Winter Maintenance Decreases on Hope, Seward Highways

By Marc Donadieu
Glacier City Gazette

On October 15, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) closed the Silver Tip Maintenance Station, located at the junction of Seward Highway and Hope Highway. Silver Tip maintained Seward Highway through Turnagain Pass, and these duties will now be split between Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department and the Anchorage Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF). The turnover was pretty high.”

Two accidents occurred within six miles of Silver Tip just before and after its closing. Alaska State Trooper Dispatch (ASTD) stated on October 12 there was a fatal, two-vehicle, head-on collision on the Seward Highway at milepost 66: “Road conditions were icy and slick [...] when a southbound green Toyota Camry failed to negotiate a curve, crossed the centerline, and stuck the Honda Pilot head-on.”

An Engineering Tour of Alyeska

By John Pfeifer
Contributing Writer

Hidden from the view of guests and visitors at Alyeska Resort is a mysterious world of concrete, steel and machinery that keeps the hotel and ski resort running. Larry Daniels knows that world better than anyone. He is Director of Facilities and Security at Alyeska, has been there for 35 years and was in on the original design and construction.

On October 12th, Daniels shared his knowledge with a group of young civil engineers, all members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He took them on a behind-the-scenes tour of Alyeska and showed them features most people never see. The tour began in the administrative offices, a nondescript, beige building near the Ski tram. “This is actually a modular building that was put up over the top of the old swimming pool in 2008,” Daniels said. The outdoor pool was part of the Alyeska Nugget Inn, the first hotel built at the resort. The former hotel is now home to condos and other businesses like The Bake Shop and La Bodega.

Daniels showed the engineers historical photos of the resort dating back to the mid-1980s. “There’s a lot of stuff that’s come and gone over the years,” Daniels said. “I’ve built five chairlifts during my time here and only one is still standing.”

The rent have been upgraded or replaced. Daniels pulled out the original plans for what was then called the Prince Hotel. “We spent two years doing road and utility work before we started building the hotel,” he said.

One of the biggest challenges was the ground they were building on. “The dirt in Girdwood is terrible,” he said, referring to the glacial deposits and Grawacke shale. They couldn’t build the hotel on a normal foundation. “There are 1,600 pilings driven 40-to-50 feet into the ground for the hotel and tram terminal,” Daniels said. Ranging in diameter from 8-inches to a foot, they support a large concrete slab. The entire hotel, including all of its mechanical and electrical systems, are supported by this structure. “The gravel could actually fall away from the foundation and everything would still function,” he said.

After looking at the plans and hearing some of the history, the young engineers followed Daniels to the lower tram terminal for a ride to the upper mountain. Daniels explained, “we built the tram first.”

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Moments in Time

By Morgan Smith
Staff Writer

It is Sat., Oct. 12, and Four Valleys Community School (FVCS) Ski and Sports Swap. If you are ever in need of some new gear at a great price, it is a great stop to make during the course of your day. Held in Alyeska’s Daylodge, this annual event is a wonderful gathering place for the community and an easy way to help FVCS fundraise for future projects and events which benefit the community.

If you want to sell your gear in future swaps, you can pick up sales tags and control sheets from the FVCS office and Girdwood Post Office prior to the swap or the day of the sale. Twenty five percent of an item’s sales price benefits FVCS’s programs, events and classes. You can also donate gear. It is a great way to clear out your closet and give back to the community.

Each year 100 volunteers help make this event happen, so if you’d like to volunteer and get involved, there is an online sign up. Without all of the hard working volunteers, this event wouldn’t happen, so thank you those who helped out.

It is Oct. 16, and the day of the week is a Wednesday, which means Burger Night at Jack Sprat. With a new burger theme each week, from Star Wars to Dragon Ball Z, the burger variety is endless and keeps you coming back to experience what creative concoctions they invent next. There are traditional 1/2 pound burgers, chicken burgers, the Beyond Burger (with a vegan patty) and more. All burgers are catered to each week’s theme, along with their weekly titles. If you are craving a tasty burger creation, you can stop by from 4:30-10 p.m. on Wednesdays. Also check out their weekly theme on the Jack Sprat Facebook page or for more information their website jacksprat.net.

