

Kake gets resupplied after two months

By Linda Lord-Jenkins
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Villagers in Kake received a desperately needed re-supply of food Monday, almost two months after they got the last shipment of supplies.

According to Charlie Jackson Sr., of Kake, the store shelves were virtually empty because the Alaska Outpost freighter which was to bring provisions to the village had run aground and had to have repairs done.

Jackson called members of the state Legislature seeking emergency aid and temporary permission to open deer hunting season so that villagers could hunt for food. But before that request could be acted upon, the freighter landed Sunday night and unloaded supplies, said Jackson.

However, the village may still be in need because supplies had gone so low that store shelves which were stocked up on Sunday night, were close to empty again Monday morning because people were buying provisions, he said.

Kake receives one freighter

shipment of meats, vegetables, canned milk and other supplies per month during non-logging and fishing seasons. The Alaska Outpost freighter company out of Seattle serves Kake and Hoonah and Angoon.

The freighter last made a delivery right after Christmas, said Jackson. The food supply was also cut down because the state ferry Aurora was disabled two weeks ago when it hit a large object floating in the water. That ferry also serves Kake and was unable to make a stop there, he said. The Aurora was taken to Seattle for repairs. The ferry schedule has been cut back in the meantime.

Jackson said he tried to get the mainline ferry to stop in Kake but doubts that will happen now because of the recent delivery.

He said the village of 680 people has difficulty receiving any airplane deliveries in winter because of bad weather. Kake is on Kupreanof Island. Monday was the village's best day of weather in several weeks and a mail plane got through for the first time in many

weeks, said Jackson.

Although the village could possibly use an air delivery of supplies, Jackson said that the cost often is too much for the villagers to pay. The village

already pays heavy costs for what food is brought in by freighter, said Jackson, who said a can of milk costs 86 cents. A can of Spam costs \$3.10. "The cost of food is

cheaper in Kotzebue than here," said Jackson, who added that during the recent shortages, "They were eating better in El Salvador than we were."

Kake has two stores.