



FISHING— Anglers try their luck for silvers at the mouth of the Nome River. See this week's fish report on page 10.

Photo by Nils Hahn

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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VOLUME CXVIII NO. 33 August 18, 2022

Researchers find high concentrations of harmful algae in regional waters

By Diana Haecker

Researchers stepping off the research vessel *Norseman II* in Nome last weekend, brought significant news of having found very high concentrations of a phytoplankton called *Alexandrium catenella* in regional waters. *Alexandrium* is an algae that can produce saxitoxins, which can cause dangerous paralytic shellfish poisoning in people. The scientists issued an advisory, notifying Norton Sound Health Corporation, UAF Sea Grant and the Alaska Division of Public Health.

On July 25, the researchers found an alarming count of 18,000 *Alexandrium* cells per liter in the waters 21 miles west of Gambell. On August 11, they found an even higher concentration of the algae, 30,000 cells per liter, 60 miles north of Shishmaref.

The advisory read, "Based on studies in the Gulf of Alaska and other parts of the U.S. and the world, concentrations of the algal *Alexandrium catenella* at this level are considered dangerous and are high enough to trigger an advisory for

nearby communities to be cautious when consuming marine wildlife resources, such as clams, crabs and tunicates.

Marine wildlife that have consumed the algae might currently may have a high concentration of saxitoxin that could affect human and animal health. Marine wildlife will ingest the concentrated biotoxins when they eat the clams containing the biotoxins. They can also accumulate toxins by feeding on zoo-

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Photo by Diana Haecker

LOCAL RESPONSE— NSHC Office of Environmental Health coordinator Emma Pete analyzes a water sample taken on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at Campe Nome for signs of algal organisms.



Photo by Angela Hansen

GARDEN TOUR 2022— Participants in last Sunday's Garden Tour admire the sunflowers in the Arctic Gardening Class greenhouse at the high school.

Nomeites show off their green thumbs in Garden Tour

By Megan Gannon

On Sunday afternoon, Nomeites enjoyed a rare opportunity to visit their neighbors' yards with the return

of the annual Garden Tour. Under clear skies, participants admired the edible plants and flowers in each other's outdoor plots and greenhouses, and traded tips for cultivation during Nome's short but light-filled summers.

A group of about 15 people made stops throughout Nome, Martinson's Subdivision, Icy View, Nome-Beltz High School and Dexter during the tour organized by Angela Hansen.

On the school bus carrying most of the participants, Cheryl Thompson said the annual tour started as a way to show that, despite the harsh sub-Arctic climate, a Nome yard can be more than just a gravel field, and the event has become a nice way for Nomeites to get outside of their usual

social circles.

Perhaps more impressive than the plants themselves was the wide array of garden accessories and structures that Nomeites have salvaged and creatively repurposed, beyond the typical dredge buckets filled with daisies. Hardy flowering plants like linaria and calendula grow just fine in buckets hauled from the beach and wooden dogsleds dragged in from a free day at the dump. Old sinks offer good drainage for carrots, and cans collected from the jail can protect other veggies from voles and ground squirrels.

Sylvia Matson even had a huge cage meant for a macaw in her Dex-

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U.S. Army Corps wants IPOP litigation moved to Alaska

By Megan Gannon

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has requested that its legal dispute with IPOP play out in an Alaska federal court.

The Nevada-based outfit IPOP seeks to dredge for gold in the Bonanza Channel near Nome and to film those efforts for a reality TV show, "Rivers of Gold." Like any mining project, such an undertaking requires permits from state and federal government agencies. But IPOP—along with California-based company Rivers of Gold and two individual investors—filed a civil lawsuit in May alleging that the Corps was creating "outrageous delays" in its permitting process.

The plaintiffs filed the civil lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. Their basis for choosing that location was that the two investors listed on the lawsuit were Louisiana residents.

In a motion filed on July 25, the Corps requested that this court battle be transferred to the U.S. District of Alaska.

"Aside from merely alleging that

the California-based partnership that hired IPOP had two Louisiana residents among its 'many investors,' Plaintiffs' complaint is devoid of any references to Louisiana whatsoever," the Corps wrote in their motion.

The Corps argued that the move would be in the public's interest because the action concerns "a hyper-local issue of a permitting decision in a sensitive area of both ecological and tribal importance" that the local community around Nome has been following closely.

The District of Alaska would also be much better equipped to consider issues that IPOP has blamed for the permitting delay, such as tribal subsistence rights along the Bonanza Channel, the Corps argued.

A federal judge in Louisiana was initially scheduled to decide whether to grant the motion in mid-September, but both parties have requested time to file additional documents.

IPOP's legal team now has until Aug. 29 to file any counterarguments, and the Corps has a Sept. 13 deadline to reply.

NSHC counters monkeypox misinformation

By Peter Loewi

Despite continuing to see "a smattering of cases" across the region, as Norton Sound Health Corporation's Medical Director Dr. Mark Peterson called it, last week's COVID-19 tribal leaders call instead focused on countering misinformation about monkeypox.

"We want to clear up rumors about monkeypox," said NSHC CEO Angie Gorn. Despite false in-

formation being spread on social media saying otherwise, there are no cases of the virus in the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. The U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention report that only two cases have been identified in Alaska, both in Anchorage.

Dr. Peterson explained that the monkeypox virus, which the World

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,
 On August 7 at about 8 p.m. I was bringing meals with a couple of my friends to our houseless community members. Many of our houseless community members are people I have known most of my life including friends, classmates and family. We provided meals to four individuals in front of City Hall and continued driving. As we drove back by City Hall, I noticed a person down with their eyes rolling back and shaking involuntarily. I knew based on caring for another loved one with a seizure disorder that they were having a seizure. I jumped out of the truck and held their head. [NPD] Officer Nguyen was speaking to a small group of individuals nearby and called for an ambulance for the individual. I waited with them, after about thirty minutes and three additional seizures I called the police

dispatch again to inquire about the ambulance. The dispatcher explained that they toned out the ambulance thirty minutes ago and that they didn't know if anyone was coming. I was at a complete and utter loss. This person could have been me; it could have been my loved one, it could have been you or your loved one. This individual was laying on the sidewalk having multiple seizures and no ambulance was expected to come. We had no one to rely on but ourselves in that moment. My friends and I loaded this individual in need of an ambulance and immediate medical care into the bed of my truck where I held them and a friend drove to the Emergency Room. My child and her friend ran into the ER to let them know we needed a wheelchair and immediately three medical staff came running out the door to provide care for

the patient.

I am beyond thankful for our volunteer ambulance service, however, it is apparent that the demand for ambulance services cannot be met under our City operated volunteer ambulance service. I understand that NSHC has provided a letter to the City to take over providing the ambulatory services on October 7, 2019. There was further discussion on page 2 of the minutes dated October 30, 2019 that stated the following on the issue "3) Tom Vaden explained that the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department voted unanimously to oppose the NSHC letter proposing to assume ambulance services in Nome. He explained efforts to train new EMT's, the average time a volunteer serves and that most volunteers do so to help people."

I believe those on the volunteer team have the best intentions, however, if volunteer staffing is insufficient to provide 24/7 rapid response to emergencies, then other options must be pursued. I think it is imperative that for the wellbeing of our community and everyone of us that the city transitions this service ASAP before another ambulatory call goes unanswered.

Kirsten Timbers
 P.O. Box 1696
 Nome, AK 99762

Someone out there is dancing with the Devil, not knowing the dance may last them forever; so if the Devil asks you to dance, you better say never, because a dance with the Devil may last you forever.

Growing up in my village, there was Heavy Equipment Operators, Carpenters, Plumbers, Roofers and Jack Of All Trades guys everywhere it seemed. These men I grew up watching work their positions year after year became my role models. I

remember getting in trouble by them because I used to be "too close" to the projects at hand, watching, wishing. Learning, impatiently waiting till I can have my turn at working the tools or operating the heavy equipment. The joysticks, and all the little buttons and the pedals. Those things amused me so bad because the operators worked them all fluently, simultaneously as needed. My two favorites were Heavy Equipment Operators and Carpenters. All the tools, buttons, switches, gadgets and pedals still amaze me to this day even as a grown man. They build buildings and move gravel and dirt, creating God given talent, finely finished

products like runways, highways, bridges and water ways.

The coolest ever to me was seeing that these machines can move mountains. Literally. It may take years, but I guarantee it can be done. Red Dog Mine for a great example, with safety as number one concern for all, moved mountains with just a few Bad Dude Triple 777's; 100-ton haul trucks and some awesome dedicated Geologists and Operators, moved mountains and created roads, runways and built buildings out in the middle of nowhere above the Arctic Circle. Cool, huh?

Yeah, I know, I've done all that

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Editorial

It's back to school. I wish all students in the Nome and Bering Strait School districts a happy return to school, a nurturing environment to feed your minds with knowledge and to set you up for success — physically, spiritually and mentally. I wish those students who leave the nest and go to college, trade school or take on

jobs the courage to jump into the next chapter of your lives with confidence, curiosity and joy. Embrace the challenges, relish the new independence but also seek help when you need it. Energy flows where attention goes, so as you go through life's journey, focus on your goals and be kind. —D.H.—

The Nome Nugget's submission policies:

Letters to the Editor: The maximum length of a letter to the editor should be around 300-500 words. The letters may be edited for length and clarity. You must provide your full name and mailing address to The Nome Nugget. Your name and mailing address are printed alongside your letter. Letters may be submitted by email to diana@nomenugget.com or mail to PO Box 610, Nome, AK 99762. We don't print anonymous letters unless the author is known to the Nugget and/or has reasonable fear for repercussions. We will not print material that is potentially libelous, discriminatory, obscene, threatening, copyrighted or promotional. We do not print letters that contain provable falsehoods and misinformation. We do not print letters written to endorse products or a political candidate. If you'd like to promote your for-profit product or a political candidate, please see our advertising rates and deadlines by contacting ads@nomenugget.com

OP ED: Maximum length: 700-800 words; must reflect the opinion of an individual with expertise in the subject. OP ED submitted on behalf of political parties, PACS, corporations, or signed by several people for or against political candidates or ballot measures are considered ads.

Announcements: The Nome Nugget publishes obituaries, birth and wedding announcements as a community service free of charge. We require submissions of announcements or obituaries to be factual and fair as they are not independently researched by Nugget staff.

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

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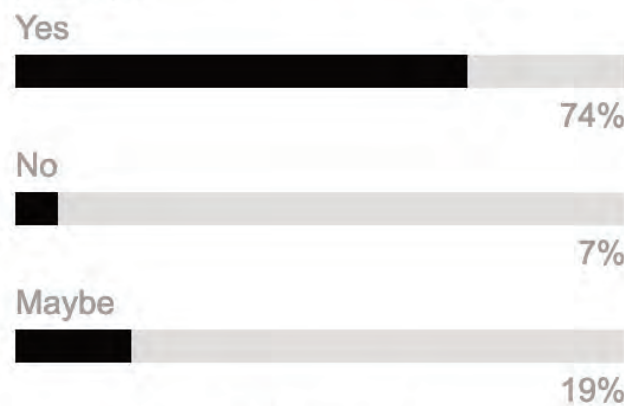
Not published the last week of December



Results from our August 10 - August 16 online poll.

(Go to nomenugget.net in order to participate)

Are you planning to vote in the August 16 primary?



Total votes: 27



Weather Statistics

Sunrise 08/18/2022 7:01 a.m. 08/24/2022 7:19 a.m.	High Temp +58°F 08/14/2022 Low Temp +37°F 08/15/2022 Peak Wind 28 mph 08/14/2022 N	National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391
Sunset 08/18/2022 11:08 p.m. 08/24/2022 10:46 p.m.		

