



Photo by Diana Haecker

OPEN WATER—The Nome River at Fort Davis shows open water on top of ice due to weeks of warmer than normal temperatures in January. *See story below.*

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Lack of radiation monitoring irks scientists, public

By Diana Haecker

The lack of radiation data collected from Alaskan waters worries the public and scientists alike as the plume of radioactive ocean water from the failed Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant is predicted to arrive on

the U.S. West Coast in spring of 2014.

Subsistence hunter Merlin Koonooka of Gambell said in a phone conversation from his home that he is very worried about the effects radiation may have on the ma-

rine mammals that are a food source for most residents on Saint Lawrence Island. "We keep hearing about radiation from Japan coming our way," he said. "We hope that the state or federal people keep on top of it. We sure like to see someone out there

taking water samples."

"We are concerned about the health of marine mammals and our own health," Koonooka said.

Despite public worries, no monitoring is done or concerted effort is being made to track seawater or subsistence sources for radiation.

"The public is upset," said Nome-based UAF Marine Advisory Program agent Gay Sheffield. "I am concerned about the lack of data, the lack of a coordinated and comprehensive response between state and federal agencies."

She reiterated the fact that communities around Nome heavily rely on wild food gathered from the ocean and that this is an issue of food

security.

The lack of data is not comforting, even so state and federal agencies assure the public that no harmful radiation levels were detected in the seawater and in fish samples taken in Washington or Oregon.

Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Larry Hartig said in a presentation before the Senate Resource Committee that the DEC does not conduct its own radiation monitoring, but is relying on data collected in Washington and Oregon from the federal Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Program Special-

continued on page 4



Photo by Janeen Sullivan

HOOP TIME— Nome Nanook Oliver Hoogendorn, backed up by Degnan Lawrence in the background, goes for a shot as the Unalakleet Wolfpack defend their basket. *See more photos and story on pages 8-9.*

Food Policy Council meets in Nome

By Diana Haecker

Several representatives of the Alaska Food Policy Council traveled to Nome last week to kick off a series of statewide meetings. The goal was to hear from rural residents what works and what doesn't in the Alaskan food system.

The Alaska Food Policy Council is a coalition of agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, and businesses. The role of the council is to find solutions to food systems problems and as such, their intent was to hear from Nomeites on what works, what doesn't and how the Nome food system can be improved.

Gary Ferguson, AFPC board member and the director of Wellness and Prevention at the Alaska Native Health Consortium, addressed the crowd of about 50 who showed up at the Mini Convention Center to talk food for two hours on Friday afternoon.

Food, he said, is something very personal.

Depending on what one eats, it can nourish the body or cause disease.

Alaskans spend \$2.5 billion on food per year, 95 percent of food consumed in Alaska is imported — as opposed to 50 percent in the 1950s — and the food industry accounts for 115,000 jobs in Alaska.

Ferguson preached to the converted when he said that subsistence foods such as fish, seal or wild berries are more healthy and nutrient-dense than processed and imported foods. He said that unhealthy food choices and the lack of exercise could be attributed to the rise in obesity and chronic disease in Alaska, costing the health system \$459 million per year.

Lorinda Lhotka, program manager of the Food and Safety program at the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation further explained that

continued on page 5

Nome experienced fifth warmest January on record

By Diana Haecker

Weather statistics back up what Nomeites felt all along: The last weeks of irritatingly balmy temper-

atures in Nome are officially going into the record books as the fifth warmest January on record since the National Weather Service began gathering data in 1907.

Deering can boast to have had the state high on Sunday, with 48°F.

On Friday, Gambell had the distinct honor to be the State's hot spot as the mercury soared to 48.2°F.

Gambell hunter Merlin Koonooka reported that he had launched his boat right from the beach to go seal hunting. After a successful trip, he said, the water became choppy and the sky foggy as the hunters returned.

In front of Nome, open seawater shows little wind waves on the surface, where last year ice miners

pitched their shacks.

Chickadees chirp in the budding willows. Brown tundra and icy sidewalks are the norm. And while the sun is shining, it is warm, an unusual phenomena for January at this latitude. What is this?

"This is a preview of what the future brings," said John Walsh, Chief Scientist at the International Arctic Research Center at the UAF. Climate models suggest that winters such as the 2013/2014 season could become more common toward the end of the century, Walsh said.

"It's not going to happen every year, but it will happen more often."

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Photo by Nikolai Ivanoff

HARBINGER OF SPRING— A boreal chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) perches on a willow branch in Nome.

On the Web:

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Letters

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to Senate Joint Resolution 9 (SJR 9) & House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR 1). These bills would result in a ballot measure that would allow a vote of the public to change the Alaska's constitution to allow public K-12 funding to be directed to unaccountable, private and for-profit religious and secular schools. Other legislation would then be used to finance the schools through a voucher under the pretense of "parent choice." Please do not allow this to happen. Research has shown that the voucher system is very expensive and leaves even fewer resources for public education. These resolutions do not support all children and I am against them. Since rural Alaska highly depends on public school funding, I believe it is crucial that this resolution does not become a reality.

Berta Gardner addresses it well in her electronic newsletter dated January 23, 2014.

http://alaskasenatedems.com/senator/gardner/012314_bertas_briefings.htm

She quoted Diane Ravitch, the former US Assistant Secretary of Education under President George H. W.

Bush, who was originally a strong proponent of school vouchers, but as the data emerged she changed her way of thinking. She says:

"Protecting our public schools against privatization and saving them for future generations of American children is the civil rights issue of our time."

I strongly agree with her. Please do not support SJR 9 and HJR 1 and other legislation that would result in reduced funding for our public schools.

Sincerely,
Sandi Keller
Nome, AK 99762

P.S. I encourage others in our region to write to Donny Olson and other legislators to stop SJR9. The voucher system cannot work in our villages where there is only one school to attend. This means more funding for the urban schools and less for rural schools.

Dear Editor,

The truth is!

The truth is that to resolve a problem, you have to first admit to and accept the fact that you have a problem!" As a matter of fact, there are so

many lies bouncing around out there that most people wouldn't know the truth is it jumped up and bit them in the backside!

With so many political and media buzzards circling over our heads, and waiting to devour what is left of our economy, our ethics, our morality, and our common sense, we have become so brain washed that we can no longer differentiate between good and evil, truth or lies, or even up from down? Unfortunately however, this is (in my opinion) exactly the way that society is being re-engineered to operate these days!

H. Rick Tavares
Campo, California
91906

Dear Editor:

In the January 30 issue, Dr. Robert Spies compares climate change to a train wreck. Our leaders seem to be largely ignoring it, but we are already seeing the effects, especially in the Arctic. There is an all-volunteer international organization that can help you get involved: the Citizens Climate Lobby, citizensclimatelobby.org. Currently, we are focusing on a carbon tax (with all revenue returned to households) to encourage development of renewable energy alternatives. Go to the web site and find out more. There are things you can do as a concerned citizen.

Philip D. Somervell
Anchorage, AK 99507

A Look at the Past



Comment by Laura Samuelson with photo courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum
A TRUE PROFESSIONAL – “The Seal Hunter” photographed by Curtis Jacobs Sr. for the Lomen Brothers in about 1919.

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

Editorial

Dutch Uncle

Our Royal Dutch Shell Uncle isn't going to drill in the Chukchi Sea this summer and we are being scolded about the Department of Interior's regulations. There are cries of "unfair", "not a level playing field" and too much "federal outreach." They scream about the Ninth District Court rulings.

We are shedding big tears for lost jobs that we never had. We are touting the impeccable drilling practices of a company that ran a drilling rig aground in what some say was an attempt to get out of Alaskan waters to avoid paying taxes. We should feel sorry for our Dutch Uncle because their stock rose in price as soon as Shell announced it was not going to drill in the environmentally sensitive Arctic this season. Shell spent a lot of money in Alaska but it is not a company to throw good money after bad.

Shell supporters should not be blinded by the smoke screen. The real reason Shell pulled out of the Chukchi is a commodity issue. Oil production in the Lower 48 is plentiful and cheaper to produce and Shell has leases in Dakota, Pennsylvania, etc. It's shale oil and not Shell oil that is driving the barrels to market. —N.L.M.—

Illegitimus non carborundum

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Sunrise	02/06/14	10:28 a.m.	High Temp +38° 01/28/14
	02/13/14	10:05 a.m.	Low Temp +08° 02/02/14
Sunset	02/06/14	06:05 p.m.	Peak Wind 30mph, NE, 02/02/14
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Strait Action

Compiled by Diana Haecker

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission issues preliminary report

The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission is going to present its preliminary report to the Legislature this week. The 131-page report is seen as a draft of the final report that is due in January 2015.

“2014 is the Year of the Arctic for the Alaska Legislature. There is a need to make sure Alaska is in the captain’s seat as Arctic decisions are made that will affect all Alaskans today and for hundreds of years,” said AAPC co-chair Senator Lesil McGuire. “Planting a flag in the Arctic is like planting a flag on the moon. It is an important symbolic message telling us to push boundaries and move with purpose toward Arctic endeavors. This report is a great step in that direction.”

The preliminary report addresses expanding involvement in the Arctic Council, developing programs to improve community and local inclusion “in decision making through state coordination of multi-agency permits, state and federal coordination of permits and plans and meaningful involvement of regional stake holders in development activities or plans that affect them.”

The report also addresses science and research with the recommendation to increase state funding to the University of Alaska’s Arctic research. Planning and infrastructure should be assessed by conducting a comprehensive Arctic region economic and infrastructure assessment.

Recommendations regarding oil, gas and mineral resources include the implementation of regional planning efforts that allow local stakeholders to voice their priorities; and to develop a mechanism for revenue sharing from resource extraction for impacted communities.

Tackling the complexity of National security and defense in the Arctic, the Commission decided to spend more time on the topic in upcoming meetings in 2014.

The report identified the lack of infrastructure as a key problem for the region.

As for Marine transport and its projected increase through the Arctic and Bering Strait region, the commission encourages the development of integrated systems to monitor and communicate marine information, and support programs such as the Alaska Marine Exchange, which

tracks ship traffic in Alaska.

Rep. Bob Herron and co-chair Sen. Lesil McGuire introduced legislation last week to address two of the issues. One bill would create a port authority for the Arctic, while the other would authorize the state to issue loans for projects like roads and harbors. (See below).

AAPC introduces two bills

Representative Bob Herron, co-chair of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, introduced two pieces of legislation last week to begin implementing recommendations that came out of the commission’s one year worth of work and meetings around the state.

House Joint Resolution 24 urges the United States State Department to consider Alaska’s priorities and work with the state when the United States becomes Chair of the Arctic Council in 2015. The resolution also asks that the State Department confer with Alaskan officials while considering an individual to lead the Arctic Council.

House Bill 288 is the companion measure for Senate Bill 140, which was introduced by Alaska Arctic Policy Commission co-chair Senator Lesil McGuire.

The Senate Bill and HB 288 creates financing mechanisms backed by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to attract private investment for Arctic infrastructure projects like roads, ports and broadband internet.

AIDEA investment would cover one-third of a total project cost, leveraging private money to cover the rest, said Herron. “This type of public-private partnership provides the most benefit for the least cost to the state. It creates an Alaskan Arctic economic opportunity zone,” Herron said.

