



EASTER MOOSE—Moose look for their friend the Easter Bunny along the banks of the Nome River.

Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

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Piracy worries summer season gold seekers

By Sandra L. Medearis

They don't know how many to expect in the oncoming rush of gold seekers—50, maybe 500 or more to live their dream—but federal, state and local agencies want to be ready. Alaska State Troopers, state Dept. of Natural Resources, Nome Police Dept. and U.S. Coast Guard representatives met with miners and inter-

ested community members March 29 at Old St. Joe's to inform and learn concerns on offshore mining issues.

The group included DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan.

"We want to establish a presence to understand the issues and learn how we can work together with local government, state agencies and the federal government," Sullivan said.

Being prepared includes solving situations involving boundary disputes, claim-jumping and gold pirating, as well as enforcement issues stemming from people moving into an area where they are unfamiliar with regulations and the ways of mining and the rights of subsistence fishermen, community members said. Add to these enforcement for

safety of miners and the community.

The hullabaloo and a Henny-Penny feeling in some quarters that the sky is falling down stems from an interest in gold stimulated by high gold prices and the "Bering Sea Gold" program featuring fabulous cleanups of gold dredges on Discovery Channel. Victims of gold fever seem to be calling any agency with a phone number that starts with 443- to get more information about coming to Nome to suck up a solution to financial worries from the bottom of the Bering Sea.

The answers to issues arising from the gold seeking activity will be

based more on education than on enforcement, considering the dedication of resources to the gold rush. Each agency said they were stretched thin on safety and enforcement issues, but hoped that they could complement efforts of agencies by working together.

DNR plans to have one employee present in Nome for the entire season. The DNR is working on educating people to what to expect if they undertake a mining venture.

"Our phones are ringing incessantly," Brent Goodrum, director of DNR Division of Mining Land and

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Photo by Diana Haecker

HERE TO LISTEN—A delegation of state officials visited Nome last week to learn Nome's concerns about the upcoming offshore gold mining season. Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development specialist Jennifer Adleman explains the state's film tax credit as DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan, DNR's Brent Goodrum and U.S. Coast Guard investigations officer Lt. William Albright looks on, at City Hall on Thursday, March 29.

Port panel avoids a head-on with mayor

By Sandra L. Medearis

The Port Commission has done a switcheroo and baited up their legislative priority list for \$50 million to help pay for causeway extension at Port of Nome.

Stuck with what they thought was an either-or proposition, either try for \$50 million from a state government obligation bond or try for money in the capital budget for modifications and repairs to the existing port, the commission had decided to go with repair money. This put them at odds with efforts by Mayor Denise Michels in getting the money to enhance Nome's chances for a deep water port and to become a big player with a port to serve resource development.

The mayor wanted their backing by putting causeway extension at the

top of their priority list, but the panel did not want to risk the harbor modification capital budget money for the possible \$50 million that was to extend the causeway into deeper water, but would only partly pay for the job, commissioners said.

Go for the big fish too, Mayor Denise Michels, told the commissioners last week. Michels, who has been pushing port interests in Juneau along with Nome's lobbyist Wendy Chamberlain, said she is fishing in two separate funding ponds. It is not either/or, she said.

In response to a request from Gov. Sean Parnell, the legislature is putting together a bond package to go before voters this fall. In it is port money for port development

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NPFMC says revised chum salmon bycatch study needs

By Laurie McNicholas

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council called for revisions in an initial review draft environmental assessment of proposed management measures for chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery during a meeting March 30 in Anchorage. Another initial review draft will be prepared. The

council took similar action on the original review draft of the document at a meeting in June 2011 in Nome, asking staff to analyze additional alternatives for chum salmon bycatch management and bring a revised draft back to the council for initial review.

Last week the council adopted a motion by Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Commissioner Cora Campbell that included a number of modifications to the Rolling Hot Spot (RHS) system. The RHS provides salmon bycatch information so the pollock fleet can avoid areas of high chum or Chinook salmon bycatch rates.

In 2005 regulations implemented under Amendment 84 to the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan exempted pollock vessels from closures of both the Chum and Chinook Salmon Savings Areas if they participate in an RHS Intercooperative Agreement (ICA) ap-

proved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The ICA was amended for the 2011 season to remove regulations related to the Chinook Salmon Savings Area and all provisions under the ICA related to Chinook bycatch management following implementation of Amendment 91, which established a Chinook bycatch management plan.

The ICA uses a system of base bycatch rates to assign vessels to certain tiers based on bycatch rates relative to the base rate, and implements area closures for vessels in certain tiers. Parties to the current RHS include American Fisheries Act pollock cooperatives and Community Development Quota groups.

Campbell said the requests for modifications to the RHS included in the motion are based on a proposal that industry representatives brought to the council's Advisory Panel. She noted that the motion is largely de-

rived from recommendations by the panel.

"...I want to make it clear that my expectation is that the industry will come together and develop an ICA proposal that they think is workable and bring that to the analysts so that they can analyze an ICA proposal in contrast to the existing ICA," Campbell added.

John Gruver of United Catcher Boats manages the RHS ICA. He developed the list of RHS modifications provided to the Advisory Panel. Last week he told the council points on the list are concepts, are not intended for staff analysis, and it would be best for industry representatives to get together this spring to flesh out a revised RHS program to give to analysts. He said elements of the RHS are hardwired in regulation under Amendment 84, and the program requires regulatory change because it is not flexible. Gauvin noted

that chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery soared to more than 191,000 fish in 2011, and 30,000 chums were taken as bycatch in June alone.

Alternative 3 in the current review draft deals with triggered closures and the RHS exemption. The alternative would create new boundaries for the Chum Salmon Savings Area. The motion the council approved last week makes component 1 of alternative 3 a separate alternative (new alternative 3), and creates a new alternative 4 that includes components 1 through 6 of the former alternative 3.

"It was hard to tell from the analysis how you might consider the RHS versus something where you had these triggered closures layered on top of it," Campbell said. "It's a better structure for the analysis [to] separate it out this way."

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Recreational mining permit law in the works

By Sandra L. Medearis

The Nome Common Council is considering an ordinance to require a permit to conduct recreational mining activity and to establish fees. The City limits go 1.63 miles straight out from the shore and run five miles along the beach, which means the City can regulate mining offshore to include state DNR-designated recreational mining areas off East Beach and West Beach. The city has the right to demand a permit, its attorney said at a meeting last week. The DNR has decided to allow an unlimited number of people to go on City property to extract minerals, City Attorney Brooks Chandler told the Council. Yet the community of Nome has to allow the State of

Alaska reasonable access to develop the resource. The City has the authority to require permits of anyone to conduct activities within municipal boundaries and can have rules on the use of the port, according to Chandler. If passed in the current form, recreational miners would have to get a permit from the City and pay \$750 to \$1,000 for each year they mined. The permit would cover the season starting June 1 and ending Dec. 31. An additional cost would be a \$25 processing fee. For purposes of the ordinance, a "recreational miner" would be a person who is required to obtain a land use or recreational mining permit from the state Department of Natu-

ral Resources to conduct mining within the City. The city tax administrator may—no, shall, Councilwoman Mary Knodel suggested—require that the applicant submit copies of all activity reports provided to state departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Commerce and Environmental Conservation for the previous year or other state or federal agency or private landowner where the tax administrator has reason to believe the miner is out of compliance with the ordinance.

The draft ordinance asked for a fee of \$750, but that was not enough, Knodel said, \$1,000 nonrefundable fee was more appropriate. "They are going on our property, our port and in our community and can get on an airplane and leave a mess," she said. "If they are not ready to fork over, they shouldn't use our facilities or property, otherwise property owners will pay." The proposed ordinance allows the City to inspect the miner's books if there is a question of inaccurate records. All information would be

kept confidential unless needed in a criminal or civil action to enforce the ordinance. Each miner would have to keep for three years the records of business activities within the City. Denial of permits could be appealed. The permit would not be transferable. The ordinance is not yet ready for the Council action agenda. The measure still needs work, Knodel said.

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

Editorial

Ahead of the Curve?

What's in store for Nome this summer? Are our city planners in front of the curve or behind the eight ball? We are looking at an unknown number of gold stampedeers heading our way. How many? We don't know. Where will they stay? We hear tales of a "man camp" out by Dredge #6. Do we think we can confine a bunch of young white males behind camp fences? Will our sons and daughters be able to walk on Front Street? Will we have to lock our vehicles and homes? Will our food bank stay solvent? How will we handle the guys who go broke? Will we have increased drug problems? We are told that Nome businesses will get rich mining the miners. Maybe we'll sell a lot more burritos and coffee. Will we be able to use our Rec Center or will the stampedeers be using it as a public bathhouse? Will Soap and Suds be able to handle the laundry demand (if these guys are into clean clothes)? Will the restrooms at City Hall be able to handle the mother load? We don't know the numbers heading our way, but we don't have to be a genius to see the potential problems, and we should be smart enough to be prepared. We also need to have better communications with our state agencies. The state needs to stay informed and get a grip on what is happening in Nome— they seem to think Nomeites are still living in the 1950s. Some potential want-to-be-lease-holders are already angry about the DNR's lease sales to South African and Canadian big mining interests. They feel the little guys are left out. We also have potential small miners who are miffed that there are no mining and diving supply stores in Nome. We need to get information out to the potential gold rush crowd to the State if Alaska and to the citizens of Nome. Time's a wasting. Plans need to be in place. The stampedeers will be on top of us before the ice goes out. Are we in front of the curve or behind the eight ball? —N.L.M.—

Letters

Dear Editor, Questions: What kind of person kicks a puppy so hard that its ribs are broken and its lungs are punctured? The puppy died as a result of its injuries. It slowly died by suffocation due to blood in its lungs. Can you even imagine the suffering it went through? You are despicable beyond words! We know who you are! I believe in Karma. What comes around goes around. Joseph Lyon Nome, AK 99762

Dear Editor, I wanted to let you know that I think you and your staff of women plus two men do an excellent job with the daily except MO, TU, WD, FR, SA and SU. The old Nome Nugget under Wilfred Boucher, editor was published MO, WD and FR. My father was a newspaperman for half his life. That is something I wanted to do but not very much. My friend in Nome, Mary Roell Honsberger, sends me copies on occasion when she thinks I would find it interesting.

Your crew does good work, keep it up. "Nome needs the Nugget and the Nugget needs Nome." I watched the Discover series on the offshore dredging operation. I will not be there this spring, been there and done that. Hugo Phillips San Rafael, CA 94903-2934

A Look at the Past



Photo and comment courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum director WAKE ME UP WHEN IT'S OVER — This is what Council City looked like after a "long winter's nap" in April 1903.

Illegitimus non carborundum

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Sunrise	04/05/12	08:02 a.m.	High Temp +34° 03/29/12 Low Temp - 9° 04/02/12 Peak Wind 33 mph, N, 03/29/12 Precip. to Date 01.57" Normal 02.56" Snowfall to Date 73.3" Snow on Ground 26"
	04/12/12	07:36 a.m.	
Sunset	04/05/12	10:08 p.m.	National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391
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See what's hoppin' around the Sound!
Happy Easter from the Nome Nugget!

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Choose Respect rally brings DNR commissioner to Nome

By Diana Haecker
Last week, Alaska commissioners fanned out to participate in “Choose Respect” events all across Alaska. Dept. of Natural Resources Commissioner Dan Sullivan got to come to Nome to deliver the message of zero tolerance for domestic violence and sexual assault.

socially accepted drinking. A generation ago, he said, drinking and driving had been tolerated. “There’s even the expression ‘Have one more for the road.’ It wasn’t considered socially unacceptable,” Sullivan said. Collective outrage, the campaigns of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the rising awareness that drunk driv-

Anchorage, a woman approached him and she wanted a copy of his speech. She said that as a victim of domestic violence she always felt alone. People talking about the issue and bringing it out of the dark actually helps, she told Sullivan.

Kawerak’s Children Advocacy Center program director Ryan Larson then spoke to the services his office provides for children who have been referred to them by the Troopers, Nome Police or the Office of Children Services. To give a sense of how many sexual assaults occur in the region, Larson said that between July and December 2011, 22 children were received at CAC. From January to February 2012, there were 13 cases. Larson said the CAC helps families by providing a safe atmosphere for the children and their caregivers to come in after the trauma happened. “We do everything to make them comfortable, feed them or let them rest – whatever they need,” Larson described. The children are interviewed at their pace and when ready are taken through a forensic interview and a forensic exam with a sexual assault response team nurse.

As the numbers show, changing the culture of domestic violence and sexual assault still has a long way to go. Sullivan sincerely said that change starts with awareness and society saying, enough already.



Photo by Diana Haecker

CHOOSE RESPECT— DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan, left, Norton Sound Health Corporation SART nurse Barbara Cromwell and Mary David listen to a presentation held at last Thursday’s Choose Respect rally at the XYZ Center.

