**Breaking News:**

Whittier's Delong Dock Fire

News of the Delong Dock fire in Whittier continues to develop as Glacier City Gazette goes to press. Look for future developments in the July 24 GCC.

On July 8, the City of Whittier issued the following press release.

Barge Explosion and Subsequent Fire in Whittier, Alaska

At approximately 11:40 AM, on July 7, 2019, the vessel "Alaganik" caused a subsequent fire spread to Whittier’s Delong Dock and three boom trucks on the dock. The cause of the explosion and fire remains under investigation and the damage is being assessed. The Alaganik sank due to its damage and two people are unaccounted for. Whittier Volunteer Fire Department was on the scene within ten minutes of the incident with the Anton Anderson Fire Response Team and the Girdwood Fire Department joining them within 40 minutes. The US Coast Guard arrived at 4:45 AM and the state fire marshal is on route and expected to arrive later this morning. The Coast Guard has enacted a 100-yard safety zone around the area adjacent to the Delong Dock.

The US Coast Guard is also conducting an active search and rescue mission.

The Delong Dock is closed until the damage is assessed and the investigation is complete. Later on July 8, the U.S. Coast Guard issued a press release giving an updated account of the situation with new information.

Coast Guard crews are searching for one person missing after an explosion and subsequent fire at Delong Dock in Whittier, Alaska, Monday. An MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak, forward deployed to Cordova, searched by air while crews aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Chandelier and Coast Guard Auxiliary 336 continue to search for the missing person.

Shortly after midnight, Coast Guard Sector Anchorage watchstanders heard the phrase "Whittier fire, Whittier fire" over VHF Channel 16 and contacted Whittier dispatchers, who confirmed there was a fire at Delong Dock. Several minutes later, an Alaska Railroad security officer also reported the situation.

The explosion reportedly occurred on a fixed barge, and the fire spread to the pier and then to the Alaganik, a 99-foot commercial fishing vessel that was initially reported to have two people aboard at the time of the explosion. Whittier Police Department personnel have since confirmed one of those two is safely aboard a different vessel en route to Whittier. Sector watchstanders issued a Safety Marine Information Broadcast that established a 100-yard safety zone to keep vessels a safe distance from the fire while the crew of the Chandelier launched in response to help maintain the safety zone and conduct a search.

By 2:50 a.m., Whittier Fire Department personnel confirmed the fire extinguished. The fishing vessel and barge sank in 85 feet of water at the pier with a potential maximum of 5,500 gallons of fuel oil aboard. The fishing vessel owners have contracted Global Diving and Salvage for clean-up and salvage efforts.

Brian Hicks, Whittier Fire Department chief and the on-scene commander, confirmed personnel from Whittier Fire Department, Whittier Police Department, Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel Fire Department and Girdwood Fire Department all involved in the response, including crews aboard Tender 41 and Tender 42 from Girdwood.

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**Preventing and Saving Trapped Dogs**

By Marc Donadieu

Glacier City Gazette

Over the last two summers, The Acres at Creek Bend in Hope has offered live music in an outdoor setting. The shows have brought in many visitors, and some residents say there are too many, overwhelming the small town and creating a number of problems.

The issue reached a peak after the summer solstice celebration with Clinton Fearon and Deadiph Orchestra on June 22, which drew an unexpectedly large crowd with visitor parking overwhelming the streets. During and after the concert, there were reports of tires being slashed and complaints about intoxicating people roaming the streets, public urination, drug use and public alcohol consumption.

Days later, some Hope residents circulated a complaint petition and a resource guide, which encouraged residents to file complaints against the business. The guide had contact information for the owners of Creek Bend as well as federal, state and Kenai Peninsula Borough regulatory agencies.

A week after the concert, nonprofit Hope, Inc. held its quarterly meeting at Hope Social Hall, with standing room only. Hope is unincorporated and does not have local taxes. Hope, Inc. is the town’s governing body and distributes funds through its Community Assistance Fund (CAF). Residential taxes paid to Kenai Peninsula.

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**Portage Glacier Cruise Celebrates 30 Years**

By Marc Donadieu

Glacier City Gazette

On June 30, Portage Glacier Cruise celebrated the 30th anniversary of its first cruise on Portage Lake. Past and present employees were invited aboard MV Ptar-magin for a special late afternoon voyage to Portage Glacier.

The hour-long cruise began by heading to the western side of Portage Lake to see waterfalls. Relief Captain Matt Kugler brought the vessel right up to a waterfall’s rocky face so passengers could feel the spray. Then we were off toward Portage Glacier, which has receded quickly from when it was used to be visible at the Begich Boggs Visitor Center next to the lake.

There was a bit of haze in the air from the Swan Lake Fire fire on the Kenai Peninsula on an otherwise warm, clear day. As we pulled up to the glacier, passengers and crew were offered sparkling cider and cake for a toast.

