



Photo by Diana Haecker

NOME NATIONAL FOREST— A tradition reminiscent of the late Connie Madden is still alive as Nomeites have planted their Christmas trees on the sea ice in front of what used to be Fat Freddie's Restaurant, now the Bering Sea Restaurant.

The Nome Nugget[®]

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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Photo by Diana Haecker

TREASURE FROM THE PAST— Eighth-grade student Pauline Ahkvaluk holds a historic parkie at the Nome Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum. Her class visited the museum last Friday as part of the preparations to receive Brett Dillingham, the artist-in-residence, who will work with 7th and 8th grade students on a project involving digital story-telling. The students had their photos taken with a historic artifact from the museum, which then will be used in their story project.

2012 the second coldest winter on record for Nome

By Diana Haecker

The winter of 2011/2012 goes into the history books as the second coldest winter on record since the beginning of weather data collection in Nome in 1907. The average temperature measured -5.4°F, not quite reaching the all-time record set in 1970/1971 of -9.6°F. "Our weather

records show that from December 21 to March 20, the region suffered through the second coldest winter on record," said Jerry Steiger, Nome National Weather Service meteorologist in chief.

After Christmas, a three-week stretch of temperatures below -30°F contributed to the distinction that January 2012 became the coldest January on record. After a fairly warm February, the cold trend set earlier this winter continued with a cold and unusually dry March.

The coldest day this winter was January 5, when the mercury dipped down to -40°F. The warmest day this winter was February 8 with 38°F above zero.

February saw a warm stretch with temperatures above freezing from Feb. 6 through 12. Then the cold returned and March temperatures were

at an average of 0.5°F — 10 degrees below normal. March 2012 ranks as the 18th coldest on record. According to the NWS March was also unusually dry with only 6.7 inches of measured snowfall, which is two inches below the average snowfall.

The Alaska Climate Dispatch winter weather summary shows that most of Alaska had lower than normal temperature. The Bering Sea region showed the strongest deviations from the average temperature. In December, Nome saw temperatures three degrees colder than normal, for January 21.8°F colder than normal and February was two degrees warmer than normal.

Setting the cold record for January being the coldest month on record was also Bettles, Galena, Homer and St. Paul Island. National

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Charities want a bigger cut of the rippie pie

By Sandra L. Medearis

It's only a nickel added to a one-dollar pull-tab, but it is a real big deal to a lot of people—City administration, local charities and pull-tab vendors.

The City is looking at revising the ordinance on taxing "rippies." Charities support the City changing the current policy of taxing the gross pull-tab sales to taxing the ideal net from pull-tab sales.

The way it is now, the City makes more money on the little paper games than the charities do. Take a box of pull-tabs selling for \$5,760.

Sales tax to the City on gross sales comes to \$264.76. The charity pays that sales tax on the gross sales of \$5,760, but it takes the tax and expenses out of what is left—the ideal net—after prizes are subtracted. That's a difference of \$96.64. City administrators say a change to ideal net would cost the City \$300,000 annually and possibly make property tax rise. [See figures below.]

But, and it is a big one, vendors are not happy about making change to collect a nickel on a one-dollar pull tab or a dime on a two-dollar

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Council approves bid on inner harbor upgrades

By Sandra L. Medearis

The Nome Common Council unanimously adopted four ordinances and passed a resolution without discussion and got the heck out of City Hall in 24 minutes flat Monday.

The Council voted yea on the following measures after their second reading:

- To lease the City's winter snow storage building to Norton Sound Health Corp. for \$1,600 per month from June 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012. NSHC will use the building and 1,000 square feet of storage land for construction support for the new hospital this summer.
- To approve the City's buying land from Alaska Gold Co. for \$15,000.
- To amend the recently adopted Port of Nome tariff to correct an oversight. The new language allows vessels operating out of the inner harbor during months of June through October to have the option to apply for a docking permit.

• To award the port of Nome Anchor System to low bidder, Pro-west, for \$170,000. The company has a deadline for finishing the job—21 days from the time the ice goes out. Because of arctic ice forces, the float piles installed in 2008 in prior harbor improvements projects have jacked or moved out of alignment. The City of Nome has spent approximately \$94,123 on design and materials, and received funding of \$193,126 through Norton Sound Economic Development Council for construction. The Nome Port Commission approved the bid award at its March 28 special meeting.

• To waive fees of \$8,000 for use of the Nome Recreation Center during the Lonnie O'Connor Iditarod Basketball Classic.

• To waive the fee of an unstated amount for use of Old St. Joe's by the Dept. of Natural Resources for a City-sponsored public meeting

continued on page 4



Photo by Diana Haecker

LETTING OFF SOME STEAM— DOT employee Charlie Kowchee last week prepared Front Street for spring break up by directing steam into the storm culverts to remove ice chunks. Puddles have already been building up around town as warmer weather heralds spring.

On the Web:

www.nomenugget.net

E-mail:

nugget@nomenugget.com



Letters

Dear Editor:

I just finished watching the gold permit auctions on that dredging Bering Sea show— great, the way AK cut out all those small guys! I was going to visit Nome this summer but you won't need my tourist dollars with all those big foreign companies running everything. It probably won't be long before y'all start flying the South African flag. I think I'll also stop watching that show. It makes me sad when men of the last frontier start letting their officials "kowtow" to foreigners.

Man! I'm glad I live in a real state where real men still respect their heritage!
Murphy Cowart
Live Oak, TX 78233

Dear Nancy,

My wife and I are still on vacation, but as always enjoyed this week's on line-edition of the *Nome Nugget*. I must say that I am very dismayed that the City council seems to be on the way to making recreational mining on Nome's beaches a thing of the past.

We all have friends in Nome that enjoy, and in some cases depend on the mining season to help them make it through another winter in a community that has just about priced

themselves out of existence.

Adding another cost, and a very large one at that, to mine the beach on city property by it's own citizens is just plain wrong ! If I were in town, I would take my concerns to the Nome Council at their next meeting, and I encourage anyone that thinks as I do, to do just that! We are citizens of Nome and I really think most of us are looking forward to this summer and the excitement that the supposed Gold Rush might bring, and not be afraid of it.

Let's not make rash decisions based on what might happen, but on what does happen. Come on Nome , let's bring some excitement back to this Gold Rush Town !

And to Council woman Knodel, we think you are just plain wrong in placing road blocks in the way of these visitors rather than encouragement and help.

Anyway, hi to everyone, wish you were here.
Your neighbor,
Terry Day
Dexter, Alaska

Hey y'all,

It's just me again. I just wanted to say thank you to the kind people I

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Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and phone number. Thank yous and political endorsements are considered ads.

Editorial

Time's A Wastin'

It's Easter, it's snowing and in the single digits. We're almost through one of the coldest winters on record. The price of fuel oil is through the roof and gasoline in western Alaska is among the most expensive on the planet. This winter we were subjected to an emergency fuel delivery with an icebreaker escort.

We've talked and talked about alternative sources of energy. Have we done anything? Over a year ago our governor told us if we wanted to develop natural gas wells here we should get a state loan. Has anyone done it? What happened to our initiative? Where are our entrepreneurs? Here we sit. Doing nothing. We are waiting for someone else to do things for us. Guess what. They aren't going to.

We have to help ourselves. We need a group of Nomeites who have faith in our future and can lay the framework for natural gas development for our own domestic use here in Nome and the region. When we get our own town using natural gas from our own wells we will enjoy energy independence and financial security. Let's get a move on.

—N.L.M.—

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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(907) 443-5235 fax (907) 443-5112
e-mail: nugget@nomenugget.com
ads: ads@nomenugget.com
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subscriptions: ads@nomenugget.com

Nancy McGuire

editor and publisher

Diana Haecker

nancym@nomenugget.com

Lori Head

staff reporter/photography

Nadja Cavin

diana@nomenugget.com

Amber Ryan

education reporter

Nils Hahn

advertising/production/internet

Peggy Fagerstrom

ads@nomenugget.com

Nikolai Ivanoff

ads@nomenugget.com

Gloria Karmun

advertising/production

SEND photos to

ads@nomenugget.com

photography

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Arctic planning and infrastructure investment in Alaska

By Reps. Bob Herron and Reggie Joule

Due to ever-increasing activity related to shipping, oil and gas development, commercial fishing, and tourism, immediate investment in Arctic infrastructure is a foremost priority for Alaska and the entire United States. Action is needed to enable the responsible development of resources; facilitate, secure, and benefit from new global transportation routes; and safeguard Arctic residents and ecosystems. As international interest and activity in the Arctic continues to rise, America's preparedness in the region is of national security importance.

The four main Alaska Northern Waters Task Force recommendations on Arctic Planning and Infrastructure Investment are:

1. Forward base the Coast Guard in the Arctic
2. Fund additional icebreakers and other ice-capable vessels
3. Continue the analysis and development of ports and safe harbors in the Arctic region
4. Support Search and Rescue Coordination Centers along the Coast to assist federal, state, and local responders

1. Forward base the U.S. Coast Guard in the Arctic

With increased activity in the Arctic, the need to establish a Coast Guard base in the Arctic grows. Currently, the closest Coast Guard base to Arctic waters is in Kodiak, more than 1,000 miles from possible Chukchi Sea drilling sites. A greater overall Arctic presence by the Coast Guard is necessary, including the ability to stage assets closer to future shipping, oil and gas drilling, and commercial fishing activities. The federal government can begin planning immediately to establish an Arctic base and moving forward on interim measures for search and rescue and oil spill response in the region. The U. S. Coast Guard's Arctic missions are multifold. The EPA's National Contingency Plan requires the U.S. Coast Guard to oversee oil spill planning and preparedness in coastal waters and to supervise any oil spill response. With the

Coast Guard ramping up its Arctic mission this summer due to Chukchi and Beaufort seas exploration activities, the time for an Arctic base is not some distant future date: it is now.

2. Fund icebreakers and other ice-capable vessels

At present, the United States has only one Polar Class icebreaker in service, the Coast Guard's *Healy*. A second Polar Class icebreaker, the *Polar Star*, is not expected to return to service until 2013. Other countries understand the need for more icebreakers: Russia, Canada, Sweden, Finland, and even China, South Korea, and Japan recently added or plan to add icebreakers to their fleets.

The United States Coast Guard Cutter *Healy* is a medium strength vessel utilized most recently as a platform for scientific research. Its design is less suited to military missions. This limited number of U.S. icebreakers presents a major challenge to the Coast Guard mission in Alaska. Having ice-capable vessels is vital to maintain sovereignty, continue scientific research, and provide emergency and oil spill response. It takes 10 years to design and build a new icebreaker. The federal budget currently includes money to begin this process – we encourage these efforts.

3. Continue the analysis and development of ports and safe harbors in the Arctic region

Studies by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, the Arctic Council, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities all identify the need to develop ports and harbors in Arctic Alaska. Given the long lead times for such construction, ports must be among the highest priorities for Arctic infrastructure. Building on the findings of the 2008 and 2011 state/federal Alaska Regional Ports workshops and the 2011 Arctic Ports Charette Study, the state of Alaska and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should continue analyzing options for deep- and medium-draft

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A Look at the Past



Photo and Comments Courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Director

HARD CORE – Face tanned by the intense springtime sun, this highly skilled Eskimo hunter drags his hunting kayak lashed to a sledge across the jagged Bering Sea ice. A walrus hide rope was wound up and stored on the line holder mounted on the top of the kayak.

Weather Statistics

Sunrise 04/12/12 07:36 a.m. 04/19/12 07:11 a.m.		High Temp +34° 04/08/12 Low Temp -13° 04/04/12 Peak Wind 43 mph, E, 04/08/12 Precip. to Date 01.9"	National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391
Sunset 04/12/12 10:30 p.m. 04/19/12 10:52 p.m.		Normal 02.72" Snowfall to Date 79.4" Snow on Ground 30"	

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Groom puts wedding on ice

By Sandra L. Medearis

She thought an August wedding would be nice.

He thought a winter wedding would be as nice.

“When I told him August would be a good time, he said, ‘What’s a hockey wedding without ice?’” Brenda Cordis Belile recounted Monday. “So he picked April 6 and I started getting ready.

“It was great and so much fun, with the wonderful people in this community helping to make it even more fun.”

So it was, Friday evening, when Belile and Bill Herzner tied the knot at Nome’s ice rink a few minutes after Herzner finished goal tending in a Nome Hockey League game.

While friends laid out a roll of

white paper for a path to the hockey goal, Herzner waited in the goal frame in his hockey outfit and goalie pads for his bride to emerge from the warm-up building. Meanwhile, Mitch Erickson skated around going over the printed ceremony he held in his hand.

Ta-da! The bride came through the gate and paused on the ice inside the fence while bridesmaid Adrienne Christian, the young flower girls, and other friends helped Belile step into her white high heels that matched her long dress.

And it was on. The bride came down the aisle on the arm of Herzner’s best man, Eric Meyers of Anchorage.

Flower girls Alyssa Hahn and Alohna Johnson, both 4, carefully

prepared the way with flower petals falling onto the aisle marked off with hockey sticks.

Erickson performed the short ceremony, starting off, “with the power vested in me by State of Alaska and Judge Ben Esch, ...”

“I thought for sure Mitch would bust out laughing, and then I would start laughing,” Belile said. In the car, she said, the flowers she was holding started to shake, and then her knees started to shake. “I was nervous, but I made it.”

“We had fun, Belile laughed Monday. “We had tons of crab legs at the VFW Hall. I really want to thank the hockey club and Wilson and Katie Bourdon for getting us all that fresh crab for our special day.”

Christianson and Angela Hanson

made the beautiful wedding cake.

So, how did the happy couple meet? They thank their good friends.

“We met through Joel and Monica Rose. My friend Monica kept saying, ‘I have this really nice guy I want you to meet.’ After about the fourth time, I said to myself—I’m from Mon-

tana—‘You had better cowgirl up and meet him. You never can tell.’”

The newlyweds are making plans to go on a honeymoon—“somewhere warm.”

Belile works at the Nome Elementary School. Herzner works for Crowley.



Photos by Sandra L. Medearis

Photo top: ECSTATIC COUPLE—Brenda Cordis Belile and Bill Herzner had a hockey wedding at Nome’s ice rink the evening of April 6.



CAREFUL!—Flower girls and Adrienne Christian, bridesmaid, help Brenda Cordis Belile to step into her high-heeled shoes for a walk down the ice rink to marry Bill Herzner Friday evening, April 6.



HERE COMES THE BRIDE—Eric Meyers, the groom’s Best Man, ushers Brenda Cordis Belile down the aisle marked off with hockey sticks April 6. Flower girls Alyssa Hahn (left) and Alohna Johnson, both 4 years old, prepare the way.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 12 - April 18, 2012

Thursday, April 12

Nome Rec Center Gym and MPR closed at 8 a.m. for NYO setup

***NCC Spec Mtg**

Re: Richard Foster Building
*Denali Kid Care/ Medicaid Class
*Baby Safety video
*Lap Swim
*Nome Food Bank
*H2O Aerobics
*Thrifty Shop
*Night Zumba

Council Chambers
Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Pool
Bering & Seppala
Pool
Methodist Church
Nome Rec Center

noon
2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13

Nome Rec Center Gym, MPR and Bowling closed

***NYO Competition**

*Lap Swim
*CAMP Class
*Special Delivery video
*AA Meeting
*District 39 Democratic Caucus Meeting

Nome Rec Center

Pool
Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Lutheran Church (rear)
Polar Cafe

6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14

Nome Rec Center Gym, MPR and Bowling closed

***NYO Competition**

*Baby System: Baby and You video
*Sound and Silence video

Nome Rec Center

Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home

1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 15

Nome Rec Center Gym and MPR closed for NYO cleanup

*Things My Mother Didn’t Tell Me
*7 Steps to Reduce the Risks of SIDS
*Northern Lights - United States Air Force (FREE Concert)

Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Elementary School

1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Monday, April 16

*Pickup bball
*Lap Swim
*Kindergym
*Open Gym
*When to call the doctor if your child is sick
*Infertility: The New Solution video
*Dance: Grades K-2
*Zumba
*Open Spe Yoga
*Tae Kwon Do
*City League Vball
*H2O Aerobics
*NCC Reg Mtg

Nome Rec Center
Pool
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Pool
City Council

5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - noon
noon - 6:15 p.m.
1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

*Open Gym
*Preschool Story Hour
*Labor & Delivery For Teens video
*Choices in Child Birth video
*Floor Hockey: Grades 3-6
*Open Gym
*Strength Training
*Lap Swim
*Kripalu Yoga
*Nome Food Bank
*Open Swim
*City League Vball
*Cardio-Kickbox
*Thrifty Shop
*NJUS Reg. Mtg.

