed the race leader to take the lead as she charged up Alyeska Highway to the Daylodge finish line.

“I passed him in the last mile. I didn’t see much of him on the course. I knew he was up there ahead of me. It was just a matter of time before I could reel him in. I was definitely feeling it running on pavement. I don’t do a lot of pavement running, so it was starting to fade. When I saw that bright Hawaiian shirt, it gave me a little bit of a boost.”

Lafleur has been running for 15 years and never ran competitively in high school or college. She has run in Alaska mountain races this summer, learning more about them and enjoying the experiences. She loves the challenge of running uphill.

“It was cool to be a part of it today and get to know Girdwood a little bit better,” Lafleur said. “I’ll definitely come back again.”

A Day in the Life of... Glen Sterley

By Morgan Smith
Staff Writer

The saying goes, if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life. And for a lucky few that find that perfect job, every day of work is a joyous endeavor. For one long-time Girdwood resident, Glen Sterley, helping run Alyeska’s Terrain Park is that special job.

Born in Fairbanks and growing up surrounded by snow, he found himself falling in love with snowboarding and all that it entails. The rush accompanied by new challenging terrain, the culture and sharing the love with others kept him seeking out new ways to get involved. Not only does he help run the Terrain Park, throw contests and racing events at Alyeska, but he also works for Big Alaska, the Alaskan series of USASA events.

Some contestants who participated in the Intellectually Adaptive Boardercross Exhibition.

Glen Sterley taking the time to pose for a quick photo while helping run an event.
Pet Parade

By Danell, Steve and Eliot Isaacs
Special to Glacier City Gazette

Benny is a seven year old, long-haired dachshund. His super soft hair and gentle demeanor make him a great cuddle buddy. He loves to snuggle right up, burrowing under the covers until he finds just the right spot. Benny also enjoys walks around town and visiting the Girdwood Brewing Company. He’s a real pal.

Thanks for checking Benny out.

Letter to the Editor

The last couple of years we have experienced the most incredible highs and the most devastating lows, and there is no way that we would have been able to get through it all without the love, compassion, support, and hugs from our community!

Thank you, thank you, thank you with our whole hearts!

Bob, Sally, Faith, Tristan, Jaxon, Ollie, Tanner, Giselle, Keegan and Lane Messing
Community Calendar

Oct. 14
Land Use Committee,
Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Oct. 21
Girdwood Board of Supervisors Meeting, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Oct. 22
Whittier City Council, Public Safety Building, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26
GVF&R 60TH ANNIVERSARY
11:30 a.m. – Helmet Ceremony and annual photo, potluck for existing and previous members, family and friends at the fire hall
2 p.m. – Alumni Event, Girdwood Brewing Company, a specially brewed American pale ale debuts and GBC will donate $1 for every beer sold to GVF&R, Blue Ristra food truck will be on site

Oct. 28
Registration for returning Mini Mites, Heroes (snowboard program), Rippers (Race Introduction Program) & Mountain Explorers, and siblings. Registration for new families starts Nov. 2nd at 10:30 a.m., at alyeskaresort.com click “shop online.”

Nov. 4
Girdwood Trails Committee,
Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Nov. 5
Public Safety Advisory Committee,
Girdwood Community Room, 6 p.m.

Event listings for Turnagain Arm communities in the next Glacier City Gazette Community Calendar should be emailed by Oct. 19 to marc@glaciercitygazette.net.

Live Music

BROWN BEAR SALOON
Indian
Free pool and $5 burgers
(in house only) every Wednesday, 12-11 p.m.
Winter hours:
Fri.-Sun. 12 p.m.-12 a.m.,
Mon./Tue./Thur. 3-11 p.m.

CHAIR 5
Girdwood (shows 10:30 p.m.)
Oct. 10 – Jim Sandy
Oct. 17 – Great North Special

SILVERTIP GRILL
Oct. 11 – Becky Kotter
Oct. 14, 28 – Open Mic Night

Ozzy, Glacier City Gazette's mascot, takes a drink from Glacier Creek in the warm fall sunshine (see more photos on page 7).

