



Photos by Tyler Rhodes

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON—Nomeites were treated to clear skies to view the total lunar eclipse Monday night starting around 9:30 p.m. The celestial phenomenon lasted until midnight.

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Photo by Tyler Rhodes

HOLIDAY SOUNDS (above)—Jeff Rose and his tuba add the bass notes to the Nome-Beltz High School band's winter concert Dec. 16 at the elementary school commons.

MAKING HIS LIST (right)—Clara Hansen, 6, chats with Santa at Nome's Christmas Extravaganza Dec. 8 at Old St. Joe's Hall.



Photo by Nadja Roessek

Unalakleet fuel spill totals nearly 11,000 gallons

By Tyler Rhodes

A Dec. 12 diesel fuel spill in Unalakleet initially estimated to involve approximately 1,000 gallons has turned out to be more than 10 times the size of that first estimate.

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, an unattended fuel transfer operation conducted by Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative resulted in nearly 11,000 gallons of No. 2 diesel fuel being

spilled. According to the DEC's Tom DeRuyter, the spill occurred as the electrical co-op employee conducting the fuel transfer from the large tank to a small container left the scene to respond to some sort of emergency situation. DeRuyter did not know the reason the employee left the scene. The spill happened near 5 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Multiple messages left with Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op manager Ike Towarak were

not returned.

With the one person who was aware of the moving fuel absent from the scene, the small tank reached its limit while the diesel continued to flow. "Nobody knew the transfer was occurring," DeRuyter said. "It looks like it was a classic overflow."

As of Dec. 16, DeRuyter, who is the DEC's on-scene coordinator for the northern area response team, said it appeared none of the fuel had

escaped the containment area in which the tanks are stationed. A DEC situation report issued Dec. 16 noted that approximately 5,890 gallons of fuel had been recovered as of noon that day. The recovered fuel is being transferred to two 5,000-gallon tanks located within the containment area.

DeRuyter described the secondary containment area as a liner on which six inches of

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Air service returns to Diomedes, ice permitting

By Tyler Rhodes

Frances Ozenna has a wish to have her adult sons home for Christmas. She's also hoping that one of them can leave once the holidays

have passed.

Ozenna received part of her wish Dec. 15 when one of her boys arrived in Little Diomedes after flying in the helicopter that has predominately only been able to deliver mail for the past year and a half. "There was one person that made it back that was on mainland since September," she said over the phone from Diomedes Dec. 17. "He's the first community member that was able to return home out of the eight that were waiting."

Seven more were still waiting to get back home as of press time Tuesday, including Ozenna's other son who is due to report to Fort Benning, Ga., for Army basic training in January. "He really wants to come home for the holidays," she said. Whether

or not he will make it home—and back off the island to go to boot camp after the holidays—largely depends on the ice right now.

When pan ice covers the roughly 25 miles of open water between Little Diomedes and the village of Wales on the mainland, Evergreen Helicopters

will now transport people to and from the island after delivering the mail on

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Messenger delivers Diomedes letter to President Obama

By Diana Haecker

The Obama administration once more invited tribal leaders from the lower 48, Alaska and Hawaii Dec. 16 for a second round of the historic White House Tribal Nations Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Bering

Strait region joined leaders from the Yukon-Kuskokwim area, Tanana Chiefs region, North Slope Borough and Alaska's Southeast and others from the 565 federally recognized tribes to interact directly with the president and representatives from the highest levels

of his administration.

From the Bering Strait region, Norton Sound Health Corp. chairwoman Emily Hughes was sent as a special envoy on behalf of the Native Village of Diomedes. Although

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On the Web:

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Letters

Dear Editor,

The annual Shirley Tree is up but at a new location: the Nome Youth Facility, on 4th Ave. by the green-house.

The Shirley Tree is a combative named for Shirley Noet, a wonderful woman, a wonderful mother, grandmother, spouse and a very special friend whose loss to cancer affected so many in Nome. The Shirley Tree exists for everyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one or to remember one from whom you are separated and want to remember at Christmas. A ribbon, a decorated egg shell, a note, a picture, a child's handprint or finger painting, a wooden carving or little sign, a bunch of dried herbs or beach greens, whatever you like or whatever is significant to the remembrance of your loved one.

The Shirley Tree exists for that purpose. You are invited to and are most welcome to place an ornament on the Tree at any time of the day or night. You'll see it — lots of lights.

The Shirley Tree will stand at the Youth Facility until Iditarod at which time it will be "transplanted" to the Nome National Forest. When the ice goes out, so will our remembrances gently drift out into the Bering Sea on the Shirley Tree.

Happy Holidays,
Jana Varrati
Friend of Shirley

PS. Because the Shirley Tree will drift out into the Bering Sea — our Bering Sea, I suggest your ornaments not be made of plastic.

Dear Editor,

Sometimes we have to write about something in an effort to bring about positive change in our lives. It's not easy to fight, much less to succeed a

little. But try we must, regardless of the outcome(s).

Alcohol. Sounds way too familiar, doesn't it? But we have allowed it to take a good grip on us. It seems like there is no turning back. It doesn't matter whether it kills us, we just keep at it. But fight, fight, fight, we must! I'm with a few and brave out there to fight this merciless evil, regardless of risk and retaliation from bootleggers and users. I'm grateful with a heartfelt emotion for your courage to stand firm, looking out for your loved ones and even to those outside your family.

My village is Gambell. Yours is probably no different than mine in its woes with alcohol and marijuana. Some of our governing body leaders/members are users, unfortunately. So hence, they don't give all they got to combat brew production, importation, bootlegging, and joint sellers. They leave their joint sellers alone for fear, not generally from fellow citizens, but from running out of their own supply of it to support their use/habit.

Sober citizens, concerned people, we have **not** lost yet. You declared war on alcohol/marijuana when you sobered up or even when you have not used at all. We need to toughen up and do the best we can to stop/report who is producing brew, importing and bootlegging. Even as I write this letter, some of those bootleggers are slyly planning their next sale date. This weekend?

Sucks to hear all this, doesn't it? But it's the cold truth of continued

corruption in our village(s). Our leaders who gather together to combat this, but still use it themselves, are not going to find working, effective answers.

All this reminds me of that old western "You Know My Name," (based on true events), Sam Elliot as Bill Tilghman. But this is our fight in our village. Would you be a "Bill" to your village and not a coward?

Sincerely,
Concerned Person
(This letter was signed but the name was withheld by editor.)
Gambell, AK

Dear Community of Nome,
I want to acknowledge the dedicated and caring efforts of my sev-

continued on page 20

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and phone number. Thank yous and political endorsements are considered ads.

Editorial

No Place Like Nome

There's no place like Nome for the holidays. Sounds like an old Bing Crosby tune, but it's true. Nome is a fun town at Christmas and New Years — good parties, good cooking, good times and good friends. The best part of Christmas in Nome is no travel hassle — no pat-downs by TSA, no missed flights, no waiting and no standby lines. We're already home so let's kick back and enjoy our town.

As usual the Nome Fire Department has put up the decorative lights and placed the colorful candy canes, candles and bells in strategic locations around town. However, the big snowman on Bering Street stands a little too close to the Norton Sound smokers stand. It has a nicotine tan. We also have a fantastic view of the rising and setting sun on the southern horizon of the Bering Sea. The dancing jewel colors of the aurora and the pink alpenglow on Anvil Mountain are sights we are privileged to enjoy as we stroll the town. The special softness of the snow covers the things we should have thrown away, but didn't. We take a deep breath of clear crisp clean air and are glad for the experience.

As we sit back and contemplate the year gone by and the year to come, let's put some effort into plans for Nome's downtown revitalization. Let's cherish our past but let's also plan for a town with all eyes on the future and a plan to show that Nome is on of the most livable towns in the land. —N.L.M.—

A Look at the Past



Comments and Photo Courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

A HOLIDAY TRADITION — Faithful members attending the Third Annual Footwarming of the Radiator Club on Christmas 1908 in Nome, Alaska. One hundred years ago, social clubs were an extremely popular method to while away the eight long winter months when Nome was totally isolated from the rest of the world. The Elks, Arctic Brotherhood, Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Free Masons were some of the more aristocratic groups. The Radiator Club was established as a happy mockery of the more established straight-laced organizations. There was a lot of footwarming going on back then! Many of these guys look like present day Nomeites.

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

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Weather Statistics					
Sunrise	12/23/10	12:04 p.m.	High Temp	25° 12/19/10	National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391
	12/29/10	12:02 p.m.	Low Temp	-16° 12/15/10	
Sunset	12/23/10	03:58 p.m.	Peak Wind	43 mph, W, 12/19/10	
	12/29/10	04:05 p.m.	Precip. to Date	13.89"	
			Normal	16.23"	
Seasonal snow fall total (data collected since 7/1/10): 27.9" Current Snow Cover: 19.0" varies with sublimation/melting/blowing of snow.					

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News from around the state

Compiled by Diana Haecker

Alaska high court considers disputed Senate race

AP—Legal wrangling over Alaska's contested U.S. Senate race reached the state Supreme Court last Friday, with justices hearing Republican Joe Miller's appeal of a lower court ruling that amounted to a victory for rival Lisa Murkowski. Miller is appealing a state judge's decision to toss out his challenge to the handling of the election and counting of write-in ballots for Murkowski, who waged a write-in campaign after losing the GOP primary to Miller. The state Supreme Court did not immediately rule Friday.

Miller watched Friday as his attorney, Michael Morley, told the court the state should be held to a strict reading of a law that calls for ovals on ballots to be filled in, and for the last name of a candidate or the name as it appears on the declaration of candidacy to be written.

The state, relying on case law, allowed for ballots with misspellings to be counted toward Murkowski's tally and used discretion in determining voter intent.

Unofficial results of the election showed Murkowski ahead by 10,328 votes, or 2,169 votes when ballots challenged by Miller's campaign were excluded.

Miller, in court filings, claimed potentially thousands of additional ballots could be in dispute — and that these could affect the outcome of the race. He raised concerns about precincts where election workers failed to mark whether they'd gotten identification of voters and ballots with similar-looking signatures. He also raised the specter that felon sex offenders may have been wrongfully allowed to cast ballots. Carey dismissed the first two claims as unsupported; he didn't address the third.

The state has disputed the allegations but Miller's attorneys maintain he did not have adequate time to fully investigate the concerns.

The state Division of Elections said officials could certify the race within hours if Judge Ralph Beistline lifts his stay.

BP pleads not guilty to probation violation

The Anchorage Daily News says the oil giant pleaded not guilty on Monday to probation violations related to a criminal conviction for a North Slope oil spill in 2006. BP has been on probation since it pleaded guilty to violating the federal Clean Water Act for the spill blamed on a corroded Prudhoe Bay pipeline. Federal prosecutors say BP violated probation when it spilled about 13,000 gallons of oil onto the tundra at the Lisburne oil field three years later. BP Alaska spokesman Steve Rinehart says that the company has met all the terms of its 2007 plea agreement and does not need to remain on probation. The company has agreed to abide by the terms of its probation while the case proceeds in federal court.

Trial of former Fish and Game commissioner delayed

Former Fish and Game commissioner Denby Lloyd's trial date has been moved from last week to February 14. Lloyd is charged with drunk driving and reckless driving when police stopped him this summer in Juneau. A police sergeant has said Lloyd was stopped for expired tags but failed a field sobriety test administered after an officer saw signs of possible intoxication.

Alaska's unemployment rate grows to 8 percent

Alaska state officials say that Alaska's unemployment rate grew to 8 percent last month, its highest level since May. The Alaska Labor and Workforce department released the numbers and report that Alaska remains below the November national average of 9.8 percent of unemployed. Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2010 compared to 7.9 percent in October and 8.5 percent in November 2009.

Kensington Mine fined for environmental violations

The federal Environmental Protection Agency fined Kensington gold mine operator Coeur Alaska Inc. \$170,000. The fines stem from Clean Water Act violations over unpermitted discharges. The EPA reports sediment and acid rock drainage into Lower Slate Lake and East Fork Slate Creek during the mine's construction between 2006 and 2010. According to AP, company officials did not believe the amount of the fine was warranted, but they believed this was the best way to bring closure to EPA's concerns. The Kensington Mine has paid for Clean Water Act enforcement before. The EPA said Coeur paid \$18,334 in December 2006 to resolve construction storm water violations, and the company agreed to provide \$90,000 toward the acquisition of a nearby wetlands conservation easement.

Court to decide over endangered polar bear status

The Department of Interior is under a court-imposed deadline on Dec. 23 to decide whether the level of protection for polar bears should remain "threatened" or be given maximum protection and be listed as "endangered." Climate scientists, biologists and more than 140 public-interest groups chimed in to urge that polar bears be protected as an endangered species. The "threatened" designation allowed for the exemption of the greenhouse gas pollution that is blamed on accelerating global warming. Secretary Salazar has so far defended the "threatened" designation, claiming that threats to the species are only of concern in the future. Scientists predict that if greenhouse gas trends continue, two-thirds of the world's polar bears, including all the bears in Alaska, will probably be gone in 40 years and possibly well before then.

EPA clamps down on gold mines' mercury emissions

AP—Conservationists are hailing a new federal rule to cut emissions of the toxic metal mercury from the nation's gold mines, calling it a long overdue measure to protect the

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 23 - December 29, 2010

EVENT PLACE TIME

Thursday, December 23

*Tennis (call ahead please)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Nanook Swimming	Pool	6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - noon
*NACTEC	Pool	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*School lunch main dish:	Nome Public Schools	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Happy Holidays! No School!		
*Lap/Open Swim	Pool	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Tennis (call ahead please)	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Sexually Transmitted Disease video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Your Baby's Hearing Test video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Wiffleball (grades 3 - 6)	Nome Rec Center	4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Strength Training with Robin	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga with Kelly K.	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*World Dance with Seiji	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ONLY

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Quiet Time	Kegoayah Library	10 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*School lunch main dish:	Nome Public Schools	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Happy Holidays! No School!		
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 2 p.m.
*The Miracle of Life video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Soccer (grades 1 - 2)	Nome Rec Center	2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
*Soccer (grades 3 - 6)	Nome Rec Center	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*The New Mother-Putting Together video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Dance with Elizabeth M.	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Youth Climbing (6 & younger)	Nome Rec Center	6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Youth Climbing (9 & older)	Nome Rec Center	6 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
*Advanced Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do with Dan	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church (rear)	8 p.m.
*Adult Drop-in Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

*UMW Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 2 p.m.
*Holiday	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Holiday	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 26

*Water Aerobics	Pool	1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Journey Thru the Healing Circle video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*All About Babies part 1 & 2 video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Kickbox/Tone with Jennie	Nome Rec Center	2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
*Family Swim	Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Monday, December 27

*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*School lunch main dish:	Nome Public Schools	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Happy Holidays! No School!		
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 5 p.m.
*Be Who You Are video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*No video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Beginning Yoga with Kari	Nome Rec Center	4:15 - 5:15
*City League Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m./6:45 p.m./8 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Advanced Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do with Dan	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church (rear)	8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 28

*Nanook Swimming	Pool	6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Tennis (call ahead please)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - noon
*NACTEC	Pool	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*School lunch main dish:	Nome Public Schools	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Happy Holidays! No School!		
*Lap Swim	Pool	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Tennis (call ahead please)	Nome Rec Center	noon - 2 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*The Miracle of Life video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Your Laparoscopy video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Team Handball Grades 3 - 6	Nome Rec Center	4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Strength Training with Robin	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga with Kelly K.	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*AA Teleconference: 1-800-914-3396	(CODE: 3534534#)	7 p.m.
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ONLY
*Adult Drop-in Volleyball	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29

*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*School lunch main dish:	Nome Public Schools	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Happy Holidays! No School!		
*Nome Beltz Jr. High Classes	Pool	11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 10 p.m.
*Rotary Club	Airport Pizza	noon
*The Innocent Victim video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Toddler Safety video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Gymnastics Grades 3+ with Kelly K.	Nome Rec Center	4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Beginning Baton	Nome Rec Center	5 p.m. - 5:30
*Intermediate Baton	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Family Swim	Pool	6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Advanced Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*Hello Central (also on Channel 98)	Nome Visitors Center	7:30 p.m.

