



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON— The Nome Homeschooler's group gave a Nativity performance during the City's Christmas Extravaganza.

Photo by Angela Hansen

# The Nome Nugget<sup>®</sup>

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VOLUME CXV NO. 51 December 24, 2015

## NJUS budgets lights and power for spending year 2016

By Sandra L. Medearis

The NJUS administration has presented its board of directors an operating and maintenance budget groomed for savings. Following two sessions of questions and answers, the board approved the 2016 spending plan on Dec. 21 and passed it on to the Nome Common Council for the final OK.

This year's plan shows the utility coming out with a \$600,000 cash surplus at the end of 2015 compared to 2014's red ink in the shade of \$130,000.

"This budget continues responsible fiscal operations that will generate a reserve," John K. Handeland, manager, told the board. "After the first of the year we will target the in-

creases in the reserve to provide for capital budget considerations."

The budget offers no rate reductions, but continued low fuel costs may reduce the customer fuel surcharge.

Rates increased to approach actual costs, refined planning, plus being alert for savings in maintenance and operations, plus diligence

in collecting accounts receivable would grow the cash surplus for capital budgeting, Handeland believed.

The FY 2016 plan comprises estimated revenues of \$13,116,250 and operating and maintenance expenses of \$11,283,117, including provisions for depreciation in the amount of \$501,500, which results in a net margin of \$1,833,133. Net margin, non-cash amortizations and required overhaul, annual bond and debt service principle payments and fuel inventory detailed separately from operation and maintenance budget expenses leave the net cash surplus of \$597,571.

The budget assumes fueling generators at the current average rate of \$2.51 per gallon, both for cost of fuel and surcharge revenue. However, fuel costs are currently at a level not seen in years, or ever, several board members observed, with the Oil Price Information Service rack average at less than \$1.20 going into December, down more than two dollars from a year ago.

This week, the figure was around \$1.10, Handeland noted. NJUS pays approximately 35 cents per gallon additional for delivery and other as-

continued on page 4



Photo by Nils Hahn

LOST— A young bearded seal accidentally wandered off the harbor into Nome until he was spotted on a parking lot on Lomen Avenue. Marine Mammal Stranding Network responder Gay Sheffield responded and arranged the seal's eventual return back to sea.

## Bearded seal takes wrong turn

By Diana Haecker

A young bearded seal, apparently lost on his way to find open water, took the wrong turn and ended up inland at Crowley's parking lot on Lomen Avenue, on Thursday, December 17.

The seal had bald patches on his back, top of the head and sides, consistent with one symptom of a seal disease that is still a mystery to researchers and biologists. But unlike

seals during the 2011 federally declared Unusual Mortality Event that had hair loss in addition to open sores and poor body conditions, this young bearded seal was more typical of more recent years: he was fat, alert, responsive, and with no skin sores reports UAF Alaska Sea Grant and NOAA Marine Mammal Stranding Network responder Gay Sheffield.

"He was a subadult male bearded seal, cosmetically rough-looking, but he was physically healthy, plump, feisty and responded normally," said Sheffield.

The immediate concern was that the seal was heading onto an active street towards downtown Nome, clearly out of his natural habitat.

Sheffield is federally authorized to deal with unusual marine mammal incidents. She had been notified by a member of the public around 5 p.m. on Thursday evening and responded immediately. Sheffield called

NSEDC biologist Kevin Keith to ask for the use of a fish tote because a dog kennel would have been too small for the large animal.

But how does one get a 200-pound feisty seal, not eager to hang out with humans, to crawl into a fish tote? With the help of several on-lookers and the tote tilted to the side, Sheffield coaxed the seal into its holding tank. Then they lifted the tote into a truck and transported the animal to the Nome Police Department. "It was great of the Nome police to provide a secure location overnight for this seal — especially since it is an important subsistence species," Sheffield said.

When such events happen in the Bering Strait region, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency's National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS for short, and their co-management partners have a say

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## Nome-Beltz Jr./Sr. High principal resigns

By Diana Haecker

On Monday, Nome Public Schools Superintendent Shawn Arnold announced that he accepted the resignation of Nome-Beltz Junior/Senior High School Principal Edwin "Chip" Sharpe effective January 15, 2016. Sharpe gave his notice citing personal and medical reasons for his departure. Arnold said Sharpe is moving to Utah to look after family matters.

In the meantime, Assistant Principal Beth Sandefur will take on administrative duties with additional support provided by Jon Berkeley, Director of Federal Programs and Instruction.

Prior to moving to Nome this summer to fill the Nome-Beltz prin-

incipal position after previous principal Harlan Heinrich quit after only a year on the job, Sharpe served as Assistant Principal at Mountain Village in Lower Yukon School District for 2014-2015.

Arnold told the *Nome Nugget* that the search for a replacement is beginning soon. The timing is not ideal, as it is hard to find a replacement for a principal in the middle of the school year.

Asked about the recruiting process, Arnold wrote in an email that he expects that the process will be condensed to fill the position as soon as possible. "We will be accepting applications both internally and externally through Alaska

continued on page 6



Photo courtesy of NBHS Yearbook Club

PAST AND PRESENT CHAMP— Nome-Beltz senior Leif Erikson won a state wrestling title in 2013 in the 126-pound classification. Last weekend, he claimed his second crown by beating Alaska's best 123A wrestlers in the 145-pound division at the 2015 ASAA Alaska Wrestling State Championships at Bartlett High School. See story on pages 9 and 10.