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**Hope’s Solution?**

By Marc Donadieu

Glacier City Gazette

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Staying Cool and Occupied

By Briana Sullivan
Four Valleys Community School

Sprinklers waved cool water into the warm air and young voices trilled among the grass during FVCS events over the last several days. Summer Soccer players endured record heat and some smoke, while kids at Summer Playground and Adventure Camps were treated with running-water respite.

Adventure Camp-goers are having a blast and learning while they play. There’s still time to sign up for summertime fun with FVCS programming. This week brought Games and Trivia, teaching participants a variety of games including the classics, trivia and of course active contents such as scavenger hunts and capture the flag throughout Girdwood. Youth in grades 3-6 may have been spotted riding to camp and between the ballpark and soccer field for recreation. Metamorphosis camp also wraps up this week, which studied the stages of the butterfly and moth life cycle as well as other insects in the animal kingdom. More games and fun closed camp each day.

Sign up now for the Adventure Camp “Tides and Ecology,” held July 15 and 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center of attention will be our local water sources and how the water cycle works as well as taking care of the environment. Our Cook Inlet beluga population also receives special acknowledgement from a guest member of Beluga Whale Alliance. Educating youth on becoming better stewards of our surroundings and natural resources will be the takeaway. Entrants can visit local creeks, streams and water sources throughout the Girdwood area by foot and bike. Wednesday includes a longer biking adventure. Finally, team sports is the name of the game for “Field Sports” Adventure Camp July 22-26. Encouraging good sportsmanship, healthy active lifestyles and having fun are the objectives this week. Campers will enjoy three hours of camp each day to learn new games, fun drills, and partner with local business Ascending Path. This camp has two age groups and is an annual highlight.

From there, we charge into August and the acclaimed Girdwood Fine Arts Camp takes the lead. Visit fourvalleys.org for registration and more. Remember to consider joining our board of directors and make a difference in your community. Our community meeting is in September.

Hiking Camp grades 4-8 youth explore Girdwood outdoors with peers, reaping both exercise and sunshine.

Event listings for Turnagain Arm communities in the next Glacier City Gazette Community Calendar should be emailed by July 20 to marc@glaciercitygazette.net.
Community Calendar

July 14
Community Potluck Picnic, Indian Ball Field (trailhead, rest area at Indian Creek, please park at Valley Bible Chalet), 4-7 p.m.

July 18
Blood Bank of Alaska/Blood Drive, Girdwood Health Clinic, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

July 19
Girdwood Board of Supervisors Meeting, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

July 20
Whittier City Council, Public Safety Building, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 7 p.m.

July 27
Ted Stevens Day, Free BBQ, Girdwood Health Clinic, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

July 29-Aug. 1
Vacation Bible School, Girdwood Chapel, 8:30-11 a.m., (931) 561-2683, girdwoodchapel.com

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

August 6
Girdwood Trails Committee, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

Aug. 12
Land Use Committee, Girdwood Community Room, 7 p.m.

KMTA Biannual Grant Cycle
KMTA is accepting grant applications until Aug. 20. KMTA awards grants to community projects that recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, and natural recreational resources and cultural landscapes of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor. Projects promote and facilitate public enjoyment of these resources.

For more info go to www.kmtacorridor.org/grants.

KMTA 1st Annual Photography Contest
Photo submissions are due by Sept. 30. KMTA is seeking images that capture the essence of the KMTA National Heritage Area or speak to KMTA’s role in preserving, promoting and protecting the national heritage area. Cash prizes will be awarded in four difference categories. For more info go to www.kmtacorridor.org/photocontest.

Live Music

BROWN BEAR SALOON
Indian
$5 burgers and free pool every Wednesday (in house only)
July 10 – Chris Grabowski (early evening)
July 17 – Paul Duo Band
Aug. 6 – Whisky Puppy and the Tennessee Studs

CHAIR 5
Girdwood (shows 10:30 p.m.)
July 11 – Up a Mountain
July 18 – Wasteland Hop

CROW CREEK MINE
Music Series and Salmon Bake
7/15 – Big Chimney Barn Dance
7/22 – Syfria
7/29 – Jared Woods

JACK SPRAT
Girdwood
July 16 – Denali Doubledown, Denali Brewing, Denali Cooks, 5-10 p.m., rain or shine

SEAVIEW INN
Hope
July 11, 18, 25 – Jamn Night with Andy Mullen
July 12 – Jared Woods
July 13 – Barcelona Boys Choir
July 14 – Ava Earl, duo, 5–9 p.m.
July 19-20 – Milo Matthews Omni World
July 21 – The Mighty Pines, 5–9 p.m.
July 26–27 – Hope Social Club

DIRTY SKILLET
Hope
July 12–13 – Stephen Hendricks
July 19-20 – Saturday Cinders
July 26–27 – Christina Napoleon

CREEKBEND COMPANY
Hope
July 19 – Jerrod Nieman
Aug. 1 – Rumpke Mountain Boys

THE INN AT WHITTIER
Whittier
July 12 – Will H Johnson
July 13 – Lisa Good
July 19-20 – Hobo Jim
July 26 – Rick Brooks

The legendary Rowan Brothers play The Seaview Cafe and Bar in Hope on a fine summer evening.
Glacier City Gazette

A Glimpse into the Past

By Marc Donadieu
Glacier City Gazette

The pages of Glacier Valley Gazette are a fascinating look into Girdwood and the Turnagain Arm region 52 years ago.

