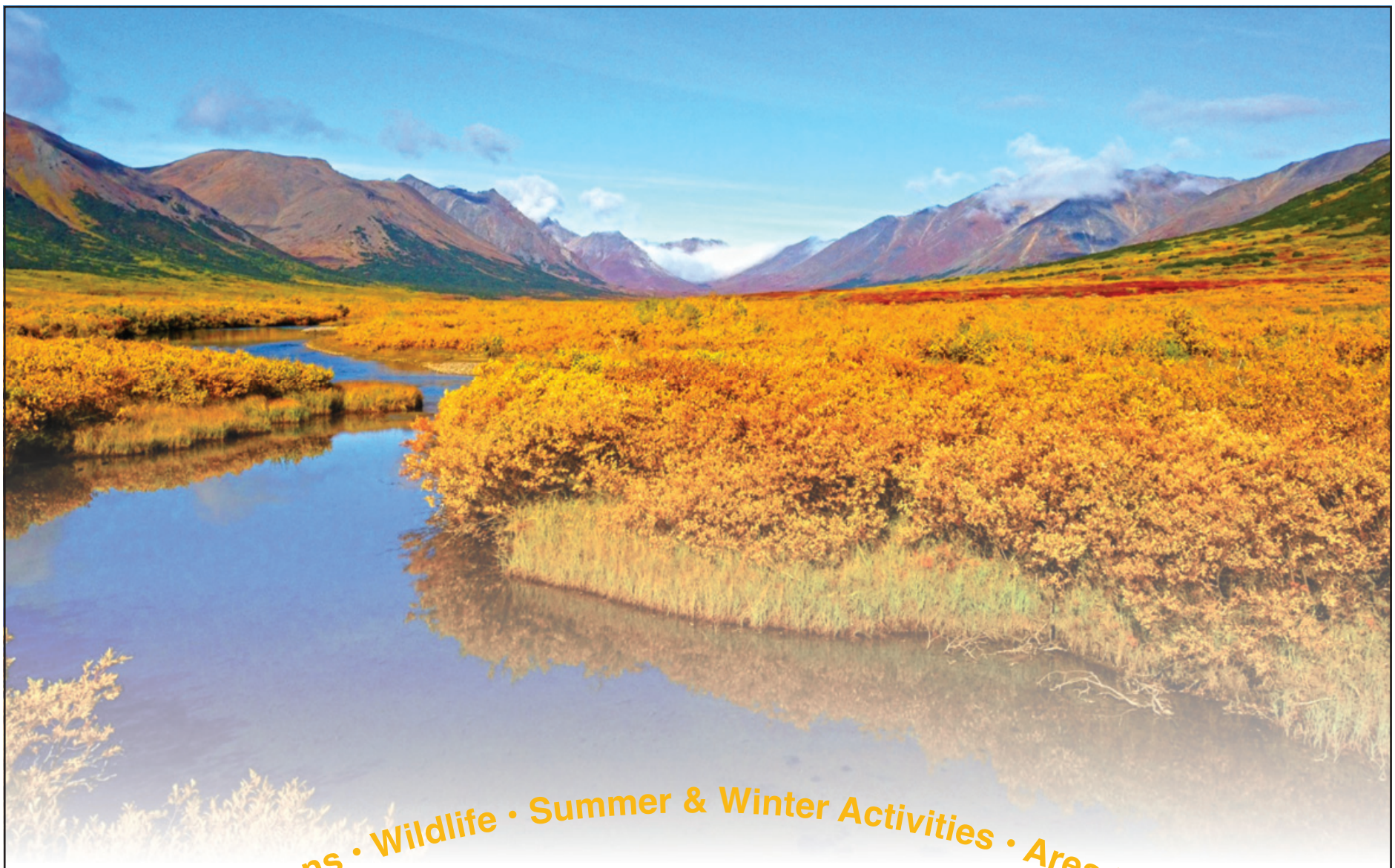
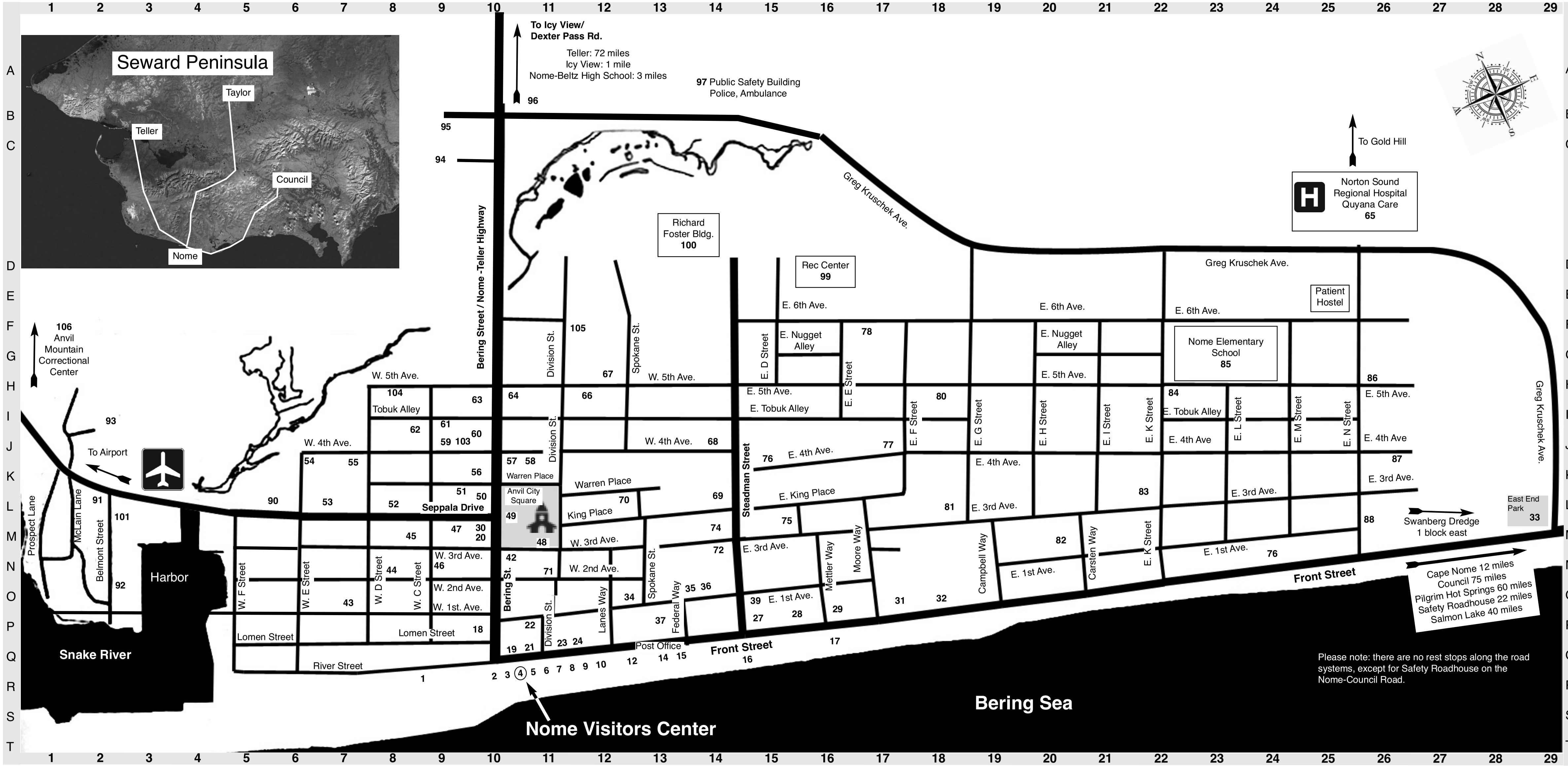


Attractions • Wildlife • Summer & Winter Activities • Area Resources

NOME
Visitor's Guide

A publication of the **The Nome Nugget**
Alaska's Oldest Newspaper
www.nomenugget.com