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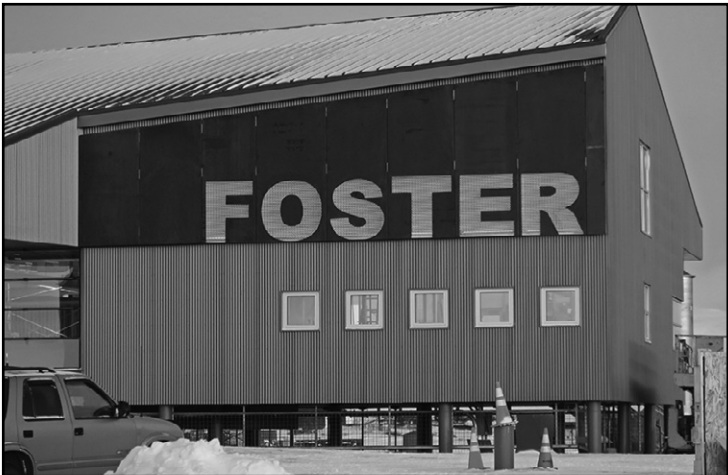


Photo by Nikolai Ivanoff  
NAMED— The name “Foster” was recently added to the Richard Foster Building still under construction at the end of Steadman St.

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

# Editorial

## Zombie Apocalypse

A TV movie and novel has it that the nation turns into zombies after being bitten while visiting Orlando, Florida, the home of Disney World. It seems that the entire Norton Sound Health Corporation is throwing caution to the wind and planning to take a trip to Disney World this spring. Wow! The full board, support staff and families are heading south to Florida. They are claiming the need to attend a national meeting with other boards that will attend. How nice. Don't we wonder how much this caper will cost? Consider lodging, food and per diem. A pretty penny don't you think?

Where is the altruism? Where is the spirit of looking out for the benefit of the less fortunate? Where is the spirit of doing what is right for the good of those in our care? Could some of that money be used for folks with children dealing with cancer to have some financial assistance? Could the money be given to employees who have not had a decent raise in salary? What about giving the money and travel vouchers to employees as a reward for dedicated service? Perhaps it would not be such an egregious assault on our sense of financial justice if we had a much smaller board. Realistically, the NSHC board is too big and unwieldy. Most of those on the board get lifetime trips to Nome for the juicy per diem for shopping.

One can't help but laugh at the possibility of the Zombie Apocalypse. If they get bitten while there will they infect us upon their return? If they are already zombies when they leave Nome will it reverse the Zombie effect? Perhaps in the spirit of Christmas giving the board will see fit to spend the zombie funds on the relief of real medical needs in the Norton Sound area. It would be an appropriate gesture to help those in need and be in line with the true mission of a hospital board. —N.L.M.—



Photo courtesy of Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum  
MAGNIFICENT GARB— Photographer F.H. Nowell capture a photo this woman in her magnificent parkie in the early 1900's in Nome.

## Weather Statistics

Sunrise	12/24/15	12:04 p.m.	High Temp (12/14-21/15)	+31F	12/15/15	National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391
	12/30/15	12:02 p.m.	Low Temp	-2F	12/17/15	
Sunset	12/24/15	3:59 p.m.	Peak Wind	43 mph, E	12/14/15	
	12/30/15	4:07 p.m.	2015 - Total Precip. (through 12/14)	16.38"		
			Normal Total to Date, 2015	16.46"		
			Seasonal Snowfall	22.30"	Normal 27.00"	
			Snow on the Ground	12.00"		

## Nome Norton Sound Tide Predictions (High & Low Waters)

Date	Day	Time	High Tide	Time	High Tide	Time	Low Tide	Time	Low Tide
12/24	Th	2:38a	+1.5	4:31p	+1.3	9:41a	0.0	9:26p	+0.7
25	Fr	3:29a	+1.4	5:33p	+1.3	10:36a	-0.1	10:23p	+0.8
26	Sa	4:22a	+1.4	6:28p	+1.3	11:28a	-0.1	11:19p	+0.8
27	Su	5:16a	+1.4	7:16p	+1.3	12:17p	-0.1		
28	Mo	6:11a	+1.4	8:00p	+1.3	12:15a	+0.8	1:04p	-0.1
29	Tu	7:06a	+1.3	8:41p	+1.3	1:10a	+0.7	1:48p	0.0
30	We	8:01a	+1.3	9:21p	+1.3	2:04a	+0.7	2:32p	+0.1

Daily variations in sea level due to local meteorological conditions cannot be predicted and may significantly effect the observed tides in this area. All times are listed in Local Standard Time. All heights are in feet referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

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Senate approves Point Spencer land transfer to BSNC

**By Diana Haecker**  
Last week, the Senate approved the Point Spencer Land Conveyance Act that would convey lands to the regional Bering Straits Native Corporation while the U.S. Coast Guard would keep the existing infrastructure and land at the barrier island separating Port Clarence from the Bering Sea, near Teller and Brevig Mission.  
Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced the bicameral legislation with Congressman Don Young (R-AK) in May, to streamline future infrastructure development and potential uses of Point Spencer, by calling for the

conveyance of approximately 2,500 acres of federal lands to local, state and federal stakeholders. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), a co-sponsor of the legislation and a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, supported inclusion of the bill in the Coast Guard Authorization Act, H.R. 4188, which passed the Senate Friday by unanimous consent.  
The Point Spencer Land Conveyance Act aims to establish a public-private partnership between Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska. Among stakeholders, the U.S. Coast Guard would retain its footprint in the re-

gion to support their statutory mission and duties, while the partnership would be conveyed lands to establish a U.S. Arctic deep draft port.  
The legislation still needs to pass the House of Representatives due to Point Spencer-unrelated changes made in the bill. Bering Straits Native Corporation had conducted an economic analysis, which examined the feasibility of developing infrastructure at Point Spencer to support shipping or offshore oil and gas development. In order to go forward with any plans, Congress had to sign off on the land conveyance. Matt Ganley, BSNC Vice President of

Media and External Affairs said further steps depend on when the bill goes to final passage and how fast the Bureau of Land Management would conduct the conveyance. "Once conveyed, BSNC will begin planning in earnest, but we have been careful not to commit to anything until the transfer occurs," Ganley wrote in an email to the Nome Nugget.  
Since BSNC first began pursuing the land transfer in 2010, the company contracted a geomorphologist to evaluate the long-term stability of Point Spencer, developed initial design and build-out scenarios for development and had been in discussions with industry regarding their needs and possible uses of Port Clarence. The conclusion of the economic analysis was that oil and gas

development in the Beaufort and Chukchi would be critical to any major undertaking at Port Clarence. Shipping transits through the Bering Strait would not be a major factor because the majority of vessels have enough fuel capacity to make the Northern Sea Route trips without refueling and it is possible that vessel routing may not be in American waters. Also, with the recent news that Shell and several other oil and gas companies delayed their plans to drill in the Arctic, the economic feasibility to develop Point Spencer is questionable.  
"The withdrawal of Shell from the Beaufort has changed the economic picture for much of Alaska including infrastructure development along the Arctic coast," noted Ganley.