On page 2 of Vol. 1, No. 4, Aug.-Sept. 1967 issue is an editorial like-ly written by Editor Hugh Cruikshank Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STRANGE HIGHWAYS

As a case in point, we can cite the newest extension to the North Kenai Road. We drove over it recently, when much of the paving was newly laid. This is not a flat road. It looks like a gentle rollercoaster, with high crests and long dips. Inquiring, we were told that the contractor built it and paved it exactly as the State specified.

Why the rollercoaster effect? No one seems to know—but even the layman-taxpayer can see that over a period of time the depressions in the road will take a severe beating from the weight of cars or trucks as they “soar” over the crests and land with a jar in the dips beyond. A roller coaster, this one is, in a part of the country that has what is perhaps the most perfect road-building fill in the whole state.

FROZEN IN TIME:
A look back at the week that was...

By Emily Maxwell
Associate Editor

July 8 – Mac Brazel finds a mass of unidentifiable materials on his ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. Brazel contacts the local sheriff who, in turn, contacts Roswell’s Air Force base. Soldiers arrive and whisk away the mostly metal materials in an armored truck, touching off the UFO debate, which endures to this day. 1947

July 9 – Mike Tyson’s boxing license is revoked and he is fined $3 million for biting off part of Evander Holyfield’s ear in a fight two weeks prior. The fight, originally marketed as “The Sound and the Fury,” later became known as “The Bite Fight” and is known as one of the most bizarre fights in boxing history. 1997

July 10 – Howard Hughes and a four-man crew depart from Long Island, New York for a round-the-world flight, sponsored by the New York World’s Fair. The travel time totals 91 hours, 14 minute and 10 seconds with stops in Paris, Moscow and Fairbanks. 1938

July 11 – “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee is published. The novel enjoys instant success and becomes a classic of modern American literature and the most widely-read novel dealing with racial inequality to date. The novel goes on to win the Pulitzer Prize and is adapted into an Academy Award-winning movie just two years later. 1960

July 12 – The European Union bans the import of all beef from the US due to the widespread use of growth hormones in American beef which the EU believes to cause numerous health issues, including cancer and nerve disorders. In response, the U.S. places $116 million in trade sanctions on EU products. 1999

July 13 – The 1936 North American heat wave begins amidst the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. With air conditioning development in its infancy, over 5,000 deaths are reported by the autumn and massive amounts of crops across the U.S. are destroyed, causing the price of corn and wheat to rise massively. Mount Vernon, Illinois reports temperatures in excess of 100 degrees for 14 days straight. 1936

July 14 – Easy Rider, Peter Fonda’s landmark counterculture film, is released. The film established Jack Nicholson as a movie star, featured a groundbreaking soundtrack and helps to usher in the “post-classical” era of Hollywood, with a focus on low budget, avant-garde films that represent the younger generation’s disillusionment with the government. 1969
ALASKA – From Alaska Public Media and Laura Kraegel, KUCB, Unalaska

St. Paul Island’s rogue rat has met its demise after 10 months of evading capture and living large at the local fish plant. The rat was found dead last weekend by a visiting birder. The discovery has sent tempered relief throughout the community, which has worked for decades to remain rodent-free.

St. Paul is a haven for millions of nesting seabirds. It’s also one of the few island communities in the world that has been able to protect its rich wildlife from invasive rodents.

That’s why alarm shot through town last fall when a rat was spotted lurking in the fish processing plant. Local and federal officials leapt into action with a wide-ranging and methodical response. They chartered a flight for a “strike team” of eradication experts. They installed motion-sensor game cameras to track the invader. And they tried a half-dozen trap types with all kinds of bait — from candy bars and fish oil to peanut butter and bacon grease.

NATIONAL – From apnews.com

More alcohol seized in raid at ski resort for ultra-rich

Montana officials say they confiscated over 800 bottles and cans of alcohol in a raid just days after the Yellowstone Club signed a deal to settle charges of serving booze at unlicensed bars at the private ski resort for the ultra-rich.

A Department of Revenue notice says officials took the alcohol June 25 from a terminal that serves Yellowstone Club members and others who fly into Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport on private jets.

Agency spokesman Sanjay Talwani said Monday that state officials believe the alcohol belongs to a company owned by two club executives. The company was part of the $370,000 settlement agreement signed six days earlier that allowed Yellowstone Club bars to continue serving alcohol at the resort.