1. Mini Convention Center
2. Nome Nugget Inn
3. Nome Liquor & Grocery
4. Bering Sea Restaurant
5. Chainsaw Sculpture
6. Maruskiya's of Nome
7. Anchor Tavern
8. Breakers Bar
9. Husky Restaurant
10. Golden China
12. Board of Trade
13. Polar Arms, Polar Cafe, Polar Bar
14. U.S. Post Office
15. Wells Fargo, ATM
16. Dept of Fish & Game/State Office Bldg.
17. Gold Coast Movie Theater/Subway
18. Polaris Hotel and Bar
19. Covenant Church
21. City Hall, Iditarod Arch
22. XYZ Sr. Center
23. Nome Nugget News
24. National Park Service
25. Twin Dragon
26. BSNC Building (Old Federal Bldg.) Bering Strait Native Corp./Milano's Pizzeria/ Council Native Corp./GCI
27. Twin Dragon
28. Pioneer Igloo No. 1
29. Alaska State Troopers
31. Aurora Inn, Stampede Car Rentals
32. UAF Northwest Campus
33. East End Park
34. TelAlaska
35. Nome Outfitters
36. AT&T/Trinh's Spa & Nails, Trinh's Floral Shop
37. BSNC Building (Old Federal Building)
39. Bible Baptist Church
40. Middle Beach
42. Chukotka-Alaska Inc.
43. Aurora Executive Suites
44. Betty Ann's Beauty Salon
45. Methodist Church
46. Teen Center
47. Assembly of God Church
48. Old St. Joseph Hall
49. Anvil City Square
50. Sitnasuak & Solomon Native Corp.
51. Carquest Auto Parts
52. Kawerak Inc.
53. Mai's Guest House
54. Arctic Native Brotherhood Club
55. KICY Radio
56. Airport Pizza, Credit Union 1
57. Hansons Eagle Quality Center/Safeway
58. Rave'n Cuts
59. Sweet Dreams B&B
60. Nome Volunteer Fire Department
61. Morgan's Sales & Service
62. Morgan's Garage
63. Nome Professional Building: Dentist
64. Our Savior Lutheran Church
65. Norton Sound Regional Hospital
66. Arctic Hair
67. Nome Eskimo Community
68. Munaqsri
69. St. Joseph Catholic Church
70. Nanuaq Manor
71. Nazarene Church/Karmun Center/ Nome Emergency Shelter
72. KNOM Radio
74. Nome Community Baptist
75. VFW
76. Angel Camp By The Sea
77. RJ's Auto
78. Wilderness SkiDoo
80. Presbyterian Church
81. Weeks Apartments
82. TLC Bible & Bookstore
83. King Island Native Corp.
84. LLB LLC Bed & Breakfast
85. Nome Elementary School
86. Bering Sea B and B
87. Chateau de Cape Nome
88. Golden Scissors
90. Builders Industrial Supply
91. Larry's Auto
92. Norton Sound Seafood Products
93. Cemetery
94. Nome Animal House
95. Alaska Commercial
96. Grizzly Building Supply
97. Public Safety Building, Police, Ambulance
99. Nome Recreation Center
100. Richard Foster Building - Museum, Library
101. Harbormaster
103. Sew Far North
104. Terry's
105. Public Health
106. Anvil Mountain Correctional Center

Dexter Bypass: Nome Sweet Homes B&B

Icy View:
- Angela's Art & Frame
- Bed for a night B&B
- Old Alaska Rooms
- LDS Church
- 7th Day Adventist

Nome-Beltz Highway: Dredge No. 7 Inn

Other:
- Nome Beltz High School

Hotels
Aurora Inn: **31-P17**
Polaris Hotel: **18-Q10**
Nome Nugget Inn: **2-R10**

B&B's/Inns/Rooms for Rent:
Angel Camp By The Sea: **76-M24**
Bering Sea B&B: **86-H26**
Chateau de Cape Nome: **87-K27**
Dredge No. 7 Inn: **Icy View**
LLB LLC Bed & Breakfast: **84-H23**
Mai's Guest House: **53-L7**
Nome Sweet Homes B&B: **Dexter Pass**
Old Alaska Rooms: **Icy View**
Solomon B&B: **Near Solomon**
Sweet Dreams B& B: **59-J9**

Apartments
Weeks Apartments: **81-L19**
Polar Arms: **13-R12**
Aurora Executive Suites: **43-P7**
Nanuaq Manor: **70-L12**

Cab Companies
Checker Cab: **443-5211**
EZ Cab: **304-3000**
Mr. Kab: **443-6000**

Churches
Assembly of God Church: **47-M9**
Bible Baptist Church: **39-P15**
Covenant Church: **19-Q10**
Church of Jesus Christ Later Day Saints: **Icy View**
Methodist Church: **45-M8**
Nazarene Church/Karmun Center: **71-N11**
Nome Community Baptist: **74-M14**
Our Savior Lutheran Church: **64-H10**
Presbyterian Church: **80-H18**
St. Joseph Catholic Church: **69-L14**
Seventh Day Adventist: **Icy View**

Emergency:
Anvil Mountain Correctional Center: **106-A2**
Nome Professional Building: **63-I10** (Dentist)
NEST (Nome Emergency Shelter Team): 71-N11

Norton Sound Regional Hospital: **65-H10**
Nome Volunteer Fire Department: **60-J10**
Nome Police: **97-A13**
State Troopers: **29-Q16**

Gas/Service Stations/Parts:
Bonanza Express: **50-L10**
Carquest Auto Parts: **51-L10**
Crowley Marine (Gas): **95-B10**
Larry's Auto: **91-L3**
RJ's Auto: **77-J17**

Native Organizations
Bering Strait Native Corp: **26-Q13**
Council Native Corp: **26-Q13**
Kawerak Inc.: **52-L8**
King Island Native Corp.: **83-L22**
Nome Eskimo Community: **67-H12**
Sitnasuak Native Corp.: **50-L10**
Solomon Native Corp.: **50-L10**

Media
KICY Radio: **55-K7**
KNOM Radio: **72-M14**
Nome Nugget Newspaper: **23-Q11**

Public Buildings/Misc.
BSNC Bldg./Old Federal Bldg.: **26-Q13**
City Hall: **21-Q11**
Department of Fish & Game: **16-Q15**
Gold Coast Movie Theater: **17-Q16**
Harbormaster: **101-L3**
Library: **100-D13**
Mini Convention Center: **1-R9**
Museum: **100-D13**
Nome Beltz High School: **north**
Nome Elementary School: **85-G23**
Northwest Campus UAF: **32-P18**
Norton Sound Seafood Products: **92-N3**
Post Office (USPS): **14-Q13**
Recreation Center: **99-E16**
Richard Foster Bldg: **100-D13**
Sitnasuak Building: **24-Q11**
State Office Building: **16-Q15**
Teen Center: **46-N9**
XYZ Senior Citizen Center: **22-Q11**

Restaurants
Airport Pizza: **56-K10**
Bering Sea: **108-R11**
Bering Tea: **30-M10**
Golden China: **10-Q11**
Husky: **9-Q11**
Milano's Pizzeria: **26-Q13**
Pingo's: **20-M10**
Polar Cafe: **13-Q13**
Safety Roadhouse: **Mile 16 Nome-Council**
Subway: **17-Q16**
Twin Dragon: **27-Q14**

Saloons
Anchor Tavern: **7-Q11**
Arctic Native Brotherhood Club: **54-K7**
BOT Saloon: **12-Q12**
Breakers Bar: **8-Q11**
Polar Bar: **13-Q13**
Polaris Bar & Grill: **18-Q10**
VFW: **75-M15**

Shops/Stores
Alaska Commercial: **95-B10**
Angela's Art & Frame: **Icy View**
AT&T: **36-P13**
Bearing Song + Gift: **30-M10**
Betty Ann's Beauty Salon: **44-N8**
Board of Trade Ivory Shop: **12-Q12**
Bonanza Express: **50-L10**
Bonanza Fuel: **50-L10**
Boynton Office Systems: **26-L2**
Builders Industrial Supply: **90-L6**
Chukotka-Alaska Inc.: **42-N10**
GCI: **26-Q13**
Golden Scissors: **88-N26**
Hanson's Safeway: **57-K10**
Maruskiya's: **6-Q11**
Morgan's Garage: **62-J9**
Morgan's Sales&Service: **61-J9**
Nome Animal House: **94-C9**
Nome Liquor & Grocery: **3-Q11**
Nome Outfitters: **35-P13**
Norton Sound Seafood Products: **92-N3**
Grizzly Building Supply: **96-B10**
Rave'n Cuts: **58-K11**
TelAlaska: **34-P12**
Terry's: **104-H8**
TLC Bible & Bookstore: **82-N21**
Trinh's Spa & Nails: **36-P13**
Trinh's Floral Shop: **36-P13**
Sew Far North: **103-H9**
Wilderness SkiDoo: **78-F16**

Points of Interest
Anvil City Square: **49-M10**
Anvil Mtn. Historical Site: **north**
Cemetery: **93-J3**
Chainsaw Sculpture: **5-R11**
East End Park: **33-M29**
Iditarod Arch: **21-Q11**
Largest Gold Pan in US: **49-L10**
Middle Beach: **40-S7**
Old St. Joseph Hall: **48-M10**
Pioneer Igloo No. 1: **28-P16**
Port of Nome: **west**
Swanberg Dredge: **1 mile east**
Swimming Pool: **Beltz High School**
WW II Hangar: **north**

Vehicle Rentals
Aurora/Stampede: **31-P17**

Visitor Services
Chamber of Commerce: **4-Q11**
National Park Service: **24-Q11**
Nome Visitors Center: **4-R11**

Banks
Credit Union 1: **56-K10**
Wells Fargo: **15-R14**

ATMs:
Anchor Tavern: **7-Q11**
Alaska Commercial: **95-B10**
Credit Union 1: **26-Q13**
Hansons/Safeway: **57-K10**
Wells Fargo: **15-R14**
NSHC: **65-H10**

Western Union
Hansons/Safeway: **57-K10**

A Welcome to Nome from Mayor Richard Beneville

Dear Visitor,

What a pleasure to welcome you to Nome, Alaska!