*Nugget file photo*  
**POINT SPENCER**— A land transfer bill to transfer 2,500 acres of land at Point Spencer to the state and BSNC cleared the Senate last week. Pictured are the Coast Guard assets and the runway at Point Spencer.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, December 24



*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*NCC Parent and Child Play Group	Boys and Girls Club	<b>Closed until Jan. 7</b>
*Lunch Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	<b>Closed for Holiday</b>
*Weekly Women's Circle	Prematernal Home	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering and Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Open Bowling	Nome Rec Center	<b>Closed for Holiday</b>
*Thrift Shop	Methodist Church	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, December 25



*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	<b>Closed for Holiday</b>
*AM Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	<b>Closed for Holiday</b>
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church(rear)	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 26

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 8:00 p.m.
*Yoga	Nome Rec Center	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
*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, December 27

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Open Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
*Family Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
*PM Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 28

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - noon
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 10:00 p.m.
*PM Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Zumba Fitness	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Open Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*Yoga	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Lutheran Church(rear)	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
*Library Story Hour (ages 3-7)	Kegoayah Kozga Library	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Lunch Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
*Strength Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Sepala	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*Yoga	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
*AA Meeting	Airport Pizza (upstairs)	8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
*Nome Alumni Tournament	Nome-Beltz Gym	<b>Evening, Times TBA</b>

Wednesday, December 30

*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
*AM Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10:00 a.m. - noon
*Crazy Draft Day (ages 8 - 12)	Kegoayah Kozga Library	<b>10:00 a.m. - noon</b>
*Open Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 10:00 p.m.
*PM Lap Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Zumba Fitness	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
*Family Swim	Nome Swimming Pool	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
*Yoga	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
*Nome Alumni Tournament	Nome-Beltz Gym	<b>Evening, Times TBA</b>

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**Bering Land Bridge Visitor Center:** 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M-F)

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## • Bearded seal

*continued from page 1*

in how seals are handled and there were several possible outcomes of the seal's fate. He could've been taken for subsistence; he could've been hauled off to the Seward Sea Life Center for research; or he could be released back to the sea.

NMFS is the federal agency authorized to manage and conduct research on ice-associated seals, including bearded seals. The Ice Seal

Committee, consisting of 10 Alaska Native committee members from Bristol Bay to the North Slope Borough, is the Alaska Native co-management partner with NMFS regarding ice-associated seals. Sheffield immediately notified the Ice Seal Committee's Bering Strait representative Brandon Ahmasuk and then hit the phone to notify the NMFS Office of Protective Resources. Alaska State Troopers were

able to help with communications between official responders and members of the public who helped capture the seal.

On Saturday, Ice Seal Committee member Ahmasuk, Sheffield and NMFS made the decision to release the seal since it was in good physical condition aside having a patchy fur coat. Together with other Native subsistence hunters, they transferred the seal to a toboggan sled and found a

good area off West Beach where he would have access to open water. Ahmasuk deduced from the ice conditions that the seal probably came in from the port. As sea ice closed in,

the animal became cut off from open water and just marched in the wrong direction. During the seal's release,

*continued on page 5*



*Photo courtesy Gay Sheffield*

**HAPPY ENDING—** The young bearded seal was set free on the sea ice near West Beach.

## • NJUS

*continued from page 1*

sociated expenses.

"If the low price holds, we'll be able to adjust the fuel surcharge," he said, adding that the \$2.50 oil inventory averaged with the low-priced oil would come roughly to around \$1.90 to \$2.10 per gallon when the new supply came with the summer barge season.

The board and utility management reviewed fiscal year 2015 and prior year operation and maintenance activities in tailoring the projected spending. The utility has been reviewing expenses in preparation for continued fine tuning, from personnel scheduling, installing energy-saving LED lighting to replace "energy hog" lights at the power plant, turning on wind turbines to decrease fuel going into generators and deferring upgrades to the computerized generator control system to assign the resources to overhaul one of the utility's 5.2-megawatt rated Wart-sila generators.

A mid-year review resulted in a budget amendment to reflect changes to the initial 2015 plan in both revenues and expenses, Handeland said. NJUS has reviewed monthly the effects of adjustments on the annual budget.

The board spends a large part of monthly meetings going over written reports from Handeland and going on record with formal approval.

In 2014, a deficit year for Nome Joint Utility System that helped send at the utility into financial crisis, that necessitated a loan from the City, a large reduction in community power demand occurred. NJUS adjusted the 2015 plan mid-year to meet calendar year projections with only minor variations, according to figures.

High energy costs keep energy efficiency on ratepayers' minds, but "we are not aware of any significant changes planned by the customer base, and project 2016 consumption and sales to stay the same," Handeland told the board in his draft budget review. Handeland noted that the opening of the Richard Foster Building and the reopening of the Nome State Office Building after renovation would positively affect revenue in the 2016 spending plan.

Earlier this year, a rate schedule change removed a tiered system for kilowatt charges and increased the base fee. Water and sewer rates increased in August.

The operator raised commercial garbage rates in November through tariffs approved by the state Regulatory Commission. A billing agreement with the contractor yields 12 percent of their billed revenue to NJUS, meaning the utility will see additional income based on the rate changes.