Club attorney Shane Reely didn’t immediately return a call for comment.

INTERNATIONAL – from bbcnews.com

Filippo Magnini: Italian Olympic swimming star saves drowning tourist

Italian Filippo Magnini rescued a tourist who was drowning off a Sardinian beach on Sunday.

The former world champion plunged in after friends of the man shouted to sunbathers on Cala Sinzias beach, just east of Cagliari.

Magnini kept the man’s head above water until lifeguards arrived with a raft, Italian media reported.

“I just did what I had to,” the retired sportsman said later.

The rescue was witnessed by Marco Bencivenga, chief editor of the Cremona local paper La Provincia, who reported it on his Facebook page.

Reports say the tourist got into trouble as he was swimming to retrieve an inflatable swan that was being blown out to sea.

His friends’ cries for help were heard by lifeguards, who raced to set off in their rescue raft.

But 37-year-old Magnini, 1.88m (6ft 2in) tall, was closer and quickly reached the struggling man.

“The bather was in a lot of trouble: he was quite frightened, he was really stuck and had swallowed some seawater,” Magnini said, quoted by Italy’s Corriere dello Sport.

“When I reached him he wasn’t even able to speak, and it wasn’t easy to lift him on to the raft, so we laid him on an airbed that some other bathers had nearby.” No details were given about the man who nearly drowned.

Girdwood Board of Supervisors

Next Meeting: July 15
Road Service: (907) 343-8374
Parks and Rec: (907) 343-8373
Whittier Police non-emergency: (907) 783-3223

For info on all public meetings and services visit: www.muni.org/gbos
Kevin Desmond, the Consummate Volunteer

By Sue Todd Staff Writer

Once you hear all the tales of Desmond’s life, you’d hard- ly believe that he was born and raised in Alaska. But it’s true. Desmond is the consummate volunteer, as he has devoted his life to serving others. He related, “although the Peace Corps to teach physics and math in Bibiani, Western Region Ghana, West Af rica. Ghana was rustic, to say the least. He explained that his only provisions were a mosquito net, and two buckets, one for collecting drinking water, and one for waste. “You didn’t want to mix them up,” he told me.

After two years, he grew tired of the mud and mos quitoes and being hot. He saw an atlas, and he looked for a new place to go. In 1976, courtesy of the Peace Corps, he returned to the U.S. to chase snow. He borrowed money for a one-way ticket to Alaska, and before long, he was working again. This time for Alaska Village Electric Co-op (AVEC), a non-profit electric utility serving residents of rural Alaska.

“The conditions were similar to the Peace Corps,” he related, “although the climate in Alaska was an improvement.” AVEC became another building block in his mission to serve others. He related, “Semper fi the world helps you evaluate your life and what you have.” It seems he realized he had plenty.

In 1977, he began working as a contract electrical engineer, on rotation, for British Petroleum (BP) in western Prudhoe Bay. Still in pursuit of adventure, in 1978, Desmond hitchhiked down the Alcan all the way to Seattle, where he bought a bicycle and biked to Bangor, Maine. Think about that – all the way to Bangor, Maine! At the end of his journey, he rode a Greyhound back to L.A. to see family before returning to Alaska – Girdwood, to be specific.

In 1980, he relocated to Borneo in Southeast Asia. He worked as a Field En gineer on contract for Atlantic Richfield (ARCO). Think about 1980… there were no cell phones, GPS, or an atlas. He explained that “the bulging breast of big oil,” as he says.

He worked in South Ko rea for a couple of years before spending more time working at Prudhoe Bay. When he was to be relo cated to Washington State, he biked from Prudhoe to Girdwood, then down the Alcan all the way to Tacoma. Desmond is certainly a giver. He is a person who gives so much to the community, and Kevin in Desmond has seen the world. He still takes off for lengthy biking trips and adventures, most recently on the Kobuk kayaking and observing the beauty that is Alaska. And still he finds time to serve. He has only scratched the surface of what there is to know about Kevin Desmond. Regardless, it is worthwhile to recognize a person who gives so much to the community, and Kevin in is certainly a giver. He is one more Girdwood charac ter with character.

Kevin is probably the most self-effacing person in Girdwood. When I told him I wanted to write a feature on him, he consented, but not without saying that it was going to be boring, and I should find someone interesting to write about. It didn’t end there. Puzzling down to talk about himself was no easy task. I persevered, though, and this is what I learned.

Kevin was born in Long Beach, California. He did not elaborate on his childhood, but he attended col lege at University of Cali fornia, Irvine, in pursuit of an Electrical Engineering degree. Early in his under grad years, he slipped over to Western Europe for a two-month vacation where he biked across 12 coun tries. This was the start of his international experi ences. In 1973, he gradu ated and began working on his Masters in Nuclear En gineering at UCLA. A Mas ters was not in the cards, though, because just a year in, his wanderlust kicked in.