If you've just arrived in Nome, you are in for a treat! Nome's beginnings in one sense go back a bit over 100 years, to 1898 and the beginning of Gold Rush and in another sense go back well over 10,000 years to a time when there was a land bridge from Asia to North America. The area you are in was a part of that "land bridge" and is called Beringia.

Many of the Native Alaskans in Nome (about 60 percent of the 3,850 total population) are Inupiaq, with some Siberian Yupik and Yupik Eskimo. We are really a big village. Eskimo values are at the heart of Nome: family, respect of elders, respect for culture and individuality and a deep respect of the land and sea. Many live the Subsistence Life hunting sea mammals, hunting moose, caribou and reindeer, fishing in our beautiful rivers and of course collecting berries in the late summer and fall.

The discovery of gold in Anvil Creek by one of the Three Lucky Swedes in 1898 changed this part of the world greatly. Nome's population rose to about 28,000 for a few years at the peak of the Gold Rush. Not very many of those miners struck it rich in fact most did not.

Today the population is about 3,850 people. I'm one and so proud to be the Mayor. We are in a way, in a second gold rush. The price of gold is relatively high (about $1,200) and a very successful reality television series "Bring Sea Gold" have made many folks eager to try their hand at gold mining. A couple of hundred people come to get rich, but there are restrictions as to where you can pan. Check with the Nome Visitor's Center for more details. Not all the beaches are open to mining. Also the "learning curve" is steep. One can honestly say that it is not as easy as it looks.

Nome and the area around Nome is a good place to find a quite spot and contemplate how small we as human beings are. Rent a car get out on our 350 miles of roads and feel the sense of awe that one gets from seeing the expanse of the land here. The sky is a huge umbrella over the beautiful land that is the Seward Peninsula.

The future is exciting. Climate Change is changing so much in our region. The accessibility of Bering Strait is beckoning and more and more ships are finding their way through the Northwest Passage pioneered by Roald Amundsen. Today ships of all sizes are plying the routes that are now opening up as a result of the earth's climate change ships including private vessels, science and scientists, military, and of course tourism. Crystal Cruise Lines' ship Serenity will pay a visit to Nome on August 21 of this year on its way through the Northwest Passage ending up in New York City with 1,200 passengers on board and 600 crew members.

Nome is looking to expand our Port facilities to become a strategic deep water port for Alaska, and the country. Our future is here in the Far North. Many refer to the Arctic Ocean as a New Ocean.

We invite you to share in that quiet excitement of the world changing around us. Enjoy the wonderful people you will meet, the scenery you will see, and the experiences you will have and remember: "There's No Place Like Nome.

A warm and sincere welcome!

Richard Beneville, Mayor
Nome, Alaska

Richard Beneville, Mayor

Nome's golden roots

Who discovered the Nome diggings?

It was in the early fall of 1898 that two Swedes and one Norwegian struck pay dirt at Anvil Creek —such is the most widespread version of Nome's history. However, different accounts exist as to who earned the honors of claiming the first glimpse of gold in the area.

After gold was discovered, news traveled fast, causing a stampede of gold miners rushing to what would become the city of Nome. A year later, the first edition of The Nome News—which would later become The Nome Nugget in 1901—ran on Monday, Oct. 9, 1899 the headline: "AT LEAST $4,000,000—Output of season's work in Nome District. Of this amount two million is from the sea-beach, the remainder is from the creeks." The U.S. Mint has different numbers, estimating that by January 1900, $2.6 million worth of gold had been extracted from Nome. It was undeniable that the area held a golden promise, and despite the backbreaking work, adverse weather and virtually no infrastructure, thousands flocked to the tent city later called Nome.

The price of gold was at $20 an ounce in 1899, compared to today's price at $1,256 per troy ounce as of March 2016.

Trying to get the story of Nome's beginnings straight, The Nome Nugget newspaper in 1901 asked, "Who discovered the Nome diggings?"

The newspaper wrote that Jafet Lindeberg, a Norwegian, claimed to be the man discovering gold.

"Late in the summer of 1898 my partner, Mr. Brynteson, and Mr. Lindeblom and myself left Golovin Bay and started to do some prospecting. Hitherto we had had very poor luck in our mining adventures," Lindeberg told the newspaper. "It was on the sixth of September that we panned out our first gold dust on Anvil Creek. The first pan produced $5. Sizing up the situation at a glance we saw that we had made a strike indeed.

"After a hurried consultation we decided to return to Golovin Bay with all haste, stock ourselves out with provisions, get two other men and form a district in the new region. We lost no time in our return to Golovin Bay where we were joined by Dr. Kittlesen and C.W. Price. Having the requisite number to form a district we left for Cape Nome where a district was formed and claims were staked."

A second narrative of discovery of gold in Nome involves a man by the name of Ivan Brostol, who credited Lindeberg's partner with the discovery. Brostol told the newspaper, "The credit of the discovery of gold in the Nome mining district belongs to a Swede by the name of Erik O. Lindblom." According to Brostol, Lindblom jumped a whaler from San Francisco when it landed at Port Clarence. Tagging along with local Eskimos en route to Golovin Bay, he found colors at the Sinuk River. "During this time Lindblom amused himself by trying to find out if there was gold on the river banks. The only implement at his disposal was a small frying pan...with this crude and greasy miner's tool he succeeded in finding some good colors, establishing to his own satisfaction that gold was there. This was the 11th of July, 1898."

According to Brostol, Lindblom returned with Jafet Lindeberg and Erik Brynteson. "Lindblom knew there was gold at Snake River and induced two Swedes, Brynteson and Lindeberg to go with him.… On the 18th of September they found some coarse gold on what today is known as the Discovery Claim on Anvil Creek. The prospectors staked out claims and returned to Golovnin Bay on October 5."

A third version of who found the Nome diggings came from an undisclosed source in the early Nome Nugget. "The discovery of gold on Anvil and adjacent diggings was originally made in 1898 by two prospectors named Hultberg and Blake. Hultberg came by way of Golovnin Bay where he communicated his information to G.W. Price representing Chas Lane of San Francisco and others, among them Lindeberg, Lindblom, Brynteson and Kjellman. They formed a party, went to Nome creeks and located all they could, starting a great winter's stampede for Nome."

Undisputed, however, is the stampede that followed, laying a foundation for today's city of Nome.

"The little group of men who in 1898 discovered gold in the Nome section and started in to mine it had landed on a barren, inhospitable beach, with four miles of sloppy wet tundra to cross to reach the diggings," wrote Will Chase in the book Pioneers of Alaska. "When word spread of its richness, it was remarkable the number of people who rushed there to try for a location for themselves or to work for the operators. A town was quickly built and when in 1899 the beach was found to carry gold in super richness and was open to everyone, then came the deluge! Of the thousands who came, few had any thought of making a permanent home in Nome, and it was not until conditions forced them to do so that they constructed comfortable homes.

"The spring of 1900 was memorable in the history of Seattle as being the beginning of that great rush of travel that has never since subsided. It is safe to say that more than 20,000 people took passage for the new gold fields, and the summer of 1900 saw the entire beach for miles covered with tents, which gave to it the name of the tented city."

Of the immense crowds of people some soon became discouraged at not finding gold in such easy reach as anticipated.