New member on AAPC

Representative David Guttenberg (D-Interior/Wade Hampton) was appointed to serve on the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission. The seat reserved for a member of the House Minority became vacant after Representative Beth Kerttula’s (D-Juneau) departure from the Legislature. The Alaska State Legislature created the 26 member Alaska Arctic Policy Commission in 2012 to “develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy.” On January 30, 2014, the Commission presented

its preliminary report and continues to gather input from around Alaska. The final report is due to the Legislature January 30, 2015.

Shell not to drill in the Chukchi Sea in 2014

Royal Dutch Shell won’t be continuing its exploration drilling campaign in the Chukchi Sea in 2014. According to the *Washington Post*, the company slashed capital spending by \$ 9 billion and awaits the outcome of court ruling that challenges the validity of the lease sale in the Chukchi Sea.

Shell had spent nearly \$6 billion on leases and preparing an oil exploration drilling campaign at the Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea. In 2012, Shell sent a fleet of support ships and drill rigs to drill in both seas, but the campaign ended with only the top of wells drilled and a long list of problems including the grounding of the drill rig *Kulluk* near Kodiak.

Shishmaref residents travel to Washington DC

Five Shishmaref residents last month traveled to the nation’s capital to raise awareness of their battle with Arctic warming. Shishmaref, located on the narrow barrier island of Sarichef Island in the Chukchi Sea, is eroding away while alternatives to relocate or fortify the village of 600 depend on funding from state and federal agencies.

Village Council president Stanley Tocktoo, Shishmaref Native Corporation President Tony Weyiouanna, his wife Fannie Weyiouanna, Peggy Hersrud and her 17-year-old daughter Debra Hersrud testified at the Bicameral Task Force of Climate Change Forum held on January 14.

Debra Hersrud asked the policy makers to address the issue of climate change at a national level. She talked about how after a storm, they had to evacuate their house and upon coming back, their back stairs were dangling over the cliff in the ocean. “Shishmaref is changing faster than I can grow up. [...] It seems unfair to be giving up my home and my culture for a problem that I don’t have the power to solve myself,” she said.

Stanley Tocktoo talked about the residents’ fear that Shishmaref is becoming the next King Island. It is common practice, he said, that people put their homes on skids to move them when violent fall storms hit the island. Last year, 18 homes were put

on skids and 20 homes had to be relocated. He also talked about residents leaving their homes. “In serious storms, people are forced to evacuate, and when their houses are destroyed, they are stuck, away from home and with no way to come home,” he said. “We are losing our culture. We have a warm, communal culture that works together and lives off the land in a subsistence culture. We hunt, and fish, and have traditions that we try to pass on to our children. We will lose that if we are relocated into an area with other people who don’t appreciate our way of life.”

Tony Weyiouanna talked about the shortened hunting seasons, and unpredictable ice conditions that didn’t allow ice fishing until mid-December last year. “Our hunting seasons are shortening and so is the lifetime

of our infrastructure,” he said. No state or federal agency puts money in the upkeep and improvement of vital buildings, and the seawall that was built is only a bulwark against the raging Chukchi Sea for 15 years. “We are losing out on jobs and lacking an economic driver because we aren’t investing in our own community,” he said.

With the younger generation moving away from the island, Weyiouanna said, climate change attacks more than just infrastructure and their homes. “It’s impacting our local subsistence culture and our ability to create jobs and investments for our community. It’s attacking us from all sides. We need our government to attack climate change from all sides, too, with national and local legislation to help protect our community.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, February 6

*Lunch Laps	Pool	Noon - 1:30 p.m.
*Vinyasa Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*NCC WS Re: Procurement Policy	Council Chambers	5:30 p.m.
*City League Bball:	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Zumba Fitness	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*City League Basketball:	Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 10:00 pm
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Thrft Shop	Methodist Church	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m

Friday, February 7

*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - noon
*Junior High B vs Kotzebue B	Nome-Beltz High	4:30 p.m.
*Junior High A vs Kotzebue A	Nome-Beltz High	5:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*Nome JV Girls vs TBA	Nome-Beltz High	6:45 p.m.
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Drop-in Soccer (15+)	Nome Rec Center	8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Nome Lady Nanooks vs Kotzebue	Nome-Beltz High	8:15 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church(rear)	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 8

Junior High B vs Kotzebue B	Nome-Beltz High	11:30 p.m.
*Open Gym:	Nome Rec Center	Noon - 8:00 p.m.
*Junior High A vs Kotzebue A	Nome-Beltz High	1:00 p.m.
*Nome JV Girls vs TBA	Nome-Beltz High	2:30 p.m.
*Nome Lady Nanooks vs Kotzebue	Nome-Beltz High	4:00 p.m.
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Airport Pizza (upstairs)	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 9

*AA Meeting	Airport Pizza (upstairs)	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
*Adult Swim	Pool	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
*Family Swim	Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 10

*Pick-up Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - noon
*City League Bball:	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Zumba Fitness	Nome Rec Center	5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
*NCC Reg Mtg	Council Chambers	5:30 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church(rear)	8:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*Lunch Laps	Pool	Noon - 1:30 a.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*City League Bball:	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Vinyasa Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Airport Pizza (upstairs)	8:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m..

Wednesday, February 12

*Lap Swim	Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Zumba Fitness	Nome Rec Center	5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*Family Swim	Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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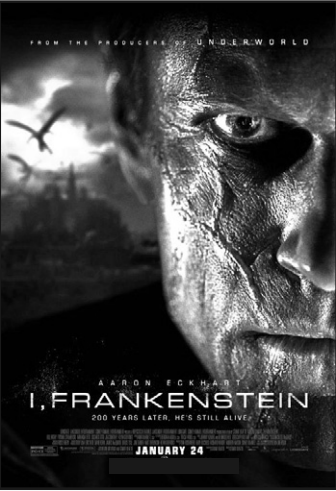
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• *Lack of monitoring*

continued from page 1

ist Marty Brewer with the DEC concurred, saying that the DEC relies on data from federal agencies and that there is no concern.

The EPA and FDA are the operational lead agencies conducting radiation monitoring.

Shortly after the Fukushima Dai-ichi explosion on March 11, 2011, the EPA deployed portable gamma ray monitors to Nome and Dutch Harbor. The Nome machine was operational from March 22 to May 17. It was taken down and never redeployed again. The only constant air monitoring sites are in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

The Food and Drug Administration tests only commercial foods but not subsistence foods out of the Bering Sea. Theresa Eisenman, FDA spokeswoman, said in an email, "the FDA has no evidence that radionuclides from the Fukushima incident are present in the U.S. food supply at levels that would pose a public health concern." They test FDA-regulated food products imported from Japan and U.S. domestic food products, including seafood caught off the coast of the United States. "Consequently, FDA is not advising consumers to alter their consumption of specific foods imported from Japan or domestically produced foods, including seafood," she wrote.

Since the Fukushima incident occurred, FDA has sampled 1,306 food samples imported to the United States from Japan. "In all of that time we detected trace amounts of Cesium in only two samples — ginger powder in April 2011 and tea bags in August 2013," Eisenman wrote.

NOAA is not monitoring for radiation, but is tracking marine debris sent adrift by the 2011 tsunami, said NOAA spokeswoman Julie Speegle.

Asked about federal funding to beef up monitoring capabilities, Matt Felling with Senator Lisa Murkowski's office said in an email exchange with the Nugget that the best scientific data and research shows no evidence of the least threatening impacts on our waters. "So it is difficult in this fiscal environment to pry loose funding for concerns that are not backed by any scientific data," he wrote. "However, if there was the slightest uptick in threat levels the federal government would seek the most responsible course of action."

While all testing to date indicates there is no threat to Alaskans' health from contamination from the 2011 nuclear power plant disaster in Japan, Senator Begich remains concerned about continued leakage from the power plant and supports efforts to continue to monitor this.

US Senator Mark Begich's spokeswoman Heather Handyside said that the Senator had repeatedly called on the EPA, NOAA and the FDA to ensure radiation levels are monitored and the risk assessed. Samples were taken of the air, water and seafood. While trace

levels of contamination were initially recorded, these were below levels considered a threat to human health and have since fallen.

In short, no subsistence species are being tested for radiation or effects thereof.

Kawerak Inc.'s Subsistence Director Brandon Ahmasuk, also a member of the Ice Seal Committee, said that although radiation concerns were ruled out to explain the mysterious disease that caused skin lesions, hair loss and lethargy in ice seals in 2011, concerns still linger. "There can be arguments made that it is or isn't Fukushima," said Ahmasuk. "Even though we're told there is not enough radiation detected to be concerned about, we don't know. There is no data to back it up."

Dr. Doug Dasher, Research Professor at the Institute of Marine Science at UAF, John Kelley, Gay Sheffield and Raphaela Stimmelmayer developed a poster for the Alaska Marine Science Symposium that hypothesized that the 2011 Fukushima fallout from the air could have had something to do with the unusual morality event of ice seals. Dasher tested muscle tissue from four UME seal samples and concluded that cesium-137 and cesium-34 concentrations did not represent acute or chronic radiological risks to ice-associated seal populations.

Only contaminated food eaten by the seals would have shown up in the tissue sample.

The analysis could not take airborne fallout into account that could have settled on the sea ice. Around 80 percent of the fallout from the nuclear accident was deposited on the ocean, or sea ice, and 62 percent of the air mass trajectories followed a northern route through the Bering and Chukchi Seas. With the sea ice long gone and melted, one will never know if the elevated levels of radiation were present or not.

The authors conclude that knowledge gaps exist on radiation and its effects on molting seals and that they "cannot rule out that increased radiological exposure in combination with a mixture of other contaminants represented an immunotoxic and thyroid gland disease risk during the molt period when the animals were living on the ice."

Dr. Dasher said in an interview with the Nome Nugget that there had been limited funding, capacity, equipment and time to process more than the four tissue samples. However, more samples are still in freezers and could be analyzed in the future.

The danger from airborne fallout from the Dai-ichi nuclear accident site is over, but since contaminated water continued to seep out of the cooling towers from the Dai-ichi nuclear plant, attention has turned to the ramifications of ocean currents transporting a plume of radioactive ocean water to the US West Coast and Alaska.

According to a projection, the plume is to arrive at the West Coast

in spring 2014.

Dasher is advocating for a comprehensive approach to monitor for radiation in the waters. "The public concern is valid and needs to be addressed," he said. "We need to gather data in Alaska and not rely on the data coming out of the State of Washington."

The renowned Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is tackling the funding problem in a unique way. Three weeks ago, WHOI marine chemist Ken Buesseler's launched a crowd-sourcing campaign and citizen science website, "How Radioactive Is Our Ocean."

Buesseler, a senior scientist and a marine radio-chemist at Woods Hole, said in a phone interview with the Nome Nugget that although there no detectable levels of radiation in the ocean water at the west coast, there is no well thought out monitoring going on either.

"There is a disconnect what the government is saying that there are no concerns, but the public is still concerned because of the lack of data," he said.

Through "How Radioactive Is Our Ocean," — and instead of waiting for government agencies to act — the public can finance monitoring of radiation in the ocean by donating funds and thereby sponsor the analysis of collected seawater samples. People can also propose new locations and fund the samples and analysis of those sites at Buesseler's lab in Woods Hole, Mass.