Obituary - Polka Dan

Daniel Tadeusz Zantek, 1935-2019

Daniel T. Zantek, better known as Polka Dan, 84, of Anchorage, Alaska passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 15, 2019. Dan was born on May 4, 1935, in Northeast Minneapolis, Minnesota to Polish immigrants Frank Zantek and Agnes Stoklosa. Dan was the youngest of five children all who preceded him in death.

Dan graduated from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, with a B.A. in social studies and a minor in piano. He was working in the missile silos of South Dakota when the 1964 earthquake struck Alaska. Job opportunities created by the quake brought him to Anchorage that year. In 1965, he settled in Girdwood, Alaska where he was soon entertaining regularly at the Dble Musky and quickly acquired the name Polka Dan.

In 1980, he moved to Anchorage where he spent the remainder of his years.

Claiming to have never held any job more than five years, he worked numerous jobs in his lifetime to include welder, electrician, telephone lineman, bricklayer, subcontractor, teacher, counselor, automobile salesman and real estate broker.

Above all, Dan was best known for his masterful playing of the Chemnitzer concertina. At age seven, he promptly began teaching himself to play after his brother upon departing for military service instructed him not to touch his concertina! Over the years, he “honked kordeen” in over 30 countries as well as numerous events throughout Alaska and the lower 48 states. In 2017, he was bestowed the honor of being inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame.

Polka Dan is survived by a son John, daughter Susan, extended family, and a multitude of friends and adoring fans around the world.

A polka celebration honoring the life of Polka Dan will be held on Sun., Nov. 3, 2019 from 2-6 p.m. at Moose Lodge 1534, located at 4211 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage, AK. Music by local polka bands and light refreshments will be provided.

Editor’s Note: “Dble Musky” is the original spelling of the restaurant now known as Double Musky and under different ownership.
**Community Calendar**

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.

Nov. 11 – Land Use Committee, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Nov. 18 – Girdwood Board of Supervisors Meeting, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Nov. 19 – Whittier City Council, Public Safety Building, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 7 p.m.

Nov. 21 – Girdwood Health Clinic, Inc. Board of Director’s Meeting, Girdwood Community Center, 5 p.m.

**Event listings for Turnagain Arm communities in the next Glacier City Gazette Community Calendar should be emailed by Nov. 9 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.

Oct. 26 – Halloween Party, Harp Daddy
Nov. 6 – Hwy 9 and Friends, 6-9:30 p.m.

**CHAIR 5**

Girdwood (shows 10:30 p.m.)
Oct. 23 – Open Mic with Dijon
Oct. 24 – Superfrequency
Oct. 31 – The Jangle Bees

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Bird Creek photographer Rick Dennis is always out exploring the region. Recently, he has been taking in the fall scenery as is shifts into winter.

Clockwise from top left:
1. Bird to Gird Bike Path in Autumn
2. Fall alpenglow across Turnagain Arm
3. Bird Ridge Hikers

Photos by Rick Dennis / Glacier City Gazette
October 20 – The Red Scare kicks into high gear as the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) begins investigating communist influence among Hollywood film stars, directors and writers. A small group known as the “Hollywood 10” resists, saying the investigation is illegal and violates their First Amendment rights, and all are convicted of obstructing the investigation and serve jail terms. Hollywood begins a blacklist of about 325 individuals suspected of communist activity, many of whom use pseudonyms to continue working. - 1947

October 21 – The Dillingham post office is established, named for U.S. Senator William P. Dillingham who had visited the town. Dillingham is the hub of the rich Bristol Bay fishing district. - 1904

October 22 – French philosopher and novelist Jean-Paul Sartre wins, and then declines, the Nobel Peace Prize in Literature, saying he refuses official distinctions and does not want to be “institutionalized.” He also tells the press that he fears the prize will limit the impact of his writing. - 1964

October 23 – Artist and social rights activist Keith Haring is commissioned to paint a mural on the Berlin wall. The mural uses the colors of the German flag and is composed of human figures linked at their hands and feet, signifying unity. By the time the wall comes down in 1991, the mural has been vandalized and painted over by other artists, but Haring is often credited for advocating free movement of East and West Germany. - 1986