Community points of interest hours of operation:

Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	1 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Tu - F)
>>>>>>		
Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m. (M - Th)
>>>>>>		
Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (M - F)
Northwest Campus Library	Northwest Campus	2 p.m. - 9 p.m. (M - Th)
>>>>>>		
XYZ Center	Center Street	1 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Sa)
		8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (M - F)



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www.beringair.com**

Community Calendar sponsored by Bering Air, 443-5464



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•Biscuits •Cinnamon
Rolls •Hashbrowns
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GOLD COAST CINEMA

443-8200

Starting Sunday, December 26

Tangled (3D) (G)
7 p.m.

Harry Potter (PG-13)
9:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Matinee
1:30 p.m. & 4 p.m.

We will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 for
the Holidays. Merry Christmas!



Listen to ICY 100.3 FM, Coffee Crew, 7 - 9 a.m., and find
out how you can win free movie tickets!

• Diomede

continued from page 1

its Wednesday runs. "We'll keep doing it as long as there's pack ice," said Tim Varnadoe, an Evergreen pilot and training captain who flies the route. The ice gives the helicopter a landing option if trouble arises.

When Evergreen switched to a single-engine helicopter for its weekly mail run to the island in the summer of 2009, it stopped taking passengers without the safety net of the extra engine. A steep-shored island with no room on land for a runway, Diomede can only receive air service by helicopter throughout most of the year. In winters when the pan ice permits, a runway is fashioned on the ice just offshore the island where planes can land.

While Varnadoe said Evergreen plans on eventually utilizing a twin-engine helicopter that will permit more regular passenger service, as long as the single-engine craft is in play, ferrying people back and forth from Wales and Diomede will be determined by the ice conditions. With the ice cooperating Dec. 15, Diomede's teachers were able to leave the island for Christmas break and a number of patients, including an expecting mother, were able to get to Norton Sound Regional Hospital in Nome for care.

The ice so far this year, however, has been fickle. Just after last Wednesday's flight, winds took away the potential emergency landing zone for the helicopter. "We had a south wind storm last night that blew all our ice away," Ozenna said Dec. 17. Evergreen's Varnadoe also noted the change. "Usually we have good ice by now, but it's been on and off with these storms," he said. "It's a day-by-day thing until we get into some really good ice."

In addition to the ice conditions, Varnadoe said the helicopter service is influenced by daylight, something that is in short supply this time of year. Varnadoe said the helicopter flights operate under visual flight rules, requiring daylight and favorable weather conditions to fly. "We don't have much time right now," he said.

Varnadoe predicted, however, that more regular passenger service should be established by mid-January when ice conditions improve. "We want to try and make it as safe as possible," he said.

While safety is always a priority, there is also frustration on the island over the stress of not being able to come and go when one chooses. Ozenna, who is also the tribal coordinator for the Native Village of Diomede, notes that this frustration is nothing new for Diomede. "We've always had, since Diomede existed, transportation issues," she said.

Ozenna said many on the island will miss medical appointments in Nome or Anchorage either because they cannot get off the island or they fear not getting back home. That fear

is compounded in December when a doctor's appointment can be a prescription for spending the entire holiday season away from your family. "I think the biggest stress about transportation for me is once you leave Diomede, being stuck on mainland," Ozenna said. "You have to decide if you're going to travel, you'll probably get really frustrated trying to get home."

Florence Ahkinga, a health aide in Diomede, said she knows of one such patient who has been in Nome since July. "She's been gone with her daughter. She's going to try and come home for Christmas," she said. Ahkinga said many left for medical appointments this summer when boats were making the trip back and forth. She has missed medical appointments herself for fear of not getting back.

While people will make the trip back and forth from the island to the mainland by boat, the short journey comes with risk. The waters in the bottleneck between the Arctic and Pacific oceans can turn from calm to deadly in short order. Ahkinga said she will only take the trip by boat in good weather, especially when she travels with her children.

Ahkinga said she is happy to see the return of helicopter service, which has helped her cement plans to move to Nome to take a job at Norton Sound Health Corp. "I was waiting to hear on Evergreen [helicopter] service to turn in my application," she said. "So I'm happy to be able to get off the island."

Norton Sound Health Corp. and other entities in the region have been pushing for more regular helicopter service through the federal subsidy program dubbed the Essential Air Service. Talks had occurred between several parties including Evergreen, the federal government, the State of Alaska and the Bering Strait School District to establish who would pay what portion of the costs to establish regular helicopter passenger service to and from the island. Currently, Evergreen's contract only covers the weekly mail delivery. Passenger service, which has cost \$160 for the one-way trip to Wales for years, is only provided when space, time and conditions permit.

Evergreen's Varnadoe said while Evergreen has applied for the Essential Air Service Subsidy, the process has had a few hiccups and could likely take years. "It's something that needs to be looked over a little more thoroughly," he said. "It's still an on-going thing. We've been told it can take up to two years. Meanwhile, we're trying to do our part and get the people that need to see doctors and the pregnant women, as well as the teachers."

While visiting Washington, D.C., and top Obama administration officials, as well as the president himself, Norton Sound Health Corp. Board Chair Emily Hughes pressed for Essential Air Service for

Diomede. The island's transportation concerns were at the top of a list she presented to officials during the Dec. 16 White House Tribal Nations Conference (see story on page 1).

Native Village of Diomede Tribal Coordinator Ozenna pointed out Hughes' work on behalf of the residents of Diomede. Exemplifying the problem in Diomede, Ozenna said the leadership on the island often has to miss meetings where they could plead their case, simply because they cannot travel. She hopes an ice runway will be able to be established this spring to allow travel. "If we get an ice runway, there'll be people traveling for medical, student trips, meetings. We won't miss meetings like we did for '09 and most of 2010," she said.

But in a place that is governed by weather conditions more than anything else, Ozenna said Diomede residents are used to going with the flow. "It's always like that for Diomede, though," she said. "You never get a guarantee for most everything. A lot of the people, they just live with it."



Photo by Etta Ahkinga

HOME AGAIN—Justin Ahkinga poses with his mother, Frances Ozenna, after arriving home in Diomede Dec. 15 via an Evergreen helicopter. Ahking is the first resident since May to get home by helicopter.

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• Tribal conference

continued from page 1

Hughes is not a member of the Native Village of Diomed, she was asked to bring the message to President Obama and his staff that they need help with a long list of things, with essential passenger transportation to and from the island ranking at the top. A twin-engine helicopter that once served as a way off and back to the island is not available anymore and the replacement single-engine helicopter—due to federal aviation regulations—can often only transport passengers in emergencies.

But once off the island, getting back home becomes almost impossible, unless the sea ice forms thick enough in the spring to allow planes to land on the ice. Last Thursday, Hughes hand-delivered a letter from the village of Diomed to the president's staff asking for help from the Essential Air Service program, which subsidizes passenger airlines serving about 140 remote communities. Hughes said she passed the letter on to presidential staff before the conference began, with the promise that the letter will make it to the president's desk.

The letter also contained the plea for help with other issues: Diomeders ask for a landfill to avoid dumping waste including honey bucket contents into the ocean; a small boat harbor and regular boat service to and from Wales; the ease with which the designer drugs like Spice Diamond reach the remote island and the request for portable emergency generators.

Hughes said that she got in line at 5:30 a.m. to get a good seat and to hopefully shake President Obama's hand. And her wish was granted. Hughes filmed a clip showing Point

Hope's Caroline Cannon getting a hug by Obama and then the president shook Hughes' hand as well.

President Obama in his speech addressing the tribal leaders assured his support for a United Nations declaration on indigenous civil rights and spoke of his administration's achievements in Indian Country. Hughes said she was encouraged to hear that Obama announced more tribal consultations to keep the dialogue going. "The President spoke of the great challenges of our country and that there is still lots of work to do," Hughes said. "He also said that he wanted to make sure that we had more consultations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Services."

After the speech the assembled tribal leaders went to breakout sessions to meet with White House staff about issues like nation-to-nation relationships; education, health and community services; economic development, housing and infrastructure; tribal land, culture protection, energy and climate changes; and subsistence issues. Hughes attended the breakout session on health, education and community services, and addressed again the need for Diomed passenger service as well as other issues. "I echoed some comments heard from other leaders from the lower 48 regarding the high suicide rates as well as the need for tribal education," Hughes said. She said that as older leaders step down or die, the younger generation needs to be educated on how to run tribal councils.

Hughes said she told the staffers a whole slew of issues facing the region ranging from the need for water and sewer systems, drug problems,

transportation problems, the need to incorporate traditional healing programs and she said a considerable amount of time was spent talking about the high rate of suicides among Native youth.

Overall, Hughes said she was encouraged by the steps Obama took so far to fulfill his promise of better relations between the federal government and the tribal nations. These

included the signing of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the signing of the Tribal Law and Order Act, which provides more resources to fight crime, and drug and alcohol abuse on reservations and in Alaska and the continued development of cabinet members drafting consultation policies.

But it all takes time, Hughes says. "I have a sense that they are listen-

ing, but to change things it will take a while," Hughes said. "Changes don't happen overnight and like in any organization, it will take the cooperation of everybody."

Also attending the second White House tribal conference were Unalakleet tribal council president Katherine Johnson, Cynthia Ahwinona for the Nome Eskimo Community and Eileen Norbert.



Photo courtesy of Emily Hughes

AT THE WHITE HOUSE—Nome residents Cynthia Ahwinona (left) and Emily Hughes participated in the Dec. 16 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C.



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Search for Teller man yields no clues

By Tyler Rhodes

For the second time within a month, search and rescue teams are working in the area of Grantley Harbor between Teller and Brevig Mission to search for a Teller resident. As of press time Dec. 21, crews had not located 22-year-old Kenneth Lee who disappeared after leaving Brevig Mission late in the night Dec. 15 by snowmachine to return home to Teller. According to Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Andrew Merrill, Lee was leaving Brevig Mission after playing basketball in the village. He said the weather was reported as clear and

cold at the time. Lee was travelling alone. Brevig Mission and Teller are separated by Grantley Harbor which freezes over in the winter, allowing snowmachine and four-wheeler travel between the two villages. A direct-line route requires travel predominately over the ice. A more circuitous route travels father inland and still requires a river crossing; however, it keeps travelers mostly on land during times when the ice conditions are dangerous. Merrill said it is unknown which trail Lee took to travel back to Teller. Merrill said the search and rescue effort

for Merrill is being led by Teller Search and Rescue and being assisted by Brevig Mission Search and Rescue. He said the known trails have been searched with no sign of Lee being encountered. An aerial search was planned after Lee's initial disappearance, but was scuttled due to weather. The region has received significant snowfall and winds since Lee's disappearance. Merrill said another aerial search was to be attempted Dec. 21. He also said an underwater camera was to be used to check open water areas in Grantley Harbor.

Rescue crews recovered the body of another Teller resident, Barbara Scholten, from the ice on Grantley Harbor Nov. 29 after she had fallen through Nov. 24 while riding on a snowmachine with Marvin Okleasik en route to Brevig Mission. Merrill recommends that people traveling in the country be on the alert for open water and file a travel plan with someone before leaving. He also recommends avoiding travel, if possible, when conditions are not favorable. "If you don't have to travel when it's dark or stormy, we recommend you don't," he said.

Shaktoolik to hold special municipal, NSEDC elections Jan. 11

By Laurie McNicholas

The City of Shaktoolik will conduct a special municipal election for two city council seats and a special election for the Shaktoolik member of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. board of directors on Jan. 11, reports City Clerk Rita Auliye. The results of the regular municipal election held Oct. 5 were contested by a Shaktoolik voter because 12 questioned ballots cast by persons

who were not eligible to vote were counted in the election results. Fred Sagoonick outpolled incumbent Edgar Jackson Sr. by a vote of 63-43 for council seat C in the Oct. 5 municipal election. Myron Savetilik, who ran unopposed for council seat F, received 73 votes. Jackson currently serves as mayor of Shaktoolik. The mayor of a second-class city such as Shaktoolik is elected by and from the council.

The Oct. 5 election for Shaktoolik's NSEDC board seat resulted in a tie vote (54-54) between the only two candidates, Eugene Asicksik and incumbent Harvey Sookiayak. On Nov. 5 the Shaktoolik City Council decided not to certify the city election or the NSEDC election. City Clerk Auliye said the same candidates who competed for council seats and the NSEDC seat in the Oct. 5 elections will run in the Jan.

11 special elections. Alaska is among several states for which pre-clearance for special municipal elections other than runoff elections is required from the U.S. Department of Justice under Section 5 of the National Voting Rights Act of 1965. When Alaska was a U.S. territory, its voter eligibility laws included a discriminatory requirement that voters know how to speak and write in English, according to Leroy

Seppilu, local government specialist with the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs. Seppilu said he sent a form to the City of Shaktoolik for use in requesting pre-clearance from the Department of Justice to schedule a special municipal election. He said the department asks for 60 days to review and respond to the request, and both the request and response can be transmitted electronically.

Record snowfall hits Nome over weekend

By Tyler Rhodes

Just a few days shy of the official start of winter, Nome set a new snowfall record Dec. 19 with 6.3 inches of the white stuff. Over the weekend of Dec. 18-19 Nome received a total of 10 inches, more than doubling the pre-weekend snowpack of nine inches. The record snowfall on Sunday easily outpaced the previous record of five inches set in 1999. While likely ensuring a white Christmas—not that Nome was risking otherwise—the abundant and blowing snow did cause some snafus. Alaska Airlines was only able to get the morning flight from Anchorage into Nome on Saturday, cancelling the other two flights as an ice fog hung about the city before the snow started to fly in the evening. Sunday's morning flight to Kotzebue and Nome was cancelled while the mid-day flight

only was able to complete the Nome leg of the journey. The evening flight was able to land in both Kotzebue and Nome a few minutes behind schedule. The weather also caused the cancellation of a make-up pet vaccination and licensing clinic that was scheduled Dec. 19. The clinic was planned as an extra chance for those who were unable to make it to a previous clinic due to bad weather in early December. A make-up for the make-up clinic will be scheduled after the holidays.