Last year, Senator Begich sponsored a Senate staff briefing on Fukushima radiation with Dr. Ken Buesseler. Dr. Buesseler has sampled radiation levels in the water at the reactor site and elsewhere in the ocean. While there were high levels of Cesium in the water near the reactors initially, they have since fallen below levels of concern for human health. He believes these will be further diluted as they spread across the ocean.

Buesseler stressed that he doesn't want to be an alarmist. "I believe the numbers would not be a health concern," he said. However, right now there is no baseline testing being done. "I would like to get the data now before the plume arrives at the coast," he said. The plume of radiation from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant is forecasted to hit the Pacific coast in April 2014, according to a scientific model developed by Spanish scientist Vincent Rossi. Rossi's model projects that traces of Fukushima's radiation will reach Alaska and coastal Canada first because of the trajectory of the Kuroshio Current that flows from Japan across the Pacific. The plume will continue to circulate down the coast of North America and back towards Hawaii.

"We've received a lot of interest from the public so far, which has been great. Right now we're gathering important baseline data, but we need continual support in order to

monitor the plume over the long-term," said Buesseler.

So far, the project has received funds from 120 donors donating to 16 locations, none of them in Alaska. Buesseler encouraged Alaskans to sponsor an Alaskan site like Nome and become part of the testing effort. "We should monitor in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea," he said.

It takes \$100 to propose and establish testing at a particular location and to be put up on the website www.ourradioactiveocean.org. On that site, people can donate towards a specific testing location and also view the results. Once a group has sponsored a location, the Woods Hole Institute sends out a test kit. A volunteer then fills a little bucket of water and sends it in a prepaid package to Buesseler. He said it costs \$600 per sample to test water for radiation.

Although Buesseler does not expect levels to be dangerously high in the ocean or in seafood as the plume spreads 5,000 miles across the Pacific, he believes this is an evolving situation that demands careful, consistent monitoring to make sure predictions are true.

No traces of Fukushima's cesium-134 have been detected in Buesseler's analyses yet and the levels of cesium-137 have not been at alarming levels, either.

"The reason why we see such low levels of radiation in these samples is because the plume is not here yet. But it's coming. And we'll actually be able to see its arrival," Buesseler says. "That baseline data is critical."

Senator Begich said he agrees with Dr. Buesseler that continued monitoring is necessary, but he also said, "funding for such research is difficult to find in this tight budget environment and we spoke about a collaborative scientific effort including government, non-government and academic researchers."

The project currently has sponsors interested in collecting samples from 16 unique locations from San Diego to British Columbia and one in O'ahu, Hawaii. However, none have been proposed yet from Alaska, where the plume is predicted to be detected first.

"Optimally, we'd like to be able to sample and analyze about 20 sites from Alaska to San Diego at regular intervals every few months. We even have had interest from the public as far away as Japan, New Zealand, Guam, and one sailing vessel traveling from Hawaii to Japan this summer, but the West Coast time series is our highest priority," says Buesseler.

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House Bill 39 raises subsidy for high rural electric bills

By Sandra L. Medearis

Legislators with constituents paying through the nose to turn on the lights are pushing HB39, a measure to increase the state PCE subsidy for high-cost electric energy.

The Power Cost Equalization program directly lowers the cost of electricity for about 60,000 consumers primarily living in rural Alaska where a kilowatt-hour can cost up to a dollar.

HB 39, introduced by Rep. Bryce Edgmon (D-Dillingham), would restore parts of the original program, as it existed before 1999. It would raise the consumption cap on residential power covered by the program from 500 kilowatt-hours to 600 kwh per month, and it would include small-business ratepayers in the pool of entities eligible for PCE, also at a cap of 600 kwh per month. These small commercial customers are clearly defined as only those who presently consume no more than 2,400 kwh per month. Presently, such businesses—which are important contributors to bush economies—are not eligible to receive PCE benefits. Rep. Bob Heron (D-Bethel) and Jonathon Kreiss-Tomkins (D-Sitka) are co-sponsors.

Under the current program, residential customers of Nome Joint

Utility System pay around 38 cents for the first 500 kilowatts on monthly usage. Nome residents pay almost twice that amount for kilowatts used over 500 each month. NJUS has been backing attempts to get the program back to pre-1999 levels of compensation that covered 700 kilowatts of usage per month and also supported small businesses. “Hallelujah! Six hundred kilowatts is better than nothing,” John Handeland, NJUS manager said Monday. “We have been advocating for a number of years to return to 700 kilowatts where it was years ago.”

Rural Alaska’s geographical location near or above the Arctic Circle, “where the sun don’t shine”—that much, joins the high cost of diesel generation to make consumers flinch when they tear open a new electric bill.

“Most of us in rural areas, due to the hours of darkness we experience, use a lot more power. Even plugging in vehicles, necessitated by our extremely cold temperatures, adds to family power costs,” Handeland added.

“HB 39 seeks to extend a lifeline to rural Alaskans during the harsh winter months. At the same time, it will support small business owners, strengthening their viability as local job creators and enabling them to

make goods and services more affordable in remote communities,” Edgmon said in his sponsor statement.

The average number of kwh used by Alaska residential ratepayers is almost 700 kwh. Over the United States, the national average shows that most accounts show a use of over 1,000 kilowatts.

The annual range of use dispersed over all the rural communities in Alaska was 330 kwh according to a March 2012 report by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)

In committee, Rep. Neal Foster pointed out that usage is low in small communities because of high costs. Indeed, research shows that throughout the year, rural residents strive to conserve power and remain below the present 500 kwh ceiling. In fact, on average PCE-eligible customers consume less than 400 kwh per month—more than 40 percent less electricity than the average urban Alaskan consumer. Researchers have described rural electricity consumption as survival-level—scarcely sufficient to power what in urban areas would be regarded as the most basic household functions. In winter, it is particularly difficult to maintain such extraordinary levels of conservation. Utility systems in Western Alaska

have been building renewable energy facilities, but small markets and economic conditions have restrained that effort to lower consumer electric prices.

“Unfortunately it will take a lot of time and a whole lot of money to meet state renewable energy goals,” Handeland said.

“Small communities not connected to a grid find it financially impossible to meet state goals at this time.

“We are taking steps to harness renewable energy. That process is ongoing,” Handeland said. Significant generation based on renewables is not plausible in rural situations.”

The state goal is 50 percent of energy use from renewable sources by 2025. Nevertheless, Handeland has his fingers crossed that HB 39 will move toward realization this session and result in lowered electric bills.

“Unfortunately, in the rural part of the state, the population has grown elsewhere. Our section of representation is not what it used to be,” he said.

The PCE program draws money from an endowment fund started in 2001 with money from major appropriations including the railroad energy fund and the constitutional budget reserve. The fund is required by statute to earn seven percent annually. A rolling three-year average determines the annual endowment fund benefit amount for PCE.

The PCE program was set up for rural Alaska to balance projects designed to lower power costs for less remote parts of Alaska. In the early 1980s, the PCE program came about through trade-offs by urban legisla-

tors to secure support of Bush legislators for the hydroelectric projects Susitna Lake and Bradley Lake in the Railbelt and the Four-Dam Pool project in southeast Alaska.

HB currently resides in the House Special Committee on Energy and Finance.

HB 39 addresses the near-term survival of our rural communities. In recent years, the state of Alaska has created and supported energy programs that in time will significantly improve the long-term sustainability of our remote towns and villages. The legislation you have before you is an important interim measure to stabilize those same communities while permanent solutions are established.

Throughout the year, rural residents strive to conserve power and remain below the present 500 kWh ceiling. In fact, on average PCE-eligible customers consume less than 400 kWh per month—more than 40 percent less electricity than the average urban Alaskan consumer.

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HB 39 seeks to extend a lifeline to rural Alaskans during the harsh winter months. At the same time, it will support small business owners, strengthening their viability as local job creators and enabling them to make goods and services more affordable in remote communities.



Photo by Diana Haecker

IDEAS—During last Friday’s townhall meeting at the Mini Convention Center, Holly Spoth-Torres led through a brain storm session that asked Nomeites to identify what works and what doesn’t in the Nome food system.

• Food Council

continued from page 1

transportation is a big issue in food security and safety. This region knows this only too well.

The dependence on imported food becomes painfully clear when weather conditions or other reasons don’t allow cargo planes to land in Nome. Also, when the food finally arrives in rural communities beyond Nome, village stores sometimes receive food items not in their intended state: melted ice cream and frozen salad.

In break out sessions Nomeites were asked to identify the strengths, challenges of Nome’s food system and then were invited to dream up the perfect solution.

What are the positive things about Nome? On the very top were the possibilities to gather wild foods, pick berries, hunt wild food sources and gather nutritious greens. Many mentioned backyard gardens, modern marvels such as getting foods via Prime shipping on Amazon.com and receiving Full Circle organic foods here at the edge of the Bering Sea. Several people brought up the possibility to help local reindeer herders to grow their herds. For years, reindeer herders have struggled with regulations that limit slaughtering and packaging reindeer for commercial sale.

On top of the list identifying the worries are contaminants that threaten to spoil the environment and hence the wild foods. Contamination from formerly used Air Force sites at St. Lawrence Island, gold mines and increased human activity in the Arctic, as well as bioaccumulation of the world’s toxins in the Arctic, the sea and its animals.

People identified the western fast food and soda culture as not working

for this area. Also many voiced that a whole generation is losing the knowledge how to catch and process wild foods. In addition, food transportation is expensive, healthy store-bought foods are hard to access—although it was pointed out that the grocery stores in town carry more and more organic foods. And last but not least: the cost of food is much more expensive due to the added transportation cost.

The meeting organizers asked for ideas and pie-in-the-sky solutions that would overcome many of the challenges we today face in terms of food. One idea was to have a Russian-Alaska exchange of information to better monitor and understand environmental factors. Other ideas revolved around mundane things on how to compost. “It was great to hear that discussion,” said Ferguson. “One person said, ‘Hey, I have worms to share.’”

Also, reindeer herding and growing became a center of discussion and with that, Ferguson said, the AFPC can help in terms of looking at policies and regulations to allow reindeer herders to slaughter and sell their locally grown reindeer.

Over the next several months there will be seven town hall meetings to be held in Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel and other regions yet to be determined.

The AFPC aims to collect the meeting ideas in reports and identify food policy matters to improve the food system. The reports, Ferguson said, will go back to the communities and could serve as a basis for organizations to apply for grants.

On Monday, the AFPC met in Juneau, where several legislators were supposed to attend.

The AFPC’s intent is to make rec-

ommendations regarding comprehensive policies that improve Alaska’s food systems. The council’s goal is to assure that Alaskans have access to affordable and healthy, preferably local, food. There are 18 board members on the council, but it also has over 200 members with an interest in improving the Alaska food system.