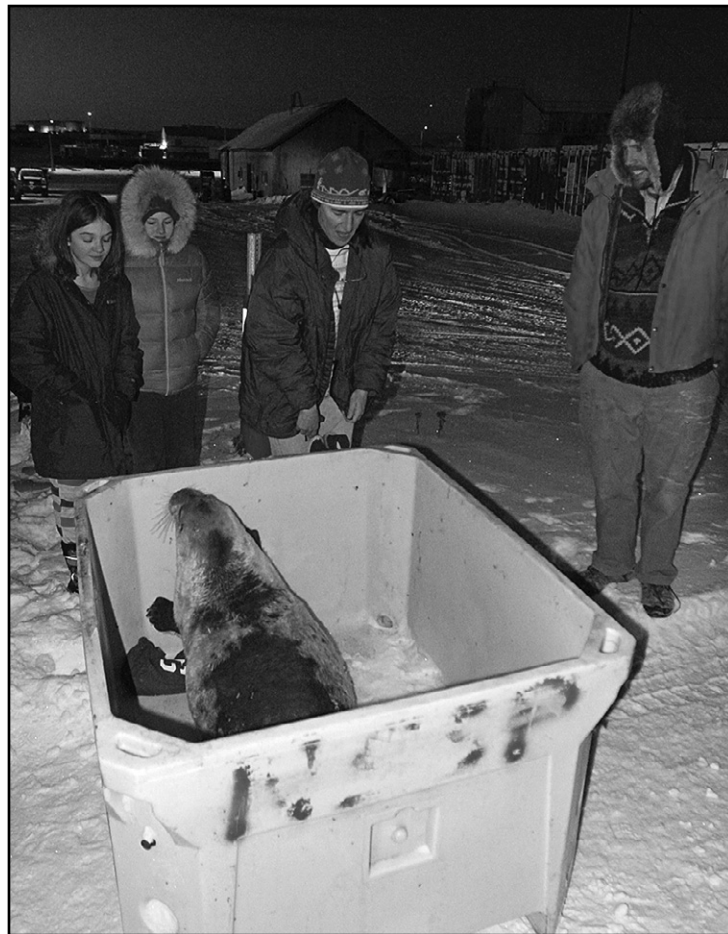
Effective in 2016, NJUS will accept E-checks to pay customer bills without charge or accept credit cards

with a fee. Till now, NJUS has absorbed the credit card fee. Handeland projects a reduction in costs from close to \$50,000 this year to \$5,000 under the new plan. The system was to convert on Jan. 1, but conversions are taking longer than anticipated. Meanwhile, until the transition is complete, "if someone wants to give us money via credit card, we are going to accept it," Handeland said.

Looking into the future, Handeland advocated to the board that NJUS put more emphasis on long-range planning, including anticipated retirements and changes in personnel over the next few years, with sufficient training and practices and procedures committed to writing. Whereas the utility has concentrated currently on reducing costs and streamlining operations, NJUS needs to look longer into the future to ensure continued uninterrupted flow of services and improve and protect long-term robust financial health, he said.

Handeland underlined the importance of meeting the operating budget, then with discussion and study determining capital needs including "looming equipment and overhaul requirements in years ahead."

Board members Dave Barron, Carl Emmons, Pat Knodel and Fred Moody attended the Dec. 21 meeting.



*Photo by Nils Hahn*

**HELPERS—** With the seal safe in the fish tote, NSEDC's Kevin Keith, left, and Gay Sheffield, middle, prepare for the transport of the animal, while Miriam Huntsinger and Lizzy Hahn take in the sight of a baby bearded seal.

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# Port of Nome and City seek deep-draft design funds

By Sandra L. Medearis

The Nome Port Commission is thumbing the drum to keep state and federal attention on the Nome Deep Draft Port project with a 30-page Port of Nome Strategic Development Plan.

The port panel and port and city administrators have been holding teleconferences and face-to-face sessions with Gov. Bill Walker's staff, legislators and the federal Congressional delegation to underline the importance of continuing with design efforts to ensure the project does not go on the shelf for an indeterminate period.

Nome Mayor Richard Beneville has written to Governor Walker asking him to foster an appropriation.

A number of appointments have been set with officials in Washington D. C. for a group making the trip next month. The delegation will comprise Mayor Richard Beneville, City of Nome's lobbyist Larry Markley, Port Commissioner Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle and Port Director Joy Baker. Baker said teleconferences were occurring weekly.

The NPC has commissioned the McDowell Group, a research and consultant firm, to put down on paper a concise representation of background, rationale and details backing up a federal-state study's focus on Nome as a strategic location for a deep-draft port improvement plan. The 30-page document serves to inform interests of local and regional economic growth, national sovereignty, security of environment and Search and Rescue response for marine commerce emergencies in the Arctic.

The tentative selection of Nome and further advancement of a study poised to go before Congress for approval and funding stalled last month when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put port progress on hold after Royal Dutch Shell pulled out of oil exploration plans focusing on the Chukchi Sea.

"We must not let corporate decisions dictate Alaska's future," Beneville wrote in his letter.

The proposed deep-draft arctic port's navigational improvement

would take Nome's 2,700-foot existing harbor causeway, built in the mid-1980's, an additional 2,100 feet farther into Norton Sound to better serve increasing numbers of deeper draft vessels coming to arctic waters.

Additional work would include removing an existing spur that turns southwest at the end of the breakwater and dredging the entrance channel to a depth of minus 28 feet Mean Lower Low Water. The draft plan includes a 450-foot long dock to go on the harbor side of the causeway extension to provide moorage to vessels requiring depths of minus 28 feet.

A larger deep-water port at Nome would answer a needed marine infrastructure to meet safety and supply issues coming from increased shipping traffic in northern waters, advocates say.

However, the NPC is strongly pushing a design that would take the causeway out to minus 36 feet MLLW, because minus 28 feet MLLW would not admit icebreakers and a larger class of ships seeking a true deep-draft facility.