October 24 – The United Nations is established to help arbitrate international conflict and negotiate peace. The Second World War is the impetus for Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States to start formulating the original U.N. Declaration, originally signed by 26 countries in 1942 in formal opposition to the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy and Japan. - 1945

October 25 – Artist Pablo Picasso is born in Malaga, Spain. Arguably one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, Picasso goes on to establish Cubism along with Georges Braque in 1909. His most famous work, Guernica, portrays the suffering endured by the Basque town of Guernica after German war planes destroyed the town during the Spanish Civil War. - 1881

October 26 – Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner lets an easy ground ball roll through his legs in the 10th inning of the sixth game of the World Series against the Mets. Legend has it that the Sox have been cursed since Babe Ruth was sold to the Yankees in 1920 and Buckner’s move only adds to this belief. Says Buckner, “I can’t remember the last time I missed a ball like that, but I’ll remember this one.” - 1986

Fire In Girdwood
An alert neighbor contacted the Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department at 6:14 am on Friday, May 24th. Fire Chief Judy Kuletta responded immediately along with 12 volunteers, to the corner of Cortina Road and Alpine Avenue.

On arrival the fire was totally involved and the Fire Department was able to prevent the second dwelling from burning down. Chief Kuletta said, “We had the fire in control very quickly”. Estimated damages are at about $75,000. Culetta suggests, “Turn off those under the floor heaters, and heat tapes that were in use during the winter”. This is the first fire in a year, she states, and hope it’s our last. Thanks to all the volunteers for the fast response.

As we head into fall and the cool weather that follows, this article is an important reminder to be careful with your heating systems. Stay safe and warm. I found this article in The Local News created by Four Valleys Community School, June 1991, Volume 11, Number 6, written by Fin Hernandez.
The unrest, sparked by a now suspended country’s north and south. Santiago is to be extended to cities in the A state of emergency already in place in curfew was imposed in major cities. The military and police used tear gas and water cannon against protesters and a death toll in violent protests to at least seven. The most enthusiastic response from attendees had nothing to do with politics or social problems, but instead, dog jumping. This year’s keynote speaker was Bethel’s Pete Kaiser, who became one of the first musher of Yup’ik descent to win the Iditarod in March. Kaiser said he’d found success by modeling his kennel and dog training program by creating a miniature version of a healthy community. “The last part of our community is our retired dogs, or our elders,” Kaiser said. “These dogs spend their days training puppies, relaxing on their doghouses, and passing down years of knowledge and wisdom learned over thousands of miles on the trail.” In recognition of his accomplishments and values, co-chair Will Mayo presented Kaiser with an Athabascan chief’s necklace, the highest mark of a leader among interior cultures.

NATIONAL – from usnews.com

Major California Fault Line Moves for First Time in 500 Years

A major fault line in southern California capable of producing a magnitude 8 earthquake began to move for the first time in 500 years. A study published in the journal Science on Friday by geophysicists from the California Institute of Technology and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory found that the Garlock fault, which runs east to west for 185 miles from the San Andreas Fault to Death Valley, has shifted 0.8 inches since July. It marks the first documented movement of the fault in the modern historical record.

The fault’s movement was triggered after Southern California’s largest earthquake sequence in 20 years, which began on July 4. The earthquakes in Ridgecrest, California, started with a magnitude 7.1 foreshock, followed by a magnitude 7.1 quake almost 34 hours later. More than 100,000 aftershocks were recorded, according to a press release from the California Institute of Technology. Satellite images show the ruptures that reached the surface, a process called fault creep, which began after the earthquakes. The sequence, the study states, is one of the most well-documented earthquake series in history.
Fire Safety is something we hear about throughout our lives, starting as a staple in childhood assemblies. On Oct. 18, I was at Girdwood K-8 School at 9 a.m. to see Girdwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue (GVF&R) would teach students.

A variety of GVF&R vehicles were parked in front of the school, which was thrilling for the kids. I couldn’t help noticing how excited the children were hanging on every word Lieutenant Steven Bartholomew said. Hands wave furiously in the air for a chance to answer his interactive questions and comments.

