



Photo by Laurent Dick

HAPPY EASTER — Dozens of children braved cold temperatures, drifting snow and bone-chilling winds to participate in Nome's Annual Easter Egg Hunt last Sunday. Volunteers hid several hundred colored eggs in the snow on Anvil City Square.

The Nome Nugget

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Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

IT'S NOT PRETTY, BUT I FINISHED!— Reese Madden takes second in his class in the 2006 Cannonball Race, finishing the race minus a few pieces of equipment. (See story page 7.)

Mom sheds murder charge in baby's death

By Sandra L. Medearis

Heather Takak pleaded guilty to manslaughter Monday in the death of her 11-month old baby girl whose body showed signs of physical abuse and starvation, according to the medical examiner who performed an autopsy.

The state charged Takak with first-degree murder in 2004. Judge Ben Esch Monday accepted Takak's plea to the lesser charge and set Takak's sentencing for Aug. 1.

Takak and the baby's father, Frank R. Johnson, took Christina N.

Johnson to the Unalakleet clinic early on Nov. 17, 2003 because, they said, she had trouble breathing. The baby died at the clinic, weighing 7.67 pounds, according to state Chief Medical Examiner Franc Fallico. In July 2005 at the father's trial, village health aides testified that in the clinic that morning, Christina looked like a three-month-old child. Ella Agibnik, community health aide, told the court when Dr. Sai Ling Liu introduced a light into a tube in the baby's trachea, Agibnik could see the light through the

infant's chest.

An autopsy found evidence from the baby's remains that she had starved and had injuries to her head within several days of her death.

In a statement to an investigating Alaska State Trooper, Takak said she had not fed Christina and had dropped her twice intentionally in the bedroom of the couple's Unalakleet home.

"I dropped her on purpose. I was in the bedroom. I dropped her

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Land lease signed for Rock Creek project

By Diana Haecker

Alaska Gold's proposed Rock Creek mine project is one step closer to becoming a reality as Bering Straits Native Corporation and Alaska Gold representative Doug Nicholson signed a lease agreement last week.

Bering Straits Native Corporation leased the subsurface rights to 3,000 acres to Alaska Gold, a daughter company to Canada's NovaGold.

The signing took place in a short and unceremonial fashion in the BSNC board room with vice presi-

dent of NovaGold Alaska and general manager of Alaska Gold Doug Nicholson; Alaska Gold mine manager for the Rock Creek project Warren Woods; BSNC president Tim Towarak; Golden Glacier Inc., (a wholly owned subsidiary of BSNC) president Homer Hoogendorn; BSNC Assistant Land Manager Irene Anderson and other staff members present.

The agreement constitutes Alaska Gold paying an advance royalty payment annually and a royalty on net smelter returns to BSNC in

exchange for the subsurface rights to mine the Rock Creek area.

Tim Towarak said that the signing is a historic occasion, as this marks the first time that a mining company signed a lode-mining agreement with an Alaska Native Corporation for gold.

"I'm very pleased to sign the agreement," said Nicholson in reply. "We are hoping for a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Bering Straits Native Corporation."

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Matt Owens sentenced to 101 years

By Diana Haecker

Former Nome police officer Matthew Owens, 30, was sentenced to 101 years in prison last Monday, April 17.

In December 2005, a 12-person jury in Kotzebue found Owens guilty on the counts of murder in the first degree of Unalakleet native Sonya Ivanoff in 2003 and tampering with evidence.

Superior Court Judge Ben Esch imposed the maximum sentence of 99 years in jail for Ivanoff's execution-style killing and gave Owens two years for staging the theft of a police car in an attempt to divert the attention of investigators away from him.

Judge Esch pronounced the sentence after considering a pre-sentence report compiled by a probation officer, containing among other information letters from community members, law enforcement officers and both prosecution and defense lawyers. Esch also listened to oral arguments by the prosecution and defense.

During the proceedings in a densely packed court room, lead prosecutor Rick Svobodny argued

for the maximum sentence of 99 years, saying that it is by law the only sentence for murdering a police officer. "If you kill a police officer you get 99 years," Svobodny said. "For a police officer on active duty, to commit the worst crime, it should be the same sentence, and he should get 99 years of incarceration."