Three physicians, seven lawyers and one real estate agent advertised their services in the first Nome News, next to businesses selling liquor and cigars, coaxing tired miners to spend their day's work on "high-grade wines, liquors and cigars."

Some things don't change—including that 50 cents bought a Nome Nugget newspaper in 1899 as well as in 2016.

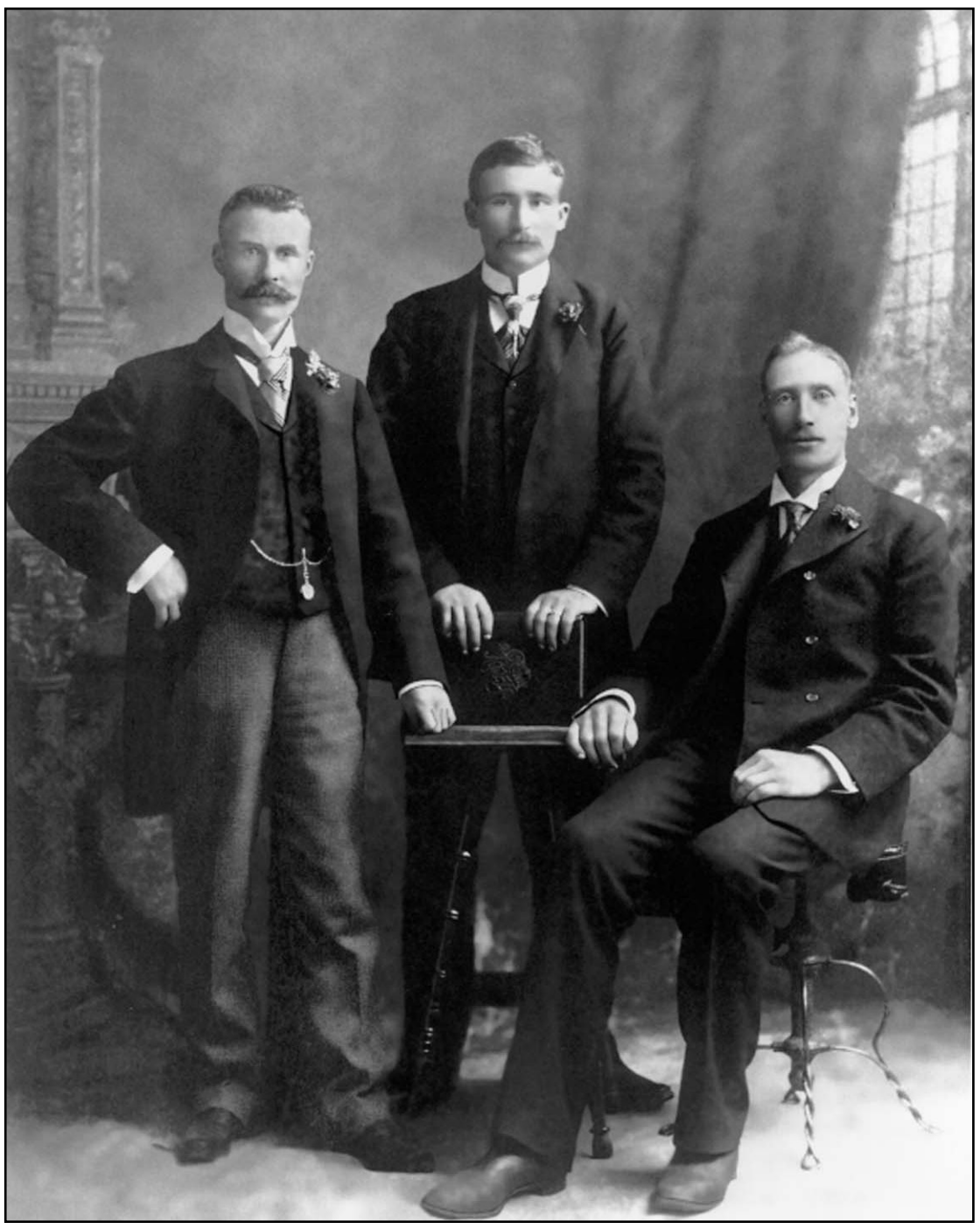


Photo courtesy of Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

THE THREE LUCKY SWEDES— Jafet Lindeberg, Erik Brynteson and Erik Lindblom discovered gold in Nome. This photo can be seen on the east wall of Old St. Joseph Hall on Anvil City Square in Nome.

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE NOME— Nome is surrounded by tundra and the frozen Bering Sea in this January aerial photo.

How Nome got its name

From the Feb. 22, 1906 edition of The Nome Tri-Weekly Nugget

Cape Nome has been for years a conspicuous part of Alaska. Many persons who have read of the gold dust found in the sands along the beach have doubtless wondered how it received its rather unusual name. Was the cape named in honor of some individual or was the word Nome taken from the Eskimo or one of the Indian languages? The question interested a veteran geographer, Prof. George Davidson, of the University of California, and he has traced the name back to a ludicrous blunder. The story illustrates the well-known fact that occasionally geographic nomenclature originates in error.

Prof. Davidson searched every available chart and narrative relating to that region. He finally traced the name to Chart No. 1853 as being the first to use the name. The great atlas of the North Pacific, which the Russians had prepared in the previous year, did not contain it.

Prof. Davidson then looked up the tracks of the British Vessels Herald and Plover, which were engaged from 1845 till 1851 searching for Sir John Franklin in the waters of northwestern North America. He became satisfied that the name was given to the cape in the cruise of one or the other of these vessels. Thinking that the name might have been that of one of the officers of the Herald or Plover, he wrote to the British admiralty for information. He has received a reply that entirely clears up the mystery.

When the manuscript chart of that region was being drawn on board the frigate Herald, attention was called to the fact that no name had been assigned to this point, and the query "? Name" was place against it. There was an opportunity one day to send a mail home, and in the hurry to complete the chart for forwarding the interrogation point was linked in by a rough draughtsman, and the writing appeared as "C. Name." The stroke of the "a," however, being very indistinct. It was interpreted by the admiralty's office, London, as Cape Nome. The cape has ever since appeared on the maps with this name.

Annual events in Nome

January

Idita-Splash: a three-month long challenge to log 1,049 hours in the pool or swim 1,049 laps, one for each mile of the Iditarod trail.

Idita-Walk: 1,049 minutes of walking for humans and canines.

February

Iron Dog Snowmachine race: The longest snowmachine race in the world, covering 2,274 miles from Big Lake to Nome and on to Fairbanks. A halfway banquet is held in Nome on the Wednesday after their arrival in town.

March

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race: Beginning in Anchorage with a ceremonial start the first Saturday of March, the Iditarod claims to be the longest and toughest sled dog race in the world. The trail crosses the Alaska Range, the mighty Yukon, tundra and finally the windswept Bering Sea coast, with Nome as its final destination. Dog teams arrive anywhere eight to 15 days after their start in Anchorage. The annual event attracts visitors from all over the world, and Nomeites put on different events to celebrate March, a.k.a. Iditarod month.

Lonnie O'Connor Iditarod Basketball Classic: A basketball tournament with men's, women's and open teams from the region competing for one week in Nome.

Nome-Golovin Snowmachine Race: This 200-mile snowmachine race from Nome to the village of Golovin and back attracts racers from across Alaska.

Bering Sea Ice Golf Classic: A challenge for even experienced golfers, the Bering Sea Ice Golf takes to the white ice in front of Nome and is a fundraising event sponsored by the Bering Sea Lions Club.

Iditarod Arts and Crafts Fair and Art Show: Local artists, knitters, pottery artists, sewers and beaders showcase their art and products in the finest art and craft fair in the region.

Open Mic Night: During the Iditarod, the Nome Arts Council invites visitors and locals alike to take to the stage to perform.

8&9 Ball Pool Tournament: Three days of dart tournament action—singles, doubles, open teams.

Saint Patrick's Day Parade: On March 17, the Irish and the want-to be-Irish wear their green and march down Front Street at noon and finish under the Iditarod Arch.

Nome Kennel Club 200-mile Nome Council Sled Dog race, where dog mushers take to the trail and mush from Nome to Council and back.

April

Cannonball Run: The 150-mile snowmachine lap race begins and ends on the frozen Bering Sea in front of Nome.

May

Relay for Life: Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society

June

Stroke & Croak Triathlon: This swim-bike-run event encourages Nomeites to come out of hibernation and get into shape.