Around 9 p.m. on Sat. Sept. 28, a hot asphalt tanker overturned at Girdwood's Tesoro Mall. There were no injuries, and the spill from the vent cap was contained after about 50 gallons spilled out. The truck’s rear rolled into the drainage ditch parallel to the Tesoro Mall storefronts.
By Emily Maxwell
Associate Editor

October 6 – The Fort Wrangle post office is established. The name is later changed to Wrangell. In 1943 the federal Treasury Section of Fine Arts commissions artist Austin Mecklen and his wife, Marianne Greer Appel, to paint a mural, Old Town in Alaska, intended for the Wrangell post office. The work is completed at their studio in New York state, transported via railway on Oct 19, 1943, arrives in Wrangell in December 1943 and is installed in early 1944. - 1869

October 7 – Poet Allen Ginsberg reads his epic Howl for the first time at Six Gallery in San Francisco. The poem is considered to be one of the great works of American literature and the most well-known poem of the Beat Generation. It earns an obscenity trial and the arrests of City Lights Bookstore manager Shigeyoshi Murao and fellow poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the latter of which was represented by the American Civil Liberties Union. In 1957, Judge Clayton Horn rules that the poem is of “redeeming social importance.” - 1955

October 8 – Jerry Lee Lewis records “Great Balls of Fire” at Sun Records in Memphis. The recording takes several hours more than anticipated as Christian-raised Lewis repeatedly argues with record producer and Sun Records founder Sam Phillips that the material is too sinful for him. The record becomes Lewis’ second smash-hit after “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On,” but his stardom and success never fully quiets his religious self-doubt. - 1957

October 9 – Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara is assassinated the day after being captured by the U.S.-military-backed Bolivian army. Fidel Castro’s right-hand man, Guevara strongly opposed U.S. domination in Latin America and favored peasant-based revolutions to combat social injustices in Third World countries. Guevara’s body is buried in an unmarked grave until 1997, when his remains are found and transported back to Cuba. - 1967

October 10 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower offers his apology to Ghanian Finance Minister Komla Agheli Gbedemah after Gbedemah is refused service at a Delaware restaurant, the first of many such incidents in which visiting African and Asian diplomats are the victims of racism. Such incidents continue into the 1960s when diplomats face housing discrimination while visiting Washington, D.C. - 1957

October 11 – Lorne Michaels’ Saturday Night Live (SNL) debuts on NBC, featuring John Belushi, Chevy Chase and Gilda Radnor as well as many other comedians whose careers are launched by the show. The show goes on to become the longest-running, highest-rated show on late night television fame and contributes a slew of references to pop culture history with memorable characters and catchphrases such as “Daaaaaaaaaaa bears” and “More cowbell.” - 1975

October 12 – University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard dies after being brutally attacked by two anti-gay bigots. After robbing and beating Shepard, his attackers take him to a remote spot outside of town and tie him to a fence, leaving him to die in freezing temperatures. Shepard’s death sparks national outrage and President Bill Clinton implores Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act which expands on the 1969 federal hate-crime law and includes protection for victims of crime motivated by gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The Act is signed into law in 2009 by President Barack Obama. - 1998

By Morgan Smith
Staff Writer

For many of us the Girdwood K-8 School is a staple in our lives. A destination we see 5 days a week, multiple times a day. So I wanted to share a little of its history because I thought it was interesting. I found this piece in The Local News created by Four Valleys Community School, June 1981, Volume 1, Number 6, uncredited.

You Had To Have Been There...May 15th

Soups, soufflés, salads, stews, crab, chicken, cheesecake. Table after table crammed with delectable home-made delicacies. A little of this, a little of that. Lots of people talking and laughing while the music played. Blueberry mustaches and whipped cream breads.

These are impressions of the Potluck held May 15th. For many, it was the first chance to see the new Girdwood School. The gymnasium was big enough for the 280 friends and neighbors who attended. Everyone enjoyed the good food, good company and excellent music provided by The West High School Band. It was true community spirit that made this evening a success. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.
3 Compelling Stories from Home & Away

By Emily Maxwell / Associate Editor

NATIONAL – from usatoday.com

US in danger of losing measles-free status, a ‘mortifying’ effect of anti-vaxx movement

Millions of Americans suffered from measles in the decades before the U.S. eliminated the disease in 2000. But if an ongoing outbreak in New York state continues into next month, the U.S. could lose its “measles-free” status.