At a Thursday afternoon rally held at the XYZ Center, Sullivan addressed a thin crowd consisting of board members of the Bering Sea Women’s Group, sexual assault medical response nurses, Kawerak Child Advocacy Center officials, Trooper leaders Sgt. Charlie Cross and Lt. Andrew Merrill as well as a Nome police officer. Sullivan said that he had been the Attorney General at the time when Governor Sean Parnell focused on “changing the culture of domestic violence and sexual assault” in Alaska. Sullivan said that Alaska has the dubious distinction to lead the nation in occurrences of domestic violence and sexual assault. “We can do better than this,” he said. “It’s not just about raising awareness, but also bringing up the anger level a little bit, saying that we can’t allow this,” Sullivan said.

“We call this an epidemic, but there are examples when we have a whole society come together and say ‘enough of this’,” Sullivan said. As an example, Sullivan talked about

ing kills was able to change the culture. Sullivan said that the same needs to happen for domestic violence and sexual assault. He said that during an event at which he spoke in

Individual charged with fraud related to initiative petition

A Fairbanks woman has been charged with submitting fraudulent signatures for the Alaska Coastal Management Program citizen initiative petition and four other misdemeanor and felony charges. Deborah A. Carroll was hired by the Alaska Sea Party to obtain signatures for the initiative petition. When the petition booklet was submitted to the initiative committee, the Sea Party became suspicions of fraudulent signatures. The committee did not submit the booklet to the Division of Elections with their petition application, but instead turned it in to the Department of Law.

Carroll admitted to taking names out of the phone book and signing the petition booklet, based on statements she gave to police. Improper subscription to a petition is a class B misdemeanor and the four other charges were related to the petition fraud. The prosecution and discovered fraud does not affect the proper filing of the initiative petition. Sufficient qualified signatures were submitted. Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell thanked Mayor Bruce Botelho for bringing the fraudulent activity to the attention of his office and the Department of Law.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 5 - April 11, 2012

Thursday, April 5

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
*The Joys of Stress Video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Comforting Your Fussy Baby Video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Wiffleball Grades 3-6	Nome Rec Center	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Body Blast	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*City League Vball	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*H2O Aerobics	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*ICANS	XYZ Center	7:30 p.m.
*Night Zumba	Nome Rec Center	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, April 6

*Pickup bball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - noon
*CAMP Class, Audiology Class	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Two To Get Ready Video	Prematernal Home	2:00 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Zumba	Nome Rec Center	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*Open Bowl	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Climbing age 8 & under	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Climbing age 9 & over	Nome Rec Center	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*Drop-in Soccer (15+)	Nome Rec Center	8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church (rear)	8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 7

*Body Blast	Nome Rec Center	12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
*Relax, Renew & Restore Yoga	Nome Rec Center	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
*Celebrate Birth Video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*The Baby System-The First Year	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Open Bowl	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday, April 8

*Nome Rec Center & Pool: CLOSED		
*DKC Medicaid Class	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Welcome To The World Video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.

Monday, April 9

*Pickup bball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 am. - noon
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6:15 p.m.
*WIC CLASS	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Breastfeeding/Another Way of Saying I Love You	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Dance: Grades K-2	Nome Rec Center	4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
*Zumba	Nome Rec Center	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Open Spe Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*City League Vball	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*H2O Aerobics	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*NCC Reg Mtg	City Council	7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
*Preschool Story Hour	Library	10:30 a.m.
*Lamaze: Youand You Baby video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*First Aid: Vol 1: Accidents	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Floor Hockey: Grades 3-6	Nome Rec Center	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*City League Vball	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Cardio-Kickbox	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11

*Pickup bball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 am. - noon
*Rotary Club	Airport Pizza	noon
*Decipline: Teaching Limits With Love	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*SIDS: Reducing The Risks Video	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Team Handball: Grades 3-6	Nome Rec Center	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
*Zumba	Nome Rec Center	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Open Spe Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Family Swim	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*City League Vball	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Community points of interest:

- *Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Tu-Sa)
- *Kegoayah Kozga Library: noon - 8:00 p.m. (M-Th), noon - 6:00 p.m. (F-Sa)
- *Nome Visitor Center: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (M-F)
- *XYZ Center - Center Street: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (M-F)



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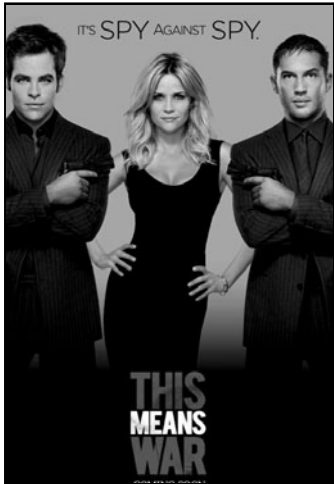
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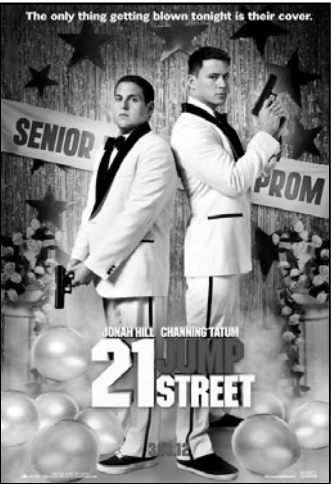
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• Piracy worries summer season gold seekers

continued from page 1

Water, said. "We are sending out packets of information on the cost, that there is no road to Nome."

"We are telling people, 'Your best winter will be your summer up here,' Mitch Erickson of Nome Gold Alaska said. The company is putting in a campground with rentable space for tents and converted shipping containers.

The USCG will provide training for dredge and boat operators for a week at the beginning, providing voluntary inspections to advise miners on safety equipment and practices, Lt. Albright said.

AST Sgt. Andrew Merrill said the Troopers would refer boundary disputes and the like to the DNR. However he urged that crimes be reported immediately for Trooper action. The Troopers do not have a boat for going onto the offshore leased tracts area or on the public recreational mining waters off East Beach and West Beach.

"Enforcement on the water is going to be an issue," Merrill said. "We are working with the Coast Guard to bring in their assets."

Miner Judy Martinson took the microphone to ask how miners were to handle people pirating gold, mining on leases that were not theirs.

"This is a life time investment," Martinson said of leases she and her husband Doug bought. "How do you want us to handle this when the pirating starts? What to do?"

Those who are criminally trespassing would be charged, according to Andrew Merrill.

"We are hoping we will not be seeing pirating," he said, "with the work and education the DNR is doing. But if someone is out there actively stealing your gold, we will take the proper recourse."

The Troopers still have people in 15 villages to serve, so the Troopers would not serve as referees when someone with a faulty GPS or inability to read one strayed five feet onto another's tract, he said.

During a meeting with Nome Common Council earlier Thursday, Merrill said that the Troopers were looking for a boat and would like to moor one next to the Port of Nome rescue boat. That could be worked out, Joy Baker, harbormaster, said.

Enforcement plans sound like they would take too long, miner Larry Assad said.

"We're not interested in Trooper warnings, and you can lose \$40,000 in gold while you are talking to the DNR," Assad said. "There are going to be con-frontations."

Several members of the public, including miner Shawn Pomrenke, noted that enforcement would be easier if boats were marked so the numbers could be easily read and the operator identified.

"There is no way to identify a dredge. They pretend they don't see you," Pomrenke said.

Nome Police Dept. Chief John Papasodora agreed and said the department was looking at a requirement

for vessels entering Nome's harbor to have identification in a highly visible color with a number from City of Nome.

Suggestions that miners coming into the area with no knowledge of rules and the ways of mining be educated came from several directions.

Miner Jim Hanson suggested there be formed an offshore miners association.

"You can do a lot on your own to educate these people," he said. "If they're not in line you can work with the Dept. of Natural Resources. If there's someone who is really messing up out there, two or three of you can get together and then say, 'Yeah, this is serious—let's call the Troopers and the Dept. of Natural Resources, and they'll listen to you. That's the way it was in the old days. The miners association took control of things and had some credence. Otherwise the DNR might say a person is just a whiner."

People who violated the law could lose their leases as fishers lose their permits if they don't follow state regulations, Brent Goodrum, DNR director of Mining Land and Water, said.

Miners and fishers using the same waters have caused problems with accidental destruction of nets by dredges and even the malicious cutting of a net.

Howard Farley, who acts as pilot for larger boats coming to harbor, said dredge operators would have to learn the rules of the road and right of way practices for safety's sake. He added that some miners had the mistaken information that the offshore areas had been set aside for the exclusive use of miners—not true. Subsistence fishing had gone on for many decades and would continue, he said.

Farley cited cases from last year, including damage to his own net when a dredge went over it.

"It's going to be a busy place," Farley said. "People are going to have to know what they are doing and watch out for each other. It is going to be a very dangerous thing this summer."

Communication is the key, Farley said.

"They need to know they have to have waterproof marine radios. Cell phones don't get it," he said. "They are going to have to communicate with each other. DNR needs a dedicated channel."

As it is hard to prosecute on fishing net damages, buffer zones to separate miners and fishers would be wise, Scott Kent of state Dept. of Fish and Game, said—just "a comfort zone to keep dredges away from nets. I know you guys don't want to get right next to one another—nobody in their right minds would, so just a buffer zone to keep these catastrophes from happening," Kent said. "We don't want to be reactive, we want to be proactive."

Goodrum vowed to add information on the DNR Website informing prospective miners of the subsistence fishing issue.

Mayor Denise Michels said there would be more meetings to discuss such issues before the water and the season opens in June.

The Nome Common Council met with the same set of officials Thursday afternoon before the meeting at Old St. Joe's.

Nome City limits give jurisdiction 1.63 miles straight out from shore and five miles up and down the shoreline, according to Brooks Chandler, City's attorney. Chandler, in response to a request from the Council, had prepared an ordinance requiring a permit from the City as well as the state for recreational miners. The draft ordinance set the cost of the City permit at \$750 to help pay for services the City would have to provide miners.

• Port panel avoids head-on with mayor

continued from page 1

statewide: Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, Seward, Bristol Bay Borough, Emmonak, Ketchikan and Nome.

"This is a gift, a one shot deal for getting help to extend Nome's causeway into deeper water. With the fed-

eral deficit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said no new projects," Michels told the commission in a letter and then repeated at the work session.

"If we did have to go through the federal process, the City would be a cost share partner and have to come up with 35 percent of the construction cost (\$17 million) 25 per-

cent of the design costs and 50 percent for the feasibility study. That's a lot of money!"

The port repair and modification project was already in the capital budget bill, Michels told the commission. This money would go for a

"That's not enough," Councilwoman Mary Knodel said. "It needs to be \$1,000."

The City is also looking into taxing gold that is sold in the City.

Cliff McHenry was all over that—mining the miners with usage fees.

"The biggest drain on the City finances is alcohol. I don't see the drinkers paying anything extra," he said. "Now we're looking at the influx of miners as a cash cow."

"That raises an important issue, DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan said. "We do see this as an opportunity for the City and the state. We had a very successful lease sale."

"We're really here to gain information. It's important that it is not all negative talk. There are going to be growing pains and some incidences,

but we want to work together to keep them at a minimum.

Tom Sparks of the federal Bureau of Land Management could see the positive side.

"It's a real opportunity for the City for real economic development," he said. "I'd like the DNR to consider establishing an office here. To be good stewards of the land, you have to be out here."

The number of boats and dredges entering the harbor may come to a limit, because of limited docking space, an issue to be taken up by the Port Commission. The City plans to add more floats and has a request into the legislature for the money, Michels said.

continued on page 5

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• Port panel avoids head-on with mayor

continued from page 4

second barge ramp on the west side of the inner harbor, new harbor floats and fill to go between two docking areas on the causeway.

There is competition between Nome and Kotzebue over establishing a deep-water port; laying politics aside and securing money for Nome's port further development would help position a deep-water port in Northwest Alaska, she said.

"I'm looking at regional, state, national and international opportunities," Michels said.

One idea is to establish a deep-water port at Port Clarence.

"The legislature's leadership understands regionally that with the road to Teller to access Port Clarence strengthens our request," Michels said. "We have community and regional support letters [for lengthening the causeway]—Sitnasuak Native Corp., Nome Eskimo Community, Nome Chamber of Commerce—and need to align the Port Commission's priorities.

A state DNR auction of offshore gold mining tracts has increased pressure on Nome's port and dock facilities, Michels declared. City of Nome is responding to state needs in developing its resources; it is time for the state to help Nome.

"These are our priorities and I am not going to blink," Michels declared to commissioners. We are supporting industry and State of Alaska's interests.

He voted for the smaller project in setting the original priorities, as it was shovel ready, Commissioner Jimmy Adams said. But with more information, he had no problem with changing priorities, he added.

Michels apologized to the commission for not making clear that she was following the two projects at the same time in different funding arenas.