Nome Norton Sound Tide Predictions (High & Low Waters)

Date	Day	Time	Low Tide	Time	High Tide	Time	Low Tide	Time	High Tide
08/18	Th	3:53 a.m.	0.60	10:41 a.m.	1.92	5:13 p.m.	0.78	11:07 p.m.	1.51
08/19	Fr	4:33 a.m.	0.80	11:11 a.m.	1.87	6:13 p.m.	0.68		
08/20	Sa	12:15 a.m.	1.41 High	5:11 a.m.	1.01 Low	11:38 a.m.	1.79 High	7:18 p.m.	0.61 Low
08/21	Su	1:58 a.m.	1.36 High	5:51 a.m.	1.19 Low	12:04 p.m.	1.70 High	8:21 p.m.	0.54 Low
08/22	Mo	4:05 a.m.	1.40 High	6:42 a.m.	1.34 Low	12:26 p.m.	1.61 High	9:13 p.m.	0.49 Low
08/23	Tu	5:43 a.m.	1.47 High	7:53 a.m.	1.43 Low	11:29 a.m.	1.54 High	10:00 p.m.	0.46 Low
08/24	We	6:37 a.m.	1.53 High	9:01 a.m.	1.46 Low	11:21 a.m.	1.51 High	10:46 p.m.	0.42 High

Daily variations in sea level due to local meteorological conditions cannot be predicted and may significantly effect the observed tides in this area.
 All times are listed in Local Standard Time. All heights are in feet referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

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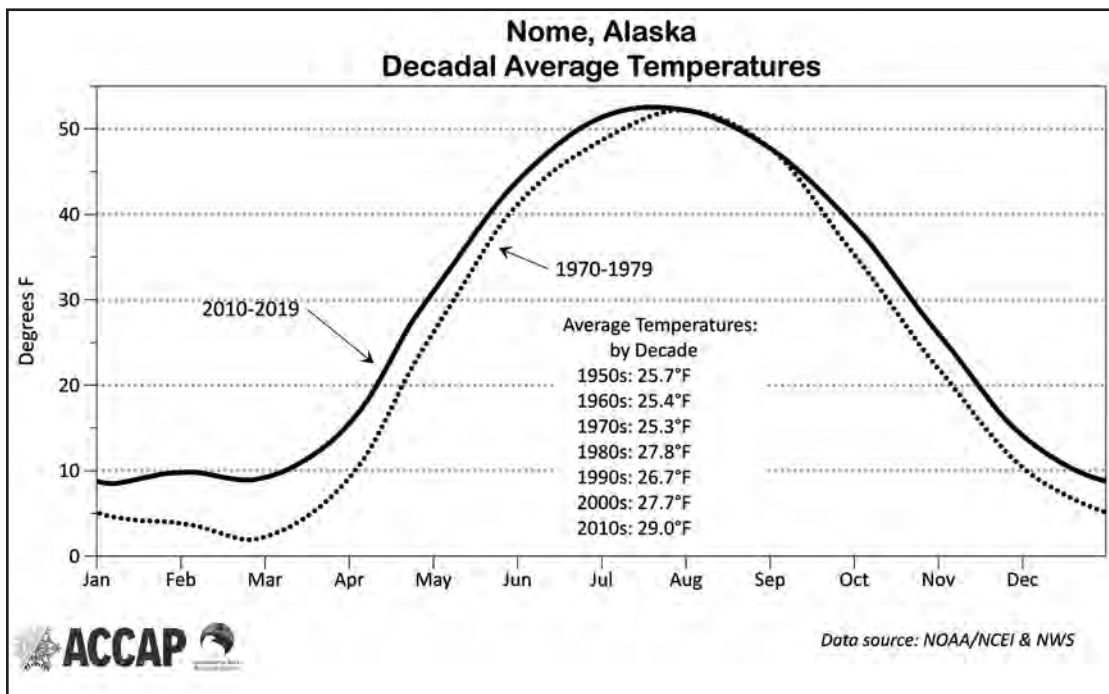
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Climate Watch

By Rick Thoman
Alaska Climate Specialist
Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
International Arctic Research Center/University of Alaska Fairbanks

In the world of weather and climate we never seem to go very long without talking about “normal” or “average” and how something differs from that: “last month rainfall was well above average” or “yesterday was a whooping 20 degrees colder than normal.”

Here on Climate Watch, we’ve written how the international standard for climate normals is a 30-year period. Currently, NOAA uses 1991-2020 as the reference period for most climate parameters in the United States. However, other groups use different baselines. For example, the National Snow and Ice Data Center

uses 1981-2010 as the reference period for most sea ice products, and many countries, including Canada, are still using 1981-2010 for things like temperatures and precipitation. However, there is nothing magical about 30 years. It represents a compromise of many competing factors. Looking at decade-long intervals can be useful, in part because we often think about things in ten-year chunks. When we do this for climate parameters, the results can be “noisy” because ten years is short enough to be greatly influenced by even one extreme event. In the graphic I show the average temperature through the year for two decades: the 2010s and the 1970s. You might have expected that the most recent decade would be quite a bit warmer than 40 years before. And for the most part that is the case, and late winters especially were much warmer in the 2010s than in the

1970s. However, the 1970s featured several very warm Augusts, so much so that for the decade the average August temperature was almost as high as the July temperature. As a result, in the 1970s, the typically warmest time of the summer was pushed to the end of July (compared to early July more recently). However, temperatures in the 1970s dropped off much faster in September and early October than was typical in the 2010s. This kind of variation is fun to think about, and if you’re old enough, to remember those bygone days. The shift to warmer temperatures over the years isn’t steady, but with continued ocean warming and sea ice changes, by the time today’s teenagers are elders it’s likely that Nome will have experienced a decade with an average temperature above freezing.

• Letters

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and some at the age of 33. For the first decade of my life after graduating high school. Leaving the nest, I lived life to the fullest. I had two beautiful children, was married, worked when and where I can seasonally as an operator, or carpenter, laborer, fisherman, substitute teacher, wrestling coach, and volunteered my time helping with community events, reffing basketball tournaments, helped with some Search and Rescue efforts; but the next best thing to being a Dad is hunting!

Man, is it ever so peaceful to the soul when you’re out with Mother Nature and get to see and experience her beauty. I believe God made our lands so beautiful because he wants us to be there. Especially here in Alaska (sorry Lower 48, ya’ll just have too many buildings down there). I was living life the way it was meant to be lived.

Growing up, Sunday school wasn’t own the question at all. Sunday school was required. I’d go home after to watch NFL Football and eat sourdough hotcakes with cooked fruit for syrup with my Papa Fran (Rest Easy Papa). Doing homework and helping elders and neighbors was also required, no questions asked. These things listed here are just a few of the experiences I had in life. These are just few family morals I was taught and lived through, but they are important ones. They molded me into living the righteous life I once lived.

Then I met alcohol. The Devil’s drink. There are those who can tolerate it and there are those who tolerate it and abuse it for many different reasons. Some, maybe most, never are responsible with decision making while abusing it. Growing up, I seen first-hand what it does to people who abuse it. My current incarceration is alcohol induced. Every single one of my incarceration is due to alcohol. So guess what? Yup...I wasn’t responsible about it. I wasn’t responsible by choosing it as a way of pass time,

or a way to not face life and what it was throwing my way. Even after witnessing first-hand the bad company alcohol provides, I was still

choosing to drink it, thinking I knew my limit and that I can handle it like

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, August 18

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Drop-In Volleyball	Nome Rec Center	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Mad Muscle	Nome Rec Center	5:45 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, August 19

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
*Free Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	12:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Main Gym Closed for Cleaning: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

*Drop in Soccer (Age 15+)	Nome Rec Center	8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Kido	Nome Rec Center	6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Have you got a drug problem? Narcotics Anonymous has a solution!
NA Meeting is held on Friday night at 7 pm, at the Katirvik Cultural Center

Saturday, August 20

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*****Nome Rec Center*****

*****CLOSED WEEKENDS until after Labor Day*****

Sunday, August 21

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*****Nome Rec Center*****

*****CLOSED WEEKENDS until after Labor Day*****

Monday, August 22

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Common Council	Council Chambers	7:00 p.m. regular meeting
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	12:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Kido	Nome Rec Center	6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Zumba	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 23

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Drop in Soccer (Age 15+)	Nome Rec Center	8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Strong Nation	Nome Rec Center	5:45 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 24

Nome City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m./Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nome Visitor Center open 7 days a week, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Richard Foster Building - Library + Museum M-F 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

No Kindergym or Open Gym today.
Main Gymnasium will host Kawerak Berry Festival!

*Kido	Nome Rec Center	6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Strong Nation	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.



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• **NSHC**

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Health Organization is working to rename because of stigma and discrimination, has been around for years, but was not usually sexually transmitted. Now, due to reasons unknown, the virus is spreading, and there are around 32,000 cases in 89 countries, the vast majority in locations which have not historically reported cases. The cases are primarily in men who have sex with men or have multiple partners, but the percentage of cases in women and men who do not have sex with men is rising globally. The virus is completely different from COVID-19 and is not highly infectious. Dr. Peterson said that all NSHC medical staff are being educated about the situation. "We need to have an awareness about it," he said.

Asked about stigma, Dr. Peterson said that it really doesn't matter how it got to where it is now. Instead, it is here, and we need to be aware. "It's not helpful to dwell on how or why it is passed," he said. "Now we're concerned it could spread further." He mentioned that there have been several posts on social media in the region which have played on those themes. "We've not seen any attacks on people based on that stigma, but it is a concern," Peterson said.

On the COVID front, the CDC again changed their guidance on isolation and quarantine and was again the cause of much frustration due to confusion and poor messaging. If someone is positive for COVID-19, they should stay home for at least five days and wear a high-quality mask through day 10. If someone has been exposed to the virus, the CDC is now recommending that instead of quarantining, people wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on the fifth day.

However, on the same day, August 11, the Food and Drug Administration announced in a "safety communication" that people should be repeating at-home tests to lower the risk of a false negative, especially early in an infection. The FDA recommends repeat testing 48 hours after the first negative result. Any positive result should be thought of as correct.

On Monday, August 15, the United Kingdom became the first government to approve Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for the Omicron variant. The bivalent shot, half of which targets the wildtype and half of which targets the original Omicron BA.1 variant, is said to trigger a strong immune response. Omicron specific boosters, whether they be for BA.1 or the currently dominant

BA.5, are expected to be available for Americans sometimes this fall.

Alaska Department of Health announced new COVID deaths, the first time in four weeks. Since the last reporting period on July 13, 21 new Alaskan deaths are being reported. Cases and hospitalizations have declined slightly, the biggest decline was in the number of non-resident cases. The Nome Census Area remains in the "High" category of community level, according to the CDC.

The week in numbers

On Tuesday, August 9, Norton Sound Health Corporation identified 17 new cases. Of these, six were in Elim, three were in Gambell, two in both Savoonga and Unalakleet, and one in each of Golovin, Nome, Shaktoolik and Teller.

Active cases were at 27, with six in both Gambell and Nome, five in Elim, four in Teller, three in Unalakleet, two in Savoonga, and one in Golovin.

On Wednesday, August 10, NSHC identified three new cases. One new case was found in each of Gambell, Shishmaref and Teller. Active cases remained at 27, with six in Gambell, four in Nome, three each in Elim, Teller, and Unalakleet, two in Savoonga, and one in both Golovin and Shishmaref. The last time there were active cases in eight villages was late March.

Over the weekend, with testing down and cases deactivating, NSHC identified one case in each of Golovin and Nome on Friday; one case in Nome on Saturday, and four in Nome on Sunday, August 14. There were 15 active cases in the region: Eight in Nome, two in both Elim and Gambell, and one in each of Golovin, Teller and Unalakleet.

On Monday, August 15, NSHC identified seven new cases of COVID-19 in the region. Five of the cases were in Nome, and one each in Unalakleet and Gambell. As of press time on Tuesday, there were 14 active cases in the region: Eleven in Nome, and one in each of Gambell, Golovin and Unalakleet.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the United States of America has had 92,725,512 officially reported cases of COVID-19 and 1,032,215 associated deaths.

The State of Alaska has had at least 275,542 cases, 3,838 hospitalizations and 1,296 deaths. There are currently 65 people hospitalized due to COVID-19.

Nome, Norton Sound and the Bering Strait region has had at least 6,307 cases, 48 hospitalizations and six deaths.



Photo by Diana Haecker

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE— Emma Pate, environmental health coordinator at NSHC, spotted a low number of *pseudonitzschia* organisms in a water sample from Cape Nome, on Tuesday, Aug. 16. NSHC's Office of Environmental Health aims to establish a baseline on phytoplankton numbers around the region through regular water sampling and testing.

• **Researchers**

continued from page 1

plankton, filter-feeding fish, tunicates, and other animals within the food web. It is not yet known what the risk is to seabirds and marine mammals, or to humans who consume those resources."

Don Anderson is a senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, which lead the National Science Foundation-funded research cruise specifically to investigate harmful algal blooms in the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea. He said in an interview with *The Nome Nugget* that the advisories are not meant to be alarmist but aim to inform people and to tell local communities to be cautious. "There are certain things that you just shouldn't

do in the areas where these blooms are being reported," he said. "One of them is to eat shellfish, clams, mussels, even clams that have been taken out of a walrus stomach could be very dangerous."

