

HAINES *Alaska* NEWS

FREE—TAKE ONE

All the news the other paper forgot to print

FREE—TAKE ONE

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2011 Triple Threat Basketball Tournament

By William McRoberts

On Friday Feb. 11, 2011, Haines kicked off the 4th annual Triple Threat Basketball Tournament. There were 248 students playing, represented by seven teams from Haines, four teams from Whitehorse, one team from Skagway, and fifteen from Juneau.

Considering the number students playing, with coaching staff and other people involved with the teams' support, one can only imagine the planning and coordination it took to house and feed them. Except for the main hallways, floor space was at a premium at the school, the majority occupied by sleeping bags and back packs. Haines School helped with the some of the feeding logistics by having an open concession stand Friday and Saturday and with a spaghetti feed on Saturday evening. All the proceeds from the concessions and spaghetti feed goes toward the Haines Basketball program

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photo by William McRoberts

Celia Bower wins the battle and passes the ball to her teammate.

Haines 3rd Annual Sportsman's Banquet

by Gary Lidholm

Someone put a hat on the head and stuck a pipe in the mouth of the wild boar's head hanging on the wall of Port Chilkoot Bible Church. This comical piece of taxidermy was the traveling prize for the winner of the Tall Tale Contest at the 3rd annual Sportsman's Banquet held by the men of the Bible Church on February 11th.

The trophy was given up by last year's winner and former Pastor Gary Lidholm, who won the contest with a wild tale about king salmon fishing in Lynn Canal. Knowing that pastors may have an unfair advantage because of their continual public speaking practice, Lidholm did not enter the contest this year, making room for Tony Malone to take home the trophy. Malone's

tale of the legless squirrel dog, a story he brought with him from Lower 48 days, clearly made him the contest winner.

Don Nash, Donny Braaten and Pastor Bill Diggins organized this year's event, complete with door prizes, hunting video clips, and the "Tall Tale" contest. The anchor of the event was again the wild game feast that was spread out before two dozen participants. Every form of moose meat, venison, wild-



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Rookie Becomes New Champ of Yukon Quest

FAIRBANKS— On February 15th, eleven days after the race start in Whitehorse, Yukon, teams arrived at the Yukon Quest finish line in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Yukon Quest has a new champion - rookie Dallas Seavey arrived at the finish line in Fairbanks at 11:05 p.m. AKST. It was certainly a race to the finish. 2009 Yukon Quest champion Sebastian Schnuelle arrived with a very energetic team only 33 minutes behind to take second position.

Ken Anderson arrived in third position at 1:36 a.m. Wednesday. Anderson takes home the four ounces of gold, given to the first team to make it into Dawson City and to cross the finish line. In fourth position, Brent Sass arrived at 6:14 a.m.

The Yukon Quest generally follows the Yukon River and traditional gold-miner trails for 1000 miles between Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and Fairbanks, Alaska. The race alternates directions with the 2011 finish in Fairbanks. The race is run in early February through some of the most remote country and brutal weather conditions, often turning the race into a quest for survival. This year's race was no exception, with mushers finishing in minus 40 degree temperatures.

HAINES SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET

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fowl, mountain goat and seafood was available for sampling.

The Sportsman's Banquet started three years as a recreational and outreach event for the men and boys at Port Chilkoot Bible Church as a night to share hunting and fishing experiences. Past years have included slide shows of the participants' hunt-

Alaska Senate Passes Voter Intent Bill

Haines has had more than its share of "voter intent" questions, beginning with the 2009 borough assembly election that resulted in the court overturning an election to seat Daymond Hoffman, the 2010 election that is still being considered by the Alaska Superior Court in Juneau, and of course, the write-in controversy surrounding the Miller-Murkowski contest for the U.S. Senate.

So it is of interest that the Alaska Senate has unanimously passed legislation ensuring a voter intent priority for the counting of write-in ballots. The bill clears up state statutes that are poorly worded and needed clarification. The next steps will be consideration and committee actions by the state House of Representatives.

(Read the Haines News on-line at <http://hainesnews.net> for a link to the full APRN story)

Aurora Watch Issued for February 17-20

ANCHORAGE—The National Weather Service in Anchorage has announced a high probability of significant geomagnetic storm activity occurring Thursday, February 17 through Sunday, February 20. Sky-watchers should be alert for height-

(Continued on page 4)

ing and fishing expeditions, some going back to childhood days. Visitors are encouraged and everyone leaves with a full stomach full of wild game delicacies and a heart blessed from the devotions offered. Pastor Diggins led the devotion time this year, tying his spiritual thought to a duck decoy and relating how there are decoy obstacles thrown at us in the Christian walk.

Smoking Marijuana Linked to Mental Illness

Anyone who has worked in law enforcement knows that there is an apparent connection between drug use and mental illness--including marijuana. Now scientists have found evidence to confirm this. A new study published in the AMA's Archives of General Psychiatry concludes that marijuana use appears to accelerate the onset of psychotic or schizophrenic symptoms in some portions of the population.

According to the abstract of the study, "Genetic risk for psychotic disorder may be expressed in part as sensitivity to the psychotomimetic effect of cannabis. Cannabis use may synergistically combine with pre-existing psychosis liability to cause positive and negative symptoms of psychosis."

In other words, if you or your family have any tendency toward mental illness, stay off the weed.

