



Photo by Diana Haecker

SNAKE RIVER VALLEY— The view of the slopes of Mt. Brynteson pictured here from Glacier Creek shows brilliant fall colors. The dark area shows soil that has been moved in preparation to build the Rock Creek mine and mill site.

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Photo by Diana Haecker

SECURING THE AREA— Nome ambulance chief Charlie Lean and Nome police officer Bryan Weyauvanna watch as the Q Trucking crew hoist a seatainer lost in transport from the port to Satellite Field. The load had not been secured and fell off a truck at the corner of Seppala Drive and Center Creek Road. (See story page 8.)

Teller man goes on rampage

By Diana Haecker

A 19-year-old Teller man went on a stabbing rampage on Monday in Teller, leaving one man and a dog injured. According to investigating State Trooper Paul Kosto, the injuries on the person are not life threatening.

According to State Troopers, Shawn Pushruk had entered the Teller school while it was in session on Monday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. and assaulted a contract maintenance man from Anchorage with a meat cleaver.

Pushruk slashed the school maintenance man in the back at least twice. Troopers say that Pushruk had also chased another person with a knife and a meat cleaver, and threatened a third person and threw rocks at him. Pushruk also stabbed his uncle's dog while it was on a chain.

The school went into lockdown mode and made contact with the AST post in Nome. Troopers were notified at 2:45 p.m., and responded with three troopers driving to Teller. Once there, they apprehended

Pushruk in an abandoned house. Kosto said Pushruk resisted arrest at first. "But once he was in handcuffs, he cooperated," said Kosto.

The 19-year-old was transported to Nome and booked into the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center.

Kosto said, "At this stage in the investigation we believe there was alcohol involved." No other details about the motive and what led up to the stabbing rampage were available at press time. Kosto said the investigation continues.

NSHC names new CEO

Trevor Colby is the new president/CEO of Norton Sound Health Corporation. He will start work on October 16. He replaces former CEO Dennis Tiepelman who was fired last month.

Colby was employed at NSHC from 2002-2003 as the vice-president of Community Health Services. His education includes a

Master's degree in Human Services/Administration and a bachelor's degree in Human Services/Counseling, as well as holding a full time law enforcement certification in Vermont. He has experience in financial planning and budget management, policy interpretation, personnel management and organizational develop-

ment

Board Chair Emily Hughes says, "We are pleased Trevor has agreed to accept the position as chief executive. He is a strong leader with extensive knowledge of the region and NSHC."

DEC says no to citizens request for stay

By Diana Haecker

A request for stay of the Rock Creek mine's waste management permit and the 401 Clean Water Act certification was shot down by the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water director Lynn Kent.

Kent responded last Friday in a letter to Nomeite Austin Ahmasuk and 27 co-signers',

"Based upon my review of your request and the Department's records on this matter overall, I have decided not to stay the effect

of the permit decision."

Ahmasuk said in response to the denied stay, "I am generally pleased that State of Alaska took the time to review my request. However, I am not very pleased about how the state came about its decision."

Ahmasuk said that Kent relied on information contained within previous technical memos generated in January and March of this year without additional analysis. "I'm also not very pleased that the state has not done its part. The public

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ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE HERE - NANCY WILL SEND THIS EVENING - LATE.
2 X 3.5 SPOT



Photo by Chris Blount

FIRST SNOW — Last Friday morning, residents of Icy View woke up to a beautiful view to the west with the first noticeable snow holding tight to the leaves of the tundra plants.

•DEC



Photo by Diana Haecker

OFF LIMITS— Construction of the Rock Creek mine and mill complex began and signs are posted to keep unauthorized persons off the property.

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raised a lot of concerns, which found their way into permit stipulations. A quarter portion of our concerns were recognized by the state. What really appalls me is why the state didn't discover the concerns before we raised them. It seems like they're not doing their job."

Ahmasuk said that his concerns about public notices received only an unsatisfactory response. Chapter 18 of the Alaska Administrative Code, part 15 says that "the department will publish two consecutive notices of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the area that would be affected by the operation, and in other media the department considers appropriate to achieve sufficient public notice."

Public notice advertisements appeared on June 1 and June 22 in the *Nome Nugget*. While Ahmasuk questioned the apparent gap between the first and second notice, Kent answered, "The department

acknowledges there could be disagreement about the meaning of the term consecutive as used in 18 AAC 15.050(a). However, it is clear that the term modifies the word "notices", not the word "newspapers".

Kent said in her decision, "The two public notices were consecutive in the sense that one followed the other, even though they were not published in consecutive issues of the *Nome Nugget*."