The organism called *alexandrium* occurs in more temperate ocean environments such as Southeast Alaska in quite large numbers and causes toxicity in algae-eating shellfish. Most algae are harmless, but algal blooms of *alexandrium* can produce very a very dangerous biotoxin called saxitoxin. In areas where clams or mussels are harvested, people do run the risk to suffer from a condition called paralytic shellfish poisoning, PSP for short, when eating shellfish containing saxitoxin. The problem with saxitoxin is that

people cannot see, smell, or taste it. Also, cooking or freezing these foods will not lessen the toxin's effect.

PSP affects the nervous system and blocks nerve function. If high concentrations of saxitoxin are eaten, breathing difficulties and paralysis occurs in humans, marine mammals and seabirds. Consuming walrus intestine, stomach and their contents in areas with known biotoxins likely has the same risk as consuming shellfish from those areas.

Since subsistence harvest of mussels and clams is considered recreational, the state does not test for saxitoxin in shellfish as it does for commercially harvested shellfish.

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• Researchers

continued from page 4

In response to the news, Norton Sound Health Corporation stepped up its water sampling program, said NSHC Public Relations Manager Reba Lean. “NSHC’s Office of Environmental Health department runs the program and had hoped to start establishing a baseline on phytoplankton numbers around the region this year,” she said. With sampling for harmful algal blooms in mind, NSHC has offered trainings to tribal environmental programs in the region, said Lean.

Not wasting any time after receiving the advisories from the *Norseman II* scientists, Environmental Health Coordinator Emma Pate went out and sampled water off Cape Nome on Tuesday morning. Looking at the sample through a microscope, she points to an organism on the screen, identifying it as *pseudo-nitzschia* cells, which can cause domoic acid, another harmful biotoxin. Pate will be testing water samples on a weekly basis, looking for three target algal species that produce different biotoxins: *alexandrium cantenella*, *dinophysis* and *pseudo-nitzschia*. She had been working to stand up trial basis testing for water samples regionwide and Norton Sound has signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with NOAA to receive technical assistance. The purpose was to get a baseline of water samples but with the news from the *Norseman*, the testing has now locally been ramped up.

Gay Sheffield with UAF Sea Grant said that while low level algal blooms are not new to the region, the high numbers of cells detected are. “With warming water, the concern is for an uncontrollable growth event, or bloom,” she said. “For this event, we will respond to all reports of sick or dead marine wildlife. People should remain vigilant and report the unusual when they see it.”

Researching harmful algal blooms

While the amount of *alexandrium* cells in the water was super high, the degree of toxicity is not yet known as the researchers need to further analyze the water samples.

Normally, the region would have had to wait until the analysis were done to learn of algal blooms, months after the fact. What is new this time around, is that researchers could get off the boat and immediately share the information with the region. The toxicity analysis, however, will take another month or so to be done, said Anderson. A new instrument on board the research vessel allowed researchers in real time to realize that the amount of *alexandrium* in these two places was off the charts and thus they were able to promptly issue advisories.

Anderson said it usually takes weeks or even months to analyze the water samples, but the new piece of equipment provided real-time results. “The acronym for it is IFCB, which stands for Imaging Flow Cytobot,” he said. It is a submersible microscope taking about 10 high resolution images every second of particles in the water. “As the ship was cruising, water from the surface of the ocean was being fed to this instrument, which was then taking pictures of all the algae and other animals in the water, and we were able to then get an accurate count of the cells of *alexandrium* that are there. It’s using a technology very similar to facial recognition but in this case, artificial intelligence is using being used to identify the toxic *alexandrium* cells, out of the many, many other cells that are also living out there with it.”

Anderson said in prior cruises to the region, they did find 5,000 or 8,000 cells per liter. To put the numbers in context, Anderson explained that in the Gulf of Maine, 1,000 or 2,000 *alexandrium* cells per liter “are more than enough to make shellfish consumption dangerous and it’s enough to close an entire coastline for shellfish harvesting.”

Harmful algal blooms are not new to this region and a study has shown that traces of biotoxins from harmful algal bloom have been found in

many marine species – including invertebrates, zooplankton, forage fish, seabirds and marine mammals— in Alaskan Arctic waters. In 2017, 39 walrus carcasses were found, stranded on beaches on the northern Seward Peninsula and barrier islands. While most carcasses were too far gone to be sampled, four samples turned out to have moderate to high saxitoxin. One freshly harvested walrus in 2016 had very high saxitoxin levels. But scientists still don’t know the levels of saxitoxin that would sicken or kill walruses, seals or sea birds, and if and where the toxins accumulate in the body. Seabirds also died in great numbers, but saxitoxin was ruled out as the cause of death.

The *Norseman II* cruise’s purpose was mainly to investigate the mechanism of how harmful algal bloom pop up where they do. Anderson explained that algal blooms have been transported from the south via currents through the Bering Strait for decades. But researchers also more recently found so-called cyst beds of dormant *alexandrium* at Ledyard Bay and offshore from Utqiagvik. “During the winter, it’s just down there in the mud, dormant, and then in the summer, it will wake up basically, and germinate,” Anderson said. “But we’ve always felt that the water was too cold up there, for there to be any sort of significant germination. In some of the cruises we’ve had over the last several years, though, we found that the water is actually much warmer than we thought.” This discovery led to the theory of a second mechanism for these blooms, namely that they can actually germinate there and just go from the bottom up into the surface waters to the sunlight. “The thing that is new, we think, is that the waters are warm, and the blooms originate in the Chukchi Sea. That’s new,” said Anderson.

Another component of the cruise was also how saxitoxin moves through the food web. While the risk of eating shellfish is known, the risks of consuming subsistence species such as walrus or seals, sea birds or even forage fish, are not. “It’s such a new problem and because we’ve only started the studies in the last few years, we don’t have the knowledge yet to give real definitive guidance to people. So, we can say ‘Please be careful, don’t eat birds and animals that are acting strange.’ But we also don’t want people to stop fishing and hunting.”

Since there is much to be learned, Anderson seeks help from the communities by collecting water samples and to collect samples of animals or “other things that might be vectors that we can analyze, so we can get data to go along with what we saw on the cruise.”

According to a scientific paper by Anderson, the algal blooms document a significant threat to food security to the region, while at the same time adding another stressor to ecosystem undergoing unprecedented changes due to a warming climate. “*Alexandrium catenella* blooms thus represent a significant threat to Alaskan Arctic ecosystems and to the human communities that depend on these resources for food and survival.”

The *Norseman II* crew will continue to report what they see as this cruise continues its work in the Northern Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea, the advisory said.

If you feel sick from eating clams, crab guts/butter, or other shellfish, please contact your health care provider immediately.

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Alaska Sea Grant (Nome) - Gay Sheffield: (907) 434-1149

Kawerak (Nome) - Brandon Ahmasuk: (907) 443-4265

NOAA Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network: (877) 925-7773
NSB-Dept. of Wildlife Management (Utqiagvik): (907) 852-0350

USFWS – Marine Mammals Management: (800) 362-5148

For information on harmful algae toxins call Alaska Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000 Mon-Fri or (800) 478-0084 after hours.

Nomeites continue to support Ukraine

By Peter Loewi

At 6:25 a.m. Alaska Time on Thursday, July 28, 10 Hecht electric ATVs crossed over the border from Poland into Ukraine. The quad bikes are the result of months of work by Nomeites Mark Hayward and Ian Foster, who had been working together on tackling several issues that Hayward first identified on his trip to volunteer for the Ukrainian Foreign Legion in March and April of this year.

Fearing a currency crash after the start of the invasion, Foster said that Hayward first reached out to him to facilitate a gold sale, as gold is commonly used to preserve value against money. Foster heard about the work Hayward was doing, facilitated the sale and donated a gold bar to the efforts.

From Ukraine, Hayward again reached out to Foster discussing three problems: he couldn’t get the training software for the Javelin antitank missile system, he couldn’t reach any of Alaska’s Senators, and

he couldn’t get any small, silent vehicles with a low thermal signature to avoid being noticed by invading Russian troops.

By connecting with Senator Lisa Murkowski’s office, the Department of Defense was made aware of the issue with the Javelins, and senior defense officials said that kits requested by the Ukrainian government were supplied.

The third problem proved to be harder. Ukrainian defenders needed a way to get close to and away from the invading Russians quickly and secretly. Javelin-armed soldiers could be sent via electric ATV to within range of Russian tanks despite being heavily out-armed and out-gunned. Hayward ordered a dozen, only to learn that a donation didn’t come through and the ATVs sat in a warehouse in Poland.

Hayward and Foster crowd-funded – and put in lots of their own money – to finish the order. Developments in technology have made global crowdfunding easier: within



the first month of the invasion, Ukraine had received over \$100 million dollars in cryptocurrency donations from around the world.

“We’re still doing lots,” Hayward said.

Speaking at the Rotary Club weekly meeting in Nome last week he shared pictures of his travels and in a way which belied the weight of the subject. In his time in Ukraine, he said he’d meet with anyone who might have ideas and adaptable skills, from translation to soldering electronics or printing icing on cookies. In a similar manner, he asked for advice from Rotarians on fundraising and encouraged listeners to contact elected officials, reminding them that the conflict in Ukraine is still going on.

Foster had ideas for future projects, too. He’d like to get Ukrainians involved in writing and attaching messages to balloons before releasing them on a windy day.

“How can you instill some hope?” he said, “That’s the idea here.”

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School Board talks capital and reading improvements

By Peter Loewi

Last week, Nome Public Schools Board of Education held their last regular meeting before the school year started. Two members of the board were excused, but the three members present were enough for a quorum, and they made quick work of votes on the action items, passing the first reading for 20 board policies and approving second reading for 11 more.

Superintendent Jamie Burgess' verbal report focused on one particular topic in her written report: Additions to the Capital Improvement Plan, CIP for short. Burgess said additional projects are to improve security and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at both the Nome-Beltz campus and Nome Elementary School. A report provided to board members said that "The entries are currently unlocked during the school day, allowing anyone to walk in, in some cases undetected. This is an obvious safety concern for both the students and the staff, particularly given recent security threats such as school shootings. The schools also need accessibility upgrades at entrances so students and visitors can access the

school with greater ease."

The ADA project is "to address accessibility to NBHS to include the installation of ADA accessible front doors, regrading/replacing damaged at bus door entrance which prevents ADA accessibility. It will include any needed ADA repairs/upgrades to interior and exterior of both the high school and the elementary." The same report explains that the security projects "will address security concerns at both campuses to include installation of new interior double doors inside the front entrance that can be remotely secured, as well as the installation of a closed-circuit camera system."

The cost is estimated at \$328,168. All present members voted to approve the addition of the projects to the plan.

Burgess also noted that the Nome-Beltz roof replacement project cost estimate has ballooned since originally being funded in FY19. The COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues and labor shortages have all driven the cost up, and the project is unable to move forward at this point. A supplemental funding request will

be submitted to the Department of Education and Early Development, and DEED will request it of the legislature in the upcoming session. Governor Mike Dunleavy vetoed approximately two thirds of the \$100 million the legislature approved for major maintenance.

Board Member Darlene Trigg asked Burgess about how the Alaska Reads Act will impact NPS and how the district will access funds for early education. Burgess explained that the district already does a lot of what is now being required, such as screenings for young children's ability to read and parental notification if a student is struggling. The bill, Burgess said, is not just about accountability, but support. On the early education funding, she explained that the district would like to work towards meeting the guidelines when announced, as early education students are counted by the state funding formula. She noted a caveat, however, that children already enrolled in Head Start cannot be double counted, and the district will work with Head Start on effective implementation in the community. Burgess also volunteered to be on the Early Educa-

tion Committee, as DEED is seeking input as they turn the bill into regulations.

According to the DEED website, "The policy expands high-quality pre-k opportunities for four- and five-year-olds, provides direct support and intervention services for low-performing schools, ensures early identification of struggling readers, and requires reading intervention services for K-3 students who need more help to become successful readers." DEED is still working on the implementation, and rules will be announced for a fall 2023 roll out.

Staffing issues were again mentioned in the meeting. Board Member Nancy Mendenhall asked Burgess about a line in her report about there being only two fourth-grade and two fifth-grade classes for this year. Burgess explained that while the district tries to keep class sizes under 20, they decided they would have two classes, both around 22-23 students per class, rather than start the year with a long-term substitute teacher. A report from the Human Resources Manager notes a number of both classified and certi-

fied vacancies, from secretary to substitute teachers to assistance principal positions.

Custodial staffing was also brought up. Burgess noted that NANA Management has raised their hourly wages to be more competitive in the region, and will be waiving their marijuana drug test requirements, which the district doesn't require of others.

Burgess said that she'll be encouraging principals to provide feedback throughout the year, and with less COVID, she plans to make more regular visits to the schools and make herself available for private talks. Burgess also invited the board to the all-staff in-service day, and will be inviting all new teachers to the September board meeting, scheduled for September 13.