Happy holidays from
your friends at the
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Photo by Tyler Rhodes

STRETCHY SLEDGE—Created by air currents of differing temperatures the optical illusion known as Fata Morgana appears to have stretched Sledge Island upward on Dec. 11.

• Spill

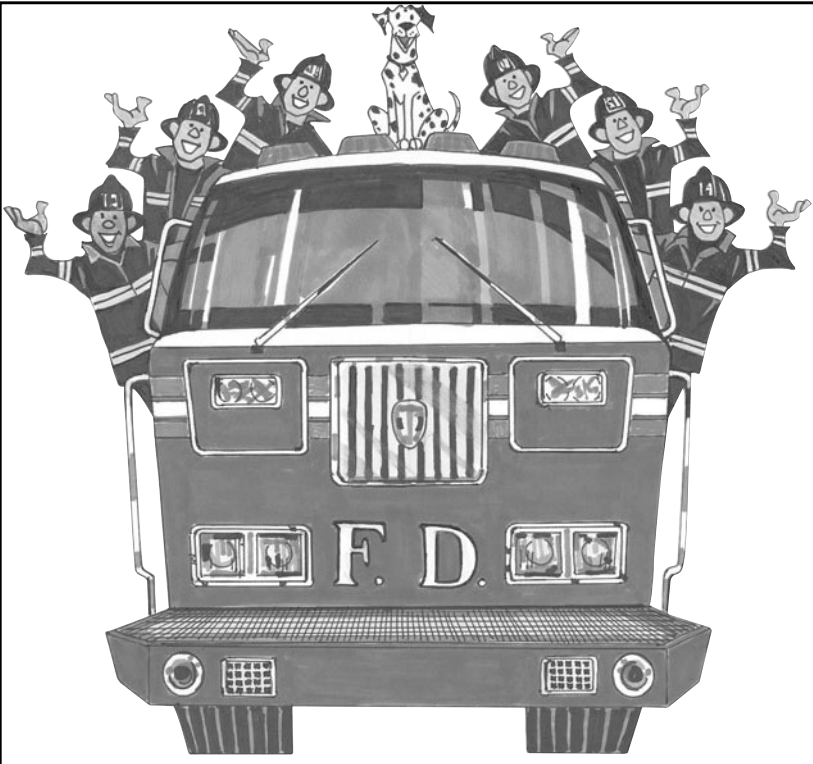
continued from page 1

gravel sits. The tanks are situated on top of the gravel. DeRuyter also said the area includes some steel and concrete buffering, although he was uncertain on how the containment area was specifically configured. He said all the snow will be removed from immediately outside the containment area to make sure fuel has not es-

caped. "We're going to verify that before we leave," he said. Snow and ice are also present within the containment area. As of Dec. 16 the response effort was still focused on removing fuel that could be pumped directly into the two tanks. Responders were developing a plan to remove contaminated snow and ice from the containment area to separate the oil from the water.

One DEC representative is on scene. DeRuyter said a team from the Alaska Energy Authority, that was already in Unalakleet on other business, is conducting the cleanup. DeRuyter said the wide discrepancy between the initial 1,000-gallon reported on Dec. 12 and the 10,930 gallons estimated on Dec. 16 was the matter of a quick guess at the outset of the spill compared to a detailed accounting

made in the days that followed. He said the larger figure was arrived at after calculating the amount of fuel that was initially in the large tank before the ill-fated transfer and contrasting it with the amount of fuel left after the spill. DeRuyter said he could not comment on any potential penalty or cleanup costs for the electric cooperative. "All of that is under investigation," he said.



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Thank You Thank You Thank You THANK YOU

Christmas spirit:

He sold trees and saved the chicks

By Sandra L. Medearis

Now a school bus driver, chauffeur the kiddies to future opportunities or not, George Foot used to be in a much “greener” business still: selling lots of bushy, glossy-green, fresh Christmas trees.

For half a dozen years or more, Foot ordered up his stock—Grand pines, Scotch pines, “Doug” firs, other firs—as early as October when trees started the march to lots for short-term adoptions just before Christmas. Shippers culled and shipped most of Foot’s trees from farms in Montana and around Pocatello, Idaho. Over the years, Foot supplied living rooms in Pocatello, Spokane, Wash., Casa Grande, Ariz., and Butte, Mont. The business got into full gear just after Thanksgiving.

Foot learned a lot about trees, he said. For his own home, he would choose grand firs from the Pacific Northwest, with their fragrant glossy needles that do not drop to the rug as quickly as those from other cut trees. It grows from British Columbia, to Montana, to California, and is a top seller in Montana and Idaho.

“After the first deep freeze,” Foot explained, “the tree calls its sap down to the roots and sets its needles. That’s why they stay on a lot longer.”

Connoisseurs of fine holiday trees would want to stay away from trees from warmer coastal areas and the popular Scotch pines, if they wanted to leave the vacuum cleaner in the closet. Trees from a warmer climate do not hang on to their needles as firmly. Vendors paint trees to set the needles, Foot said. “You pretty much

have to paint the Scotch pines.”

For the most part, selling Christmas trees was a warm and fuzzy business. Then there was that guy, Foot recalls, with the grumpy look and the rocky vocabulary, that ran into his lot several days after Christmas when Foot was packing up his leftover trees.

“%^&%\$%\$#@##\$, the guy told Foot. “The ^&^%\$%\$#%\$%^ family is showing up. I gotta get a tree!

Then what?

“I just gave him a tree,” Foot laughed.

With that out of the way, what did Foot do with his unsold trees? Near one sales lot, there were several pheasant and grouse farms where he could recycle his trees. In fact, the trees, in a way became “greener” as they dried out. The unwanted trees saved the lives of pheasant chicks.

“We put them in there so the little ones would have a place to hide,” Foot said. “The adult pheasants in big gangs kill the young. It’s the darnedest thing.

“When I went to that one farmer, he had 1,000 chicks, but he said he would lose a third to predatory activity. ‘It’s about pecking order,’” he said.”

Research shows there are about 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the United States. The cut-tree Christmas lot business dwindled after someone got the idea to organize “you-picks, and the idea took off,” Foot said. “They give the guy a little bow saw, and he takes his family out for the activity to cut their own Christmas tree.”

One scientist’s hobby: Recreating the ice age

By Arthur Max, AP

CHERSKY, Russia (AP)—Wild horses have returned to northern Siberia. So have musk oxen, hairy beasts that once shared this icy land with woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats. Moose and reindeer are here, and may one day be joined by Canadian bison and deer.

Later, the predators will come - Siberian tigers, wolves and maybe leopards.

Russian scientist Sergey Zimov is reintroducing these animals to the land where they once roamed in millions to demonstrate his theory that filling the vast emptiness of Siberia with grass-eating animals can slow global warming.

“Some people have a small garden. I have an ice age park. It’s my hobby,” says Zimov, smiling through his graying beard. His true profession is quantum physics.

Climate change is felt most sharply in the Arctic, where temperatures are warming faster than anywhere else on the planet. Most climate scientists say human activity, especially industrial pollution and the byproducts of everyday living like home heating and driving cars, is triggering an unnatural warming of the Earth. On Monday, negotiators representing 194 countries open a two-week conference in Cancun, Mexico, on reducing greenhouse gases to slow the pace of climate change.

Zimov is trying to recreate an ecosystem that disappeared 10,000 years ago with the end of the ice age, which closed the 1.8 million-year Pleistocene era and ushered in the global climate roughly as we know it.

He believes herds of grazers will turn the tundra, which today supports only spindly larch trees and shrubs, into luxurious grasslands. Tall grasses with complex root systems will stabilize the frozen soil,

which is now thawing at an ever-increasing rate, he says.

Herbivores keep wild grass short and healthy, sending up fresh shoots through the summer and autumn. Their manure gives crucial nourishment. In winter, the animals trample and flatten the snow that otherwise would insulate the ground from the cold air. That helps prevent the frozen ground, or permafrost, from thawing and releasing powerful greenhouse gases. Grass also reflects more sunlight than forests, a further damper to global warming.

It would take millions of animals to change the landscape of Siberia and effectively seal the permafrost. But left alone, Zimov argues, the likes of caribou, buffalo and musk oxen multiply quickly. Wherever they graze “new pastures will appear ... beautiful grassland.”

The project is being watched not only by climate scientists but by paleontologists and environmentalists who have an interest in “rewilding.”

“This is a very interesting experiment,” said Adrian Lister, of the Nat-

continued on page 8



Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

TREE SALESMAN—George Foot sold Christmas trees in four states. Scrooge paid him a visit.

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Christmas on Michigan farm holds special memories

By Amber Ryan
Alyssa Heers moved to Nome from McBain, Michigan seven years ago with her husband Bradley and their two wonderful children, Vivienne and Jacob. Christmas is a special time for her family. It has been different spending the holidays away from Michigan. There are no trees in Nome and she is far from family, but it is always a joyous and memorable time of year despite the differences. As a youngster, Alyssa and her family would pick a tree from their tree farm behind their house. Her two brothers and sister would all help to decide which tree would be the tree to decorate. One year her family made ornaments out of eggshells. They would poke two holes on each end of the egg and blow out the egg. “We would decorate the egg very carefully. My mom has three egg ornaments left from the dozen that we made.” A nativity scene was set up in the house every year. “We rearranged it every hour. We all wanted it set up differently. I thought Baby Jesus should go in a certain spot, but my siblings wanted Baby Jesus in the

spot they thought would be best!” On Christmas Eve, Alyssa and her two siblings were allowed to open one present. One of her brother’s birthday is on Christmas Eve. He got to open two presents.” We would get up in the morning by six and my brothers had already been up for hours. They would be asleep underneath the stockings, waiting for Christmas to arrive!” Speaking of stockings, Alyssa and everyone else in the house would receive huge oranges at the toe of their stockings. She does that every year for her children. “It kind of helps to fill up the stocking!” After waking her parents, their dad would tell them to milk the cows and feed the chickens before they could open their presents. Alyssa and her siblings would respond, “No! No! Don’t make us do it! Not today!” Their dad never made them do chores on Christmas; he would do them. After he finished, they would wander over to their grandparents’ house for Christmas dinner. The main dishes of the night were ham and turkey. “My favorite part of the dinner was a bowl of olives. We

would all eat the entire three jars of olives when we first got there.” Alyssa says, “My favorite part of going over for Christmas dinner was seeing all our cousins, aunts and uncles. It was always exciting because we don’t see them all the time.” “My favorite present was actually a present for my mom. It was a horse

and we hid him for two days. His name is Jazz and he is still alive today. We got him when I was ten.” Alyssa’s grandmother would get them chocolate letters from the Dutch store. “Since my name starts with an ‘A’ I would get a huge chocolate letter ‘A’. My grandma still sends me my chocolate letter.”

This year Vivienne and Jacob will open their stockings and then wake up Alyssa and Brad. For dinner they are going to a friend’s house and will rock and roll to Christmas music all night. Alyssa still believes in Santa Claus!



DECORATING THE TREE—Alyssa Heers didn’t trim her tree with eggshells this year. Photo by Nadja Roessek

• Siberian scientist

continued from page 7

ural History Museum in London. “I think it’s valid from an ecological point of view to put back animals that did formally live there,” he told AP Television News. He disapproved of suggestions to rewild non-native species - for example, relocating elephants and rhinos to the American plains. Zimov began the project in 1989, fencing off 40,000 acres of forest, meadows, shrub land and lakes. It is surrounded by another 150,000 acres

of wilderness. It is an offshoot of the Northeast Science Station, which he founded and where he has lived for 30 years. Already icebound by October, the park is 25 miles inland from the station, accessible only by boat in summer and by snow vehicles after the rivers freeze. A 105-foot tower inside the park gives constant readings of methane, carbon dioxide and water vapor. The data feeds into a global monitoring system overseen by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. continued on page 10

THE “TOP TEN” WAYS TO AVOID THE EMERGENCY ROOM DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- #10 Don’t go “through the river and over the woods”. (Be careful of ice and overflow when traveling by snowmachine and four-wheeler.)
- #9 Don’t “roast chestnuts on an open fire”. (Be careful not to overload electrical outlets or leave wood stoves unattended.)
- #8 Be careful “rocking around the Christmas tree”. (Celebrate sanely and wisely.)
- #7 Respect the “silent night”. (Drive cautiously in the dark.)
- #6 Beware of the “the new fallen snow”. (Shovel snow slowly, stop periodically to rest.)
- #5 Use caution “up on the house top”. (Be careful hanging lights outside the house.)
- #4 Watch for “Frosty the Snowman”. (Dress appropriately for the weather.)
- #3 Yield to sleighs. (Obey the rules of the road when walking or driving.)
- #2 Don’t partake in “sugar plums”. (No street drugs.)
- #1 **The Christmas spirit is NOT what you drink; it is how you THINK!**



The assistance and team spirit of the Nome Police Department, Nome police dispatchers and Nome Fire Department Volunteers have helped make the NVAD successful and proud. Thank you all so much.



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Distinguish between naughty and nice “Santa sites”

BBB's Checklist: Parents, Ensure Safety and Security Online

Children aren't just writing letters to Santa the old-fashion way; some are visiting St. Nick online and e-mailing him their wish lists. With over 60 domain names registered in the name of Santa Claus, parents need to be cautious of possible Grinch companies.

"Though most Santa sites operate with the best intentions, it is important for parents to screen websites to ensure children aren't being targeted by unethical individuals or at risk for identity theft," said Robert W.G. Andrew, CEO of Better Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington.

BBB offers a checklist to help parents review Santa sites:

- ✓ What information does the website request? A legitimate Santa site might ask for names and basic contact information—like home or e-mail addresses—to send correspondence. Be wary of sites requesting superfluous data beyond what is needed to participate.
- ✓ Who should manage the account? Most children writing to Santa don't have an e-mail address yet. Setup a temporary e-mail account for Santa correspondence or use a parent's e-mail address. To avoid the risk of unwholesome content, a trusted adult should screen all communications and ensure the site does not contain hyperlinks with inappropriate content.
- ✓ How does the site use collected information? Make sure the site has a privacy policy explaining information collection practices; including who is seeking the data, how it will be used and whether it will be shared with third parties.
- ✓ Is there a way to reach Santa directly? Somewhere on the site, the

company should list its full business name and at least two forms of contact information—such as a phone number, e-mail address and physical address (and "The North Pole" doesn't count). Try calling the company before making purchases.

- ✓ Is it free or does it cost a fee? Certain Santa sites claim to be free, while others ask for payment—between \$5 and \$50. If paying online, make sure the payment page is secure with an "s" in "https" before the web address. Never wire money.
- ✓ When can children expect correspondence? Find out when letters should be received—typically by Christmas. Have a plan in case Santa doesn't follow through.
- ✓ Where can consumers get information about children's advertising? Check with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and Children's Advertising Review Unit (CARU) for guidance. Visit www.bbb.org for more tips.

