



WINDBLOWN PLASTIC BAGS— Winds whirl plastic bags from the city's landfill on the Beam Road across the fence and litter the surrounding tundra, creating not only an eyesore but also hazard for wildlife.

Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

• USPS 598-100 • Single Copy Price - 50 Cents in Nome •
VOLUME CVI NO. 1 JANUARY 5, 2006



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

HAPPY NEW YEAR NOME — Nome welcomes 2006 with a sparkling array of fireworks.

BSRHA sorting out financial mess

By Diana Haecker

Allegations of mismanagement, nepotism and money squandering surfaced in late November as Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority employees were laid-off and informed that their insurances are no good.

Ever since then, the 11 furloughed employees in Nome and more in the villages experienced

everything from anger to frustration and in some instances depressive bouts to deal with the fact that they were out of a job and a steady income with the holiday season around the corner.

Attempts to file for unemployment were delayed until inconsistencies with the Labor and Workforce department were cleared

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Council delays decision on prohibiting plastic bags

By Ted Meyer

At the December 28 noontime Nome Common Council meeting, the Council delayed final approval of an ordinance that would prohibit plastic bags used for carry out in retail business. The proposed ordinance was submitted by Councilman Jon Larson as a result of plastic bags being the primary source of wind blown litter, and creating a significant problem that

increases operational costs at the landfill. Plastic bags are blown from the landfill and deposited on surrounding lands impacting property owners and causing an unsightly environment. Previous proposed bans on plastic bags have been unsuccessful.

During the Citizen Comment Period, resident Sterling Golodergren approached the Council

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Jane Doe 2 takes on the Catholic Church, Jesuits; Father Poole dismissed

By Diana Haecker

In an effort to dismiss the civil lawsuit brought forth by a woman under the pseudonym Jane Doe 2 against Jesuit priest James Poole, the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska and the Jesuits, the defendants failed to convince Superior

Court Judge Ben Esch to grant their motion for summary judgement.

Esch wrote an order and memorandum last month that granted the defendant's motion for summary judgement and thereby dismissed the claims of sexual assault and sex-

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State dismisses charges against Owens; Svobodny turns to cold cases

By Diana Haecker

On December 22, the state's lead prosecutor Rick Svobodny dismissed the third count of the original indictment against Matthew Owens dealing with official misconduct. A separate charge of violations of conditions of release was dismissed at the same time.

Svobodny was not available for comment before at press time.

Svobodny just recently was designated as the State's first Cold Case Homicide prosecutor. The State Troopers and the Department of Law have launched a comprehensive homicide investigation and

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Letters

Dear All,

It's time to start considering the pros and cons of forming a borough government.

The price of gold is over \$515 and the market forces that drove the price up appear likely to remain unchanged for a while. Nova Gold's prospects to do well at Rock Creek and Big Hurrah look very good. That will probably incite the politicians in Juneau to once again push for borough formation for those rural school districts that have resources to tax. Nova Gold would be that resource. That could mean a legislatively mandated Bering Strait Borough. Such a borough would alleviate some of the educational support burden the State carries in supporting the Bering Strait School District. Getting the non-taxing

Letters to the Editor must be signed and include an address and phone number

Editorial

Harness the wild bags

We are responsible for our environment. We must keep our land clean and our animals free from harm. Nome is surrounded by spectacular scenic beauty that is unspoiled by careless human actions. However when we take a drive past the Nome Landfill we can register nothing but disgust. There are plastic bags flying everywhere.

There are tan bags and white bags, a few pink and green and blue and all are ugly. Plastic bags line the fence around the landfill and for about a mile radius from the landfill are festooned on every willow and shrub and even on the power lines and utility poles. They are air born and bounce and flit over the tundra like an errant critter riding the wind. They seem to take on a life of their own as they position themselves along both sides of the road and keep out of reach of the dump master and his clean up crew. There was a day not too many years ago when the grocery stores in Nome did not use plastic bags. We carried our groceries home in paper bags (some of them had handles). Our grocery stores decided to save expenses by switching to the lighter weight plastic bags and maybe they had the idea of saving a tree or two. However trees are renewable resources and paper is biodegradable. Plastic stays with us for what seems like an eternity. The paper bag will also not allow cans of beans and bags of apples to escape and roll around in the back of the car. Of course we have the option of carrying a canvas tote bag or two in which to haul our bread and milk home. Nome stores have also offered to reclaim our plastic bags but we don't seem to take them up on their offer. We could even take them to the store for our own re-use. We don't.