Ahmasuk also addressed the lack of standards and safeguards for the waste management in general; the dust control issue; lack of standards and safeguards for acid rock drainage generation; water anti-degradation; Rock Creek surface testing and the lack of monitoring water at the toe of the tailings facility.

Kent acknowledged that the State's consultant Dr. Jay McNee of Lorax Environmental concluded that sampling showed a potential to

generate acid and metal leaching, but that "careful management could mitigate this potential."

Ahmasuk brought up that tests done by AGC to test for acid potential did not conform to the industry standard EPA sourcebook. Kent responded, "ADEC relied on Department staff and the expertise of it's consultant Dr Jay McNee to evaluate the adequacy and accuracy of AGC's acid testing program.[...] EPA's 2003 sourcebook was not specifically used in this evaluation; rather, an approach using the best available practice was used by the consultant."

Kent concluded that McNee's analysis used to evaluate the acid rock testing was based on "reasonable assumptions and is representative of anticipated conditions".

In closing, Kent said that based on her review, she didn't see changes to the permit language necessary.

However, she directed her staff to have AGC modify and the division of water to approve the monitoring plan to include monitoring of water quality in the tailings storage facility and the seepage collected from

the toe of the TSF.

Voicing concerns about the job the state does to protect its citizens and Alaska's waters, Ahmasuk said, "I think it's really peculiar that after the comment period, the permit conditions were modified based on our concerns. If none of us had raised concerns the permits would look differently. Isn't the state responsible to protect us? I don't think they have done their job."

Asked if he plans to appeal Kent's decision, Ahmasuk said that he is not sure yet. "I have 30 days to think about it," he said.

You KNOW me...



Stan Jones, author and photographer.

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The Alaska Commission on Aging is working to ensure that when services are needed for age-related mental health issues such as Alzheimer's Disease, they will be available for all Alaskans.

For assistance and referrals, call the Senior Information Hot Line: 1-800-478-6065

The TRUST
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
www.mhtrust.org

A message from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and our partner board, the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Christmas at Nome Joint Utility

By Sandra L. Medearis

The federal government has awarded Nome Joint Utilities \$2.5 million to bring the new power plant to the ribbon cutting ceremony slated for early next spring. The money comes from the Dept. Of Agriculture's high energy cost grant funds under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

"This is the final piece of the funding package and could allow us to complete the project with very little additional local contribution," NJU's manager John Handeland told utility board members meeting Sept. 28.

And that's not all. The cash register kept ringing Thursday night as Handeland announced the arrival of more money in response to utility and City lobbying efforts in Juneau and Washington, D.C., along with midnight-oil grant writing at the NJU office. Legislature's capital budget appropriation of \$4 million has made it through the budget process to Nome for the power plant.

NJU is replacing its 40-year-old generation facility that stands in the flood plain and within the airport runway zone. The new facility upgrades to new, more efficient and reliable Wartsila generators from

Finland and new switch gear. This system will be intertied to an off-site generator to provide emergency backup power.

And that's not all. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is offering a grant of \$2.2 million for work ongoing with Nome's water and sewer infrastructure. The city will have to ante up a match for this contribution, but Handeland assured NJU board members that we could offer work already done on the system as an in-kind match. This money comes from about \$1.6 million in federal USDA Rural Development money and \$542,500 in state money. NJU has already accepted a loan from Department of Agriculture for \$2.3 million for water and sewer upgrades.

In other good news, the state DEC has accepted NJU's oil discharge prevention and contingency plan for review effective September 25. NJU has sent the required copies of the plan to state Dept. of Fish and Game, state Dept. of Natural Resources, and the local Coastal Zone Management Office. The public will have 30 days for comment after the required notice in the newspaper.

Lee's Gold Camp, Last Train to Nowhere, and Safety Roadhouse. On Saturday, Nova Gold was scheduled to give tours of the Rock Creek and Big Hurrah Project. These and other tours were closed to the press and public.

Board members were responsible for funding their own accommodations and airline tickets and schedules allowed board members time to spend money in local restaurants and shops. However, some of the weekend's events were sponsored by other entities. Dinner at St. Joseph Hall Friday night was sponsored by Nome Joint Utility.

•REC

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business opportunities, local economy and major issues in Nome including a talk by Doug Nicholson of NovaGold. Afterwards board members asked questions and offered advice to Nicholson on how to increase the feasibility of hiring people from local villages at the Rock Creek Mine.

Bus tours Friday and Saturday were scheduled to take visitors to the new port, Norton Sound Seafood Plant, the "Golden Beaches", the Seawall, the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, the Solomon Historic Dredge Area,

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