"We have to be minus 36 feet or we are not an international port," Commissioner Rolland Trowbridge said. "Nome needs to be the western United States port."

Alvanna-Stimpfle advised that the port delegation make sure that folks in Washington D.C. knew that Pres. Barack Obama spoke favorably of the deep-draft port when he visited Alaska earlier this year.

The City of Nome has put the deep-draft port design work funding at the top of their lists of federal Congressional and state Legislature priorities.

In other business the port commission:

- Declared support for a state permit application filed by Quintillion Subsea Operations seeking to install a fiber optic cable within the seabed and at locations within the communities of Oliktok, Barrow, Wainwright, Point Hope, Kotzebue and Nome. The work would link the new fiber optic line with an existing North Slope Terrestrial-based fiber optic line to provide high speed In-



Nugget file photo

**PORT OF NOME**— City officials are continuing to seek funding for the Nome port expansion to accommodate larger vessels transiting through the Bering Strait. It is expected that vessel traffic will increase in numbers as the Arctic sea ice forms later and melts earlier due to climate change. A joint study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Alaska Dept. of Transportation has identified Nome as a prime candidate for a deep-draft port expansion.

ternet to these six Alaska communities. "Fiber optics cannot come soon enough," Alvanna-Stimpfle said.

- Received a report from the Alaska Marine Exchange tracking shipping through the Bering Strait

from late April to mid-November in 2015, a period during which the agency listed 452 vessels going through the strait.

The report noted a concern from Little Diomed and St. Lawrence Is-

land residents that some sort of traffic control would be in order. In late 2014 the U.S. Coast Guard published an official notification concerning its ongoing Port Access Route Study.

## • Bearded seal

continued from page 4

the hunters sought out a safe spot on the sea ice that looked to have a crack in it. They loaded the seal from the tote into a sled, which was then towed by a snowmachine and to where it was still safe. "The seal just crawled out of the sled and wanted no part of us," Ahmasuk said. The animal stayed there for a while and then headed off.

When Sheffield checked back the next day, strong northeast winds had broken off the ice where hunters had observed the crack in the ice the previous day, and thus provided the seal with his way out and back home. She also observed four other seals in the area. Pleased with the outcome for this young and inexperienced bearded seal and his foray into Nome, Sheffield said, "All he needed was just a helping hand. A good ending for Nome's unexpected visitor."

This bearded seal was not the only

seal that ever strayed into Nome during December. A year ago, on Dec. 6, 2014, a young spotted seal headed into town via the small boat harbor and was caught traveling east on River Street. Sheffield managed to put the animal in a body bag and slide him back to Middle Beach, where it was released to a small area of open water in the nearshore sea ice.

In the event of an unusual marine mammal sighting or stranding in the Bering Strait region, call the following Nome responders:

Gay Sheffield, UAF Alaska Sea Grant: office 907-443-2397; cell 907-434-1149; toll free 855-443-2397.

Brandon Ahmasuk, Kawerak Subsistence Director: 907-443-6245; Vera Metcalf, Eskimo Walrus Commission: 907-443-4380.

Or the NMFS Marine Mammal Stranding Network hotline (Juneau): 1-877-925-7773.



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Photos by Diana Haecker

**REVITALIZED—** The Nome St. Lawrence Island Dance Group once again meets regularly for dance practice and performs at local and regional functions. Pictured here is the group performing at the Katiluta festivities in Nome in November.

## Nomeites revitalize the Nome St. Lawrence Island Dance Group

By Maisie Thomas

The Nome-St. Lawrence Island Dance Group is back in full force after a 25-year hiatus. The group is comprised of dancers with Siberian Yupik ancestors from Gambell and Savoonga. The dance group was very active up until the early 1990s. After a key dancer and group member passed away, they met very infrequently, performing only a few times during parades.

Last year, Crystal Tobuk and Phyllis Walluk worked to reunite the group. In 2014, they held their first meeting and have been getting the group together to practice at least once a week ever since.

Tobuk, who serves as president, said that the Nome-St. Lawrence Island dance group has over 60 members. Relatives visiting from Gambell and Savoonga are always welcome at practices as well.

Performers of all ages do dances that originated on St. Lawrence Island. "It's really important to continue to dance because it's how we spend time with our family and pass on traditions. It keeps us connected

to our ancestors as we learn the history of the songs," Tobuk explained.

Tobuk said that the group tries to be active in the community and performs at as many events and locations as possible. Over the past two years, the group has danced at the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center Christmas party, the Youth Facility, the Methodist Church, the Pre-school and the Nome Elementary School. "We've gone to pretty much every big event," Tobuk said.



**DANCING HANDS—** Crystal Tobuk performs with the Nome-SLI Dance Group.



**DANCERS—** Ginna Piscoya, Ellen Baize, Phyllis Walluk, Debra Aningayou, Crystal Tobuk and Peggy Outwater.

## Wishing Northwest Alaska a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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Photo courtesy of NPS

**NBHS PRINCIPAL—** Citing family health reasons, NBHS principal Chip Sharpe submitted his resignation last week.

## • NBHS principal —

continued from page 1

Teacher Placement and our HR Office," Arnold wrote. There will be a small hiring committee made up of various stakeholders to interview any potential candidates.

Qualifications required include an Alaska Type B Administrator Certificate; three years of successful high school administration; references citing proven school leader-

ship; references citing successful teaching experience; the ability to supervise instruction, maintain a safe school environment and possession of dynamic communication skills. The school district prefers candidates with strong skills in culturally relevant education, the use of student performance data to inform and direct instruction, experiences with district strategic planning and leadership, among other things.

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Left to right: Kallie King, Jake Slingsby, John Smith, Jayton Grubb, Marybel Mendez, Thaddeus Payenna. Not pictured: Jessica Simonsen.