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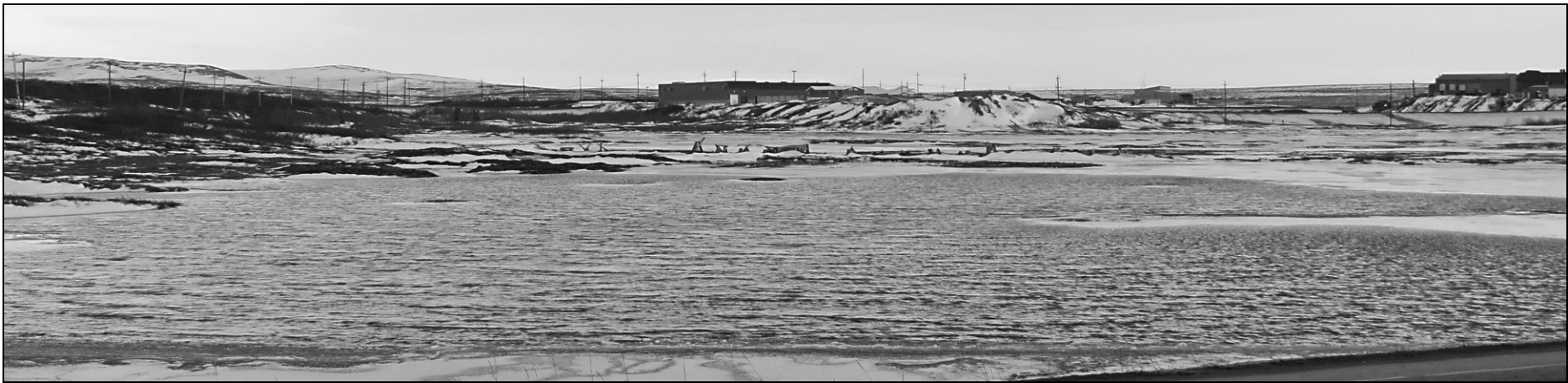


Photo by Nikolai Ivanoff

NOT SO DRY DRY CREEK— An unusual January warm spell caused frozen water bodies such as Dry Creek to melt, making outdoor traveling conditions treacherous.

NVFD provides winter travel and ice safety tips

With the recent warm temperatures the Nome Volunteer Fire Department/Search and Rescue compiled a list of things to consider when venturing into the countryside for hunting, recreating or traveling.

Always tell someone where you are going, how many people you're traveling with, names of other individuals in your group, a date and time when you expect to return, and contact information of someone who may provide us with additional details if needed. The description of your vehicle/ATV used for travel (i.e. color/make/model) is very important, as we need to know what we're looking for. Also add clothing description.

Ice Safety Tips:
Recognize that ice will never be completely safe. Conditions and un-

seen or unknown factors can render seemingly safe ice suddenly dangerous. Take all care and precautions to avoid mishaps and to put rescue plans into immediate action should something go wrong.

Create an emergency safety plan. If something does go wrong while you are testing or recreating, already have in place the safety procedures that you will carry out for immediate rescue.

For starters, you should be adequately dressed in full cold weather attire. Wear some form of flotation device, even a boating life jacket, especially if you are testing or snow-machining. Carry an ice pick, which can assist in giving you grip should you fall in. Never go without a buddy or two. Tell other people where you and your buddy are and what time you expect to return home. This is

not an occasion for casual spontaneity.

Have a spare set of warm dry clothes in a waterproof bag handy. That way you can reduce the risk of hypothermia by changing the wet clothes immediately. Other useful supplies to have as part of an emergency kit include an emergency blanket, hand and foot warmers, thick socks, candles and matches. Pack such emergency items for all winter sports outdoors, even for skating outdoors.

Recognize that determining the safety of ice is dependent on a combination of factors, not on one factor alone. Ice safety is determined by assessing the following factors together:

- Appearance of the ice - its color, texture and features
- Thickness of the ice - there are

recommended thicknesses for different uses

- External temperature over a period of time and on the day
- Snow coverage
- Depth of water under ice
- Size of water body
- Chemical composition of water - whether water is fresh or salt
- Local climate fluctuations and the extent of ice

Observe the ice. Look at the ice to see if you can see any cracks, breaks, weak spots or abnormal surfaces and to identify the colors of the ice. You cannot rely on your eyesight alone. This is just an initial look to help you to decide if it is even worth proceeding to the next step of testing the ice.

If you see any of these signs, you may wish to abandon any further attempt to go on the ice:

- Flowing water near or at the edges of the ice
- Flowing springs under the ice in spring fed ponds and lakes.
- Water flows in and/or out of the iced-over water body
- Cracks, breaks or holes
- Ice that appears to have thawed and refrozen
- Abnormal surfaces that you have not seen before - e.g., pressure ridges caused by currents or winds

Understand that ice strength is not the same everywhere, not even on

the same body of water. The strength of ice is also affected by factors other than color and thickness. Also take into account:

Location of the ice— Is it on a pond, a lake, a stream or is there evident flowing water underneath it? Is there a flow into or out of the water body? This will give cause for concern.

Constitution of the water— Is it fresh water or saltwater? Sea ice tends to be weaker and needs greater thickness to support the same weight as fresh water.

External temperature and season— Temperature changes constantly. Beware of microclimates in the local area. Mid-winter ice is bound to be a lot stronger than spring ice, which is subject to rapid thawing and warming bouts of sunshine.

Size and depth of the water body— Larger bodies of water take longer to freeze than smaller ones.

Presence of snow on the ice— Snow can warm up the ice because it acts as an insulator; ice under snow is generally thinner and weaker than ice without snow.

Weight on ice— What are you putting on the ice? Just you or you and a vehicle? There is a big difference in the weight distribution between a body and a snowmachine with said body on top.

City wants land, lotsa land

By Sandra L. Medearis

The City of Nome has stepped up to claim the land lying adjacent to the new power plant along Port Road, eyeing it as a site for expanded port facilities and relocation of NJUS fuel storage tanks.

After many years of planning, U.S. Air Force has declared its tank farm and fuel depot site that has been idle for 10s of years as a white elephant, eligible for surplus.

The Air Force said it wouldn't stand in Nome's way to get the property transferred to ownership and use for economic development. What has to happen?

Environmental issues with fuel residue have slowed the sale. Clean up has to satisfy the federal General Services Administration before they will release the land. Discussions on potential liability are ongoing.

The City could use the six acres to expand Port of Nome facilities and operations, to relocate fuel storage and to help traffic run through port activities more safely.

Southern exposure at the current NJUS utility tank site causes warming which made the ground slough and become unstable.

The City and Port of Nome are hustling to expand and update Port of Nome facilities as receding ice uncovers opportunity for Nome to step into the limelight as either a deep-water port or a transshipment port supporting new resource development and marine transportation infrastructure in Arctic waters. Nome also has a strategic location near the Bering Strait as a center for search and rescue operations and a jump-off place to support ships demonstrating U.S. sovereignty in northern waters.

Because of contamination that several organizations have been working to address, the property, a site of military activities in World War II followed by other industrial uses, has been a no-use zone for 40 years. Various agencies have performed environmental monitoring, remediation and cleanup tasks over the past 10 to 15 years.

The property lies in an area zoned for industrial use, not residential use. Therefore, the City has received support for mitigation of soils where they are, rather than more stringent remediation required for residential use. This means that the fuel-contaminated soil could be capped and

contained, rather than removed, according to John K. Handeland.

Additionally, the City is trying to get ownership of a state-owned parcel known as Block-20 Nome Airport to construct a facility for combined maintenance response and Nome Joint Utility System office building.

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School Board gets prepared for Gov.'s Education Bill

By Kristine McRae

Governor Sean Parnell has introduced an education bill that would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Alaska's schoolchildren. The BSA is the amount of money per enrolled child each district receives from the State of Alaska. The funding has remained stable for several years, and Parnell's proposal would see an increase, over a three-year period, based on percentage increases in public employee contracts.

Parnell's legislation repeals the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, which is currently required for students to receive a high school diploma. In its place, the bill would give students a choice of taking the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys assessments as a measure of credentials.

While the increase in funding is good news for many districts, many proponents of public education disagree with the use of state dollars to fund private, charter and residential schooling, as would be parents' choice with the new system. Last year, Nome's school board came out in opposition to a "voucher" system, which essentially allows the allocated dollars to follow a student, whether they earn their credits through traditional routes or achieve them through college courses or vocational training.

In a statement released January 24, Governor Parnell stated, "No one knows better how to help a student succeed than his or her own family. The measures in this bill will increase opportunity for families to make wise choices regarding their student's education in the public school system; ensure that the essential needs of Alaska's students are met; provide flexibility in assessing achievement and the earning of necessary educational credits to suit an individual student's needs; and incentivize broader opportunities for students as they prepare to enter Alaska's workforce."

According to Nome School Board President Betsy Brennan, "Education is hot on the burner in the legislature this year." Brennan, along with board member Barb Nickels and superintendent Gast, will travel to Juneau for the legislative fly-in session next week to meet with legislators and discuss the upcoming changes and what they might mean for Nome.

Brennan maintains that, "public education means public," and she indicated that Parnell may be using the education reform platform as a means to sway legislators in other arenas. Supporters of the bill say it would allow parents more choice in where they send their kids to school, but critics worry that it will take money away from public education. In his State of the State address last month, Governor Parnell called on

lawmakers to debate the measure and send it to voters, to let them decide.

At their work session last week, members of the school board started talks on next year's budget. Each year, districts plan their financial year based on the number of projected students. Paula Coffman, the district's business manager, told the board that the district had planned for 690 students and enrollment has actually reached 711, so that some of the money will need to be recovered from the fund budget. Of the planning process, Gast added, "We don't want to over-predict, though some kids came after the count, but you have to budget for what you think you're going to have in October, so we'll budget for next year at 695."

Following the resignation of both the elementary and high school principals, the board is readying to review applications for potential replacements. "It looks like we're going to have a pool of about 20-25 applicants for each position," Gast told the board. He added that many more applied, but those applicants with no administration experience were excluded from potential interviews.

In a discussion about qualifications, Barb Nickels said, "My biggest point for a principal would be to make sure they have at least three years of curriculum and data experience. If they can't read our data, they won't know our kids. It shouldn't be a "preference," but a requirement. With three new curricula being intro at the elementary school, the principal needs that experience." Board members will review the applications to further narrow the pool.

Gast added that he contacted local NEA Board President, Erica Rhodes, to offer representation on the hiring committee. Board member Barb Amarok asked whether a representative from the Native Education Committee would also be involved. "It bothers me that of the 13 or 14 committee members on the hiring committee, only one is an Alaska Native, and the school population is mostly Native," Amarok said. Board member Barb Nickels agreed with the assessment and added, "but most of the faculty and staff are not Alaska Native."

With 30 principal positions open in Alaska, Nome is not alone in their search. Of his experience over the last two years, outgoing elementary principal Bob Grimes said, "I've enjoyed my time here in Nome. It's been a fun and educational experience, and I hope to leave the school in a good shape, in a good way." Members of the board declined to elaborate on the resignations of either Bob Grimes or Scott Handley.

Board member Jennifer Reader

continued on page 11



Photo by Kristine McRae

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS— Students in the 3rd and 4th grades competed Monday in the annual "Battle of the Books," at which they had to answer detailed questions about titles from 15 different authors. Congratulations to the team of Sara Bioff, Jenae Matson, Lupe Callahan, and Sadie Ellison for scoring the most points at the competition.