Nome Rec Center
Library
Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Pool
Nome Rec Center
Bering & Seppala
Pool
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Methodist Church
Council Chambers

5:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18

*Pickup bball
*Lap Swim
*Kindergym
*Rotary Club
*Age Appropriate Play video
*Knowing the Unborn video
*Team Handball: Grades 3-6
*Open Gym
*Zumba
*Open Spe Yoga
*Tae Kwon Do
*Open Bowling
*Family Swim
*City League Vball

Nome Rec Center
Pool
Nome Rec Center
Airport Pizza
Prematernal Home
Prematernal Home
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Pool
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - noon
noon
1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Community points of interest:

*Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Tu-Sa)
*Kegoayah Kozga Library: noon - 8:00 p.m. (M-Th), noon - 6:00 p.m. (F-Sa)
*Nome Visitor Center: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (M-F)
*XYZ Center - Center Street: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (M-F)

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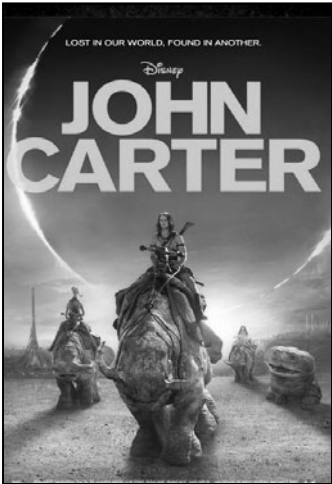
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Wednesday – Turkey

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Friday – Tuna
Saturday – Roast Beef

Sunday – Roasted Chicken Breast
Six-Inch Meal Deal \$6.99



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443-8200
Starting Friday, April 13
John Carter 3D
PG-13 7:00 p.m.

Project X
R 9:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday matinee

John Carter
1:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Project X
4:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.



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• Charities want a bigger cut of the rippie pie

continued from page 1

pull tab. City law says the tax is on the purchaser and the 5 percent must be added to the price of the rippie, not included, as the current practice. Not good, say vendors.

"It's a nightmare administratively. We'd use every nickel in this town," Wayne Brown, owner of Nome Liquor, said. "It's impossible to do what you guys want us to do."

Brooks Chandler, City attorney attending the meeting concerning pull tabs and other sales tax revisions, said that when conduct doesn't follow the ordinance, the ordinance needs to be enforced or changed to fit the practice.

"It is upsetting to continue known violations," he said. "It is the buyer of the pull tab that is the taxpayer, not the seller of the pull tab."

Brown was not alone in his objection to bookkeeping the nickel. Others

who packed the Council Chambers at a work session March 28 were wet-hen mad about the possibility of major hassle over sales tax collection.

In fact, an e-mail came out of a meeting of charities and vendors distributed to Nome Common Council members listed vendors that would stop selling the games if they had to collect a nickel per dollar. Those vendors: Mark's Soap and Suds, Nome Liquor, Polar Bar, Solid Green Bingo, and Polaris Bar.

The charities signing the e-mail in support of a revision included: Nome Chamber of Commerce, Bering Sea Lion's Club, Ragchew Amateur Magic Inc., Nome Kennel Club, Nome Pre-School Assn., Nome Fishermen's Assn., Nome Volunteer Fire Dept., CHARR, ANB, Nome Aviation and Military Museum and American Legion.

Lloyd Perrigo had a different suggestion concerning the \$300,000 the City would allow charities by changing to taxing ideal net.

"If the City has \$300,000 to give to non-profits, give it directly. Don't strain it through gambling," he said.

While the ordinance is under revision, Councilwoman Mary Knodel wants language inserted that says pull-tab income goes only to non-profits and charities in town, not any out of town. City administrators and Council were to continue hashing out sales tax revisions before the law comes up to a vote.

Barb Nickels, executive director of Nome Chamber of Commerce, showed the Council a nifty display board showing the money breakdown on a sample box of pull-tabs. • This box of pull-tabs sells out of the jar to customers at the counter for \$5,760.

• The required payout of prizes, 85 percent by law, comes to \$4,896. • That leaves the ideal net or adjusted net income of \$864.

From \$864 the charity pays the following:

• Cost of the box of pull-tabs: \$146.
• State tax of 3 percent on \$864:

\$25.92.

• Vendor payment—30 percent by state law: \$259.20.
• City sales tax—5 percent on gross of \$5,760: \$264.76.
• Total deductions: \$719.12.
• Charity receives \$144.88.

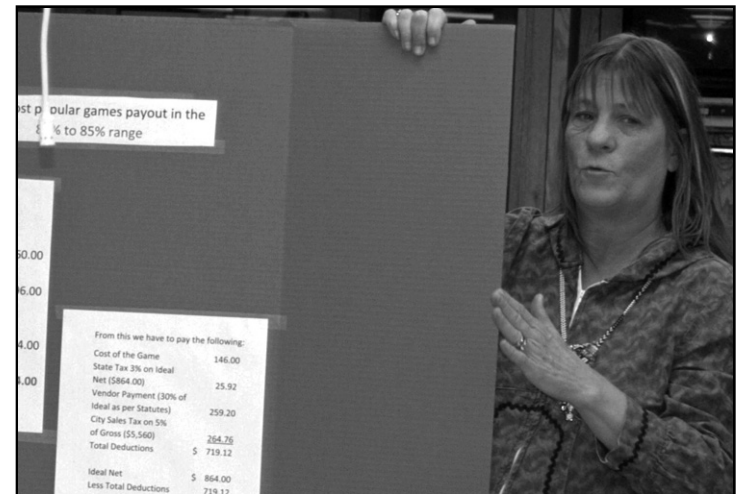


Photo by Sandra L. Medearis

LION'S SHARE? — Barb Nickels, executive director of Nome Chamber of Commerce demonstrates the distribution of money from pull tabs. As it stands, the City receives more money from the paper tear-off games than do the charities.

• Council approves bid on inner harbor upgrades

continued from page 1

March 29 during DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan's visit. Representatives of City of Nome, U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers and the state Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development attended the meeting to hear concerns and suggestions concerning an influx of gold miners.

The Council received a copy of a letter from Jeff Darling, resigning his positions from two commissions—port and planning—because of his work schedule, effective mid-March.

During public comment period, Mitch Erickson business development manager for Nome Gold

Alaska gave an update on a miners' camp the company is planning for 200 acres west of Dredge 6. There would be portable toilet and garbage disposal service, Erickson said. So far, he has 24 people intending to use the site. The road to the campsite would be improved for access for emergency services, garbage truck and portable toilet service. Erickson sees a benefit in getting the miners into a place where they can work on dredges.

"With two acres, they can have their equipment there and beat on it at 2 a.m.," Erickson said. He added, in response to Councilman Randy Pomeranz, that most likely campers could store their dredges in the

camping area for a fee during the winter.

Councilman Stan Andersen told Erickson he liked his camp idea.

"It relieves a lot of what we were trying to do," Andersen said.



Photo by Sandra Medearis

ON THE MOVE — Building scheduled for abatement is ready to go.

• Second coldest winter

continued from page 1

Weather Service analysts say in the Climate Dispatch that this winter was a memorable one across Alaska with notable extremes of temperature and precipitation in many areas.

While the north saw extreme cold, Southcentral and the Gulf of Alaska region nearly drowned in snow.

The large picture involved an ocean phenomena called La Niña with cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific and North Pacific and warmer than nor-

mal in the central Pacific Ocean south of the Aleutians.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center predicts April temperatures to be "normal" for the Seward Peninsula. For areas south of Shaktoolik, the Center predicts a chance of colder than normal temperatures. For Nome, normal April temperatures are between the lower 20s°F and lows dip into the single digits. By the end of April, "normal" temperatures rise above freezing and can fall to the lower 20s°F.

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Norton Sound residents testify on chum bycatch issues

Editor's note: Following are comments by Norton Sound residents on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery presented to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council last week in Anchorage.

Joe Garnie: I want to thank the council for allowing me to give testimony. I gave testimony last summer. You were all up in Nome last summer. Our 18 villages up there, the tribes, were all, of course, pretty adamant about a 30,000 hard cap on chum salmon bycatch.

I'm a lifelong resident of the village of Teller in the Port Clarence District. My immediate family were three generations of professional fishermen. We fished commercially, subsistence, all our lives. I fished in the same fish camp as my great-grandparents, my grandparents and my parents.

And in my time, I have ceased fishing in the fish camp because of lack of fish. It's become uneconomical for me and my family to migrate to our fish camp to fish, as fishing is too sporadic. First of all, there isn't any kings, the red salmon are all but gone, and chums are our last stronghold and they've become sporadic. So that's to me, spiritually, a very devastating blow to my immediate family.

My children—my immediate children—wouldn't know what a king

was if I brought it home. And a few years ago, we were hanging them abundantly in our smokehouse. I'm glad the council and everybody involved in the fishery is looking toward remedies for bycatch, but I think more immediate measures such as hard caps need to be taken.

It's devastating a way of life that salmon has sustained for thousands of years for us. Without salmon, the next step for a lot of families in my situation is welfare. That's a pretty grim picture. There's very little employment, and salmon is the only next thing that provides us with a way of earning a livelihood, both in trade—there used to be a cash market for dried fish—but back as far as my great-grandparents, we traded dry salmon for a living, basically. That was our living.

Thank you for this opportunity and the different remedies that you're looking at to curb bycatch.

Council member Roy Hyder: Joe, I was in Nome last year. First time I'd ever been there. I really appreciated the hospitality. That was great. I was in Mountain Village a year ago and greatly appreciated their gracious hospitality.

I'm just curious. You mentioned you don't go to fish camp anymore. I was wondering what river that was normally on? I'll give you my second question now so you can go ahead and work with it. You said a few years ago you were hanging Chi-

nook salmon in good numbers. How many years was that?

Garnie: I'll say at least 12 years since I've put even one king in my smokehouse. And for our fish camp, mainly we fished on the Tukshuk Channel—the channel between Grantley Harbor and Salt Lake, a 10-mile channel, approximately.

~

Tim Smith: There's an old saying...when the elephants dance, the mice get trampled. In this situation we're the mice.

I'm the vice-chairman of the Seward Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Our council unanimously passed a resolution supporting a 30,000 hard cap.

I'm also the president of the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Aquaculture Association. Our organization's mission is to enhance salmon production in the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Salmon Production Region. That's the area from the mouth of the Yukon River to the Bering Strait. We operate the only salmon hatchery on the Bering Sea coast.

I don't believe that genetic markers are ever going to provide the answers we need about the impacts of trawl bycatch on Norton Sound chum salmon. That's unfortunate; it would have been great if it had worked. As you can see from the analysis, there is a long list of ques-

tions that can only be answered by knowing the stock composition of the bycatch.

The best science today, after millions spent on DNA analysis, lumps the Yukon River summer chum runs, which may be 4 million fish, in with the Snake River near Nome that in 2009 had a run of 891. That's not good enough. Of course, the genetics people tell us the answer lies in new and improved testing methodology. I don't think that it does. I think the problem is that Norton Sound chum salmon runs have not been isolated long enough to have diverged to the point that they can be identified at a population level by DNA. I can't imagine a mechanism that would allow that to occur. And all the available data shows that western Alaska chum salmon are genetically homogeneous. I'm not saying that we shouldn't continue to study chum salmon genetics, but I don't think we should wait for a breakthrough that may never come while our weak stocks go extinct.

Our hatchery offers a proven alternative for identifying Norton Sound fish by otolith marks. We have successfully mass marked embryos and recovered marked adults produced at the Hobson Creek Hatchery in 2006; the first definitive proof of stream of origin for Norton Sound salmon ever. Full bycatch retention will give us the means to estimate the numbers of specific stocks

in the bycatch.

Hatchery production would also provide fish for harvesting by Norton Sound salmon users who have endured onerous restrictions for 30 years. It is also a way to rebuild the wild stocks that have not responded to other restoration methods.

I don't know if the council can do anything to recommend salmon enhancement for Norton Sound. If you can, we ask that you do it.

Council member Sam Cotten: Is it a chum hatchery that you run?

Smith: We've hatched pinks, chums and silvers.

Cotton: What sort of volume are you dealing with?

Smith: It's just been test volumes; we're just testing the facility. We don't have a private nonprofit hatchery permit at this point. But it's been tested, we've gotten returns, we've proved that we can mass mark the fish. We're ready to increase production.

Cotton: Wasn't there one on the Kobuk, Noatak system?

Smith: There was; it was closed in 1996. It was the Situkuyuk Hatchery. That was a Fish and Game hatchery operated for 14 years. It was closed during low chum salmon prices, and it was very successful. If they had waited, it would be a good thing today. Now that prices are back up, it would be good. They shouldn't have closed it.

Change in Norton Sound commercial crab guidelines ensures stability

New rules keep commercial harvests steady, safeguard subsistence

By Tyler Rhodes, NSEDC Communications Director

Commercial red king crab fishermen in Norton Sound should be able to breathe a sigh of relief following the conclusion of the Alaska Board of Fisheries' recent meeting in March.

A change last summer in how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the crab population in Norton Sound meant that commercial fishermen risked seeing their quota cut nearly in half this year. Despite all signs pointing to a healthy and thriving crab population, revising the estimate meant that either the commercial harvest or the rule that governed it would have to change if fishermen were going to be able to fish at the levels they had for the past decade.

The Board of Fisheries put the concerns of Norton Sound fishermen and processors at ease when it approved a proposal brought forward by Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation to change the

rules and essentially keep the harvest at the status quo.

"The red king crab population appears to be at a 20-year high in Norton Sound," said NSEDC biologist Wes Jones. "Our rate of commercial harvest has supported a number of fishermen while allowing the crab stocks to enjoy slow, steady growth."

To understand this change, it helps to understand how the current guidelines work. Each year, the level of the summer commercial harvest is set as a percentage of the "Legal Male Biomass." The harvest guidelines for the past 10 years or so have capped harvests at 10 percent of LMB. ADF&G uses a model to determine LMB, which has found a biomass between 3 million and 4 million pounds for the past decade. This has resulted in harvests between 300,000 and 400,000 pounds of crab.

Last year ADF&G staff took another look at the model and came to the conclusion that their formula for estimating the crab population had been incorrect for the past decade,

resulting in an over-estimation for all those years. That means commercial crab fishermen were actually harvesting at an approximate rate of 12 percent for the past decade, not 10 percent as was believed.

With the new model lowering the population estimate by about 1 mil-

lion pounds, the 10 percent threshold would have taken a big bite out of the commercial harvest had it remained on the books. "The reduction in the crab biomass was purely due to changes in the model," said Kevin Keith, a biologist with NSEDC. "The actual crab population in Norton

Sound is doing quite well. All indicators lead us to believe that we have a stable or increasing population of crabs. It's a wonderful resource."

In spite of the stability of the crab population, the changes in the model

continued on page 6

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Bringing Alaskans Together

NPFMC says 'no' to tribes' request for 30,000 chum bycatch limit in pollock fishery

By Laurie McNicholas

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council decided not to include an annual bycatch limit of 30,000 chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery in alternative management measures under consideration to reduce the bycatch at a meeting March 30 in Anchorage. Chum salmon are among prohibited species in the fishery, and they are incidentally taken in pollock trawls.