• More State News

continued from page 3

health of people and the environment. The regulations announced Friday are aimed to reduce airborne mercury pollution from the mines to about 1,200 pounds a year, a 77 percent reduction from 2007 levels, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The rule represents the first national standard for mercury air emissions from gold mines, the seventh largest source of such pollution in the country. The rule affects mines in Alaska, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota and Washington. After being released into the atmosphere from the mines,

mercury transforms into toxic methylmercury in the environment and builds up in the food chain. The emissions have been suspected of making some fish and waterfowl in Idaho and Utah so polluted with methylmercury they are unsafe to eat. Children and women of child-bearing age are most at risk. Existing and new mines will have three years to install pollution control equipment — mainly carbon absorber beds — to meet the new standard.

Anchorage student escapes abduction attempt

A sixth-grade student reported that a man attempted to abduct her as she walked to Clark Middle School on Tuesday morning.

According to Anchorage police, a man in a silver or gray SUV asked if there was a school nearby, then invited the girl to get in his vehicle. The girl declined and ran away, but slipped and fell. The suspect then ran his SUV over the victim's foot. The girl described the suspect as a light-skinned black male in his early twenties. He has a thin build, short hair and no facial hair and was wearing a beige or light tan hoodie. The SUV is described as silver or gray with tinted windows. Police searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating a suspect or vehicle matching the description. Three incidents reported in January were strikingly similar. In two of the cases, the victims were struck by the vehicle but neither was seriously injured.

Coast Guard seeking public's input on shipping traffic

The Coast Guard last week sent out a questionnaire to stakeholders in coastal areas to gather input for a port access route study. As a result of global warming, there is potential for increase of vessel traffic in the Bering Strait and hence there is a need to consider updating ship routing. The questions asked include a description of current navigational hazards, traffic density and a description of the most cost effective way to implement

new routing measures. The Coast Guard conducts the study to deal with concerns about congestion and potential for collisions, spills, and response to spills and disabled ships. The comment period ends May 9, 2011. More information is available from Donald Fore, Project Management, USACE Alaska District and donald.b.fore@usace.army.mil

State sues to overturn NMFS decision on Western Steller Sea Lions

The State of Alaska last week filed suit in the U.S. District Court for Alaska against the National Marine Fisheries Service over the agency's decision to significantly curtail fishing in the western Aleutian Islands out of concern for Steller sea lions. The state voiced economic concerns and argues that NMFS's conclusion to restrict fishing would not be supported by the best available scientific information. State officials also believe that NMFS committed numerous procedural violations, which had the effect of limiting the opportunity for public and expert comments.

Alaska joins in settlement in Dannon advertising case

The state of Alaska and 36 other states have jointly filed settlements with The Dannon Company, Inc., regarding deceptive advertising for its Activia and DanActive products. The company will make a \$21 million payment, the largest ever in a multi-state settlement with a food producer related to consumer protection. Alaska's share will be \$425,000. The attorneys general alleged that Dannon made unlawful health claims about Activia yogurt and DanActive, a yogurt drink, that were not substantiated by reliable scientific evidence.

States announce \$13.25 million settlement with DIRECTV

Acting Attorney General Richard Svobodny announced last week that Alaska and 48 other states and the

District of Columbia have reached a settlement with DIRECTV to resolve claims of deceptive and unfair sales practices against the satellite television provider. DIRECTV will pay \$13.25 million to the states to settle the consumer protection complaints. Alaska will receive \$185,000. DIRECTV also agreed to pay restitution to consumers and to alter its business practices in the future.

Mackey, Redington win first sled dog races of the season

Last weekend, four-time Iditarod champion Lance Mackey won the Sheep Mountain 150 sled dog race for the third time. The Fairbanks musher and his team of 10 dogs arrived after the 150-mile race at the Sheep Mountain Lodge on Sunday in under 25 hours. Jake Berkowitz was second, and last year's winner Jessica Hendricks of Two Rivers came in third. Mackey won \$1,750 for first place.

In Big Lake, Ryan Redington — grandson of Iditarod founder Joe Redington — won the two-day Alaska Excursions sled dog race that took 38 teams over a 44-mile trail each day. Redington won \$3,000 for first place. Second was Paul Gebhard, followed by Hugh Neff.

Three arrested for possession of child pornography

The Alaska Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force including Alaska State Troopers and Anchorage Police cyber crimes detectives have busted three suspects for child pornography crimes. In Anchorage, they arrested Talon Martz, 20, on two counts of Possession of Child Pornography; Ryan Wood, 21, on two counts of Possession of Child Pornography; and Adam Mineer, 23, on two counts of Distribution of Child Pornography and 2 counts of Possession of Child Pornography. All three were jailed on \$10,000 bail.

Merry Christmas and a SAFE New Year

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	Firefighter Will Halleran	

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Lieutenant Jay Wieler	Lieutenant Geoff Hubert
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Firefighter Craig Teesateskie	Engineer Jay Craft
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Firefighter Jason West	Firefighter David Larson
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Station Jimmy Adams Jennifer Shannon Stan Morgan	Emergency Services Administrator Mimi Farley Emergency Services Technician Seijiro Heck
--	--

Holiday Fire Prevention: Take special care of Christmas trees, maintain Holiday lights, do not overload outlets, do not leave lights on and candles unattended.



Photo by Tyler Rhodes

CEREAL SEARCH—Nome-Beltz Principal Steve Gast looked all over for special Christmas Captain Crunch cereal.

T'was an extended hunt for Christmas Captain Crunch

By Nancy McGuire

Steve Gast is the new principal at Nome-Beltz High School and his eyes light up and his smile gets wider and wider as he tells of the time when he lived back in Ft. Worth, Texas. His son Kyle was just six years old and his favorite breakfast cereal was Captain Crunch.

Well, Captain Crunch had a special seasonal promotion of Christmas Captain Crunch. Gast says this cereal had little red and green balls in it and young Kyle just had to have some.

So, on Christmas Eve Gast and his son set out on the quest for Christmas Captain Crunch. They thought it would be a quick and easy task. They went to the first store. No Christmas Captain Crunch. They stopped and a second store. No luck. A third store. No luck. A trend is starting to make itself evident. They trekked on and on, still stopping and seeking the illusive breakfast brand. They continued down the road till they were in North Dallas when they finally found the special Crunch 65 miles from their home. "My wife was starting to get really worried."

Kyle is now 25 years old and an architect. He still likes Captain Crunch. His dad says it was hard to hide gifts from him. "One year there was a special bike Kyle wanted. I got the bike and hid it back in the farthest darkest corner of the attic. I thought

Kyle would really be surprised, but on Christmas morning he was so nonchalant that I had to ask him why he wasn't surprised. He said, 'Dad I knew the bike was there. You didn't hide it that well. I saw it two days after you bought it'."

Gast's daughter Katie is 21 and has entered dental school at Marquette University. His daughter Meredith is 12 and lives with her mom in Wisconsin.

Gast grew up in Wisconsin with three sisters and a brother. He fondly remembers one of his sister's toys was a cardboard general store. He was so enthralled with the toy store, that when his mother called everyone to their Christmas breakfast he announced that he wasn't going to breakfast but was staying in the store. He next remembers his dad's strong arm yanking him over the counter and setting him down at the breakfast table. His sister is probably still laughing.

Steve Gast will be spending Christmas in Nome. He says he is glad he doesn't have to worry about travel and is happy to take part in the Nome traditions.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
~Anchor Liquor, Anchor Tavern and Mark's Soap & Suds

• Scientist

continued from page 8

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Zimov's research on permafrost, greenhouse gas emissions and mammoth archaeology has attracted world scientists to his laboratories, a small cluster of cabins and a tiny chapel on a rocky bluff above a channel of the Kolyma River. A 20-bed barge is used for field trips in summer, and a \$100,000 hovercraft is on order. Zimov sometimes uses an old Russian tank to bring supplies from the Chinese border, 1,200 miles away.

Part of the station's attraction — and deterrence — is its remoteness. It is 4,000 miles and eight time zones east of Moscow. The nearby town of Chersky, with some 5,000 people, has few amenities, and the nearest city, Yakutsk, is a 4-1/2 hour flight. Many researchers, particularly Americans, prefer to work in Alaska or northern Canada, which are more accessible.

continued on page 17

Happy Holidays to all of Nome and the Bering Strait Region.
Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!

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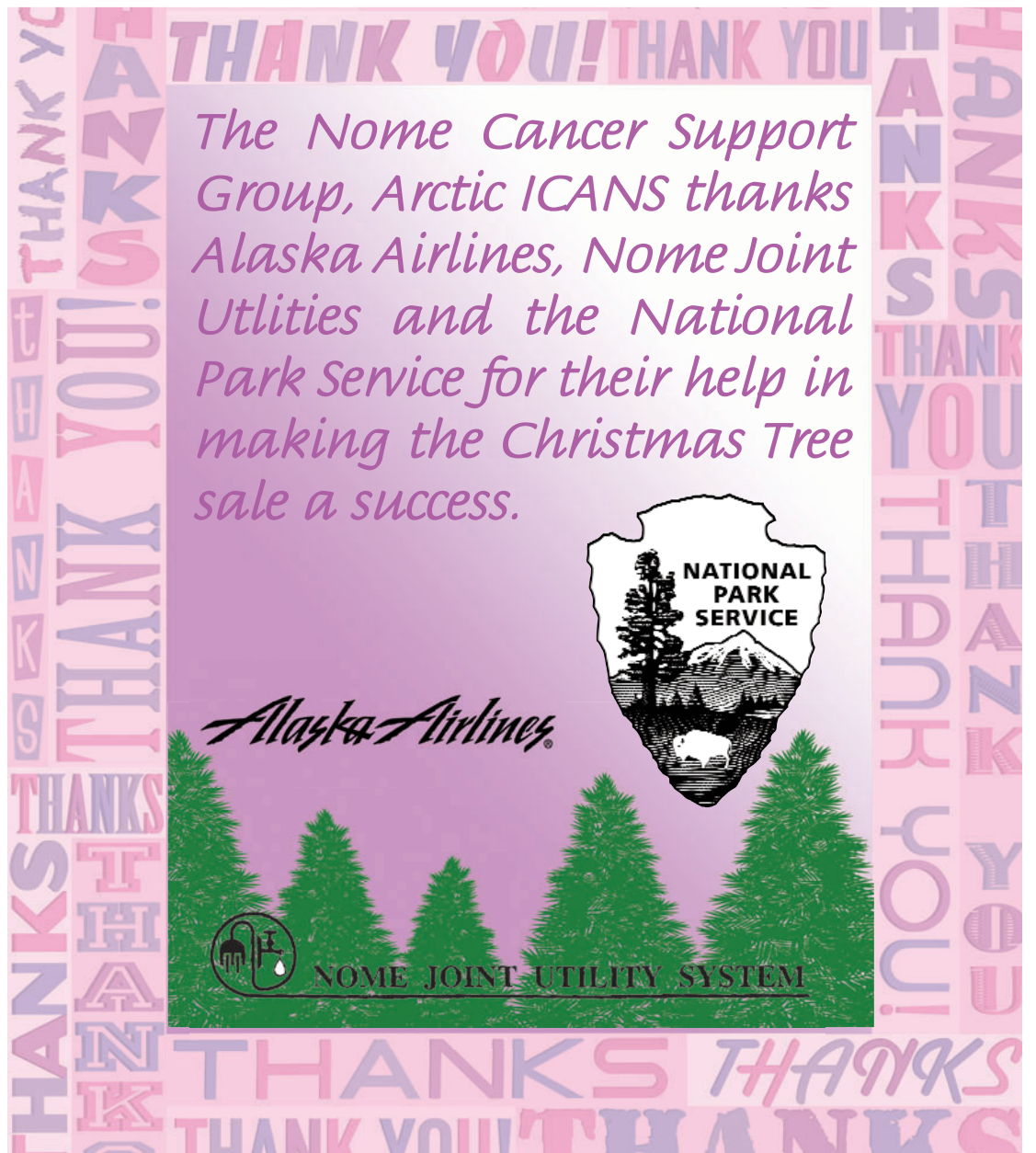
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Photo by Nadja Roessek
AS BUSY AS AN ELF – Sierra Tucker helps cleaning up at the Nome
Preschool & Nome Literacy Council at the Elementary School, Dec 11.



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Photos by Tyler Rhodes
STRUMMING SANTA (above)—Sixth-grader William Herzner plays guitar along with classmates during the elementary school holiday program Dec. 14.

HARMONY (above, right)—High school choir members Brendan Wehde (left) and Jeff Rose sing holiday tunes during the Nome-Beltz winter concert Dec. 16 at the elementary school.



Photo by Nadja Roessek
NOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS – Richard Benneville conducts and sings with the audience some Christmas songs at the Christmas Extravaganza at Old St. Joe's, Dec 8.



Photo by Tyler Rhodes
SMILING SINGERS—Third graders (l to r) Ava Earthman, Shaylee Felicetty-Kacena, Makayla Marble and Kayden Thrun sing "Shalom Chaverim" at the elementary school holiday concert Dec. 14.

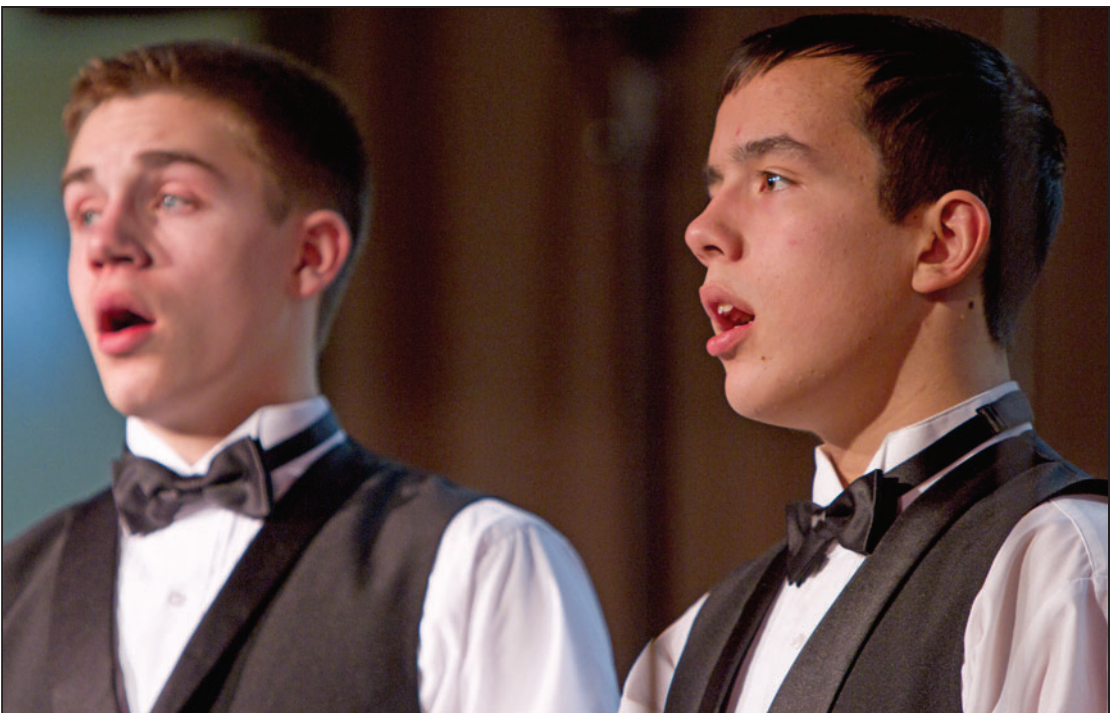


Photo by Tyler Rhodes
BEAUTIFUL VOICES—Nome-Beltz High School Choir members (l to r) Audrey Buie, Raechel Stiles, Dylan Johnson and Ariana Horner sing "A La Nanita Nana" during the Nome-Beltz winter concert Dec. 16 at the elementary school.