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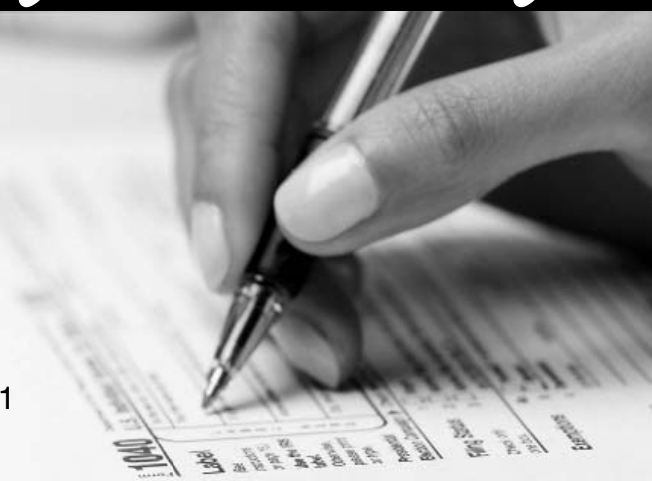
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HEAD TO HEAD— Nome Nanook Daniel Head shoots the ball in the game against the Unalakleet Wolfpack. The Nanooks won both games against the Wolfpack.



Photos by Janeen Sullivan

JUMP SHOT— Nome Nanook Jr. Varsity player Ian Smith goes up for 2 points in the Intra Squad game.



TOUGH DEFENSE— Nome Nanook James Horner makes his way to the basket in the Jr. Varsity game against the Unalakleet Wolfpack.



Photo by Paul Ivanoff III

UNALAKLEET WOLFPACK— The Unalakleet Wolfpack Varsity team competed against the Nome Nanooks. Pictured are (left to right): Coach Steve Ivanoff, Francis Ivanoff, Jayden Wilson, Gage Ivanoff, Tristen Ticket, Kady Erickson, Paul Agibinik, Taylor Harvey, Aucha Johnson and Assistant Coach Nick Hanson.



JR. HIGH GIRLS— Kerry Ahmasuk, in blue, travels with the ball during the Intra Squad game.

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Nome Nanooks pack the Unalakleet Wolfpack at games

By Sarah Miller

The Nanooks met the Unalakleet Wolfpack on its home turf twice over the weekend, winning both games in an exciting and friendly tournament. Unalakleet's team, under the direction of long-time coach Steve Ivanoff, was recovering from two weeks of illness due to the flu and made Nome work for its victories. Ivanoff commented that some of the players were even ill prior to the game on Friday.

The Wolfpack demonstrated their determination not to let the flu slow them down by managing to score 32 of its final 46 points in the first half alone. Nonetheless, the Nanooks stepped up their defense and, with 25 points on the board from Tyler Eide along with 18 from Cass Mattheis, won the game 68-46. Eide also set a school record with 13 steals in this game, and is averaging 4.9 steals per game over the season.

However, by Saturday the Class 2A Wolfpack was ready to even the score, and nearly upset Nome's Class

3A team. Three-pointers by Unalakleet, steals from Eide, and a fast pace kept the game exciting right up until the end. Gage Ivanoff of Unalakleet contributed 16 points, 11 of which he scored in the second half of the game. Klay Baker made some key shots in the fourth quarter, and the Nanooks improved their defense and rebounding over Friday's performance. With 1.9 seconds left to play, the Wolfpack closed the gap with another three-point shot, bringing the score to 44-42 (Nome). A free throw from Alex Gray added one more point to the final score of 45-42.

Callahan commented, "We also did a nice job of running our delay game in a pressure situation at the end of the game."

Ivanoff stated, "I have a lot of respect for Pat Callahan and the way he coaches his team. This weekend was a win-win for both teams. We get to help each other prepare for regionals."

Nome-Beltz Coach Callahan reciprocated in an email, "Steve

Ivanoff-coached teams always play hard, play a tough schedule, and improve over the course of the season. It was a real honor to coach against Steve Ivanoff again." Ivanoff was

greeted by many Nomeites after Saturday's game, demonstrating the high regard held by each team toward one another and adding a spirit of camaraderie to the competitive

tournament.

The Nanooks travel to Kotzebue this weekend for back-to-back games on Friday and Saturday.



Photos by Janeen Sullivan

FLYING HIGH— Nome Nanook Tyler Eide controls the air space in the Varsity game against the Unalakleet Wolfpack. Playing defense for the Wolfpack is Gage Ivanoff.



EYES ON THE PRICE— Nome Nanook Jon Gilder eyes the basket in the Intra Squad game.

Scoreboard Basketball			
FRIDAY, 01/31/2014			
Boys:			
Nome	66	Unk.	46
ELI	86	KAA	46
HB	67	GLV	65
OTZ	76	GLV	54
GAM	73	WMO	70
Girls:			
Unk.	56	Nome	50
GAM	60	KKA	28
SKK	2	ELI 0 (forfeit)	
SATURDAY, 02/01/2014			
Boys:			
NOME	45	UNK	42
TLA	73	KTS	49
ELI	88	KAA	34
GLV	55	Kiana	53
GLV	65	Deering	47
GAM	95	WMO	90
Girls:			
UNK	59	NOME	47
GAM	32	KKA	16
SKK	2	ELI 0 (forfeit)	

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Smoker's Dementia: Research links heavy smoking and Alzheimer's disease

By Bob Lawrence, MD
Alaska Family Doctor

You may have heard of the smoker's cough, that persistent raspy clearing of tar-stained phlegm heard in long-term smokers, but have you heard about the smoker's dementia?

According to research published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, middle-aged heavy smokers are more than twice as likely to develop dementia than non-smokers or smokers who have quit.

The research began in the late 1970s and early 1980s when 21,123 fifty- and sixty-year-old patients from Kaiser Permanente, a California-based healthcare network, were interviewed regarding their smoking habits.

Thirty years later, researchers revisited the medical records of these patients to determine who developed

dementia and who did not.

Dementia is a form of memory loss that is caused by a loss of brain function over time. There are two basic forms of dementia: *Alzheimer's Disease* caused by abnormal proteins clogging the network of nerves in the brain and *vascular dementia*

caused by poor blood flow through the brain due to mini-strokes or plaque formation in the arteries of the brain.

The study found that smoking increases the risk of developing both types of dementia. The risk begins to appear in those who smoke a half pack per day and progressively increases to a doubling of risk in people who smoke over two packs per day.

It is important to understand that studies like this are designed to exclude any confounding factors. Therefore the study is showing that a

person who smokes is at increased risk of developing dementia even if the person has a perfect blood pressure with no sign of diabetes, has a normal cholesterol level, maintains an ideal body weight, eats a healthy diet, and exercises on a regular basis.

The researchers point out that the risk of dementia is likely underestimated in studies like this one because many patients who smoke are more likely to die from other diseases associated with the tobacco use like heart attacks, strokes, pancreatic cancer, and lung cancer. Many patients may have died with dementia, not from dementia, succumbing to some other disease before the end of the study.

Here is the good news. Quitting smoking by mid-life reduced the risk of developing dementia. Smokers who quit had the same risk as those who never smoked. Thus the new data presents another powerful reason to stop smoking. Quitting turns out to be a smart way to stay...smart.

Chief's Notes: Drug abuse on the increase

By John Papisodora,
Nome Chief of Police

It seems that few days pass before I am engaged in a conversation with someone about the prevalence of drug/alcohol abuse in our community. The involvement of alcohol is quite apparent. Each week in the Seawall, I try and include the statistics to show that alcohol abuse is taking a huge toll on the people of Nome. This impacts all people regardless of status, and is particularly devastating to families whose children witness the affects. Many times it has been said that 'children are the future', however children will model the behaviors they have been exposed to. If that is alcohol abuse and the behaviors that accompany it, that may very well be their future if change is not made.

I had a conversation last week with a young person who made some interesting choices. She is a hard working young person, who possesses great intensity and potential. But like many young people, she made a choice that resulted in negative sanctions. We talked about that; all people make mistakes; all people make poor choices at times; and that all people have the power to influence their life. We talked about accountability – taking responsibility for your decisions and your actions. We talked about not trying to blame our choices on others; our circumstances; or whatever 'bad' things happened that day. We talked about how decisions today can have long-term impacts on who you want to be tomorrow and, that it was important to have dreams. Without dreams, we have no reason to achieve. But in order to achieve, you have to personally commit yourself; you have to want it and be willing to work for it.

In almost 29 years in law enforcement, this is a discussion I have had with many people – both young and slightly older. It's an important part of being a police officer – to let people know that mistakes don't define who you are and that there is always room for change. It's important to realize that good or bad, we OWN our decisions. They belong to us. Each person has the power to affect their own life - today and the tomorrows that follow. It takes making tough choices sometimes, but those who make them are the people who will impact others.

I see many young people stepping

up and making the choice not to drink, smoke or use drugs. I would like to salute these brave young people. I also see many older people that have lived a hard life, with their misfortune fueled by a string of poor choices. But somehow, they found the inner strength to make tough choices and changes in their lives. Each day they fight to stay sober and do the right thing. I admire their courage and dedication. It is inspiring. I would list names, but they know who they are. I can only offer my admiration and support.

Alcohol is visible in the commu-

continued on page 11

Johnson CPA LLC

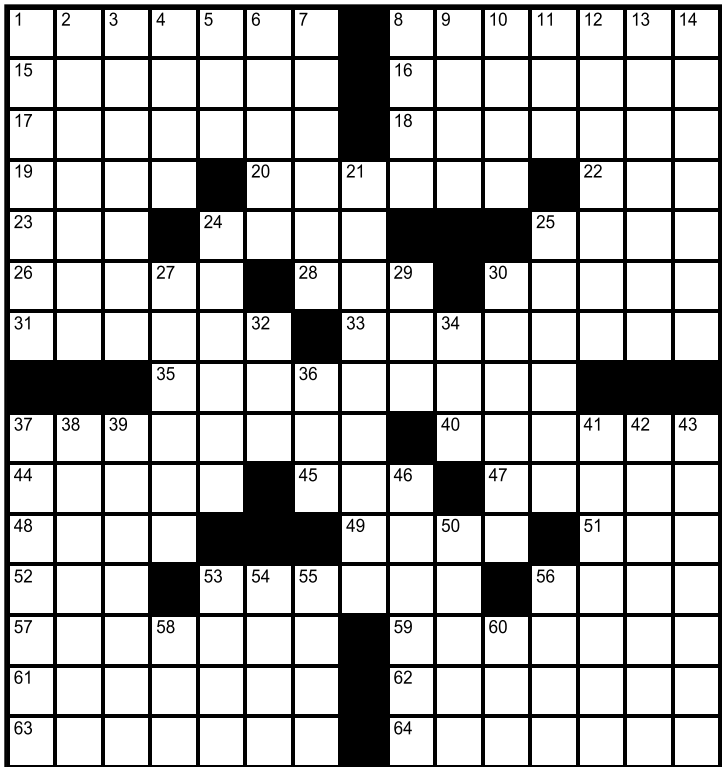
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Across

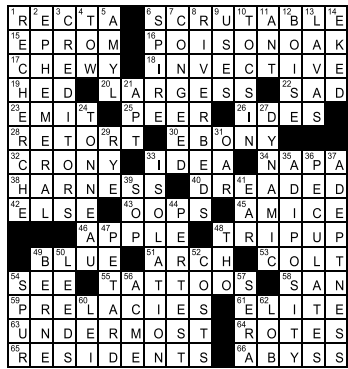
- Office desk accessory
- Densely populated slum areas
- Halo
- Preclude (2 wds)
- Melted cheese with ale over toast
- Canadian province
- Above
- Spill
- A.T.M. need
- Be worthwhile
- Arid
- Cleave
- Jagged, as a leaf's edge
- 40 winks
- Bulrush, e.g.
- Walk nonchalantly
- Small knotlike protuberance
- Opening through abdominal wall to small intestines
- Broken down by hard use
- "Stop right there!"
- Earthy pigment
- Chair part
- Boredom
- Denials
- Brand, in a way
- After expenses
- "___ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
- Sensationalistic newspaper (hyphenated)
- Fly, e.g.