The first group of students the GVF&R spoke with were K-1 classes. If you were going to start your day off discussing fire safety with the most restless group of kids, you’d think this was it. But they did great! Attentively listening to his speech and staring at all of the cool firefighter gear, students did as instructed and followed his lead through his discussion.

Bartholomew started out with the basics of fire safety: Don’t ever play with matches or fire. He explained this summer’s there was a fire ban and how it affected our summer activities. He lightened the mood by talking about how he missed roasting marshmallows this summer, but how sacrificing campfires was an important step in us helping to prevent forest fires during dry season.

Lieutenant Bartholomew also covered helmet safety. He grabbed his bike helmet off the table and placed it on his head asking the kids what to do next. Answers filled the air. “Tighten it.” “Ok, then what? Is it done? What else do we need to do?” he asked. Playing around with the answer made the kids sit up and engage him even more. He was not only a wonderful speaker, but made it entertaining for the students.

“Clip the helmet strap closed. Right!” he exclaimed shaking his head to prove that the helmet was secured on. The students smiled at their successful answer. He then covered the need for reflective gear as the days get darker and how headlamps also made it safer when traveling in the dark. He also suggested using the glowing dog collars to help illuminate yourself, which he uses with his own family.

Next up was earthquake safety and the basics of stop, drop and cover your head. The discussion lead to what carbon monoxide detectors are and what to do if you hear one go off. Smoke detectors also included.

Bartholomew went over family meeting places to stay safe in case of these situations occurring in the home. He said if you need to rescue pets, wait for professional help from GVF&R.

GVF&R members Gibson Gamel and Tanner Loewe stepped in to show students the equipment firefighters use during emergencies. Gamel and Loewe went over each piece of gear they use and why, as the kids’ eyes lit up with how technical it was.

Students were drawn in by their stories of being on the job and hands couldn’t stop waving in the air as they tried to pick the firefighters’ brains.

They really drove the point home that in case of a fire, don’t hide. Try and get outside and crawl low to the ground for the freshest air possible. GVF&R will be there ASAP.

I was impressed that Lieutenant Bartholomew has been coming to the school for October’s Fire Safety Month annually for over a decade. Gamel, who attended school in Girdwood, has been participating for about five years. Loewe was participating for his first year, but was excited to get a chance to get involved and was looking forward to future participation in Fire Safety Month.

We discussed how they catered each speech to the age of the students they were talking with. I asked about how Fire Safety Month started and Lieutenant Bartholomew said that it began as a memorial for the big fire long ago in Chicago.

I feel lucky to have such kind and heroic people serving our community and feel safer having them here if the need arises. Thank you to all the Firefighters who helped make Fire Safety Month happen and keeping our children informed and safe.

Inquisitive students eagerly shake their hands to answer questions.

Kindergarten and first grade students practice stop, drop and cover your head with Girdwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue members.
In honor of its 60th anniversary, Girdwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue gave the Gazette images from its extensive photo archive over the years.

Clockwise from top left:
1. Helicopter Rescue
2. Winter Rescue on Alyeska
3. Structure Fire
4. Structure Fire, Late 1980s–early 1990s
5. Chief Michael Tumey
7. Hazmat Training, August 2017
8. Chief Bill Chadwick (center) and GVF&R Members
Community Donations Positively Impact Four Valleys Community School

Four Valleys Community School received an unexpected and generous donation from long-time community members Bob and Sherry Dugan. It should come as no surprise that the Dugans offered their support to FVCS as they have been actively involved since the 1970’s. Sherry was a FVCS Board Member for over a decade before she started the first summer programs for Girdwood youth years ago.

Betsy Preis recalls, “Sherry’s science camps were always hugely popular.” Sherry and Bob’s $1,500 donation allowed us to purchase much needed new sports equipment--15 yoga mats for adult circuit training and Kids Yoga with Briana and 12 new Futsal soccer balls for our indoor soccer program. There are 64 kids, grades 1-6, in this year’s indoor soccer program.