“As a global leader in public health, it is mortifying that (the U.S.) may lose its measles elimination status,” said Dr. Paul Spiegel, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health. “The measles outbreaks should not have occurred as vaccination against measles is very effective.”

The U.S. isn’t alone. Four countries – Albania, Greece, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom – recently lost their measles elimination status, which the World Health Organization defines as the absence of continuous disease transmission for greater than 12 months.

The U.S. would immediately lose its elimination status if there is any case connected to the current outbreak on or after Oct. 2, according to CDC spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund. If there’s a case that was not transmitted through the current outbreak, however, then the U.S. would not lose elimination status.

Reported cases worldwide rose by 300 percent in the first three months of 2019, compared to the same period in 2018, according to preliminary data from the WHO. And that’s likely an underestimate: WHO estimates that less than 1 in 10 cases are reported globally.

“Re-establishment of measles transmission is concerning. If high immunization coverage is not achieved and sustained in every community, both children and adults will suffer unnecessarily and some will tragically die,” said Dr. Günter Pfaff, chair of the European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination, in a press release last month.

Recep Tayyip Erdoan’s ruling Justice and Development party (AKP) since their formal alliance in 2018. The MHP also backed the AKP in a 2017 referendum on changing the Turkish constitution to transform the country’s system into an executive presidency.

Last month Bahçeli, 71, was taken to hospital after suffering from nausea but was released shortly afterwards. Despite assurances, there have been concerns recently over his health.

The US ambassador, David Satterfield, arrived in Turkey earlier this year after a period of nearly two years without an American ambassador to Ankara after John Bass’s departure in 2017.

The US embassy apologised in a tweet on Saturday, saying the posting had been “liked by accident”.

ALASKA – from adn.com

Mat-Su PD? Beset by crime and not enough cops, the Valley looks at local policing powers

The Mat-Su Borough, Alaska’s second largest municipality, is a growing place with a crime problem and not enough police.

Outside the borough’s cities, a little more than a half-dozen Alaska State Troopers are on patrol at any given time across a place the size of West Virginia.

Now a Mat-Su task force is weighing new ways to handle law enforcement, including a proposal to start a new borough police force with more than 100 officers to handle calls outside the cities of Palmer and Wasilla.

Other options are smaller “police service areas” or a 21-member task force made up of existing law enforcement agencies that focuses on drug and property crimes. Another option would just enhance safety measures like more code enforcement, drug addiction treatment, neighborhood watch and security cameras.

The residents of Palmer and Wasilla -- a little more than 15% of the borough’s more than 106,000 residents -- are served by police departments. Alaska State Troopers respond to calls from any other borough residents.

There are 54 filled patrol trooper positions to serve Mat-Su right now, according to Alaska Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Megan Peters. Generally, that means there are seven troopers plus one sergeant on duty in Mat-Su at any given time. Both numbers don’t include investigators, wildlife troopers or officers or factor in days off, injury and illness, or leave.

Residents for several years have complained that troopers don’t always come when they call for help, especially with crimes like trespassing, public drug use or thefts that may not get prioritized over assaults or other more urgent crimes.

INTERNATIONAL – from theguardian.com

Turkey summons US diplomat over Twitter ‘like’

The Turkish foreign ministry says it has summoned the US chargé d’affaires after the embassy’s Twitter account “liked” a tweet about a nationalist politician who was recently in hospital.

“Today the US chargé d’affaires was summoned to the ministry to give an open and clear explanation of the social media posting,” the ministry said on Sunday. It added that the US ambassador was not in Ankara.

The embassy’s official Twitter account liked a tweet on Saturday in which an individual said Turkey should be ready for a political period without Devlet Bahçeli.

Bahçeli leads the Nationalist Movement party (MHP), the junior partner of President Recep Tayyip Erdoan’s ruling Justice and Development party (AKP) since their formal alliance in 2018. The MHP also backed the AKP in a 2017 referendum on changing the Turkish constitution to transform the country’s system into an executive presidency.

The embassy’s of Ankara.

It added that the US ambassador was not in Washington.

