

HAINES *Alaska* NEWS

FREE—TAKE ONE

All the news the other paper forgot to print

FREE—TAKE ONE

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Publisher:

Alaska Alliance for Commerce, Inc.
P.O. Box 784
Haines, AK 99827

Editor:

Roger Maynard
editor@hainesnews.net

Production:

Kris Reeves
advertising@hainesnews.net

Printing:

King's Store
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OPINION: In Defense of Small Business



Roger Maynard photo

The Hungry Moose on 2nd Avenue is a summer-

By Roger Maynard

Most of the contentious issues that spring up in Haines are the result, not of a desire on either side to see the town fail, but a clashing of core values and a refusal to see the other side's point of view.

One side believes that business owners who depend on customers and profit are the core of our economy. Government does not create wealth—it only makes more government jobs and transfers wealth from one group to another. The best thing government can do to encourage a sound economy is to get out of the way of private business.

The other side (we'll call them "Utopians") believes that business should only charge customers enough money to meet expenses and pay the

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Not Just Another

By Roger Maynard

Haines Borough Clerk Julie Cozzi has received the highest certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), "Master Municipal Clerk (MMC)."

Haines mayor Jan Hill presented the certification plaque to Ms. Cozzi in front of a packed assembly chambers last night said, "Eight years ago Julie Cozzi came to work for [the] Haines Borough. She has worked very hard, particularly in her professional development... she was a certified municipal clerk. Now she is a master municipal clerk."

"I had no idea that was coming," says Cozzi about the presentation, "[The

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Roger Maynard photo

Haines Mayor Jan Hill (left) and Master Municipal Clerk Julie Cozzi, display the MMC certification plaque that now hangs in Cozzi's office.

Lady Bears End Season on a High Note

Seniors Honored in Last Home Game

by Gary Lidholm

There was a lot of talk around the 3A schools in Southeast about the strength of the Mt. Edgecumbe boys basketball team, and that strength was evident in how they easily handled the Haines boys over the weekend. But the strength of the girls team had yet to be tested when they came to Haines for the season's last home game.

The Lady Glacier Bears were not intimidated and cruised to easy victories. At one point in Friday night's game they had a 32-point lead before turning the court over to the subs, who finished it out in the fourth quarter with a 64-52 final score. As is often the case, Abby Jones was the high scorer with 24 points. Amy Messerschmidt and Marnie Rasmussen each had ten.

Rasmussen was back in action after being sidelined for a month with injuries. Her presence was immediately felt both offensively and defensively and she was the high scorer in Saturday night's contest with 12 points, as once again Haines cruised to an easy victory over the Edgecumbe Lady Braves, 52-33. Saturday's game saw a balanced Haines offense with Jones adding ten to Rasmussen's twelve, Hannah Wing and Alisha Young each contributing eight, while Jolene Lemieux and Amy Messerschmidt each scored six. Ashely

Haines High School seniors Jolene Lemieux (left) and Abby Jones (right) are honored by their teammates.



Messerschmidt also had a field goal in the second quarter.

Defensively, the Glacier Bears applied their awesome full-court press, which was more than Edgecumbe could handle.

Saturday's game in particular was an emotional one since it was the last home court game of the season for seniors Abby Jones and Jolene Lemieux. Both girls were regular starters throughout the season, and their effort in the last game made it apparent that they dreaded this game coming to an end. Coach Elliot gave them quite a bit of playing time before taking them out before a cheering crowd. In special ceremonies before the game, the senior's were honored by their teammates.

For the Lady Glacier Bears it was a good season, and we wish them well at the Region Five Tournament in Juneau that begins March 2nd. Note that the Bears are only losing two seniors this year, indicating a strong team for the 2011-2012 season.

JULIE COZZI

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mayor] caught me totally off guard. I was just getting ready to type another line in the minutes when I realized what was going on."

The IIMC grants the MMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete demanding education requirements; and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state.

According to Cozzi, the curriculum was demanding and involved class-

work, self-study, research papers and other requirements. "It wasn't easy," she says, "But I learned a lot."

Cozzi has described her job as, "care and feeding of the borough assembly." She is also responsible to oversee Haines municipal elections. Even in recent cases where elections have been contested for various reasons, all parties agree that Cozzi's performance has been above criticism.

Cozzi's well-deserved certification demonstrates her value to the borough, and to the community.

Congratulations Julie!

Ripinsky Rippers Retreat

by Gary Lidholm

It is doubtful that town patriarch Sol Ripinsky ever thought he would have a sewing group named after him. But here in the shadow of the mountain that bears his name, the Ripinsky Rippers, a local group of women who meet faithfully on a weekly and monthly basis to complete their sewing and quilting projects, pay tribute to old Sol by using his name.