The Dugans’ donation also allowed us to purchase cones, coach whistles, goalie gloves and resistance bands for circuit training. We also added equipment to our summer programs: We purchased 30 outdoor soccer balls for next summer’s program to provide opportunities for 100 Girdwood kids.

If you would like to contribute to Four Valleys Community Schools and make a difference in our community, please contact us.

Sports Swap Round-Up

This year’s FVCS Sports Swap was another success. Thanks to over 60 volunteers, the swap ran smoothly from set-up to breakdown. Four Valleys Community School staff and board members enjoy this opportunity to spend time with community members for this annual event.

Kung Fu for All Ages and Levels

Sifu Shayla has been working with Four Valleys Community School for years teaching our children martial art forms, take-downs, basic tumbling, discipline, self-esteem, respect and rank advancement. There are 14 classes over 14 weeks in this session. If you are unsure of which class your child should take, please email Shayla Pedersen at schooloftaochiofalaska@yahoo.com.

Letter and Postcard Writing/Crafting

Reconnect with the practice of handwritten correspondence with friends and family. Supplies are provided, but feel free to bring your own. Participants ages 10 years and younger need an adult present. Join FVCS and Instructor Carolyn, in this “club” with class themes each week: 11/6 Thanksgiving, 11/20 winter. This class is donation-based.

Adult Gym Sports

Join us from 7-9 p.m. when school is in session: Mon.--Volleyball, Tue.--Pickleball, Wed.--Soccer, Thur.--Basketball, $5 per session

Indoor Track is Open

Winter weather is just around the corner, and sometimes you just don’t want to walk outside. FVCS opens the track to the public Mon-Thurs from 5-9 p.m., free of charge.

Keeping It Fresh

Have an idea for a new class? Four Valleys Community Schools is always looking for suggestions from the community. Please contact us.

Glacier Valley Quilters--Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Bring your own machines and materials and join a group of adult crafters who have been meeting for years to knit, sew, quilt and do other hand-made projects. This group of local Girdwood residents share their experience and works together each year to produce a beautiful quilt that they donate to a local non-profit for auction. Come for one hour or all day. Adults aged 21+, drop-ins welcome, $5/class.

Needle Felted Halloween Masks class participants show their final projects.
Alyeska at a Glance

By Bayne Salmon
Alyeska Resort

The mercury has really fallen, and in case you missed that pun, autumn is slipping towards winter. With the first flurries of snow falling in town, many of us are switching our bikes to skis and dreaming of pow. Often, this time of year is one of transition. It’s not quite winter or summer’s end. Indeed, it’s a season of confusion. Should you be confused about what to do for Halloween? Absolutely not!

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 at the hotel.

Pet Parade

Hi, I’m Moose! I’m a two-year old Standard Poodle who just moved to Indian from Nokomis, Florida. In preparation for my first Alaskan winter, I started growing my hair out in the Florida summer heat.

I look forward to playing in the snow for the first time in my warm coat!

Enjoy the Halloween costumes at the Sitzmark this year.
Winter Maintenance Decreases on Hope, Seward Highways

Continued from front page

On October 12, there was a fatal head-on accident at Seward Highway at MP 66. On the morning of Oct. 12, there was a fatal, head on accident at Seward Highway at MP 66. The to have done so, we would have had another ambulance. Our guys still felt it was reallly sick driving. They were driving appropriately, but they were driving very slow compared to what it would be if the road conditions were better. My guys said [while returning] that coming onto the Hope Road, a gravel truck was getting ready to leave Silver Tip. My question to the people who drive the roads is how much blood do we need to shed on that highway before we start putting some gravel down.

With resources stretched thin and no plowing for six hours overnight, McGuire said if a call came in and road conditions were too poor to respond, there is no emergency plan in place for DOT&PF to get HSES to the scene. McGuire said HSES's primary response area is the 17-mile long Hope Highway. Turnagain Pass, down to Ingram Creek at Seward Highway MP 75, and south toward Summit Lake are tertiary responsibili-

ities. Being able to get to an accident scene and return safely is key. If roads are hazardous, McGuire will call Seldovia dispatch to say HSES cannot respond until a road is serviced.