Kawerak Regional Conference and 32nd Rural Provider's Conference: The 2016 Kawerak Regional Conference is held in conjunction with the Rural Providers' Conference in Nome. The conference offers cultural events, talking circles, workshops and traditional dancing in the evenings.

CAMP Summercise program: The annual Summercise program for children begins June 8 and ends July 23.

Lemonade Day: Kids become entrepreneurs and sell lemonade, cookies and other refreshments throughout Nome.

AKBody Tundra Challenge: The race is a five-mile obstacle course over road, tundra, rocks and sand.

Midnight Sun Festival: A variety of activities are scheduled around the longest day of the year when there is nearly 24 hours of daylight. Events include:

Folk Fest: Community barn dance, held at the Nome Elementary School.

Gold Dust Dash: Four-mile run on East Beach, first male and first female finisher receive a gold nugget.

Midnight Sun Parade: The an-

continued on page 7

BORN TO RUN— These lead dogs anxiously await the start of the 1,000 mile long Iditarod dog sled race.

• Annual events in Nome

continued from page 6

nual parade starts at the Nome State Office building and the best floats are awarded with Judge's Choice, Most Creative and Best Bicycle awards.

Polar Bear Swim: Brave Nomeites and visitors hit the chilly Bering Sea water for a quick dip. Submersion of the whole body entitles the swimmer to a commemorative certificate.

Bank Hold-up: The re-enactment of an old time gold rush era bank robbery—brought to you by a host of Nome's talented actors—is always exciting for onlookers and a crowd favorite.

Nome River Raft Race: Folks hit the road to the country as the Bering Sea Lions Club Nome River Raft race starts on mile 13 of the Kougarok Road. Homemade rafts are paddled almost two miles downriver. While a few teams seriously race for the win, several others lazily float and take every opportunity to soak competitors and spectators.

July

Anvil Mountain Run: This Fourth of July, 12.5-mile run starts at 8 a.m. on Front Street and takes runners up to Anvil Mountain, elevation 1,100 ft. and back to City Hall.

July 4th Street Games: A parade precedes an afternoon filled with foot races, bicycle competitions, gunny sack races, shoe scrambles, egg races and three-legged hopping contests. Highlights are free ice cream at the Nome Volunteer Fire Department.

Poor Man's Paradise: Old-fashioned mining skills are featured in this gold-panning contest. Each contestant gets a pan containing gold nuggets hidden in the sand. The winner pans out the gold in the shortest time.

Cape Nome Half and Full Marathon: Runners start the full marathon at East End Park and run to Cape Nome and back. Half-marathoners starts at Cape Nome and runners run back to Nome.

Wyatt Earp Dexter Challenge: The challenge includes an eight-mile run, four mile walk or 12-mile bike riude. Runners start at Anvil City Square, walkers start at Dexter Bypass and the bikers leave Anvil City Square and ride to Dexter via the Beam Road. All finish at Dexter.

Summerfest: The event features music, games, food, a bounce house, dunk tank.

Salmonberry Jam Folk Fest: A guest band as well as local talent perform on stage at the Nome Elementary School.

August

Anvil Mountain 59'37" Challenge: Starting at the base of Anvil Mountain, runners go uphill and back down.

Nome Garden Tour: Beginning at Anvil City Square, the tour takes participants to gardens and hidden garden treasures in and around Nome.

September

Bathtub Race: At high noon on Labor Day, this unusual event takes racers on a dash down Front Street. The unusual thing about it: Five-member teams push, pull and shove bathtubs and one member must be in the tub with bubbles apparent in the water.

Rubber Duck Race: Numbered rubber ducks are released in the Snake River on Labor Day. The first three ducks and their owners claim a cash prize.

Wales Kingikmiut Dance Festival: Every Labor Day weekend in Wales, Eskimo dance groups from all over arrive for three days and nights of dancing and celebrating.

Teller Cultural Festival: At the end of September, Teller plays host to Eskimo dancing and a feast of salmon, seal meat and caribou for its yearly cultural festival.

December

Christmas Extravaganza: The annual musical and tree-lighting ceremony ignites spirits to begin the Christmas season. The tree is lighted and local musicians provide tunes to spread the cheer. Santa and a real reindeer pay their yearly early to visit Nome for the ceremony.

Firemen's Carnival: On the first Saturday of December this annual event held at the Rec Center has the Nome Volunteer Fire Department pulling out all stops to entertain a huge crowd with games of chance, concession stands, bingo, cakewalks and a rib dinner.

For more information on dates, times and contacts for local events, go to www.visitnomealaska.com.

SNOWMACHINE RACE— Participants in a local snowmachine race wait for the start of the race.

Welcome to Nome from the Native Community

Welcome To Nome!
Quyaana Qairuasi (Inupiaq); Quyaana Tailuci (Central Yup'ik); Quyakamsi Tagilghiisi (St. Lawrence Island Yupik)

Welcome to Siqnasuaq, homeland to vibrant living cultures whose roots go back thousands of years. Nome lies within the Bering Strait Region, and is the regional hub to three Alaska Native cultures: the Inupiat, the Yupik and the St. Lawrence Island Yupik peoples. Each of the region's 20 communities maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States as Federally Recognized Tribes, and have been known to occupy their respective homelands and customary subsistence use areas within this region for several millennia.

Siqnasuaq is known among Alaska Native Peoples of the region, as a historically permanent community. In 2005 and 2006, the City of Nome undertook a port facility construction project. Two subterranean homes, a hunting cache, and a trash midden were found by construction workers during excavation. The homes were radiocarbon dated as 250-400 years old.

During the Gold Rush era, Alaska Natives were excluded from staking claims until they were granted citizenship to the United States in 1924. A study done in 2011 by Amber Lincoln, PhD, stated, "By that time [1924], however, the resources from placer mining had largely been extracted and gold strikes had ceased." Dr. Lincoln further states "The historic territorial and federal Jim Crow Laws that were exercised in Nome exemplify discrimination in the first half of the 20th century. These laws denied property, civic, and representational rights to minorities in general and Alaska Natives in particular." One striking example of this, in 1898, two Inupiaq boys-Constantine Uparazuck and Gabriel Adams, show three Scandinavian prospectors the location of a gold deposit near Nome, and are denied the right to stake claims or benefit from the "find" of the "Three Lucky Swedes." There is a beautiful memorial statue funded by Nome's Native youth, on Anvil City Square commemorating Constantine and Gabriel.

Indigenous Peoples have maintained their values, knowledge, culture, and ways of being and knowing, despite having sustained community-wide injury at contact with colonial powers. Illnesses that were common to European individuals were devastating to Alaska Native Peoples, and in some cases, entire communities perished. The 1900 Nome flu epidemic killed 60 percent of all local Native people, and the 1918 Spanish flu caused 75 percent of the population of nearby Wales to succumb. From the 1930s through the 1970s the Bureau of Indian Affairs instituted an assimilation policy and many Alaska Native children were removed from their communities and sent to boarding schools where use of Native languages was forbidden. Although our region's towns are currently experiencing manifestations of historical traumas, many communities are utilizing their cultures to heal. Healing approaches that are based on wellness within a cultural context, with a focus on strengthening cultural identity have proven to be the most effective.

Nome played an important role in the U.S. Civil Rights movement. Nome events prompted strides in Alaska State policy, nearly 20 years before the U.S. Civil Rights Act. In 1944, local Nome Inupiaq, Alberta Schenck, is arrested for sitting in the "whites only" section of the Nomarama Theater with her white date. Alberta wrote a passionate and compelling letter to The Nome Nugget newspaper and a telegram to then Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening on the issue of racism and gained support for a civil rights bill for Alaska. Alberta, along with Elizabeth Peratrovich, Tlingit of South East Alaska, are heroines of U.S. Civil Rights and social justice.

Siqnasuaq and the region's communities have, for hundreds of generations, maintained a complex system of kinship, oral history, trade economy, and intimate knowledge of the region's land, sea, natural resources and technologies necessary to thrive. Harvesting of animals, plants, birds and sea life continues to be very important to all aspects of life for Alaska Native peoples. In the spring, many local hunters can be seen in their skiffs, out on the ocean seeking bearded seal and walrus. In the summer, families are typically out picking greens, gathering eggs, or fishing for salmon. In the fall, it is time to hunt for moose and caribou, pick berries of all kinds, and harvest Beluga whales. Winter provides sea ice, and many families harvest crab and cod from holes in the ice. Harvesting is important to Alaska Native existence, sustenance, spirituality and community. As is also traditional ecological knowledge, passing of knowledge to children, connection to nature, cultivation and caring for the environment. The late Inupiaq leader Eileen Maclean of Barrow, shared some important wisdom when she said, "Subsistence is not about poverty, it is about wealth…This wealth is expressed in harvest and in the sharing and celebration that result from the harvest."

