

Photo by Diana Haecker

**NORTHWEST PASSAGE VOYAGER**—The German cruise ship *Bremen* arrived in Nome Sept. 4, having sailed to Alaska via the Northwest Passage. Arctic governments are now scrambling to study the ramifications of an ice-free Arctic Ocean and to draft new international ground rules dealing with increased shipping, tourism and oil and gas exploration and developments.

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## Agencies scramble to assess impact of more arctic marine traffic

*Nome of strategic importance for Coast Guard*

By Diana Haecker

Only a dozen Nomeites made it to a presentation last week on increased maritime traffic as a result of a warming arctic and what it could mean for Nome, at the Mini Convention Center on Sept. 3.

Deputy Director for the U.S. Arctic Research Commission Law-son Brigham and Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska Executive Director Jimmy Stotts presented findings of a study called Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment.

The Arctic Council, a high-level forum of the arctic nations, instigated the assessment. The council's mission is to address environmental pro-

tection; sustainable development and challenges faced by arctic governments and people as warming changes the arctic landscape on every level.

Pushed by lead countries Canada, Finland and the United States, the Arctic Council's working group on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment produced the assessment, addressing issues of governance as well as dynamics of trade and resource development.

Nome's Vera Metcalf, appointed by U.S. president George W. Bush, serves on the U.S. Arc-

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## NovaGold for sale

By Diana Haecker

Announcing the sale of seven projects in Alaska to Mantra Mining, NovaGold Resources Inc., the owner and operator of Nome's Rock Creek mine and Nome operations, also signaled that the company is up for sale.

"In addition to the recent sales of NovaGold's development-stage hydroelectric and early-stage base metal assets, NovaGold is reviewing

other strategic alternatives to maximize value for its shareholders, including the potential sale of interests in part of or all of any of its core projects to a third party, strategic investments, a business combination, spin out of assets, or sale of the company," reads a press release the company issued last week.

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Photo by Diana Haecker

**RALLYING SUPPORT**—U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens made a stop in Nome last week during his re-election campaign. For the story on his visit, see page 6.

## Nome schools face sharp decline in students

By Laurie McNicholas

About 60 fewer students than anticipated have enrolled in Nome Public Schools this year, NPS Superintendent Rick Luthi told Nome Common Council members at their meeting Monday evening.

Some students have moved to villages, some to Anchorage and others out of state, he added. Noting that a projected enrollment of 731 students has dropped to 671 registered students, he said the Nome Board of Education would begin to deal with the resulting impacts at a meeting Tuesday.

Councilman Stan Andersen pointed out that the state provides \$5,000 for each student and wondered how the school board will address the unexpected budget shortfall. He told Luthi that the Council needs to know as soon as possible whether NPS will need additional funds from the City. In response to a question from Councilman Jon Larson, Luthi said the majority of the student body decrease is in grades 7 through 12.

The Council approved a request from the City of Nome Museum and Library Commission to hire Terry Hyer of ECI/Hyer Inc. with funds from a \$50,000 state grant to provide a conceptual design for a new museum. During a meeting

Aug. 27, the Commission recommended placing the new museum next to Old St. Joe's on Anvil City Square.

The Council adopted a resolution setting the compensation rate for the election board and clerks at \$10 an hour for the election chair and \$9.50 an hour for election clerks. The Council also concurred with a request from City Clerk Sandy Babcock to appoint the following election judges and clerks for the 2008 municipal and school board election scheduled Oct. 7: Mary Straub, Donna Morgan, Shirley Tisdale, Ellie Oakes, Mary Honsberger and Evelyn Omiak. "The Clerk's office is using the Accu-Vote voting system," Babcock wrote in her request. "This is the same electronic system used in state elections. By using Accu-Vote, we hope to have results of the election very early in the evening."

The Council waived the reservation fee for use of Old St. Joe's for a community birthday party hosted by the Nome Regulators Oct. 18 to celebrate Alaska's 50th anniversary as a state. The event will be a formal dinner followed by musical entertainment and dancing, wrote Paul Burke on behalf of the organization. Tickets will sell for \$100 per couple to cover costs of the meal and music. Council

member Mary Knodel said if attendance fees collected exceed costs for the event, the Nome Regulators should pay the City's \$100 facility use fee.

The Council approved Mayor Denise Michels' recommendations for filling available seats on the Port Commission by reappointing Jim West Jr. and appointing Charlie Lean as a new member.

### Utility manager's report

Utility Manager John Handeland said he plans to attend a statewide rural energy conference next week in Girdwood. Noting that the Alaska Energy Authority has \$100 million in state funds available for energy projects and has just released grant applications, he said Nome Joint Utility System will apply for grants for local projects.

In the week following the rural energy conference, Handeland will attend training provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said NJUS plans to apply for pre-disaster mitigation funds from FEMA to install power lines under the Snake River.

In response to Mitch Erickson's comments

*continued on page 4*



Photo by Diana Haecker  
**DRUM ROLL FOR PRESCHOOL**—Nome Preschool student Deklen Agloinga, 4, plays his instrument of choice during the long-awaited first day of school Sept. 3 after a long summer's break.



Photo by Diana Haeger

**MINING FOR PARTNERS**—NovaGold's Rock Creek mine near Nome is seen in the archive photo. In a press release last week, NovaGold announced the sale of several assets and voiced its interest in a potential partnership or all-out sale of the company.