- Shrubs clipped into shapes
- Football play
- Boston college
- One who mourns
- Junction across which a nerve impulse passes
- Blind

Down

- Colorful Mexican shawls
- Lizard-like reptile in New Zealand
- Dry gulches
- Chick's sound
- Court ploy
- A-list
- Yield
- Catch
- Naval base?
- Dresden's river
- Athletic supporter?
- Sink
- Pleasure trips
- Straphanger
- Inquiry to determine public aid eligibility (2 wds)
- Undercoat
- Trust (2 wds)
- British counties
- Ale holder
- Crater on moon's far side
- "Sure"
- ___-eyed
- Black gold
- Contributes
- Careful management of resources
- Reduce
- Dismay
- Conjectures
- Baseball players at bat, hopefully
- One-spot
- Mimicry
- Coarse file
- "Aeneid" figure
- Fraction of a newton
- Leave in a hurry, with "out"
- Bank offering, for short
- Compete

Previous Puzzle Answers



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Nome Animal House

443-2490

M-F: 9 am - 6 pm, Sat: 10 am - 2 pm,
Sun: closed

HOROSCOPES

February 5, 2014 — February 11, 2014

CAPRICORN
December 22–January 19

Promises, promises, Capricorn. You've broken far too many as of late. Pare down your schedule so you can keep your commitments. A text makes hearts flutter.

ARIES
March 21–April 19

You underestimate yourself, Aries. You have everything you need to tackle the job at your disposal, most importantly, the right skill set. Volunteer.

CANCER
June 22–July 22

Life is shaping up, and plans are coming together. Enjoy the week, Cancer. A little-known fact becomes public knowledge. Don't add fuel to the fire.

LIBRA
September 23–October 22

Go, Libra, go! You're so close to fulfilling a goal you can almost taste it. A group is formed, and you're invited to join in the fun. Don't miss out.

AQUARIUS
January 20–February 18

Conflict continues at home. Tougher tactics are required, Aquarius. A check of the finances reveals a surplus. Don't spend it all in one place.

TAURUS
April 20–May 20

Love is in the air. Take that special someone to someplace nice, Taurus. A project wraps up at work just in time for another one to begin.

LEO
July 23–August 22

Prudence is not advised, Leo. You're going to have to dive right in if you want to get anything done. A truce is reached at home. Celebrate the good news.

SCORPIO
October 23–November 21

Make haste, Scorpio. The deadline is near. A special occasion calls for some clever planning. Mischief is brewing at home. Keep an eye on it.

PISCES
February 19–March 20

Good fortune smiles on you this week. Prepare to have a great time. Something assumed lost is merely misplaced. Relax, Pisces. It will turn up soon.

GEMINI
May 21–June 21

Take cover, Gemini. Someone near and dear to your heart is having troubles and taking out their frustration on others. A bouquet is just the beginning.

VIRGO
August 23–September 22

Honestly, Virgo, do you really think what you have to say will make a difference? If so, choose your words carefully. One misstep could end in disaster.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22–December 21

Confidences are broken, and morale falls. All eyes are on you to find a way to boost spirits, Sagittarius. A wet, wild adventure could be the solution.

• Drug abuse on the increase

continued from page 10

nity, but drugs are a hidden danger that lurks in the darkness. The law was defined to make drug use illegal for a number of reasons. The first is that drugs (and alcohol is one of them) can devastate an individual, a family and a community. So let's talk about drugs....

Though alcohol is a 'drug' the drugs I am referring to are different. Drugs like heroin, oxycontin, cocaine, methamphetamine, spice, and a plethora of prescription drugs are in a class of their own. Drugs are habit forming. Eventually, the user will be dependent upon the drug either psychologically, physically, or both. Though this also happens with alcohol, the effects are quite different.

Drugs are powerful. They can dominate the essence of life so that nothing becomes as important as 'getting high'. When a person realizes how deep they're in – they can't get out – because their body and mind won't let them escape. The recreational use they started with consumes who they were and holds them in a vise that will not release. And they will either continue to exist but not really live; or will seek help to overcome their addiction. Few people will escape a life of drug use without help.

The price of drug use is high. Drugs are expensive. Though a jug may cost \$20, a single dose of heroin is \$200 or more. Illicit prescription drugs can sell for over \$100 per tablet. Many times children will go hungry while the drug user services their habit. People steal from each other – even their friends and families –so they can get high. Young people will sell their bodies in ex-

change for drugs. They will give away who they are to become slaves of their addiction.

So you may ask, "Why would someone want to use drugs?" It all comes down to personal choice and reverts to accountability, decision making, and the modeling behavior they may follow.

It's easy to tell when someone is drunk. But how do you tell if someone is high on drugs? It comes down to observing what is different or abnormal for the person's behavior.

Marijuana – glassy, red eyes; loud talking; disjointed thoughts; inappropriate laughter; sleepiness; the smell of burned marijuana on their clothes or breath.

Depressants (Xanax, Valium, Oxycontin, Hydrocodone, etc.) – contracted pupils, drunk-like behavior, difficulty concentrating, slurred speech, sleepiness. Lack of the odor of alcohol.

Stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines, crystal meth) – dilated pupils, hyperactivity, irritability, anxiety, lack of sleep activity, weight loss.

Heroin – contracted pupils, no response of pupils to light, needle marks, sleepiness or sleeping at odd times, twitching, loss of appetite.

You may think that Nome is a small isolated community, but the fact is that drugs are in Nome; they are being actively sold to people of all age ranges; and the devastating effects transcend age or social status. ALL of the drugs listed above are being sold in this community by people who have no regard for those who choose to buy from them.

The question arises, 'If the police know that drugs are being sold and used – why aren't they doing something about it'. The answer is that the

police are constantly working towards making Nome a safe place to live, but there are only so many officers to cover the work that's being done – most of which involves alcohol. Last week there were 47 alcohol related calls and 14 arrests. ALL of them involved alcohol.

Drug use and transactions are conducted in the shadows. Those who sell drugs in your community are careful – they don't want to go to jail and lose the profits they have made by destroying lives. In order to effectively address drugs use, the COMMUNITY will have to get involved and send a message that this is not what they community wants or needs. The COMMUNITY will need to stand together and provide actionable and accurate information to the police to take enforcement action. Rumors and vague information will not help, what is needed are people who are willing to provide evidence.

Nome must decide what they find acceptable. The people will need to decide if they are willing to accept the use of drugs in the community and the consequences to the people around them. Then, action must be taken to change behaviors and hold those responsible accountable for their decisions.

The Police Department exists to exercise the will of the people. Police can only operate with the support and consensus of the community in which they provide services. It is time for the people of Nome to make a decision and promote accountability, decision-making, and role modeling.

If you wish to report drug activity, you are encouraged to call 443-5262. You may provide information by calling and leaving a message on the

CRIME LINE 443-8509. IN doing so, you will be making Nome a safer place for all.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please remember, your police department is here to help. Call 443-5262 if you have questions or concerns.

Saying it Sincerely

By Rev. Karen Sonray, Our Savior Lutheran Church Member, Nome Ministerial Association

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" Matthew 5: 16

A poster hanging on one of our walls in the church says, " Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God." It has hung there for years and is one of my favorites.

Two of the issues young people struggle with the most are a sense of identity and a sense of purpose. I suppose many adults struggle with these issues too.

The Christian faith believes we are all children of God, created in God's image. That is our number one identity. Whether we are single or married, Norwegian or Inupiat, young or old –we belong to God. And God sees our worth. God gifts us with talents to nurture and use in the world for the sake of others and for the sake of God. Often we note that Jesus is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. But the scripture quoted above from Matthew emphasizes that that light of God is also carried by us! "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine" sing out the children. Eleanor Roosevelt said it another way, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

Yet often we have anxiety about our sense of worth and purpose. We don't believe we have any light to share. The Bible tells stories over and over again where God's people struggle with this anxiety. Again and again the response God sends is: "Do not be afraid." It is one of the most common messages in the Bible! "Do not be afraid" to risk sharing your thoughts and your gifts. Do not be afraid what others will think or say. Be more afraid that you will squander your gifts for senseless purposes. Be more afraid that one day you will wake up and wonder where your life went.

There is a concept we hold up in Lutheran tradition called the "priesthood of all believers." This doctrine means every individual has direct access to God without ecclesiastical mediation and each individual shares the responsibility of ministering to the other members of the community of believers. This "priesthood" stems from baptism wherein we become members of God's family.

The Bible passage considered to be the basis of this belief is the First Epistle of Peter, 2:9:

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

So, do not be afraid. You are gifted. Nurture your gift. Share it. In so doing, you will discover joy as you live out your identity and purpose given to you by God.

• School Board

continued from page 7

initiated a conversation about school closure policy after the recent bouts of freezing rain and dangerous conditions. She and other members of the board were contacted by parents who questioned the district's policy concerning not only the closure, but also the issue of safety during extremely harsh winds. Superintendent Gast explained that he is working on

an appeal to the commissioner about the half-day cancellation, and that the district is required to have a certain amount on student contact hours in order for a day to count as "full." Reader suggested that the district create a policy concerning high winds to relieve any safety concerns, and Gast said he would look into plans that may exist for other districts.

Following a recess into executive session, President Betsy Brennan announced that the board had concluded superintendent Gast's evaluation. "Mr. Gast has fulfilled the conditions of his position and he will continue in his existing contract, which goes through June of 2015," Brennan said, "We look forward to working with him in the future."

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Church Services Directory

- Bible Baptist Church**
443-2144
Sunday School: 10 a.m./Worship: 11 a.m.
- Community Baptist Church-SBC**
108 West 3rd Avenue • 443-5448 • Pastor Bruce Landry
Sunday Small Group Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
- Community United Methodist Church**
West 2nd Avenue & C Street • 443-2865
Pastor Charles Brower
Sunday: Worship 11:00 am
Monday: Thrift Shop 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: Thrift Shop 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Wednesday: Faith Followers 5:45 to 7:30 pm
- Nome Covenant Church**
101 Bering Street • 443-2565 • Pastor Harvey
Sunday: School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth Group 6:30 p.m. (443-8063 for more info)
Friday: Community Soup Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Our Savior Lutheran Church**
5th Avenue & Bering • 443-5295
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday: worship 7 p.m. (2nd and 4th Sunday only)
Handicapped accessible ramp: North side
- River of Life Assembly of God**
405 W. Seppala • 443-5333 • Pastor Mike Christian Jr.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Youth Meeting: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
(Ages: 6th grade thru 12th Grade)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
- St. Joseph Catholic Church**
Corner of Steadman & W. King Place • 443-5527
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Masses: Mon. & Tue. 9:00 a.m., Thur. 12:10 p.m.
Friday Hospital Mass: 12:10 p.m. (NSRH Meditation Room)
- 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.