With voters having the say so over the bond to fund the statewide ports, the "likelihood of passage is pretty good," Port Commission Chairman Jimmy West Jr. said. "We need to press Donny [Sen. Olson] and Neal [Rep. Foster] to make sure the capital projects get funded."

Harbor needs

In more detail, the capital projects sought for the harbor are:

- Snake River Moorage Expansion-Phase II —\$3,500,000; because of a dramatic increase in mining dredges operating off shore, there is a severe shortage of mooring for small vessels. Expansion space within the existing inner harbor is limited. An area on the western side of the Snake River is an appropriate location for additional floating dock space. Concept level drawings anticipate a fixed, ice-resistant dolphin anchored system being provided to stabilize floats. Design efforts with dredging-quantity calculations are underway.

- Causeway Ramp Dock—

\$4,700,000; Port of Nome Causeway has two open-cell sheet pile docks; the Westgold Dock —built in 1989, and the City Dock —built in 1991. Over the past five years, Nome has seen a significant increase in large vessel traffic, frequently requiring vessels to anchor offshore until dock space comes available. A dock project would address this critical space shortage with an additional 350 feet of sheet pile between the existing docks, and a 100-foot section at a lower elevation to serve as a transfer ramp for moving rolling stock to and from barges. The design work for this project is also underway.

- South & East Dock Fender Repair Construction—\$1,500,000; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Nome sheet pile replacement project in 2007-08, as a follow up project to a navigation improvements project which successfully relocated the entrance to the Small Boat Harbor and Snake River. While the new sheet pile walls serve well for cargo and fuel transfers, the mooring fenders have suffered repeated damage from the ice forces each winter, showing the design is too light duty for an arctic climate. The City has obtained drawings for a new "floating camel" fender design. This project is construction ready.

- Deep Draft Port Design and Construction—\$150,000,000; intense planning over the expansion and development of the Arctic has brought many projects to the forefront to provide a deep draft port for the vessel fleet that will be required to explore, design, create, maintain and service this development. Though several areas have piqued interest among those with vision, port advocates say Nome serves as the only real option with an existing port facility, adequate fuel storage, expanded medical facilities, air transportation and community structure already in place.

- Barge Ramp Loading Dock Construction—\$1,800,000; The barge ramp inside the Small Boat Harbor has been in high demand since its construction in 2005, serving as a vessel launch and loading ramp for the distribution of equipment, cargo, and gravel throughout the region. The constant heavy use as a loading ramp, in addition to the erosion of the subsurface, has created a depression in the concrete that needs repair. In order to meet the demands for vessel loading and launching, a new open cell loading dock will be constructed north of the concrete ramp, which will be taken out of service and repaired during this project. Design efforts are underway.

Good-bye, leaning pilings

In other business at the March 28 special meeting, the Port Commission accepted a bid from Pro-West, an outfit out of Wasilla, for a total \$170,000 to remove unstable pilings and repair the Nome float anchor

system in the Small Boat Harbor. STG was not far behind with a bid of \$176,000, and RPM, Inc., was not to be considered at \$970,000, according to commissioners.

Port Commissioner Cam Kristenson said that ice pressure jacked the pilings out of place. The mooring revision would weld a heavy chain to immovable ice-resistant dolphins with anchor points for more stability, he said.

According to Robert Gilman, a Pro-West partner, the firm will attempt to remove the leaning piling with heavy equipment from the top of the ice while the harbor is still frozen. If that plan proves unfeasible, the company will put a hydraulic powered vibratory pile extractor on the May 20 barge from Seattle and extract the piling from one of Pro-West's marine vessels. Either scenario would be augmented by water-jetting equipment directed by an industrial diver to loosen the substrate.



Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

ICE-JACKED—One of several pilings holding docks shows affect of ice pressure pushing it up and out of place. Several pilings lean thus in the small boat harbor and will be removed before the boating season. A \$170,000-project will install a new anchor system with heavy chains fastened to ice-resistant dolphins with anchor points to give stability for moorage.

Court orders Greenpeace to stay away from Shell vessels

By Diana Haecker

As Shell Oil is getting ready for the first offshore oil and gas exploration operations to ever happen in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas this summer, a federal judge last week granted Shell a preliminary injunction against Greenpeace.

Federal District Court Judge Sharon Gleason ordered Greenpeace USA to stay one kilometer (or 0.62 miles) away from all Shell vessels in U.S. territorial waters and all U.S. ports. The injunction is in place until October 31.

A 500-meter safety zone (1,000 m. during towing) is also in place for support vessels and other equipment. These safety zones will be reduced to 100 meters for vessels transiting through narrow channels.

"We are pleased the judge recognized the risk posed by Greenpeace's illegal activities and entered the preliminary injunction," said Shell spokesman Curtis Smith in an email correspondence with *The Nome Nugget*. "Our goal is to avoid a repeat of the recent illegal boardings that took place in New Zealand and Finland that not only jeopardized the safety of the crews about Shell's Arctic-bound vessels but the protestors as well. While we recognize the right to peacefully protest Shell's planned Alaska drilling activities, we can't condone Greenpeace's illegal and unsafe tactics."

Greenpeace USA issued a statement saying that the boarding of Shell's drill rig *Noble Discoverer* was carried out by an entirely sepa-

rate legal entity, namely Greenpeace New Zealand. In late February, seven Greenpeace activists including "Xena Princess Warrior" actress Lucy Lawless climbed onto the Liberian-flagged drill ship, trying to stop the ship from leaving New Zealand and heading to Alaska. They staged a five-hour protest on board the *Noble Discoverer* until they were arrested. Last month, activists occupied two icebreakers in Finland.

Reacting to the court order Greenpeace deputy campaign director Dan Howells said in a statement, "When an oil company with billions of dollars employs an army of lawyers to undermine one's right to peaceful protest and free speech, then you

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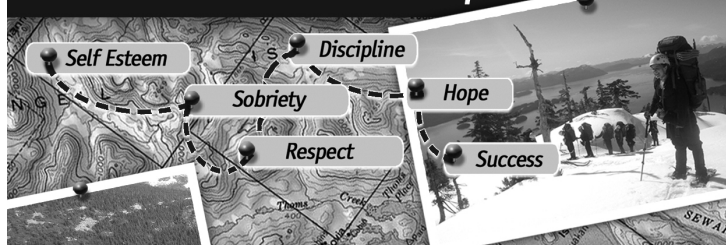
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DNR lease sale bidder qualification dispute lingers

By Sandra L. Medearis

Several miners continue to hold the bag on 16 offshore leases they bid on and won in the Sept. 28 lease sale staged by state Dept. of Natural Resources.

One of the bidders was Scott Meisterheim who is a miner featured in the Discovery Channel reality show, "Bering Sea Gold."

The number is not 16, but now 12 leases, DNR Director of Mining, Land and Water Brent Goodrum said last week. He said that he was aware of the concern that mining season is starting soon, but that he cannot produce a resolution. The issue is on the desk of Commissioner Dan Sullivan. Goodrum in October told Meisterheim and Mike Benchoff they could send again the paperwork that DNR said was missing. No one from DNR is saying what happened with four of the contested lease bids. Two missing from the list had Doug Martinson in first position and Benchoff in second position.

"My decision was appealed, so now it is with the commissioner, Dan Sullivan to decide, Goodrum said in Nome March 29. "I cannot comment as the issue is under appeal."

In a helter skelter registration process, prospective bidders signed a statement at the registration table affirming they were over 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States, and then received a bidding number on heavy paper to hold up during the outcry auction. Direct observation showed that no identifica-

tion was required from registering bidders. Bidders took their bid cards and found chairs in the Old St. Joe's auditorium. People who did not have big bucks to spend sat among the buzz of excitement beside mining representatives from South Africa.

"I think they expected professional mining companies, seasoned bidders, not miners motivated to follow directions and succeed, but who were not as auction wise," Meisterheim said in a phone interview. "I was the newest, the rookie guy there. I wished the people running the registration had been better prepared and trained for the process. I think they just didn't put the people properly educated for the event in the proper positions to run the lease thing," he said.

Meisterheim said he signed the statement; still, DNR said they did not have Meisterheim's paperwork—likewise for bidder Michael Benchoff. The department said in a letter to Meisterheim that the process was confusing.

Although Meisterheim received a bid card, #171, at the signup table and has receipts for deposits as high bidder on tracts 4 and 6, DNR sent Meisterheim a letter dated Oct. 27 as official notice saying that he and Benchoff's bids were disqualified.

The lease sale comprised two parts—an outcry auction on 53 underwater tracts and a sealed bid auction of 31 tracts.

Statement missing

The sale was advertised at least 30 days ahead, the letter said, and the requirements were spelled out. Under state law, for a person to qualify as a bidder on a mineral lease, the bidder must submit a signed, dated statement including the applicant's name, address, telephone number and a certification that the applicant is of the age of majority and that the bidder is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien.

A solution

The law allows for the issue to be corrected through language on excusable inadvertence. The department had also found second and third highest bids with omissions of paperwork, Brent Goodrum, director of DNR Division of Land, Mining and Water, said in his Oct. 27 letter.

"Therefore, the two affected bidders may correct their omissions by filing completed qualification statement forms with the Division of Mining, Land and Water within 10 days of the receipt of this decision. Completed forms must be received by the division within 10 days from receipt of this notice and should be submitted to: [Kerwin Krause's (mineral property manager) Anchorage office address.]"

Goodrum goes on to state the appeal process on the letter that has been copied to other lease sale bidders. The deadline for appeals was 20 calendar days from the date of the

notice.

Qualification statement forms are attached to the Oct. 27 letter for Meisterheim and Benchoff to fill out.

He did sign the statement and submit it before the auction Sept. 28, Meisterheim said by phone Monday. He did send Krause another notarized statement as directed by Goodrum, along with affidavits from two individuals who said they attended the auction and saw Meisterheim completing his qualifying statement. The *Nugget* has received copies of these and correspondence, as well as e-mail copies provided by Kathy Sullivan, a friend who currently has Meisterheim's power of attorney in the issue. She had called Krause's office repeatedly, Sullivan said, "trying to get Kerwin Krause's office to accept proof that Scott Meisterheim did everything within the legal confines of the auction. The whole handling of the auction is a red carpet invitation for controversy and appeal with this auction."

A snag

And indeed, the second-highest bidder on Tract 4, Norm Stiles of Nome, who bid \$13,500 to Meisterheim's \$14,000, filed an appeal on Nov. 10 within the 20-day appeal period against the DNR's Oct. 27 offer to reinstate Meisterheim and incomplete bids for 15 other tracts with high bids by Benchoff. The right to pay for Tract 4 and mine it should go to him, Stiles said. Stiles' appeal locked up Meisterheim's two high bid tracts and Benchoff's 16 tracts. On Jan. 26, DNR set a Feb. 17 deadline closing the appeal process. As of March 29, the DNR had not ruled on Stiles' appeal.

Meanwhile, Kathy Sullivan and Meisterheim contacted Stiles by letter dated Feb. 7 with a proposal for settling the beef over Tract 4. Meisterheim would get off Tract 4 in favor of Stiles and Stiles would withdraw the appeal, freeing Meisterheim's Tract 6 win and the tracts won

by Benchoff.

A letter dated Feb. 15 to DNR Commissioner Sullivan from Stiles' attorney Guess and Rudd, LLC, accepted Meisterheim's proposal and withdrew the Stiles appeal on Tract 4, subject to approval by DNR and assuming that no one else filed an appeal on Tract 4.

The DNR sent Meisterheim a letter essentially applauding Stiles and Meisterheim for playing nicely over Tract 4, but claimed the right for any final ruling on the matter and the appeals for the Commissioner Sullivan.

On the phone from Thailand April 2, Stiles said he could not predict the outcome but acknowledged that Meisterheim had made an offer to withdraw his bid right on Tract 4 in return for Stiles withdrawing his appeal to theoretically free up the Benchoff claims. The Tract 4 bid represents three other investors.

"It's like any other auction," Stiles said. "If you don't dot your I's and cross your T's, they throw out your bid."

Meisterheim wants to pay for his other winning, Tract 69 \$28,0000, and look forward to the new mining season.

"My intention is not to criticize the DNR. I'm doing the right thing [ceding his right to Tract 4] for the other miners to get their claims back. I did this out of kindness of my heart so the other miners can get on with their lives," he said.

And what about his stardom on Discovery Channel?

"I am going to be in season two. I'm building my own dredge to prove I know what I am doing. I'm going to rewrite my character, in a sense. I'm going to surprise everyone and come back as a guy with business sense, not play an asshole," Meisterheim said.

The possibility of conflict of interest exists, as the reporter attended the Sept. 28 auction, received a bid card and bid unsuccessfully on Tract 7.



Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

TOOK HIS CHOICE, PAID HIS MONEY—Mike Benchoff, \$20 bill in hand, pays his deposit on tracts on which he bid highest during a Dept. of Natural Resources lease sale in Nome on Sept. 28. The tracts have been tied up in dispute since DNR said Benchoff was not a qualified bidder. The DNR also disqualified bids from Scott Meisterheim. Helping Benchoff to register is Army Corps of Engineers employee Leslie Tose.

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School board discusses a \$13 million FY13 proposed budget

By Lori Head

Cathi Wojtanek, business manager, explained that the FY 13 budget, at this point, was a “living, breathing document” and subject to changes. With the addition of one teacher and one aide at the elementary school, the total expenses for all Nome Public Schools personnel, including benefits, adds up to almost \$10 million, or 76 percent of the budget. The remaining \$3 million in non-personnel expenses includes projected increases of 15 percent for electricity and utilities, and an increase in fuel from \$3.52 to \$4.00 a gallon.

The one expense the board members chose to cut was the 10 percent increase to student travel at a savings of \$16,198 to the district. In the past, approximately \$12,000 in pull-tabs or “rippies” helped fund state travel, however, board members were warned not to expect any gaming dollars in FY13. Wojtanek stated, “Two years ago, we were getting \$3,000 per activity. This year we got \$1,000 per activity. Next year we’re not anticipating anything. So these kids are either going to have to raise all the money for state themselves, or we’re going to have to take it, you know, and provide it for them which is part of the 10 percent increase.”

On the revenue side, the budget has the city contributing a total of \$1,811,732, which includes the required 4 mills, or \$1,037,732, and an additional contribution of \$774,000. Board President Betsy Brennan asked if it was accurate that the city’s additional contribution had remained the same for the past three years, and if so, stated, “I’d like to ask for a little more.”

The proposed budget also includes \$454,948 from the fund balance.

Mike Brawner, superintendent,

explained that if the state does pass on monies to school districts, Nome would focus on reducing the amount budgeted from the fund balance.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 9, to hear public testimony and comments regarding the proposed FY 13 budget. The following evening, Tuesday, April 10, the school board will meet again in regular session. The final April meeting will be a special work session followed the same evening by a regular meeting to adopt a FY13 budget on April 24, 2012.

Health insurance

NPS employees are currently covered by Aetna; however, the board teleconferenced with Alaska USA Insurance Brokers regarding three alternative companies. After comparing and discussing several cost increase scenarios, board member Barb Nickels asked for a recommendation and Alaska USA suggested a self-funded Meritain (2) plan. If Aetna’s plan increased by 35 percent, it is estimated the school district could save almost \$180,000 in FY13 by switching to Meritain. The board requested Alaska USA pursue Meritain and firm up quotes.

Anvil City Science Academy lottery procedures

Lisa Leeper, ACSA teacher, presented information regarding ACSA’s enrollment lottery procedures. Nickels asked if there were any changes. Leeper responded, “In the past we tried to make our enrollment look and match that of the district. And in doing so, when applications were given to us, if we were deficient in a certain race, that race would earn preference in the lottery procedure and we found out we’re not allowed to do that.” She explained that in past years, with only the best intentions, both gender and/or race gave some applicants

preference. In order to insure compliance with federal law that would no longer be the case.

ACSA is hosting an Open House on Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. for interested families. There will be a presentation at 6:45 p.m. with an opportunity to ask questions to staff, parents and students afterward. Applications are available now and due April 30. The enrollment lottery will take place in May for the 2012-13 school year.

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

The board looked over a first draft attempt to replace the current administrative regulation 6145. The AR deals with student’s grades and the impact of one or more “F” grades on report cards or weekly Activity Progress Report Forms.

According to the updated AR, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in order to participate in games, contests, productions or scheduled travel. Any student with two “F”s on a quarterly report card will be considered ineligible regardless of GPA. Also, a student with more than one “F” on an Activity Progress Report Form will not travel or participate that next week.

Security Camera Resolution

A draft resolution to collaborate with the Nome Police Department in researching and purchasing security cameras for Nome Public School sites was discussed and fine-tuned by the board for approval at their next regular meeting on April 10.

One NPS employee addressed the board and expressed discomfort with the idea of having to work around a bunch of cameras. Brawner explained that the cameras would be placed at entryways, ends of long halls and the office area for security purposes, not surveillance.

Junior High School Honor Roll

7th Grade

Brandolyn Ahyakak
HANNAH ALOWA
Emmanuel Asher
Joshua Cannon
Megan Contreras
SAMUEL DEERING
Nathan Evak
Wilson Hoogendorn
Daphany Iya
Cody Johnson
Larrisha Johnson
Audra Murdock
Tiffany Ongtawasruk
Erica Outwater
MARIA PELKOLA
Bianca Trowbridge

Gabriel Smith
Rena Sparks
MAISIE THOMAS
Jannelle Trowbridge

10th Grade

Junyor Erikson
Ariana Horner
Emily Horner
Elijah Johnson
Tamaira Tocktoo
Dawn Wehde
Allyson Wukovich
Jenny Yi

11th Grade

Kayla Bourdon
KENNA-SUE CONTRERAS
Kaylene Evans
Diana Handeland
Christopher Harvey
Dylan Johnson
Sun Kim
NICHOLAS MORGAN
Taylor Pomeranz
Cameron Smith
John Smith
Russell Smith
ZACHARY SULLIVAN

12th Grade

DANIEL ANDERSON
NATHAN BLANDFORD
Gabriel Cabrera
Kristopher Erickson
Kaitlyn Gartung
Elizabeth Herzner
Jens Irelan
Christian Johnson
JACOB MARTIN
Chloe’ Mattheis
BRIAN MCDOUGALD
Erin Roehl
Mary Ruud
Danielle Scott
RAEHEL STILES

8th Grade

Pauline Ahkvaluk
Geneva Anowlic-Okitkon
Bethany Horton
Jasmine Jemewouk
Falene Lockwood
Andy Nayokpuk
Shannon Ongtawasruk
JADYN OTTON
Robert Pate
Dylan Pomrenke
Brayden Scarlett
Tamara Spivey
Nathan Tobuk
TEHYA TUCKER
Kailey Witrosky

9th Grade

Matthew Appolloni
NATHANIEL APPOLLONI
Isaiah Klay Baker
Keegan Bourdon
Tate Coler
Lacy Erickson
Jason Gilder
John Habros
DANIEL HEAD
Kathy Holly
ALEXIS HUTSON

NES welcomes new principal

By Lori Head

Meet Robert Grimes, Nome’s next Elementary School principal. Grimes hails from Georgia and more recently, Tuntutuliak, Alaska where he has served as principal for three years. He has been in public education since 1992 including seven years as a teacher, four years as an assistant principal, and seven years as a principal in both the elementary and high school levels.

Bob, along with his wife of 32 years, Nina, is ready to move to Nome to enjoy hunting, fishing, reading and cooking, especially on the grill/smoker. He is also ready to

tackle some of Nome’s educational challenges stating, “My ultimate goals involve improving literacy skills and making AYP.”

Grimes applied for the position in Nome because he knows he can make a difference. He explains, “I like working with people who want and are willing to work for the same thing: student success. Nome Elementary School provides that environment.” He claims to be data driven, interested in the benefits of technology in schools and to possess a history of raising student achievement.

When answering the question,

“What could Nome parents do to help you?” Grimes responded, “In my experience, the number one thing parents can do at home is to read to their children.” He added, “They should encourage their children to do their best. Another key is to become active in and support their child’s school and to stay in communication with their child’s teacher.”

Bob and Nina are looking forward to making Nome their new home and becoming active members, not only in the schools, but also in the community.



Robert Grimes

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April 22: Awards Ceremony **April 23:** Women’s Race
April 24: Junior’s Race **April 25:** Run, Harness, Go.
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Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

HIGH SPEED CHASE—Aly Daniels of Unalakleet is pursued by Carolyn Sam of Galena in the 5K ski race at the Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships, the rural state meet, in Galena. Daniels would win the race by a scant two seconds. Sam would come back the next two days to win the biathlon, and post the fastest split in the relays, thus capturing her first WISA Skimeister Award.

Team Alaska members compete at 26th annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships

By Keith Conger

Carolyn Sam takes the phrase “silver and gold” literally.

Sam, an outstanding eighth grade winter athlete from Galena, delighted the hometown crowd by winning her first Western Interior Skimeister Award this past weekend. She used a recipe that brought her identical snowshoe racing glory at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, Canada in early March.

Sam’s recipe? Follow a first day silver medal with an individual gold medal, and then back that up with team gold.

On day one of the 26th annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships, on her home turf, Sam nearly tracked down 2011 champion Aly Daniels of Unalakleet in the 5K-ski race. Sam was on the defending champ’s heels the entire race, but Daniels was able to hold on for a two second victory.

During the biathlon race the next day, Sam used 8 out of 10 shooting to capture her first Western Interior gold medal. Teammate Romay Shayen, who missed just one shot, took the silver medal. Daniels came

in just two seconds behind Shayen.

Sam took care of business in the junior high girls team relays, and turned the tables on Daniels by posting a team relay split two seconds faster than her western rival. The effort helped her secure the top overall meet honors for her age category and led Galena to relay gold, as well as the team trophy.

Sam, like all the division winners, came from a pool of seven athletes that had performed for Team Alaska at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games. And all seven would figure prominently in the 2012 Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships results.

Unlike the junior high girls division, however, the other age categories were not as closely contested. Junior Asa Bergamaschi from White Mountain, Team Alaska’s top junior male ski biathlete, followed up a one and a half minute victory in the 7.5K-ski race, by posting a three and a half minute margin in the 5K-biathlon race.

Although he was recognized as the top Western Interior skier in the junior high division in 2009, this was Bergamaschi’s first high school divi-

sion Skimeister Award.

Bergamaschi, and double silver medalist teammate Vincent Tomalonis, (a high school senior and 2012 Team Alaska snowshoe biathlete) would win the team relay and team trophy, both over Nome.

Junior Tim Schmidt, a first time Western Interior medalist, led Nome.

The White Mountain victory would break Nome’s string of three straight high school boys championships, and secure the first high school team trophy for the west coast ski and biathlon powerhouse since 2006.

Team Alaska gold medal snowshoe biathlete, Caity Tozier of Nome, continued her season long dominance by sweeping all three Western Interior races. Her closest race was an 18 second victory in the 5K-ski race over her teammate, sophomore Rosa Schmidt, the 2011 Western Interior Skimeister and 2012 Team Alaska snowshoe racer.

The strong performances helped Tozier capture the high school girls Western Interior Skimeister Award - her first.

Team Alaska ski biathlete Katie Daniels, a sophomore from Unalak-

leet, earned bronze and silver medals at the meet.

Tozier made sure her team would keep the high school girls team trophy in Nome for a third consecutive year. She teamed up with Schmidt, sister Hannah Tozier (a sophomore who earned her first Western Interior bronze medal) and freshman Janelle Trowbridge.

The most consistently dominant performances in any division were turned in by Team Alaska cross-country skier Kaleb Korta, an eighth grader from Galena. Korta posted winning margins of 2:17 and 2:16 in the 5K-ski race and 5K-biathlon races, respectively.

It was Korta’s second Skimeister Award in as many years.

Korta, double bronze medalist Jacob Moos, and an army of talented junior high Galena boys, would help bring the team trophy back to Galena for the first time since 2008.

Double silver medalist Sikulik Johnson led the Unalakleet boys to second place in the junior high division.

Top sharp shooters, hitting 10 out of 10 in the biathlon race, were Bergamaschi, Moos, Sigfred Brown of White Mountain, Kameron Reitan of Galena, Amanda Homekingkeo of Koyuk, and Anika Mudge of Nenana.

Homekingkeo continued one of the most impressive shooting displays in rural biathlon history. During the past two years the eighth grade eagle eye has hit a perfect 40 of 40 shots in regional and state competition.

Each year, the Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships has one of the largest participatory biathlon events in the state of Alaska.

The 2013 Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships will be held in White Mountain.



Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

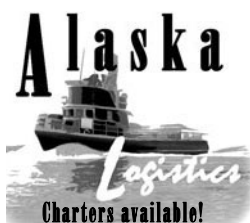
STATE MEET FIRST TIMERS—Ryan Topkok (#27) of Teller, and Joshua Prentice of White Mountain, head down a straight away in their first state ski meet race. The boys would place in the top 10 in both the junior high boys division ski race and biathlon. The Teller Ski and Biathlon team received the much coveted Sportsmanship Award.

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NOME, AK

Nome NYO at Bethel Warrior Dome invitational

By Hank Irelan

Two hundred kids from around western Alaska and the Lower Kuskokwim School District descended upon Bethel for a Native Youth Olympics meet. Nome was represented by Jens Irelan and Oliver Hoogendorn. Caity and Hannah Tozier were off to the State XC ski meet in Galena. The first event was the kneel jump, where Oliver jumped 20 inches and Jens 33 inches. Not their personal bests and nowhere near what the folks in the LKSD area did of over 50 inches.