Today, Alaska Native agencies in Nome work in partnership toward the common goals of cultural education and preservation, language revitalization, perpetuation of cultural values, and working together toward improving the health, social and economic situation of community members. Partners include Norton Sound Health Corporation – a tribally owned regional health corporation, providing all hospital services for the region; Kawerak, Incorporated – a tribally run non-profit organization, providing the majority of social services for the region; Bering Strait Native Corporation – the regional for-profit Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporation. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation – the region's fisheries Community Development Quota Program corporation; Sitnasuak Native Corporation – Nome's ANCSA Native village corporation; Nome Eskimo Community – the tribal government for Nome; King Island Native Community – the tribal government for King Island, based in Nome; Native Village of Council – the tribal government for Council, based in Nome; the Native Village of Solomon – the tribal government for Solomon, based in Nome. Local Alaska Native agencies work closely with families and local schools, providing cultural education and partnering in delivery of prevention education, youth leadership development and continued involvement youth wellness initiatives.

Again, and welcome to Nome – we hope you enjoy your stay! If you would like more information about Nome's Native community, please see the following links:

www.kawerak.org
www.nortonsoundhealth.org
www.beringstraits.com
www.nsedc.com
www.snc.org
www.necalaska.org

KING ISLAND DRUMMERS AND DANCERS— Wilfred Anowlic performs with the King Island Drummers and Dancers.

Nome Highlights

Stampeders' Beach

Wide sandy beaches with abundant driftwood and the presence of an occasional beach miner only hint at the bustle of thousands of miners, each a pick handle's width apart, panning the gold flecks from the richly gold-sprinkled ruby sands of a century ago. Oh, the gold is still there, and in quantities that at today's high prices make it possible to make a living gleaning the gold. Just as likely, visitors will prefer a brisk walk on the windy expanse overlooking the rolling seas, perhaps stopping for a picnic. A few of the hardiest souls may try a dip in the frigid waters.

Swanberg Dredge and Rocker Gulch

Today, Swanberg's Dredge still sits placidly on a still pond in Rocker Gulch. Swanberg Dredge is a self-contained diesel/electric-powered gold recovery machine. Originally known as the Johnson-Pohl Dredge, the dredge was purchased in San Francisco by the Gold Beach Dredging Company and shipped to Nome in pieces in 1946, where it was reconstructed. Due to the low price for gold immediately after World War II and ground conditions around the dredge, the company failed to turn a profit. The local bank took possession of the dredge in 1947 and it remained idle thereafter. It has a compartmentalized hull 60 feet long, 30 feet wide and six feet deep. In essence, it is an ore processing ship. It scooped gravel with a 70-bucket digging ladder bringing gravel on board, screening and washing it, and amalgamating the gold with a mercury process. The dredge exhausted the stripped gravel off the stern. The dredge is accessible at the east end of Front Street. Interpretive signs tell the story of the site, the ship and the environs. A lazy "S-shaped" boardwalk winds for about 600 feet reaching out to the dredge.

Just next door on Front Street sits an amazing assemblage of gold dredging, tundra thawing and excavating equipment. The nobly rusted hulks, some dating back to Nome's earliest period, were often retired where they were last used, until salvaged and marshaled to tell an amazing history of mining and construction in Nome. Explore and marvel at the inventions and energy harnessing devices.

Anvil Mountain White Alice Site

Four stark radar reflectors interrupt the smooth mountaintop expanse of Anvil Mountain behind Nome. Part of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) system of Cold War era surveillance of the Communist bloc, these massive antennas—now still sentinels—are prominent reminders of a more jittery time in American history. A short hike up a dirt road leads to the site.

Last Train to Nowhere near Solomon

Certainly one of the most picturesque — and most photographed—local landmarks is the Last Train to Nowhere near Solomon. Time and the harsh arctic environment have ravaged the trains, and they lie in impressive ruins. Today, the Last Train to Nowhere is preserved for the enjoyment and education of all to illustrate a vital part of the Seward Peninsula's unique heritage. Interpretive signage tells the story of the railroad, the trains, the adjacent ferry, as well as the village of Solomon and its relocation. A boardwalk allows visitors to get a closer look without having to navigate the swampy tundra that surrounds the site.

Fort Davis

Now the home to a subsistence fishing camp, Fort Davis is the site of a Gold Rush era U.S. Army fort that provided the primary government presence in all of Northwest Alaska around the turn of the 20th Century. The fort was dismantled in 1918.

No need for sleep—Summer Events

While receiving a passing mention in the Lower 48, the summer solstice in Alaska is heralded as one of the major events of the year.

In a land that is shrouded in near-total darkness at the other end of the calendar, June 21 is celebrated for the non-stop light that recharges Nomeites' batteries after the sun-deprived winter months. Accordingly, Nome soaks in as much of that sun as it can during its annual Midnight Sun Festival.

The three-day event, held on the weekend nearest to the actual solstice, features a music festival, a parade, a dramatic mock bank robbery on Front Street, a communal dunking in the Bering Sea, and a homemade raft race.

Salmonberry Jam Folk Fest

Ever-growing since its inception in 2001, the Nome Salmonberry Jam Folk Fest started as the Midnight Sun Folk Fest and rounds up the area's talented musicians and a guest band for three-plus days of performances, dances, jam sessions and workshops. The 2016 festival celebrates 16 years of bringing a wide array of guest bands to Nome and putting a large number of hometown talent on the stage.

What started with a barn dance and dance callers event in 2000 evolved into the fully-fledged Folk Fest with a feature band, local musicians, food booths, and arts and craft vendors.

Guest bands for the event will have come to Nome from as far away as Boston, in the case of Crooked Still in 2010, and Kansas City, Mo., when The Wilders graced Nome's stages in 2007 with their often-rowdy old-time music. In 2008, The Stairwell Sisters, an all-female act from San Francisco, charmed the festival and town with their ever-ready smiles, up-tempo string band tunes and plaintive waltzes. Other guest bands have hailed from elsewhere in Alaska, including Ray-Jen Cajun from Homer, Panhandle Crabgrass Revival, Salsa Borealis, the Great Alaska Bluegrass Band and The Sofa Kings, all from Juneau, and up-and-coming bluegrass stars Bearfoot of Cordova.

In addition to the guest musicians—who generally perform multiple concerts and provide workshops—the Folk Fest brings the local musicians out of the woodwork to strut their stuff. The Folk Fest main stage event puts Nome's talent in the spotlight to perform small sets for the crowd. Each year the set list grows as more area residents and visitors learn to play or just get up the nerve to share their skills.

Run for the gold

The athletic set can get a healthy start to the weekend with the annual Gold Dust Dash race. The 4-mile race generally starts at 8 a.m. and runs along the Bering Sea coast from East Beach to the Nome River and back. Up for grabs are gold nuggets for the top male and female finishers.

Everyone loves a parade

The festival hits the streets Saturday with the annual parade, which normally starts at 11 a.m. The parade featured new twists in 2009, including a route that doubled back on itself and prizes for the best floats. The classic hometown parade includes the obligatory fire trucks and airborne candy, as well as a few Nome-specific items like an armada for four-wheelers and the occasional reindeer.

Hands up!