Svobodny said Owens misused his position of authority to meet women, get them into his patrol car and coerce them into having sex with him. Svobodny also said that the murder also severely impacted the whole law enforcement community in Alaska.

"Sentencing is the most difficult part in any case," Svobodny said.

In this case, however, Svobodny said the sentencing is obvious based on the nature of the crime and Owens' long history of abuse of power. "Owens used his authority as a policeman stopping women to ultimately have dates with them," Svobodny said. "Matt Owens has a history of escalating abuse toward women until the ultimate abuse happened with the murder of Sonya

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Photo by Diana Haecker

SENTENCED — Matthew Clay Owens was sentenced to a 101-year prison term with the possibility of parole last Monday.



Photos by Diana Haecker
(right) TRANSACTION—Alaska Gold manager Doug Nicholson, left, hands over the annual payment for the land lease of the subsurface rights to the Rock Creek mine to Golden Glacier Inc. president Homer Hoogendorn last week.



(left) MAKING HISTORY—Alaska Gold and Bering Straits Native Corporation signed a land lease agreement last week to lease 3,000 acres of BSNC land to the gold company's Rock Creek mine project. Pictured are front row, left to right: Doug Nicholson, Homer Hoogendorn, Tim Towarak. Back row left to right: Warren Woods, Rose Koezuna-Clark, Josie Reader, Camill Goldsberry, Peggy Hoogendorn, Jerald Brown, Irene Anderson, Jeanne Yuman.

•Rock Creek

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Nicholson said that the Gold Company is in the process of finalizing the permit applications required by the state. Part of the permitting process is a public comment period. Nicholson reckons this will begin in May, when public hearings will take place and the state agencies and Alaska Gold will solicit opinions from the Nome public about the proposed Rock Creek mine. “The public is welcome to review the application and speak with state and Alaska Gold representatives about the mine,” said

Nicholson.

Nicholson said that the mine is a very important project for Alaska Gold and that it costs the company \$68 million to even start the project. Warren Woods, the Rock Creek project mine manager, said that he hopes that most of the 135 jobs can be filled with workers from the region. “We will have our own training program, and we are working with Kawerak on apprenticeships for mechanics, carpenters, plumbers and electricians,” said Woods. He said he had traveled the region to inform interested workers

about the job opportunities. “I’m accepting résumés and keeping them on file.”

He recommended sending in résumés even before the company advertises job descriptions. “We’ll need mining engineers, equipment operators, construction crew, mill personnel, welders, mechanics and maintenance personnel,” said Woods.

Depending on the status of the state’s permitting process, Nicholson reckons that the first construction phase of nine months will begin in the fall of 2006.

STILL MISSING • REWARD OFFERED

To date, there has still been no sign of the following people: Aurora Escholt, reported missing August/September 1966; Raleigh Iyapana, missing since November 16, 1971; James Moses Jr., missing since September 15, 1976; Donald Adams, missing since October 16, 1976; Nathan Anungazuk, missing since September 30, 1982; Ernest Saccheus, missing since September 23, 1987; Justina Kunayak, missing since November 20, 1990; Archie Henry Jr., missing since October 19, 1998; Lancelot Immergan, missing since November 2, 1999 and Eric Apatiki, missing since October 4, 2004.

Also if you have further information about the circumstances of deaths of the following people: Beverly Immengan, reported dead January 15, 1977; Matthew Towarak, reported drowned on November 4, 1989; Elmer Campbell Jr., reported dead November 12, 1990; Olin Apatiki, reported dead August 13, 1996; Jeffery Komonaseak, reported dead August 12, 1999; Ivadell Kazingnuk, reported dead March 13, 2002; Chris Waghiyi, reported dead June 13, 1992. Anyone with information should call the Nome Police Department at 443-5262 or the NPD confidential Crime Line at 443-7804 or the Alaska State Troopers at 443-5525 or toll free at 1-800-443-2835. Several regional and local entities have established a reward fund for first hand information leading to the closure, arrest or prosecution of individuals responsible for disappearances or unsolved deaths in Nome.