Next the wrist carry was done the LKSD style, which is for time not distance. At this stage of the season this is good development for state where they go for distance. Jens and Oliver, our carriers, carried the McGrath team and a few others.

In NYO it is normal and good form to assist your opponent. Coaches help each other with technique and training tips. Even though they are hanging for time they are still carried slowly so our carriers Jens and Oliver got

practice carrying the McGrath girls. Jens and Oliver had, when they were carried, a contest between themselves with Oliver outlasting Jens by four seconds. Oliver is feeling spunky now and said he wants to beat Emery in the wrist carry. Emery is healing at home from an ankle injury, so the challenge has been put in place.

The second day of Bethel's NYO Meet was to start with the Eskimo Stick Pull. However some of the teams were going to have to leave, so after a short coach's debate the first event was the two foot high kick. Again LKSD dominated the event. Jens got to 84 inches and within two inches of the first place competitor from the LKSD region.

In the Alaskan high kick, Oliver again was close to qualifying in this difficult event and is a few practices away from accomplishing this. Jens on the other hand was in the medal mix but just short. The one-foot kick for Oliver was outstanding in that he qualified and improved by 16 inches. Oliver started getting into the

groove. Jens was high enough for first but missed the ball on three tries and only officially made 99 inches, which at this stage of the season is fine.

The highlight was Oliver meeting a personal best with making the qualifying height! Then onto the one-hand reach where again the dominating folks were the LKSD villages. Oliver made a first in being able to balance for the first time and Jens qualified. This is an event that will require more work on their part. The rest of the meet went the same way. Jens with a personal best in the seal hop, making the turn the first time in his NYO career.

We have more coming this season with a virtual meet on April 7 that can be followed on Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Nome2012VirtualNyoMeet>. To see prior virtual competitions just type in Facebook's search line Nome vs. Tununuk and Nome vs. Dillingham. Follow the team as they literally reach for the heights and leap for success!



Photo by Greg Lincoln/The Delta Discovery

INDIAN STICK PULL—Nome NYO athlete Jens Irelan tries to maintain his grip during the Indian Stick Pull. This event mimicks the process of grabbing fish out of a fish wheel.

Galena Ski and Biathlon Results

Cross Country Ski Race 03/29, 2012 Time 3:30 Distance HS: 7.5k JHS: 5k Temp: 32F Wind SE Course Conditions: Hardpack				WISA Ski Meet				
				Biathlon Ski Race Results March 30, 2012 Time 2:30 Distance: 2.5k x 2.5k Temperature: 20F Wind: 9N Course Conditions: Hardpack				
Name	Site	Race T	Place	Name	Site	Race T	Hits	Place
High School Boys				High School Boys				
Asa Bergamaschi	WMO	0:22:04	1	Asa Bergamaschi	WMO	0:15:24	10	1
Vinnie Tomalonis	WMO	0:23:29	2	Vinnie Tomalonis	WMO	0:19:02	5	2
Tim Schmidt	OME	0:23:34	3	Tim Schmidt	OME	0:19:28	6	3
Isaac McElwee	WMO	0:26:09	4	Isaac McElwee	WMO	0:19:58	6	4
Dominic Richardson	SMK	0:26:52	5	Quinn Tozier	OME	0:20:31	7	5
Quinn Tozier	OME	0:27:39	6	Jacob Corbin	NEN	0:22:10	8	6
Jacob Corbin	NEN	0:30:47	7	Dominic Richardson	SMK	0:22:32	2	7
Mikhail Ronnander	NEN	0:32:19	8	Mikhail Ronnander	NEN	0:24:04	7	8
Name	Site	Race T	Place	Name	Site	Race T	Hits	Place
High School Girls				High School Girls				
Caity Tozier	OME	0:25:29	1	Caity Tozier	OME	0:18:46	8	1
Rosa Schmidt	OME	0:25:47	2	Katie Daniels	IND	0:20:09	7	2
Katie Daniels	IND	0:27:01	3	Hannah Tozier	OME	0:20:56	6	3
Hannah Tozier	OME	0:27:04	4	Rosa Schmidt	OME	0:21:32	2	4
Jannelle Trowbridge	OME	0:28:21	5	Jannelle Trowbridge	OME	0:23:21	3	5
Danny Fisher	NEN	0:32:48	6	Danny Fisher	NEN	0:28:17	3	6
Name	Site	Race T	Place	Name	Site	Race T	Hits	Place
Jr. High School Boys				Jr. High School Boys				
Kaleb Korta	GAL	0:14:19	1	Kaleb Korta	GAL	0:16:54	6	1
Sikulik Johnson	UNK	0:16:36	2	Sikulik Johnson	UNK	0:19:10	6	2
Jacob Moos	GAL	0:17:27	3	Jacob Moos	GAL	0:19:16	10	3
Joe Apfelbeck	GAL	0:18:04	4	Aaron Bergamaschi	WMO	0:20:17	9	4
Anthony Sam	GAL	0:18:32	5	Sigfred Brown	WMO	0:20:19	10	5
Sigfred Brown	WMO	0:18:56	6	Joe Apfelbeck	GAL	0:20:44	8	6
Aaron Bergamaschi	WMO	0:18:59	7	Joshua Prentice	WMO	0:21:25	9	7
Joshua Prentice	WMO	0:19:00	8	Ryan Topkok	TLA	0:21:36	6	8
Ryan Topkok	TLA	0:20:09	9	Anthony Sam	GAL	0:21:44	8	9
Timothy Sagoonick	UNK	0:20:18	10	Trenton Ambrose	GAL	0:23:18	8	10
Walter Lord	GAL	0:20:18	10	Timothy Sagoonick	UNK	0:25:46	2	11
Branden Hildebrand	GAL	0:21:36	12	Branden Hildebrand	GAL	0:26:50	6	12
Camden Bjorgen	GAL	0:23:49	13	Walter Lord	GAL	0:26:51	7	13
Kyle Reynolds	OME	0:25:41	14	Camden Bjorgen	GAL	0:28:04	5	14
				Kyle Reynolds	OME	0:29:55	7	15
Name	Site	Race T	Place	Name	Site	Race T	Hits	Place
Jr. High School Girls				Jr. High School Girls				
Aly Daniels	UNK	0:16:45	1	Carolyn Sam	GAL	0:18:19	8	1
Carolyn Sam	GAL	0:16:47	2	Romay Shayan	GAL	0:19:22	9	2
Romay Shayan	GAL	0:17:58	3	Aly Daniels	UNK	0:19:24	6	3
Kiana Korta	GAL	0:18:33	4	Sarah Brown	GAL	0:21:47	8	4
Sarah Brown	GAL	0:19:06	5	Kiana Korta	GAL	0:21:57	5	5
Jesslyn West	GAL	0:19:57	6	Kameron Reitan	GAL	0:22:39	10	6
Kameron Reitan	GAL	0:20:16	7	Amanda Homekingkeo	KKA	0:23:40	10	7
Felicia Ione	WMO	0:20:50	8	Summer Sagoonick	UNK	0:24:00	8	8
Summer Sagoonick	UNK	0:22:07	9	Felicia Ione	WMO	0:24:01	7	9
Anika Mudge	NEN	0:22:42	10	Jesslyn West	GAL	0:25:04	6	10
Amanda Homekingkeo	KKA	0:22:45	11	Anika Mudge	NEN	0:25:28	10	11
Karlee Katchatag	UNK	0:23:05	12	Karlee Katchatag	UNK	0:27:14	7	12
Diane Lincoln	WMO	0:25:15	13	Diane Lincoln	WMO	0:30:13	6	13
Riana Boonstra	KENAI	0:17:59	Exhibition	Riana Boonstra	KENAI	0:19:55	9	Exhibition
Mallory Conger	OME	0:23:21	Exhibition	Mallory Conger	OME	0:30:31	4	Exhibition



Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

HOME STRETCH—Katie Daniels of Unalakleet is able to stay just ahead of Hannah Tozier of Nome in the 5k biathlon race at the Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in Galena. The pair would go on to take silver and bronze medals in the event.

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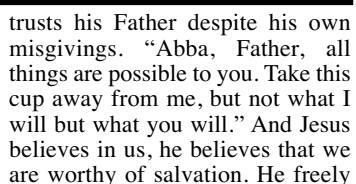
- High School Boys**
1. White Mountain
 2. Nome
 3. Nenana
- High School Girls**
1. Nome
- Junior High Boys**
1. Galena
 2. Unalakleet
 3. White Mountain
- Junior High Girls**
1. Galena
 2. Unalakleet
 3. White Mountain
- Skiemeister Awards**
- Asa Bergamaschi, White Mountain - High School Boys
- Caity Tozier, Nome - High School Girls
- Caroyln Sam, Galena – Junior High Girls
- Kaleb Korta, Galena – Junior High Boys
- Sportsmanship Award**
- Teller

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Christopher Christian Ahkinga

♦ Saying it Sincerely

continued from page 10

offers his life that we might share in the promise of eternity.

It was the epoch of incredulity. Jesus is innocent and yet he is arrested and put on trial. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And even though there was no case, Jesus was unjustly convicted and condemned to death. The crowds who cheered him and waved palms as he entered Jerusalem a few days earlier no longer stand up for Jesus. Instead there voices are silent as others yell out "crucify him, crucify him."

It was the season of light, Jesus turned the other cheek. He did not use power to wipe out his enemies. Instead he accepted an unjust punishment in order to bring good out of

evil. Jesus died for each one of us, especially for sinners without hope and those who put him to death.

It was the season of darkness. They mocked him. They stripped him of the purple cloak and they nailed him to the cross. They gave him wine drugged with myrrh. Then they crucified him and divided his garments. They reviled him and abused him.

It was the spring of hope, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus prayed psalm 22 from the cross, which never gives up hope. "But you, Lord, do not stay far off; my strength, come quickly to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the grip of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth, my poor life from the horns of wild

Obituaries

Christopher Christian Ahkinga

It was June 12, 1985, and Dora Ahkinga was hurrying to the helicopter that would take her to Nome to deliver her baby, when she detoured into the house of the Little Sisters of Jesus. And there, Little Sisters Damien and Nobuko, Martha Kayouktuk, Margaret Soolook, and Annie Iyahuk helped usher an impatient baby into the world. Someone ran up to the Rec Hall to congratulate Orville on his newborn son. Orville proudly thanked him and went on playing pull-tabs, assuming Dora was safe in Nome with the baby. It was only when the health aide came up that Orville learned his son had been born just a few buildings away in the Little Sisters' house! This was also the same site where Dora had been born in her father's stone house that had once

stood on the same spot.

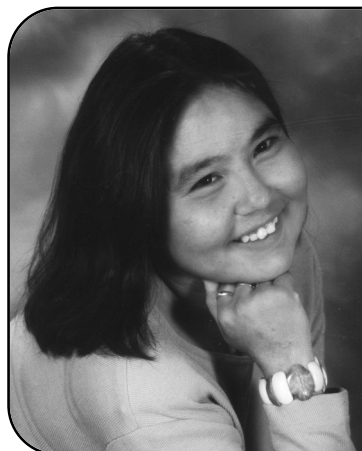
Orville felt it was only right to give his son a name with religious significance seeing as how he had been born in a place of religious significance, and so their son was named Christopher Christian Ahkinga.

Chris was born into a family that loved and lived their traditional Na-

tive lifestyle. He grew up learning to hunt, bird, fish and crab by watching his parents and siblings. He became a good hunter, and took joy in giving away his catch.