We need to solve the plastic bag problem. This is not like rocket science. This just involves the will to do something that may be a bit inconvenient but certainly not an insurmountable challenge. We really can do without the plastic. And while we are contemplating a solution why not go full force and separate our recyclable glass, metal and paper products when we put our trash out for collection? Other communities require such action. We need to accept responsibility and clean up our messes. We need to follow our good intentions with positive action. —N.L.M.—

“ Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.” *Rousseau and the Sentimentalists* by James Russell Lowell. 1819-1891

rural areas to carry their own weight up to the same extent the self-taxing boroughs do, is a goal of the urban dominated State Legislature.

We could let that happen, or we could cause a different scenario to unfold. We could create a Nome Gold Rush Borough, and tax that resource for our Borough's benefit. I am not hot on the idea of creating another layer of government and suffering more control, but if we must have a borough, I'd rather it be formed by and benefit our local population. If we allow a Bering Strait Borough to form and take in the Nome gold province, our local property would be taxed by the borough for the benefit of all within the borough, while the non-taxable property in the villages would remain untaxed. The result would be Nome and Nova Gold becoming the cash cow for the borough. We'd end up paying more and getting less. That idea should be repugnant to most Nomeites.

One alternative would be a Nome Gold Rush Borough that includes all of the historical Nome gold province and extends southward to the center of the Norton Sound. That would essentially be all of the drainages on the Seward Peninsula that do not drain into the Chukchi Sea, the Kotzebue Sound or Norton Bay. Such a borough would extend from Cape Darby northward to the Continental Divide and westward to Cape Mountain. That would include the Cape Nome, Kougarok, Noxapaga, Casadepaga, Ophir, Solomon, Boston, Bluff, Bonanza, Eldorado, Cripple, Iron Creek, American, Bluestone and York mining districts. That would include the abandoned mining camps of York, Coarse Gold, Taylor, Aurora, Little Hurrah, Boulder, Noxapaga, Boston, Ophir, Dahl, Davidson's Landing, Bering, Sullivan, and others. It would also include the currently unorganized communities of Banner, Dexter, Tripple Creek, Dry Creek, Snake River, Council, and Solomon. And it would include the organized villages of Brevig Mission, Teller, Golovin, and White Mountain.

Another alternative would be a truncated Gold Rush Borough that starts at Cape Woolley, takes in the Sinuk drainage as its western boundary, continues northward to take in the Cobblestone drainage, goes northward across Imuruk Basin and continues northward following the thread of the American River to the Continental Divide,

then following the Continental Divide eastward to the Noxapaga River, then following the thread of the Noxapaga River southward across the Kuzitrin River and through the pass through the Bendeleben Mountains following the thread of the Paragon River to the Fish River, then following the Fish River down to the Fox River, then continuing southward to include Bluff, then continuing into the Norton Sound southward to the 64th parallel, then westward to longitude 168 degrees west, then back to Cape Woolley. This formation would include most of the Nome gold province while avoiding Teller, Brevig Mission, Golovin, White Mountain and the King Island interests at Woolley Lagoon. However, since a Borough requires two or more organized govern-

ments, one of the communities lying outside of and near Nome would need to organize into a municipal government.

If we want a Nome Gold Rush Borough that does not include any Bering Strait School District villages, then we need to convince a nearby community to organize. Perhaps Solomon or Council? Another way to create a Nome Gold Rush Borough that does not include a Bering Strait School District village, assuming none want to join us in forming a borough, would be to get the Legislature to pass legislation allowing us to form a Borough that takes in only one municipal government.

If we do organize a borough, it would be prudent to follow Yakutat

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Ulu News

Senator Donald C. Olson
Phone: (907) 465-3707 Fax: (907) 465-4821
Website: <http://www.akdemocrats.org>

I begin this year by wishing that all of you are blessed with good health and happiness throughout 2006. Secondly, Willow and I want to express our appreciation for the many congratulations, best wishes, and kind thoughts we have received from many of you upon our marriage. Thank you very much.

The coming session of the legislature begins on Monday, January 9. I will be keeping you informed and commenting on the major developments during the session here in the Ulu News.

The gas line negotiations and potential contract is still the major issue confronting the legislature. The main difference between the start of this legislature and last year, however, is the amount of surplus funds that have come into the treasury from the high price of our crude oil. It is estimated that there is \$1.2 billion in additional revenues for our current fiscal year whose budget we just finished 7 months ago. Revenues should be up also for next year's spending budgets. As a result, there are a lot ideas floating around on what we should do with these extra funds.