“Today the US chargé d’affaires was summoned to the ministry to give an open and clear explanation of the social media posting,” the ministry said on Sunday. It added that the US ambassador was not in Ankara.

The embassy’s official Twitter account liked a tweet on Saturday in which an individual said Turkey should be ready for a political period without Devlet Bahçeli.

Bahçeli leads the Nationalist Movement party (MHP), the junior partner of President Recep Tayyip Erdoan’s ruling Justice and Development party (AKP) since their formal alliance in 2018. The MHP also backed the AKP in a 2017 referendum on changing the Turkish constitution to transform the country’s system into an executive presidency.

Last month Bahçeli, 71, was taken to hospital after suffering from nausea but was released shortly afterwards. Despite assurances, there have been concerns recently over his health.

The US ambassador, David Satterfield, arrived in Turkey earlier this year after a period of nearly two years without an American ambassador to Ankara after John Bass’s departure in 2017.

The US embassy apologised in a tweet on Saturday, saying the posting had been “liked by accident”.

Mat-Su PD? Beset by crime and not enough cops, the Valley looks at local policing powers

The Mat-Su Borough, Alaska’s second largest municipality, is a growing place with a crime problem and not enough police.

Outside the borough’s cities, a little more than a half-dozen Alaska State Troopers are on patrol at any given time across a place the size of West Virginia.

Now a Mat-Su task force is weighing new ways to handle law enforcement, including a proposal to start a new borough police force with more than 100 officers to handle calls outside the cities of Palmer and Wasilla.

Other options are smaller “police service areas” or a 21-member task force made up of existing law enforcement agencies that focuses on drug and property crimes. Another option would just enhance safety measures like more code enforcement, drug addiction treatment, neighborhood watch and security cameras.

The residents of Palmer and Wasilla -- a little more than 15% of the borough’s more than 106,000 residents -- are served by police departments. Alaska State Troopers respond to calls from any other borough residents.

There are 54 filled patrol trooper positions to serve Mat-Su right now, according to Alaska Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Megan Peters. Generally, that means there are seven troopers plus one sergeant on duty in Mat-Su at any given time. Both numbers don’t include investigators, wildlife troopers or officers or factor in days off, injury and illness, or leave.

Residents for several years have complained that troopers don’t always come when they call for help, especially with crimes like trespassing, public drug use or thefts that may not get prioritized over assaults or other more urgent crimes.
Glacier City Gazette

By Sue Todd
Staff Writer

On the northeast corner of Spenard and Minnesota sits a unique establishment called Alaska Leather. If you are thinking it is only a place for bikers, think again. Alaska Leather has a wide range of products for people from all walks of life.

There is, indeed, a huge array of motorcycle gear – jackets, chaps, helmets, boots, and accessories. Other leather offerings, such as bomber jackets, belts, ladies handbags, and gloves, are also for sale. However, custom pieces can be crafted to suit specific needs. For example, a custom strap was created for one gentleman who needed his walking cane to travel with him on his bike.

One of the most popular and renowned items is the patented Buttpad®, which is a sheepskin motorcycle seat cover that provides air flow, comfort, and relief for pressure points. Alaska, it is rumored, has the highest number of motorcyclists per capita. Riders from Outside and even from around the world migrate to Alaska during the summer to see this beautiful state from a biker’s viewpoint. Many of these visitors make it a point to visit Alaska Leather.

As one would expect, though, motorcycle gear sales drop when the weather changes. No problem. Alaska Leather has a history of adapting. When the season changes, cold weather gear takes the stage. Along with traditional snow machine clothing, they offer sheepskin winter riding apparel. The insulating quality of sheepskin makes for wonderful protection from the elements while snow machining.

The leather shop has further extended their offering to include sheepskin seat covers. Fluffy and comfortable on a cold winter morning, sheepskin comes in a wide range of colors.

“People tend to own cars for longer periods of time,” reports owner Bonnie Welsh, “and it can be worth the expense to re-cover cracked and torn vinyl or leather.” Stock covers are an option, but Alaska Leather can also sew and fit custom sheepskin covers.

If sheepskin is not a preference, neoprene seat covers are another option. Neoprene allows for easy cleanup of minor spills or pet hair. Starting at around $400 for two-bucket seats, neoprene can be customized with add-on features like lumbar support and heating. Customers may choose from a wide variety of colors and patterns to reflect personal style. As with sheepskin covers, neoprene can be customized and installed for a factory-tight fit.

