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FREE—TAKE ONE

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FREE—TAKE ONE

Volume III Issue 9

www.hainesnews.net

March 3, 2011

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Publisher:

Alaska Alliance for Commerce, Inc.
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Haines, AK 99827

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Printing:

King's Store
Haines, AK

Here Comes the Vigilante Crew!

Two young women take positive steps toward the career of their choice



Gary Lidholm photo

EMT's Ashley (left) and Amanda Vigilante.

By Gary Lidholm

If you heard a vigilante crew was looking for you, it would normally give you cause for alarm. But in Haines, it is a reassuring thing.

Sisters Ashley (20) and Amanda (18) Vigilante are two of the newest members of the Haines Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance crew. The pair completed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level I training in Haines in September and eagerly sought assignments so they could get the 10 patient contacts re-

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New Tourism Director Settles In

A wintry first day doesn't dampen her spirits

By Gary Lidholm

The tourism-related job she just moved from may have been in Wisconsin but Tanya Carlson, new director of tourism for the Haines Borough, completed her college degree right here in Southeast Alaska. "After falling in love with Southeast while attending UAS, it is good to be back," Tanya said while setting up her desk for her first day on the job Tuesday.

Carlson moved from Eau Claire, Wisconsin where she was a project developer for a group tour company that included trip organizing for everything from African safaris to Alaska trips. Her degree at the University of Alaska was in General Studies with an emphasis on marine biology and

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Gary Lidholm photo

New Haines tourism director, Tanya Carlson is on the job.

Spring Mobile Mammograms Scheduled

The SEARHC Wisewoman Women’s Health Program and Bartlett Regional Hospital are happy to announce the Spring 2011 schedule for the mobile mammogram program, and this year there’s a new stop on the itinerary.

The mobile mammography van will visit Haines, Kake, Gustavus, Skagway, Yakutat and Angoon this spring and early summer. This is the first year the van will travel to Gustavus, which finally can welcome motor vehicles off the Alaska Marine Highway System ferries because of its new dock.

The van is scheduled to visit Haines on May 1-13, Kake on May 17-20, Gustavus on May 26, Skagway on June 1-3, Yakutat on June 8-13 and Angoon on June 16-22. Women are encouraged to contact their local clinics before the scheduled visit because they will need to have had a clinical breast exam before they can get their mammograms.

The mobile mammography program is run through a partnership between Bartlett Regional Hospital and the SEARHC Wisewoman Women’s Health Program. It makes regular mammography screening services available to women who live in communities where they aren’t available year round.

The SEARHC WISEWOMAN Women’s Health Program provides free clinical breast exams, mammograms, Pap tests and cardiovascular screenings for all women ages 40 and older who meet income and insurance guidelines.

For more information, contact your local clinic, call the SEARHC Wisewoman Women’s Health Program 1-888-388-8782, toll-free in Alaska.



Roger Maynard photo

“The fishing vessel Perseverance in the Haines harbor exhibits a load of ice gathered while setting tanner crab pots on Sunday. Gale to storm force winds, single-digit temperatures and heavy freezing spray dominated the weather this week.”

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Haines Alaska News & Comments

VIGILANTE EMT'S

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quired to attend EMT II training. Now back from a successful 2-½ weeks in Ketchikan, where the level II course was offered, they are anticipating future college curriculum that might lead to a medical career.

The Vigilante family moved to Haines in 2008, where their father is a construction supervisor for Southeast Roadbuilders. Both girls completed their high school requirements through home schooling and are taking steps toward advanced education.

“Since we are both heading to college in the fall, we wanted to accelerate EMT training,” older sister Ashley said. The girls said 60 hours of coursework and testing are required to achieve EMT I, which they did in September. Through the fall and winter they got the patient contacts and eligibility for another 60 hours of training in EMT II.

“In Ketchikan we got more calls in 2-½ weeks than we would get in over a month in Haines,” Amanda said. An EMT level II authorizes administration of IVs and other, more advanced medical treatments.

But Haines Volunteer Fire Department training officer, Al Badgley, with the cautioned that just having the EMT II course behind them does not yet, in practice, make them EMT IIs. The Haines Department has experience requirements that go with the formal training, and they will be placed with veteran EMTs in the field to get that experience.

“There are four new EMTs in our system now,” Badgley said, “so we are careful in how we dispatch our crews so we can give these new recruits the experience they need with seasoned EMTs. Our new technicians are also not certified as ambulance



Gary Lidholm photos

Haines EMTs move a patient to a waiting USCG helicopter. EMTs left to right, Al Badgley, Amanda Vigilante, Ashley Vigilante, Thom Andriesen.

drivers yet, so we have to be careful in how we position our responders. We cannot place a driver up front with no experienced EMT in the back.” But Badgley also said he was pleased the girls got the next level of training because it makes them more aware of what to observe as they assist and watch the more experienced personnel.

Amanda Vigilante said she knew since age 10 that she wanted to be an EMT. She will now pursue that goal to the next level by enrolling in the paramedic curriculum at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks this fall.

Older sister Ashley also has plans for school and is now awaiting acceptance at Moody Bible Institute Northwest in Spokane. Ashley is not quite as firm on a career choice yet, but says it will most likely be in the medical profession. Ashley now works two jobs in Haines that are somewhat related to the medical profession. Her work at the Haines Assisted Living center and with Cornerstone Home Health has increased her interest in the medical field. “I love this kind of work,” she said “and I’m just waiting to see how God will direct me in the future.”

Both Ashley and Amanda were grateful to Dr. Bowman and Julie Anderson at the SEARHC Clinic for the sponsorship they needed to attend the advanced EMT training.

Badgley commented that the Haines Volunteer Fire Department has twenty members of the work force that are involved in the emergency medical services (EMS) part of the operation. Some are combination fire and EMS and some, like the Vigilantes, are strictly EMS. Badgley was proud of the 160 years of EMS experience volunteers bring to Haines. Five members have less than one year of service but some, like him, have almost 30 years of EMS experience.

The new recruits like the Vigilante sisters are a welcome addition to the force since, as Badgley explains, not all of the twenty members are available at any one time. Some of the summer guides who are qualified EMTs, for example, are not available in the winter and there are times around the winter holidays when many others are out of town.

For those interested in being an EMT volunteer, Badgley explained that training is offered in Haines periodically but is arranged so that all levels can be re-certified at the same time. “The Vigilante girls went out to receive the EMT II training so they are a little out of our cycle,” he said. “If they were to stay around we would require them to go through the re-certifying process next year on our schedule.”

In addition to being re-certified every two years, EMTs must complete 48 hours of continuing medical education (CME) during that two years. Badgley said Haines EMTs meet twice monthly for training, so he encouraged interested volunteers to be seriously committed to the program before getting involved.

NEW TOURISM DIRECTOR

(Continued from page 1)

communication but her work experience has focused on tourism.

Having been on the job less than a day, she was not able to comment extensively yet on her first impressions of the new position, but it was clear that diversity in tourism was important to

her. She spoke openly about all segments of the tourism industry — cruise ships, wheeled traffic, tours and lodging. And despite the wintry weather introduction, she was delighted to be in Haines. She was also pleased to be here and in place before the hectic tourism season hits full pace.

Carlson replaces Lori Stepansky, who left the position last year.

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