Parade-watchers should keep a keen eye on Front Street after the last float has passed. At high noon every year on this day, a band of miscreants seems to find its way onto Nome's main drag with the intention of holding up Nome's main bank. Find a good viewing spot in front of Wells Fargo and you will witness the bad

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Iditarod fever strikes Nome

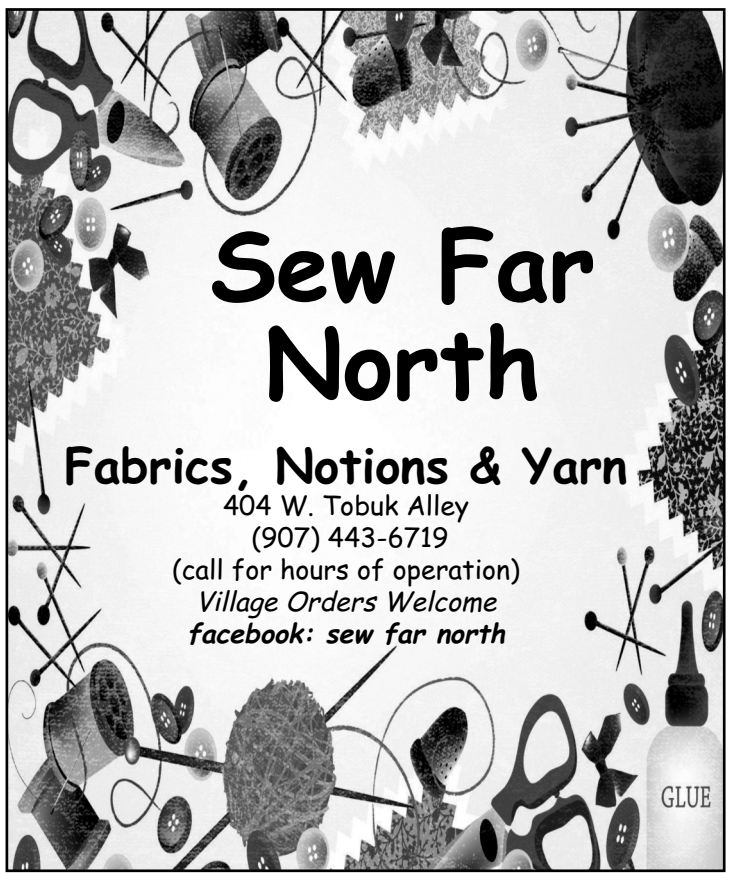
Nomeites can look forward to a few things once March rolls around.

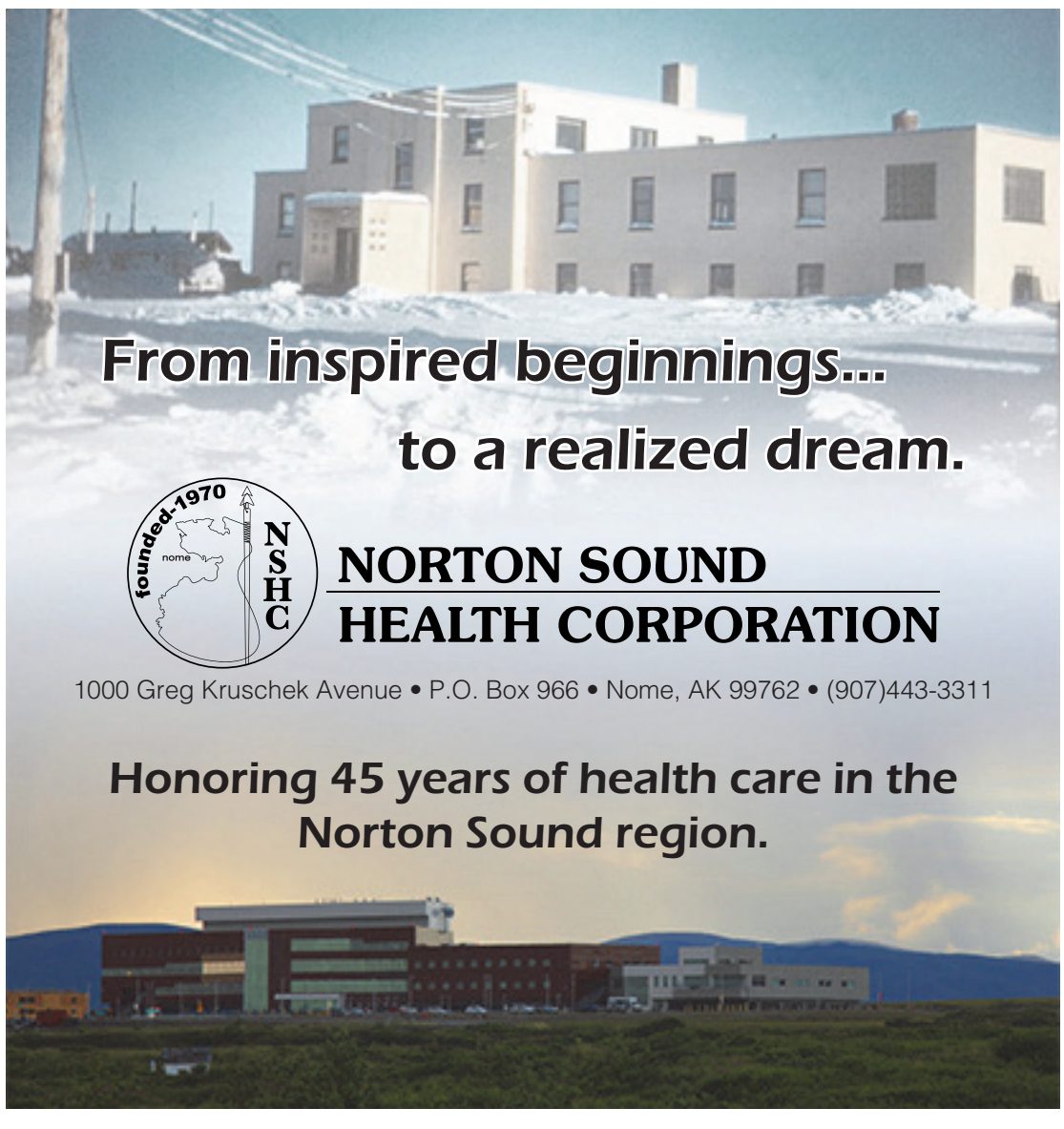
The sun climbs higher in the sky, finally giving off some warmth. The daylight stretches noticeably longer each day. And the largest celebration of the year is heading for town.

On the first Sunday in March, mushers and their teams depart for Nome from Willow for the 1,000-plus mile adventure that is the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. As the canine athletes and the drivers experience the trials, tribulations and joys of the trail, Nomeites are making the final preparations to ensure the finish line is ready for their arrival. They're also readying town for the influx of visitors who will fill every available room and nearly every spare couch in Nome to witness the finish and share in the revelry.

As much a celebration of the race that commemorates the historic Iditarod Trail and the use of sled dogs as a vital transportation and supply link in years past, Iditarod time in Nome is also a celebration of the coming spring and the near completion of another long winter. While visitors and locals alike mill about Front Street waiting for mushers and teams to arrive, a host of other activities are underway throughout Nome, both indoors and out.

From mild to wild—morning, noon and night—there is an event for every taste. From golf on the sea ice in front of town to a week-long basketball tournament at the recreation center—not to mention all the nightlife in the bars—there is plenty to do while waiting for mushers to arrive.





SPRING MIGRATION— Tundra swans rest at Safety Sound during the spring migration.

Birders flock to Nome

By Lana Creer-Harris

Birding the Seward Peninsula and Nome is an adventure, a journey of surprises and at least a four-day project.

The 30-mile drive down the coast eastward from Nome along Safety Sound to the resting place of the Last Train to Nowhere takes non-birders 45 minutes. However, for most birders it is a five-hour journey.

Wagtails, longspurs, eiders, gulls, dabblers, peeps and swans all use Safety Sound. Every flock begs to be scanned, and every bird, bright in breeding plumage, asks for more than a cursory inspection.

There are three main roads for birding out of Nome: The Kougarok Road, the Council Road and the Teller Road.

The Kougarok Road provides the sole road-accessible place in North America where you can expect to find bristle-thighed curlew. Wandering tattlers use the high country streams and gravel-rimmed ponds along the Kougarok. The Kougarok Road winds through 84 miles of great scenery filled with wildlife and wild flowers.

Council Road passes through Nuuk, a Native fish camp, parallels Safety Lagoon east of Nome and turns north where the Last Train to Nowhere sits rusting in a marsh at Bonanza Channel. From there, the road climbs up through the hills to boreal forest around Council City.

Teller Road takes you to a Native community of the same name on Grantley Harbor, 73 miles northwest of Nome. This is where the elusive white wagtail usually nests.

There are a few things to remember when you travel in the Nome area. The land surrounding Nome is a patchwork of Native corporation, federal and state land. Native lands are privately owned. Subsistence villages at Fort Davis, Nuuk and Cape Woolley, the top of Anvil Mountain, Solomon and Teller are all Native-owned land holdings. There is a road easement into Cape Woolley and up Anvil Mountain. It is permissible to bird from the road, but you cannot trespass.

The residents often are busy with subsistence activities important for their winter food supply. They catch and dry fish and seal, or gather greens and berries. Private camps are scattered from Fort Davis to Solomon. Again, parking along the road is fine, but walking through camps is frowned upon.