Eight tribes in the Bering Strait area waited 10 months for the council's decision. On June 1, 2011 during a tribal consultation with staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, six of the eight tribes presented resolutions asking the council to adopt a 30,000 chum bycatch limit and to close the pollock fishery if the limit is reached. The tribes were the Native Village of Teller, Native Village of Shishmaref, Native Village of Savoonga, Mary's Igloo Traditional Council, Native Village of Gambell, and the Native Village of Elim.

The resolutions included the following reasons for the request.

- Subsistence users throughout the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region are gravely concerned with the continuing decline of regional salmon stock;

- Elim, White Mountain, Golovin and Nome rivers have stocks of concern and chum closures.

On June 6 during a meeting in Nome, the council received a preliminary summary of the tribal consultation and a letter from James Balsiger, administrator, NMFS Alaska Region. The letter noted that council members had received copies of the written tribal resolutions. It also stated that NMFS is required under Presidential Executive Order 13175 to prepare a tribal summary impact statement to accompany rulemakings that summarize the nature of concerns identified by the tribes and the extent to which their concerns have been met.

"...In addition, regulations governing the National Environment[al] Policy Act process require NMFS to identify alternatives that were eliminated from detailed study and briefly discuss the reasons why these were eliminated (40 CFR 1502.14(a))." Balsiger wrote. "It would greatly help NMFS fulfill these responsibilities if the Council would address the tribes' recommendation for a 30,000 chum salmon cap by either including this recommendation in the alternatives analyzed or providing an explanation why this suggested cap does not meet the purpose and need for the action and, therefore, was not included in the alternatives analyzed."

The council heard testimony during the Nome meeting in support of a 30,000 chum cap from a number of individuals and from representatives of western Alaska communities both within and outside the Bering Strait region. The council took no action

on the issue at the Nome meeting.

On June 15 NMFS received copies of resolutions calling for a 30,000 chum salmon bycatch cap from two more Bering Strait tribes, the Native Village of Koyuk and the Native Village of St. Michael.

hope, is that we would have a meaningful interaction and a meaningful conversation and that we would get an informed position, and I think that's what we heard in public testimony even at this meeting from people who said, you know, we don't have a number or a position, but

"(M)y hope was as we moved forward in this process that we would have a meaningful interaction with tribes, that they would come forward and bring a new position that's based on the information that we currently have about what would best protect the stocks that they rely on,"

— Cora Campbell, ADF&G

Council responds to tribes

At the NPFMC meeting held March 30 in Anchorage, several council members provided reasons for not including a 30,000 chum hard cap in the alternatives analyzed in an initial review draft environmental assessment of Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch management measures. Following is a summary of their comments.

Cora Campbell, commissioner of the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game said the council had reacted to compelling testimony from western Alaskans at the Nome meeting by restructuring the analysis to include some very low chum bycatch hard caps in June and July to better target and protect western Alaska stocks.

Genetic analysis indicated a higher proportion of chum bycatch in the pollock fishery in June and July was from western Alaska than in August through October in 2005-2009. The council adopted a motion by Campbell at the Nome meeting to study option 1b under the hard cap alternative to apply a chum salmon bycatch limit ranging from 15,600 to 110,136 fish to vessels participating in the directed pollock fishery during June and July.

"...(M)y hope was as we moved forward in this process that we would have a meaningful interaction with tribes, that they would come forward and bring a new position that's based on the information that we currently have about what would best protect the stocks that they rely on," Campbell said. "And I think we have so much more information than we did a year ago when [the tribal resolutions] were drafted, and so that's my

we're going to go back and come to you with something, and so I think that conversation is still ongoing...."

Duncan Fields: "I thought at length about amending the motion with the 30,000 number because I wanted to underscore my desire, and I think the council's desire to substantially reduce chum salmon bycatch, but I don't think that amendment and that number moves us toward our goal, which is to incentivize the industry to reduce chum bycatch with minimal impact on the current Chinook savings program in a timely manner, and...one of the reasons I've been dissuaded from making that amendment is because I think that number is so low that there'd be substantial industry push-back and maybe a sense of breach of

trust relative to working with the council to solve this problem together...."

Fields cited data in the environmental assessment executive summary on pages 4 and 14 that influenced his decision. Page 4 includes a table listing the number of participating vessels in the pollock fishery, the total allowable catch of pollock and the chum salmon bycatch for each year from 2003 through 2011. Chum bycatch numbers ranged from 704,552 fish in 2005 to 13,222 in 2010, and jumped to 191,445 in 2011. Page 14 lists suboptions for chum bycatch limits ranging from 50,000 to 353,000 fish under option 1a of the hard cap alternative, to apply a chum bycatch limit to vessels participating in the directed pollock fishery for the entire B season. Page 14 also lists the range of chum bycatch limits analyzed under option 1b of the hard cap alternative that applies to June and July (15,600 to 110,136 fish).

John Henderschedt: "My comments are intended to enhance and amplify and build upon the comments that have already been made about this, not in any way to contradict these. I would like to speak very specifically to that request.... (I)n the existing analysis we have an alternative for a 50,000 fish cap, and on the average that results in over 330,000 metric tons of foregone catch of pollock. I think it's a safe assumption that with an even lower hard cap the foregone catch is higher, and in my view, the expected foregone catch lost then in the pollock fishery disrupts the balance between national standard 9 and national standard 1."

The council's action to manage chum bycatch in the pollock fishery must be consistent with all 10 national standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act. The environmental assessment says the most relevant national standards for this action are

number 1 (prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield for each fishery in the U.S. fishing industry) and number 9 (minimize bycatch to the extent practicable).

Henderschedt continued: "... I think as a goal, as Mr. Fields said, 30,000 fish is a laudable goal. I mean I think it's one that the council should uphold, but having a goal and setting a fixed hard cap are two different things. And for my concern over optimum yield and national standard 9, I think we should be very clear that the alternative of 30,000 fish hard cap should be listed in the analysis at this point as an alternative considered but not included in the range of alternatives."

Dave Benson: "I was the one that asked one of the testifiers for the genesis of that number, and I don't know if we've even had testimony to describe that, if it was based on some sort of average over a certain window of time or just a number picked out of the air, but I think we have to take a step back and look at what we have in our executive summary...on page 4: Nine years worth of data, and it's fluctuated everywhere from 704,000 in 2005 down to 13,000 in 2010—a huge fluctuation—but 7 of those 9 years would have been over the 30,000 cap, would have resulted in shutting down the pollock fishery.

"Then you have to ask yourself how much you're benefiting or contributing to stocks returning to Western Alaska rivers, the middle and upper Yukon, and the numbers get pretty small when you take 58 percent off for the Japanese and Russian hatchery chum," Benson said. "You're getting down to some very small numbers, and it's very difficult to measure the impact, and I agree that impact can certainly be greater on one river system than another, but as Mr. Henderschedt pointed out, [in] the worst case scenario—350,000 tons of pollock at risk—30,000 is going to push that number some-

continued on page 7

• Commercial crab

continued from page 5

meant that the harvest level was going to be drastically reduced from the range of 300,000 to 400,000 pounds down to between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds. Concerned with this development, NSEDC Director of Fisheries Research and Development Charlie Lean sprang into action. "We submitted a proposal to the Board of Fisheries that would maintain harvest levels in the range that we have seen recently—and also raise harvest levels in the event that we have a large surplus of crab out there," Lean said.

Working with ADF&G, the NSEDC biologists refined their proposal so that it would be acceptable to both state and federal managers.

The refined proposal, which was approved by the Board of Fisheries, has the following harvest guidelines for the summer commercial crab

fishery:

- No harvest below 1.25 million pounds LMB
- 7 percent harvest limit between 1.25 and 2 million pounds LMB
- 13 percent harvest limit between 2 and 3 million pounds LMB
- 15 percent harvest limit above 3 million pounds LMB

"This was a win for everybody," Keith said. "The change allows our crab fishermen to continue harvesting at the same level while also protecting the resource if the population decreases and allowing increased harvest at higher population levels."

The new guidelines, with their protections, also benefit subsistence crabbers. "The intent of the regulation is to maintain a healthy population level and prevent the kind of boom-and-bust cycles that have a negative impact on subsistence," Lean said.



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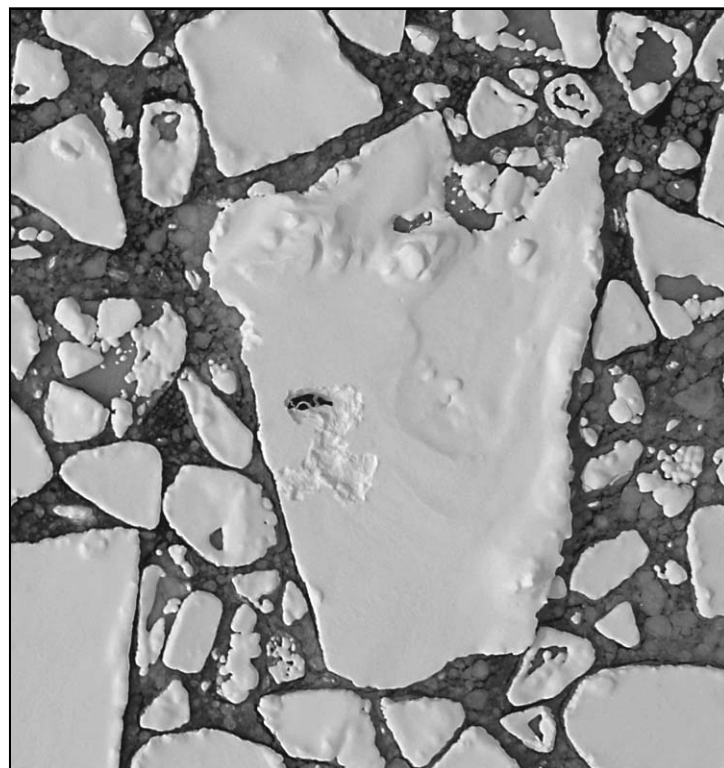
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U.S. and Russia team up to conduct ice seal survey

A team of researchers from the U.S. and Russia this week kicked-off the largest survey effort ever to estimate how many ice-associated seals live in the Bering Sea region, announced the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

This large scale, springtime aerial survey will begin this week from Nome. Scientists will use advanced imaging systems and modern statistical techniques to provide the first comprehensive estimates of abundance for the four species of ice-associated seals found in the Bering Sea: ribbon seals, spotted seals, bearded seals and ringed seals. Survey flights will also originate from Bethel, Dillingham, and St. Paul. Each flight will typically last between five and seven hours.

Aerial surveys are the best way to study ice-associated seals in their natural environment while covering large areas in a relatively short amount of time. Spring is the best time to survey because the seals concentrate within the Bering Sea ice pack and spend more time on the ice (where they can be seen and counted) while they have pups, breed and molt.

In the U.S. surveys, two types of aircraft will be used: a NOAA-owned and operated Dehavilland Twin Otter aircraft and a chartered long-range Aero-Commander 690.

Because the aircraft will be flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet, too high for the human eye to identify species, high-resolution digital cameras will capture images to be analyzed back in the lab for species identification. Thermal sensors will be used in tandem with the digital cameras to pinpoint the seals, thus reducing the number of images that will need analyzing.

"The most novel thing about the survey is the pairing of two devices that have already been used to survey other marine mammals," said Peter Boveng, one of the principal investigators of the survey, along with Michael Cameron and Erin Moreland. "Thermal or infrared cameras are good at detecting seals

on ice, which are very warm relative to their surroundings, but not good at revealing the species of seals. High-resolution digital photos are good for species identification, but very labor intensive for detecting and counting seals. Putting the two together creates a more efficient system in which the thermal camera finds the seals and the photo camera allows us to identify the seal species."

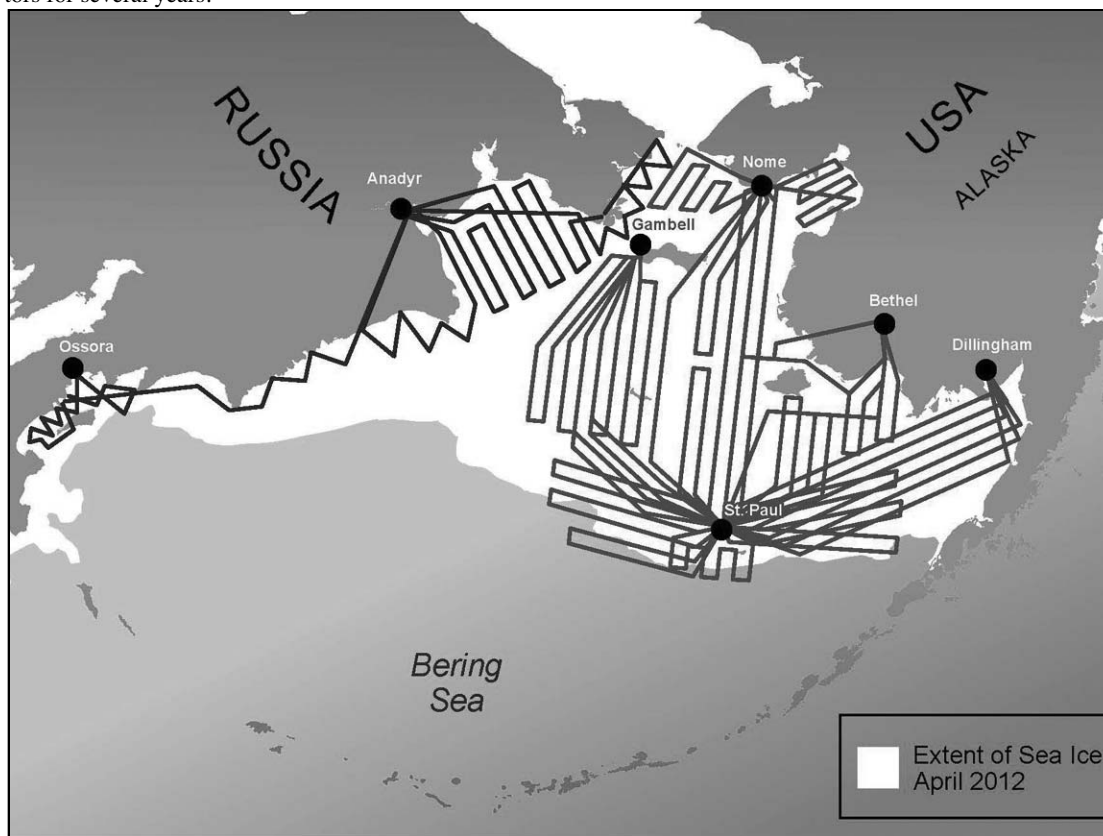
The planned survey will include nearly 19,000 nautical miles of track lines over U.S. waters and 11,000 nautical miles over Russian waters, and will last into May. Another spring survey is planned for 2013.

Springtime in the Bering Sea is important not only for seals, but for many other species and the Alaska coastal communities that depend upon them. The seal survey team will be communicating regularly with Alaska Native villages to ensure that the surveys do not conflict with subsistence hunting activities, particularly bowhead whaling around the communities on St. Lawrence Island and in the Bering Strait.

The results of this study will contribute to the scientific understanding of these unique marine mammals and will be used to identify, evaluate and resolve conservation concerns as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The results will also help to assess the risk posed by loss of sea-ice habitat that may occur due to ongoing and anticipated warming of the Arctic climate, a key concern addressed in status reviews that NOAA has conducted on all four species under the Endangered Species Act.

Studying seals in the Bering Sea and Arctic waters poses many challenges that limit the ability for scientists to learn about these special animals. The Bering Sea's remote location, along with the cold and unpredictable weather, limits scientists' ability to study these animals in their natural habitat. Figuring out how to efficiently and safely survey the region for seals has been a focus for scientists at the NOAA Alaska Fish-

eries Science Center and a multi-agency team of Russian collaborators for several years.