This past weekend, and a long weekend at that, the Rippers and their friends from out of town gathered to have a special quilting and sewing project retreat. From Friday to Monday, about twenty-five women, including some from Juneau and Fairbanks, used the Haines Senior Center to work on their projects. Organized by Becky Nash and Leslee Downer from Haines and Carol McConahy from Fairbanks, the Rippers invaded the Senior Center with sewing machines that varied from sleek state-of-the-art computerized marvels to antique Singers still used by a lot of quilters.

Carol McConahy, who owns a quilting business in Fairbanks called Icy Swan Creations, taught a class at this year's retreat called "French Braids" - a variation on the Log Cabin design, a quilting pattern well known by most quilters. Since the McConahys own a home here in Haines, Carol has been involved in a number of the annual retreats. Organizer Becky Nash said this is the 10th annual quilting retreat.

Besides row after row of sewing machines and cutting tables in the Senior Center, tables were laden with food snacks and remnants of the quilters' work. An auction table displayed creative wares, with the proceeds helping defray retreat expenses. Lunch was held on the premises and there were "show and tell" times where the latest creations were exhibited.

McConahy said that in the future, the group hopes to include quilters from Haines Junction, making the event an international gathering.

IN DEFENSE OF SMALL BUSINESS*(Continued from page 1)*

owner a modest wage. If there is a profit left, then the business owner is charging too much.

Utopians believe that growing government and getting more grants is a legitimate economy. Government should be able to dictate what the town will look like and where businesses will locate, how big their buildings will be, and so on. Greedy business folks are only there to take your money; government is there to help everyone.

These Utopians forget that it is the profit motive that gives the business community the incentive to take risks, start businesses and build, buy or transport all the stuff they need to support the Utopian lifestyle. It's the opportunity to make a buck (or get rich) that has been the driver of our soaring economy for the past two centuries.

In Tom Morphet's February 10th article in the *Chilkat Valley News*, he shows his stripes when he takes a potshot at the Haines Borough Planning Commission for a "very narrow reading of borough code to determine that trailers hauled up on foundations are no longer trailers or mobile homes." Apparently, he would prefer a looser interpretation that allows the borough to tell the owners of businesses that he does not find aesthetically pleasing to go away, or move to more expensive digs on Main Street.

There is a name for a regulatory body that interprets the law more strictly than what is actually written and then gets sued in court: LOSERS. So the planning commission interpreted the ordinance correctly. Stricter regulations can be instituted by the borough assembly using the deliberative process and opportunity for public comment, not

pulled out of thin air by the entity that enforces them. But before making new regulations, read on...

Regarding the three small businesses that Morphet is concerned about, he says, "They're unattractive and they skim the cream from business owners who've invested in buildings and support our town through property tax, as well as sales tax."

*Roger Maynard photos*

Pizza and Wings, (above) on a lot next to the post office, is open in the summer.

Hog Heaven, (below) just behind Pizza and Wings, is open six days a week—closed on Thursdays.



We have news for Morphet and his friends. These ARE business owners who've invested in buildings and support out town through property tax. And they are creating wealth for themselves that benefits the town by contributing to the overall economy and to the borough in the form of taxes.

The basic idea of business is to take in more money than one pays out. In the case of the small businesses under discussion, they have chosen an affordable location that keeps their expenses low, and a proximity to tourists afoot

from the cruise ships during the summer. It's the responsibility of the business owner to upgrade the appearance of the business and serve quality food that will keep customers coming back.

For the borough to move these small businesses to the more expensive real estate on Main Street like so many chess pieces, in the name of a "dream of filling empty buildings and revitalizing our Main Street," would kill these businesses. Providing they are successful, each of these little businesses will contribute far more to the economy and our tax base than the owner of an empty, unused building on Main Street.

There is always a temptation by governing bodies to tamper with economics—in nearly every case, this is a bad idea. Forcing businesses to locate on Main Street only gives property owners a negotiating advantage that would keep rent higher than it would otherwise be—actually raising the renter's cost of doing business.

So much for theory...let's look at some history.

One of our favorite restaurants in Haines is Mosey's Cantina. Some of our friends have said it was the BEST Mexican food they have ever eaten, and we agree. Remember that Mosey's Cantina started out as a taco stand at 1-mile on the Haines Highway.

They probably wouldn't be here today if they hadn't been allowed to do business from their original trailer in.

Another good restaurant in Haines started out as a "coffee cart" on Main Street.

And finally, Rod and Rhonda Hinson started a knife and gift shop near the cruise-ship docks, but found they were not in the natural flow of traffic from the ships. Last year they moved to the lower lever of the Chisel Building at

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SMALL BUSINESS PART 2 (Continued from page 3)

Second and Main, because they believe the location will bring more customers through the door.

Each of these entrepreneurs started with a plan and then expanded or changed their business plan as the opportunity arose. Their decisions were sound business decisions—not the result of dictates by the borough assembly or a newspaper editor. Borough regulation did nothing to improve or grow these businesses. *These are the success stories that will keep the Haines economy alive.*

So, bring on the “The Hamburger Hut”, “The Weiner Wagon”, and “Surfside Souvenir Shack”—the more, the merrier. A little economy is better than none at all.

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