There will be a work session on August 23 to address cultural curriculum needs and to discuss adding a formal land acknowledgement stating that the district takes place on Indigenous lands.

Beluga survey aims to guide sustainable harvest

By Megan Gannon

Earlier this summer, a group of scientists from NOAA spent hours in the air over the Norton Sound and Yukon River Delta, flying back and forth in careful east-west transects, looking for shiny white crescents on the surface of the water. They were counting belugas as part of long-standing co-management effort with Alaska Native hunters who rely on the whales for subsistence.

"Without an abundance estimate, it's very difficult to know whether the beluga harvest is sustainable," said Megan Ferguson, NOAA research biologist at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. During a Strait Science presentation last week hosted by UAF's Northwest Campus, Ferguson shared some of the raw data she and her fellow researchers collected through their survey.

The eastern Bering Sea survey of belugas was requested by the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, or ABWC, a group that includes subsistence hunters and formed in 1988 to conserve and manage whale populations in cooperation with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Since its inception, the ABWC has initiated research on beluga populations to check their health and abundance.

"The ABWC gets a lot of credit for a lot of the research that's been done on belugas in Alaska," Ferguson said. Tom Gray, a hunter of Nome, who is now chairman of the ABWC, was the first to put a satellite tag on a beluga in the Norton Sound in 2012. Those tags have helped researchers understand where belugas

move throughout the year. For instance, the population known as eastern Bering Sea belugas spends its summers mostly in the Norton Sound. They are genetically distinct from the other populations the ABWC manages in Bristol Bay, the eastern Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea.

Beluga hunters have also helped scientists collect data on the diversity of beluga diets. Ferguson said that samples of beluga stomachs that hunters turned over to scientists between 1993 to 2012 contributed to a study that found at least 25 species of fish and 25 species of invertebrates, from saffron cod and Pacific herring to octopus and shrimp, all swallowed whole by belugas. "It's a really broad spectrum of prey," Frost said.

Ferguson reported that during eight survey flights that took place between June 24 and 30, 2022, the researchers flew 2,210 miles worth of transects and counted 821 belugas. The highest densities were observed closer to the coastlines, where belugas chase prey in silty water. Large groups of belugas seemed to congregate especially around Scammon Bay, where researchers counted groups with 67, 87 and 120 individuals.

Ferguson needs more time to crunch the numbers and produce a population estimate based on the number of belugas observed. During the last survey of this population in 2017, the researchers spent more time in the air, covering 5,336 miles, and they counted 1,897 belugas, which led to a population estimate of about 9,200.

The results of the survey could in-

fluence how ABWC manages whales in the region.

"We're living in a fast-changing time," ABWC chairman Gray told The Nome Nugget in an interview earlier this summer. "The whales aren't changing. They're using the same resource areas. But we are changing, and we're learning how to be better hunters. We have better tools. So now we better start paying attention to what the resource is doing. We need the science world involved in counting whales and estimating the population. We know what our annual take is. So this survey is going to tell us how big [the population] is and how safe we're managing these whales."

Earlier this year, the ABWC released a draft management plan specifically for eastern Bering Sea belugas, intended as a proactive measure to keep the population healthy.

The draft plan includes a traffic light-style classification system for safe harvest levels. The harvest of belugas would be labeled "green" and considered sustainable if the number of whales lost over the previous three years is no more than 2.4 percent of the population abundance. This would be more no more than 220 whales if the population estimate remains 9,200.

The harvest would be labeled "yellow" if the average harvest over the previous three years rose to more than 220, or if the population estimate dropped to 8,800, a decline of 15 percent. In that case, actions to reduce harvest levels would be discussed by a team consisting of tribally appointed ABWC delegates

from Norton Sound and the Yukon Delta, as well as regional delegates from groups such as Kawerak and the Association of Village Council Presidents. That team would also discuss the possibility of further scientific studies.

The harvest level would be labeled "red" and considered not sustainable if the average number of belugas lost over the previous three years rose to more than 280 whales, or three percent of the 2017 population survey. This label would also be slapped on if the abundance estimate declined to 6,500, representing

a 30 percent population drop. In this case, the ABWC would recommend that the population survey take place more frequently and for harvesting levels to be reduced by up to 50 percent.

The plan is designed to avoid the type of crash other beluga populations around Alaska have experienced, explained Kathy Frost, a marine mammal biologist and long-time member of the ABWC.

"Cook Inlet belugas are endangered, Kotzebue Sound belugas are

continued on page 7



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Exploration for tin, minerals takes place at Lost River

By Megan Gannon

Inside the barren mountainsides around Lost River Mine, large veins of tin have put a glint in the eye of prospectors for more than a century. And now, for the first time since the 1970s, the site is seeing new activity.

This summer a small camp has been set up to explore whether mining operations could be revived at Lost River, about 80 miles from Nome, between Brevig Mission and Wales.

A newly formed company called Lost River Mining, Inc. is interested in extracting tin and other minerals from the mountains.

"Tin and tungsten and fluorspar—they're all deemed critical materials by the government," said Nome-based geologist John Odden, formerly of NovaGold, who has been working with the group. "This is large resource, and it could really be a good thing for America."

According to documents filed with the Department of Natural Resources as part of the Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA), the mining rights of the Lost River lode are currently held by Ron Sheardown, an Anchorage-based pilot with experience in mineral resource exploration. Sheardown has leased the

mining rights to Lost River Mining, Inc., a company with a Milwaukee, WI, address. The application package suggests the group is also working with Andrew K. Angel, CEO of the geologic consulting firm Alaska Earth Sciences, Inc.

Odden described the new outfit as "a tightly held, private group" that has experience in the mining industry as financiers though not as actual operators. He said Lost River Mining, Inc. is self-funded and not taking money from investors at this time.

"That makes me feel good because it's people putting up their money," Odden told The Nome Nugget. "This stuff is super speculative—at best it's speculative. You need to know that when you go into it. The rewards can be good, but most projects fail. That's just the reality of it."

The fickle nature of mining fortunes is already written into the history of Lost River Mine.

After gold miners first found tin at the site in 1900, miners were soon blasting and tunneling into the low mountainsides to remove tons of the metal from the bedrock. Operations at Lost River went quiet after a company that bought rights to the lode went bankrupt in 1928, according to research by Bathsbeba Rose Demuth, an environmental historian at Brown University who has studied the Bering Strait region.

Further tin mining started up during World War II but shut down again in 1941. Then in 1948, the United States Tin Corporation, funded by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, kick-started new operations at Lost River Mine—only for the mine to shut down in 1955 as tin prices dropped and federal dollars stopped flowing toward the effort, according to Demuth's work.

Mining at Lost River presents some formidable challenges. For one, the location is remote. In the past, fuel, lumber and other supplies had to be shipped in at great expense, and then ore concentrates had to be loaded onto barges at Tin City and then reloaded on container barges in Nome.

The group now interested in Lost River is far from restarting operations. For now, their first step is validating the known deposits at the site. Odden said they have had up to 17 people on the site this summer. They are test drilling inside the primary ore body to redefine the resource and reassess the feasibility by more modern standards, Odden said.

"As it is a small, exempt exploration program on private lands, it does not require permits or approvals from our office other than the filing (APMA/ Letter of Intent to do Reclamation)," Dave Charron of DNR's Division of Mining, Land, and

Water, told The Nome Nugget in an email.

Odden said the workers could stay strictly within Sheardown's claim and on an existing permitted road to work the mine, but the group has been in touch with owners of the surrounding land and discussing potential expansion. Bering Straits Native Corporation owns the subsurface and Inalik Native Corporation owns the surface of much of the surrounding land.

"It's no slam dunk," Odden said. "There's plenty other people—smart people, well intentioned people—that have tried, and nobody's really been able to make it work the right way. But hope springs eternal, and the market changes, there's better technology, recovery's better."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, tin has not been produced in the United States since 1993. The country relies on imports for 75 percent of its tin, while the other 25 percent comes from recycling. Odden said that the possibility of mining a variety of minerals Lost River, not just tin, could make the mine more economically durable.

"If it can work economically, and can be permitted, and if all the other hurdles that need to be passed can be hopped over, then it's a great story," he said.

• Beluga

continued from page 7

not officially listed as endangered, but they are drastically reduced from what they were in the early '80s," said Frost. "And it's very hard to fix belugas once you mess things up. They're kind of like grizzly bears. They only reproduce every three years, they only have a single calf, they don't reproduce till they're seven or eight or nine-years-old. So it's a slow process to build the population back."

While the Norton Sound-Yukon area still has a lot of belugas, at least according to the numbers in the 2017 survey, Frost explained that more than 20 villages hunt those belugas and they don't always communicate their harvest numbers with each other. The ABWC had observed the number of belugas hunted in the region had risen in recent years, a change that Frost said could be attributed in part to the economic strain cause by the pandemic and de-

clines in other subsistence resources.

"If [people] can feed their families out of their backyard, they don't have to buy meat at \$12 a pound at the village store," Frost said. "If people put up a lot of dry salmon for subsistence, then they don't need as much beluga. But if you have bad salmon runs and subsistence fishing for kings is shut down, you got a hole in your diet, and you're looking to make it up another way. Life happens, and in subsistence economies, the species utilization always goes up and down."

Gray would like to gather more feedback from hunters in various villages so that the draft can be altered as stakeholders see fit. He hopes the plan will be adopted in two to three years.

"We need this management plan," Gray said. "If we're going to protect the whales for our future kids, our people, we need something in place."

• Letters

continued from page 3

the joysticks, buttons, gadgets, pedals and tools of the two trades I mentioned. Alcohol has/had become a tool to self-destruction. Both mentally and physically, I lost all motivation to want to function and live a normal healthy life. Like many others, I have become an Alcoholic, dependent on it for all the wrong reasons. It's grip on my soul was powerful. Since this current incarceration has been my longest stretch, I have had many days, many nights, many lockdowns to contemplate what is important to me.

Though I admit it has been a tool to self-destruction, I want to use the

reflection of it's doing to myself as a tool to work towards being the Honest True Man I once was before it tore me apart.

It has been one heck of a Dance With The Devil; but with God, prayer, prayers, surrounding myself with the right company, and influence from others with the struggle, trust me, I won't let it last forever. I'm a wrestler, you'll never catch me on my back long enough to count lights in the ceiling. Never give up!

Thanks,
Farrel Soxie, #520601
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DO WE OWE YOU MONEY? UNCLAIMED AVEC CAPITAL CREDITS

This is a notice of unclaimed capital credits for current and former members of ALASKA VILLAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (AVEC).

AVEC capital credit payments to its members are now, and have been, available since July 1, 2022, at AVEC's office at 4831 Eagle Street Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

A large number of capital credit checks were returned as undeliverable or remain uncashed. Providing AVEC with a forwarding address when you leave the system helps ensure you will get all of your capital credit checks.

Former members or their estates may still claim their capital credits. AVEC's website contains a list of members or former members who are still due capital credits. Please visit www.avec.org, click on the "DO WE OWE YOU MONEY? UNCLAIMED AVEC CAPITAL CREDITS" menu option and review the list for your name.

If your name appears on the list, or if you have information that may help AVEC locate someone listed, please fill out the online form and return it to:

Capital Credits Section
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, AK 99503



Capital credits from prior retirements that have not been claimed by January 1, 2023, will revert to the AVEC Scholarship program. If you have questions, or have information on unlocatable members, please call AVEC at 1-800-478-1818.

SEEKING LAND COMMITTEE ADVISORY MEMBER

Sitnasuak Native Corporation is seeking Shareholders interested in serving as an Advisory Member on the SNC Land Committee. Advisory Members serve a one-year term and play a critical role in providing advice and support to the committee.

Interested Shareholders are asked to submit:

- Application Form
- Resume
- Letter of Interest

*Application form can be found on the SNC website.

Deadline to apply is 4:00 PM AKST, August 26, 2022

For more information, contact Delia Iyapana at (907) 387-1200 or by email diyapana@snc.org





Photo by Angela Hansen

GREENHOUSE—Sue Steinacher grows a plethora of greens, peas and tomatoes in her geodome.

• Garden tour

continued from page 1

ter garden which she said was mistakenly sent to her family when her husband simply ordered a saw. The birdcage, which Amazon did not want back, makes a nice decoration and a good support for climbing pea vines.

The tour ended with a potluck at the Community Garden, which has

flourished this summer under Myra Scholze's leadership. Participants shared dishes, including some garden-themed fare, like Kim Knudsen's summer rolls decorated with nasturtiums plucked from her property and Hansen's flower-petal cupcakes.

See more photos on page 9.