Map source: NOAA

FLIGHT PATTERNS— The map outlines the planned survey track lines for joint U.S./Russia ice seal survey.

• Chum by-catch

continued from page 6

where closer to half a million, I would conjecture, and I just don't see how we'd be meeting our obligations to national standard 1 to balance achieving optimum yield of the fishery with such a restrictive measure.

Sam Cotten: "I just think from what I've heard and from Mr. Benson's question, there really hasn't been a specific explanation of why 30 [thousand] is better than 50 [thou-

sand], so my impression has been that the call for a 30,000 cap reflects an importance of salmon for food security in rural Alaska and for a way of living that's been going on for quite some time, and I think we all respect that and from my consideration, I think that on the scale of what we are analyzing, the 50,000 comes close enough to giving us a real feel for what a low number like that would—the result that would bring, so I'm satisfied with the 50 [thousand]."



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Nome Alaska State Trooper post has new Sergeant

By Diana Haecker

With the promotion of Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Andrew Merrill to a Lieutenant's position and the post of the Deputy Commander of the Trooper's C Detachment, a new Sergeant is about to head up the Nome

Alaska State Trooper post in Nome.

Being new to the post, however, does not mean he's new to the community. Sgt. Charlie Cross was born in Nome and raised in Nome and Kotzebue as well as having spent a lot of years in Elim. He said he spent

his formative years in Anchorage.

"It's been a long time coming to get back to Nome," said Cross about his promotion and return to the Seward Peninsula. "I tried twice before and finally the Lieutenant [Merrill] decided to promote and move along

and it was exactly the right time for me. Coming back to Nome was something I wanted for 13 years since I joined the Troopers," Cross said. Most recently Cross worked as a supervisor at the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics team in Anchorage.

Prior to that he was supervisor of the major offenders unit in Anchorage. Cross had an interest in law enforcement since early childhood. His father was in the National Guard and the younger Cross' career options involved a career in the military. "But strangely enough, my father talked me out of it," Cross said.

By the time Cross attended college in Fairbanks, he ran into former Nome Trooper Sgt. Brian Wassmann, which gave the impetus to get Cross' career as a Trooper started. In 1998 Cross was hired on by the Dept. of Public Safety and he went to the training academy in Sitka. His first post as a Trooper was in Fairbanks, where he served for two years as a patrol Trooper. Then he transferred to Kodiak and worked as a Trooper for three years and then as a Alaska Wildlife Trooper for two years. After that, he transferred to Anchorage where he was a drug and alcohol investigator for four years, working as a supervisor for two years. "Yes, blue shirt, brown shirt, t-shirt, and now back to blue shirt," joked Cross, referring to the different color uniforms associated with Troopers, Wildlife Troopers and investigators who wear plain clothes. "I'm coming back to the area that I know and back

to patrol, which is something I really enjoy," Cross said.

"I think the perspective I bring is good because from growing up in Elim, Nome and Kotzebue I did see what wonderful life rural Alaska has to offer, but at the same time I saw the tragedies that come with substance abuse, primarily alcohol abuse," Cross said.

Knowing first hand how the alcohol abuse, the importation and the people who are making bootlegging their livelihood are detrimental to the entire region, Cross is adamant in the effort to make a difference. "What the last six years have brought to light for me is the tragedies," Cross said. He said it was enlightening to him to see to what extent people are going to conceal alcohol for importation and going against the will of having a local option community, which was voted on by the people, not imposed by outside government.

Thoughts on the relationships to local authorities? Cross said he would like to build on former Sgt. Merrill's efforts to foster good relationships in the outlying communities.

"I'm not afraid of going to the village, I'm not afraid of spending time in a place where not a whole lot of people want to spend time," said Cross.

Cross is slated to report to the Nome Trooper post in mid April. His family, consisting of three children and his wife Julie, will follow in late May.



Photo by Diana Haecker

NEW SERGEANT— With the promotion of Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Andrew Merrill, left, to Lieutenant working out of Anchorage, the Nome Trooper post is going to be headed up by new Sergeant Charlie Cross, right.

Nomeite to bike from Oregon to Argentina

By Diana Haecker

Nome sees its share of adventures coming through on quests of

Bering Strait crossings by foot, kiteboard or other means of dubious transportation. But starting next



Photo by Diana Haecker

WORLD TRAVELER— Nome's own Megan Hahn, with bachelor degree in music in hand, is embarking on a bike trip of a lifetime. She plans to bike from Oregon to the southernmost tip of South America.

week, it's a Nomeite, who embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. Megan Hahn, daughter of Pat Hahn and Sue Greenly, is about to fulfill her dream of biking the entire 8,000-mile long route from Portland, Oregon to the end of the road at a town called Ushuaia at the southernmost tip of Argentina. Hahn, 24, is about to graduate this May from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks as a Bachelor of Arts and Music — with concentration on the clarinet.

The thought of biking the entire length of the North and South American continents germinated a year ago, when a friend of hers invited her

to bike the Oregon coast. "I had the idea that I should keep on going south," Hahn said. She has been planning her entire trip in earnest since last October and drew inspiration from friends who had biked from Alaska to Argentina. There is no noble cause or charity attached to her courageous trip that will take her through unfamiliar territory and politically unstable countries in Central America. Asked why she is embarking on the trip, she said, "Because I can." But then she adds, "I have never done anything like this before and probably won't have another opportunity to do so." Hahn said that

she had saved up money for quite a while to afford the trip.

She said that she's in the early stages of learning Spanish from a couple of books and although she does have doubts, she's going to follow through on the trip anyway. "From the bikers I had talked to, nothing horrible had happened," she said. Hahn plans to bike 50 miles a day on a bike that she had used to commute with in Fairbanks. She said she will replace everything on it but the frame. "I'll bring spare parts and a few tools with me in hopes that I'll

continued on page 9

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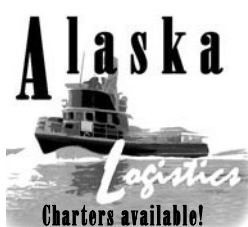
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Operation Arctic Care providers fan out to Bering Strait and Norton Sound villages

By Diana Haecker

Hundreds of people dressed in military camouflage uniforms were seen in Nome last week as the Alaska National Guard along with its military partners readies to dispatch health care and veterinary professionals out to the 16 communities of Norton Sound and the Bering Strait for Operation Arctic Care 2012.

Arctic Care, now in its 18th year, is considered the largest joint military medical readiness and logistics training exercise for the military, targeting different areas of rural Alaska each year. About 250 health care professionals and support staff provide medical care to underserved populations in rural Alaska. The exercise started on April 9 as advance teams swarmed out to the villages to set up appointments, with the health care providers and veterinarians to follow on April 11. The teams provide acute and chronic medical care, dental care, eye exams and veterinary care. Every resident of the area is eligible for the free care given.

Lt. Col. Sharolyn Lange, task force medical commander for Oper-

ation Arctic Care 2012, told The Nome Nugget that the services include medical and wellness exams, chronic disease management, acute care as well as school and fire fighter exams. Lange said that they also bring dental teams into all villages except for Shishmaref, Unalakleet, Golovin and White Mountain. The optometry teams will conduct eye exams and will be able to fabricate glasses in Nome and have them sent to the villages. Veterinary services include vaccinations, spays and neutering as well as regular dog and cat exams. Depending on which village they go to, there are going to be 14 to 25 people in one team.

Lange explained that moving up to 150,000 pounds of food, medical supplies and equipment into each village gives the military the opportunity to conduct deployment training in a non-threatening environment. "This allows our military medical professionals the opportunity to conduct remote medicine, deploy supplies and perform medical outreach operations," Lange said. Some doctors and health care providers have

been in the region before, but for most, the trip to northwestern Alaska is the first. "The providers are mostly from the Lower 48 and come from active duty Air Force, the Navy Reserve, Army Reserve, the Army Guard and the Air National Guard," said Lange.

Pattie Lillie with the Norton Sound Health Corporation has helped to line up logistics for the operation. Lillie has coordinated with village clinics and said the exercise is important to the health of village residents. "The direct medical care that will be provided by the doctors and nurses is usually unavailable in the villages," Lillie said. "The way our system works, health aides and mid-level providers see patients in the village and treat to the degree they can, and anything beyond their scope is referred to Nome or Anchorage. We are not able to provide doctors in every village, so having a doctor on site for even four or five days can make a difference to our patients."

The mission is going to last two weeks.



Photo by Maj. Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs Office
OPERATION ARCTIC CARE— Arctic Care participants load onto an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before heading to Nome, Alaska. Medical professionals from the Alaska National Guard, Arizona National Guard, Colorado National Guard, Army Reserves, Navy Reserves and active duty will spend the next two weeks providing medical care to Alaskans in 16 Bering Strait and Norton Sound communities.

Kotzebue Sound Racing Association Snowmachine Race



All Photos by Lewis Pagel

OVERALL WINNER—Jared Walker of Kotzebue was the overall winner of the Snowmachine Race from Kotzebue to Noorvik, Kiana, Selawik, Noorvik and Kotzebue.



SECOND AND THIRD PLACE FINISHERS—Steven Williamson, #34 of Kotzebue talks to Jarvis Miller, #12 of Nome after having finished the 260 mile long race in second and third place in Class C.



PUTTING ON A SHOW—Joseph Brantley of Kotzebue crosses the finish line on the sea ice in front of Kotzebue.

Results

Archie Ferguson/ Willie Goodwin Sr. Memorial Snowmachine Race

Distance: 260 miles from Kotzebue to Noorvik, Kiana, Selawik, back to Noorvik and Kotzebue
Total Number of Racers: 65

Class C Times 601+ cc

Jared Walker, Kotzebue	2:37:46
Steven Williamson, Kotzebue	2:38:33
Jarvis Miller, Nome	2:39:53

Class B Times 0-600 cc

Thor Lie, Kotzebue	2:39:06
Peter Reich, Palmer	2:39:09
Harold Lie, Kotzebue	2:41:47

Class A Times fan-cooled

Gabe Schaeffer, Kotzebue	3:15:24
Stephen Schaeffer, Kotzebue	3:16:43
Dickie Moto Jr, Kotzebue	3:17:18



Photo by Lewis Pagel

NOME RACER—Jarvis Miller of Nome finished third in Class C.

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• Nomeite biking to Argentina

continued from page 8

only have minor repairs to deal with," she said. The 24-year-old will take about 50 pounds of gear, food and a tent.

Hahn said that aside from the experience of a lifetime, she hopes to refine the virtue of patience. "I traveled to Germany as an exchange stu-

dent and that really tried my patience," she said.

The Hahn's wanderlust is multi-generational as her grandmother Bonnie Hahn sailed the Northwest Passage as did her father Pat and uncle Ken — albeit at different times. Nomeites can stay in touch with her adventures by following Megan's

Seasonal Affective Disorder: More than the winter blues.

**By Bob Lawrence, MD
Alaska Family Doctor**

Most people in rural Alaska experience some degree of fluctuation in their moods during the winter months.

In most cases, these seasonal emotional fluctuations are a normal part of life in the Arctic and Subarctic.

But for some people, seasonal emotional swings can be debilitating, often mimicking the symptoms of severe depression. Doctors call the recurrent form of seasonal depression the seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

Sometimes people confuse SAD with the wintertime blues or “cabin

fever.” But SAD is more dangerous than the symptoms of cabin fever. Cabin fever is merely a form of physical and mental restlessness that occurs during prolonged periods of being confined indoors due to bad weather or extreme cold. Most mental health professionals would say that cabin fever is a natural response to a confined environment.

SAD, on the other hand, is a mental health disorder thought to result from an exaggerated or inappropriate reaction to changes in the season or a seasonal reduction in sunlight

exposure. Most often SAD symptoms are worse during the long dark winter months, though some people experience symptoms during other seasons. Unlike cabin fever, resuming outdoor activities does not easily cure SAD.

Similar to other forms of depression, SAD symptoms may lead to absence from work, poor school performance, weight gain, or a general withdrawal from activity. Substance abuse with alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, or pain medications increases with SAD. And at its worst, SAD leads to suicidal ideation.

For several decades, researchers have recognized “light therapy” as a primary treatment for SAD. Exposure to light from a SAD light box for 30 minutes each morning is thought to reset the body’s natural

sleep-wake cycle (circadian rhythm) and balance chemicals in the brain like melatonin and serotonin that affect mood.

Daily exercise and a nutritious diet rich in Omega-3 fatty acids (fish oils and nuts) is also considered a mainstay of treatment.

More extensive cases of SAD may require psychotherapy, specialized counseling, or medication. Often doctors prescribe a class of antidepressants for SAD called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors that may be taken through the fall and winter months.

A medical evaluation is often helpful for people who have symptoms of the seasonal affective disorder (SAD). There are no specific tests

for SAD, but lab work is often performed because many other medical problems mimic SAD.

Vitamin D deficiency, anemia (a low hemoglobin level), thyroid problems, autoimmune diseases, sleep apnea, and lack of quality sleep can cause symptoms similar to the seasonal affective disorder. Doctors will often do tests to rule out these types of diseases before diagnosing a person and treating them for SAD.

Consider speaking with your doctor about options available to you for evaluation and treatment of SAD if you or a family member has recurrent symptoms of depression at the same time each year.


Holy Cross files to recall City Council

Holy Cross, Alaska – The Concerned Citizens of Holy Cross, a group of local residents, have filed paperwork to recall the Holy Cross City Council for failure to perform prescribed duties and misconduct in office.

The Council cancelled the regular election last October without explanation, said Bruce and Connie Werba, members of the Concerned Citizens. At the City’s regular meeting in January, an election was “scheduled for February 29, 2012, but it, too was cancelled at the last minute,” they said. Kathy Chase, another concerned citizen, has also reported that an election has again been scheduled to occur April 17th, but states, “who knows if it will actually happen.” The Concerned Citizens filed applications to recall each member of the Council last month, but are still waiting for a response from the City.

reached the point where folks deserve the chance for a clean sweep and a fresh start on the Council,” the Werbas’ said. “It’s been over six

months since we were supposed to have voted. The City government has been basically broken for too long, and we need a change.”



Hard to believe, but this young pretty chick ain't a spring chicken anymore. Still pretty though!

Happy 50th to Donna Erickson!

April 17, 2012

Jeffrey Demientieff, also a member of the group, said that the Council has for many years failed to hold regular monthly meetings, give public notice of their meetings, or keep records of their meetings as required by law. “I filed a public records request just for a copy of the City Code and the minutes for their meetings, but haven’t heard anything,” he said.

None of the Council members have filed mandatory reports of their financial and business interests, the group said. Additionally, they said the Council has failed to provide workmen’s compensation insurance to City employees and has allowed numerous bad checks to be issued to employees and local vendors. Demientieff added that it also appears that Mayor Rebecca Demientieff and Council member Kristi Turner participated in the apparent forgery of the minutes for a Council meeting regarding a State grant application. “Both versions of those minutes list people, including other Council members, who say they weren’t there that day.”

The group is urging the City to act on their recall applications. “It’s

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HOROSCOPES


April 12 - April 18, 2012



CAPRICORN

December 22–January 19


The home improvement bug hits, and the to-do list grows. A little windfall helps with the budget. Debate continues at work. Where do you stand, Capricorn?



ARIES

March 21–April 19


Wise up, Aries. All is not as it seems at home. Something is up, and the sooner you find out what it is, the sooner you can join the fun.



CANCER

June 22–July 22


Affairs of the heart move front and center, and passion burns bright. A review of your finances confirms you’re on the up and up. Congrats, Cancer.



LIBRA

September 23–October 22


You can spin it anyway you want, Libra, but what’s done is done. You can’t go back, so you might as well go forward and that might involve making amends.