Alaska Leather is a dog friendly shop. Welsh says, “It’s so funny to see a burly biker come in and open his jacket to reveal a tiny Yorkie.” To accommodate dog owners, there is a dog corner that features Honest Kitchen dehydrated product, and Columbia River, a raw dog food, and these are two of their fastest moving products. Alaska Leather is one of the few businesses offering these two brands in the state.

Along with everything else that Alaska Leather offers, it is also a meeting place. On November 16, motorcycle movie night will resume. In the spring and again in the fall, Alaska Leather hosts a gear swap and motorcycle show. Patrons can set up booths to sell used motorcycle or snow machining gear. The next swap is scheduled for April 25. More information on these events can be found on Alaska Leather’s Facebook page.

Alaska Leather has been around since 1979, but Welsh took the helm last summer. She claims to have had three careers in her lifetime – Assistant Cashier, Realtor, and now Retail. She loves people, and customers are her favorite part of the job. About her staff, Welsh states, “I have a great team of wonderful people. I consider them family.” She also takes pride in the fact that her people are well trained and educated on the products offered.

A stop at Alaska Leather is a worthwhile venture. With so much to see and select, it makes for a delightful shopping experience. Christmas is just around the corner, so why not shop locally? No shipping to pay, no delay in receiving your products. Just great products and customer service delivered with a smile. Alaska Leather is definitely more than biking gear. Stop in and see for yourself.

Alaska Leather - It’s Not Just for Bikers

Photos by Sue Todd / Glacier City Gazette

ABOVE – The Alaska Leather sign can be seen from Minnesota Drive.
RIGHT – The patented Buttpad® is a hot seller at Alaska Leather.
BELOW – There is a wide variety of merchandise is available at Alaska Leather.
Glacier Creek in Fall

Flowing through the heart of Girdwood Valley, Glacier Creek offers views both large and small.

From peaks with fresh snow surrounding the valley to shimmering reflections and dew covered leaves, Glacier Creek has much to offer during the short fall season.

It’s a place Ozzy loves to explore.
Four Valleys Community School:  
It’s Sports Swap Time!

By Lori Harris  
Four Valleys Community School

Saturday, October 12th  
at the Daylodge

Sell your gently used gear and make room for something new-to-you! Come support Four Valleys Community School at the FVCS Ski & Sports Swap.

**Sell Your Gear:** Pick up sales tags and control sheets from the FVCS office, the Girdwood Post Office, or the day of the sale (come early). Please review our Swap Pricing Tips at www.fourvalleys.org.

**NEW for 2019:** Donate Your Gear to Four Valleys! Save yourself the effort of tagging, logging, and bringing your gear to the swap! Four Valleys Community School will gladly accept your gear and sell it for a 100% donation to benefit FVCS community education programs! Drop it off at the FVCS office located inside the Girdwood K-8 School Monday to Thursday after 3 p.m. We will do all the work for you. When you donate your gear 100% to Four Valleys Community School, you are supporting fantastic programs right here in our valley.

**Volunteers Needed to make the Sports Swap happen:** Each year over 100 volunteers help out at the FVCS Sports Swap. Come give us a hand and help with everything from gear intake, sorting and answering gear questions, to helping with checkout. This event is not just a gear swap, it is a fantastic annual community event for Girdwood. Come join other community members and volunteer. Enjoy a great day with your friends and neighbors and take advantage of volunteer perks—early shopping—before the Swap opens to the general public—and free food.

**Volunteer Sign Up Online:** A variety of positions and shifts are still available. Volunteers can work the full day or just sign up for one shift. Sign up early to get your first preference for times. Look for the sign-up online at www.fourvalleys.org.

**Needle Felted Halloween Masks**  
Thursday, October 10th. Feeling Artsy? Darcel from Earth Mama Studios is back to help us make beautiful felted masks. Come join us at Spoonline to get your craft on. Wine is available for purchase.