He joined the Peace Corps to teach physics and math in Bibiani, Western Region Ghana, West Af rica. Ghana was rustic, to say much the least. He explained that his only provisions were a kerosene lantern, a mosquito net, and two buckets, one for collecting drinking water, and one for waste. “You didn’t want to mix them up,” he told me.

After two years, he grew tired of the mud and mosquitoes and being hot. He saw an atlas, and he looked for a new place to go. In 1976, courtesy of the Peace Corps, he returned to the U.S. to chase snow. He borrowed money for a one-way ticket to Alaska, and before long, he was working again. This time for Alaska Village Electric Co-op (AVEC), a non-profit electric utility serving residents of rural Alaska.

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In 1980, he relocated to Borneo in Southeast Asia. He worked as a Field Engineer on contract for Atlantic Richfield (ARCO). Think about 1980… there were no cell phones, GPS was not mainstream, and yet, somehow, a year into his stint, while he was vacationing in Singapore, ARCO tracked him down and gave him a job offer he couldn’t refuse. That was when he “latched onto the bulging breast of big oil,” as he says.

He worked in South Korea for a couple of years before spending more time working at Prudhoe Bay. When he was to be relocated to Washington State, he biked from Prudhoe to Girdwood, then down the Alcan all the way to Tacoma. Desmond is certainly a giver. He is a person who gives so much to the community, and Kevin in Desmond has seen the world. He still takes off for lengthy biking trips and adventures, most recently on the Kobuk kayaking and observing the beauty that is Alaska. And still he finds time to serve. He has only scratched the surface of what there is to know about Kevin Desmond. Regardless, it is worthwhile to recognize a person who gives so much to the community, and Kevin in is certainly a giver. He is one more Girdwood character with character.
Clockwise from top left:
1. Giant Forest Fair puppet creations were marched in procession with the crowd through the winding paths of the fair creating fun viewing for everyone.
2. Live music filling the air of the fair.
3. Local volunteers painting signs.
4. Accumulation of signs getting ready to put out to help Forest Fair run smoothly.
5. The entrance to Forest Fair lined with signs and a stream of eager patrons.
6. Wood mushroom carvings for sale added bright color to the event.
7. Fairy Dust, a special brew created by Girdwood Brewing Company, is poured for Forest Fair volunteers to taste before opening day.
8. Luca Ragozzino happily getting his face painted.
9. The “Hopp-N-Barley” stage, one of many at Forest Fair, on display with flowers.
Salt of Hope – A Fresh Beginning

By Marc Donadieu
Glacier City Gazette

Dining options in Hope have undergone a major transformation over the past couple of years. Seaview Cafe and Bar is still the longtime area favorite during summer, but Creekend Company, which opened last year, offers some service throughout the winter. Dirty Skillet opened recently, and there is take-out at Food on Second. Both businesses operate in summer. New food truck Salt of Hope is the latest addition to the town’s eating possibilities.

The Gazette took a road trip to Hope to interview Jacob Cooley, Salt of Hope's owner, and sample menu items. With years of experience in different parts of the lower 48, Cooley spent the past five summers working as kitchen manager at the Seaview.

"It would be a lot more challenging if I hadn't been working here with Renna [Martin, Seaview owner] for the past five years," Cooley said.

He also worked at Java Haus this winter. "I learned a lot of little breakfast things from them [now-closed Java House owners Emma and Kurtis Kramer]. I've always been a nighttime cook and a nighttime person. I've cooked brunch a lot though. It's a good thing I worked there because I didn't realize the kinds of restrictions this trailer was going to have. They had all the same restrictions in their place because they didn't have a hood." Cooley would need a more advanced ventilation and fire suppression system to cook with open flame.

Salt of Hope is in its beginning stages as a small business in a prime location on Main Street, right next door to Hope Social Hall, which is next to the Seaview. Cooley used his years of culinary experience to develop the small menu, keeping in mind that he has limited work space. He looked for items and ingredients with multiple uses on the menu to create maximum efficiency for prep and service.

The Gazette visited Salt of Hope's trailer while Cooley prepared samples for tasting – Friends with Benedicts Breakfast Sandwich with Cucumber Salad, and Cooley's Club.

He builds the Benedict sandwich on toasted English muffins, featuring poached eggs and a choice of meats and cheeses. When the sandwich halves are hot enough, they are pulled from the oven and drizzled with hollandaise sauce spiked with fresh French thyme. The Benedict sandwich is nicely layered with distinct flavors that complement each other. The hollandaise’s lemon and thyme kick brings the flavors together. Cooley acknowledged the sandwich can be a bit messy, but its taste easily overcomes the minor inconvenience. Served alongside the sandwich is a small salad on a bed of field greens and mixed croutons.