“Scene safety is our number one priority for all of our responders,” McGuire said. “That includes being able to access the scene safely. If the roads are not serviced or plowed, and we can’t safely get our equipment down the road, we’re not going to be able to go.”

McGuire’s line between going out on a call and not depends on a road’s condition, which will vary. HSES’s response to the fatal accident gave him indications of what this winter may bring.

“The last weekend there was a fatality on the Seward Highway,” McGuire said. “We had studded tires and chains on the ambulance. Our guys still felt it was reallly sick driving. They were driving appropriately, but they were driving very slow compared to what it would be if the road conditions were better. My guys said [while returning] that coming onto the Hope Road, a gravel truck was getting ready to leave Silver Tip. My question to the people who drive the roads is how much blood do we need to shed on that highway before we start putting some gravel down.

With resources stretched thin and no plowing for six hours overnight, McGuire said if a call came in and road conditions were too poor to respond, there is no emergency plan in place for DOT&PF to get HSES to the scene safely.

“I have heard nothing from DOT,” McGuire said. “In the past few years, the Hope Road has been de-prioritized. Now with the closure of the Silver Tip Station, everyone is anticipat-ing it will go from bad to worse. This is going to really limit our town’s ability to get in and out of town and travel safely from Hope to the metropolitan areas.”

The Gazette contacted Girdwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue Chief Michelle Weston who replied, “I will not send our volunteer fire-fighters into unsafe conditions in the non-maintained highway area because the state cannot make highway safety a priority.”

DOT&PF’s McCarthy explained winter road main-tenance is state-funded, so when motor fuel tax rev-

enue declined, there was $75,000 maintenance re-
duction that led to Silver Tip’s closure.

“We have had incremen-tal budget reductions over the last six years,” McCarthy said. “We’ve lost about $22 million in operating funds for maintenance. We had to look and see where we could make efficiencies. Silver Tip was a strategic decision because the Turnagain Pass area can be cleared by the two nearby stations – Gird-

wood and Crown Point. South Anchorage Station is shifting south to get all the sections of road covered.”

McCarthy acknowledged operators will have to drive further and it will take longer to clear the roads. She commented that “Girdwood Station will clear Hope Highway. Extended hours will be authori-zed on a case-by-case basis and prioritized for heavy storms.

“We have the option of putting some gravel down?” McCarthy said, “but at some point our operators have to get some rest and be ready for the next day. I would point out that this is new for Southcentral in terms of limited crew hours. It is the case we have on the Dalton, the Parks and the Richard-son Highways. All of those highways have limited op-

erating hours for our crew members.”

McCarthy recommended travelers use the S11 system, which is regularly updated by operators, and check road weather cameras. They have snow ma-chines, and they have their supplies are well stocked in case of a long closure because Hope does not have a gas station. He also warned about preparing for an ex-tended power outage since Chugach Electric may be delayed due to road condi-

tions.

“They have snow ma-chines, and they have their way of getting around, but extended power outages for the home would be the big-

gest deal for Tofy stoves, appliances or boiler sys-
tems without power gen-
erators. Have enough fuel to fuel your generators. Have enough wood to keep your woodstove going. Store a little bit extra in case your neighbor needs your help.”

On the morning of Oct. 12, there was a fatal accident on the Hope Road at MP 66.

With highivay main-tenance further reduced, Smith as-serted, Hope residents could go extended amounts of time without service and experience rougher road conditions, making it harder for people who commute or for those with medical needs. In an emergency, a Life Flight or Medivac flight would be required if Hope or Seward Highways are impassable, but there could be complications.

“I imagine they would go down to the Seaview or the airfield,” Smith said, “but the airfield is under DOT maintenance, so if the road hasn’t been plowed, then there is going to be an air-port basically inaccessible for emergency vehicles to get to the airplane or heli-copter. The emergency response vehicles won’t be able to get to the residence and transport a patient to the helicopter.”

Smith said drivers should plan for winter travel. An accident can close the highivay or vehicles break down. Drivers should be diligent about checking 511 and car-
y a hypothermia kit – extra
because we used it to haul some of the material and a lot of the people up the mountain.”