**FVCS Adult Gym Sports are heating up!**  
Come get out of the rain and play ball in the great gym at the Girdwood K-8 School in the evenings. We are offering a full line-up of pick-up sports this fall. Please notice that we have adjusted the schedule: Volleyball on Mondays, Pickleball on Tuesdays, Soccer on Wednesdays, and Basketball on Thursdays. Join us from 7-9 p.m. when school is in session. Drop-in cost is $5 or sign-up for the full series for a discounted rate at www.fourvalleys.org.

**Kids Indoor Soccer is Underway**  
Bring your kids to play indoor soccer! They will practice one hour a week and play one-hour games. Please note that games will be on Friday nights this season. Cost is $60 for the 6-week program. Financial Aid and Scholarships Available!

**Get ready for Volleyball**  
Middle School Volleyball Clinics will be offered during upcoming Parent/Teacher Conference days. Clinics are skill work only, no game play. Each session will have a different focus. Clinics cost $20 per session. More information available at www.fourvalleys.org.

**Kids Yoga and Tumbling Classes**  
Filling up fast! Sign your kids up soon!

A huge thanks to Alyeska Resort for providing a place to teach Girdwood kids to swim! Swimming classes are completely full!
Alyeska at a Glance

By Bayne Salmon
Alyeska Resort

With the first snow falling on the upper mountain and the chairlifts sitting motionless, you might mistake shoulder season at Alyeska as slow. If you happened to take the tram or stop by the daylodge last weekend, you’d know that it’s anything but. For the second time, the Alaska Motor Musher’s Club took to the dirt at Mt. Alyeska for high speed racing and hill climbing. Dozens of UTV and motorcycle racers staged at the bottom of Mount Alyeska, just above the Daylodge, and quickly climbed the bowl route keeping their throttles pinned around switchbacks, loose shale, waterbars and technical terrain.

Spanning multiple divisions, classes and skill levels, this event filled the entire day with fun and friendly competition from novices to professional motor racers alike. With the finish line at the top of the tram, spectators had a spectacular view of the athletes as they sprinted their way to the checkered flags. Each racer had two runs for each class, with the fastest time standing.

“I usually race on a closed course, but this is really cool just because you have to have different types of riding styles because of the rocks and hills and the turns” said Supercross Racer, Ben Lamay. “It’s just a very unique event, and I wanted to come out here and try it out.”

Since this year’s race had such a great draw and positive feedback from all the competitors, Alyeska’s race organizers hope to add another day of racing into the mix for next year.

Dark nights, barren trees, frozen earth and The Jangle Bees! Halloween at Alyeska is always a spooktacular time. For this year’s concert and party, we’ve selected a local rock band from Anchorage, The Jangle Bees. Their music harkens back to a time when twelve-string electric-guitars ruled the airwaves and songs about heartache made you get up and dance the night away. Think you’ve got a great costume this Halloween? Join the party on Oct. 26 at the Sitz! We’ll be holding a costume contest at 9 p.m. and the best male and female costumes will walk out with vouchers for hotel stays. Tickets are moving fast, so buy yours now. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the tram ticket office in advance. Tickets can also be added to any Fall Getaway Package.

Get your pet featured in Pet Parade:
An Ongoing Tribute to Turnagain Arm Pets.

We are looking for:
1. A high resolution, print quality photo of your pet.
2. A brief bio paragraph about your pet that includes a name, the type of pet, age and some interesting things about it.

This feature will be an ongoing series published in future Glacier City Gazettes.

Email Marc Donadieu at marc@glaciercitygazette.net
4th Girdwood Trails Marathon, 1st Half Marathon

Continued from front page

Half marathon winner Rainey won the full mara-thon two years ago, so he has experience and per-spective from competing in the event.

“The trail wasn’t too bad but it was a little sloppy and slippery,” Rainey said. “Being a half marathon racer, I skipped the whole Winner Creek area, and that’s some of the more technical trail. The boardwalks are slippery. They’re covered with moss. A couple of years ago they were foamed up. You have to be careful.”

It was Rainey’s first half marathon, and he enjoyed the faster pace.

“I’ve never run a half marathon,” Rainey said. “For me, it was a quick one. You can put it in top gear and really cruise. My favorite part of the trail is Californ-ia Creek/Al’s Trail. It’s a little bit more mountain running style. When you’re running the whole 26 miles, you have to pace yourself. If you have to be careful.”