Chris's lifelong passion with Es-

continued on page 13



In Loving Memory of Christine Rose Kunnuk

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Community United Methodist West 2nd Ave • 443-2865

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Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) (M-F, 6 hrs. per day, 5 days a week)
\$31.02 hour, Excellent benefit package
Obtain a job description and application at AHFC, 406 I Street, Nome, AK; AHFC Headquarters, 4300 Boniface Parkway, Suite 130, Anchorage, AK or at www.ahfc.us. An AHFC application must be submitted for each position (a resume may be attached). **APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 p.m., April 6, 2012.**
Public Housing Residents are encouraged to apply.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

3/29; 4/5

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is accepting applications for the State System of Support Coaching Program. We are seeking experienced Alaskan Educators who are interested in applying their education skills in a coaching setting to increase the capacity of low performing schools and districts to increase student achievement. Applicants should have knowledge of current research and practices in the six effective school domains of curriculum, assessment, instruction, supportive learning environment, professional development, and leadership. Coaches work as independent contractors on a 1-year contract. For more information please contact Elizabeth Davis at (907) 465-3758 or elizabeth.davis@alaska.gov. On-line application can be found at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/ssscach>. Applications are due on or before 5:00 pm AST Friday, April 20, 2012.
4/5-12

Nome Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 250 Nome, Alaska 99762
Job Title: **Nome Convention & Visitors Center Manager**
Deadline: Open Until Filled
Job Summary: Under the supervision of the Chamber Executive Director this position is responsible for the promotion of Nome as a visitor and convention site destination and the operation of the Visitors' Center. Applications and full job descriptions are available at the Visitors Center or contact Barb Nickels at 434-1833 or director@nomechamber.com
4/5

Kawerak Recruitment Notice – 4/2/12 until filled
DIVISION: Administration
DEPARTMENT: Accounting
JOB TITLE: **Accountant I**
POSITION STATUS: Regular Full Time
EXEMPT STATUS: Non-Exempt
PAY SCALE GRADE: 14-15-16 (\$26.54-\$34.63)
REPORTS TO: Chief Financial Officer
QUALIFICATIONS:
1) AA in Accounting, or 2 years supervisory work experience in Accounting.
2) Must possess computer accounting knowledge and skills in Internet usage, Word, Excel and Windows.
3) Knowledge of basic accounting principles essential.
4) Must be attentive to detail and perform accurate work under numerous time constraints.
5) Must be dependable, self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision.
6) Must possess basic office skills.
Native Preference per Public Law 93-638 (Approved 1-21-11)
Interested individuals may contact Human Resources with questions at 907-443-5231. Applications can be accessed via Kawerak's website at www.kawerak.org or by contacting Human Resources at 907-443-5231. Applications may be faxed to Kawerak Human Resources at 907-443-4443 or sent via email to personnel@kawerak.org.
4/5-12

WANTED— Offshore gold lease Sublease, purchase or percentage larger operation capable of large production. Contact skyguy100@hotmail.com
3/22-29-4/5-12-19-26-5/3-10

Tall Tale Taxidermy in Ketchikan, AK is looking for salted and dried muskox hides, complete with all hair and as much leg as possible. Please call Diane at 907-225-2502 or e-mail me at daszu@yahoo.com. Leave message if not home, will be gone 4-2 thru 4-9.
3/29; 4/5-12-19

Seawall

On 3-26 at 1:33 a.m. Nome Police responded to a reported domestic disturbance. Investigation resulted in the arrest of TERRI NOONGWOOK, 44, of Nome, for Assault in the Fourth Degree. NOONGWOOK was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where she was remanded to custody. There was no bail set for this offense, as it is a domestic violence offense.

On 03-27 at 9:05 a.m. Nome Police Department responded to a report that a tall native male had just kicked and dented a vehicle parked on Front Street. Investigation led to the arrest of WALTER AGHPUK, 35, of Kotzebue. Charges are being forwarded to the District Attorney for Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree; a felony offense. Damage to the vehicle is estimated at approximately \$1,300.

On March 28, at 10:50 a.m. the Nome Police Department received a report of a theft occurring from the residence of 105 E. King Pl. DAWN OOZEVESEUK, 28, reported that her jacket had been stolen, which contained three pairs of beaded earrings valued at approximately \$30. Investigation revealed that 29 year old VIVIAN WASHINGTON, had taken the jacket from 105 E. King, found the earrings in the pocket and subsequently sold all three pairs for \$20 at the Board of Trade Saloon. WASHINGTON will be summoned for Theft in the Fourth Degree.

On 3-29 at 9:56 p.m. hours, Nome Police responded to a reported domestic disturbance. Investigation resulted in the arrest of VINCENT MARTIN, 23, of Nome, for Assault in the Second and Fourth Degree. MARTIN was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. There was no bail set for this offense, as it is a domestic violence offense.

On 03-31 at 1:24 a.m. NPD responded to 206 W 1st Avenue for a reported of a disturbance. Kathleen Ezukameow reported that Archie Tocktoo attempted to get into the apartment and broke a bedroom window using his hand. The estimated cost of damage was \$300. Tocktoo was transported to the hospital for treatment of a cut to his hand. Tocktoo is being charged with Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree.

On 3-31at 12:46 a.m. Nome Police responded to a reported intoxicated individual on Front Street. Investigation resulted in the arrest of RODNEY WHITT, 49, of Nome for Drunk on License Premises. WHITT was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. WHITT's bail was set at \$500.

On April 1, at 12:38 p.m. the Nome Police Department responded to a medical assist. Upon arrival, investigation revealed that DAWN OOZEVESEUK, 28, was inside the residence and in violation of a Domestic Violence Protective Order. It was also revealed that she is on current conditions of probation that prohibit the possession or consumption of alcohol. OOZEVESEUK was arrested and remanded at the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, where she was held without bail, as the first charge is a Domestic Violence offense.

DUANE JOHNSON, 22, was also present at the residence while intoxicated. Investigation revealed that JOHNSON is also on current conditions of probation, which prohibit the possession or consumption of alcohol. JOHNSON will be charged with Violating Conditions of Probation.

On 04-01 at 6 p.m. NPD responded to a report of a disturbance. Investigation revealed that Alvin and Katherine Ivanoff were involved in an altercation during which Alvin received minor injuries. Kathryn Ivanoff is being charged with Assault in the Fourth Degree - DV.

On 4-01at 11:57 p.m. Nome Police arrested JENIFER ADSUNA, 21, of Nome for Violation of Probation. ADSUNA was contacted by NPD after she was reported to be observed walking outside on West D Street and appeared intoxicated. Conditions of Probation prohibit the consumption of alcohol. ADSUNA was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where she was remanded to custody.

Trooper Beat

On March 21 at approximately 3:45 p.m., AST arrested 21-year old Teller resident Logan Mosquito. Mosquito was arrested without incident and remanded to the Kodiak Jail. The warrant was for Failure to Comply with Conditions of Probation, original charge Burglary 2nd Degree. Bail was \$1,500.00.

On March 25, AST received a report of a domestic disturbance in Gambell. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Lloyd Apatki, 31, of Gambell, for Criminal Mischief 4 and Probation Violation.

On March 26, at approximately 8:00 a.m., Archie Adams, 34, of Brevig Mission, was arrested for two counts of Assault III and one count of Assault IV after the investigation revealed that he had assaulted multiple household members. Archie Adams was transported and lodged at AMCC.

On March 26, approximately 11:20 a.m. Unalakleet State Troopers arrested a juvenile male, 17, of Stebbins on an arrest warrant for probation violation. The original charge was DV related. The juvenile was transported to the Nome Juvenile Intake where he was incarcerated pending arraignment. Alcohol was not a factor.

On March 29, at 4:30 p.m. AST received a re-

Real Estate

MUNAQSRI Senior Apartments • “A Caring Place”
NOW taking applications for one-bedroom unfurnished apartments, heat included

“62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age”
•Electricity subsidized; major appliances provided
•Rent based on income for eligible households
•Rent subsidized by USDA Rural Development

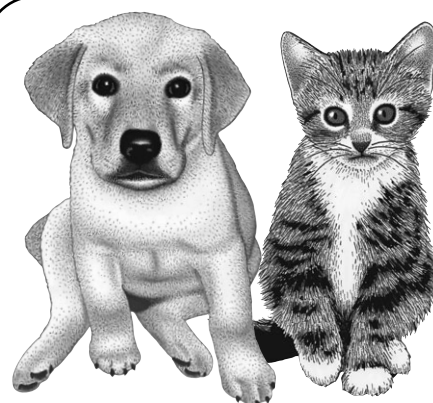
515 Steadman Street, Nome



EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER

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

(907) 443-5220
Fax: (907) 443-5318
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-770-8973



**PLEASE
HELP**
**Adopt a Pet
or make your
donation
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!

**Nome Animal Control & Adopt-A-Pet
443-5212 or 443-5262**

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, April 5 • 7:30 p.m.
General Meeting
For more information call 443-5726.

Thank you!

The Family of Clyde Ongtowsruk Sr. would like to thank the following Larry Sereadlook, The Health Aides Tanya Pelowook, Octavia Wilson, Marissa Oxereok, Those that assisted the Health Aides Anna Oxereok, Veronica Oxereok, NSHC Lab Technician Richard Lee, Era Alaska, Ryan Air, Wales Native Corporation, Native Village of Wales, City of Wales, Bering Strait School District Board and Staff, Wales School Teachers and staff for all the prayers and comfort. Kris staples For donating Era Alaska Miles to help get family members to Wales, Alaska Airlines, The grave diggers, and the cooks for the potluck.

Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is committed to providing quality health services and promoting wellness within our people and environment.
NSHC is currently recruiting for the following position:

Maintenance Engineer, Plant Operations

PURPOSE OF POSITION: Provide skilled maintenance and complex repair work on the physical plant, hospital, campus grounds, and limited medical and non-medical equipment. Uphold the organization's vision, mission, and corporate values. Demonstrate understanding of and compliance with organization's policies, procedures, code of conduct and work rules.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: One year of Vocational-Technical college in Mechanical Operation and/or Maintenance or related discipline. 5 years performing work in facilities maintenance program or related field.

Registration/Certification: Must have valid AK Driver's License; Asbestos Certification, Boiler Operator Class III, EPA 608 Certification Refrigerants and HAZWOPER Certification within 90 days of hire

SALARY: \$23.79 + DOE + Great Benefits Package

For an application, detailed job description or more information, please contact:

NSHC Human Resources Department:
Gerri Ongtowsruk, Recruitment Assistant
gongtowsruk@nshcorp.org
(907)443-4530 phone
907-443-2085 fax
www.nortonsoundhealth.org

NSHC will apply Alaska Native/American Indian (under PL 93-638), EEO, and Veteran Preferences. To ensure consumers are protected to the degree prescribed under federal and state laws, NSHC will initiate a criminal history and background check. NSHC is a drug free workplace and performs pre-employment drug screening. Candidates failing to pass a pre-employment drug screen will not be considered for employment.
4/5

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Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

Legals

CITY OF NOME PUBLIC NOTICE

O-11-08-01 AMENDED An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of the Building Located at Lot 12C, Block 93, 505 Bering Street Known as the Ambulance Garage.
O-12-03-02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Lease to Norton Sound Health Corporation for Temporary Construction Related Purposes.
O-12-03-03 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property by the City of Nome from Alaska Gold Company LLC.
O-12-03-04 An Ordinance Approving an Amend-

ment to the Port of Nome Tariff No. 8 Section 05.010(a)(3)(D) Changing the Docking Permit Rates.
These ordinances had first reading at the regular meeting of the Nome City Council on March 26th, 2012 at 7:00 PM and were passed to second reading, public hearing and final passage at a regular meeting of the Council scheduled for **April 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers of City Hall located at 102 Division Street. Copies of the ordinances are available in the office of the City Clerk.
3/29;4/5

carrier in Nome. Incident to contact, 3-750ml bottles of alcohol, 4-710ml cans of alcohol and 4 grams of marijuana were seized from her luggage. She was allowed to travel and charges will be forwarded to OSPA. Savoonga is a local option community that voted to ban the sale, importation and possession of alcohol.

On March 31, at about 8:00 a.m. the Gambell VPSO arrested Edwin Campbell, 37, of Gambell, on a \$2,500 arrest warrant issued by Nome District Court. The warrant was issued for failing to post the bail and the original charge was Burglary I. Campbell was transported to Nome and lodged at AMCC.

On March 31, at about 12:45 a.m. AST received a report of a domestic disturbance in Gambell. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Gerald Aningayou, 36, of Gambell, for 2 counts of Assault IV and Resisting Arrest. Aningayou was transported to Nome where he was arraigned at Nome Court and subsequently lodged at AMCC on \$1,500 bail. Alcohol is a factor.

On March 29, Nome WAANT contacted two adult males and one adult female that were flying to Unalakleet, at a local air carrier in Anchorage. Incident to contact, Perfenia Pletnikoff Jr. was arrested for an outstanding warrant for failing to appear on a MiCS IV and alcohol importation case in the Nome Judicial District. The other two were released and their luggage was seized. Investigation determined that the luggage contained over one-half pound of marijuana, which was seized. Charges will be forwarded to the Nome District Attorney for prosecution.

On March 30, at 4:00 p.m. AST arrested Quarliak Manumik, 26, of Nunam Iqua, with an arrest warrant for Criminal Mischief 4. Manumik was remanded to AMCC with bail set at \$500.00.

On March 30, at 9:07 p.m., VPSO Henry received a report of a domestic disturbance in Saint Michael. John Evan II, 24 of Saint Michael, was subsequently arrested for Assault 4.

On March 30, Nome WAANT contacted an adult female traveling to Savoonga at a local air

All Around the Sound



New Arrivals

Jovonna and Sean Bogart of Nome announce the birth of their daughter **Cheyenne Piper Bogart**, born February 3, at 9:22 p.m. at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 18" in length. Siblings Danielle, 7, Kenny, 5, Teddy, 3, are pleased to welcome home their baby sister Cheyenne. Maternal grandparents are Kuni Ellanna and Harry Muktoyuk; and Bellarmine Alvanna of Nome. Paternal grandparents are Connie Campbell and Bill Bogart of Minnesota.