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# Shishmaref student attends UN Climate Summit in Paris

By Maisie Thomas

It's a long way to Paris, France from Shishmaref, Alaska. It's 4,457 miles to be exact. But the discussions held in France in mid-December were perhaps more important to the Arctic regions than to any other place in the world. For this reason, it was crucial to have someone from ground zero of climate change attend the Paris summit.

Esau Sinnok of Shishmaref realized this and attended the Global Climate Summit in Paris last week. Sinnok, an 18-year-old Bering Strait School District student, served as a youth ambassador for the Sierra Club at the 21st United Nations Conference of Parties, abbreviated as COP21.

Sinnok said the Paris summit was a "great experience," even though he did not have permission to attend any meetings. Sinnok did, however, get to meet U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. He said he spent most of his three weeks being interviewed by leading publications such as CNN and National Geographic, which enabled the high school senior to raise awareness about the Arctic's problems.

Living in Shishmaref, Sinnok and his family partake in subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing and berry picking. Sarichef Island, a bar-

rier island in the Chukchi Sea and home to the community of Shishmaref, is about three miles long and a quarter mile wide. In the past 35 years, Sinnok said it has lost about 3,000 feet of land.

In a blog post on the U.S. Department of the Interior website entitled "My World Interrupted," Sinnok wrote about his eroding home island, and the other problems climate change has caused Shishmaref residents. He also spoke about unusual weather patterns, and their effect on the subsistence lifestyle. "If we can't hunt and fish to feed ourselves in the winter, we will starve."

In his 18 years, Sinnok has already noticed changes in his warming village. The berries start to bloom earlier, in mid-May, and the season is over by July, a month earlier than it used to be. Winters have seen rain, which has caused the snow to freeze, making it harder for animals to get food. "We saw a lot of skinny caribou this year," Sinnok said.

Sinnok also acknowledges that the future of Sarichef Island is bleak. In about 20 years, the village will be completely washed away, and with it will go a sense of tradition. "It really hurts knowing that your only home is going to be gone, and you want to carry on traditions the way that your people have done for centuries. It is

more than a loss of place, it is a loss of identity," Sinnok wrote. Sinnok remains hopeful, however, that although it is too late to save the place, Shishmaref residents will be able to preserve their traditions and culture. This hope is what led Sinnok to Paris; he is willing to do what it takes to save his culture.

Sinnok, who will attend college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks starting in January, said that his interest in climate change activism started relatively recently. When he learned about the Paris summit, Sinnok knew he wanted to go. "I wanted to get my voice heard," he said "My reason for attending the 21st Conference of Parties in Paris—COP21—is to tell leaders that climate change is affecting the Arctic more than other places in the world, and if the ice in Greenland melts, these villages and islands will be under water. I hope that world leaders will hear my message and rise to the challenge because it is not just a political issue to me. It's my future," he wrote on the blog.

Sinnok was pleased with the outcome of COP21, saying that it is a small step that will pay off. "Even though it's probably too late to save Shishmaref," Sinnok said, "it's not too late to save other villages."

And it is a small step that can start

with the simplest of actions. Sinnok said that to reduce his carbon footprint in every day life, he tries to walk everywhere, and turns off the lights and television as soon as he leaves the room. He tries to raise awareness for the solutions to climate change in his home village as well.

Sinnok is a member of the Sierra Student Coalition, or SSC, a group of high school and college students who work to protect the environment. Through the SSC, Sinnok traveled to Washington, D.C., where the group lobbied Senators and Representatives about a variety of climate change related issues.

Sinnok also serves as an Arctic Youth Ambassador. This program provides young Alaskans with the opportunity to travel to and voice their opinions in Arctic Council meetings. Recently, he has convinced one of his cousins to become involved with the Arctic Youth Ambassador program.

Along with being an Arctic Youth Ambassador and an SSC member, Sinnok is a Youth Organizer for the Alaska Center For the Environment's Alaska Youth for Environmental Action Program. About 25 Alaskan students gathered in Anchorage last October for the Youth Organizer Summit. There, they set a goal for

the state: to reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, or 30 by 30 as Sinnok calls it. Along with lobbying government leaders, Youth Organizers work with their communities to help to meet the goal.

Representatives from 195 countries attended the COP21 summit, including several Alaskans. COP21 ended in an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in every country. The Paris agreement differs from other such documents because it is the first to require action from both rich and poor countries. In the past, countries such as the U.S. agreed to reduce green house gas emissions, but developing countries were not required to.

Though the agreement is not a solution to climate change, it is a start. In his December 12 speech, President Obama said that the world has reached a "turning point" in the climate crisis. Obama praised the United States for setting the precedent in the fight against greenhouse gas emissions, but stressed that it must be a joint effort, which is what the agreement hopes to achieve. "[The document] established an enduring framework the world needs to solve the climate crisis," he said.

# Fairbanks Four released after 18 years in prison

By Maisie Thomas

Christmas is sometimes referred to as the time of miracles, and that is certainly what it must feel like for the Fairbanks Four. George Frese, Kevin Pease and Eugene Vent were freed after Fairbanks Superior Court Judge Paul Lyle vacated their convictions. The fourth man, Martin Roberts, was released from prison in June 2015, but is on parole until 2030. The three Alaska Native men and one American Indian have been incarcerated for over 18 years.

In 1999, three separate juries found the men, teenagers at the time, guilty of the 1997 murder of 15-year-old John Hartman.

Roberts and Pease were tried together, Vent and Frese separately. The men were sentenced to terms ranging between 33 and 77 years. About ten years after the guilty verdicts, the four men began working with the Alaska Innocence Project, or AKIP, to complete another investigation of the murder and if warranted to pursue a request for post-conviction relief.

A key piece of evidence, obtained as part of the new investigation and presented by the defense attorneys, was a written affidavit from William Holmes, now incarcerated for murder in California. He stated that he and some of his friends committed the October 1997 killing of Hartman, not the four men convicted. This in-

formation was not available to the original juries. In 2013, AKIP filed a post-conviction relief action claiming the men were innocent and asking for a declaration of freedom and innocence.