Birds to see in and around Nome: Wood and common sandpiper can be seen at the road fork near the airport. Common and (rarely) spectacled eiders can be seen on the Snake River near the port and the Post Office Annex. In grasslands and thickets around Nome live yellow wagtails, Lapland longspurs, plovers, white crowned and fox sparrows. On the Nome River delta you will find an interesting combination of river-delta, grassland and beach birding. On top of Anvil Mountain, look for northern wheatears and redpolls. The lower slopes harbor long-tailed jaegers, Pacific and American golden plovers.

Nesting red-throated pipits have been seen on the back of the hill.

The Teller road is under-rated for birding. Anticipate great surprises but few certainties. One fortunate birder, seeking ptarmigan, was rewarded with a lagniappe of migrating blue-throats pouring over the hills. Beside the Penny River, just 13 miles out of Nome, you can see the artic warbler and gray-cheeked thrush in willows and spotted sandpiper on the gravel banks of the meander. Rocky canyons on the road to Teller are good raptor habitat. All three jaegers rove this road. In good lemming and vole years, a snowy owl might nest on grass hummocks here. Arctic terns and the occasional Aleutian tern nest on gravelly riverbanks and will dive-bomb the unwary. Blue Stone Bridge at mile 58 hosts a colony of cliff swallows most years.

Teller city boasts usually at least one nesting pair of white wagtails. Grantley Harbor is also a good place to look for pigeon guillemot, common eider, horned puffin and pelagic cormorant.

TELLER HIGHWAY— This gold rush era mining camp can be seen when driving to Teller.

• Nome Highlights

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guys nearly get away with the loot before Nome's heroes–all in turn-of-the-century garb–put the robbery to a halt and set the criminals straight.

You may want to cover your ears; the guns may not be loaded with live ammo, but they sure sound like it.

Come on in, the water is … well, cold

Following the robbery you'll have just enough time to grab some barbecued chicken from the Bering Sea Lions Club on Front Street before donning a bathing suit and heading out to East Beach for the Nome Rotary Club Polar Bear Swim. Not for the faint-of-heart, the swim rewards the brave souls who take the plunge into the Bering Sea with certificates proving their light grasp on sanity. The event also features the annual "Dunk Leo" fundraiser. Proceeds go to a local cause.

If it floats, it races

A mix or ingenuity, questionable taste and a fair amount of duct tape mark many of the entries in the Bering Sea Lions Club Nome River Raft Race. Every year 15 to 20 homemade rafts take to the Nome River at mile 13 of the Kougarok Road for a race to Dexter. While a few Spartan craft battle for the title each year, even more settle back for a relaxing float with plenty of time to fire off water balloons and squirt guns at fellow participants and spectators. Several of the slower rafts incorporate themes and costumes into the float.

SUBSISTENCE— Nomeites enjoy gathering blueberries on the tundra surrounding Nome.

WILDLIFE— Three grizzly bears check out their surroundings with Anvil Mountain in the background.

See Nome's wilder side

By Sue Steinacher

With almost 300 miles of good gravel roads crossing a wide variety of terrain, the Nome area is one of Alaska's best-kept secrets for roadside wildlife viewing. Depending on the time of year, one has a reasonable chance of viewing musk oxen, moose, reindeer, grizzlies and a host of unusual arctic birds.

Musk oxen

The original musk oxen of the Seward Peninsula died out in the 1800s, but the 70 animals transplanted here in the last 30 years have grown to a population of more than 2,000. Individual bulls and small family groups are potentially viewable from any of Nome's roads, with one of the largest groups located outside of Teller. Musk oxen may appear docile, but they are not! Do not approach closely or you risk getting charged. In summer, musk oxen are often found grazing on side slopes feeding on tender forbs. They may also venture down to wade in cooling river waters on a hot summer day. In winter, groups typically move to exposed ridges where the wind blows a meager amount of plant growth free of snow.

Moose

Moose made their first appearance on the Seward Peninsula only in the last 75 years, following the increasing growth of willow thickets. Moose typically group up in river bottoms throughout the winter, where the taller willows offer critical shelter and food. In summer they tend to move higher up into the smaller drainages on the side slopes. You may also see them feeding on aquatic vegetation in tundra ponds and lakes. There is a good chance of viewing moose from any of Nome's roads.

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Church Services Directory

Bible Baptist Church
443-2144
Sunday School: 10 a.m./Worship: 11 a.m.

Community Baptist Church-SBC
108 West 3rd Avenue • 443-5448 • Pastor Aaron Cooper
Sunday Small Group Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

Community United Methodist Church
West 2nd Avenue & C Street • 443-2865
Pastor Charles Brower
Sunday: Worship 11:00 am
Monday: Thrift Shop 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: Thrift Shop 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Wednesday: Faith Followers 5:45 to 7:30 pm

Nome Covenant Church
101 Bering Street • 443-2565 • Pastor Harvey
Sunday: School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth Group 6:30 p.m. (443-8063 for more info)
Friday: Community Soup Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church
5th Avenue & Bering • 443-5295
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.
Lenten Worship: Sundays 7pm (2.14 to 3.13)
Handicapped accessible ramp: North side

River of Life Assembly of God
405 W. Seppala • 443-5333
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Last Sunday of each month Worship: 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Worship: 7:00 p.m.
For more information contact Pastor Austin Jones

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Corner of Steadman & W. King Place • 443-5527
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Friday Hospital Mass: 12:00 p.m. (Quyanna Care Center)

Patients going to ANMC and want to see a Catholic priest please call Fr. Brunet, OMI: cell 907-441-2106
or Holy Family Cathedral (907) 276-3455

Seventh-Day Adventist
Icy View • 443-5137
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.

2.11.2016

ROADS— The Bob Blodgett Nome-Teller Memorial Highway leads from Nome along the Bering Sea Coast and through the Kigluaik Mountains to Teller, approximate distance 72 miles.

• See Nome's wilder side

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Reindeer or caribou?

If it's summer, most likely you're seeing a reindeer. Reindeer were imported from Russia more than 100 years ago to provide a stable meat supply for the Native people whose traditional food—whales and walruses—had been decimated by commercial hunters. Native-owned herds once covered the entire peninsula, but in recent years the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has expanded its winter range farther west onto the Seward Peninsula and swept up entire herds of reindeer with them when they migrate north in spring. Caribou spend their summers much farther north, so the animals you see along the Nome road system in summer are typically reindeer. In fall time it is not impossible that some early caribou bulls may range this far west. And in recent winters, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has come close enough to Nome that they can be reached in a day's snowmachine ride. Caribou and reindeer are the same species and can readily interbreed, but years of genetic separation have allowed for some subtle physical differences. Reindeer tend to be a little shorter-legged, and their racks not quite as impressive as bull caribou. More obviously, reindeer will occasionally develop a spotted coloration to their coat, which is not seen in caribou. Ear tags are another give-away. You have the possibility of seeing reindeer on any of Nome's roads.

Grizzlies

Yes, this is grizzly country, with black bears found only east of the road system where the boreal forest begins. Seeing a grizzly from a safe distance is a thrilling experience. Binoculars are the best way to enjoy watching grizzlies from a safe distance—and to be sure you're not viewing the sometimes misleading "grizzly barrel." Follow standard bear safety practices listed in various publications and brochures. For the first half of the 20th century, bear numbers were kept low on the Seward Peninsula by the higher number of reindeer herders and gold miners. As these activities have declined, and as more moose and caribou move into the region, grizzlies have become more common. In their never-ending search for all types of food, grizzlies cover a tremendous amount of territory and can be found in almost any habitat type. Nonetheless, they do tend to follow a seasonal pattern. Once aroused from their winter hibernation in early spring, look for grizzlies digging for roots and early greens on south-facing slopes, working their way down as summer green-up occurs. Newborn reindeer and moose calves can also become prey. In summer and early fall, grizzlies feed on returning salmon, and gorge themselves on berries. They are also drawn to the coast to feed on marine mammal carcasses that wash ashore. Bears need to gain a tremendous amount of weight in order to sustain themselves through another winter's hibernation. There is a chance of seeing grizzlies from any of Nome's roads.

Know before you go

Please be respectful that local people enjoy watching wildlife too, but they also rely on them as a source of nutritious and affordable food. Please don't interfere with any hunting activities.

Please remember that much of land beyond the edge of the road is privately owned.

Please don't stress the wildlife — or put yourself at risk—by approaching too closely. Your car makes a very effective wildlife blind.

Carry binoculars to improve your ability to locate and enjoy watching our wildlife!