Donma Apassingok and Roger

Slwooko of Gambell announce the birth of their son **Connor Trynn Apassingok**, born February 10, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20.25" in length.

Karen J. Olanna and Harry E. Tocktoo of Brevig Mission announce the birth of their daughter **Faye Lily Tocktoo**, born March 15, at 11:41 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 19" in length.

Honors

FAIRFAX, VA — Allyson Wukovich, of Nome, a student at Nome-Beltz High School has been selected to represent Alaska as a National Youth Delegate at the 2012 Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University.

Wukovich has been awarded opportunity to join a select group of 250 students from across the country to participate in an intensive study week-long of leadership in environmental science and conservation.

Wukovich was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in leadership in the sciences and conservation studies.

The Summit will encourage and inspire young leaders who desire a unique experience focused on successful careers in this dynamic industry.

The Washington Youth Summit on the Environment will be held June 24-29, 2012.

Trowbridge Elected President

At the annual organizational meeting held on February 23, the local amateur radio club known as SPARC, elected Rolland Trowbridge as president for the 2012/2013 year. Jerry Steiger was reelected Secretary and Kim Carter was elected Treasurer. Public Relations liaison will be Dennis Weidler.

Trowbridge is married to Deborah and has two daughters, Jannelle and Bianca. He and his family sailed to Nome on the 30 foot wooden Bristol Channel Cutter, Precipice from west-

ern Michigan nearly three years ago. "It's an honor and a privilege to be called to lead SPARC for the next year. This is an opportunity to promote amateur radio throughout the Seward Peninsula and engage our membership in active participation while encouraging a new generation to get involved," added Trowbridge.

AVEC awards top 10 power plant operators of 2011

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative announced the Top Ten Power Plant Operators of 2011 during its recent annual meeting in Anchorage. The following plant operators received recognition for their outstanding achievements: Carl Rock of Brevig Mission; Harold Gregory of Emmonak; Darin Douglas of Koyuk; David Peterson of Mountain Village; Mickey Ashby of Noatak; Brian Ekada of Nulato; Rudy Hamilton of Shageluk; Edward Bekoatok of Shaktolik; Winfred Obruk of Shimaref; and Greg Myas of Togiak.

Special recognition goes to Anvik and its operators for having zero

power outages. Other communities with few outages are: Kaltag and Shageluk with just one; Elim with two; and Russian Mission with three. Honorary recognition was also given to a Lost Plant Operator in 2011: Franklin Simon of Huslia, who passed away in September.

AVEC has more than 100 plant operators that are hired by the cities to handle the day-to-day operation of the power generation plants and make sure the lights stay on in their communities. The Top 10 Operators of the Year are selected based on some of the following criteria: responsiveness to requests for assistance from consumers and AVEC personnel; performing duties satisfactorily, including routine maintenance; running the most efficient generator to maximize fuel efficiency; keeping the daytank full of fuel; total hours of unscheduled power outages; keeping the plant clean and an inventory of normal routine maintenance materials on hand; and turning in completed paperwork.

• More Obituaries

continued from page 11

kimo dancing began when three years old, and he would drum on the plastic lids of coffee cans and Tang containers, until his brother Mike made him his own drum. He began memorizing songs, especially when he would get stuck at his brother's home in Wales, and spend storm-bound days and nights watching tapes of Eskimo dancing. In 2003 he learned how to prepare walrus stomachs for drums from his sister, Sistuq — and after this there was no stopping him! Chris kept the Diomedé drummers and others supplied with the very best drums.

Chris wasn't too interested in school, but he loved teaching others, and encouraged a whole generation of young boys to drum, sing and dance. Through them his passion for traditional song and dance will live on. Chris also had a special talent for learning new skills, and was proud of the things he made, like ulus, which he enjoyed giving away. Many young boys looked up to him as a leader, especially his nephew, Justin Ozenna.

Chris was skilled at other things, and worked as a Diomedé Power Plant operator from 2007 to 2011, while at the same time working as the GCI technician on Diomedé. In October 2011 he moved to Nome and began working as an aircraft cleaner for Bering Air, where he was well-liked and appreciated by his co-workers.

Even when he wasn't living in Diomedé, Chris' heart was always there. He loved kids, and was especially fond of Ashley Olanna of Brevig, but his big heart had room for all of them. Chris was deeply devoted to his parents, and loved every one of his sisters and brothers, and his many cousins and friends. And they all loved him back many times over for his generous, kind spirit and gentle soul.

In his short life all Chris ever really wanted is for people to be happy, to be kind to each other, to forgive each other, and to celebrate all that is good in life through Native song, dance and drumming. He will be missed beyond measure.

Christopher is survived by his loving parents, Dora and Orville Ahkinga, Sr., his brothers Michael Ahkinga, Sr. and Orville Ahkinga, Jr., his sisters Frances 'Sistuq' Ozenna, Opik Ahkinga, Catherine Kakaruk, Jamie Ahkinga, Florence 'Yavik' Ahkinga, and adopted sisters Patricia Kruger and Alyssa Ahkinga, 24 nieces, 12 nephews, and four great-nieces.

Christopher was preceded in death by his grandparents Jacob and Catherine (Soolook) Ahkinga, James and Annie (Omiak) Iyapana, his sister Roberta Nancy Ahkinga, niece Sonja Grace Ozenna, nephews Timothy Ryan Kazingnuk, Jacob and Brandon Kakaruk, Elijah Okpealuk, James Jacob Ahkinga, and the extended family of Dora and Orville Ahkinga, Sr.

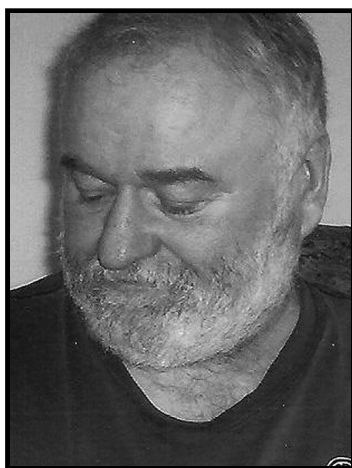
A prayer service will be held at

the St. Jude Catholic Church in Diomedé in the near future.

Lynn Joseph Perish

Lynn Joseph Perish, 53, of Ketchikan died on January 11, at the CentraCare Health System in Long Prairie, MN.

Lynn was born February 15, 1958 in Brainerd, MN to George and Irene (Moller) Perish. Lynn attended Clarissa Public School and graduated in 1976. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany for two years and then at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He was honorably discharged in 1980 and moved back to Clarissa. Lynn had many occupations throughout his




Lynn Joseph Perish

life but was mainly a heavy equipment mechanic and for the last six years drove a taxi cab. He spent the majority of his life in Alaska, including Nome, and enjoyed motorcycle riding, hunting and fishing. Lynn was a member of the American Legion in Ely, MN


Lynn is survived by daughters, Emily (Craig Seliskar) Perish of Ely, MN, Molly (Joshua Altenburg) Perish of St. James, MN, grand-

daughter Ella Lynn Perish of Ely, MN, mother Irene Kotula of Clarissa, MN and sister, Valerie (Vern) Petersen of Foley, MN, brothers, Lydell (Denise Miller) Perish of Eagle River, Alaska, Lorne (Vicki) Perish of Clarissa, MN and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his father, George Perish, step-father Mel Kotula and many aunts and uncles.



NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION



Project: Norton Sound Replacement Hospital

Deadline for Qualifications April 27, 2012

Solicitation
Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is soliciting qualifications and basic fee information from Relocation Firms for advanced planning, scheduling, and relocation of furnishings, materials, inventory, equipment, and supplies from the current 60,000 square foot, 16 bed facility and the 15 bed Quynna Care Center addition at 306 West 5th Ave, Nome, AK 99762, to a new 141,400 square foot, 18 bed facility, located at 1000 E 7th Ave, Nome, AK 99762 and a new 15,145 square foot, 18 bed Quynna Care Center at 1002 E 7th Ave, Nome, AK 99762 (both locations are 2 miles away from the current facility). The new facilities are under construction and scheduled to be substantially complete in September 2012. The patient move date is anticipated to be **December 8, 2012**. The firm selected for this role will lead the move process in respect to move planning and managing the physical move itself. To obtain a RFQ package contact Ms. Michele Woods at 907-443-6769, email: mdwoods@nshcorp.org.

Submittals
Deadline: Friday April 27, 2012 at 1:00 PM. **Address Responses To:** Mr. Randy Romanesko, PE Project Engineer, New NSHC Regional Hospital Project PO Box 96 Nome, Alaska 9976. **Required Number of Copies:** Three (3) hard copies. Qualification packages received after the deadline may be returned unopened. Responses should provide a description of the Firm's ability to satisfy each of the requirements as identified in Section E of this RFQ. Please number all pages. Any attachments will be considered part of the submission, and should be listed in the response. Failure to address all of the mandatory requirements may result in disqualification. The ability of the Provider to submit a clear, easy to read, and well-thought out proposal will be considered in the evaluation.

1. Issue RFQ to Vendors	Monday, April 2, 2012
2. Request to be included on the official Plan Holders list due:	Friday, April 13, 2012 at 1:00PM
3. Questions from Vendors about scope or approach due:	Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 1:00 PM
4. Responses to Vendors about scope or approach due:	Friday, April 20, 2012
5. RFQ Response with Bid Intention Due Date:	Friday, April 27, 2012 at 1:00 PM
6. Target date for Presentation of Proposals:	Friday, May 11, 2012
7. Final Vendor Selection Discussion (s) – Week of:	May 14 th – 18 th
8. Anticipated decision and selection of Vendor (s):	Friday, May 25, 2012
9. Anticipated Commencement date of work:	Friday, June 8, 2012
10. Final Activation Plan delivered to NSHC:	Friday, July 13, 2012

Contact Information
For questions regarding this RFQ or additional information regarding the project, please contact: Randy Romanesko, PE Project Engineer, New NSHC Regional Hospital Project 907.304.2240, rromanesko@nshcorp.org. Addenda will be issued as deemed appropriate by the Owner Transition Team.

4/5-9

King Island Native



Corporation

The King Island Native Corporation will hold their Annual Meeting of Shareholders on **Saturday, April 28, 2012** at Old Saint Joe's on Anvil City Square in Nome, Alaska at 1 p.m. for the following purpose: Election of two (2) directors and other matters listed on the agenda.

3/1-8-15-22-29; 4/5-12-19-26

NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Seven (7) seats are open on the Teller Native Corporation Board of Directors. Candidate qualifications:

- 1.) Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- 2.) Enrolled to the Teller Native Corporation
- 3.) Reside in Teller

Letters of Declaration of Candidacy must be sent or hand delivered to the office manager at the above mailing address and must be postmarked by **5:00 P.M. March 13, 2012**. Annual meeting date is tentatively set for April 21, 2012. If you have any questions, please call the office at (907) 642-6132.

TELLER NATIVE CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
P.O. BOX 649, TELLER, AK 99778
PH. 907-642-6132, FAX 907-642-6133

2/16-23; 3-1-8-15-29; 4/5-12

• NPFMC says revised chum salmon bycatch study needs more work

continued from page 1

The motion adds the following option to new alternative 3: General objectives and goals for the RHS would be in regulation, but the RHS program would not be in regulation.

Alternatives 1 and 2 remain as they are in the current draft environmental assessment. Alternative 1 is status quo (no action), and alternative 2 examines a range of hard cap options.

RHS modifications

The council's motion calls for these specific modifications to the RHS:

- Modify Rolling Hot Spots to operate at the vessel level and platform level for the mothership co-ops.
- Prioritize RHS closures to best protect Western Alaska origin chum and Chinook salmon using the best information available.

- Use information being developed, such as Dr. Jeff Guyon's ongoing research, to identify areas and times more likely to have higher proportions of Western Alaska chum salmon.

- In regard to the base rate, speed up shoreside data flow by obtaining trip chum counts as soon as they become available.

- Increase chum salmon protection measures during June and July; for example, weekly threshold amounts that would trigger additional protection measures when bycatch is abnormally high.

- Initiate Western Alaska chum core closure areas. These areas would trigger during abnormally

high encounters of chums believed to be returning to Western Alaska river systems.

- Limit weekly base rate increases to 20 percent of the current base rate. Stop RHS closures in a region east or west of 168 degrees west longitude as Chinook salmon bycatch levels start to increase in the later part of the B season.

- To improve the tier system, consider a range of incentives that would lead to different levels of bycatch reduction.

Other to dos

Make the following revisions to the *Bering Sea Non-Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management Initial Review Draft Regulatory Impact Review, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*.

- Provide information and rationale on the necessary provisions or objectives of the RHS that will need to be in regulation under new alternatives 3 and 4.