AQUARIUS

January 20–February 18


The joke’s on you this time, Aquarius, when a young friend turns the tables. Laugh it off and compliment them on their bravado. A deadline draws near.



TAURUS

April 20–May 20


Money troubles come to an end with some strategic planning. A million opportunities are in store. Enjoy your time in the sun, Taurus.



LEO

July 23–August 22


Waste not, want not, Leo. The need to go green becomes clear and you must get all hands on deck for the ultimate impact. A secret is revealed.



SCORPIO

October 23–November 21


Support for an idea mounts, and you must be prepared to act, Scorpio, should the green light be given. Health woes ease for a family member with some trusted advice.



PISCES

February 19–March 20


You’ll get only one chance, Pisces. Don’t blow it. Attention to detail is everything. Experimentation in the kitchen makes for exciting mealtimes.



GEMINI

May 21–June 21


You receive rave reviews for a job well done. Celebrate with a few close friends. A design plan nears completion. One final push, Gemini.



VIRGO

August 23–September 22

Traipsing down memory lane inspires you to make a big change. Don’t keep your family guessing, Virgo. Spill the beans and prepare for a joyful reaction.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22–December 21

The debate at home begins. Stay on the fence for as long as you need to, Sagittarius. Rush and you could end up in a bit of a pickle.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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54					55					56				
57					58					59				

Across

- Breeding stallions
- Disney’s flying elephant
- Dash lengths
- ___ four
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (acronym)
- Copy cats?
- Lustrous rainbowlike play of color
- Bleat
- Prisoners on the loose
- Occupant
- Clerics ranking just below a priest
- 2010 crossword hamp
- “For shame!”
- Unmixed lineage
- Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
- Member of strict Orthodox Jewish sect
- ___ king
- Brass component
- “M*A*S*H” setting
- Boris Godunov, for one
- Absorbed, as a cost
- Cliffside dwelling
- “It ___ All Velvet” (Mel Torme autobiography)
- Showing no regard for danger
- More, in Madrid
- Remarkable thing
- Shaped like an open hand
- Drunk, in slang
- ___ goods
- “Dig in!”

Down

- Caught a glimpse of
- Breviloquent
- Ancient city NW of Carthage
- Instructive
- Go outside for a short time (2 wds)
- Carps, for one
- A Swiss army knife has lots of them
- Checkers, e.g.
- Microorganisms
- ___ Jacks are wild (2 wds)
- Disconcert
- Aim
- Belt
- Dispatched
- Colo. neighbor
- Colored warning flare
- Romeo’s rival
- Brio
- Blowgun ammo
- Russian emperor
- Baptism, for one
- Short accounts of humorous incidents
- Merry-go-round figure, to a child
- Collapse (2 wds)
- Island SE of Australia
- In sum
- Non-running footracers
- Do-it-yourselfer’s purchase
- Defensive spray
- King protectors
- Getting on
- Perfect, e.g.
- Garden tool
- Page
- ___ lamp
- High school dance
- Australian runner

Previous Puzzle

1	C	U	R	E	S	T	E	8	T	O	10	T	A	13	A
15	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	16	U	N	A	R	M	E	D
17	C	A	P	E	R	E	D	18	R	E	S	O	U	N	D
19	A	N	I	M	E	21	L	M	22	S	O	L	A	R	
23	I	D	E	A	24	B	A	Y	O	25	P	E	R	E	
26	N	U	N	H	E	R	R	I	N	28	G	29	T	I	S
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47	R	E	L	I	48	C	O	49	E	A	T	I	N		
50	A	L	I	D	A	D	E	51	L	A	T	R	I	N	E
52	C	E	N	T	R	A	L	53	V	I	N	T	N	E	R
54	T	I	G	H	T	L	Y	55	E	R	A	S	E	R	S

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All Around the Sound

New Arrivals

Megan and Ryan Sherman are proud to announce the birth of their daughter **Marjorie Eden**, Marjorie was born March 15. She was 8 lbs



Marjorie Eden Sherman

13 ozs, 21 inches. She joins big brother Jeff. Her maternal grandparents are Mike and Rusa Baker of Nome. Her great-grandmothers are Lena Hanna of Kotzebue and the late Marge Baker. Paternal grandparents are JT and Myrtle Sherman of Nome and Marlene Jaycox of Anchorage. Her great-grandparents are Mike and Dorothy Sherman or Palmer and Myrtle Jaycox of Kiana.

Sally M. Okpowruk and Edward S. Olanna of Shishmaref announce the birth of their daughter **Ruth Payenna Olanna**, born March 17, at 7:34 a.m. at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She weighed 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 18 1/2" in length. Siblings are Faye H. Okpowruk, Wilson C. Okpowruk, Monica M. Olanna, Gary A. Olanna, and Davey Okpowruk.

Brandon Ongtowsruk and Stephanie Fahey welcomed



Makayla Vivien Ongtowsruk

their daughter **Makayla Vivien Ongtowsruk** on February 23, at 11:04 p.m. at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches in length. Makayla's big sister is Kailey Ongtowsruk, 4. Maternal grandparents are Brian Fahey and Laura Fahey. Paternal grandparents are Nora and Steve Brock and Charles Olin.

Small Business Development

Starting your own business is no easy task. Doing so in rural Alaska can be even more daunting.

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) understands these challenges and is ready to continue its efforts to help budding or growing business owners with its fifth annual *Small Business Initiative (SBI)*.

The SBI is a competitive grant program designed to spur economic development and employment opportunities within the Norton Sound region. Now in its fifth year, the

Small Business Initiative has already awarded \$420,000 to 21 business ventures throughout NSED's 15 member communities. The program is patterned after the highly successful Alaska Federation of Natives' Alaska Marketplace statewide competition.

NSED opens its application period on April 11 and will accept completed applications through July 16, 2012. The program is open to residents of NSED member communities and applications can be found at www.nsedc.com, at NSED offices or through NSED Community Outreach Liaisons starting April 11.

Once the application period closes, an independent panel of judges whittles the entries down to a handful of finalists who then present their business plans to the panel in person in the late summer/early fall. The judges may award grants up to \$35,000 to each grant recipient.

BSNC Board of Directors issues one-time elder dividend

Acknowledging the importance of the region's elders, the Board of Directors of the Bering Straits Native Corporation has voted to issue a one-time special dividend of \$500 to all qualifying elders. The resolution was passed last Saturday at the BSNC board meeting in Nome.

Eligible shareholders are those who are 65 years of age or older who were issued 100 shares of Settlement Common Stock in Bering Straits Native Corporation as part of the original issuance of such shares by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which was signed into law in 1971.

"This is an important step to recognize the contributions of our elders and show our appreciation for their support during difficult financial times in the past," said BSNC Board Chairman Henry Ivanoff.

The Special Elders Distribution will be paid on or before May 15, 2012.

Is Financial Literacy Low?

During Financial Literacy Month in April, Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to keep track of their credit, debt and sensitive financial documents.

The National Foundation for Credit Counseling says that most Americans are not up-to-date on their credit standing. According to the NFCC's 2011 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey Final Report:

- 65 percent have not obtained yearly credit reports within the last 12 months;
 - 63 percent have not requested credit scores.
- Of those that have not checked credit histories:
- 43 percent say they do not think it is useful or do not plan to apply for new credit;
 - 22 percent do not believe they have any credit history to review.

The same study finds that millions of Americans carry credit card debt month-to-month and 28 percent admit to not paying bills on time; seven percent currently have debts in collection.

BBB serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington encourages consumers to utilize free resources: Free Credit Reports: annualcreditreport.com

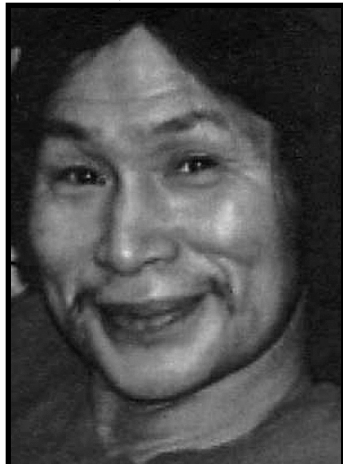
continued on page 14

Obituary

Clyde K. Ongtowsruk Sr.

In Loving Memory

Clyde Kirk Ongtowsruk Sr. died March 15, 2012. He was born to Clarence and Faye Ongtowsruk on October 20, 1960 in Wales. As a



Clyde Kirk Ongtowsruk, Sr.

young boy his family received reindeer. He would follow his brothers Norman and Frank to get the reindeer herd. He told stories of how he was told by his father to go get the herd. He would be afraid and wonder how he could do that on foot so he did a lot of running, especially to get around the big ponds or beat the reindeer to the ponds and herd them back to camp.

His family did a lot of camping while herding the reindeer because of having to walk—there were no four wheelers or snowmobiles. He told stories about walking from Mint River driving the reindeer to the corral at Lopp Lagoon, and walking from Singoruk to return to Wales to attend the 4th of July activities with his brother and cousins. Up until his death he always enjoyed reindeer herding. He lived a subsistence lifestyle mostly dependent on reindeer. But he also hunted for walrus, whale, ducks, seals, wolverines, wolves and polar bears. He gathered greens and berries.

He graduated from Shishmaref

High School, in May of 1979. He worked as a Quality Control Inspector at an electronics manufacturer in Silicone Valley, California. He then moved back to Wales and continued helping with reindeer herding.

In the summer of 1982 he met his wife Michele, they had been together for almost 30 years and happily married for 22 of those years. He helped raise all five of his children, and really wanted to be there for his son Nikolai who was adopted out and wished to have raised him, like he did his other children, but loved him just as much. He wished he could see him at least one more time before he died.

He loved and cared for seven grandchildren and was getting ready for the eighth grandchild, like they were his own. He worked as an ABE tutor, a janitor for the Dome building, worked as a supervisor, laborer in various seasonal jobs that became available. He served on the SAR team, City Council, and the IRA Council with commitment to the people of Wales. He was always thinking of the youth, encouraging them to graduate from school and telling them to "keep it up, don't ever stop trying."

He loved his fresh air.

Clyde Sr. is survived by his mom, Faye Ongtowsruk; wife Michele; sons Clyde, Jr. and Amanda, Dave, Sr. and Alexandria, Nikolai, Clarence; daughters Lisa and Donnie and Jessie; grandchildren Kayden, Jeffery, Caleb, Creedence, Dave Jr., Vivien, Anna; brothers: Frank and Frances, Joshua Coy, and Davis; sisters: Loretta and David Parker Sr.; Barbara and Jonathan Weyiouanna, and Fannie and Tony Weyiouanna Sr.; and aunts: Freida Crump and Bertha Corey and numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his dad Clarence Ongtowsruk, brothers: Norman, Victor, 1st Clyde Ongtowsruk, Sisters: 1st Barbara, and 1st Loretta Ongtowsruk. Grandparents: Clyde and Margaret Ongtowsruk and David and Jessie Tokienna; mother-in-law Vivien Olin. Uncles: Patrick and Victor Ongtowsruk. Aunts: Edith Oxereok, Mabel Seetook, Ida Oxereok, Evelyn Oxereok, Lily Ongtowsruk, Julia Seetook, Edna Angnaboogok and Fanny Tokienna. Nephews: Preston Keller and Kougruk and nieces: Sonya, Ida and 1st Amber Ongtowsruk.

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 Bruce Landry

Sunday Small Group Bible Study: 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

Community United Methodist West 2nd Ave • 443-2865

Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Thrift Shop Tuesday & Thursday: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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 9:45 am/Worship 11 a.m.

Handicapped accessible ramp: North side

River of Life Assembly of God 443-5333

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m./Evening Worship: 7 p.m.

Sunday Youth Meeting: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Service: 7 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Corner of Steadman & King Place • 443-5527

Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 10:30 a.m.

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 Nazarene

3rd Avenue & Division Street • 443-2805

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m.

The Huckabee Report

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KICV
AM-850

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Deadline is noon Monday • (907) 443-5235 • Fax (907) 443-5112 e-mail ads@nomenugget.com

Employment



Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is committed to providing quality health services and promoting wellness within our people and environment.
NSHC is currently recruiting for the following position:

Maintenance Engineer, Plant Operations

PURPOSE OF POSITION: Provide skilled maintenance and complex repair work on the physical plant, hospital, campus grounds, and limited medical and non-medical equipment. Uphold the organization's vision, mission, and corporate values. Demonstrate understanding of and compliance with organization's policies, procedures, code of conduct and work rules.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: One year of Vocational-Technical college in Mechanical Operation and/or Maintenance or related discipline. 5 years performing work in facilities maintenance program or related field.

Registration/Certification: Must have valid AK Driver's License; Asbestos Certification, Boiler Operator Class III, EPA 608 Certification Refrigerants and HAZWOPER Certification within 90 days of hire

SALARY: \$23.79 + DOE + Great Benefits Package

For an application, detailed job description or more information, please contact:

NSHC Human Resources Department:
Gerri Ongtawasruk, Recruitment Assistant
gongtawasruk@nshcorp.org
(907) 443-4530 phone
907-443-2085 fax
www.nortonsoundhealth.org

NSHC will apply Alaska Native/American Indian (under PL 93-638), EEO, and Veteran Preferences. To ensure consumers are protected to the degree prescribed under federal and state laws, NSHC will initiate a criminal history and background check. NSHC is a drug free workplace and performs pre-employment drug screening. Candidates failing to pass a pre-employment drug screen will not be considered for employment.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is accepting applications for the State System of Support Coaching Program. We are seeking experienced Alaskan Educators who are interested in applying their education skills in a coaching setting to increase the capacity of low performing schools and districts to increase student achievement. Applicants should have knowledge of current research and practices in the six effective school domains of curriculum, assessment, instruction, supportive learning environment, professional development, and leadership. Coaches work as independent contractors on a 1-year contract. For more information please contact Elizabeth Davis at (907) 465-3756 or elizabeth.davis@alaska.gov. On-line application can be found at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/sssccoach>. Applications are due on or before 5:00 pm AST Friday, April 20, 2012.

Kawerak Recruitment Notice – 4/2/12 until filled
DIVISION: Administration
DEPARTMENT: Accounting
JOB TITLE: **Accountant I**
POSITION STATUS: Regular Full Time
EXEMPT STATUS: Non-Exempt
PAY SCALE GRADE: 14-15-16 (\$26.54-\$34.63)
REPORTS TO: Chief Financial Officer
QUALIFICATIONS:
1) AA in Accounting, or 2 years supervisory work experience in Accounting.
2) Must possess computer accounting knowledge and skills in Internet usage, Word, Excel and Windows.
3) Knowledge of basic accounting principles essential.
4) Must be attentive to detail and perform accurate work under numerous time constraints.
5) Must be dependable, self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision.
6) Must possess basic office skills.
Native Preference per Public Law 93-638 (Approved 1-21-11)
Interested individuals may contact Human Resources with questions at 907-443-5231. Applications can be accessed via Kawerak's website at www.kawerak.org or by contacting Human Resources at 907-443-5231. Applications may be faxed to Kawerak Human Resources at 907-443-4443 or sent via email to personnel@kawerak.org.

Kawerak Recruitment Notice – 4/4/12-4/18/12
DIVISION: Education, Employment & Training
JOB TITLE: **Child Care Specialist**
POSITION STATUS: Regular, Full-Time
EXEMPT STATUS: Non-Exempt
PAY SCALE GRADE: 10-11-12 (\$20.95-\$27.34)
REPORTS TO: Child Care Director.