In September 2015, Governor Walker's office contacted a law firm to review the case records and make a recommendation on whether to reopen the case or not. This resulted in a five-week evidentiary hearing that was held in Fairbanks beginning on October 5. AKIP and the men's lawyers from the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney maintained that the original investigation and hearings were rushed, that the arrests were racially motivated and had were not supported by the evidence.

The hearings coincided with the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference in Anchorage, where the newly-freed Roberts spoke in support of the men's innocence and the post-conviction relief. Attendees pressured Governor Walker to utilize his power to pardon the men, an action that has not been used in Alaska for almost 10 years.

Approximately a month after the Fairbanks hearing, a settlement between the defendants' lawyers and the State of Alaska was reached. The state withdrew all charges against the four men. Without such an agreement the next step in the process was to either wait for a decision from

Judge Lyle, which could take up to six months, or for Governor Walker to pardon the men.

On December 17, Judge Lyle met with retired Superior Court Judge Niesje Steinkruger, who presided over one of the 1999 trials. Steinkruger and Lyle decided to accept the settlement. The agreement included a stipulation that the men agreed with the original jury convictions, but that the new evidence, the affidavit from Holmes, undermined the jury verdict and supported their

innocence.

The Fairbanks Four agreed not to sue either the State of Alaska or the City of Fairbanks over the investigation and to withdraw their claim of prosecutorial misconduct. The state agreed not to retry the case again, unless substantial new evidence of guilt surfaces.

By vacating the convictions, Judge Lyle overturned the 1999-jury decisions.

Governor Walker was pleased with Judge Lyle's decision to accept

the agreement, "I hope this settlement helps to begin the healing process [and] provides some measure of justice and closure for Eugene, Kevin, George and Marvin," Walker wrote in his official Twitter feed. The four men walked out of the courtroom and were met with drumming, dancing and applause of over 100 supporters.

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## Village Safe Water Program enters third phase

By Maisie Thomas

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water Program announced on December 8 that the Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge has entered its third stage. Bill Griffith, DEC facility programs manager said in a press release, "We are eager to begin the next phase of this important project. Our goal is to bring running water and sewer to every home."

The purpose of the project, which began in 2013, is to develop small-scale water systems that are both cost effective and innovative. Its goal is to reduce the cost of operating running water and sewer systems in homes in rural Alaska. "[The project] is designed to leverage public funding with resources from the private sector and academia to produce innovative, cost-effective water and sewer technologies that can be constructed and operated in an Arctic climate," the press release reads.

Over 3,300 homes in rural Alaskan villages, that's over 75 percent of homes, lack running water

and sewer service. Sanitation is challenging without clean water for household chores or even hand washing. Unsanitary conditions, including the use of honey buckets, cause a high rate of respiratory and skin infections. Invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) is a bacterial infection that can cause ear and blood infections as well as meningitis and pneumonia. In 2010, a study found that Alaskan children without access to running water had higher rates of the disease. Southwest Alaska has one of the highest rates of IPD in the world.

Phase One of the Water and Sewer Challenge was a \$1 million international effort aimed at producing teams of engineers, social scientists, innovators and people familiar with rural Alaska. Teams submitted a Statement of Qualifications, and the top team six teams were chosen to continue on to Phase Two. During Phase Two, which started in 2014, the DEC awarded six teams funds to complete proposals for prototypes of in-home water and sewer systems.

Griffith reported that the first two phases were successful. "We are encouraged by what we have seen so far," he stated. The challenge generated a lot of interest after requesting that participants form teams. In Phase Two, "all six teams delivered strong written proposals to develop systems that would meet or exceed most of the performance targets," Griffith wrote in an email to the Nome Nugget.

The third phase will include the construction and testing of the prototype systems developed by three of the six teams in Phase Two. Ultimately, the most efficient and cost effective system will be chosen by a Steering Committee. The Committee is comprised of employees from the Environmental Protection Agency, Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development Program, the U.S. Indian Health Service, the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and the Tanana Chiefs Conference. According to Griffith, Phase Three is expected to last about two years. Teams will present the results of their prototypes

to the DEC and the Steering Committee in the fall of 2017.

The three finalists are DOWL Alaska, an engineering firm; Summit Consulting and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Although the DEC and the EPA will fund part of Phase Three, they encourage teams to supplement their support with their own money. A total of \$3 million is available for Phase Three. The EPA provided 25 percent of the funding and the State of Alaska contributed the remaining 75 percent.

The three competitors will be evaluated using several targets. "Proposed systems should be capable of providing a minimum of 15 gallons of useable water per person per day, comprised of water for drinking and cooking, washing and flushing," the DEC press release reads. The DEC acknowledges that the top system may not meet some targets and may surpass others. It is also important that systems have low operating costs.

DOWL Alaska's proposed prototype is a system with water and

wastewater holding tanks located in a chamber attached to the house. This way, the system will take up less space in the house, and will not require a heat trace to connect an indoor tank to an outdoor tank. Trace heating is used to heat pipes by using an electrical heating element, and can be expensive. Summit Consulting brings to the table a raw water treatment method. Water will be treated using a two-stage cartridge filtration process and ultraviolet disinfection. This approach can be used to treat a wide range of water qualities.

UAA's proposal will reuse gray water (household wastewater) as well as some black water (toilet and laundry water).

Phase Four, expected to start in 2018, will be two years of system development and testing.

The final phase, Technology Refinement and Improvement, will last at least two years. Griffith writes that it is possible that the installation of systems could begin during Phase Five.

## Nanook basketball teams open season at Grace Christian

By Keith Conger

Those familiar with Nome-Beltz Nanook basketball will see many new faces on the court during the 2015-2016 season. Both the boys and girls squads started their season by attending the three-day Grace Christian Tournament in Anchorage December 17 through 19.