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REINDEER—Kindergartners (l to r) Kyrin Topkok, Asa Hukill and Karis Evans from Ms. Tungwenuk's class stand ready to pull Santa's sleigh at the kindergarten holiday program Dec. 15.



ALL TOGETHER NOW—Kindergartners sing loud during their Dec. 15 performance at the holiday concert.



SNOWMAN SINGERS (right)—David Contreras (center) stands tall as his kindergarten classmates from Nome Elementary School prepare to sing at the kindergarten holiday program Dec. 15 at the elementary school. Next to Contreras (l to r) are Karlin Ahwinona-Smith, Rueben Lockwood and Jamiel Asher. Pictured in the front row are (l to r) Dorothy Callahan, Landon Sherman, Carmen Turner and Aralye Lie.



SUITING UP THE SNOWMAN (left)—(l to r) Melody Olanna, Jelsey Gollogergen and Joe Martinson, along with Devon Crowe (back facing camera) dress the snowman during the kindergarten performance Dec. 15.

Photo by Tyler Rhodes

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The Crew From Q



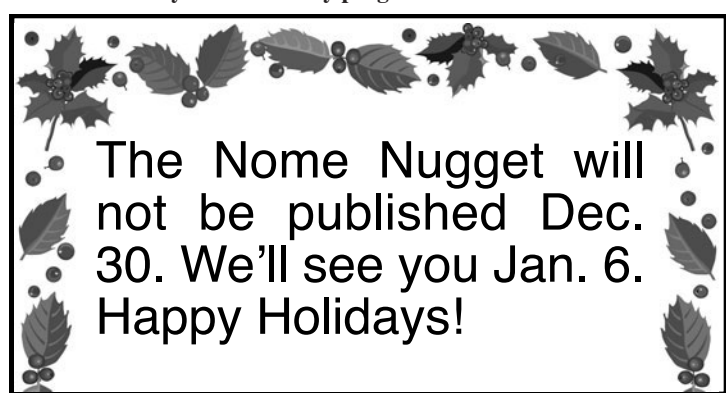
Photo by Nadja Roessek
CHRISTMAS TUNES (above)—The Nome High School Band plays at the Christmas Extravaganza at Old St. Joe's, Dec 8.



Photo by Nadja Roessek
A BOX OF CANDLES—Karen McLane, Nikki Polk, Sarah Hanson, Phil Hofstetter and Dave Koller fill the room with Christmas music while Santa comes down the stairs at the Christmas Extravaganza at Old St. Joe's, Dec 8.



Photo by Tyler Rhodes
DRUMMER BOYS—(l to r) Michael Scott, Joshua Bourdon and Nathan Evak help keep time during the sixth grade band's performance Dec. 14 at the elementary school holiday program.



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SMILE (above) – Cucuaq Katcheak, 5, sits on Santa's lap at the Christmas Extravaganza.

FEELING A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS (middle) – Hannah Hofstetter is all dressed up for the Christmas Extravaganza.



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES—Junior high flute player Geneva Anowlic-Okitkon plays "Deck the Halls" with fellow band members during the winter concert Dec. 16.

Photo by Nadja Roessek



Photo by Nadja Roessek



Photo by Nadja Roessek

PERFORMING—Ariana Horner, right, and Dylan Johnson sing with the Nome High School Choir at the Christmas Extravaganza.



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Photo by Janeen Sullivan

ON THE DRIVE—Nathan Blandford drives by a Galena defender during Saturday's boys basketball game at Nome-Beltz High School. Blandford led scorers that evening with 19 points.

Nome wrestlers make the grade

In addition to taking the runner-up honors in team competition at the regional wrestling championships earlier this month in Kotzebue, Nome's grapplers walked away with the academic award.

The award is given to the team with the highest grade point average. As a result of their performance at the meet, the Nanooks sent a dozen wrestlers to the state meet in Nikiski Dec. 10-11 where the team placed 13th.

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Nome boys make perfect debut

The Nome boys basketball team won its first two games of the season at home, dispatching Galena Friday and Saturday at Nome-Beltz.

Tim Sullivan led the way for Nanook scorers in Friday's 86-78 victory for Nome, shooting 7-10 from three-point range on his way to a total of 28. By the fourth quarter Nome held a 26-point lead before Galena staged a late-game comeback. It was too little, too late, however, as Nome went the distance for their first win of the season.

Nome came out hot again on Saturday night, with a 25-11 first quarter. The Nanooks came away with the win 68-53. Saturday night was Nathan Blandford's turn to shine, pulling down nine rebounds and scoring 19 points. Tall man Christian Leckband proved pivotal in the fourth quarter after seeing little playing time mid-game due to foul trouble. Leckband scored eight of his 14 points in the fourth, helping fend off another Galena charge. Galena was also hurt by the loss of its lead player, Wayne Holmberg, who was

sidelined in the second half with a migraine headache.

The wins over the weekend put the Nanook boys' winning streak at home at 34 games. The boys have not lost at home since the first game of the 2006-2007 season.

The boys will next play at the ACS tournament in Anchorage Dec. 30 – Jan. 1.

Game summaries

Friday, Dec. 17

Nome 26-14-26-21 = 86

Galena 14-12-18-34 = 78

NOME: Sullivan 28, Blandford 19, Leckband 16, Johnson 9, Stickle 8, Ireland 3, Wehde 2, Eide 2.

GAL: Unavailable

Saturday, Dec. 18

NOME 25-15-9-19 = 68

GAL 11-14-18-10 = 53

NOME: Blandford 19, Leckband 14, Sullivan 13, Johnson 10, Ireland 7, Stickle 5.

GAL: Richardson 11, Kassaiula 10, Holmberg 10, Huntington 10, Sommer 5, Green 7.

Galena girls get the upperhand

Facing a tough opponent right out of the gate, the Lady Nanook basketball team struggled in their first two games of the season played on the road in Galena.

Nome held the lead for three quarters in the season opener Friday, but was unable to stop a Lady Hawk comeback led by Jenna Buchanan who put up seven points in the fourth. Buchanan had 23 total for the game, leading all scorers. Galena won the game 59-52.

Nome's Dylan Johnson led the Lady Nanooks with 17 points, nine rebounds and four steals. Elizabeth

Luce notched 11 points.

Saturday's game was more lopsided as the Lady Hawks put on a more physical performance, winning 45-27. Galena's Buchanan again led all scorers with 16 points. Nome was led by Devynn Johnson who scored six and grabbed 11 rebounds.

The Lady Nanooks will next play over the Christmas break at the ACS tournament held in Anchorage Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

The next basketball action to take place at home will be the Nome Subway Showdown Jan. 6-8.

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Christmas at Trophy Lake: It was one of the best Christmas Eves ever

By Tyler Rhodes

Approximately 15 years ago, Char Keehn found her nirvana on Christmas Eve.

In a treed corner along the frozen shore of Trophy Lake in the Kenai Peninsula's Caribou Hills, Keehn spent the few precious sunny hours that day with many of her closest companions in the world. While the sun set the fresh snow crystals to sparkling under a cobalt blue sky, Keehn set about cooking the crew a meal while her friends lounged in the

snow. She happily chatted with her friends as she prepared lunch, never expecting or needing a word in return.

Keehn was more than happy to soak in the sunshine and marvel at the incredible scenery with her dog team that had joyfully delivered her to the lake. "It was probably the best Christmas Eve I've ever had," she said while sipping coffee Sunday at her neighbor's house in Tripple Creek, just north of Nome. "It was definitely the most beautiful, and

with my own dogs."

Keehn, who has now lived and mushed dogs in Nome for years, was still learning the ropes of handling a dog team during the time of that magical Christmas Eve. After a brief exposure to the lifestyle and sport while living in Talkeetna, Keehn had moved to Kasilof and found herself in a neighborhood in the early 1990s where she was able to rub shoulders with some of mushing's biggest names. She was soon helping out in Tim Osmar's dog lot and would often see the Seavey family and other long-distance mushers out on the trails that crisscrossed the Caribou Hills. "It was a fun neighborhood. It was like here's little beginner Char, and here go the big guys," she said.

Keehn had earlier acquired three Siberian huskies and eventually grew her team with a dog she had got off a musher who wasn't having much success with her. That dog, Mama Einstein, was bred with one of Osmar's dogs. Osmar would keep the "athletes" from the litters while Keehn would take the dogs more suited to recreational mushing. Eventually she had her team of seven, a number Keehn said was perfect for a small-statured person like herself. "I just wasn't good on a sled," she said.

Keehn must have been good enough. During the winter she would run Osmar's puppy teams, alternating with trips with her own dogs. The run to Trophy Lake was a route with which Keehn was well familiar. As the winter days shortened and the solstice approached, Keehn noticed one spot on the lake in particular. "I spotted out this little cove on the lake on the north side," she said. "I noticed in December that was the last place that had sun. So that's where I went up."

With the celebration with her human family slated for evening,

Keehn used the daylight hours of Christmas Eve for a run to that sunny spot with her own dogs. She hitched up her leaders Glennie and Triumph along with Mama Einstein, Victory, Tahoe, Ruby and Tallac. She also brought along a guest canine, Pistol, to round out an eight-dog team for the day.

With a fresh blanket of snow coating the trees and trails, Keehn took off before light to let the dogs run in the dark, which they loved, and to make the most of the daylight in her selected spot. After the 10-mile run she set up camp, started the dogs' broth and just marveled at the scenery. The boughs of the tall spruces surrounding the lake hung with snow as if they were frosted. As Keehn and her team enjoyed this gorgeous corner of the world that felt as if it were all their own that Christmas Eve, the sun painted the scene in marvelous tones. "The colors were so incredible," she said. "When the sun went down, the snow turned pinkish and even that violet color. It was nirvana."

As darkness descended and other obligations called, Keehn packed up camp and headed the team back toward civilization. Despite the beautiful setting they had to leave behind, it was a happy return. As she mushed back past the Osmar's property, which was completely aglow with Christmas lights and decorations, an eruption of howls greeted her passing. To Keehn's ears, it might as well have been a full choir belting out a Christmas favorite. "We came mushing in, and there was this chorus of dogs," she said.

Keehn keeps a photo she took of that snow-covered lake and her dog team. While the photo is easy for her to find 15 years after the fact, her memory of what she dubbed Christmas Cove is move vivid and readily accessible. The trip embodies a period in her life that was filled with the wonder of traveling through amazing country with wonderful companions. "No matter whatever I do, it will never ever top those years with the sled dogs," she said. "That era, it was magical."



Photo by Tyler Rhodes
SPECTACULAR COVE—Char Keehn displays a photo of her special site on Trophy Lake.

Siberian scientist

continued from page 10

"Most of the Arctic is in Russia, and yet most of the Arctic research isn't," said Max Holmes, of Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, director of the Polaris Project, which has sent undergraduates to the station for the last three summers.

Zimov started the park with a herd of 40 Yakutian horses, a semi-wild breed with a handsomely long mane that is raised by Yakuts and other native people for their meat. Short, sturdy and broad-backed, they survive harsh Siberian winters with the help of a furry hide, thick layers of fat and the ability to paw through 3 feet of snow to forage.

Of his first herd, Zimov said 15 were killed by wolves and bears, 12 died from eating wild hemlock that grows in the park, and two slipped through the perimeter and made their way back some 600 miles to their

original pastures.

But he bought more. Now the horses have learned to avoid poisonous plants and to resist predators. Over the last three years, more colts were born and survived than horses lost.

The challenge is to find the right balance between grazers and predators, and how to help his animals get through their first winters.

His workers still give occasional buckets of grain to the horses to supplement their diet with salt. About half the horses come regularly to the cabin where a caretaker stays year-round. The other half are rarely seen except for their tracks.

Zimov also has had problems with the moose that he brought inside his enclosure. Moose still live in small numbers in surrounding forests, and the males jump back and forth over the 6-foot-high fence.

In September he traveled to a nature reserve on Wrangel Island, about five hours by boat across the East Siberia Sea, and brought back six 4-month-old musk oxen. One died a few weeks later. The others are kept in a small enclosure and fed hay until they can fend for themselves.

His objective is to see whether a thriving population of grazing animals will regenerate grasslands that disappeared long ago, which would slow and even halt the accelerating pace of permafrost thaw. So far, he says, the results are encouraging.

Today he has 70 animals in the park. He wants thousands to restock Siberia. To bring 1,000 bison from North America would cost \$1 million, Zimov says, a small price to pay.

"If permafrost melts, 100 gigatons of carbon will be released this century," he said. "What's \$1 million?"

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- Across
- 1968 Chemistry Nobel
 - 100 krus
 - Andes capital
 - Drain
 - Hip bones
 - "Ah, me!"
 - Inspired poet
 - Parka fur
 - Dear sympathy
 - Object of many prayers
 - Jollity
 - Atmosphere and space beyond
 - Same: Fr.
 - "Cast Away" setting
 - Loss of muscle coordination
 - Victorian, for one
 - Common aspiration
 - Academy Award
 - High school
 - Disdain
 - Ancient Greek instruments
 - Fraternity letters
 - Of a heart chamber
 - "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
 - Masculine side
 - "Defender of men"
 - In a cold manner
 - More rational
 - Parks have them
 - Battering wind
 - Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
 - Appearance
 - Decorated, as a cake
 - By the day
 - Ethereal
 - "Beetle Bailey" dog

- Down
- 100 krus
 - "Be-Bop-____" (Gene Vincent hit)
 - M-1, for one
 - Eastern African adventure
 - Anita Brookner's "Hotel du ____"
 - 1969 Peace Prize grp.
 - Bambino watcher
 - Jellied garnish
 - At one time, at one time
 - Jumble
 - Telekinesis, e.g.
 - Even if, briefly
 - Feminine side
 - Region
 - Praise God
 - Tried to get home, maybe
 - Corolla holder
 - Record holder?
 - Cat sound
 - Noblemen
 - Alarm signals
 - English exam finale, often
 - Terminal sections of the intestines
 - ____ squash
 - Bawl
 - Dassie
 - One of a kind
 - "Buona ____" (Italian greeting)
 - Flock member
 - Slowly, to a conductor
 - Andean animal
 - High nest: Var.
 - Legislate
 - Found a new tenant for
 - Part of N.Y.C.
 - Change
 - Crash site?
 - Bank offering, for short
 - "The Sweetheart of Sigma ____"
 - Always, in verse
 - "____ calls?"

