



Photo by Thomas Gundlach

ENJOYING THE VIEW—A herd of musk ox enjoy a summer morning atop Anvil Mountain just north of Nome. See story page 4.

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Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

TRUCKING—Louise Walcott, member of the champion women's team Mother Truckers, hustles through the rain and mud for third base in a playoff game Aug. 11.

Build an arc?

By Diana Haecker

The unusually heavy downpour of rain last week made Thursday, August 11 the wettest day in almost seven years with a precipitation of 1.21 inches, reports the National Weather Service. This is in line with the trend of this wet summer of 2011, which already saw July being the seventh all-time wettest month in Nome's 105 years of weather data record keeping.

If Nomeites feel like this has been a very rainy summer, meteorologist Wes Adkins with the Nome station of the National Weather Service has the numbers to support the claim. Adkins said that July had a precipitation of 4.27 inches. "The normal is 2.15 inches, so we had almost twice the amount of rain of what is 'normal,'" Adkins said. He added that the wet season usually starts in mid-July and lasts through early October, but this

summer saw the rains pouring down earlier than that.

Last Thursday's rainstorm broke the record for August 11 that was set in 1958. It also was the rainiest day since August 12, 2004. That year, 4.59 inches of rain fell in the month of August.

As of Monday – with a week of a dry pattern in the forecast – the total rainfall for August measures 2.95 inches. The 'normal' rainfall for August is 3.22 inches. Adkins said that in the past years, August months haven't reached the normal rainfall and that we're on track to reach that normal and probably surpass it.

Adkins said that climatologically, August usually is the wettest, with September being second and July being the third wettest months in the Nome year. "We usually get 60 percent of our precipitation in these three months," Adkins said.



Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

UP, UP AND AWAY!—Bonanza Express in turn raised fuel prices following Crowley's jump start the week before. However, Bonanza customers at pumps in front of Nome Trading enjoyed a few days' delay in higher gas prices when the sign was changed, but pumps continued to register the old price of \$4.99. When Bonanza discovered the unintended good deal, an employee locked the hoses with "Out of Order" signs Friday afternoon, sending rigs heading out to camps into a U-turn back to town to fuel up.

A Monday check of per-gallon diesel fuel prices showed Crowley at \$5.84 per gallon for 0 to 199 gallons; \$5.77 for 200-399 gallons; \$5.71 for 400-999 gallons; \$5.67 for 1,000 to 2,999 gallons and \$5.63 for 3,000 gallons and over. Bonanza was keeping prices close to the vest, but staff said one could wait to ask Scott Henderson, fuel boss, who was in conference Monday afternoon. For the increasing number of people who buy oil 10 gallons at a time in jerry jugs, the Bonanza diesel price at the pump was \$5.94 Monday.

NSEDC funds generators for White Mountain

By Laurie McNicholas

The City of White Mountain plans to buy new diesel generators to reduce the community's energy costs with \$552,528 in funds approved by the board of directors of Norton

Sound Economic Development Corp. at a meeting two weeks ago in Nome.

In 2009 the board established a Community Energy Fund with \$1 million for each of NSEDC's member communities for cost-cutting energy projects. The remainder of \$1 million in funds allocated for White Mountain remains available to the community for future energy efficiency uses with board approval.

The NSEDC board also approved \$300,000 in matching funds for a proposal from Mary's Igloo Traditional Council to the U.S Economic Development Administration for funds to construct a community economic development center in Teller. The traditional council requested a commitment for \$350,000 in matching funds from NSEDC to meet a

Sept. 15 deadline for submitting its proposal to the EDA.

Tender vs. RSW barges

Reece Huhta, manager of the Norton Sound Seafood Products salmon processing plant in Unalakleet, told the board he would like to see two more tenders on line to act as buying stations. He specifically recommended the acquisition of a larger vessel such as the 61-foot *T/V Egavik* or the 70-foot *T/V Inaliq*. He said tender vessels need to be on-site at commercial fishing openings.

NSEDC added the *Egavik* to NSSP's salmon tendering operations in 2008 and a year later purchased the *Inaliq* and equipped it with a refrigerated seawater system for ten-

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