QUALIFICATIONS:
1) Hold a current Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA) or have 12 plus college credits in Early Childhood Development or have an Associate in the Arts (AA degree) in Early Childhood Development or related field.
2) High school diploma or GED.
3) Be at least 21 years of age.
4) Possess a valid driver's license.
5) Be able to calculate financial information.
6) Must be able to maintain strict confidentiality.
7) Must pass criminal history and background check. No prior convictions of child abuse or violence in any form.
8) Must possess strong communication and organizational skills. Must be self-motivated, dependable and able to work with minimum supervision.
9) Able to work effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds.
10) Computer, keyboarding and general office skills required. An intermediate Level of Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Windows, and Internet Skills.
11) Must be willing and able to travel.
12) Must be willing to work an adjustable schedule to conduct home visits outside of provider's regular child care schedule to ensure home visit does not conflict with care of children.
Native Preference per P.L. 93-638 Approved (3/28/12)
Interested individuals may contact Human Resources with questions at 907-443-5231. Applications can be accessed via Kawerak's website at www.kawerak.org or by contacting Human Resources at 907-443-5231. Applications may be faxed to Kawerak Human Resources at

907-443-4443 or sent via email to personnel@kawerak.org.

Kawerak Recruitment Notice – 4/5/2012-4/19/2012
DIVISION: Education, Employment & Training
DEPARTMENT: Child Care Services
JOB TITLE: **Administrative Assistant**
POSITION STATUS: Regular, Full-Time
EXEMPT STATUS: Non-Exempt
PAYSCALE GRADE: 10-11-12 (\$20.95-\$27.34)
REPORTS TO: Child Care Director
QUALIFICATIONS:
1) High school diploma or GED. AA Degree or two (2) years of responsible work experience.
2) Must be at least 21 years of age.
3) Be able to calculate financial information.
4) Must pass criminal history and background check. No prior convictions of child abuse or violence in a form.
5) Ability to maintain strict confidentiality.
6) Must possess strong communication and organizational skills. Must be self-motivated, dependable and able to work with minimal supervision.
7) Be able to work effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds.
8) Computer, keyboarding and office skills required. Knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, Windows, Publisher and Internet Skills required.
Native Preference per P.L. 93-638 Approved (3/23/12)
Interested individuals may contact Human Resources with questions at 907-443-5231. Applications can be accessed via Kawerak's website at www.kawerak.org or by contacting Human Resources at 907-443-5231. Applications may be faxed to Kawerak Human Resources at 907-443-4443 or sent via email to personnel@kawerak.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Disposal
of Real Property
by Sealed Bid



The following described real property shall be sold by sealed bid to the highest responsible and responsive bid per the terms and conditions set forth in the Bid Specifications available at the City Clerk's office at City Hall:

DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
001.221.13 Block 93 Lot 12C Nome Townsite 505 Bering St	No Minimum

Bid documents are available at the City of Nome, P.O. Box 281, 101 Division Street, Nome, AK 99762, Contact the City Clerk at (907) 443-6611.

Sealed bids must be received by the City of Nome at the above address not later than 5:00 PM Alaska Time on Friday, May 11, 2012. Late bids will not be accepted.

4/12-19-26; 5/3

WANTED— Offshore gold lease Sublease, purchase or percentage larger operation capable of large production. Contact skyguy100@hotmail.com
3/22-29-4/5-12-19-26-5/3-10

Tall Tale Taxidermy in Ketchikan, AK is looking for salted and dried muskox hides, complete with all hair and as much leg as possible. Please call Diane at 907-225-2502 or e-mail me at di-aszu@yahoo.com. Leave message if not home, will be gone 4-2 thru 4-9.
3/29; 4/5-12-19

SALE— Skyline dragline dredging system in Nome W/2 6 cu.yd. buckets, lots of cable. Dredge deep or shallow / water or land. See video www.alaska.com \$330k (541) 291-0529 / (541) 582-0803
4/12-19

Seawall

On 4-2 at approximately 10:08 a.m. Barb Nichols called NPD to report that Harold Ahmasuk, 89, of Nome, had run into her 2002 Toyota Tundra pickup, causing damage, and then left the scene. NPD responded to the call and located Mr. Ahmasuk who was unaware that he had been involved in a collision. Mr. Ahmasuk returned to the location of the collision and exchanged information with Ms. Nichols. Damage estimates to the vehicles was not available, however damage was minor. There were no injuries reported.

On 04-3 Nome Police officers received a report of a woman who was threatening to jump from the second floor of a building on Front Street. Upon arrival, officers found that the woman had left the area. Officers searched the local area and as a result, made contact with Carrie Komonaseak, 23, of Nome. Komonaseak was intoxicated and uncooperative. She was found to be on probation and was arrested for violation of her probation. Komonaseak was transported to Norton Sound Regional Hospital for evaluation and subsequently remanded to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center.

On 4-5 at about 12:30 a.m. Nome Police stopped a vehicle driven by KIRK MUKTOYUK, 28, of Nome, for a traffic violation. Investigation indicated that the occupants of the vehicle had been smoking marijuana in the vehicle. MUKTOYUK was observed to be under the influence of controlled substances and was subsequently arrested for Driving while Under the Influence (DUI - controlled substance). MUKTOYUK was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. Bail was set not set as it was a Felony DUI charge.

On 4-5 at approximately 11:55 a.m. NPD received a report of an attempted burglary at a business on Front Street. Investigation indicates that entry was attempted, however was not gained. There was no damage reported. The incident is under investigation.

On 4-6 at 11:09 p.m., Nome Police responded to a reported domestic disturbance at 609 E. 4th Ave. Investigation resulted in the arrest of TERRI NOONGWOOK, 44, of Nome, Alaska for Assault in the Fourth Degree. NOONGWOOK was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where she was remanded to custody. There was no bail set for this offense as it is a domestic violence offense.

On 4-6 at approximately 10:18 a.m., NPD contacted Christopher Pettit, 38, of Nome in reference to two outstanding warrants issued out of Palmer. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Pettit for the outstanding warrants. Pettit was transported to AMCC where he was remanded with bail set at \$1,000.

On 4-6 at 12:30 a.m. Nome Police arrested TERENCE MICHELS, 55, of Nome, for driving while intoxicated. MICHELS was contacted after he was observed committing several moving violations. MICHELS was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. Bail was set at \$1,000.

On 4-8 at 3:32 a.m. hours, Nome Police responded to a reported domestic disturbance. Investigation resulted in the arrest of JOHN BULLOCK, 39, of NOME, for Assault in the Fourth Degree. BULLOCK was taken to Anvil Mountain

continued on page 13

Real Estate



Nome Sweet Homes
907-443-7368

PATENTED MINING CLAIM
74 Acres Nome-Teller Hwy
Approx 8 miles from Nome

DEXTER ROADHOUSE
Former roadhouse,
Great site for base camp,
B&B, Hunting Lodge, etc.

ARCTIC TRADING POST
Established, great location
Coffee, artwork, books, flowers,
MUCH MUCH MORE!



OPEN HOUSE
2,000 sq ft 4br/3ba
office AND garage
SATURDAY 2-4
804 E 3rd Avenue

MORE LISTINGS AVAILABLE AT:
www.nomesweethomes.com

MUNAQSRI Senior Apartments • “A Caring Place”
NOW taking applications for one-bedroom unfurnished apartments, heat included

“62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled, regardless of age”

- Electricity subsidized; major appliances provided
- Rent based on income for eligible households
- Rent subsidized by USDA Rural Development



EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER

PO BOX 1289 • Nome, AK 99762
Helen “Huda” Ivanoff, Manager

(907) 443-5220
Fax: (907) 443-5318
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-770-8973

District 39 Democratic Caucus Meeting

April 13, 2012

**at the Polar Cafe in Nome
at 6 p.m.**

**Delegate Selection for President.
Delegate Selection for State Convention.**

**Must be a Registered Democrat
to be a Delegate.**

Any questions please call
Louis Green Sr. at 304-1231 or
Nancy Green at 443-5892

4/5,12

**King Island
Native**



Corporation

The King Island Native Corporation will hold their Annual Meeting of Shareholders on
Saturday, April 28, 2012
at Old Saint Joe's on Anvil City Square in Nome, Alaska at 1 p.m. for the following purpose: Election of two (2) directors and other matters listed on the agenda.

3/1-8-15-22-29; 4/5-12-19-26

• More Letters

continued from page 2

met in Nome while I was there. Thanks to Wally for all the trouble I seem to give him, quyanna-buk. Thank you Pat for telling me that you push the areas you ache at toward that ache, that way it shortens the muscle, then hold it that way for at least 90 seconds. I still swear by stinkweed, I wish I had some. It's been a slow recovery.

Although I do appreciate their putting us up at the Hostel, the water for the showers was barely warm. Fastest shower I ever took. I think there are a great many of us who would appreciate it if they turned it up a little hotter. It is a nice place to stay, although the food could be a little better. I really did appreciate it though, and it is a nice place. Best thing about it is it will be right next to the new hospital. Quyanna for everything you did for my cousin and I.

It was really good to see some of my friends too. I'm glad to see you all looking well. Don't forget to give my other buddies a hug for me.

I just got home and already I am crying. It saddens me that no matter how much I say thank you to my son for having to do this or that because it's a part of an everyday thing—a part of life. I told him that I am not the only one who appreciates what he does, that other people appreciate it too. So he has decided that he will not do anything his mother says. I keep trying to tell him he can go to college or vocational training. That he can take up whatever he'd like to become, that there is help in scholarships and my son is very smart I'd say.

If I were to talk back to my parents, I would get punished. I told him in my day we had to do twice the things he does. At least he has sisters to share the different things that need being done. Heck I'd be happy for that. I know I was and I will miss seeing my sister again, just as I do my best friend, but life goes on.

Another stressor I have had is my youngest daughter resenting me, because about a year and a half ago one of her friends said I didn't love her, which totally isn't true. Then her out-of-town friends keep bugging her to either move or visit them

Legals

**CITY OF NOME
PUBLIC NOTICE**
O-12-03-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Municipal Property by Quitclaim Deeds to the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, for the Snake River Bridge Replacement Project. This ordinance had first reading at the regular meeting of the Nome City Council on March 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. and was passed to second reading, public hearing and final passage at a regular meeting of the Council scheduled for April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall located at 102 Division Street. Copies of the ordinance are available in the office of the City Clerk.
4/12-19

Trooper Beat

On April 4, approximately 1:15 p.m., the Unalakleet Troopers arrested Tauna Showalter, 29, of Unalakleet, on a federal warrant, which the original charge, was misconduct involving a weapon. Showalter was transported and incarcerated at Anvil Mountain Correctional Center until agents from ATF can provide transport to Federal Court in Anchorage for arraignment. Showalter was arrested without incident.

On April 4, St. Michael VPOs received a report that Dan Pete, 27, of Stebbins had stolen a 2012 SkiDoo 800R snowmachine. VPOs found the snowmachine in St. Michael and located Pete at the St. Michael Clinic. Investigation revealed that Pete was intoxicated and had taken the snowmachine without permission. Somewhere between the two villages he crashed, sustaining minor injuries. Pete continued on to St. Michael where he was located. Pete was treated and released from the clinic and arrested for Vehicle Theft in the First Degree and Driving Under the Influence.

On April 5, approximately 1:45 p.m., the Unalakleet Troopers received a report of a possible sexual assault. No further information will be provided at this time since the incident is still under investigation. If report is founded an update with information will be released at a later date.

• More Seawall

continued from page 12

Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. There was no bail set for this offense as it is a domestic violence offense.

On 4-8 at 22:55 p.m., Nome Police responded to a reported disturbance. Investigation resulted in the arrest of KELLY SLWOOKO, 33, of Gambell, for Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree and Disorderly Conduct. SLWOOKO was taken to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center where he was remanded to custody. Bail was set at \$500.

During this reporting period, NPD transported two persons to AMCC for a Title 47 Hold.

for an outrageous amount of time. But all I can do is tell my kids I love them, so I do that as many times a day as I could, because they are precious to me. I would not wish to be the person to hurt my kids, because I think I would go berserk if something happened to one of them. And they already call me crazy because I must say my peace of mind.

As for GCI. I am terribly disappointed with them. They might say AT&T was rated as one of the lowest. I tell you what—I'd rather have AT&T, can't wait until they get here. There are five of us here in my family at the moment and one of them is away at Mt. Edgecumbe, so instead of having a house phone my kids talked me into cell phones. Then they talked me into doing Nationwide, Unlimited, of which GCI said would cost a total of \$232—yeah right. So far it cost over \$300 a month, some times \$400 and because we were not able to pay for a

month and a half, because of the holidays, they cut us off. So, we called up GCI to see how much we owed, so we could get our phones turned on. They said not possible. I don't see why not, we were willing to continue to pay for the \$300+ whatever it is per month.

So I guess they lost that revenue, oh well. Not only that, but they still want to charge me the \$127—early disconnect fee on every phone. Do you know that GCI charges you for the 800 calls you make? Along with 411 calls. Probably along with the other GCI numbers of the other companies that GCI bought out. Can't seem to get a hold of the AT&T numbers with GCI phones though. I bet you anything they charge you even if you don't get hold of your party. Much less, even though they say you don't get charged for calling within your town, they probably take and add those to your minutes. So much for

free, or low, this or that as they say. I'm just glad that I don't disappoint as many people s they do. And maybe AT&T wouldn't drop as many phone calls as GCI seems to.

Tell me why—because I really would like to know—are we Alaskans having to pay such outrageous price for oil and gas? I thought we have our own oil pipeline. What about our own refinery? Here in Unalakleet we are now paying \$6.57 a gallon, and that's cheaper than other places. We need to stand up for our rights and tell our legislators that we want the pipeline set up going across Alaska, with substations in places like Galena, Unalakleet, Koyuk or Golovin, Nome, and on up to the Kotzebue, Barrow area. Along with a bigger refinery

and an instantaneous fuel spill recovery plan. Not only would that create jobs, but also it would lead us to becoming a stronger nation, able to help ourselves and others— along with future generations.

It greatly upsets me too, I keep trying to tell the kids of my son's generation that they can go to school for free—at the moment and take up whichever career they want to become. And yet they would rather stay at home, and be bums and keep getting into trouble—no matter how much I bug them about it. Then all I could do is give them a hug and say I love you.

Y'all take care everyone. Please stay safe.
Karen Nanouk
Unalakleet, AK 99684



**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC MEETING**
NORTON SOUND/BERING STRAIT
REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM
MEETING

**Wednesday, April 25, 2012 (10:30 a.m.)
Nome Recreation Center
208 East Sixth Avenue**

The ADF&G announces the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team (NSBS RPT) will meet Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 10:30 a.m. at the Nome Recreation Center. The topic of discussion will be updating the regional comprehensive salmon plan. The meeting is open to public attendance and participation.

For additional information please call 907-465-4235 or email samuel.rabung@alaska.gov

4/12-19



**PUBLIC NOTICE
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
COMMISSION SEAT
APPOINTMENTS**

The Museum and Library Commission has three seats open for appointment. Anyone interested in serving on the Museum and Library Commission should submit an application to the City Clerk's Office by Monday, April 30, 2012 at 5:00 PM.

Applications are available at City Hall or at www.nomealaska.org. Please call 443-6603 for more information.

4/12-19-26

**NOTICE OF
DECLARATION OF
CANDIDACY**

Seven (7) seats are open on the Teller Native Corporation Board of Directors. Candidate qualifications:

- 1.) Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- 2.) Enrolled to the Teller Native Corporation
- 3.) Reside in Teller

Letters of Declaration of Candidacy must be sent or hand delivered to the office manager at the above mailing address and must be postmarked by **5:00 P.M. March 13, 2012**. Annual meeting date is tentatively set for April 21, 2012. If you have any questions, please call the office at (907) 642-6132.