- Provide additional qualitative analysis on the use of adult equivalency (AEQ) and how the impacts to individual river systems may vary annually depending on when and where bycatch occurs. (AEQ estimates are used to estimate the impact of chum salmon bycatch on chum stocks and the communities that rely on them.) While the limitation on the genetic data only allow for large aggregate groupings by region, the composition may not be evenly distributed among the river systems included in a single region, and therefore may have differential impacts within the region that may exceed the average impact rate

provided in the AEQ analysis.

- Include information from Wolfe *et al* about the projections for future subsistence demand for chum salmon in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskok-

wim region.

- Under alternative 4, provide spatial analysis of the combined effect of the triggered area closures and the closures implemented under the RHS

to visually display the available fishing areas, given the layering of potential chum salmon closures under alternative 4.

Happy Easter
from
The
Nome Nugget



Nome Joint Utility System 2012 Trucking Services

Invitation to Bid

Nome Joint Utility System (NJUS) is requesting sealed bids for "wet and operated" trucking services for the 2012 construction season.

Bid documents are available at NJUS, 1226 Port Road, Nome, AK 99762. Please contact Toby Schield/NJUS at (907) 443-6330, or Jeff Juelson/CE2 Engineers at (907) 349-1010.

Sealed bids must be received by NJUS at the above address not later than 3:00 PM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT) on April 12, 2012. Late bids will not be accepted.

4/5

• Court orders Greenpeace to stay away from Shell

continued from page 5

know you're doing something right."

Since Greenpeace New Zealand launched this campaign over 300,000 people have written to Shell stating that Arctic drilling is "one of the great mistakes of our age." Howells said that Greenpeace is just one part of a growing movement which will continue to oppose Arctic drilling peacefully and vigorously this year and in the future. "This desperate drilling program will

do nothing to bring down gas prices in the US, but everything to endanger America's last true wilderness and play havoc with our climate," Howell said.

During a recent briefing with the U.S. Coast Guard in Nome, USCG Rear Admiral Thomas Ostebo told community leaders that the Coast Guard is preparing to ward off protestors from shutting down Dutch Harbor during the height of fishing season when the Shell flotilla is coming through the region en route to

their destination at the drill sites in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Ostebo said that people do have the right to peacefully protest and told Nome leaders that they shouldn't be surprised to see demonstrators arrive in Nome. This brought up concerns about protestors not only demonstrating against Arctic oil and gas exploration activities but also protesting subsistence hunts of marine mammals.

Court

Week ending 3/30 Civil

Minor Party vs. Snell, Gilbert; Stalking: Ex Parte
Andrews, Benjamin T. vs. Dick, Susie M.; Domestic Violence: Ex Parte Without Children

In the Matter of: Kauer, Caroline C. and Kauer, Robert L.; Dissolution Without Children - Superior Court

Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. vs. Nattanguk, Cecelia M.; Debt - District Court;

Minor Party vs. Penayah, Magdeline; Domestic Violence: Ex Parte with Children

Minor Party vs. Otten, Jordan; Domestic Violence: Ex Parte with Children

Ezukameow, Kathleen vs. Tocktoo, Archie; Domestic Violence: Ex Parte with Children

Wards Cove Packing Company, LLC dba Nome Trading C vs. Walter, Demolo D.; Debt - District Court

Wards Cove Packing Company, LLC dba Nome Trading C vs. Gould, Anna M.; Debt - District Court

Small Claims

No current claims filed

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Nicholas William Tom (2/4/81); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 112701123; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 15 days, remanded into custody; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Edith Janelle Katongan (10/5/77); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 112702302; Violated conditions of probation; Probation terminated; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: all time, consecutive to the term in Case No. 2NO-11-803CR; Must pay suspended \$100 jail surcharge to the AGs Office, Anchorage.

State of Alaska v. Tiffany Jones (1/30/89); Importation of Alcohol; Date of violation: 11/21/11; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 45 days, 42 days suspended; Unsuspended 3 days shall be served with defendant reporting to Nome Court on 8/31/12, 1:30 p.m. for a remand hearing; Fine: \$3000 with \$1500 suspended; Shall pay unsuspended 1500 through Nome Trial Courts by 11/15/12; Forfeited alcohol to State; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office,

Anchorage; Suspended Jail Surcharge: \$100 per case with \$100 suspended; Must be paid if probation is revoked and, in connection, defendant is arrested and taken to jail or is sentenced to jail; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Probation to 3/28/14; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law; Shall not possess or consume alcohol in any dry or damp community; Subject to warrantless breath testing at the request of any peace officer in such community; Person and baggage are subject to warrantless search at any airport en route to local option community; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Alcohol assessment by 7/1/12; Participate in and complete recommended treatment and aftercare including up to 30 days residential treatment if recommended.

State of Alaska v. Tudor Wheeler (1/14/82); Notice of Dismissal; Charge 002: MICS II; Filed by the DAs Office 12/19/11.

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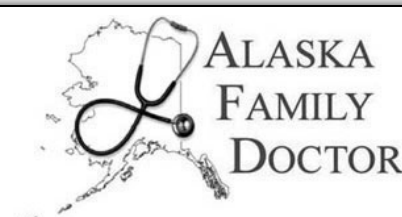
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State readies for the anticipated great 2012 Gold Rush

By Diana Haecker

The anticipated Gold Rush of 2012 has all the ingredients, and then some, of gold rush times in the past: the nationwide economy is in the hole, the gold price is strong and offshore gold mining has been broadcasted to a huge audience thanks to the reality show "Bering Sea Gold". On top of that the State promoted and held a quite successful offshore lease sale. It's Deadwood all over again, just at this time in history, there are state and city officials bracing for the wave of prospectors showing up in Nome with more than pan and shovel in hand.

The Commissioner of the Dept. of Natural Resources, the director of Mining, Land and Water, the newly promoted Lieutenant Deputy Commander of the Trooper's C Detachment, an envoy from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and an official with the federal U.S. Coast Guard were in Nome last week on a listening tour on what to do with the expected onslaught of fortune-seeking gold miners this summer. DNR commissioner Dan Sullivan said in a press conference on Thursday that the state is taking a multi-agency approach to meet whatever is coming Nome's way this summer. "But really the big goal here is to listen and learn and just start to

get a sense of what the issues are," Sullivan said. "My team at DNR have been working with Nome officials on what the issues are and get suggestions on how to address them."

Sullivan cautioned to cry wolf too early as the influx of new people could bring opportunities for Nome's businesses. "We are all for being proactive and not waiting for problems to develop but to think them through before they happen and to make sure that this summer has as much opportunities and upsides as opposed to challenges and downsides as possible," Sullivan said.

He also said that the DNR has asked to include a disclaimer at the end of the Discovery Channel reality show to put out the message that picking up the gold doesn't come as easy as it looks on TV.

Asked about their strategy to get a handle on concrete numbers of miners arriving, Brent Goodrum, director of the DNR's Mining, Land and Water said that his division is working with barge companies to get hard numbers on the amount of dredges and heavy equipment booked on voyages to Nome.

DNR's mineral manager Kerwin Krause told the *Nugget* there are currently about 60 permit applications. Each operator of a dredge working

on a state lease is required to submit a plan of operations and the DNR needs to approve of sub-leasing arrangements. However, there are two recreational public mining areas, on East Beach and West Beach, where an unregulated number of miners can hit the water with various contraptions. On West Beach, miners are limited to six-inch suction nozzles and 23 horsepower motors, on East Beach to eight-inch suction hoses and 46 hp engines. For both areas the rule says: miners only occupy a location while their dredge is there and in operation, no staking the claim. Also, dredges must stay 75 feet apart from each other.

So who will keep an eye on the miners playing by the rules? The DNR plans to station an official in Nome for the summer to assist miners in their operations. "We want to continue to educate folks about some of their responsibilities and just various things to be safe and successful," said Goodrum.

What about safety — both on the water and on land? Newly promoted Trooper Lieutenant Andrew Merrill spoke to the public safety issue that Nomeites fear will develop as fortune-seekers descend on Nome. Merrill assured that the Troopers would work with the local police department and assist wherever they can.

"We plan for the worst case scenario and hopefully not have it," said Merrill. But first, jurisdictional issues need to be worked out. There is not much chance that additional Troopers could be stationed in Nome, as there is a shortage of Troopers. "There are 22 positions open statewide and only seven [Troopers] are in the academy right now," said Merrill. But he said that the Nome Post is in OK shape with five troopers and one Sergeant. However, there is a lack of an adequate state boat to respond to emergencies. The city has a rescue boat that was available in the past and the Coast Guard would also bring assets into the mix.

US Coast Guard investigator Lieutenant William Albright said that his agency is aware of the challenge ahead. He said the Coast Guard has watched gold dredging in Nome for the last few years and considered the gold dredging operations "latent safety conditions", not only for the mariners but also the marine environment. He said that while the Coast Guard does enforce shipping and fishing rules, it does not enforce diving. "Part of our journey to Nome this year is becoming more versed in diving itself, just understanding how they work," Albright said.

Albright also said that environmental rules would be brought to the

miners through education. While Albright plans to be in Nome for six days and get a handle on how miners operate and what the issues are, enforcement is a weak point as the Coast Guard has no permanent presence in Nome.

Albright said that for now the Coast Guard wants to increase safety awareness. He plans to come back to Nome from May 30 to June 6 to walk the beach with a colleague, take in what kind of vessels will be hitting the water and hold one-on-one safety talks with dredgers.

DNR officials said the Department of Environmental Conservation would be brought in should there be an environmental violation such as oil spilling into the water.

While Nome residents wonder how the newcomers would affect the perennial summer housing crunch, bureaucrats in state agencies are busy figuring out which agency is in charge of what. "The worst thing I can think of is if you have federal and state agencies in the middle of the summer trying to figure out where the extent of their authority ends or begins and that includes the local authorities," Sullivan added. "It sounds a little process-oriented but I think its good to have that squared away before summer," Sullivan said.



Photo by Diana Haecker

REMOVING LULU — After 22 years in the same place, the sunken berthing barge *Lulu* is being removed piece by piece. The City awarded a bid to Q Trucking to do the job.

Barge *Lulu* is coming out

By Diana Haecker

A barge that has been in the same spot for more than 20 years is about to be moved piece by piece to its final resting spot out of the water.

Last fall the City had awarded a bid to Q Trucking to remove the sunken berthing barge called *Lulu*, using the contractor's own best method. Freeing the partially submerged barge from the icy grip of the frozen port waters, backhoes and dozers started to work on digging out *Lulu* piece by piece. With sea ice still thick, heavy equipment can be driven to the barge and no wave action is hampering daily progress on Q Trucking's salvage work.

The barge was already in bad condition when it sank in 1990. A storm in August 1990 pummeled the city's berthing barge that was named after her 'birthplace' in Honolulu. The barge was built in the 1940s and

arrived in Nome in 1987. It was used as a transfer barge for freight being offloaded at the Nome causeway. During the 1990 storm, the barge partially sank and crashed into the causeway's armor rock. In a failed salvage operation, the vessel was refloated and driven to the western end of the sandspit, where it rested until now. At the time the barge could not be taken into the turning basin because the jetty — at the old Snake River entrance — was still in place back then and had not been dredged deep enough to allow passage for the 5'11" deep draft and 65-foot wide *Lulu*.

The barge also had structural damage and fractures inside the bulkheads and on the main deck. The salvage effort ultimately failed and *Lulu* had remained in place ever since.

The Nome Port Commission de-

cided last summer to have the barge removed because it causes shoaling inside the inner harbor and it posed a safety hazard. The contractor has until September to complete the work of completely removing *Lulu*.

Photo by Nikolai Ivanoff
TEDIOUS WORK (right) — Q Trucking boss Charlie Reader and his employees Sterling Buffas and Lucas Bauman are working on the removal of the old barge *Lulu* from the frozen inner harbor in Nome.



NVFD tackles small fire at Airport Pizza

By Diana Haecker

Nome fire fighters responded to a dryer fire at Airport Pizza on Wednesday night March 28, being able to put the flames out in time before much damage occurred. Airport Pizza owner Bill Howell said that the fire started in the dryer after it was drying bar towels.

A janitor on staff called Howell around 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday night, reporting smoke and a visible flame inside the dryer. The janitor also called the fire department. Fire fighters were able to put out the fire with minimal water and removed the washer and dryer from the washroom located in the second story of the building. Howell reports no water damage and no structural damage to

the building.

The restaurant was closed on Wednesday as staff and additional help from the Seaside Center cleaned and mopped the place all day. Howell sent out a message on Nome-announce, offering \$12 and a hamburger meal for additional helpers to join the "clean-up party."

"I was thankful to the community response and the Seaside Center for their support," said Howell. The washer and dryer need to be replaced and the room needs new painting, but other than that, there was no real damage, Howell said. "It just caused me a lot of discomfort, having to close the business for a day," he said.

The restaurant reopened for business on Thursday.



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