Last week's answers

1	F	L	E	E		O	D	D	S		G	O	O	P	12
5	O	I	L	Y		A	V	I	A	N	E	L	B	E	
13	C	O	U	R	T	M	A	R	T	I	A	L	L		
15	M	O	O		C	E	P	S		N	I	P			
19	R	A	D	I	O	T	E	L	E	G	R	A	P	H	
23	S	H	I	N		C	U	M		R	E	E	L		
25	A	S	E	X	U	A	L		E	D	A	M			
29	P	I	C		P	L	A	N		A	T	O	N	C	31
33	R	E	L		S	A	T	I	V	E	P	R	O	N	
37	R	E	G	A	D										
41	S	E	T	S		E	S	P	Y		D	O	S	S	

Polaris Hotel

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• **443-2000**

Merry Christmas!

www.polarishotelnome.com

HOROSCOPES

December 16 - 22, 2010

CAPRICORN
December 22–January 19

The need to declutter becomes clear with the arrival of guests. Work your way through the house one room at a time. A charitable cause calls out to you, Capricorn.

ARIES
March 21–April 19

Change may be advised, but it is really not needed. If it isn't broken, don't fix it, Aries. A wish is granted by someone you least expect. Thank them.

CANCER
June 22–July 22

Party invites arrive by the dozen. Go only to the events close to your heart, Cancer. An old friend could use a pick-me-up. Flowers might do the trick.

LIBRA
September 23–October 22

Play it safe, Libra. This is not the time to take risks. Stick to what you know will work out and watch your bottom line improve substantially.

AQUARIUS
January 20–February 18

Ooh-la-la, Aquarius. Your wildest dreams come true. Your idea is good. Your delivery of it, on the other hand, could use some work. Look to a mentor for guidance.

TAURUS
April 20–May 20

Suspect you're not getting the real story, Taurus? You probably aren't, and you would do well to find that out before you make any moves.

LEO
July 23–August 22

Watch your step, Leo. Not everyone has your best interest at heart. A new gadget makes quick work of an old chore. Use the extra time to catch up with loved ones.

SCORPIO
October 23–November 21

Watch it, Scorpio. You're not exactly in the best frame of mind, and your feelings could be clouding your judgment. Turn to a trusted friend for help.

PISCES
February 19–March 20

Concentrate, Pisces. Attention to detail is required to complete a home improvement project. A small gift opens up a world of opportunities.

GEMINI
May 21–June 21

Panicking will get you nowhere. Rally the troops and attack the to-do list together, Gemini. The challenge of your career begins. Use every resource available.

VIRGO
August 23–September 22

Music inspires you to reconnect with an old friend, Virgo. A project gets off to a shaky start at work, but improves with the addition of a new face.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22–December 21

There is more than one option, and the sooner you face that fact, Sagittarius, the better off you will be. A friendship flourishes with the discovery of a common interest.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

A doctor's note for Santa for upcoming pre-flight exam

By Bob Lawrence, MD
Alaska Family Doctor

Rumor has it that Santa Claus has a personal doctor; his name is Claude Galen, an elder elf and medical director for the North Pole Medical Center (NPMC). Reportedly, he has



taken care of Santa and Mrs. Claus for many years.

Recently Dr. Galen sent a plea for help. His advice is great for Santa as well as all those who wish to be healthy this Christmas season and throughout the year. Here is what Dr. Galen wrote:

*"To whom it may concern,
I need your help.*

Santa Claus was seen today for a pre-flight exam in preparation for his upcoming Christmas travel.

I am happy to report that Mr. Claus is cleared for full duty without restrictions in the distribution of gifts on Christmas Eve. He is in good health overall with no deficits that would put him at risk for high-altitude flight, repetitive lifting, or intermittent climbing.

However, Mr. Claus has developed concerning changes in his weight and lab work that put his health at risk. Specifically, his waist circumference has grown to above 40 inches and his body mass index has risen

above 30, indicating medical obesity. Not unexpectedly, his blood pressure has risen into a pre-hypertension range with regular readings above 130/85 mmHg. His recent blood work also shows a concerning fall in his HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol) and a rise in the harmful triglycerides. Furthermore, his fasting blood sugar is above 100 mg/dL and his last hemoglobin A1c is 6.1%, suggesting his blood sugars have been running high for at least three months. We call this constellation of findings the "dysmetabolic syndrome."

If not corrected, the dysmetabolic syndrome can lead to diabetes, heart attacks, strokes, or kidney failure. Any one of these diagnoses would make it more difficult, if not impossible, for Mr. Claus to obtain the necessary Airmen Medical Certificate required by the Federal Aviation Administration for operation of manned

aircraft in U.S. airspace.

Here is where you can help. I have advised Mr. Claus to monitor his intake of simple sugars, increase his intake of healthy fats, and increase his physical activity.

If you choose to leave a snack for Santa this year, consider leaving fresh fruit or vegetables. If you would like to leave cookies, make your cookies with real butter, as opposed to shortening (which is high in artery damaging trans-fatty acids), and add lots of healthy nuts, like walnuts which are high in artery-cleansing omega-3 fatty acids. If you leave egg nog, dilute it by half with milk and skip the whipped cream. It will be just as tasty with a lower level of simple carbohydrates.

Whole-grain crackers with cheese also make a healthy snack for Santa. However, please refrain from putting out reindeer sausage. This is very unsettling to the flight crew.

Please note that Santa Claus cannot consume any alcohol on Christmas Eve due to strict FAA regulations and the many duties of the season, which require mental stamina.

Thank you for your help in this matter. With your help we can provide Mr. Claus with healthy food choices this Christmas Eve. By doing so, we will promote his good work in the future by lowering his risk of developing serious disease.

*Most respectfully yours,
Claude Galen, MD
North Pole Medical Center
North Pole*

New Norton Sound Regional Hospital opens in 2012, but Elders may have to stay behind!

Kendra Takak, courtesy of Norton Sound Health Corporation

Construction of the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital is in full swing. The exterior is enclosed and the contractor will be working inside all winter on framing, plumbing, electrical rough-in, sheet rock and much more. Construction will continue throughout 2011 and 2012. The project is scheduled to be complete in November 2012. A group of concerned community members have asked "does the new facility include long term care beds for elders?" Unfortunately, the answer is no. When the Indian Health Service (IHS) approved the New Hospital Project in 2006 they did not have the authority to construct long term care facilities. And when construction funds for the New Hospital Project became available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009, IHS still did not have the authority. It was not until March 2010 when Congress reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that IHS finally received legal authority for elder care programs throughout Indian Country such as long term care, assisted living, hospice, home health care, etc. But while gaining the authority was a milestone, Congress has not yet provided any funding for American Indian / Alaska Native elder care projects.

Existing Elder Care Facility: NSHC operates a 15-bed long-term care facility, Quyanna Care Center at the existing hospital. QCC contin-

ues to maximize the quality of life for residents living in the Bering Strait Region who have made QCC their home. The facility provides quality care in a safe, home-like environment, but in a building that is admittedly starting to show its age. It is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Residents have direct access to physicians, nurses, critical care equipment, and support services in the existing hospital. For example, the Emergency and Radiology Departments are just a short wheel-chair ride away.

QCC is one of thirteen tribal nursing homes in the United States. Within the last two years the staff has received two National Quality Service awards. The success of QCC can be attributed to a dedicated multidisciplinary team of caring professionals, medical staff and the family members of QCC residents.

Individuals in our region are living longer ranging from 78 to 100 years old and the availability of long term care in the region is essential, as evidenced by the constant waiting list of elders seeking to be admitted to QCC. And for both the elders and their families, the ability for these seniors to live in Nome is much preferred vs. having to relocate to a facility in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

The Problem: If a new QCC facility is not constructed at the New Hospital Site, NSHC will have to leave QCC residents at the old facility when all other hospital related programs and support services move to the new hospital in late 2012 or

early 2013. The new hospital is over a mile from the existing hospital. It will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to maintain QCC at its current location without jeopardizing quality of care. Maintaining QCC at the old hospital building would also result in increased staffing/operational costs for both the QCC and hospital programs, as well as overall increased facilities management/utility costs.

For example, elders would have to be transported via ambulance for even routine appointments such as eye care, dental, or physical therapy. Transport would also be required for special procedures like x-ray. Emergent and even non-emergent transfer of elders to the Hospital Inpatient Department, or the emergency medevac of an elder to Anchorage would also take longer since The City of Nome recently relocated the Public Safety Building to the east side of town. According to Angie Gorn, Vice President of Hospital Services, each and every time an elder is transported creates an opportunity for safety and health problems due to in-

clement weather and increased risk of slip or fall injuries. Unnecessary transferring and moving of frail elders from bed to vehicle, to exam room and back to the old facility is also stressful for the elder and time consuming for staff. Physicians would have to travel by vehicle to the old hospital facility for regular daily checks on the elders that they can currently do by simply walking down the hall. Having to travel back and forth across town is not an efficient use of their time.

In addition, meals and laundry would need to be transported back and forth between the two facilities. And finally, there is the additional cost to simply heat and maintain the old building for a small number of occupants. NSHC Management, the NSHC Board, and hospital provider staff all agree that leaving the QCC elders in the old hospital building after the new hospital opens will create a bad situation.

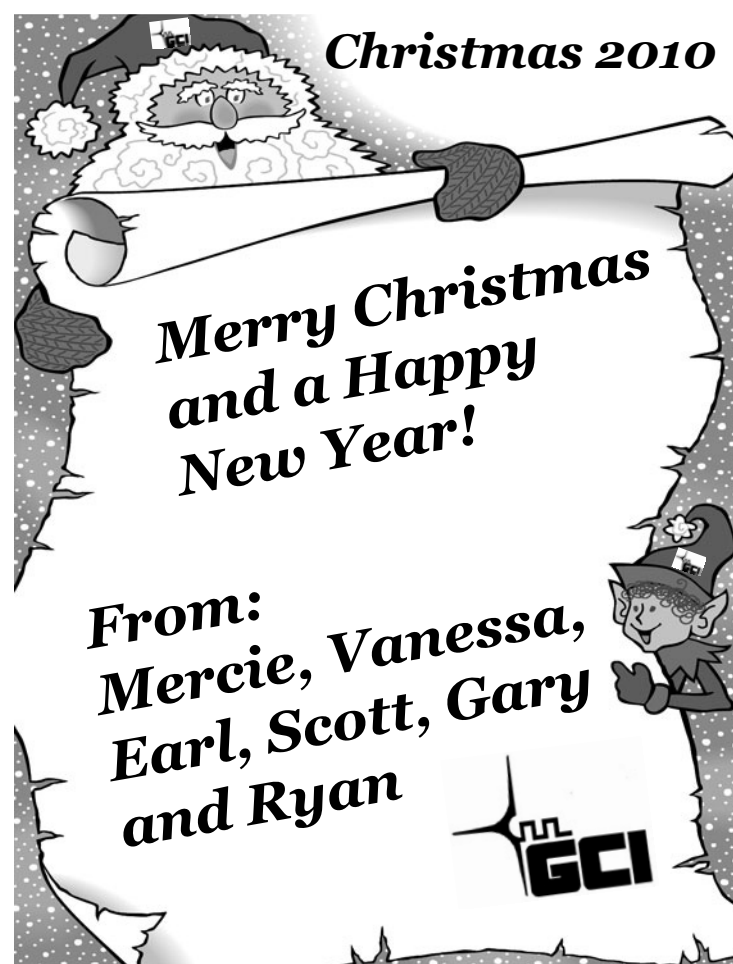
The Strategy: Since there appears to be no real chance that IHS will be able to add long-term care beds to the New Hospital Project,

NSHC has developed their own strategy to design and construct an 18 bed QCC addition to the east end of the new hospital. The vision is to provide a state-of-the-art facility that is culturally appropriate, with a comfortable, family friendly atmosphere. The goal is to complete the new QCC Addition at the same time as the new hospital.

The NSHC Board has committed \$910,000 of their own funds toward the project. NSHC has also secured a commitment from the Denali Commission for approximately \$560,000. According to Jay Farmwald, a project manager with DOWL HKM who is working on both the New Hospital and QCC Projects, the pad for the new QCC facility has already been completed, foundation piles have been procured and are in Nome ready to be driven, and detailed design is underway.

If construction starts in 2011 and is completed in 2012 the total cost to design, construct and equip a new facility is estimated to be \$13,335,000.

continued on page 19



NOME COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS:
50 REASONS TO LIVE A SMOKE-FREE LIFE
REASON #32 "I WANT A HEALTHY BODY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD!"

(PICTURED)
NOME RESIDENT
CHRISTY FISKEAUX

"I love traveling. I love seeing all of the different cultures in this world and experiencing the various sights, sounds, and tastes of those places.

I choose not to smoke, because I want to avoid serious physical problems, such as lung cancer, that would prevent me from living a long life in various parts of the world. I don't want to risk shortening my life simply for tobacco. I want to stay as healthy as I can and live as long as I can so that I maximize my time here on this planet telling people around the world about the greatest person that I have ever met...Jesus Christ. The longer I live, the more opportunities I have to tell people around the globe that since I turned my life over to Jesus, my life has been different. He has changed me and I never want to go back to who I was without Him."

Sponsored by the Nome Community Center through a grant from the State of Alaska's DHSS Tobacco Prevention & Control Program.

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Obituaries

Melanie Burtis

Melanie Burtis, Ph.D., died Wednesday, Dec. 15, at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, PA. She was 44.

Born in Trenton, NJ, the beloved daughter of Marie (Messarge) and the late Donald W. Burtis.

Melanie was a resident of Nome where she was a professor of business at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Northwest Campus. She also taught at the University of

Shenyang in China this past semester.

She had a passion for world traveling.

Melanie is survived by her mother and her loving brother, Donald W. Burtis II of New Mexico; her nieces; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins from her extended family.

Interment will be at the discretion of the family.

Condolences to the family may be posted at the website of James J. Dougherty Funeral Home, in Levittown, PA at www.doughertyfuneral-home.com.

Barbara Kupkana “Boobush” Ningealook

Barbara Kupkana “Boobush” Ningealook was born August 30, 1966 at Nuluk in Shishmaref, AK. She was 44 years old. She died on November 24.

Boo was a loving daughter, mother, sister, aunt and a friend. She unexpectedly had two children and they were her pride and joy. She enjoyed them when they reunited as a family. She would watch them so

proudly. She used to always say she loves her family and friends and “I Love You Brenna and I Love You Jasper Nuasuuk.” Boo was known to many kids as “Auntie Boo” from Shishmaref all the way to Barrow.