**TELLER NATIVE CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
P.O. BOX 649, TELLER, AK 99778
PH. 907-642-6132, FAX 907-642-6133**

2/16-23; 3-1-8-15-29/4/5-12

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
MOONLIGHT WELLS PERMIT**



A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NOME COMMON COUNCIL TO SEEK COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING:

Approval of a Permit to be issued to Nome Alaska Gold Concentrates, LLC for Operation of a Placer Mine within the Moonlight Wells Protection Area

**DATE: Monday April 23, 2012
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers**

A Copy of the Permit is Available at Nome City Hall

4/12-19



**Project: Norton Sound Replacement Hospital
Deadline for Qualifications April 27, 2012**
Solicitation
Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is soliciting qualifications and basic fee information from Relocation Firms for advanced planning, scheduling, and relocation of furnishings, materials, inventory, equipment, and supplies from the current 60,000 square foot, 16 bed facility and the 15 bed Quynna Care Center addition at 306 West 5th Ave, Nome, AK 99762, to a new 141,400 square foot, 18 bed facility, located at 1000 E 7th Ave, Nome, AK 99762 and a new 15,145 square foot, 18 bed Quynna Care Center at 1002 E 7th Ave, Nome, AK 99762 (both locations are 2 miles away from the current facility). The new facilities are under construction and scheduled to be substantially complete in September 2012. The patient move date is anticipated to be **December 8, 2012**. The firm selected for this role will lead the move process in respect to move planning and managing the physical move itself. To obtain a RFQ package contact Ms. Michele Woods at 907-443-6769, email: mdwoods@nshcorp.org.

Submittals
Deadline: Friday April 27, 2012 at 1:00 PM. **Address Responses To:** Mr. Randy Romanesko, PE Project Engineer, New NSHC Regional Hospital Project PO Box 96 Nome, Alaska 9976. **Required Number of Copies:** Three (3) hard copies. Qualification packages received after the deadline may be returned unopened. Responses should provide a description of the Firm's ability to satisfy each of the requirements as identified in Section E of this RFQ. Please number all pages. Any attachments will be considered part of the submission, and should be listed in the response. Failure to address all of the mandatory requirements may result in disqualification. The ability of the Provider to submit a clear, easy to read, and well-thought out proposal will be considered in the evaluation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Issue RFQ to Vendors | Monday, April 2, 2012 |
| 2. Request to be included on the official Plan Holders list due: | Friday, April 13, 2012 at 1:00PM |
| 3. Questions from Vendors about scope or approach due: | Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 1:00 PM |
| 4. Responses to Vendors about scope or approach due: | Friday, April 20, 2012 |
| 5. RFQ Response with Bid Intention Due Date: | Friday, April 27, 2012 at 1:00 PM |
| 6. Target date for Presentation of Proposals: | Friday, May 11, 2012 |
| 7. Final Vendor Selection Discussion (s) – Week of: | May 14 th – 18 th |
| 8. Anticipated decision and selection of Vendor (s): | Friday, May 25, 2012 |
| 9. Anticipated Commencement date of work: | Friday, June 8, 2012 |
| 10. Final Activation Plan delivered to NSHC: | Friday, July 13, 2012 |

Contact Information
For questions regarding this RFQ or additional information regarding the project, please contact: Randy Romanesko, PE Project Engineer, New NSHC Regional Hospital Project 907.304.2240, rromenesko@nshcorp.org. Addenda will be issued as deemed appropriate by the Owner Transition Team.



**PLEASE
HELP**

**Adopt a Pet
or make your
donation
today!**

Adopt a pet and get a FREE bag of dog/cat food when you adopt a dog/cat. Dog food, cat food, cat litter and other donations are always welcome at the Nome Animal Shelter!

Nome Animal Control & Adopt-A-Pet
443-5212 or 443-5262

• More Around the Sound

continued from page 11
itreport.com
National Foundation for Credit
Counseling: nfcc.org
Federal Reserve:
federalreserve.gov
Financial Literacy and Education
Commission: mymoney.gov
Consumer Financial Protection
Bureau: consumerfinance.gov

FINRA Investor Education Founda-
tion: saveandinvest.org
BBB’s Managing Credit – Made
Simpler: bbb.org/credit-management
Be Money Wi\$e: money-wise.org
Alaska Jump\$tart: akjumpstart.org
or jumpstart.org
BBB urges consumers to also take
advantage of free events.

Court

**Week ending 4/6
Civil**
Analoak, Nancy T. vs. Schulling, Richard B.; Domestic Violence: Ex Parte with Chil-
dren
In the Matter of: Thiele, Jordan and Thiele, Darlene; Dissolution Without Children - Su-
perior Court
In the Matter of: Ahmasuk, Robert H. New Name: Earp, Robert C.; Change of Name
of Minor
Small Claims
No current claims on file.
Criminal
State of Alaska v. Raymond Douglas (9/8/79); Dismissal; Count 001: Assault 4°; Count
002: Criminal Mischief 4°; Filed by the DAs Office 4/3/12.
State of Alaska v. Marlene M. Nakarak (7/20/87); Dismissal; Count 001: Assault 4°;
Filed by the DAs Office 4/3/12.
State of Alaska v. Bertha Iya (7/25/75); Escape 4°; Date of violation: 12/30/11; Any ap-
pearance or performance bond is exonerated; 270 days, 0 days suspended; Un-
suspended 270 days shall be served with defendant remanded to AMCC; Initial Jail
Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Sur-
charge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days.
State of Alaska v. Edith Janelle Katongan (10/5/77); Transport Alcohol by Common
Carrier; CTN Chrgs Dismissed by State: count 2 (002); 30 days, 30 days sus-
pended; Forfeit alcohol to State; Suspended Jail Surcharge: \$100 per case with
\$100 suspended; Must be paid if probation is revoked and, in connection, defendant
is arrested and taken to jail or is sentenced to jail; Police Training Surcharge: \$50
shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Probation to 3/23/14; Shall comply
with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law per-
taining to alcoholic beverages; Shall not possess or consume alcohol; Shall not
have alcohol in her residence; Shall not enter or remain on the premises of any bar
or liquor store; Subject to warrantless breath testing at the request of any peace of-
ficer; Not be where alcohol is present; Person and baggage are subject to war-
rantless search at any airport en route to local option community; Subject to
warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation.
State of Alaska v. Jonathan Moses (5/25/84); Count 001: Assault 4°; DV; Date of vi-
olation: 3/9/12; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; CTN Chrgs Dis-
missed by State: ctn 002 (ct 2); 90 days, 60 days suspended; Unsuspended 30
days shall be served with defendant remanded to AMCC; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50
per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Suspended Jail Surcharge: \$100 per
case with \$100 suspended; Must be paid if probation is revoked and, in connection,
defendant is arrested and taken to jail or is sentenced to jail; Police Training Sur-
charge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Probation to 3/30/14;
Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Subject to warrantless ar-
rest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no violations of
law; Shall not contact, directly or indirectly, R.M. or A.M.
State of Alaska v. Doreen Lockwood (8/10/75); Assault 4°; DV; Date of violation:
2/22/12; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 45 days, 0 days sus-
pended; Unsuspended 45 days shall be served with defendant remanded to AMCC;
Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Train-
ing Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days.
State of Alaska v. Kelley Green (4/18/77); Drunken Person on Licensed Premises; Date
of violation: 3/24/12; 5 days, 1 day suspended; Unsuspended 1 day not exceeding
time served; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage;
Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Pro-
bation to 6/11/12; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall
commit no violations of law.
State of Alaska v. Julian Ray Apatiki (4/10/89); Misconduct Involving Controlled Sub-
stance 5°; Date of offense: 9/27/11; Any appearance or performance bond is ex-
onerated; Suspended Imposition of Sentence: Imposition of sentence is suspended;
On probation subject to terms, orders, and conditions listed below; Forfeit mari-
juana to State; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within
10 days; Probation for one year (date of judgment: 3/29/12); Shall comply with all
court orders by the deadlines stated; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation
of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no violations of law; Shall not pos-
sess or consume controlled substances without prescription.
State of Alaska v. Rodney Whitt (8/25/62); Drunken Person on Licensed Premises;
Date of violation: 3/31/12; 20 days, 18 day suspended; Remanded; Initial Jail Sur-
charge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Suspended Jail Sur-
charge: \$100 per case with \$100 suspended; Must be paid if probation is revoked
and, in connection, defendant is arrested and taken to jail or is sentenced to jail;
Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Pro-
bation to 3/31/13; Shall commit no violations of law pertaining to alcoholic
beverages.
State of Alaska v. Randy Annogyiuk (12/23/87); 2NO-11-92CR Order to Modify or Re-
voke Probation; ATN: 110670849; Violated conditions of probation; All other terms
and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Randy Annogyiuk (12/23/87); 2NO-12-8CR Count 003: Assault 4°;
Police Officer; Date of violation: 1/2/12; Any appearance or performance bond is
exonerated; CTN Chrgs Dismissed by State: counts 1, 2; 6 months, 0 days sus-
pended; Unsuspended 6 months shall be served with defendant remanded to
AMCC; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Po-
lice Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days.
State of Alaska v. Alfred Kakoon (6/30/78); 2NO-10-230CR Order to Modify or Re-
voke Probation; ATN: 110006172; Violated conditions or probation; Probation ex-

tended to 3/29/14; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; All other
terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Alfred Kakoon (6/30/78); 2NO-12-12CR Notice of Dismissal; Charge
002: Resisting Arrest; Filed by the DAs Office 3/29/12.
State of Alaska v. Jennifer Adsuna (1/30/91); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; Vi-
olated conditions of probation; Probation terminated; Suspended jail term revoked
and imposed: 5 days, remanded into custody.
State of Alaska v. Terri Noongwook (6/22/67); 2NO-11-537CR Order to Modify or Re-
voke Probation; ATN: 112703814; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail
term revoked and imposed: 5 days, not to exceed time served; All other terms and
conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Terri Noongwook (6/22/67); 2NO-12-174CR Harassment 2°; Date of
violation: 3/26/12; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 60 days, 60
day suspended; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, An-
chorage; Suspended Jail Surcharge: \$100 per case with \$100 suspended; Must be
paid if probation is revoked and, in connection, defendant is arrested and taken to
jail or is sentenced to jail; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this
court within 10 days; Probation to 4/2/13; Shall comply with all court orders by the
deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law.
State of Alaska v. Ronald Katchatag (3/30/91); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation;
ATN: 112702356; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked
and imposed: all remaining time, 6 months; Must pay suspended \$100 jail sur-
charge to the AGs Office, Anchorage.
State of Alaska v. Frank Waghiyi (11/12/55); Judgment and Order of Commitment/Pro-
bation; Count 001: Criminal Nonsupport; Date of offense: 10/10/03; 24 months, 21
months suspended; Any unsuspended time is to be served with Defendant ap-
pearing at the Nome Court for a Remand Hearing at 1:30 p.m. on 5/1/12; Defendant
is to be credited for time already served; Police Training Surcharge: pay to the court
the following surcharge pursuant to AS 12.55.039 within 10 days: Count 001: \$100;
Initial Jail Surcharge: Defendant was arrested and taken to a correctional facility or
is being ordered to serve a term of imprisonment; Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that
defendant immediately pay a correctional facilities surcharge of \$100 per case to the
Department of Law Collections Unit, Anchorage; Suspended Jail Surcharge: De-
fendant is being placed on probation; Therefore IT IS ORDERED that the defendant
pay an additional \$100 correctional facility surcharge; This surcharge is suspended
and must only be paid if defendant’s probation is revoked and, in connection with
the revocation, defendant is arrested and taken to a correctional facility or jail time
is ordered served AS 12.55.041(c); DNA Identification: Defendant shall provide sam-
ples for the DNA registration system when requested to do so by a health care pro-
fessional acting on behalf of the state and provide oral samples for the DNA
registration system when requested by a correctional, probation, parole or peace of-
ficer; Probation: After serving the term of incarceration, defendant is placed on pro-
bation for 5 years under the following conditions: General and Special Conditions
of Probation set, as stated in order.
State of Alaska v. Laurie Keith (11/14/90); Order of Dismissal; Count 001: Burglary 1-
Cause/Attempt Injury; Date of offense: 3/15/12; Count 001 is dismissed pursuant to:
Rule 5 – Dismissal on motion defendant due to decision by Prosecuting Attorney not
to proceed with preliminary hearing.
State of Alaska v. Archie D. Adams (12/7/77); Dismissal; The above caption case, 2NO-
12-182CR, is hereby dismissed by the prosecuting attorney pursuant to Criminal
Rule 43(a); this charge is being consolidated with case 2NO-12-175CR; Filed by the
DAs Office 3/28/12.
State of Alaska v. Archie Tocktoo (5/23/70); Criminal Mischief 4°; DV; Date of violation:
3/31/12; 90 days, 75 day suspended; Unsuspended 15 days shall be served with
defendant remanded; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office,
Anchorage; Suspended Jail Surcharge: \$100 per case with \$100 suspended; Must
be paid if probation is revoked and, in connection, defendant is arrested and taken
to jail or is sentenced to jail; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through
this court within 10 days; Probation for 1 year (date of judgment 4/4/12); Shall com-
ply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law,
assaultive or disorderly conduct, or domestic violence.
State of Alaska v. Tudor U. Wheeler (1/14/82); Judgment and Order of Commit-
ment/Probation; Count 001: Cntrlrd Substc 2- Manuf/Deliv IA; Date of offense:
10/1/10; The following charges were dismissed pursuant to Criminal rule 43(a): CTN
002: Cntrlrd Substc 2- Manuf/Deliv IA; Date of offense: 10/21/10; 7 years, 3 years
suspended; Any unsuspended time is to be served with Defendant appearing at the
Nome Court for a Remand Hearing at 1:30 p.m. on 4/20/12; Defendant is to be
credited for time already served in this case; Police Training Surcharge: pay to the
court the following surcharge pursuant to AS 12.55.039 within 10 days: Count 001:
\$100; Initial Jail Surcharge: Defendant was arrested and taken to a correctional fac-
ility or is being ordered to serve a term of imprisonment; Therefore, IT IS OR-
DERED that defendant immediately pay a correctional facilities surcharge of \$100
per case to the Department of Law Collections Unit, Anchorage; Suspended Jail
Surcharge: Defendant is being placed on probation; Therefore IT IS ORDERED
that the defendant pay an additional \$100 correctional facility surcharge; This sur-
charge is suspended and must only be paid if defendant’s probation is revoked and,
in connection with the revocation, defendant is arrested and taken to a correctional
facility or jail time is ordered served AS 12.55.041(c); DNA Identification: Defendant
shall provide samples for the DNA registration system when requested to do so by
a health care professional acting on behalf of the state and provide oral samples for
the DNA registration system when requested by a correctional, probation, parole or
peace officer; Restitution: IT IS ORDERED that defendant pay restitution as follows:
Restitution Recipients: State of Alaska, Amount \$780.00; Payments must be made