The next sample was the Cooley Club, served on a toasted bagel of choice smeared with chipotle bacon cream cheese. Cooley said he makes all of his own cream cheese spreads. The sandwich is filled with layers of turkey, bacon, avocado, tomato and locally-sourced lettuce. The sandwich is a pleasant mix of distinct flavors that blend together well. There is a mix of red leaf and bibb lettuce with a touch of arugula to give a fresh, peppery bite. The chipotle is creamy and smoky in contrast to the freshness of the avocado. The turkey’s lightness is a welcome counterpoint to the crunch of the bacon strips and minced bacon in the spread.

After the tasting, we sat down to talk about Salt of Hope, which recently started selling breakfast and lunch sandwiches in Hope as the tourism season began. The example gave Cooley a chance to acclimate to Hope’s steady stream of summer visitors and what Salt needs to do to accommodate them.

"I feel like I’ve gotten through two really busy weekends," Cooley said. "The next couple are going to be on the mellow side before the fish start running, and then we'll get crazy. I really glad I didn’t have all of this stuff on my menu for that for the first time being busy. Now I’m feeling ready to lay into it in what is going on here."

The initial idea of Salt began as a discussion about opening a Girdwood restaurant after a family member offered to invest in Cooley and his business. With high rents prohibitive, the idea shifted to a food truck.

He had managed a food truck in Maine, so he had no illusions about owning and working one.

The food truck wasn’t the problem exactly but the whole romance idea of a food truck as this groovy thing to do," Cooley said. "The person who had this food truck as this groovy thing to do, Cooley designed the menu to avoid dietary restrictions in their place because they didn’t have a hood." Cooley would need a more advanced ventilation and fire suppression system to cook with open flame.

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When Cooley needed a business name for licensing and permits, he did not have much time. "I brainstormed with a friend for about 40 minutes," Cooley said. "I wanted to have Hope in the name because it’s […] about what you do and where you are. ‘Salt,’ I thought, would be a cool thing to have in a name. I had a sheet with different words and ideas. Salt of Hope was one of the names we came up with."

Cooley says the prep and cooking space inside the trailer is comparable to a line station in a restaurant, but it gets a bit trickier with two people and open oven doors. After getting set up and developing a routine over the past few weeks, he has finally had the chance to think of new menu items using what he already has on hand.

"It took a couple of weeks of banging my knuckles before I started figuring it out," Cooley said. "I’m now just starting to get creative. I was driving from here and back to Girdwood when […] thought of [...] the Cooley Club at Salt of Hope, a new food trailer on Main St. in Hope - is a tremendous amount of knowledge and work. You have infrastructure issues - how you power it, how do you get your water, where do you take your water, how you cook things to make it work here?"

While Cooley had no desire to own a food truck, he considered the idea from a flexible perspective and began looking at options for sale. A family member recently purchased a lot in downtown Hope and offered to let him put his food truck there. Then a feasible food truck became available, so he bought it.

When Cooley needed a business name for licensing and permits, he did not have much time. "I brainstormed with a friend for about 40 minutes," Cooley said. "I wanted to have Hope in the name because it’s [...] about what you do and where you are. ‘Salt,’ I thought, would be a cool thing to have in a name. I had a sheet with different words and ideas. Salt of Hope was one of the names we came up with."

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"It took a couple of weeks of banging my knuckles before I started figuring it out," Cooley said. "I'm now just starting to get creative. I was driving from here and back to Girdwood when […] thought of [...] the Cooley Club at Salt of Hope, a new food trailer on Main St. in Hope - is a tremendous amount of knowledge and work. You have infrastructure issues - how you power it, how do you get your water, where do you take your water, how you cook things to make it work here?"

While Cooley had no desire to own a food truck, he considered the idea from a flexible perspective and began looking at options for sale. A family member recently purchased a lot in downtown Hope and offered to let him put his food truck there. Then a feasible food truck became available, so he bought it.

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By Bayne Salmon

Alyeska Resort

If you’re a fan of two-wheeled fun and excitement, then you’re probably familiar with the Alyeska Bike Park. We are carrying a ton of momentum into July after having an incredible June and four weekends of stellar weather. The first round of the Alyeska Cup race series is complete and the turnout was all-time. This race drew 55 riders from all over the state to test their skills and enjoy a bit of friendly competition.

Our next race, the Alyeska Enduro will be July 20. While the Alyeska Cup is a gravity-fueled race, the Enduro is aimed at cyclists who prefer to pedal their way to the podium. Enduro racing has been around for decades in Europe and is gaining popularity in the U.S. Riders are only timed on downhill sections, the catch is you have to ride up to the starting gate.

Riders can take however long they need for this stage but as soon as the front tire leaves the downhill gate it’s on - and the fastest combined stage time wins the day. All races in the Alyeska Bike are free with a lift ticket or season pass. Riders must sign up by 2 p.m. day of and racing starts at 3 p.m. This is a great event for riders who enjoy the up just as much as the down!