If you have any knowledge of what happened in any of the cases, please call the Nome Police Department. If you need assistance with the process, call Karlin Itchoak at Kawerak at 443-4341. Kawerak is still requesting photographs of the following persons: Beverly Immengan, Donald Adams, James Moses Jr., Nathan Anungazuk, Jeffery Komonaseak, Chris Waghiyi and Raleigh Iyapana. If you have a photo, please send it to Kawerak, Inc. P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 20 — April 26, 2006

EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, April 20		
Big Brothers/Big Sisters at the Aurora Inn: Region 1 Music Festival April 20 - 22/Nome-Beltz		
*Nome Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*Tennis	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Nome Rec Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Library Hours	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Kinder Swim	Nome Rec Center	12:30 p.m. - 2 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.
*Sounds & Silence Video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*NNST	Pool	3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Smoking: A Time to Quit Video	Prematernal Home	3 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.
*Smoke Free Class	Prematernal Home	4:15 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.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Kripalua Yoga	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*AA T.N.T.	Catholic Church	8 p.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.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.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Saturday, April 22 - Earth Day		
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	closed
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	closed
*NSHC Chronic Care Support	NSHC	10 a.m. - noon
*Water Aerobics	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 6 p.m.
*Democratic Caucus Meeting	Polar Cafe	noon
King Island Native Corporation Meeting		
*Rec Center Hours	Nome Eskimo Community	1 p.m.
*Eating for Two Video	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
*Kids Soccer Training	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*Single Parenting Video	Nome Rec Center	2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Open Swim	Prematernal Home	3 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Nome Rec Center	4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Music Festival/Large Group Performance		
*AA Bering Sea Group Meeting	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 23 - Rec Center weight & sauna rooms open ONLY		
*Library Hours	Nome-Beltz	7:30 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Catholic Church	8 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	closed
*Celebrate Life Video	Front Street	closed
*Nome Rec Center	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*Men's PU Basketball	Nome Rec Center	closed
*Women's Support Group	Nome Rec Center	closed
*Feeding Your Child... Video	Munagsri	2 p.m.
*Step Aerobics	Prematernal Home	2:30 p.m.
*Family Swim	Nome Rec Center	closed
*Beginning Yoga	Pool	2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Military Ball		
*Bible Safety... Video	Nome Rec Center	closed
*Women's Talking Circle	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Prematernal Home	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Women's PU Basketball	443-5630 for directions	4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	closed
*Drop-In Basketball	Front Street	closed
*A.M. Laps	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*NACTEC	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Library Hours	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*NPS	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Laura's Prorams... Video	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*The Miracle of Life Video	Nome Rec Center	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*NNST	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Support Group Talking Circles	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Pool	4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Resistance Training	CAMP Dept./NSHC	3 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Community Spring Run		
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*NSHC/BHS Educational Video	Channel 4	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Ala-non	Bible Baptist Church	6 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
Nome Common Council Reg. Meeting		
*AA Big Book Study	Council Chambers	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25		
*Nome Rec Center	Catholic Church	7:30 p.m.
*Tennis	Pool	8 p.m.
*NACTEC	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Preschool Story Hour	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
*Tennis	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Kegoayah Library	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Kinder Swim	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*DKC/Medicat Class	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Welcome to the World... Video	Nome Rec Center	noon to 1 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Pool	12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
*Resistance Training	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Crafts/Computer Lab	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Board Work Session Nome Schools		
*Lap Swim	Prematernal Home	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Step Aerobics	Prematernal Home	3 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Kripalua Yoga	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Open Swim	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Belly Dancing	Nome Rec Center	5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26 - Administrative Professionals' Day		
NSEDCC 1st Quarter Meeting (See ad this edition.)		
*Nome Rec Center	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Dental Class	Prematernal Home	11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	noon to 1 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon to 5 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Rotary Club	Polar Cafe	noon
*AA Brown Bag Mtg	Nazarene Church	noon
*NPS	Pool	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Audiology Class	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Science Academy	Pool	1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*NNST	Pool	4 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	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Nome Community Spring Run		
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Nome Rec Center	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*AA Native American Talking Circle	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Hello Central (also on Channel 98)	Baha'i Center	7:30 p.m.
	Nome Visitors Center	7:30 p.m.

Be prepared, not scared

With spring coming and bird flu in the news every day, you might have questions about hunting wild birds and gathering eggs this year. Learn more at www.avianflu.alaska.gov, or call the Alaska Department of Fish & Game at 443-2271.

Norton Sound Health Corporation



Community Calendar sponsored by Norton Sound Health Corporation, 443-3311