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Photos by Angela Hansen

POTLUCK—A potluck at the Community Garden was a delicious and satisfying way to end the tour.



ICY VIEW PARADISE— Willow bushes envelop Angela Hansen's backyard which visitors often refer to as a secret garden.

Family of Buckland man found dead in Anchorage demands further investigation

By Megan Gannon

On Friday, Aug. 5, dozens of people stood outside the Anchorage Police Department in the rain, holding signs with slogans like “We Want Justice” and “Fred Lee Deserves a Proper Investigation.”

Lee, a 41-year-old man from Buckland, went missing in Anchorage on June 14. His naked body was discovered the next day on a beach near Kincaid Chalet. From the beginning, the Anchorage Police Department had labeled Lee’s death as non-criminal. But Lee’s family and friends have been pressing for more answers and a more thorough investigation.

“We’re going to fight until we feel at peace with where it ends up,” Alexis Savage, Lee’s cousin, told The Nome Nugget in an interview after the rally earlier this month. “Right now, we’re not even a hair into it.”

Savage said that the family is hoping to work with a lawyer and private investigator to examine the circumstances of Lee’s death. “We need more eyes on it, and more professional eyes that can really dig deeper into a lot of these scenarios that we’re coming across,” Savage said.

APD recently released the medical examiner’s report, which found that Lee died of “acute ketoacidosis and bronchopneumonia due to acute toxic effects of methamphetamine.”

“The homicide sergeant has had multiple conversations with the family members and have answered all of their questions,” Sunny Guerin, APD’s community relations director, said in an email to The Nugget. “[They] have also been notified of the cause of death.”

Still, family members are troubled by many of the details surrounding Lee’s death, and they don’t believe

that the involvement of drugs in the case excludes the possibility of foul play. They have been in touch with a witness who was one of the first people on the scene when Lee’s body was found. That witness claims he heard suspicious arguing in the woods shortly before Lee’s body appeared on the beach. In his communications with the family, he has said that APD was not interested in hearing his testimony.

As friends and family organize for Lee, he is being remembered as a father of four, a beloved girls’ basketball coach and a heavy machine operator who kept the village’s roads clear.

“He was an asset to our community, and we can already feel the

loss,” said Savage.

The greater crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people in Alaska has also been on Savage’s mind as she takes up her cousin’s cause. A 2020 study from the University of Alaska Anchorage found that 30 percent of murder victims in Alaska between 1976 to 2016 were American Indian or Alaska Native. Meanwhile, these groups represent just over 16 percent of the state’s population.

“There’s too many of our people falling through the cracks, being murdered, without an investigation,” Savage said. “There’s people mourning. There’s people without answers. It’s just a cycle that won’t ever end if we don’t stand up.”



Back to School Checklist:

- Pencils and crayons
- Backpack and water bottle
- Healthy snacks
- Well-child checkup and immunizations

GET READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Put childhood immunizations on your back-to-school list.

Now is a great time to schedule your child’s yearly checkup.

Making sure kids are up to date on all childhood vaccines helps keep everyone healthy.



ADF&G Mid-August Fish Report

By Jim Menard
ADF&G Area Manager

Norton Sound

Silver commercial catches in the early season have been like the last couple of years, but silver escapement counts at projects that are operational are better than the last couple of years and now the run does not look to be as strong as the department forecast. High water has prevented operation of all the southern Norton Sound counting tower projects for most of last week.

Unalakleet Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 230 sockeye, 3,000 chum, 44,000 pink and 1,400 silver salmon by 35 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open 7 days a week, except beach seining for salmon is closed.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir - No escapement goals yet established - Cooperative project; Fish & Game, United States BLM and NSEDC. Major funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Office of Subsistence Management.

Cumulative counts through August 15 were 111 kings, 372 sockeyes, 12,800 chums and 2,600 silvers. Project has been pulled. King, chum, and silver counts were the lowest in 12 years of counting and sockeye counts were 7th highest.

North River Tower - Camp J.B. - Escapement goals: King 1,200-2,600; Chum-No goal established; Pink 25,000; Silver 550-1,100 (aerial survey goal) - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through July 25 were 1,119 kings, 66 sockeyes, 1,100 chums, 687,000 pinks and 93 silvers. High water has prevented project operation.

Shaktoolik Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 440 sockeye, 7,000 chum, 33,000 pink and 2,500 silver salmon by 25 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open 7 days a week, except beach seining for salmon is closed.

Shaktoolik Tower - No escapement goals yet established - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through July 22 were 975 kings, 159 sockeyes, 13,329 chums and 1.4 million pinks. High water has prevented project operation.

Norton Bay Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 1 king, 35 sockeye, 3,500 chum, 3,000 pink and 36 silver salmon by 6 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open 7 days a week.

Inglutalik River Tower - No escapement goals yet established - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through August 14 were 180 kings, 6,200 chums, 40,000 pinks and 303 silvers. Crew was unable to count for 4 days last week because of high water and again starting late on August 14.

Ungalik River Tower - No escapement goals yet established - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through August 14 were 891 kings, 42 sockeyes, 17,000 chums, 618,000 pinks and 5,565 silvers. Crew was unable to count for five days last week because of high water and again starting on August 15.

Elim Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 2 king, 85 sockeye, 3,600 chum, 3,000 pink and 150 silver salmon by 12 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Open 7 days a week.

Kwiniuk River Tower - Camp Joel - Escapement goals: King 250; Chum 9,100 - 32,600; Pink 8,400; Silver 650-1,300 (aerial survey goal). Fish & Game project.

Cumulative counts through August 15 were 36 kings, 15 sockeyes, 9,400 chums, 412,000 pinks, 2,000 silvers. The historical average midpoint of silver passage at the tower is August 22.

Golovin Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 160 sockeye, 8,700 chum, 1,600 pink and 120 silver salmon by 10 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Open 7 days a week.

Niukluk River Tower - Escapement goals: Chum 23,000; Silver 750-1,600 (aerial survey goal that includes Ophir Creek) - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through August 15 were 42 kings, 900 sockeyes, 37,000 chums, 305,000 pinks and 450 silvers. The historical average midpoint of silver passage at the tower is August 19.

Nome Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 1

king, 65 sockeye, 1,400 chum, 25 pink and 115 silver salmon by three permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Marine waters are open 7 days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. Net fishing schedule in all freshwater subsistence areas is from 6 p.m. Wednesday until 6 p.m. Monday. Check the subsistence salmon permit for the fresh water catch limits that vary by river. Beach seines are no longer a legal gear. Cast nets, dip nets, and set gillnets can be used during the net fishing schedule, but only in the subsistence areas.

Nome River Weir - Escapement goal: Chum 1,600 - 5,300; Pink 13,000 - Fish & Game project.

Cumulative counts through August 15 were 4 kings, 13 sockeyes, 1,900 chums, 50,000 pinks and 215 silvers. The historical average first quarter point of silver passage at the weir is August 25.

Snake River Weir - Escapement goal: Chum 2,000 - 4,200 - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through August 13 were 3 kings, 364 sockeyes, 4,300 chums, 47,000 pinks and 58 silvers. The historical average first quarter point of silver passage at the weir is August 27.

Port Clarence District

All net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upriver of the confluence with the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and the entire Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice. Salmon Lake is closed to all salmon fishing.

Elsewhere subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

Pilgrim River Floating Weir: Escapement goal: Sockeye 6,800 - 36,000 - NSEDC project.

Cumulative counts through August 14 were 31 kings, 1,518 sockeyes, 4,780 chums, 6,167 pinks and 2 silvers. Project pulled. The only year with lower sockeye passage was in 2009 when 953 sockeyes were counted.

Kotzebue

Catch is now 323,000 chum salmon and expected to finish closer to 400,000 chums than the department forecast of 100,000 to 200,000 chums harvested. As seen in Norton Sound the chum salmon run has shown a late surge. Because of buyer capacity, fishing periods are limited to eight hours daily.

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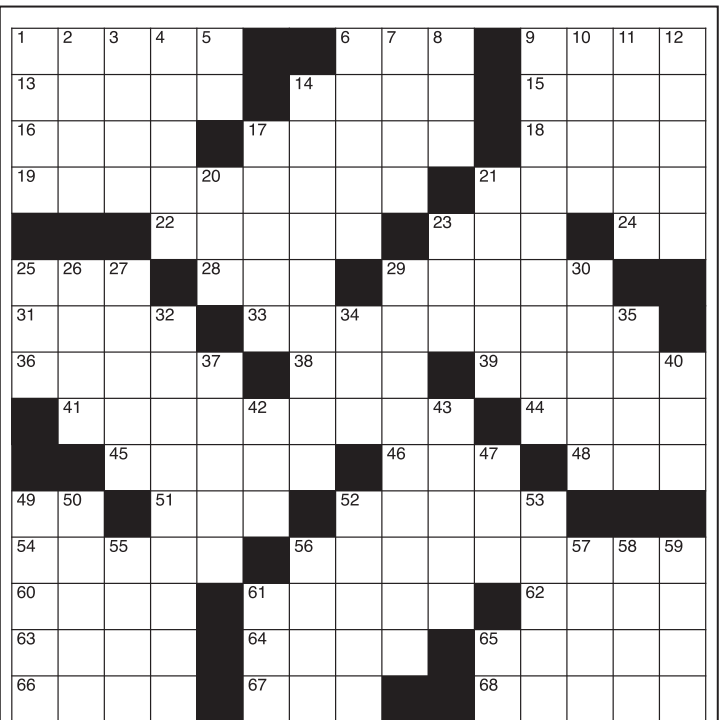
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CLUES ACROSS

- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
- Swiss river
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Like coagulated milk
- Lima is its capital
- Lying down
- Jai __, sport
- Egyptian statesman
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Renovated
- Chadic language
- 18-year period
- Beverage container
- Natural logarithm
- The "mecca" of basketball
- A way to darken
- Mackerels
- Actor Pitt
- Places to buy seafood
- True firs
- Neither
- Fencing sword
- Italian pastas
- Island nation close to the U.S.
- Begets
- Resembles a pouch
- __ student, learns healing
- Sodium
- Indicates position
- The world has one
- Partner to pains
- Photographer
- Chew the fat
- Culture of the British Iron Age
- Weaverbird
- Advice or counsel

- Asian nation
- Brought on board
- German river
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Leaf-footed bug genus

CLUES DOWN

- Mark left behind
- Cry weakly
- Ancient region in modern Syria
- Farewell
- Blue grass state
- Genus of mosquitoes
- S. Israeli city
- You can get stuck in one
- One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Tigers legend Fielder
- Make more attractive
- Horses
- Slight projection in type-faces
- Male parent
- Jack and Jill are two
- After B
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Missile with about 600-mile range
- Goddesses
- A day kids love
- Oily secretion
- One-tenth of a meter
- A father's male child
- One point east of south-east
- Silk garments
- Cool!
- The color of anger
- Trade profession
- It can get you around
- Mother-of-pearl
- Hurt
- Legendary slugger Hank
- Polio vaccine developer
- Incline from vertical
- Sea creature
- Actress Kate
- Affirmative votes
- Nothing
- Pie __ mode
- Expresses surprise

Previous Puzzle Answers

A	C	E	D		H	R	S		C	O	O				
S	H	I	E	S		O	O	H		G	A	B	O	S	
L	I	R	A	S		R	M	A		A	B	O	S		
C	A	F	E	S		N	A	N		E	L	E	A		
					A	P	E	N	N	I	N	E	S		
I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N					
T	O	A	D	I	E	D	A	N	S						
S	H	A	D	Y					T	E	A	S	E		
					A	P	E		E	R	E	C	T	E	D
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B	A	A	L		U	N	H		S	A	G	E	S		
R	A	S	E		S	C	I		C	A	R	A	T		
I	C	E	D		E	E	C		E	D	I	T	S		
O	P	S			D	D	S			S	C	O	P		

BSNC announces 2022 shareholder dividends

(Nome, AK) - The Bering Straits Native Corporation Board of Directors has declared a record-high dividend of \$10.25 per share, a 7.9 percent increase over the 2021 shareholder dividend.

Shareholders who own an average of 100 shares of stock will receive \$1,025.

The total 2022 dividend distribution will be approximately \$6.1 million. Since 1972, BSNC has

distributed \$47.5 million in dividends.

In addition, the board has voted to declare a 2022 Elder dividend of \$1,500. This Elder dividend will be paid to original BSNC shareholders who are 65 years of age or older on the record date of Nov. 7. Since 1972, BSNC has distributed \$10.5 million in Elder dividends.

The distributions will be paid by Dec. 31 through the BSNC Beringia

Settlement Trust and are non-taxable.