(Read the Haines News on-line at <http://hainesnews.net> for more links)

Colder spring forecast

Last fall the buzz was that the coming winter would be colder than usual, with "brutal" cold in the interior, resulting from the influence of colder sea temperatures, or the "La Nina" effect. So far, the forecast seems to have been right on target.

A brief look at the National Weather service's climate forecast center reveals that the forecast continues to be for a colder spring.

The good news, however, is that the summer months are forecast to be warmer than average, especially in south-central Alaska.

For more local weather-related discussions, we recommend a visit to Jim Green's excellent website at www.williwaw.com.

HAINES BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT*(Continued from page 1)*

to help pay for the trip to the Hoop Time in Juneau, March 24-26, 2011.

Competition included three division levels (A, B, and C) with each level represented by a boys team and a girls team. Level A consisted of high school (grades 9-10), Level B consisted of junior high (grades 7-8), and Level C consisted of grade school (grades 5-6).

The teams were comprised as follows:

Boys A— one from Haines, two from Whitehorse and two from Juneau. Girls A— one Haines, two from Whitehorse, and two from Juneau. Boys B— one from Haines and two from Juneau. Girls B— one from Haines and two from Juneau. Boys C— two from Haines, one from Skagway, and five from Juneau. Girls C— one from Haines and two from Juneau.

Friday Action

The Tournament started off Friday at 2:15 p.m. with the Boys A team winning their first two games, which seated them in the semi final round Saturday.

The Girls A team won their first game and lost their second, but this also seated them in the semi-finals on Saturday.

The Boys B team were handed two defeats, which put them in a must-win situation for Saturday.

The Girls B team won both of their games, which clinched them a seat in the championship round on Sunday.

The Boys C team #1 played only one game and was defeated. The Boys C team #2 lost both their game, which also put them in a must-win on Saturday.

The Girls C team started off just like the Girls B team by winning both their games and being seated in the championship game on Sunday.

Saturday

Saturday games kicked off at 8:00 a.m. for a full day of competition.

With nine scheduled regular games, six quarter-final games and nine semi-final games scheduled, it was going to be a very busy day for everyone.

The Boys A team, with their first two wins on Friday and a win in the semi-finals, clinched them a seat in the championship round on Sunday. The Girls A team needed this win in the semi-finals to be eligible for the championship round on Sunday and they did it.

The Boys B team and Boys C team #2 were unable to secure the win they needed to advance. The Boys C team #1 put on a show of true grit and stamina by winning their second scheduled regular game, which advanced them to the quarter finals. They won the quarter final game and advanced to the semi-finals game at 9:25 p.m. With two games already played earlier in the day and a full day of helping out with other events, the boys went into the must-win game full of energy and a win to advance them to the championship round Sunday.

The Girls B and C teams enjoyed a full day of rest after already securing their seats to the championship round with their two wins on Friday.

Sunday

Sunday morning was full of anticipation for the Haines community of basketball fans. There are twelve teams in six championship seats to be played, and Haines has clinched five of those. The Boys A team, Girls B team and the Girls C team came in with perfect records. The Girls A team and Boys C team #1 came in with only one loss apiece, but still in full contention for the title.

The Girls A team's quest for the trophy would fall short and they would walk away with second place in the tournament. The Girls C team showed up at 9:00 a.m. with a full day of rest and fired up. They did not disappoint as they rolled past their opponent 43-16 and became the first Haines team to clinch a championship with a perfect record of three wins and no losses.

The Boys C team #1 played at 10:15 a.m. After three wins and a late-night finish on Saturday, they showed up with a lot of enthusiasm and ready to play, but the other team proved to be too much, so they had to settle for second place.

The last two games of the tournament were both played at the same time. The Haines Boys A team and the Girls B team both came into the championship round with perfect records. Could they do what the Girls C team done just ninety minutes earlier? Both gyms were packed as the action started.

The Girls B team had no problem as they rolled past their opponent 36-19 becoming Haines' next team to clinch a championship title.

Meanwhile, the Boys A team continued to battle it out over in the big gym. The Boys game was a "sitting on the edge of your seat" game as it came down to the last fifteen seconds. Haines was ahead 32-30 when Devin Light was fouled. Light sank both free throws, leading Haines to a win 34-30 and the third team to win a championship with a perfect record.

Awards

Immediately after the games, the award ceremony was held. Haines took home three championship and two second place trophies. Three of Haines' finest were recognized as MVPs: Justin Swinton #23, Haines Boys A team; Celia Bower #3, Haines Girls B team; and Laila McGuire #44, Haines Girls C team.

Recipients of the All Tourney Team were Devin Light #12, Haines Boys A team; Jess Gidding #42, Haines Girls A team; Grace Jones #30, Haines Girls A team; Keegan Sundberg #24, Haines Boys B team; Kayley Swinton #40, Haines Girls B team; Gavin McGuire #51, Haines Boys C team; Destinee Cowart #15, Haines Girls C team; and Shaye Otton #14, Haines Girls C team.

Congratulations go out to all the teams, coaches, players and organizers for an outstanding tournament.

AURORA WATCH

(Continued from page 2)

ened aurora activity on those dates.

During geomagnetic storms, radio signals are vulnerable to disruption. Navigation systems like GPS can also be adversely affected.

Read more at www.hainesnews.net.

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