



Photo by Joy Baker

**NOME IS HOME**— Crowley's Tug Sesok helps the 165-1 Barge to shift from the fuel dock to the barge ramp to load equipment inside Nome's harbor. The new double-hulled barge has a registered home-port of Nome.

# The Nome Nugget

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Photo by Diana Haecker

**SPIRITED**— Andrea Irrigoo won third place for her energetic hiphop dance performance during the Nome Summerfest talent competition held on July 31 at Anvil City Square. See story on page 20.

## The gold rush is on – again

By Diana Haecker

An offshore minerals lease sale the Alaska Department of Natural Resources scheduled for September in Nome and the prospect that the Discovery Channel reality show "The Gold Rushers of the Bering Sea" may bring an onslaught of miners with dreams of striking it rich, are reasons for city officials to worry about the ramifications.

City manager Josie Bahnke said that the city is dealing already with impacts due to a noticeable jump in numbers of offshore dredge miners this year, but a lease sale and the TV show may intensify the situation. "The overall impact of the miners and the offshore lease is that there is going to be an increase in demand for city resources without the revenue to support it," Bahnke said.

The death of an offshore miner has raised the concerns to a serious level for Bahnke. In the aftermath of the tragedy, the city met with DNR and

the federal mining and vocational safety regulating bodies MSHA and OSHA only to find out that the state's and federal definitions of recreational mining diverge and jurisdictions are unclear.

The port is a choke point, where the city feels the impact of an increasing mining fleet. Although the vessels pay for a season permit, an increase in the gold dredging fleet worries port and city officials.

The problem is overcrowding and harbormaster Joy Baker testifies to the fact that this summer oceangoing dredges outnumbered fishing boats 34 to 22. Baker said she does the best to accommodate them and to keep them safe in the small boat harbor when storms rage outside, but is uncertain how many more could be safely placed in the harbor.

Besides working on safely harboring offshore dredges, the city's vol-

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## Port of Nome ripe for expansion

By Diana Haecker

Once the ice releases the port of Nome from its grip, the city-operated harbor becomes one of the busiest places in Nome. However, unless one is a fisherman, or gold dredger or the recipient of cargo to be offloaded from one of the many barges, the busy-ness of the port of Nome goes unnoticed by the regular Nome resident. With increased shipping traffic looming

due to the melting Arctic sea ice, the busy days at the Port of Nome may soon increase and intensify.

A mantra repeated by Nome's harbormaster Joy Baker – whether be it in front of the Northern Waters Task Force or port commission meetings at City Hall – is this: It's only getting busier, let's prepare for the onslaught of more traffic.

**The Setup**

Currently the harbor is divided in an outer harbor, where two docks can accommodate ships and barges, and the inside harbor for smaller vessels and barges. A few years back, the Army Corps of Engineers added on a 270-ft. spur to the 2,712-ft. causeway and built a 3,000-foot breakwater to the east to protect the vessels from the swells. At the causeway are

two docking spaces. The outer cell is referred to as the City Dock. It is 200 feet long and has a draft of 22.5 ft. The WestGold Dock, where the 11-story high gold dredge *BIMA* used to tie up, is the inner cell and has a 190-ft. face length with also 22.5 ft. draft. A solar-powered trailer with piping and meters stands next to the water hydrants to provide fresh water to ships, fuel

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## Crashes claim lives of area teens

### Nome teen dies in motorcycle accident

By Diana Haecker

In the early morning hours on Sunday, William Chase Booth, 19,

died in a motor vehicle collision on the Old Glacier Creek Road. According to Alaska State Trooper spokeswoman Beth Ipsen, Booth was riding his dirt bike with a friend on another dirt bike towards town on their way back from a party, when Booth collided with an oncoming Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Bryce Warnke-Green, 22.

Troopers say Booth was wearing a helmet, but was reportedly riding his bike on the wrong side of the curvy road. The dirt bikes were not equipped with headlights. Booth was taken to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Ipsen said the investigation is ongoing. The investigating troopers suspect that Booth was driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana. Ipsen said that toxicology tests of both drivers involved in the accident were done, a standard procedure for motor vehicle collisions with fatalities.

Chase Booth is the son of Evan and Crystal Booth of Nome.

**A memorial for Chase Booth will be held Saturday, August 13 at the Nome Armory at 4 p.m. There will be refreshments (no potluck). Please join friends and family to honor the life of Chase Booth.**

### Two die in Elim rollover

By Diana Haecker

Early Sunday morning a single vehicle crash caused the death of two teenagers in Elim. Heather Saccheus and Oscar Takak Jr., both 19 years old, died on the scene of the accident, about two miles north of Elim on Moses Point Road.

According to Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Beth Ipsen, Heather Saccheus was the driver of a stick-shift Ford Ranger and had four other passengers on board including the truck's owner, Arnold Saccheus, 23, Heather's cousin.

They were driving on Moses Point Road near Bald Head, heading down a slight decline and a left

curve. Ipsen said the vehicle was traveling at a high speed between 60 and 70 mph when it got out of control, left the roadway and rolled four times before it came to a stop.

All but April Daniels, 16, were thrown out of the vehicle. The driver and Oscar Takak Jr., who was sitting in the rear left passenger seat, died on scene. John Jemewouk Jr., 19, ran to get help.

Jemewouk and April Daniels were treated at the Elim clinic for minor injuries. Arnold Saccheus and Desiree Murray, 19, were flown to Anchorage for treatment of serious but non-life-threatening injuries,

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