Checks will be mailed or direct deposited. Receive your dividend sooner by signing up for direct deposit by visiting the MyBSNC shareholder portal at <https://shareholder.bsnc.net/home>. Shareholders are requested to sign up for direct deposit by Nov. 7. If you wish to receive a check in the mail, please make sure your address on file is up to date.



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, now could be a good time to map out your financial future. You're riding a professional wave and your finances will benefit significantly from your hard work.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you can be a strong and formidable advocate for any cause you choose to support. Figure out what ideas you want to align with this week and voice your support.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

This week you may start out feeling like the life of the party. But you may run out of steam as the week winds down. Plan light activities for the weekend, Gemini.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, if you are feeling frustrated at work, you may want to address your feelings with friends this week. They may be able to provide a fresh perspective on the situation.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Don't take anything for granted this week, Leo. Even seemingly mundane events can have a significant impact on both your present and your future.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Explore creative outlets, Virgo. They may be just what you need right now to calm your mind and work through some of the problems that have been tough to solve lately.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it is important to define boundaries between work and home life this week, especially as you explore remote working opportunities or a promotion.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, your close relationships could benefit from some increased conversation this week. Small talk is a start, but dig into topics that are meaningful to you and your partner.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Concerns about finances could have you holding back on all spending, including important purchases, Sagittarius. A professional can help you establish a budget.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, life may be challenging this week, and attempts to get ahead could be thwarted. You may just have to hunker down a little longer and work harder.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Set up your living space to ensure you feel peaceful and calm at all times, Aquarius. This can improve your overall mood and benefit your long-term health.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Frustrations with finances may have you feeling poorly at the moment, Pisces. Some news at work could provide the relief you need.

Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies holds soft opening

By Peter Loewi

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage held a soft opening on August 11, 2022, with speeches from both Alaskan Senators, the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, among others. The event was in recognition of the center reaching "initial operating capacity." The center is projected to achieve full operational capacity on 1 July, 2023.

"Today's opening ceremony is a public acknowledgement by the Stevens Center and our Department of Defense leadership of the importance of the combined team effort, which is building capacity in Arctic and Climate Security programs and activities to provide soft power compliment to the hard power investments the United States is making in and across the Arctic in support of our national interests in and across the region and in collaboration with our allies and partners," said Senior Advisor for Arctic Security Affairs, Randy "Church" Kee, a retired Major General from the Air Force.

Following a land blessing from Chief Aaron Leggett of the Native Village of Eklutna – the Arctic Indigenous Community was mentioned as a key stakeholder in the process – there were short remarks by nine delegates from both the uniformed and civilian sides of the Department of Defense, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, Kevin Meyer.

The speeches were mostly consistent in their messaging, reiterating a number of DoD talking points: Climate change is creating opportunities and vulnerabilities; competitor countries are investing in the region and so should we; we want the Arctic to remain peaceful, stable, and cooperative. Others were somewhat more adversarial, however. "If Russia wants to come over, bring it on," said Meyer.

Air Force Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander of Alaska Command, the Alaska



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Lebens
Distinguished visitors participate in the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies grand opening ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Aug. 11, 2022. This center is the newest of five existing Department of Defense Regional Centers for Security Studies, and its mission is to advance Arctic awareness and DoD Arctic priorities, reinforce the rule-based order in the Arctic, and address the impacts of climate change in the region.

NORAD region, and the 11th Air Force, stressed that "Arctic diplomacy is more important than ever," and Senator Murkowski emphasized her efforts to get an Arctic Ambassador.

USCG Commandant Admiral Linda Fagan noted how increasing maritime access to the Arctic puts pressure "on the communities and the safety and security of the waters off of the state of Alaska."

Jim Hursch, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, who shared a personal anecdote about a trip to Greenland and how the "dangers of climate change were already very apparent in the 1990s as hangar floors at the base were sinking into the melting permafrost" gave the clearest indication of the expanding definition of security. "Defense security encompasses much more than just protecting one's land. The core of defense security is creating the unequivocal feeling that one's people feel secure, whether that is protecting their food supply, maritime throughways, or cyber do-

main," he said.

Following the remarks, was a ceremonial hanging of an "Open for Business" sign by eight VIPs including Catherine Stevens, widow of the late Senator Ted Stevens.

The Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies is now the sixth regional center run by the DoD's Defense Security Cooperation Agency. The other centers are focused on Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Western Hemisphere, Africa and Near East-South Asia. It will be housed in a decommissioned elementary school on JBER. In the plan to Congress to establish the Center, its four missions were stated as being: "Advance Arctic awareness, both among partners and within the increasingly professionalized field of U.S. Arctic service; Advance DOD Arctic priorities; Reinforce the rules-based order in the Arctic; and in keeping with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's priorities and the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, address the impacts of climate change in the region."

Green Bean Casserole



Serves 6

- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Campbell's® Condensed Cream of Mushroom soup or 98% Fat Free Cream of Mushroom soup or Condensed Unsalted Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 4 cups cooked cut green beans
- 1 1/3 cups French's® Fried Onions (divided)

Heat the oven to 350 F. Stir the soup, milk, soy sauce, beans and 2/3 cup onions in a 1 1/2-quart casserole. Season the mixture with salt and pepper.

Bake for 25 minutes or until hot. Stir the bean mixture. Sprinkle with the remaining 2/3 cup onions.

Bake for another 5 minutes or until the onions are golden brown.

Variations: This recipe can be customized as one sees fit. Double up

the amount of condensed soup if you desire a wetter casserole, or change the flavor by selecting a different flavor soup variety, such as Cream of Asparagus. You can add grated Parmesan cheese or shredded cheddar if you want a cheesy option. Some people prefer to use French-style green beans instead of the thicker cut variety.

Alternate cooking method: The traditional recipe has you cooking the casserole in the oven. However, if you have a large enough toaster oven, you can cook it in there to free up oven space; otherwise, prepare the casserole as directed in a slow cooker and cook on low for around 3 to 4 hours, until tender. Then add the remaining onions and transfer the casserole to the oven to crisp up for 5 minutes. (Check that the slow cooker crock is oven-safe; otherwise, spoon the mixture into an oven-safe dish for the final baking and serving.)

Church Services Directory

Bible Baptist Church

103 E. 1st Avenue (1st and Steadman)
443-2144

Bible Baptist Church is holding worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m.

Community United Methodist Church

West 2nd Avenue & C Street • 443-2865
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.

Nome Covenant Church

101 Bering Street • 443-2565

Sunday: Sunday School on break for summer.
Worship 11 a.m.

Checkpoint Youth: James Ventress • 841-4333

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

5th Avenue & Bering • 443-5295

Sunday:

11am Worship Service

Handicapped accessible ramp: North side

River of Life Assembly of God

405 W. Seppala • (907) 949-6125

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Mid-Week Worship: 7:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Pastor Austin Jones

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Corner of Steadman & W. King Place • 443-5527

Holy Mass schedule

Monday-Friday: 5:40pm Rosary; 6:00pm Mass

Saturday: 4:30pm Confessions; 5:00pm Rosary and 5:30pm Mass

Sunday: 10:30am Mass (Broadcast on KNOM)

Note: If you are feeling unwell or in quarantine, please join us via radio on KNOM.

If you would like to receive holy communion contact Fr. Kumar at 443-5527 to arrange a time.

Seventh-Day Adventist

Icy View • 443-5137

Pastor Chad Angasan

Saturday Sabbath School: 10 a.m.

Saturday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

Nome Church of the Nazarene

3rd Avenue & Division Street • 443-4870

Pastor Dan Ward

Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

Saturday Night Radio Lineup

5:30 p. m. - **Back Home Gospel Classics**

with host, Dave Oseland

6 to 8 p. m. - **The Gospel Greats**

with host, Paul Heil

8 to 9 p. m. - **The Gaither Homecoming**

Radio Hour

featuring the best of Bill Gaither & Friends

9 to 10 p. m. - **The Top Nine at Nine**

with host, Patty Burchell

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CAMP: Administrative Specialist III \$28.32 + DOE
Dental: Dental Assistant Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
Electronic Health Records: EHR Support Specialist \$32.31 + DOE
Emergency Department: Administrative Specialist II \$25.85 + DOE
Environmental Services: Environmental Services Worker I and Relief \$23.52 + DOE; Laundry Worker \$23.52 + DOE
Human Resources: Employee Benefits Associate \$34.57 + DOE; HR Advisor \$39.52 + DOE; HR Associate \$34.57 + DOE
In Home Support Program: Direct Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
Laboratory: Laboratory Driver \$25.85 + DOE; Medical Laboratory Technician \$39.52 + DOE; Point of Care Testing Assistant \$28.32 + DOE; Medical Laboratory Assistant – Uncertified \$32.31 + DOE
Materials Management: Mail Clerk \$23.52 + DOE; Material Support Technician \$25.85 + DOE
Nutrition Services: Cook \$28.32 + DOE; Cook Relief \$28.32 + DOE; Food Service Worker I/II/III \$23.52 + DOE; Food Service Worker Relief \$23.52 + DOE; Nutrition Services Dietetic Coordinator \$25.85 + DOE
Office of Environmental Health: Environmental Health Technician \$29.93 + DOE
Patient Financial Services: Health Information Technician \$24.91 + DOE; Patient Account Representative \$24.91 + DOE; Revenue Cycle Analyst \$39.98 + DOE
Patient Hostel: Guest Services Coordinator \$24.91 + DOE; Manager of Patient Hostel \$48.69 + DOE; Patient Hostel Attendant \$23.52 + DOE; Patient Hostel Attendant Relief \$23.52 + DOE
Patient Housing: Patient Housing Coordinator \$28.32 + DOE
Pharmacy: Pharmacy Technician I \$25.85 + DOE
Plant Operations: Maintenance Engineer I/II/III \$29.93 + DOE; Safety Officer \$52.27 + DOE; Office Manager \$39.52 + DOE
Primary Care: Certified Medical Assistant \$32.31 + DOE; Registration Technician \$24.91 + DOE
Quality Improvement: Administrative Specialist II \$25.85 + DOE
Quyanna Care: Certified Nursing Assistant \$32.31 + DOE
Sanitation: Remote Maintenance Worker I relief \$32.31 + DOE
Security: Security Officer Relief \$23.52 + DOE; Security Officer Trainee \$23.52 + DOE
Social Services: Inupiaq Language Specialist \$25.85 + DOE
Tribal Healing: Tribal Healer/Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
Village Facilities Management: EVS/Maintenance Traveler to Diomedes \$29.93 + DOE

In Our Village Communities:

Village Based Counselor Field Supervisor \$36.98 + DOE
 Itinerant Community Health Aide PT625 \$32.31 + DOE
Brevig Mission:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Personal Care Attendant \$25.52 + DOE
Diomedes:
 Clinic Travel Specialist \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker \$24.91 + DOE
 Maintenance Worker \$29.93 + DOE
Elim:
 Direct Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
Gambell:
 Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Personal Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
Golovin:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
Koyuk:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
St. Michael:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Maintenance Worker \$29.93 + DOE
Savoonga:
 Clinic Travel Specialist relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Dental Assistant Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
Shaktolik:
 Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee PT625 \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
Shishmaref:
 Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Personal Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
Stebbins:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Personal Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
Teller:
 Clinic Travel Specialist relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
Unalakleet:
 Certified Medical Assistant \$32.31 + DOE
 Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Dental Assistant trainee \$25.85 + DOE
Wales:
 Community Health Aide Trainee \$25.85 + DOE
 Environmental Services Worker Relief \$24.91 + DOE
 Personal Care Attendant \$23.52 + DOE
 Village Based Counselor \$25.85 + DOE

\$5,000 hard to fill hiring bonus for qualified positions

For more information or an up-to-date vacancy list, go to www.NortonSoundHealth.org or contact Human Resources at (907) 443-4573
 NSHC is a drug-free workplace and will apply Alaska Native/American Indian preference for hire (under PL 93-638 and Veteran Preferences). NSHC will also initiate a criminal history/background check for all positions.

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Legals

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Louise Ahngnatoguk DOB: 7/24/1927, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00024PR

You are notified that the court appointed Brenda Ahngnatoguk as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims may be presented to Brenda Ahngnatoguk, c/o Alaska Legal Services Corporation, PO Box 1429, Nome, AK 9762, or filed with the Nome Court at PO Box 1110, Nome, AK 99762.

8.11-18-25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Estate of Daniel Omedelena DOB: 1/30/1942, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00027PR.

You are notified that the court appointed Lucy Kitchen as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims may be presented to Lucy Kitchen, c/o Alaska Legal Services Corporation, PO Box 1429, Nome, AK 9762, or filed with the Nome Court at PO Box 1110, Nome, AK 99762.