Lessons and tours are available at the Daylodge Bike Hub for all ages and ability levels and are recommended for new riders. The mountain learning center will be hosting a kid’s skill camp on July 12-13. This camp is for little shredders who have mountain biking or downhill biking experience.

If they’re not quite there, sign up for Bike Park 101. Kids ages 10-16 will spend the day with like-minded riders while being guided by Alyeska Resort’s professionally certified and trained mountain bike coaches. Our coaches will teach your kids how to make the most of the Alyeska Resort Bike Park. Groups will be created based on ability, so whether they are learning the basics, improving cornering, maneuvers, or learning and improving their jumping, we’ll have them covered.

For the ladies and bike divas out there, there’s a Women’s Bike Clinic scheduled for July 21. This one-day clinic is geared towards XC bikers who want to improve their downhill techniques and conquer Alaska’s challenging terrain. Bring your own bike or rent one of our Kona DH bikes.

Downhill racing

For the ladies and bike divas out there, there’s an all-women’s race on July 21. This one-day clinic is geared towards XC bikers who want to improve their downhill techniques and conquer Alaska’s challenging terrain. Bring your own bike or rent one of our Kona DH bikes.
Shelly Christopherson cited concerns about sani-
tation, parking, safety and the exponential increase in visitors. She said Creekbend has a responsibility for the increase in visitors and the effects they have on Hope.

"For the record, I’m not trying to shut down Creek-
bend," Christopherson said. "I am trying to increase a collaborative effort to have a conversation and create some solutions."

Tom Miller said concerns about too many visi-
tors have been common in Hope over the last 10 to 15 years, with blame often placed on small groups or businesses such as fisher-
man, the Seaview Cafe and Bar, and now Creekbend for the increase in traffic. Miller took issue with the way some residents were going about addressing the problems.

"It doesn’t do a lot of good to point fingers at a legally-
operated business or busi-
ness man," Miller said. "The harassment of the business, [...] is just really anti-Hope. It's anti-Alaska. There are other ways to do it."

"Creekbend is not the only reason there are more people in Hope," Milled continued. "It’s been coming for a long time. The commu-

nity hasn’t been proac-
tive enough to address the issues. I hope an event like this brings us together and doesn’t tear us apart. We’re all better than that."

Creekbend co-owner Steve Thomas, who also
owns Coldwater Lodge and Market, read a writ-
ten statement. Thomas first apologized to the commu-
nity for what had happened the previous weekend and said he was looking for the best way to address the concerns.

He said Creekbend has been fine-tuning the events since they began last year, but that the previous weekend had taken him by sur-
prise. Creekbend had the required permit for the event posted and will notify troopers in the future be-
fore events take place.

"As many of you know Delaney [wife and co-
owner] and I operate our business 100 percent by the books, and we would never blatantly disregard laws or permits," Thomas said. "We are both super passionate about both of our businesses and hope to continue to improve them for the next 20 years."

Thomas acknowledged parking as an issue and said 40 spaces were created on the property this year. He’s looking into private options and a public parking lot to generate revenue. He said Hope needs to prepare to improve them for the next 20 years.

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your own panic is the most important thing. Then being able to think through clearly, like putting the leash on the dog and caring for the dog even though you're in doubt. It's almost like pretending things are better than they are.“

Shaffer's healthy dog was trapped in a conibear trap a few years ago while skijoring and died two months after the incident. Shaffer described how her dog was caught in a trap set for marten in a tree. Fish heads were placed on the traps tines, and marten traps are supposed to be five feet off the ground.

“I'm sure the trap my dog was caught in was not five feet off the ground,” Shaffer said. “The five-foot rule is to prevent dogs from getting caught.”

Shaffer's first demonstration was with a leghold trap, a spring-loaded, circular metal trap that snaps in half when triggered. She used a three-foot long, three-quarter-inch thick stick to snap the trap.

“It's designed to hold the animal,” Shaffer said. “These traps are used for most types of animals, wolves, coyotes, minks, muskrat, marten and wolverine.”

Shaffer described the Conibear 330, the biggest foothold trap. “Each of these springs has about 75 pounds of force, so once it's snapped, you're trying to [...] pull apart 150 pounds of force, which no one can really do. There was an instance in Seward where a dog truck its head in a trap. It took four people prying at these bars to make enough space for the dog to get its head out.”

The owners told Shaffer that the dog was never the same again after its release, and its behavior was affected. Then she used a stuffed toy dog to demonstrate the trap, which is a body grip trap on an animal walks through to get the bait or scent.

The class attendees practiced releasing stuffed animals from the trap using trap setters, 2½-foot long aluminum bars with square notches on one end to grip the trap's springs and give leverage to set them.