The Governor announced that the budget proposals he will be recommending to the legislature include \$400 million for a down payment on part-ownership of the gas line and another \$500 + million to forward fund education programs. Another proposal being worked on and discussed by legislators is re-establishing some sort of revenue sharing to sustain our municipal governments and their operations. An outstanding education issue held over from last year is changing the area differential factor in education funding to better reflect the cost differences that exist between all school districts. This has become a big urban versus rural issue.

Perhaps the most pressing issue is how to bring some relief to individual Alaskans from their high energy costs. It just seems fair that some of the state's bonanza from high oil prices should be used to ease the pain of the increased costs to individual Alaskan energy consumers. Here, I expect a number of proposals to be discussed and pursued.

Of course, whenever there are revenue surpluses, the capital budget gets special attention. This is because spending on roads, airports, schools, and the like is one-time only spending. It does not ordinarily carry a year after year need like program spending in the operating budget. As such, capital spending is usually preferred when the surplus is expected to last only for a short period.

Finally, I am introducing legislation that would put \$500 million of the surplus into the principle of the Permanent Fund. This follows a long standing tradition of previous legislatures that in a time of plenty, put some of it into the people's investment savings account. Here it will stay and accrue to benefit every Alaskan's dividend on into the future.

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

Member of: The Associated Press,
Alaska Newspaper Association,
National Newspaper Association
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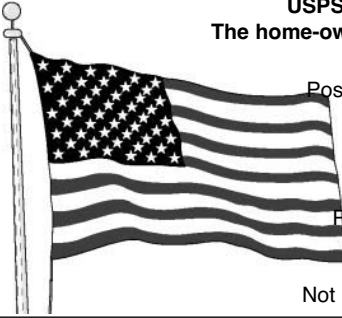
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Advertising rates: Business classified, 50¢ per word;
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ISSN 0745-9106
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Postmaster: Send change of address to:
The Nome Nugget P.O. Box 610
Nome, Alaska 99762
Periodical postage paid in
Nome, Alaska 99762
Published daily except for Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday, and Sunday
Not published the last week of December

Weather Statistics					
Sunrise	01/03/06	11:54 a.m.	High Temp	28°	12/31/05
	01/11/06	11:42 a.m.	Low Temp	-10°	01/03/06
			Peak Wind	30mph	N/12-27-05
Sunset	01/03/06	04:21 p.m.	Precip. to Date	0.00	
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•More Letters

continued from page 2
Borough's lead and take in the adjoining continental shelf. The continental shelf contains oil, gas and fisheries, which might prove beneficial at some later date.
I hope this stimulates some thought and conversation.
George Krier
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Editor,
This letter is addressed to the

people who remove snow with their privately owned backhoes or loaders. When dumping snow onto a snow hill, **please, please** lookout for children playing.
I've been watching these kids make tunnels in these big snow hills. Last weekend (12/17/05) my neighbor decided to plow his driveway and started dumping snow onto this hill where my child was, it's a good thing I was out there to holler at him to move.

So please, when dumping snow look for children playing. Thank you,
Dilly Adsuna
Nome, AK

To Native Corporations of Nome area,
Through grants from the Native corporations and the State of Alaska, Nome Eskimo Community and help from a few close friends, I had gone to Kotzebue to further my education for my well being. So I thought.... Well I passed at my courses, got all my certificates, diplomas, First Aid cards and what-not from Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue.

I finished school last May, and looked for jobs all over this region. The only job I could get was when John Handeland stopped me in his truck on the street on August 10, 2005. I started work on August 11. My point is this, all the Building Maintenance work I had applied for or asked about was filled by someone who is not from here in the region, let alone from within this State.

My question is why send a local Native to school, spend \$10,500 on education and any Native corporations do not hire him? I mean, after I made it to ATC I had sent all my sponsors a Thank You letter and told them I would hope to find a job with one of the Native corporations. But they made a liar out of themselves. Strange how the Native corporations learned from other races on this planet earth. Strange!?
George S. Minix
Nome, AK

A Look at the Past



Photo courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum/ Arthur Bell Collection
1908 winter scene on the Waterfront, Nome, ALASKA — The John J. Sesnon Lighterage Company used this aerial apparatus during the summer months to lift barge freight from ship to shore. Located near the present day Northwest Campus, you can still see the remnants of this wharf during low tide. The Lacey was a popular gambling saloon of the time. Card sharks would jump out the trap door in the floor and onto the beach when the police attempted to bust up the illegal game.