## • NovaGold —

continued from page 1

Gone are the days when NovaGold Resources Inc. investors sneered at Barrick Gold's bid in 2006 that offered \$16 per share. The effort to fend off the hostile takeover was touted as a David-and-Goliath battle, which was won by the junior company.

However, the tables have turned since NovaGold broke the news last year of shelving its biggest

project in the pipeline, the copper-gold-silver deposit at British Columbia's Galore Creek. New numbers put construction costs closer to \$4.7 billion rather than the estimated \$2 billion from previous feasibility studies. NovaGold shares lost half of their value overnight, and a year later angry investors filed a class action lawsuit in a New York district court.

Last week's press release said that the company sold their interests in

the copper-zinc Ambler project to another Canadian junior mining company, Mantra Mining, for \$20 million worth of Mantra Mining shares. NovaGold now owns 51 percent of Mantra Mining's shares, and NovaGold's president and chief executive officer sits on the board of directors at Mantra.

NovaGold shares plunged to a nine-month low following the sale announcement and closed at \$5.08 at press time on Monday.

## Correction

A story in the Sept. 4 edition of the *Nugget* incorrectly identified a candidate for an open seat on the

board of directors of Siu Alaska Corp., a for-profit subsidiary of Norton Sound Economic Develop-

ment Corp., as Paul Ivanoff of Unalakleet. The candidate is Paul Johnson of Unalakleet.

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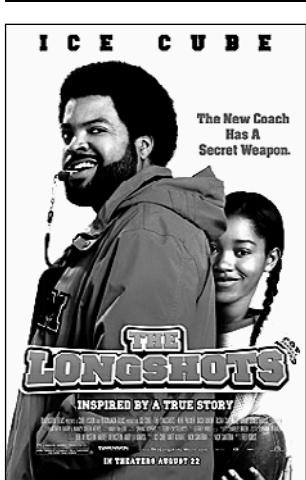
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**September 11 - 17, 2008**

EVENT	PLACE	TIME
<b>Thursday, September 11</b>		
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - noon
*XYZ Center	Center Street	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Preschool Story Hour	Kegoayah Library	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5:30 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Northwest Campus Library	Northwest Campus	1 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Knowing the Unborn video	Prematernal Home	3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
*After School Athletics grades 4-6	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Smoke Free Class	Prematernal Home	3:30 p.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Baton	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ONLY
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
*City League Volleyball	Nome Rec Center	7:20 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.
*Swing Dancing	Nome Rec Center	7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*Narcotics Anonymous	Behavioral Health Bldg.	
<b>Friday, September 12</b>		
*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*XYZ Center	Center Street	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 4:45 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.
*Strength Training	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*Ingerility—the New Solutions video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*The New Mother	Nome Rec Center	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
*Adult Drop-in Soccer	Lutheran Church (rear)	8 p.m.
<b>Saturday, September 13</b>		
*Pool	Closed	Closed
*Nome Rec Center	Closed	Closed
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5:30 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 6 p.m.
*Northwest Campus Library	Northwest Campus	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Best for Babies Sake video	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*Tried & True-Labor Techniques video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*AA Meeting	BHS Bldg. 2nd floor	8 p.m.
<b>Sunday, September 14</b>		
*Pool	Closed	Closed
*Nome Rec Center	Closed	Closed
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Comforting Your Fussy Baby video	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*Breastfeeding video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*AA: Big Book Study	HR Conf. Room, NSHC	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
<b>Monday, September 15</b>		
*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*XYZ Center	Center Street	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 10 p.m.
*Strength Training	Prematernal Home	12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.
*Healthy Journey video	Northwest Campus	1 p.m.
*Northwest Campus Library	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*Babies First Month video	Northwest Campus	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Beginning Yoga with Kari	Prematernal Home	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do with Dan	Nome Rec Center	7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-in Volleyball	Nome Rec Center	Lutheran Church (rear) 8 p.m.
*AA Meeting		
<b>Tuesday, September 16</b>		
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - noon
*XYZ Center	Center Street	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Summer Reading Program	Kegoayah Library	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
<b>Park Service Lunchtime Movie:</b>	NPS/Sitnasauk Bldg.	noon - 12:30 p.m.
<b>Stilpita Paitaat</b>		
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5:30 p.m.
*Social Services w/Christine Scholtz	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	1 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Northwest Campus Library	Northwest Campus	2 p.m.
*Infant Learning class	Prematernal Home	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Kripalu Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	7 p.m.
*AA Teleconference: 1-800-914-3396 (CODE: 3534534#)	Methodist Church	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ONLY
*Thrift Shop	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
*City League Volleyball	Council Chambers	7:30 p.m.
<b>Nome Joint Utility System Mtg</b>		
<b>Wednesday, September 17</b>		
*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
*XYZ Center	Center Street	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*Rotary Club	Polar Cafe	noon
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5:30 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 10 p.m.
*Strength Training	Prematernal Home	12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.
*Preventing Bottle Tooth Decay video	Northwest Campus	1 p.m.
*Northwest Campus Library	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*Great Expectations Pre Prog video	Northwest Campus	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do with Dan	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Hello Central (also on Channel 98)	Nome Visitors Center	7:30 p.m.
*AA Meeting	BHS Bldg. 2nd floor	8 p.m.
<b>Did you eat 5 today?</b>		
Fruits and vegetables help fight cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure. Eat five servings a day! Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables are just as good for you as fresh—just rinse off sugary or salty syrups or cream sauces.		
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