She enjoyed riding in the country year round. She especially liked picking berries and fishing. Before walking away from others she would always make them laugh or smile. When she was talking to people from Shishmaref, she would always introduce them to her other friends from different communities. Boo lived in these other communities: Deering, Diomed, Wales, Brevig, Barrow, Buckland, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Anchorage, Nome and Teller.

She graduated from Shishmaref High School in 1983. She worked for NSHC as a Data Entry Clerk, Carrs Safeway in Kotzebue, Nome and Barrow as manager for various departments.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Brenna and son Franklin, companion William and she had a special place in her heart for Mickey and Travis, mother Margie, brothers Danny and companion Raelynn, Harry, and sisters Mary and (Francis), Evelyn and (Daniel), Dora and companion (Warren), Frieda and (Fred), and Edna and (Carlos). She would always call Carol Ningeulook “Sis” and call Foster (Bossic) Olanna her brother.

Nieces and nephews are Andrew T, Norman and (Mattie); Charley, Madison and Roxanne, Helen and (Haywood); Bradley, Miguel and Maya, Travis and (Jacinda); Clarissa, Shalya and Kimberly, Andrew and (Charlene); Gary, Carter, Ida, and

Kelsi, George, Jane and (Kym); Kaylee, Kenneth, Kalum, Ward and (Sophie); Alicia, Conner and Brennen, May and (Robert); Ben and Lance, uncle James and Helen, Andy and (Faye); JR, Marie and (Larry); Jacob and Ida, Gertie and (Danny); Leslie, Kenny, Rosie, Danny Jr., and Julie, Anna; Britney and Charles, Mickey and (Sue); Brian, Dallas and (Verna); Shane and Kiera, Irene and (Thomas); Quinten, Valerie, Alfred and Vicki Linn, the late Kimberly and companion (Zack); Daniel, Jade, and Emily, Lloyd, Reuben and

Ernest and AJ; Trent, Dolly and (Johnathon); Delbert, Jackie and (Bert); Nellie, Darrell, and Hattie; Beverly, Carlos Andrew and Lillian.

She was preceded in death by her dad Andrew Ningealook; paternal grandparents Jack and Marie Ningealook; maternal grandparents Harry and Annie Kigrook; brother George Ningealook; uncles Davey Ningeulook, and James Kigrook; aunts Polly Ann Tocktoo, Fannie Barr and Flora Nelson; niece Kimberly Oxereok and nephew Lance Nayokpuk.



Melanie Burtis

•New hospital elders

continued from page 18

The project is being designed by Kumin Associates, the same architect who designed the new hospital. According to Angie Barr at Kumin, the new QCC addition will incorporate current technology, and be a more safe and accessible facility compared to the existing QCC. The new facility will also have more common areas, activity and support space. And the views from the new QCC will be breathtaking, which should help remind the elders of home as they look out on the sea and the tundra from their windows.

The current funding shortfall is \$11,865,000. Capital costs per square foot for the new facility will be significantly reduced by constructing it concurrent with the new hospital. According to project staff, it is estimated that the baseline cost to construct a new QCC facility will

increase by \$3M if construction is delayed until after the new hospital is completed, plus \$500K for every year of delay due to inflation.

NSHC has requested that the State of Alaska include funds necessary to complete this important project for the entire Bering Strait region in the FY2012 Capital Budget. There is precedent for State funding; \$18.5M was included in last year’s capital budget for Long Term Care projects in Kotzebue and Bethel.

Community members and Elder Advocates are encouraged to contact Senator Donny Olson, who is a member of the Senate Finance Committee by telephone at 1-800-597-3707, e-mail: Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us or by mailing letters to: Senator Donny Olson, State Capitol Room 508, Juneau, AK 99801.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve:

5:30 PM Children's Pageant & Vigil Mass

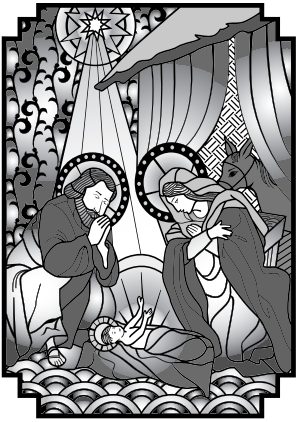
11:30 PM Caroling with Mass at 12 Midnight

Dec. 25, Christmas Day:

Mass at 10:30 AM

Dec. 26, Sunday: Holy Family

Mass at 10:30 AM



All Christmas Masses are at St. Joseph Church at the corner of Steadman and W King Place

Church Services Directory

Bible Baptist Church Service Schedule, 443-2144

Sunday School 10 a.m./Worship Hour 11 a.m.

Community Baptist Church-SBC

108 West Third, 443-5448 • Pastor Bruce Landry

Small Group Bible Study 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Community United Methodist

2nd Ave. West, 443-2865

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Thrift Shop — Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Nome Covenant Church

101 Bering St. 443-2565 • Pastor Harvey

Sunday School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.

Wednesday Youth Group 7 p.m. (call 443-7218 for location)

Friday Community Soup Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

5th & Bering, 443-5295

Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday School 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Sunday Quiet Communion 2:30 p.m.

December 24 Christmas Eve 7 p.m.

December 25 Christmas Day 11 a.m.

December 26 Christmas Sunday 11 a.m.

River of Life Assembly of God, 443-5333

Sunday School 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.

Wednesday Night Service 6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, 443-5527

Corner of Steadman & King Place

Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist

(Icy View), 443-5137

Saturday Sabbath School 10 a.m.

Saturday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Nome Church of Nazarene

3rd & Division, 443-2805

Sunday Prayer Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. & Worship Service 11 a.m.

PIGSKIN PICKS 2010

Week Seventeen

Sunday, Jan. 02

- () Chicago
- () Miami
- () Minnesota
- () Carolina
- () N. Y. Giants
- () Oakland
- () Pittsburgh
- () Jacksonville
- () Buffalo
- () Tampa Bay
- () Dallas
- () Cincinnati
- () Tennessee
- () San Diego
- () Arizona
- () Saint Louis

- () at Green Bay
- () at New England
- () at Detroit
- () at Atlanta
- () at Washington
- () at Kansas City
- () at Cleveland
- () at Houston
- () at N.Y. Jets
- () at New Orleans
- () at Philadelphia
- () at Baltimore
- () at Indianapolis
- () at Denver
- () at San Francisco
- () at Seattle

It’s easy to win! Simply fill out the form at the left and drop it in the entry box at Nome Trading Company. Pick the most winners & you’ll win a \$25 Gift Certificate redeemable at Nome Trading Company. Each week, all entrants who pick at least ½ of the games correctly will be qualified for the grand prize drawing of a

\$500 Gift Certificate from Nome Trading Co.

A drawing will be held to determine the weekly winner in the event of a tie. Listen to the Breakfast Club at 8:20 AM on KICY AM-850 and Up & At ‘Em on ICY 100.3 each Thursday to learn who won the Pigskin Picks of the week and who’s qualified for the drawing!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone, Fax or e-mail _____

One entry per person per week, please.

Enter your Picks by Friday, December 31st.

KICY
AM-850 & ICY 100.3 FM

&

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Employment

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC) is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Delivery Driver/Distribution (Anchorage) is responsible for the distribution of NSEDCC's seafood products to local Anchorage businesses. Be aware of and discuss with supervisor any leads or possibilities of new sales. Represent NSEDCC/NSSP in a positive manner.

Payroll Technician (Anchorage) is responsible

for preparation and disbursement of NSEDCC & NSSP semi-monthly payroll. Reconciles employee advance transactions and related GL account. Responsible for preparation of quarterly and annual payroll analysis reports, and ERISA reports. Provide assistance with preparation of investment, state and federal reports as directed. Prepare 941 and unemployment reports quarterly, worker compensation, employee personal leave accrual reports, W-2's and 401K reports annually. Assists the Accounting and Finance group in all areas of accounting and financial matters.

Facilities and Refrigeration Engineer (Nome) is responsible for the proper operation of Norton Sound Seafood Products' facilities and equipment in Northern Norton Sound. This is a 12 month position with a greater amount of the responsibilities and effort concentrated between June and November.

Northern NSSP Assistant Manager (Nome) will assist the Northern NSSP Operations Manager in all capacities of Northern NSSP Operations for crab, halibut, cod and other fisheries products, including but not limited to: marketing, inventory, reporting, production, tender operations, packaging & shipping; quality control, plant upkeep and maintenance; supervision of crew and continued improvement of Northern NSSP operations.

Southern NSSP Operations Manager (Unalakleet) is responsible for all Southern NSSP operations including the buying and processing of seafood products, maintenance of all associated documents, procurement of operational supplies and materials, management of employees, and overseeing maintenance and operations of facilities. Southern Norton Sound fisheries include Coho, pink, Chinook, chum, herring bait and herring sac roe.

Winter Season Vessel Engineer (Norton Sound region) oversees the winter storage, maintenance, repair and general servicing of the F/T Inalik, F/T Egavik, F/T Norton Sound, F/T Golovin Bay and the Besboro Barge, which will be stored for the winter in multiple locations within Alaska.

All positions are Open Until Filled.


NSEDCC offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Please see our website to view the full job description and to download the application at www.nsedcc.com, or contact NSEDCC at (800) 650-2248. Qualified individuals should submit their application and resume to: NSEDCC, 420 L Street, Suite 310, Anchorage, AK 99501 or Fax: (907) 274-2249. 11/18 tfn

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PO BOX 1289 • Nome, AK 99762
Helen “Huda” Ivanoff, Manager

**Arctic ICANS —**
A nonprofit cancer survivor support group.
1-800-478-9355

Arctic ICANS next meeting
The Nome Cancer support group will meet at the XYZ Center on
Thursday, Jan 6 • 7:30 p.m.
General meeting

For more information call 443-5726.

Seawall

12/16
Darryl Aukon,22, was arrested and remanded to AMCC for assault in the 4th degree.
Samantha Kahutak, 20 was arrested and remanded to AMCC for Minor Consuming Alcohol.
George Olanna,32, was arrested and remanded to AMCC for violating conditions of probation.

Louise martin, 26, was arrested and remanded to ANCC for violating conditions of probation.
12/17
John I. Kukuluk,38, was arrested and remanded to AMCC for driving under the influence.
12/18
Edwin Campbell, 36, was arrested and remanded

to AMCC for violating conditions of probation.
12/19
Rhonda Weyiouanna, 40, was arrested and remanded to AMCC for probation violation.
During this period we had two persons taken to the hospital/AMCC for Title 47 hold.

Trooper Beat

On November 13, Alaska State Troopers arrested Adrian Ungott, 44, of Gambell, for violating his probation after he was observed to be intoxicated from consuming an excessive amount of homebrew alcohol. A. Ungott was transported and remanded to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in Nome.

On December 12, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Nome Alaska State Troopers received a report of an unexpected death at a cabin outside of Nome. Investigation showed that Rachel Burton, 39, of Nome was found unresponsive by an acquaintance who she was residing with near Fort Davis outside of Nome. R. Burton was pronounced dead

at approximately 5:00 a.m. The cause of death is unknown at this time but the investigation shows that no foul play was involved in the death. The State Medical Examiner's Office was contacted and the deceased will be sent to Anchorage for an Autopsy. Investigation is ongoing.

On December 12, at approximately 11:00 a.m. AST received a report of a domestic violence assault that had occurred in Wales. The investigation revealed that Kellen Okpealuk, 22, of Wales, had consumed a perfumed body spray, became intoxicated and assaulted three family members that were inside the house. Okpealuk was arrested and transported to AMCC.

On December 15, VPSO Lucas Stotts in Shaktoolik received a report of a possible burglary in progress at the Shaktoolik City Office building that houses the Post Office, VPSO Office and City Office. His investigation resulted in finding Stuart Rock, 22, of Shaktoolik hiding inside the building. Rock was arrested and lodged at the Shaktoolik Jail. On December 16, Rock was transported to Nome for arraignment on charges of Burglary in the Second Degree, Possession of Burglary Tools and Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree.

Foster's Report

By Rep. Neal Foster
Season's greetings!

The first round of building a new state budget has played out even though the legislature has yet to convene. That's because Governor Sean Parnell did what state law requires him to do: unveil an operating and capital budget by December 15. It adds up to \$11.1 billion in total funds. Of that, \$1.6 billion is for capital spending; the rest pays for operating expenditures.

A public budget is more than numbers. It is an expression of policy, of what we want to do as a people and where we want to go. As such, the governor showcased an important topic: energy. He proposed spending \$65.7 million for a Susitna hydro-electric project, the first installment of five annual payments that add up to \$162.6 million. This massive work will help more than half the state's population that live in the Railbelt and is designed to help Alaska derive half of its energy needs from renewable resources by 2025.

The governor's energy plan also has \$25 million for a renewable energy grant fund, \$25 million for a popular weatherization program, \$160 million to reimburse Trans Canada for work to help build a 48-inch-wide pipeline to transport North Slope natural gas to markets in the

Lower 48, and \$5.5 million for developing a “bullet line,” a smaller pipeline for in-state gas. Whether we can afford or need all three major works like the Susitna dam, a big gas pipeline, and a bullet line or whether a combination of two of them is more appropriate are questions I hope to explore during the session that starts January 18, 2011. It may be pointed out that when power costs go down in places like Anchorage and Fairbanks, state support for power cost equalization, an energy-related program that benefits rural Alaska, goes up due to a formula that drives funding.

The governor's proposed budget also supports adding nearly \$2.3 million for 15 new village public safety officers statewide, \$7.4 million to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, \$42.3 million for the village safe water and sewer program, \$60 million for municipal revenue sharing, and nearly \$20 million for fixing up the top 14 schools on the state school major maintenance list.

Among capital budget items Governor Parnell has targeted for the Bering Strait region are \$1,250,000 for the proposed Nome-to-Fairbanks road known as the Western Access Project and money for various school repairs, armory upgrades, and other public works improvements. For more information on this, please call

my office at 1-800-478-3789.
Are you fresh out of high school and looking for an exciting job?

The Alaska State House is looking for a few good men and women from across the state to serve as pages during the upcoming legislative session, from the second week of January through adjournment, April 17. The pay is \$3,073 a month and includes health care and retirement benefits. Pages help make everything in the legislature run smoothly. They relay messages, letters, legislation, and more from legislators to and from Capitol offices and state agencies. They're on call seven days a week and must have a driver's license to drive a legislative van. The hours can be long, but the work can be hugely rewarding as one learns how the legislature works and meets scores of interesting people from across the state. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2010. A resume and driving record may be mailed, faxed, or sent via email to: Rep. Craig Johnson, House Rules Committee Chairman, 716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 640 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Fax: (907) 269-0204 Email: representative_craig_johnson@legis.state.ak.us

Alaska is getting nearly \$2.4 million from the federal government to

continued on page 21

**Christmas Bird Count**
Sunday, Dec. 26
Meet at Polar Cafe by 11 a.m.
(Earlier if you want breakfast)



Want to Contribute?
Animals need attention during the Holidays too! Donate some food or litter today!