to the Department of Law Collections Unit, Anchorage; The court will also accept
payments; Restitution is due immediately for civil execution purposes, unless def-
endant establishes a payment schedule with the Department of Law Collections
Unit or, in municipal cases, with the court; If the defendant misses any required
payment, the total unpaid amount becomes immediately due and civil execution
may begin; Interest will accrue on the principal amount of restitution due at the rate
provided in AS 09.30.070(a), currently 3.75%, from: the date of this judgment
(4/3/12); Defendant is ordered to apply for an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend
every year in which defendant is a resident eligible for a dividend until the restitu-
tion is paid in full; Probation: After serving the term of incarceration, defendant is
placed on probation for 4 years under the following conditions: General and Special
Conditions of Probation set, as stated in order.
State of Alaska v. Garrett Adsuna (3/3/79); 2NO-11-445CR Order to Modify or Revoke
Probation; ATN: 112703013; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term
is hereby revoked and imposed: 10 days, consecutive to the term in Case No. 2NO-
12-157CR; Remanded into custody; All other terms and conditions of probation in
the original judgment remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Garrett Adsuna (3/3/79); 2NO-12-10CR Notice of Dismissal; Charge
001: Resisting Arrest; Charge 002: Disorderly Conduct; Filed by the DAs Office
4/5/12.
State of Alaska v. Garrett Adsuna (3/3/79); 2NO-12-157CR Violating Release Condi-
tions; Date of violation: 3/18/12; Any appearance or performance bond is exoner-
ated; 10 days, 0 days suspended; Unsuspended 10 days shall be served with
defendant remanded to AMCC consecutive to 2NO-11-445CR; Initial Jail Surcharge:
\$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: \$50
shall be paid through this court within 10 days.
State of Alaska v. Ambrose Curtis Takak (7/14/77); Dismissal; Count 001: 4° Miscon-
duct Involving a Controlled Substance; Filed by the DAs Office 4/5/12.
State of Alaska v. Galen L. Doty (2/24/86); Dismissal; Count 001: Assault 4°; Filed by
the DAs Office 4/4/12.
State of Alaska v. Carrie Komonaseak (4/25/88); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation;
ATN: 1123697055; Violated conditions of probation; Probation extended to 12/1/14;
Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 15 days, remanded into custody; Must
pay suspended \$100 jail surcharge to the AGs Office, Anchorage; All other terms
and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Rodney W. Lewis (5/27/68); Lawful Gear For Registration Area
Q/King Crab Pot Must Four Circular Escape Rings; Date of offense: 3/19/12; Police
training surcharge due in 10 days: \$10 (Infrac); Fined \$500 with \$200 suspended;
Unsuspended \$300 is to be paid 7/1/12; Probation until 4/3/13; Comply with all di-
rect court orders listed above by the deadlines stated; Commit no commercial fish-
ing violations during the probation period.
State of Alaska v. Charles A. Lewis Jr. (1/12/82); 2NO-12-179CR Lawful Gear For Reg-
istration Area Q/King Crab Pot Must Four Circular Escape Rings; Date of offense:
3/19/12; Police training surcharge due in 10 days: \$10 (Infrac); Fined \$500 each
with \$250 suspended; Unsuspended \$250 is to be paid by 4/16/12; Probation until
4/3/13; Comply with all direct court orders listed above by the deadlines stated;
Commit no commercial fishing violations during the probation period.
State of Alaska v. Charles A. Lewis Jr. (1/12/82); 2NO-12-180CR Lawful Gear For Reg-
istration Area Q/King Crab Pot Must Four Circular Escape Rings; Date of offense:
3/19/12; Police training surcharge due in 10 days: \$10 (Infrac); Fined \$500 each
with \$250 suspended; Unsuspended \$250 is to be paid by 4/16/12; Probation until
4/3/13; Comply with all direct court orders listed above by the deadlines stated;
Commit no commercial fishing violations during the probation period.
State of Alaska v. Marcus Barr (11/12/90); Correct Judgment; Count 001: Hunting Sea-
sons And Bag Limits For Moose; Count 002: Take Game from a Motor Driven Ve-
hicle; Date of offenses: 8/17/11; Fine: Count 001 and 002: Fined \$500 each count
with \$100 suspended each count; Unsuspended \$400 is to be paid 7/1/12 for each
count; Police Training Surcharge: To be paid within 10: Count 001 and 002: \$10
(Infrac) each count; Restitution: Shall pay \$250 due by 7/1/12 to State; Probation
for 1 year (date of judgment: 3/20/12); Comply with all direct court orders listed
above by the deadlines stated; Commit no fish and game violations during the pro-
bation period.
State of Alaska v. Edwin Campbell (10/23/74); 2NO-11-785CR Violating Release Con-
ditions; Date of violation: 12/7/11; Any appearance or performance bond is exoner-
ated; 15 days, 0 days suspended; Unsuspended 15 days shall be served with
defendant remanded to AMCC consecutive to 2NO-11-340CR; Initial Jail Surcharge:
\$50 per case; Due not to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: \$50
shall be paid through this court within 10 days.
State of Alaska v. Edwin Campbell (10/23/74); 2NO-12-85CR Notice of Dismissal;
Charge 001: Burglary 1; Filed by the DAs Office 4/3/12.
State of Alaska v. Evonne C. Newhall (2/14/88); Misconduct Involving Controlled Sub-
stance 6°; Date of offense: 10/13/11; Any appearance or performance bond is ex-
onerated; Forfeit marijuana to State; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid
through this court within 10 days; Probation for one year (date of judgment: 4/5/12);
Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations
of law; Shall not possess or consume controlled substances without prescription.
State of Alaska v. James K. Barr (5/8/91); Possession, Control , or Consumption of Al-
cohol by Person Under Age 21; First Offense; Date of offense: 3/17/12; Fine: \$300
with \$100; Unsuspended \$200 is to be paid to the court by 7/1/12 or show proof of
66 hours work service by 7/1/12; Probation until 4/5/13; Comply with all direct court
orders listed above by the deadlines stated; May not consume inhalants or pos-
sess or consume controlled substance or alcoholic beverages, except as provided
in AS 04.16.051(b).

• Arctic planning and infrastructure investment in Alaska

continued from page 2

port and safe harbor construction in the Alaskan Arctic. It would be valuable for the state to convene an industry-focused Alaska Arctic Ports Workshop to assess the pros and cons of alternative locations and types of ports, address environmental conditions and engineering approaches, and explore funding alternatives.

4. Support search and rescue coordination centers along the coast to assist federal, state, and local responders

The ANWTF supports search and rescue efforts at all levels – federal, state, and local. Because the USCG doesn’t yet have a complete Arctic presence, local communities are often the first responders to an emergency.

The state of Alaska should coordinate planning with the USCG and local communities to develop strategies for increased search and rescue capabilities in the Arctic. Strategies may include purchase of equipment, training, and increased communications capability at the community level.

Other countries are already moving ahead with similar initiatives.

Furthermore, on May 12, 2011 in the Arctic Council formalized a search and rescue agreement that coordinates international SAR response in the Arctic and establishes the geographical area of SAR responsibility for each of the eight Arctic nations. The state should work with the federal government to ensure SAR cooperation with Russia and Canada.

Russia is currently in the process of building 10 search and rescue centers along its Arctic coastline – the first

one is slated for completion this August. Given the size of the Alaskan Arctic, effective local response will be critical. Let’s begin State planning immediately.

A number of valuable state initiatives are underway to look at the potential needs and feasibility of infrastructure projects in Alaska’s Arctic region. These include, at a minimum, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities’ Industrial Use Roads Study and several Arctic Ports studies. We applaud these efforts and encourage them to move forward expeditiously.

Obviously, this is just a partial list of infrastructure investment needs for Alaska to take advantage of the economic opportunities the melting Arctic waters present. Roads, airports, and many other maritime and terrestrial assets are critically needed. It will also be important to consider climate change when planning future infrastructure investment in Alaska’s Arctic. Fluctuations in temperature and precipitation will have implications for both existing facilities and future construction.

It’s clear to us that Alaska must embrace its Arctic destiny and, in partnering with the federal government, industry, and local Arctic communities, make the tough infrastructure investment decisions that will provide a basis for continued economic opportunity for the next century and beyond.

Bob Herron (D-Bethel) has represented House District 38, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, in the Alaska Legislature since 2008. A member of the Northern Waters Task Force, Rep. Herron last Session sponsored HJR 15, supporting the Arctic Caucus; and this Session is sponsoring HJR 34, asking Congress to fund icebreakers and a Coast Guard Arctic base.

Reggie Joule has represented House District 40, the North Slope Borough, the Northwest Arctic Borough, and Shishmaref in the Alaska Legislature since 1996. He was the Chair of the Northern Waters Task Force and is the Chair of the Alaska House Bush Caucus. This Session, he is the sponsor of HCR 23, which would create a 17 member Arctic Policy Commission.

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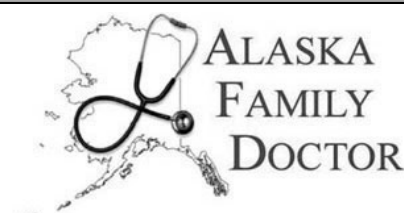
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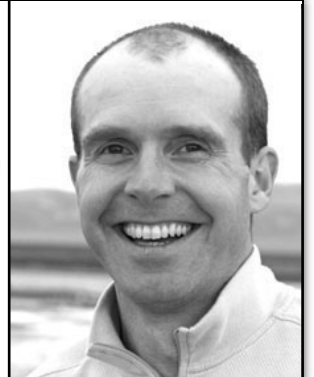


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Researchers continue to seek cause of seal disease

USGS finds polar bears with hair loss and skin lesions

By Diana Haecker

During their annual spring field-work season that began a few weeks ago, United States Geological Survey researchers so far found 11 polar bears in the Southern Beaufort Sea that showed signs of hair loss and skin lesions. The news sounds alarming considering that an Unusual Mortality Event investigation is ongoing in order to find the cause of a disease that befell ice seals and possibly walrus.

The symptoms sound similar: afflicted seals show hair loss, oozing skin lesions and open sores, and also appear lethargic. However, agencies involved in the management of polar bears are cautioning that there is too little information available to determine whether or not the polar bears are suffering from the same mysterious disease that befell the ice seals.

Nome's Jack Omelak with the Alaska Nanuq Commission told *The Nome Nugget* that the afflicted polar bears have been found in the Southern Beaufort Sea – a different population from the Chukchi Sea population. As of Monday, April 9, 11 out of 42 captured polar bears showed hair loss and some kind of skin condition. Omelak said that this number is considered a too small a sample size to jump to conclusions. "The USGS will continue its field-work and have recently begun capturing bears near Kaktovik. If these trends continue within a larger sample size and area, the agencies involved will coordinate a response plan," Omelak said.

The Alaska Nanuq Commission co-manages Alaska's two polar bear populations with the North Slope Borough and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The ANC said in a statement that as of yet, there are no health concerns for humans handling these polar bears. Although there have been several bears taken near local villages, hunters have not reported any symptoms of alopecia, or hair loss, within the Chukchi Sea stock of polar bears. The North Slope Borough also have not received any reports of hunters saying that these symptoms were seen in polar bears. Near Barrow, three bears were observed through a spotting scope showing skin condition symptoms within the last week. None of the agencies involved have issued any alerts to subsistence users of polar bears.

According to the USGS, the polar bears were captured near Barrow and the researchers have moved eastward to Kaktovik to continue their field-work, which will conclude at Prudhoe Bay in May. The bears, USGS scientists say, appeared otherwise healthy in appearance and behavior. In a letter dated March 23 to the NOAA marine mammal health and stranding program, a USGS researcher informed NOAA of their discovery. Up to that date, they found two polar bears showing alopecia, a Greek word for hair loss at the head or body.

The researchers captured one male and one female bear, with the male being in worse condition than the female. The male had oozing sores and hair loss around the neck and the head. Otherwise, they say, he was in good condition. The female had hair loss, but it seemed that she was recovering from the disease. The scientists took skin biopsy, blood and tissue samples of the bears.

Tony DeGange, chief of the Biology Office at USGS Alaska Science Center, said that the USGS works with the UME researchers to make sure that they take similar samples, using similar methods. Aleria Jensen, Marine Mammal Stranded Network coordinator and UME off-site coordinator with NOAA Fisheries confirmed that the polar bear samples are sent to the same labs where seal samples have been sent.

Raphaela Stimmelmayer, wildlife veterinarian and research biologist with the North Slope Borough, and the onsite coordinator for the UME investigation, said in an email correspondence with *The Nugget* that the USGS scientists are investigating in collaboration with the UME whether

there is a relationship to the seal disease. "At the moment we do not have enough evidence to rule in or out that there is a relationship between the polar bear skin condition and seal/walrus skin condition. USGS has seen this or something similar in a few polar bears before," Stimmelmayer wrote.

DeGange confirms that the hair loss is nothing new. USGS has been studying the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population since 1984. In the course of this work, they have encountered a small number of bears with alopecia at various times.

In the winter of 1998/1999, 10 of 48 captured polar bears showed hair loss and although pathology research was done, the cause was never discovered. In the years between 2001 and 2008, the researchers found 15 bears with hair loss. "What makes the spike in frequency this year so interesting is the co-occurrence with the ongoing unexplained mortality event in Arctic ice seals," wrote DeGange. "Affected seals also have shown skin lesions. We do not know if the cause is the same between bears and seals, but such a link is very intriguing, especially because bears eat seals. But we do not have the information yet to link the two."

Last summer an unusual number of ringed seals hauled out on beaches along the Arctic coast of Alaska. Through the fall, hunters reported dead and dying seals with hair loss and skin sores, which led to declaration of an Unusual Mortality Event by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on December 20, 2011.

Based on observations of Pacific walrus with similar skin lesions at a coastal haulout in the same region during fall, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined the UME investigation. Most walrus showing skin lesions appeared to be otherwise healthy, and whether the symptoms observed in the seals and walrus are related is unknown.

Spotted, ringed and bearded seals have been found with similar symptoms spanning a huge region from Canada to Russia and all the way south to Japan. The latest discovery was a seal pup that was found near Yakutat and investigation revealed that it was a ribbon seal.

Aleria Jensen said that the UME investigation has still no answers as to the cause of the disease affecting the ice seals. Just last week, however, the federal government awarded a

\$92,000 Prescott emergency grant to the University of Alaska at Anchorage to cover costs of sending out samples, for lead pathologist Dr. Kathy Burek's time and potentially another veterinarian to support the investigation, for the purchase of an ultra-cold freezer for sample storage and carcass transport costs, among other things.

Jensen said that so far funds to pay for the UME investigation have been fronted by the North Slope Borough, partially out of general stranding network funds and some laboratory work has been done pro bono.

Yet the various tests have not yielded results that could point researchers in the right direction. "We have exhausted standard viral tests," said Jensen. "But there is the suspicion or the possibility that there could be a new virus involved," said Jensen.

UME researchers are hoping that the Columbia University's viral discovery laboratory, a cutting edge scientific lab discovering new viruses, would yield the answer to their questions. Testing for radionuclides is still underway with the final results anticipated in May.

A preliminary report said that radionuclides were not found in the seal samples.

Asked if the UME investigation is

handled differently given that the seal disease is affecting an important food source in Native subsistence cultures, Jensen said that this UME investigation is set apart by the vast network and communication structure that is involved in gaining information and disseminating it.

"The broad network of folks working on this is quite unique," she said. Involved are various regional, state and federal agencies as well as the Ice Seal Committee and the Eskimo Walrus Commission. Jensen said that hunters were driving the investigation as they first alerted the authorities and then delivered the carcasses from as far as Little Diomed to the pathologist's necropsy table. "We try to get information back to the communities," said Jensen.

Austin Ahmasuk, a Nome hunter and temporary representative on the Ice Seal Committee, said that he's not very impressed how the outreach to locals is being handled. "Spring hunting season is here and yet we have received little information to help us understand the disease," said Ahmasuk.

He said he was frustrated that only limited news had trickled down to the hunters who diligently reported observations and delivered the carcasses in the first place. If the re-

searchers found some evidence of infections, he would like to know what to look for in the bodies of seals as they are butchered for consumption.

However, Ahmasuk also said that he observes plenty of healthy seals out there and that he yet has to find a sick one. "I sincerely hope that they are doing fine and that the cause of the disease will be discovered," he said.

In the meantime, scientists working on the UME as well as polar bear researchers ask anyone observing or harvesting a seal, walrus or polar bear with fur loss or skin sores to report their sightings.

For polar bears call the USGS polar bear hotline at 907-786-7034; Raphaela Stimmelmayer at (907) 852-0350 or Jack Omelak at the Alaska Nanuq Commission at 1-907-434-0585.

For diseased seals or walrus call Barrow/North Slope: North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife Management: 907-852-0350; Nome/Bering Strait: Eskimo Walrus Commission: 1-877 277-4392; UAF Marine Advisory Program in Nome: 1-800-478-2202 or 907-443-2397; NOAA Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network: 1-877-925-7773.



Photo by Diana Haecker

UP THE WALL— On Friday, April 6 following their SBA state assessments, Mr. Ian McRae's 56er Expedition Class went on an expedition to the Rock Wall at the Nome Rec. Center. Shown are Ashlynn Kowchee, Amber Tubin, Kevin Erickson and Athena Hall engaged with the wall.



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