“With 13 miles, you can re-charge up Alyeska Hwy. My favorite is mantia Creek/Abe’s Trail. It’s really cruise. My favorite part was the approach reflected the aesthetic of earlier races in years past. When we first ran the Max’s Race [up Max’s Mountain], not only did we write our numbers on our hands, we timed ourselves,” Burnett said. “When we got to the top and stopped our watches, we came down here and told the scorekeeper how long it took us to get up top. That’s in the spirit of it. It’s a competitive event, but it’s kind of casual.”

Burnett also wanted to thank the volunteers who helped make the races happen.

“I kind of call this event a bunch of hippies running around in the woods,” Burnett said. “There are some fine, upstanding trail run-ners. Zach Benkey, Jake Young, Ari Stiassny and Mel Stiassny helped with marking this year. Over the next week or so, people will leave the pin flags on the stairs over there and piles of ribbons. Everybody cleans it up for the love of the trails.”

**Results**

**Girdwood Trails Half Marathon**

Miles Rainey – 1:47:23
Zach Benkey – 1:52:16
Tony Quickel – 1:57:32

**Girdwood Trails Marathon**

Hannah Lafleur – 3:41:13
Jeremy Wood – 3:59:24
Mike Loso – 2:36:29

**BOTTOM LEFT – Marathon winner Hannah Lafleur after she won the Girdwood Trails Marathon.**

**BOTTOM RIGHT – Organizer Briann Burnett (L) congratulates Seward runner Hannah Lafleur whose volunteers helped with registration.**

**TOP LEFT – Zach Benkey finished the half marathon at 1:52:16.**

**TOP RIGHT – Miles Rainey cruised into the finish line to win the Girdwood Trails Half Marathon with a time of 1:47:23.**

---

**ALASKA’S #1 LOAN ORIGINATOR IN ANCHORAGE AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

**Jeffrey Stanford**
NMLS #205117
Assistant Vice President
Sr. Mortgage Loan Originator
(907) 261-3444
j.stanford@alaskausamortgage.com
jeffstanford.net

People you know. A name you trust.
help run their National Championships. His mother Alison Sterley also works for Big Alaska, connecting the two in their passion for the snow sports community.

A typical day in the life of Glen is not so typical. Most of us don’t get to wake up at 5 a.m. and hop on a helicopter for work. Heading up Alyeska and being dropped off in a special location to traverse on your board to an event tent usually isn’t how most of us start off our day. This was all for the Chugach Open Freeride Contest, one of several events that Glen helps put on for Alyeska Resort.

Once reaching the starting tent, the crew settled into getting everything prepped for the contestants and event alike, making sure everything went off without a hitch. Once set up, all they had to do was wait as the contestants made their way up the HeadWall Hike to reach the tent. Then it was game on for the contestants to start dropping in.

Bib numbers checked, judges in place, all that was left was to make the best of the harsh weather. Luckily for them, Glen was by their sides supervising the drop ins and making sure each contestant had their best chance at a successful run.

“And at the end of the day, I got to drop in and take some pow turns. The conditions were good, and it’s always fun to experience the terrain that the contestants rode. It’s the best tip I could get.” Glen spoke with a grin on his face. That expression said it all.

In that moment you truly understood how much he cared for snowboarding.

Running around 30 events a year for fifteen plus years, there are many unforgettable moments of his career. So when I asked which one stood out, there was one instance that stood apart from the rest.

“When we put on the Intellectually Adaptive Boardercross Exhibition, it is always really inspiring to see snowboarders ages 5 to 75 cheering and supporting these athletes as they participated in a new sport. That moment for me solidified why I love the snow sports community,” he explains.

At the end of the day, when work is done, Glen finds himself peeling off extra gear and heading to grab a drink with fellow coworkers. Off to one of the local watering holes, everyone gathers to sit and exchange war stories and victories from their day. When I asked if there were any stories to add about nights out drinking with the crew, Glen just laughs while shaking his head. Then he opens up.