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DEPARTMENT: Housing Department
SALARY: DOE - HOURS: M-F 40 w/k
JOB SUMMARY:
The Housing Director would be responsible for planning and administering, directing, supervising and coordinating all phases of NVU Housing Department operations: i.e. construction, procurement, contract negotiation, selection of applicants for hire, reporting to NVU General Manager and HUD, management of housing development programs and budgets and/or monitors the work of qualified specialists, assistant, and temp or p/t workers. Other duties as assigned. Full job description provided upon request.

ing and coordinating all phases of NVU Housing Department operations: i.e. construction, procurement, contract negotiation, selection of applicants for hire, reporting to NVU General Manager and HUD, management of housing development programs and budgets and/or monitors the work of qualified specialists, assistant, and temp or p/t workers. Other duties as assigned. Full job description provided upon request.

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Applications available at the NVU Office.
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1/30

NSEDC Job Opportunities



Communications Director: This position oversees the coordination and management of corporate communications to the public and the dissemination of information regarding NSEDC and the CDQ Program on NSEDC's behalf.

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For an application or complete job descriptions, contact **Tiffany Martinson, Human Resources Director, at 443-2477 (Nome), 888-650-2477 (toll-free) or tiffany@nsedc.com**. Applications and further employment opportunities can be found at **www.nsedc.com**.

FOR SALE— Norton Sound Herring Permit.
Leslie @ 907-440-2445
2/6

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1/16-23-30, 2/6

Regarding Scott Travis— Your rent payment of \$140.00 (2012) \$280.00 (2013) and annual labor payment of \$1,120.00 (2013) for our claims in Nome, Alaska are due. Failure to pay will result in forfeiture of your portion of these claims.
Submit payment to Stanley D'Orio, 491 Dead River Road, Bowdoin, Maine 04287.
1/30 thru 4/24

Real Estate

FOR SALE— Lots 1-6, BK 81, Nome, by school / hospital, one or all, 907-444-1854
5/4-tfn

Trooper Beat

On January 26, at approximately 2:00 a.m., John Koozaata, 27, of Gambell, was arrested for violating his conditions of release, after the investigation revealed that he had consumed alcohol in violation of court conditions. Koozaata was telephonically arraigned and transported to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center.

On January 29, at approximately 12:00 a.m., Alvina Apangalook, 54, of Gambell, was arrested after she assaulted the VPSO and VPO and resisted arrest. Apangalook was also intoxicated in violation of her probation. Alvina Apangalook was arrested and charged with two counts of assault IV on a peace officer, resisting arrest and probation violation. Apangalook was telephonically arraigned and transported to AMCC.

On January 29, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Shawn Boolowon, 24, of Gambell, was arrested after the investigation revealed that he had consumed alcohol in violation of his probation. Shawn Boolowon was telephonically arraigned and released.

All Along the Seawall

Disclaimer: This is a record of activity. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party.

During this reporting period, there were 119 calls for service. This included:
9 Ambulance calls;
1 Fire call;
11 Animal complaints;
12 Calls relating to intoxicated/incapacitated persons needing assistance; and
4 Motor vehicle related crashes (none involving injury).
There were 10 arrests made; 9 of which involved alcohol.
In addition, 2 citations were issued for Minor Consuming Alcohol

On 1-27 at 1:34 a.m. NPD received a report of employee theft originating with the City of Nome. Details indicated that an employee had committed fraud involving pay received from the City. The case is under investigation.

On 1-27 at 6:04 p.m. NPD responded to a report of two intoxicated females in the vicinity of Fifth Ave. and Steadman. The females were contacted and found to be intoxicated. Investigation determined that Doreen Lockwood, 38, was in violation of release (no alcohol). She was transported to AMCC and remanded. No bail was set.

On 1-27at 9:52 p.m. NPD was called to the NEST to a report that John Penetac, 49 was intoxicated and causing a disturbance. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Penetac for Disorderly Conduct. He was remanded to AMCC with bail set at \$250.

On 1-27 at 11:44 p.m. NPD responded to a residence on Third Avenue to a report that several people in the home were drinking and causing a disturbance. Upon arrival, Raymond Larsen, Sr. was contacted and found to be in violation of conditions of probation (no alcohol). He was arrested and remanded to AMCC. No bail was set.

On 1-28, at 8:14 p.m. NPD responded to a report of a trespasser at a residence on W C Street. Upon arrival it as determined the report was without merit; however contact with Nathan Noongwook, age 19 determined that he had been consuming alcohol. Noongwook was issued a citation for Minor Consuming Alcohol and transported to a safe location.

On 1-28, at 7:27 a.m. Nome Police Department Officers responded to a residence on Third Ave for the report of an assault. Upon further investigation, Raymond Larsen Jr.,18, was found to have injured a family member during a dispute. Raymond was subsequently arrested and remanded to AMCC for Assault in the Fourth Degree, Domestic Violence and was held without bail.

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Helen “Huda” Ivanoff, Manager

On 1-28 at 12:48 p.m. NPD received a report of theft from a vehicle occurring sometime between 1-27 and 1-28. A description of missing items are pending. Residents are advised to make sure their vehicles are locked and secure. **Do not** leave items out and visible. Please help us to secure your valuables against loss.

On 1-28, at 5:28 p.m. NPD, NVAD, and NVFD personnel responded to a report of a vehicle running into a house in Icy View. The vehicle knocked over the fuel tank for the residence. There were no injuries involved. Damage to the residence and the tank is not available at this time.

On 1-28 at 10:38 p.m. Nome Police Department responded to the east end of town for the report of an assault. Investigation revealed Kandie Allen had assaulted her boyfriend. Allen was remanded to AMCC for Assault in the Fourth Degree Domestic Violence, where no bail was set.

On 1-29 2014 at 10:48 p.m. Nome Police Department responded to the west side of town for the report of a disturbance. After investigation, it was revealed Edwin Campbell had assaulted a female family member. Campbell was remanded to AMCC for Assault in the Fourth Degree/ Domestic Violence. Campbell was held without bail.

On 1-29 2014 at 1415 hours, NPD responded to the high school to a report of an assault occurring between students. One student received a minor injury in the altercation. Investigation resulted in the arrest of a 14-year-old student for Assault in the Fourth Degree. The student was transported to the Nome Youth Facility and remanded to custody.

On 1-29, at 4:48 p.m. a disturbance was reported at a residence on West C Street. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Edwin Campbell, 39, for Assault in the Fourth Degree. Campbell was remanded to AMCC with bail set at \$1000.

On 1-30, at 12:41 p.m. Nome Police Department Officers responded to a residence on West C Street for the report of Freida Okoomaalingok, 32, refusing to leave the residence. Upon arrival, Freida was found still within the home and was subsequently arrested and remanded to AMCC for Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree and was held on \$500 bail.

On 1-31 at 10:45 p.m., NPD received a report of an intoxicated person near Nome-Beltz High School who may be in need of assistance. Contact was made with Jared Menadelook, 20, who was found to be highly intoxicated. Menadelook was taken to the hospital for evaluation and issued a citation for Minor Consuming Alcohol.

On 2-1 at 4:41 p.m. NPD responded to a report of a hit-and-run motor vehicle crash occurring at the intersection of Front and Bering Street. Investiga-

tion indicates a vehicle driven by Shelly Kuzuguk, 27, slid into the oncoming lane and struck a truck. After stopping briefly at the scene, the truck drove away. NPD investigation identified the driver of the truck as Fallon Johnson, 24. As a result of the collision, Kuzuguk received a citation for basic speed. Fallon is being charged with Driving without a License and Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Accident. Damage to the vehicles is estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. No injuries were reported.

On 2-1 at 11:03 p.m. NPD received a report of a domestic assault occurring at a residence on Prospect Place. Upon arrival, the suspect had fled the scene. Attempts to locate were unsuccessful and an arrest warrant has been requested from the court. Alcohol was a factor in this case.

On 2- 2 at 12:13 a.m. Nome Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a truck near the intersection of First and Moore. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Patrick Kotongan, 32. Investigation resulted in Kotongan's arrest for Driving Under the Influence. He was later charged with Refusal to Submit to a Preliminary Breath Test and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test of his breath. Kotongan was remanded to AMCC. Bail was set \$2,000.

Legals

CITY OF NOME PUBLIC NOTICE

O-14-01-02 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 1.20 OF THE NOME CODE OF ORDINANCES AND REENACTING CHAPTER 1.20 TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES AND A FINE SCHEDULE FOR VIOLATIONS OF CITY ORDINANCES AND AUTHORIZING ENFORCEMENT THEREOF THROUGH ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF CITATIONS OF MINOR OFFENSES AND HARMONIZING PENALTY PROVISIONS THROUGHOUT THE CODE AND WITH STATE LAW

O-14-01-03 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 10.60 OF THE NOME MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING CHAPTER 1.20.40 TO REFLECT FINES FOR CHAPTER 10.60

These ordinances had first reading at the regular meeting of the Nome City Council on January 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. and were passed to second reading, public hearing and final passage at a regular meeting of the Council scheduled for **February 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 102 Division Street. Copies of the ordinances are available in the Office of the City Clerk.
1/30-2/6

United States Census Bureau

Recruiting

Part-Time Field Representatives
In Nome, AK

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February 13, 2014
Nome Job Center**

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There will be no school for the **Nome Public Schools** students

Thursday, February 13 & Friday, February 14



due to Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Nome Elementary School conferences will be held on both days from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Parents of NES students should be receiving notification as to what time their conference is.

The **Nome-Beltz High School** Parent Teacher conferences will be held Thursday, February 13 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday, February 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you need a ride, please call the high school office at (907) 443- 5201 to make arrangements.

Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

MEMBERS WANTED!

Help advise the Federal Subsistence Board on the management of subsistence fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in your region.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
March 21, 2014

FOR AN APPLICATION, CALL
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OR VISIT:
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Native Village of **Unalakleet** and Kawerak Transportation Program Long Range Transportation Plan & Tribal Safety Management Plan Update
Monday, February 10, 2014
1:00PM at the Memorial Hall
Questions? Contact: Sean McKight, P.E. (907) 443-4395 or smckight@kawerak.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Native Village of **Stebbins** and Kawerak Transportation Program Long Range Transportation Plan & Tribal Safety Management Plan Update
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
1:00PM at City Hall
Questions? Contact: Sean McKight, P.E. (907) 443-4395 or smckight@kawerak.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Native Village of **St. Michael** and Kawerak Transportation Program Long Range Transportation Plan & Tribal Safety Management Plan Update
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
7:00PM at the IRA Hall
Questions? Contact: Sean McKight, P.E. (907) 443-4395 or smckight@kawerak.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Native Village of **Shaktoolik** and Kawerak Transportation Program Long Range Transportation Plan & Tribal Safety Management Plan Update
Saturday, February 15, 2014
1:00PM at the IRA Hall
Questions? Contact: Sean McKight, P.E. (907) 443-4395 or smckight@kawerak.org

KAWERAK, INC.