8.11-18-25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Estate of Ruth Suzie Bernhardt DOB: 1/21/1951, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00056PR.

You are notified that the court appointed Jerry Dean Bernhardt as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims may be presented to Jerry Dean Bernhardt, c/o Alaska Legal Services Corporation, PO Box 1429, Nome, AK 9762, or filed with the Nome Court at PO Box 1110, Nome, AK 99762.

8.11-18-25

Trooper Beat

Norton Sound Region
 Destruction/Damage/Vandalism: On 8/1/2022 at approximately 4:13 p.m., Alaska State Troopers received a report of Property Damage. Investigation is ongoing.

Norton Sound Region
 Assault: On 8/2/2022 at approximately 11:15 a.m., AST received a report of an assault. Investigation is ongoing.

Norton Sound Region
 Sexual Abuse of a Minor: On 8/2/2022 at approximately 2:34 p.m., AST received a report of Sexual Abuse of a Minor. Investigation is ongoing.

Norton Sound Region
 Sexual Abuse: On 8/3/2022 at approximately 11:27 a.m., AST received a report of Sexual Abuse. Investigation is ongoing.

Unalakleet
 Assault - DV: On 8/3/22 at approximately 11:43 p.m., AST responded to the residence of Bruce Johnson for a reported disturbance. Investigation revealed that Johnson, 59, of Unalakleet assaulted his wife causing physical injury. Johnson was placed under arrest and was transported to Unalakleet Jail.

Shaktolik
 Assault - DV: On 8/4/2022 at approximately 10:06 a.m., AST received a report of a DV Assault. Upon conclusion of the investigation, Shawn Evan, 47, of Shaktolik was arrested for DV Assault 4.

Norton Sound Region
 Sex Offense: On 8/5/2022 at approximately 11:52 a.m., AST received a report of a Sex Offense. Investigation is ongoing.

Norton Sound Region
 Disturbance: On 8/5/2022 at approximately 1:38 p.m., AST received a report of a disturbance. Investigation is ongoing.

Stebbins
 Violate Conditions: On 8/5/2022 at approximately 2:43 p.m., AST was following up on a DV investigation and upon arrival to the residence, Troopers observed Darius Tom, 26, of Stebbins in the residence. Tom had conditions of release that state he was not to be at that residence. Troopers arrested Tom for VCOR.

continued on page 13

JOB OPENINGS

NMS is hiring for a full-time **Custodial Services Manager** and full-time **Custodians** to join and support the Nome School District. The Custodian Manager requires one year of relevant experience and supervision of employees. Some experience of general cleaning practices is required for the custodian position. Custodian rate of pay is \$18/hr - \$24/hr (DOE) plus full benefits. Apply today! Visit: nmsusa.com/employment to get started. Contact Aaron Makkar, NANA Senior Recruiter, at (907) 265-4173 with questions.



Nome Public Schools Jobs!

Certified Teaching, Classified Seasonal and Coaching Job Vacancies 2022-2023 school year



Nome Public Schools has these job vacancies for next school year. These classified jobs are full-time seasonal/school year jobs. Benefits include medical, dental and vision. Life insurance, paid time off and more. To apply; complete a NPS Classified Employment Application. Sports/Coaching positions do not provide benefits.

Nome Elementary School:

- *Secretary I -\$19.08/hour +DOE
- * Behavior Specialist -\$21.84/hour +DOE
- * Special Education Paraprofessional-multiple positions -\$21.84/hour +DOE

Nome Beltz Middle/High School:

- * Secretary I, * Secretary III-\$19.08-\$34.35/hour +DOE
- * Special Education Paraprofessional-multiple positions -\$21.84/hour +DOE

Coaching Vacancies:

- To apply; provide a letter of interest outlining specific coaching experience
- * High School Varsity Wrestling Coach
- * High School Varsity Cheer Assistant

Certified Teaching Vacancy:

- To apply; provide a completed application from Alaska Teacher Placement
- * NBMHS Physical Education Teacher

For more information about each job, please email NPS Human Resources Manager Cynthia Gray at cgray@nomeschools.org. Go to the NPS Website for the Classified Application.

Nome Public Schools is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer posted: 07/19/2022

NSEDC Job Opportunities



Communications Director (Anchorage, Nome, or Unalakleet):

The Communications Director manages internal and external communications and the dissemination of information regarding NSEDC. A Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Communications or a related field and at least 4 years applicable work experience is required.

Refrigeration Technician (Nome):

The Refrigeration Technician ensures that equipment and facilities at NSSP operate efficiently. A high school diploma and at least two years of applicable work experience is required.

Community Development Coordinator (Unalakleet):

The Community Development Coordinator is responsible for promoting in-region community development and facilitating community outreach while assisting with the administration of Community Benefits Department programs. A Bachelor's Degree in rural development, business administration or related field and at least 2 years applicable work experience is required.

Community Liaison (St. Michael):

NSEDC Community Outreach Liaisons give NSEDC a presence in member communities that do not have an NSEDC office. Liaisons are responsible for the distribution of information related to NSEDC programs and opportunities, the maintenance of an NSEDC-owned informational bulletin board, and are expected to be available at regularly set times and locations.

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsedc.com or contact NSEDC Human Resources at (907)274-2248 (Anchorage), 800-650-2248 (toll-free) or hr@nsedc.com.

Seawall

**Nome Police Department
Weekly press releases
Activities reported between
8/08/2022 – 8/14/2022**

During this period there were 218 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center; 57 (30%) of these calls involved alcohol. The Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department responded to 9 ambulance calls. The Nome Volunteer Fire Department responded to no fire calls during this period. NPD responded to 19 calls reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance. Nobody was remanded to AMCC as protective hold; and 1 person remained at the hospital for medical

evaluation/treatment.

Non-arrests
One citation given for Minor Consuming Alcohol.

Arrests
A total of 10 arrests made with 10 (100%) alcohol related. Charges below are referred to the District Attorney.

Monday, Aug. 8, 2022
Charge: Criminal Mischief in the fourth degree. Name: Brenda Evak. Location: Lomen St. Charges: Violating a DV or protective order and Violating Conditions of Release. Name: John Natanguk. Location: E. I St.

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022
Charge: DUI. Name: Gregori Mendez. Location: 1st and Lanes Way. Charge: Criminal Mischief in the second degree. Name: Grace Okleasik. Location: Front St.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022
Charges: Criminal Trespass in the second degree; Disorderly Conduct. Name: Rachel Kobuk. Location: Front St. Charge: Probation violation. Name: Edward Kakaruk. Location: W. C St.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022
Charge: Warrant Arrest. Name: Kelly Mueller. Lo-

cation: Nome
Charges: Two warrant arrest; Two counts Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Gordon Ahnangnatoguk. Location: Front St.

Friday, Aug. 12, 2022
Charge: Assault in the fourth degree and Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Cody Iya. Location: Bering St.

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022
Charge: Criminal trespass in the second degree. Name: John Kunnuk. Location: Front St. Charge: Probation violation. Name: Sophie Iyapana. Location: Fore and Aft Dr.

Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022
Charge: Assault in the fourth degree. Name: Nikka Shwooko-Campbell. Location: Front St. Charge: Disorderly Conduct. Name: Harvey Tocktoo. Location: W. D St.

Disclaimer: This is a record of activity. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party. Officers refer all cases to the DA for action.

Court

**Week ending 8/12
Civil**

No civil cases posted on CourtView Website; start 2NO-22-00115C1

Small Claims

No small claims posted on CourtView Website; start 2NO-22-00008SC

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Woodrow Kitchen (7/23/63); Dismissal; CTN 007, 008: Violate Conditions of Release for Misd; Date of offenses: 1/6/22; Dismissal Code: CRPCNFD; VOGRs cannot be filed in post-judgment cases, even if they are reopened for a PTRP; Law enforcement may refile charges in a new criminal case or open pre-judgment case; The PTRP filed 9/7/21 is still pending; Defendant to remain in custody or on bail as previously ordered in this case.

State of Alaska v. Alexandria Okpealuk (10/20/85); Dismissal; CTNs 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013: Violate Conditions of Release for Misd; Date of Offenses: 5/27/22; Dismissal Case: CRPCNFD; VOGRs cannot be filed in post-judgment cases, even if they are reopened for a PTRP; Law enforcement may refile charges in a new criminal case or open pre-judgment case; The PTRP filed 5/27/22 is still pending; Defendant to remain in custody or on bail as previously ordered in this case.

State of Alaska v. Ralph Paul Saccheus (11/2/98); 2NO-21-546CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 117507249; Violated conditions of probation; Probation modified as follows: violation found, probation extended for 2 years; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Ralph Paul Saccheus (11/2/98); 2NO-22-14-CR Judgment and Order of Commitment/Probation; CTN 001: Assault 3- Cause Fear Of Injury w/Weap; C Felony; DV; Offense Date: 4/19/22; Sentencing date: 8/2/22; Incarceration: 2 years, 18 months suspended; Unsuspended 6 months shall be served; Surcharges and Costs due as stated in judgment; DNA Identification, must provide; Probation for 3 years; General and Special Conditions of Probation set; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated.

State of Alaska v. Matt Wayne Turner (3/6/83); Harassment 2; Date of Violation: 4/22/21; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 60 days, 60 days suspended; Initial and Suspended Jail, and Police Training, Surcharges due; Probation for 1 year (7/26/23); Shall comply with all court order by the deadlines stated; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall obey all state, federal, and local laws and ordinances; Shall not

possess, consume, or buy alcohol; Any driver's license or state ID is subject to cancellation under cited Alaska Statutes (AS); Any new license or ID must list the AS buying restriction until the restriction expires; Shall not have alcohol in his residence; Shall not enter or remain on the premises of any bar or liquor store; Subject to warrantless breath testing by any peace officer with probable cause to believe defendant has consumed alcohol.

State of Alaska v. Delia Oozevaseuk (3/28/58); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 118152135; Violated conditions of probation; No action taken; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect. State of Alaska v. Michael Kulowiyi (10/13/98) Judgment; Violate Conditions of Release for Misd; Date of Violation: 7/27/22; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 60 days, 60 days suspended; Probation until 8/15/23; Obey all state, federal, and local laws and ordinances; Do not consume or possess any alcohol; Do not enter any bars or liquor stores; Submit to a warrantless portable breath test upon probable cause of an alcohol violation.

Trooper Beat

continued from page 12

Elim

Assault - DV: On 8/6/2022 at approximately 10:26 a.m., AST received a report of a DV Assault. Investigation resulted in Amy Takak, 42, of Elim being arrested for one count of Assault 4.

Norton Sound Region

Assault: On 8/7/2022 at approximately 11:58 p.m., AST received a report of an Assault. Investigation is ongoing.

Norton Sound Region

Assault: On 8/8/2022 at approximately 9:40 a.m., AST received a report of an Assault. Investigation is ongoing.

Unalakleet

Violate Conditions: On 8/8/2022 at approximately 7:29 p.m., AST responded to the residence of Philip Kniseley, 35, of Unalakleet. Kniseley was visibly intoxicated and advised that he was on conditions and should not be drinking. Kniseley was placed under arrest for VCOR and remanded to Unalakleet Jail.


Koyuk

Assault - DV: On 8/10/2022 at approximately

09:28 a.m., Alaska State Troopers received a report of a DV Assault. Investigation revealed that Kelner James, 26, of Koyuk, had assaulted his family member. James was arrested for Assault 2, Assault 3 and Assault 4.

Stebbins

Assault - DV: On 8/10/2022 at approximately 7:25 p.m., Alaska State Troopers received a report of a DV Assault. Investigation revealed Isaiah Tom, 24, of Stebbins had assaulted a family member, causing injury. Tom was arrested by VPOs on one charge of Assault 4.



Shaktoolik Native Corporation
P.O. Box 46
Shaktoolik, AK 99771
Phone (907) 955-3241 office 955-3242 store
FAX (907) 955-3243

Shaktoolik Native Corporation

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Shaktoolik Native Corporation will hold its Annual Meeting on **Monday, November 07, 2022 at 10 a.m.** or upon establishment of a quorum. Place to be determined at a later date. This year the shareholders will be electing **three (3) directors**. Any shareholder 18 years of age or older, and in good standing, may file for nomination to the SNC Board of Directors. All candidacy forms must be filed and received, **on or before September 23, 2022** at the close of business day. All interested shareholders of the Shaktoolik Native Corporation may obtain forms from the Shaktoolik Native Corporation at the address listed above.



PUBLIC NOTICE

2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

The candidate filing deadline is **Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM** for the Annual City of Nome Municipal Election (which will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022).