STILL MISSING • REWARD OFFERED

To date there has still been no sign of Ernest Saccheus reported missing 9/23/87, Archie Henry, Jr. reported missing 10/27/98, Eric “Mac” Apatiki, 21, who was last seen October 4, 2004 near the Polaris Hotel. Anyone with information should call the Nome Police Department at 443-5262 or the NPD Crime Line at 443-7804 or the Alaska State Troopers at 443-5525 or 1-800-443-2835.
BSNC, Kawerak, NSHC, the City of Nome, Golovin Native Corporation, Sivuqaq Inc., the City of Unalakleet, and Wales Native Corporation have established a reward fund for first hand information leading to the closure, arrest or prosecution of individuals responsible for missing persons/unsolved deaths in Nome. The fund is at \$17,000 and growing. If you have any knowledge of what happened in any of the cases, please call the Nome Police Department at 907-443-5262. If you would like assistance with the process, call Kawerak at 907-443-5231. Also, Kawerak is requesting photographs of the following people: Beverly Immingan, Aurora Escholt, James Moses, Donald Adams, Nathan Anungazuk, Ward Olanna, Mathew Towarak, Elmer Campbell Jr., Justina Kunayak, Olin Apatiki, Jeffrey Komonaseak, Lancelot Immergan, Ivadell Kazingnak, and Raleigh Iyapana. If you have a photograph, please send it to: Kawerak, Inc, P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 5 — January 11, 2006

EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, January 5		
School in session		
Boys and Girls Basketball to Point Hope/January 5 through January 7		
*Nome Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Kinder Swim	Pool	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Knowing the Unborn Video	Prematernal Homee	1:30 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*14 Steps to bettery Breastfeeding	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*NNST	Pool	3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Power Hour/ Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Resistance Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Crafts/ Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Step Aerobics	Nome Rec Center	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Bo	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
HomeChoice Workshop (See ad.)	Nome Eskimo Hall	6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
ICANS	XYZ	7 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*AA T.N.T.	Catholic Church	7:30 p.m.
Friday, January 6		
Last Day for Spring Registration/NWC		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/ KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 am - noon
*Tae Bo	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 6 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 2 p.m.
*Your Baby's Hearing Test Video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Knowing the Unborn Video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Power Hour/ Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	cancelled
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	Bahai Faith Center	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.) 8 p.m.
*AA Friday Candlelite		
Saturday, January 7		
Front Street		closed
Front Street		closed
NSHC		10 a.m. - noon
Pool		10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon - 6 p.m.
Nome Elementary		2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		4 p.m.
Pool		5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Catholic Church		8 p.m.
Sunday, January 8		
Kegoayah Library		closed
Front Street		closed
Front Street		closed
TBA		1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Pool		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Rec Center		2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Munaqsi		2 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m
443-5630 for directions		4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Pool		5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m.
Monday, January 9		
Front Street		closed
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		10 a.m. - noon
Kegoayah Library		noon - 8 p.m.
Pool		noon - 1 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon - 1 p.m.
Covenant Church		noon
Pool		12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
CAMP Dept./ NSHC		3 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Pool		6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Channel 4		6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers		7 p.m.
Council Chambers		7 p.m.
Bible Baptist Church		7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Catholic Church		8 p.m.
Tuesday, January 10		
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Nome Rec Center		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Front Street		noon - 5 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon - 8 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon to 1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Pool		1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Pool		5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Nome Elementary School		5:30 p.m.
Bering & Seppala		5:30 - 7 p.m.
Mini-Convention Center		6:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Pool		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Nome Planning Commission		7 p.m.
*AA Conference/BHS (Access Code 119979)		1-877-751-8040
Council Chambers		
Wednesday, January 11		
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		10 a.m. - noon
Nome Rec Center		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		11:30 a.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon - 1 p.m.
Front Street		noon to 2 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon to 5 p.m.
Polar Cafe		noon - 8 p.m.
Nazarene Church		noon
Pool		1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		3 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Prematernal Home		3:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Pool		6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		6:15 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Baha'i Center		7:30 p.m.
Nome Visitors Center		7:30 p.m.



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If your organization or club wishes to promote a meeting or special event, call The Nome Nugget, 443-5235, to be included in the Community Calendar. Deadline is Monday, noon.

Community Calendar sponsored by Bering Air, 443-5464

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GOLD COAST CINEMA

Movies starting Friday, Jan. 6

Narnia (PG)

7 p.m.

Aeon Flux (PG13)

9:30 p.m.



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Call for Saturday and Sunday Matinee Times 443-8200