Adopt a pet and get a **FREE** bag of dog/cat food when you adopt a dog/cat. Dog food, cat food, cat litter and other donations are always welcome at the Nome Animal Shelter!

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• More Letters

continued from page 2

enth and eighth grade students at Nome-Beltz. For the past few weeks they have been raising money for Smile Train, a charity that provides free cleft lip and cleft palate surgery to poor children all over the world. They volunteered many hours soliciting donations from family and neighbors, selling baked goods and craft items.

I challenged each of my five Language Arts classes to raise \$250 for Smile Train, which is the cost of a single surgery. Our amazing students went above and beyond this goal. We raised a whopping \$2,117!

Through our students' efforts, eight children in the world's most impoverished countries will have a second chance at life. Never doubt the power of a small army of 12- and 13-year-olds to be a force for good in the world. It truly is a season for giving.

Thank you, students, parents, and community.
Lynn DeFilippo
Nome, AK 99762

Ulu News

By Senator Donald Olson
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year

My family and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This year has been a great year for us and we hope that this year was a notable year for all of you. As we reflect on 2010, we hope you will join us in being thankful for our blessings. May the dawning of this New Year fill our lives with new hopes, open up new horizons, and bring for us promises of brighter tomorrows. May you all have a great New Year.

• More Foster’s Report

continued from page 20

use as grants to restore lands that have abandoned mines. The money is to help state and tribal programs clean up environmental damage from past mining, reclaim steep and unstable slopes, improve water quality, and restore water supplies.

The U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement administers the grants. To learn more, go to the agency’s web site, www.osmre.gov, or call its western regional office in Denver at (303) 293-5000.

Legislative Health Caucus Behavioral Health Forum

I am very pleased with the outcome of the Behavioral Health forum “Hearing from the People,” which was hosted by the Legislative Health Caucus on December 10 in Anchorage at the State Legislature building. This was a great opportunity for rural Alaskans to discuss behavioral issues with lawmakers, state agencies and various community representatives.

Several communities participated via both video and teleconference. We heard from individuals and organizations across the state including Kotlik, Chevak, Emmonak, Barrow,

Nome, Kiana, Unalaska, Kodiak, Dillingham, Sitka, and Juneau. Many important issues were addressed. We heard from the Kotlik Natural Helpers, a program designed to encourage use of traditional values for those coping with difficult times and the UA Wellness program in Emmonak, which stressed the importance of healing and asks for continued program funding. These programs have proven to be effective in suicide prevention and other mental health disorders. We also heard plans for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment/Suicide Prevention program in Nome. This project is in

the planning stage for using the old hospital building once the new hospital is occupied in the fall of 2012.

Regrettably, we also were reminded of the lack of mental health programs and services that are very much needed throughout Alaska. The Hope Community Resources with offices in Kodiak, Barrow and Juneau and the Chevak Kashunamiut Schools shared their experiences in their need for a state Mental Health Model and higher level of counseling services in rural areas.

Also discussed at the health caucus was the topic of Medicaid coverage and the limits in coverage provided for those who use the service. Many of my constituents depend on Medicaid coverage, and I will encourage my fellow lawmakers to consider new avenues in delivering additional medical services during legislation. Furthermore, we very much appre-

ciated hearing of the new and inspiring strategies that have been used by some Alaskan groups in improvement of mental health. For instance, we learned that the SEARHC hospital in Sitka uses cultural art as mental health therapy. The Media Action group from Kodiak/Nicolai presented their research-based link between story-telling and mental health, and how mental health providers can utilize that link for effective mental health programming. Participating in traditional customs and embracing cultural ways strengthens values and promotes stronger and healthier lives, many times reducing suicide, alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and other social issues.

We also were enlightened by the requests for state-funded research on

continued on page 22

586-0759.

Interim Contact Information

My office in Juneau is available to answer questions or help with issues related to the state. Please feel free to contact me or my staff.

Juneau Office Information

Alaska State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone 1-800-478-3789

Fax 1-907-465-3242

Nome Office Information

P.O. Box 1643

Nome, Alaska 99762

Phone 1-907-443-5036

Fax 1-907-443-2162

Email Representative_Neal_Foster@legis.state.ak.us

The Negealook and Topsekok families say a heartfelt thank you to all the businesses and individuals that donated and prepared food, equipment, housing and monetary donations and to all the searchers and helpers that helped in the search and recovery of our beloved Barbara K. Ningealook. Also, thank you to all who prayed and sang for our families and friends. Thank you to the people that helped prepare the obituary and helped with clothing and to all those that we forgot to mention. Thank you to the people that sent flowers from the surrounding villages. A big thank you to Shishmaref Emergency Services for all their help.

From the Ningealook and Topsekok families.

Thank you!

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APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 18, 2011

For an application, call
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3877
or visit:

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/rac.cfml>

11/11-18; 12/9-23; 1/6-20/23

Unalakleet Schools Art Proposals

There are three areas in our school that are targeted for art projects. Please consider all/any of these projects and include in your proposal(s):

- A detailed description of the intended end result
- Drawings of your ideas
- Dimensions
- Price: to design, create and install (include shipping).
- A timeline for putting your project into the school

Art proposals are encouraged to have a theme representative of Unalakleet Schools and/or the culture, archipelago, and people of Unalakleet. The school mascot is The Wolf Pack and the school colors are Black and Gold.

Proposals are due by **January 31, 2011**. Please deliver in person, email to cwoodhead@bssd.org, or mail your proposal to:

Unalakleet Schools
C/O Conrad Woodhead/Art Committee
P.O. Box 130
Unalakleet, AK 99684

Please call (907-624-4253) or email for a list of specific art proposals.

Thank you,

Conrad Woodhead
Assistant Principal/Activities Director/Art Selection Head

Selections will be made early February, 2011.

12/23; 1/6-13-20-27

Public Notice Reminder



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City of Nome issued Licenses and
Permits for 2010 expire on 12/31/10

The following Licenses and Permits should now be renewed for 2011:

- Sales Tax License
- Health Permit
- Hotel/Motel License
- Pulltab License
- Resale Certificate
- Animal License
- Chauffeur’s License
- Taxi Cab License
- Motor Bus License

It is also time to apply for exemptions for:

Municipal Tax Exemption - **DUE by February 1, 2011.**

Senior Citizen/Disabled Veteran’s Property Tax Exemption - **DUE February 1, 2011.**

Contact the City Clerk’s office if you have questions **443-6663.**

12/2-9-16-23

Notice of Koyuk
Native Corporation
(KNC) Shareholders
Annual Meeting



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the KNC Annual Shareholders Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Koyuk Community Hall for the following purposes:

Election of (3) Board of Directors & and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

12/9-16-23; 1/6-13



Photo by Nadja Roessek

SANTA AND ELVES—The Nome Pre-School and the Literacy Council hosted a Breakfast with Santa at the Nome Elementary School last week. Santa and Mrs. Claus are shown here with some of their elf helpers after enjoying a fantastic breakfast with Nome children .

• More Ulu News

continued from page 21

essential vitamins and minerals, specifically Vitamin D, and how it plays a key role in maintaining healthy mental and physical conditions. Due to the lack of daylight in Alaska during the winter months and a diet in non-traditional foods, large numbers of people become deficient in central nutrients resulting in depression and other mental disorders. Scientific studies would be beneficial in this area.

Again, I am pleased with the turnout in rural Alaska’s participation in this very important dialogue with state officials. There will be additional forums held in the future and we would like to hear more about the success rate and new ideas and strategies in behavioral health programs in your community. Thank you very much to the participants in the Legislative Health Caucus Behavioral Health forum. Your voice makes a great impact in our communities.

Nome Public Safety Building

The City of Nome held a Grand Opening ceremony and reception for the new Public Safety Building on December 8. The tour was open to the public and showcased the \$9.5 million state-of-the-art facility, which will house the Nome Police Department and the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department. Technology is in place for coordinating

emergency services and advanced evidence collection. A ribbon-cutting ceremony has been postponed to accommodate Governor Sean Parnell, who will be able to participate during a scheduled trip to Nome in February.

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center Update

The Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 13 to unveil their new Caterpillar Simulator Center. The eight CAT heavy equipment simulators are located in the NACTEC house in Nome and provide heavy equipment exposure for students enrolled in NACTEC classes. The virtual simulators are an exact replica of the heavy equipment with identical controls. Students face a 42” computer monitor where they see various construction or road scenes. They manipulate the controls to move dirt, grade roads, or conduct other heavy-equipment tasks. The bulldozer has screens in the front and the rear for students to use both ends of the machinery. While students do not receive credit or a certificate for their time on the simulators, they are able to experience how the machines work and gain confidence on the machinery. NACTEC also currently has the use of a welding simulator. Students hold a welding wand and through the use of a welding helmet with computer-generated images, do “virtual

welding.” Their skills are recorded on a computer, and they can see where they excel and where they need improvement. I wish the students the best in their achievement of their career goals.

Rural Alaska Invited to Apply for Domestic Violence Prevention Grants

The State of Alaska is seeking creative and holistic ideas from rural areas on how to build violence-free communities. Three to four grants will be overseen by the Department of Health and Social Services’ Division of Behavioral Health as part of Governor Parnell’s statewide initiative to end Alaska’s epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault within a decade.

Recent research has linked traumatic childhood experiences to later health issues such as obesity, tobacco use and injected drug use. “Too often Alaskans who have experienced trauma cope through substance abuse and other damaging reactions, so we’re pleased to bring our resources to bear on the problem of interpersonal violence and further support providers who are already doing such important work,” said Behavioral Health Director Melissa Stone. “We intend this grant to link stakeholders more closely, expanding the volume and breadth of prevention services.”

A primary grant will go to a regional or community coalition that

can serve several surrounding smaller towns and villages. This grant will be for \$500,000 in the first year and up to \$1 million in the next three years, contingent on continued funding appropriations.

“The complementary strengths of many partners can help communities build robust ways to combat domestic violence and sexual assault,” said Katie TePas, the governor’s domestic violence and sexual assault initiative coordinator.

Two to three additional grants of around \$200,000 will go to additional communities.

Successful applicants will need to bring forward new ideas, demonstrate community involvement in assessing regional issues and identify results they intend to accomplish.

Public notice of the request for proposal (RFP) is at <http://tinyurl.com/24jl744>. The state is willing to help applicants through the process; information on two pre-application teleconferences is in the RFP.

Alaska Veterans’ Advisory Council

Governor Sean Parnell announced appointments to the Alaska Veterans’ Advisory Council. Governor Parnell appointed Ryan Tilbury, and reappointed Mayfield Evans, Joseph Fields, Ron Huffman, and John Guinn to the council. The council advises the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on matters concern-

ing state veterans, their dependents and their survivors.

Huffman, of Nome, is a retired U.S. Air Force chief master sergeant with 32 years of service. He is a program director in the Community Education Department of Kawerak Inc. Huffman earned a bachelor’s degree in occupational education from Wayland Baptist University and is a former ROTC instructor at Edgcombe County Schools. He is reappointed to a public seat. I’d like to congratulate Ron Huffman on his reappointment and commend him on his public service.

Office Notes

As interim comes to an end, I’d like to thank my interim staff: Laura Lawrence in Nome, Greta Schuerch in Kiana, and Nina Patkotak in Barrow. It has been a real pleasure having you as part of our team serving the communities in our districts. Your work and service is greatly appreciated. I wish all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing your continued success.

On January 18 the legislature will resume with the start of the 27th State Legislature. I anticipate a productive session and look forward to some new faces in my session staff. My newsletter format may change a little during session, but I’ll keep you updated on session news affecting our district.

Court

Week ending 12/17

Civil

Green, Louis H et al vs. Kawerak, Inc. et al; Quiet Title - Superior Court
Quanlin, RoseAlee Ivianna vs. Stimpfle, Shawn; Stalking: Ex Parte

Small Claims

Cornerstone Credit Services LLC vs. Heers, Brad; SC \$2500 or Less: 1 Deft. Cert Mail
Rural Credit Services vs. Mathisen, William; Small Claims \$2500 or Less

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Nicholas Pete (4/3/64); Criminal Trespass 0; Date of offense: 12/12/10; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 3 days, 0 days suspended; Unsuspended 3 days shall be served with defendant remanded to AMCC; Jail Sur-

charge: \$50 with \$0 suspended; Shall pay unsuspended \$50 within 10 days to: AGs Collections Unit, Anchorage; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated.

State of Alaska v. Rodney Nagaruk (5/21/63); Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: Criminal Trespass 1st; Filed by the DAs Office 12/12/10.

State of Alaska v. Amanda Ozenna (6/26/89); Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: Assault 4, DV; Filed by the DAs Office 12/12/10, State of Alaska v. Melissa Ann Kazingnuk (4/2/87); Notice of Dismissal; Disorderly Conduct; Filed by the DAs Office 12/12/10. State of Alaska v. Danny Aukon Jr. (5/31/60); Notice of Dismissal; Violation of Condition of Release; Filed by the DAs Office 12/10/10.

State of Alaska v. John Saclamana (12/19/10); Assault 4th; Date of offense: 7/14/10; Binding Plea Agreement; Any appearance of performance bond is exonerated; 12 months, 9 months suspended; Unsuspended days shall be served; Jail Surcharge:

\$150 with \$100 suspended; Unsuspended \$50 shall be paid within 10 days to AGs Collections Unit, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Probation until 12/15/12; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no violations of law, assaultive or disorderly conduct, or domestic violence; Shall not possess or consume alcohol, nor have alcohol in residence, nor enter or remain on the premises of any bar or liquor store; Subject to warrantless breath testing at request of any peace officer and warrantless search of residence for alcohol.

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Fax (907) 274-3311

Email: gjblawoffice@aol.com



BERING SEA WOMEN'S GROUP

BSWG provides services to survivors of violent crime and promotes violence-free lifestyles in the Bering Strait region.

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You're a mean one ...

Mr. Grinch



A SWELLING HEART—Playing the Grinch, Emily Pomrenke acts out the Grinch's growing heart as he yields to the joys of Christmas. A confused Max the dog, played by Kaitlin Mason, looks on.



Photos by Tyler Rhodes

SONG AND DANCE—Cast members in Richard Beneville's Acting for Young People production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" perform a dance during the Dec. 15 performance. Dancing in the foreground are (l to r) Elise Rasmussen, Bethany Daniel and Ellie Martinson.



PAGE TURNER—Sierra Tucker reads the text of the timeless Christmas story as her fellow cast members act out the story in the Nome Elementary Commons.


Nome Eskimo Community

*Tribal council and staff wishes everyone
 a wonderful and safe Holiday
 Season and a prosperous 2011.*

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday Dec. 25.
 We will also be closed on New Year's Day. Happy Holidays!

For more information on events and closures please visit us on the
 web at [www. necalaska.org](http://www.necalaska.org)