They also transported construction materials using an articulated dump truck and a D-8 Caterpillar pulling at 40-foot trailer. “We also brought up a little bit of stuff using helicopters,” Daniels said.

The Upper Tram Terminal has a large concrete foundation and is anchored to the mountain with rock bolts driven deep into the shale. “We had to have enough mass in this building to resist overturning the tram,” he said.

The tram at Alyeska is what’s known as a reversible aerial tramway: two carriers or cabins travel back and forth between the lower and upper stations. They are propelled along two track ropes by means of a haul rope. “Rope” is short for wire rope, a type of large diameter steel cable.

“The haul rope is actually two ropes attached on either side of the cabins. The top rope is driven by the motor and the bottom rope is slack,” Daniels explained. In other words, the cabin going up the mountain is pulled up by a large motor at the upper terminal while the cabin going down is moved by gravity. “Tension is put on the haul rope by a counter-weight,” Daniels said, pointing to a big yellow wheel.

The upper tram terminal, restaurants and bar are almost completely self-contained. They have their own water treatment system with a 200-foot well and a 30,000-gallon reservoir. “Half is for domestic water, the other half is reserved for firefighting,” Daniels said. The upper terminal also has a 225-kilowatt generator and “enough fuel to run the entire building for a couple of weeks,” he said.

Back down at the hotel, Daniels led the engineers through the lobby to a door by the concierge’s desk that provides access to the business end of the hotel. This hidden portion of the hotel covers almost the entire ground floor.

“This is where everything happens,” Daniels said. “In the summertime we do a full turnover almost every day.” With 300 rooms, that’s a lot of laundry.

There are changing rooms for the housekeeping staff and a large shipping and receiving area. All of the supplies and food for the hotel are stored here. “We have six restaurants, so everything comes out from here in the morning” and is delivered to the rest of the hotel, Daniels said.
GVFD did not have EMS until 1974, and its first ambulance was a 1968 GMC hand-me-down. EMT training had quite a turnout for the first class, and as they trained, they moved up in the department. Trautner taught the initial first aid training class, and the number of members from it who went on to have AFD careers impresses him.

"Some of the people who went through that EMT training went on to become either temporary fire chief or fire chief," Trautner said.

There were no major structure fires, loss of life or injuries during Trautner’s tenure, which ended in 1974. The majority of fires originated from heat tanks, which needed to be plugged in during winter, and would occasionally short out. Chimney and crawl space fires were also common.

Under Trautner, GVFD began rescues in Turnagain Arm. The department had access to an inflatable boat to train for water rescues, dry land training and going down to Turnagain Arm. "If a car went into water," Trautner said, "and a wrecker went after it, the fire department would respond if they tried to recover the car with somebody in it. There are certain things you have to do and train your people how to respond.”

Girdwood became part of the Municipality of Anchorage with unification in 1974. The merger combined the individual fire departments of Girdwood, Spenard and Anchorage into one. Trautner resigned in 1974 shortly after unification due to high turnover problems. He suggested paying members for training and fire calls as a solution to avoid the cycle of continuously training new members.

AFD denied the request to pay volunteers minimally for their work, even though Girdwood, not the municipality, was paying the tax for its fire department budget. Trautner's resignation made the front page of the Anchorage Times, and the solution he proposed eventually became GVFD policy.

He is pleased with the legacy he left behind as part of GVFD's development. "I'm proud to have been part of the department when it first started," Trautner said. "I'm the one who was responsible for setting up the EMS program, and I think that has been very beneficial to the people of the state of Alaska, the city, and certainly to the community. We're an example of what a community can do if you get the support.”

When asked about what he thought of GVF&R at 60 years, Trautner was candid in his assessment. "One of the concerns I have is that we've got so damn much fire equipment there," he said. "We've got more equipment than cities of 100,000 people have in a lot of places. It costs money to maintain that. Things wear out. We've been fortunate to get a lot of the equipment handed down to us from the Municipality. We've got a department any community would be proud of.”

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 CBC will donate $1 for every beer sold to GVF&R, Blue Ristra food truck will be on site.

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