“There is one thing that my friends and I have been doing for years now. When we see each other, we try and be the first to flip the other person the bird. It is an interesting maneuver to pull off sometimes due to the setting we find ourselves in. Once when I was working the Terrain Park, a close friend knew I was working with younger kids and knew exactly where I’d be. So he snowboarded by giving me the middle finger and I was helpless to reciprocate the gesture. It is something that not only puts a smile on our faces, but definitely keeps us on our toes. Just one more thing in a long line of snowboarding’s cultural moments that I cherish.”

So for now, all we need is for the snow to settle and another year of unforgettable memories to begin.
that enhance the community. We talked with GBOS and we jumped on the issue," he said. "We sent Dave [Parish] to talk to DOT commissioners to see if we could set up a meeting about the swoops. The GBOS already had a resolution written out with the Land Use and Trails Committees. They [DOT] came to Girdwood and did a walk through the swoops.”

Other initiatives have included the Scott and Wesley Gerrish Library & Community Room, the Girdwood Playground, The Roundhouse and the Nordic ski trails. They have also teamed up with Girdwood, Inc. to offer a public lecture series, the topics of which include all things Girdwood such as local history, recreation and housing issues.

Late this summer, the organization, in partnership with Alyeska Resort, hosted the Mountain Music Festival at the top of the tram. The event celebrated the 25th anniversary of the resort and served as a fundraiser for GA. The evening featured bands Past our Prime and The Jangle Bees. Money raised at this and other fundraisers goes directly back to the initiatives that GA works towards.

“That was really helpful for us and our finances at the time,” said Krystal Hoke, who took the position of GA Executive Director this spring. Talking with Hoke, it’s clear that she brings passion and creativity to her position. “The thing I was most interested in was community and how can you make your community better? Those ideas came into my focus back in 2012 when I started looking at really innovative ideas of what different communities were doing,” she said. Her primary focus is on housing and finance for Girdwood. One of the ideas she has to alleviate the affordable housing shortage in Girdwood is a Community Land Trust (CLT) which, she says, could be developed however the community sees fit.

“All of the Girdwood homeowners now share three hundred acres of land. Heritage Land Bank has five thousand acres and I would like to see them donate land to a CLT. There’s a want to have a community rec center, for instance, but if we don’t have land to put it on, how do we even start that process?”

"That was really helpful for us and our finances at the time," said Krystal Hoke, who took the position of GA Executive Director this spring. Talking with Hoke, it’s clear that she brings passion and creativity to her position. “The thing I was most interested in was community and how can you make your community better? Those ideas came into my focus back in 2012 when I started looking at really innovative ideas of what different communities were doing," she said. Her primary focus is on housing and finance for Girdwood. One of the ideas she has to alleviate the affordable housing shortage in Girdwood is a Community Land Trust (CLT) which, she says, could be developed however the community sees fit.

A healthy, thriving community means healthy, thriving businesses and this weekend, GA sent a letter on behalf of Girdwood Brewing Company (GBC) to the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO), the latter of which has proposed a regulation that would restrict recreation activities at breweries and distilleries state-wide, including fundraising events, which are common at GBC.

The letter reads: "Girdwood Brewing Company has become a key drive in our local economy. Not only did they generate community support for their Special Use Permit at their location, but also sought the neighboring church’s endorsement very early on in their organization. They have brought new stable jobs to Girdwood[...]. Since their opening, they have provided a venue for a wide array of local fundraising efforts, in addition to offering a space for local artisans to display their work.”

The letter goes on to list the 20+ local organizations for which GBC has hosted fundraisers, all of which also help to create and support our thriving community full of educational and recreational opportunities, wrapping up with, “GBC has proven to be a good neighbor in many ways, and that is why we are taking a stance to oppose measures that would prohibit activities that are good for our economy and disallow fundraisers that help our community in many ways.”

On Saturday, GA announced a shift in its Executive Committee, with Dianna Whitney as the new Chair and Dale Goodwin as the new Vice Chair.

---

Girdwood Alliance

Continued from front page

STAY & SKI FREE

MIDWEEK SKI PACKAGE: 1 NIGHT STAY + 2 ADULT LIFT TICKETS STARTING AT $179

AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY

907-754-2111 • ALYESKARESORT.COM

©RALPHKRISTOPHER

©RALPHKRISTOPHER

©RALPHKRISTOPHER