2/6

Koyuk Native Corporation
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Store: 963-3551



NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Shareholder meeting of the Koyuk Native Corporation has been rescheduled for **March 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Koyuk Community Hall for the following purposes:

1. To elect three (3) directors whose terms will expire at the annual meeting of 2014;
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Claims for candidacy can be picked up at the KNC office.
Deadline for Candidacy is December 1, 2013

1/9-23, 2/6-20, 3/6

Soliciting Artists for artwork proposals for the newly renovate Shaktoolik K-12 School. Per State Statute .5% of the Shaktoolik schools remodel budget will be spent on art for the school, this amounts to \$36,142. We are asking interested artists to submit art proposals for the school. Shaktoolik is an Inupiat Eskimo community of 250 sitting on the Eastern shore of Norton Sound. Activities like berry picking, hunting land and sea animals along with commercial and subsistence fishing are an important part of daily life. The K-12 schools mascot is the wolverine and the school colors are maroon and gold. Art proposals are not limited to style, medium or size. If interested it is strongly recommended that you contact the school for areas that may fit your ideas. The school can provide you dimensions and photos. A selection committee will award the artwork contracts to the selected artists. For additional information **please contact Principal Sammons at (907) 955-3021.**

For consideration you will need to submit:

- 2 a dimensional portrayal depicting your proposal
- Written narrative of your proposal
- Portfolio of prior work
- A lump sum cost of your proposal, also a cost breakdown of your proposals budget
- 2 references
- An attempt will be made to return proposals to the artists after a selection has been made.

Proposals need to be submitted by Feb 15, 2014 to:

Shaktoolik School
C/O Principal Sammons
P.O. Box 40
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771



1/30,2/6-13-20

Sitnasuak Native Corporation

Notice of the 41th Annual Meeting of Shareholders

- Saturday, May 31, 2014
- 10 a.m.
- Nome Elementary School
- Nome, Alaska

BUSINESS CONDUCTED WILL INCLUDE:

- Election of Four (4) Directors for three year term
- Other shareholder business

SOLICITATION OF CANDIDATES FOR BOARD POSTIONS

- Written Letter of Candidacy and Nominee Information Questionnaire
- Candidates must be 19 years old or older by filing date.

MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 3, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL

A proposal form (fee & signature requirements) will be provided, please contact the Sitnasuak Native Corporation Office 907-387-1200 or 877-443-2632 (toll free)

MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CORPORATION OFFICE ON OR BEFORE March 3, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.

Please contact **Dave Evans**, Shareholder Liaison, for more information at **387-1226** or devans@snc.org

www.snc.org

1/30,2/6-13-20-27



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Children who have been victims of sexual abuse exhibit long-term and behavioral problems more frequently, particularly inappropriate sexual behaviors.

For more information, resources or help contact the Child Advocacy Center at 443-4379

All Around the Sound

Awarded
Thomas C. Moran, CMC of **City of Nome**, has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC), which is awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Inc.

IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete demanding education re-

quirements; and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state.

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks, founded in 1947, has 10,300 members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, and the mission of this global non-profit corporation is to

enhance the education opportunities and professional development of its diverse membership.

In light of the speed and drastic nature of change these days, lifelong learning is not only desirable, it is necessary for all in local government to keep pace with growing demands and changing needs of the citizens we serve. Your City can take im-

mense pride in Thomas's educational accomplishments and achievement of this milestone.

ARCS to broadcast 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Nome

The Alaska Rural Communication Service (ARCS) has released its broadcast schedule through Feb. 22 and includes program times for

primetime coverage of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. In Nome, ARCS is available on GCI channel 14.

2014 Olympic coverage begins on ARCS Thursday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m. according to its published schedule available online at www.arcstv.org.

Board of Game increases bear bag limit

In a Board of Game meeting for the Artic and Western Alaska region last month, the board carried a proposal to change the bag limit of one brown bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year for Game Unit 22.

The proposal was submitted by Kawerak Inc., Sitnasuak Native Corp., King Island Native Corp. and Nome Eskimo Community in response to increasing reports of brown bears raiding subsistence racks and subsistence camps and even appearing in town. Last summer, two bears were shot within city limits after having been seen multiple times in neighborhoods, going through trash.

The Board declined to extend the open season, as the full proposal suggested.



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photo by Al Burgo

SUPERBOWL FUN—Broncos fan Bobbi Jo Conner and Seahawks fan Joel S. Rose show off their custom made Super Bowl XLVII plaques at the Bering Sea on Super Sunday.

Court

Week ending 1/31

Civil

Hetu, Karen v. Hetu, Gregory; Civil Protective Order
Sockpick, Roy v. Obruk, Joanne V.; Civil Protective Order

Small Claims

No current claims filed (start 2NO-14-000065C)

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Fredric Saccheus (8/28/89); Notice For Withdrawal of Petition to Revoke Probation; The State withdraws the Petition to Revoke Probation filed on or about 1/21/14; the court should quash any outstanding bench warrant issued on this case; Filed by the Attorney General's Office 1/28/14.

State of Alaska v. Troy Walker (6/19/76); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 110061288; Violated conditions of probation; Conditions of probation modified as follows; one day revoked, credit for time served, has been served; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Jill Brienne Booshu (1/3/83); Dismissal—Count II only; Count II: Resisting or Interfering With Arrest; Filed by the DA's Office 1/27/14.

State of Alaska v. Thomas Bell (9/22/89); Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: MICS6; Filed by the DA's Office 1/27/14.

State of Alaska v. Christopher Jamison (12/7/82); Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: VDVPO; Filed by the DA's Office 1/24/14.

State of Alaska v. Ann Soolook (6/29/70); Amended/Corrected Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: VOQR; Date of Offense: 12/16/13; NPD Case No: 13-006756; Filed by the DAs Office 1/24/14.

State of Alaska v. Raymond Larsen (8/27/63); 2NO-12-243CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 113287689; Violated conditions of probation; Probation terminated; Suspended jail term revoke and imposed: all remaining time.

State of Alaska v. Raymond Larsen (8/27/63); 2NO-12-704CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 113290146; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 30 days, consecutive to the term in Case No. 2NO-12-

243CR.

State of Alaska v. Douglas Henry (6/4/78); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation ATN: 113671341; Violated conditions of probation; Probation extended one year (4/1/15); Unsuspended jail term revoked and imposed: 1 day, not to exceed time served; Must pay suspended \$100 jail surcharge to the AG's Office, Anchorage; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Shawn Boolowon (9/12/89); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 114192018; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 40 days, report to the Nome Court on 3/7/14 for a remand hearing at 1:30 p.m.; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Richard Schulling (9/22/59); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 113288382; Violated conditions of probation; No Sanction Imposed; Probation extended to (no date indicated); Must pay suspended \$100 jail surcharge to the AG's Office, Anchorage; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Roberta Tokeinna (10/21/80); 2NO-13-726CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 114188337; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 5 days, report to Nome Court on 2/6/14 for a remand hearing at 1:30 p.m.; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Roberta Tokeinna (10/21/80); 2NO-13-756CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 114188526; Violated conditions of probation; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 10 days, report to Nome Court on 2/6/14 for a remand hearing at 1:30 p.m.

State of Alaska v. Christine Siwooko (6/20/59); 2NO-13-440CR Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: Criminal Trespass 1; Filed by the DAs Office 1/22/14.

State of Alaska v. Christine Siwooko (6/20/59); 2NO-13-608CR Violate Condition of Release; Date of Violation: 8/3/13; 30 days, 25 days suspended; Unsuspended 5 days shall be served with time served; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due

now to AG's 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: 1/29/14); Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no jailable offenses; Shall not possess or consume alcohol; Subject to warrantless breath testing at the request of any peace officer.

State of Alaska v. Alfred Kakoona (6/30/78); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 110006172; Violated conditions of probation; Probation extended to 3/29/15; Suspended jail term revoked and imposed: 1 day, not to exceed time served; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Valerie Ginger Kakaruk (11/6/91); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 113291685; Violated conditions of probation; Conditions of probation modified as follows: No alcohol except as provided by AS 04.16.051(b); Must pay suspended \$100 jail surcharge to the AG's Office, Anchorage; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original judgment remain in effect.

State of Alaska v. Stephanie Buffas (4/23/81); Harassment 2; Date of Violation: 10/13/13; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 60 days, 60 days suspended; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due now 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 2 years (date of judgment: 1/30/14); Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no jailable offenses; Shall not possess or consume alcohol; 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 officer.

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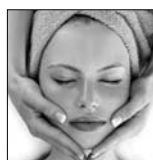
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• Warm January

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The National Weather Service in Nome reports that the average temperature in January 2014 was 21.3°F, compared to the all-time hottest January on record, set in 1985 at 24.4°F. The normal January temperature is 13°F for high and -3°F for low temps.

Between January 11 and 16, temperatures cooled down to zero and below.

As noted in last week's *Nome Nugget*, January 27 set the all time record temperature of 51°F (old day record: 40°F, 1963) and became the all time warmest winter day on record in Nome.

The warm weather came courtesy of a large high-pressure system off the West Coast, pumping tropical air from Hawaii to Alaska. There was an intense pressure gradient that created record-breaking winds that resulted in average winds blowing at 12.8 mph in January, breaking the January 2011 record of 12.4 mph. This average does not adequately reflect the drama of a wind event on January 17 when sustained winds ripped through the region at 58 mph and gusted at 63 mph, breaking the all-time record of 56 mph wind set in the winter of 2007/2008.

The NWS in Nome reports that this winter was pretty much a "middle of the road" winter in terms of precipitation, but it sure doesn't look like it when taking into account the bare tundra that should be snow covered.

Accumulated snowfall measured 12.2 inches, but again, that doesn't translate what's actually on the ground.

When describing a warm, sunny day in January to the Fairbanks-based Dr. Walsh, he said, "Now, that is not normal." Usually, clear sunny days in January are cold and crisp, not warm and balmy.

As Nomeites bathed in the sun, people in the Midwest again complained about the bitter cold. "It comes back to the breakdown of the jet stream pattern, which has become wavy," explained Walsh. "We've been averaging warmer temperatures in Alaska than in the Midwest and we were warmer than January temperatures indicated for Detroit." The reason is a bend in the polar vortex that transports cold air south instead of keeping the band of cold air flowing around the polar region.

Walsh said this winter would be food for climate studies for years to come. He said he is particularly interested to see if Alaska will recover from the warm spell or if the brown tundra and open, blue water will act as a heat source. This would provide a so-called positive feedback that would keep the weather from cooling, which would add to the warming trend even more. "The key thing to watch is if the ocean refreezes," Walsh said. "If it does, it would cut down on longer term impacts such as storms, and perhaps even impacts on the flow of the jet stream itself."

Just two years ago, January 2012 went into the history books as the second coldest winter on record in Nome. But Walsh predicts that these extreme warm periods that Alaskans just experienced will become more frequent over the next 40 or 50 years.

"What seems to be extremely warm right now is perhaps the average type of winter for in 2070 or 2080," said Walsh. "This may be an early look at what the winters will look like for our grandchildren."

Even if the world cut CO₂ emissions today, we could not reverse or mitigate these wild climate changes, he said. Past generations have already put enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to change the climate for the next 30 to 50 years.



Photos by Diana Haecker

IDITAROD TRAIL— Remnants of snow and tripods indicate where the Iditarod Trail should be. Instead, brown tundra shows on the last few miles of trail to Nome.



OPEN WATER— Norton Sound at Farley's Camp shows no shorefast ice and some sea ice floating in vast patches of open water. When ice melts, land or open water takes its place. Both land and open water are less reflective than ice and absorb more solar radiation. This causes more warming, which in turn causes more melting, and this cycle continues. This is known as positive feedback.

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