The following seats will be up for election:

- 2 City Council (two 3-year terms)
- 2 Utility Board (one 2-year term and one 3-year term)
- 2 School Board (two 3-year terms)

Contact City Hall at 443-6663 to obtain the forms necessary to file.

8.11-18-25

Employment

JOB OPENINGS

NMS is seeking to fill multiple **Food Service Worker** openings to join and support the Nome Public Schools Dining Services team. This position will support breakfast and lunch kitchen operations with food prep, food service, dishwashing, cleaning and other duties. Starting pay is \$23-\$24/HR plus full health benefits. Minimal experience required!

Apply today by visiting careers.nmsusa.com. For more information contact Aaron Makkar, Senior Recruiter, at (907) 265-4173.



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Newly Listed!

Tribal Justice Development Specialist Assist the region's tribes in the development and implementation of tribal justice systems.

Head Start Cook (Shishmaref) Prepare and cook meals for the Head Start programs, social events.

Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Teacher Provide quality child care and education services to children ages 0-3. *5 positions!*

Still Available

<p>Alt Tribal Coordinator (Koyuk, Chinik, Unalakleet, Elim, Mary's Igloo)</p> <p>Head Start/Early Head Start Home Visitor (Shishmaref)</p> <p>Tribal Coordinator (Gambell, Solomon, Shishmaref)</p> <p>EHS Inupiaq Teacher</p> <p>Child Development Program Manager</p> <p>Help Desk Technician</p> <p>Village System Specialist</p> <p>Marine Advocate</p> <p>Office Assistant</p> <p>Admin Assistant, Head Start</p> <p>Building Maintenance Technician</p> <p>Workforce Development Coordinator</p> <p>Office Manager</p> <p>Head Start Teacher</p> <p>Curator of Educational Programs (Katirvik)</p> <p>Substitute Teacher (all Head start programs)</p> <p>Translator/Transcriber</p>	<p>Community Development Specialist</p> <p>Social Science Program Manager</p> <p>Subsistence Resource Program Director</p> <p>Child Advocacy Center Clinician</p> <p>Head Start Teacher Aide/Janitor</p> <p>Early Childhood Coach Mentor</p> <p>Tribal Family Coordinator (Gambell, St Michael, White Mountain, Wales, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik (PT), Koyuk (PT))</p> <p>CAC Coordinator</p> <p>Municipalities Accounting Specialist Northern</p> <p>Family Advocate (Nome & Shishmaref)</p> <p>Probate Specialist II</p> <p>Community Planning & Development Program Director</p> <p>Village Public Safety Officer (Brevig Mission, Diomedea, Elim, Gambell, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, St. Michael, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales)</p> <p>AND MORE!</p>
---	---

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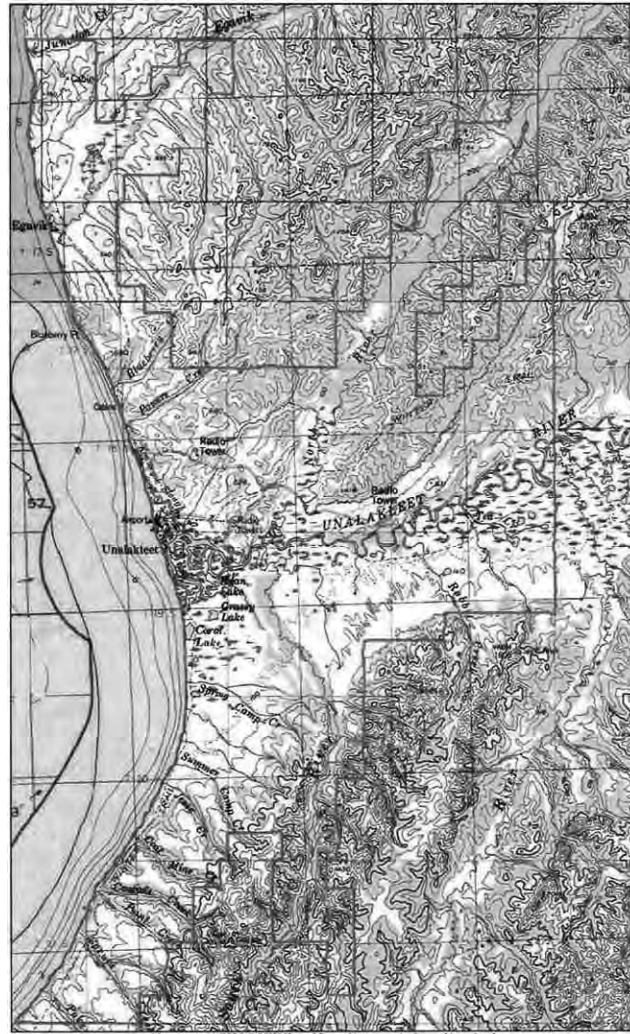


NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC, GUIDES, PILOTS & HUNTERS

Game Unit 22A - Unalakleet River Area

- The public is reminded the land ownership within the outlined areas on the map are predominately privately owned by Unalakleet Native Corporation and its Shareholders.
- Hunting by non-shareholders is not allowed. Hunting by Shareholders, spouses of Shareholders, and descendents of Shareholders for subsistence purposes is permitted. For other allowable uses of land by non-shareholders, please contact:

Unalakleet Native Corporation
907-624-3411



Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Member Representative Election Public Notice of Election and Filing Deadline



The following communities shall hold elections for their Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) Member Representative seat for a four-year term:

Communities:	Elim
	Nome
	Saint Michael
	Savoonga
	Teller
Election Date:	October 4, 2022
Filing Date:	August 12 through August 26, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

NSED has arranged with the local municipal governments to conduct the 2022 NSED Member Representative elections. However, the NSED Member Representative election is not a municipal office and it will have a separate ballot. Voters do not need to be qualified to vote in the City's elections to be eligible to vote in the NSED election. Any registered voter who resides in a state election precinct that encompasses the member community, even if they live outside the community's municipal limits is eligible to vote in the NSED Member Representative election. To check if you are registered to vote, visit the Alaska Division of Elections site: <https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/>

NSED Eligibility and Minimum Vote Requirements:

Candidate Eligibility: To be eligible as a candidate, an applicant:

1. Must be a "resident fisherman" of the community she or he wishes to represent, which is an individual with recent (within 10 years prior to the election), documented commercial or subsistence fishing activity who is a registered voter residing within the state precinct boundaries encompassing the member community, where the applicant maintains a mailing address and permanent domicile and is eligible to receive an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, and where the individual has resided for at least (1) year immediately prior to the election.
2. May not be currently employed by NSED in a regular position; and
3. Must have "good moral character," which means that an individual:
 - a. is eligible for election as set forth in Article Five, Section 6; (see candidacy packet for more information)
 - b. has a history free of any felony convictions, including guilty pleas or pleas of nolo contendere, within the last 10 years; and
 - c. is able to pass a drug screen test, prior to the election and annually, which is administered in accordance with NSED's employee drug and alcohol testing policies.

To determine eligibility, each applicant must complete a "Member Representative" Candidacy Statement and consent to a background check and drug test. You may pick up a Candidacy Packet with these forms and more information from the city office or from the NSED Liaison. Packets will be available on August 10, 2022.

Minimum Vote: The candidate receiving the highest number of votes and over 40% of the total votes cast shall be the elected NSED Member Representative.

If you have any questions, please contact your city office or NSED at 800-650-2248.

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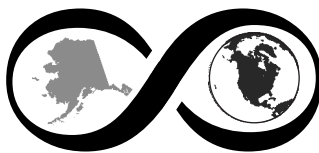
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BIRD FEEDER— White-crowned sparrows come readily to bird feeders. Here an adult had just landed on my feeder, joining redpolls. One redpoll attempted unsuccessfully to drive the sparrow away. At my Banner Creek bird feeder white-crowned sparrows are in the middle of the pecking order. They defer to robins, fox and golden-crowned sparrows, but dominate American tree sparrows and redpolls.



YOUNGSTER— Immature white-crowned sparrows have attractive brown and buffy stripes on their crowns rather than the striking black-and-white caps of their parents. They molt into adult plumage before the next breeding season.

Birder's Notebook: White-crowned Sparrow —“The White Rat of Ornithology”

Story and photos
by Kate Persons

The sporty-looking white-crowned sparrow is a common songbird on the Seward Peninsula and throughout much of North America. The sparrow's widespread abundance and ability to thrive in captivity have made it such a frequent subject for avian studies that it has been called “the white rat of ornithology.”

In this region, white-crowned sparrows can be found over much of the Seward Peninsula during the breeding season. They inhabit areas that provide a mix of open ground for foraging and low, dense shrubs for cover and escape from predators.

These dapper sparrows are common in the Nome area. They come readily to bird feeders but are more often found eating spilled seeds on the ground below.

Spring migration brings male white-crowned sparrows to the region in early to mid-May. Their clear and beautiful song fills the spring air as the males reclaim their previous breeding territories or establish new ones, singing loudly from elevated perches as they patrol their boundaries.

Song may be enough to stake a claim, but if challenged, territorial males erect their crown feathers into a striking black-and-white crest. They may puff up or slick down their body feathers and flutter their wings. If disputes escalate, the opponents may fly towards each other with outstretched feet, occasionally falling to the ground together, grappling with their feet.

The females arrive 11 to 12 days later, usually after the males have established territories. Although pairs separate after the breeding season, studies have found that 66 percent of returning pairs reunite the following

spring on the breeding ground.

Pair bonds are quickly renewed or new ones formed, and if the area is snow-free, the female begins nest building within a few days of arrival.

On the Seward Peninsula, white-crowned sparrows almost always nest on the ground. In two to four days' time, the female builds an open cup of coarse grass and plant material and lines it with fine grasses, feathers or animal hair. Nests are hidden in vegetation or at the base of a low shrub.

In this region, egg laying begins as soon as the last week in May. The female alone incubates the four to five eggs for 12 days. After hatching, the young stay in the nest for eight or nine days and are fed only by the female.

The female is stealthy coming and going from the nest. She slips away secretively to avoid notice and lands a few feet away on her return, creeping the rest of the way on foot. If she senses a threat, she runs along the ground wagging her tail to lure danger away from the nest.

When the young first leave the nest, they remain hidden in the shrubbery, moving very little. At that point, the male begins feeding them too. In seven to ten days the chicks begin to fly and follow the parents, begging for food and receiving insects.

By mid-July most young white-crowned sparrows are independent. The siblings may stay together for a couple of months after fledging.

White-crowned sparrows eat a wide variety of insects, spiders and plant materials including seeds, berries, buds, flowers, willow catkins and leaves. Nestlings are fed insects almost exclusively.

These sparrows often forage by hopping along on the ground, sometimes using an unusual and distinc-

tive “double scratch” motion—hopping forward and quickly back again while scratching on the ground to uncover food items.

They also fly from perches to grab insects in midair, an unusual feeding behavior for sparrows.

By early August, adult white-crowned sparrows have molted and fattened up for migration. Many get underway early in the month and most are now gone. The immature birds linger longer, but almost all will leave the region by the end of the month. However, on at least one occasion, a seemingly healthy immature bird spent the entire winter at an Icy View feeder.

Most Alaska white-crowned sparrows winter in western North America between southern British Columbia and central Mexico. The birds migrate at night in small flocks or individually. Marked birds have

traveled over 2,600 miles. One flew 300 miles in a single night.

White-crowned sparrows have been the study subjects for research on many aspects of bird biology including physiology, population biology, breeding behavior, geographic variation, migration and sleep.

The song of the white-crowned sparrow differs considerably over its wide range, inspiring research into song development. It was found that males learn the song heard during their first few months of life. Males return to breed close to where they were raised, resulting in formation of local song dialects. If raised on the edge of two dialects, the birds learn to sing both songs.

In 2020, studies of white-crowned sparrow song first revealed the diminished volume of bird song that coincided with the decrease in ambient noise during the pandemic

lockdown.

A 2019 study looked at the effects of neonics, a type of insecticide commonly used in our agricultural industry, on white-crowned sparrows. After ingesting neonic-coated seeds, the sparrows stopped eating, lost weight and delayed migration. The evidence that these pesticides directly harm birds in addition to reducing their insect food supply adds to the growing pressure to ban these environmentally harmful chemicals.

Despite the many threats facing birds in today's world, the white-crowned sparrow is one species that remains widespread and abundant. Habitat changes on the Seward Peninsula are not expected to be particularly detrimental to this species, so their spring song should continue to define their territories and delight the human ear.



HANDSOME ADULT— Male and female white-crowned sparrows look the same, both sporting a distinctive black-and-white cap and a rich brown, gray and white pattern on their backs. Both males and females sing, but males sing more often and more loudly.

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