Shaffer then demonstrated how to use a leash to release a dog from a conibear trap. A packing strap or bungee cord can also be used, but it needs a loop on the end for leverage.

The next demonstration was how to release a #3 foot- hold trap. Shaffer stood on the trap's spring levers to open it and said hiking boots work best for this method.

Shaffer said sometimes a trap catches a dog's neck and nose, leaving it unable to communicate and breathe effectively with likely lethal injuries, even if released.

“In Palmer, I talked to a dog owner whose dog was trapped like this. He found the dog, but it can't vocalize. He told me if he had known, if he had attended a class like this and saw the way the dog was caught, they would have calmed down and said their goodbyes rather than freak out and try really hard to get the dog out and have the dog’s last minutes be that end. He talked about accepting that his dog was going to die or was injured enough that it wasn’t going to make it.”

The class moved into describing snares, which are wire cables attached to trees along game trails. Snares are designed to catch part of an animal's body as it leaps through, causing the cable to constrict as the animal struggles.

The next part of the class focused on preventing a dog from becoming trapped in the first place. Shaffer recommended that pet owners be aware of individual animal trapping seasons and, their length and where traps will likely be set. Each game management unit has areas open and closed to legal trapping, and regulations vary in each unit. Shaffer suggested recreating in areas when trapping is not allowed. However, there is no guarantee against illegal set traps.

To learn more about traps, the Gazette spoke with Chugach State Park's Chief Park Ranger Ben Corwin. He said awareness and prevention are key to keeping dogs out of traps.

"In Chugach State Park, dogs are only on both the trapper and the pet owner," Corwin said. "It doesn't necessarily all fall on the pet owner's responsibility. Good trappers have to be responsible out in the field. In areas that are open to trapping, inside and outside the park, pet owners need to be aware of how people trap. There are baits and other scents that would lure just about anything into an area. In areas open to trapping, I keep my pet on a leash."

Corwin recommends that pet owners pick up the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pamphlet about how to release an animal from a snare. Trapping is allowed in certain parts of the park. Corwin said, but traps must be set a quarter-mile from an established trail and have to be a half-mile from a developed facility like a parking lot, trailhead or a public use cabin. In CSP, trappers must register trap sets with the state park office.
Some large, recent calving was evident with jagged chunks of ice melting in the lake at the glacier’s foot. Large slabs of blue ice on the glacier’s face seemed poised to calve at any moment. After another stop in front of the glacier, it was time to return.

After the cruise returned to the dock, the Gazette spoke with MV Ptarmagin’s current Captain Marcelle Roemmich. She has been a captain on the vessel for six years.

“I started off as a deckhand in Prince William Sound ten years ago,” Roemmich said. “I was doing it as a summer job. I really loved being out on the water, and I loved being based out of Whittier. I had some great captains who mentored me and encouraged me to go on and get my license. After I had enough sea time, I decided to get my captain’s license.”

She loves her job and likes working outdoors. She meets new people from around the world everyday. Passengers are excited to see the glacier, especially when it calves.

“There have been some times we’ve seen some really amazing calvings that will rock the boat,” she said, “and I have to turn the boat into it pretty fast and tell everybody, ‘keep three points of contact’ so they don’t rock too much. A few times we’ve seen black bears swimming in the lake and climbing on the glacier as well.”

She cited the trip as an easy, inexpensive way to see a glacier.

“There is a lot of value in this trip,” Roemmich said. “It’s a great way to see a glacier up close and not have it take up the whole day. It’s cost effective too. You can spend a lot of time in Portage Valley doing different things and enjoy this area.”

The Gazette also spoke with Retired Captain Tom Callahan, who came along for the anniversary cruise. He was MV Ptarmagin’s Captain for 22 years from 1996 to 2018, and he was a captain for many years before on a variety of vessels.

Callahan graduated from college with a history degree and thought he would be a teacher.

He worked two summers on Mississippi River tow boats, followed by a summer on a Great Lakes passenger ship before entering the Coast Guard’s officer candidate program. He served there 10 years and earned his commercial captain’s license.

In 1996, Callahan was looking for work away from water, so he applied to be a bus driver at Holland America. On his first day training, a man looked at Callahan’s resume and said he needed to be on a boat not a bus. Since the captain of MV Ptarmagin was already leaving, Callahan took his place. He recalled a few highlights operating the vessel.

“We saved a couple of lives on different occasions,” Callahan said. “We had several rescues. We didn’t lose anybody. There are kayakers out here now. They didn’t used to be. Even paddle boarders. We had several incidents where they went in the water. If it weren’t for my crew, they wouldn’t have made it. One time a plane landed in the lake in trouble. He came down right beside us, and we had to take care of him.”

Callahan misses working now that he is retired, this summer is his first not working since he was 11 years old.

“I made about 17,000 trips up to the glacier. I circled the globe three times on Portage Lake. What I liked most about it was talking to the people, visiting with visitors from all over the world.”