The Nanook boys travelled south with an almost completely new squad after losing six players from the 2014-2015 squad to graduation. Senior Ian Booth was the only player at the Grace Christian tourney to

have participated in a varsity game last year. He led his team in scoring each night, put in 50 points in three days, and contributed nearly 60 percent of the Nanook's offense. After the tournament Booth said he received more defensive attention than he had in the past.

Nome bowed to the Galena Hawks on Thursday 71-28. They lost to the host Grace Christian Grizzlies 69-34 on Friday and fell to the Mt. Edgecumbe Braves 61-24 on Saturday.

Boys head coach Pat Callahan ex-

pects his team to be at full strength by the Subway Showdown on January 7 through 9. The team will get a defensive boost from Leif Erikson, who returns after attending the state wrestling meet this weekend.

Girls head coach Don Stiles said the Lady Nanooks haven't played much with each other in the past and are still coming together as a team. Despite losing all three games at the Grace tourney, Stiles said his girls

held the lead late in a 56-46 loss to Galena on Thursday. The Nanooks lost to a much taller Grace Christian squad 45-32 on Friday, and then were beaten by Mt. Edgecumbe 62-35 on Saturday.

Senior Senora Ahmasuk returns to the team full-time after transferring from Mt. Edgecumbe. Under ASAA rules, Ahmasuk was only allowed to participate in the conference final last year. She says, "We are a lot

more skilled and have more experience than we did last year. It's just the beginning of the season, so we have a lot of time for even more improvement."

Ahmasuk is joined by two other transfer students: her sister Kerry Ahmasuk, a sophomore, who has also transferred from Mt. Edgecumbe, and senior Katy Tomter, who played for Eagle River last year.



Photos courtesy of Nome-Beltz High School Yearbook Club  
**SURROUNDED**— Nome-Beltz senior Senora Ahmasuk gets a shot off against Grace Christian during at game on Friday. The Nanooks fell to the Grizzlies 45-32.



**MOVING THE BALL**— Nome-Beltz senior Rayne Lie passes the ball during a game against the host Grizzlies at the Grace Christian Tournament in Anchorage on Friday.

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Erikson, Horner crowned 2015 state wrestling champions

**By Keith Conger**  
The ASAA 123A Wrestling State Championships are like a raffle — the more wrestlers you have entered in the tournament, the more likely you are to win one of the 15 top spots — it just makes mathematical sense. The small Nome-Beltz wrestling team, which travelled to last week-end's state meet at Bartlett High School in Anchorage with just six high school boys, ignored the arithmetic as seniors Leif Erikson and James Horner both outlasted all others in their weight classifications to win state titles. Only the team from Bethel High School finished with more state champs.

Erikson is well acquainted with the top spot on the podium. He was the state champion in the 126-pound division in his sophomore season. This year he posted a 34-1 record and was the victor in all but one of the tournaments he entered. His lone loss came to a 4A wrestler from Colony High School in the Kotzebue Bush Brawl.

It could be argued that Erikson was adversely affected last year by an Alaska School Activities Association board of directors decision. For the 2014 season ASAA produced a one-year scheduling fluke, which allowed the larger 4A teams of the Southeast Conference to wrestle during the 123A state tournament. If not for his loss to a 4A wrestler from Ketchikan in the 138-pound division that year, Erikson might be celebrating his third straight state title.

This season Erikson moved up to the 145-pound classification. "There are two types of wrestlers," he said. "One type are the ones that get faster at the same weight. The other type gets stronger and goes up a weight." Erikson considers himself in the second group. "I've always wanted to be stronger and faster, so that's what I've worked on in the off-season and at wrestling camps."

Never one to take any opponent lightly, Erikson says, "I go out every match as if I'm up against the state champion." To that end, he worked hard in his first two matches at this year's state tourney, both against much lesser seeded wrestlers he had never seen before. Erikson employed his strategy of taking his opponent down and then letting him go, scoring two points for every takedown, but giving up a point each time he allowed an escape. Over his career, Erikson has used this method to give him valuable lessons about his opponent's weaknesses. He demonstrated its effectiveness by pinning Maverick Ballard of Craig High School in one minute, 35 seconds in his opening round match and Garner Unok of Kuskokwim Learning Academy in one minute, 15 seconds in the second round.

Erikson would need every ounce of saved energy for his semifinal match-up with the number four seeded Kyler Sumauang of Sitka. Unlike his previous matches, the bout with Sumauang would go the distance. "He's a really good wrestler," Erikson said. "He pushed me hard. I had to dig deep."

Sumauang knotted the score at 2-2 after the first period. By the third period Erikson had worked to a 5-4 advantage. Sumauang choose bottom to start the final frame, and was quickly able to escape, pulling even at 5-5. Erikson was worried when his southeastern opponent got him into a headlock, but with only 10 seconds remaining in regulation Erikson says he used an arm drag to get away and score the two-point takedown necessary for a 7-5 victory.

Erikson was more familiar with his championship opponent, Michael Lucas of Holy Rosary Academy, the defending state champion at the 132-pound weight class. He beat Lucas 7-3 at the ACS tournament on November 4 and claimed his second state title by beating him again at Bartlett on Saturday, winning by a 9-3 decision.

Horner pulls upset in 160-pound division

Horner entered the 160-pound division as the number three seed, and

as somewhat of an underdog. He qualified for the state meet in 2014, but did not place in the top six. This year he found himself in the same division as former state champion Gary Eakin of Kotzebue, who he had lost to 3-0, and 3-1 in two previous matches. The regional foes were slated to meet in the Western Conference finals two weeks ago, but Eakin forfeited with an ankle injury.

Horner breezed through his first two matches at the state meet. He was able to dispatch Kari Hays of Homer High School 17-1 in an opening round technical fall and went on to beat Riley Martin of Grace Christian High School 11-2 in a major decision.

Horner said he was pretty nervous about his number-two seeded semifinal opponent Titus Tripple of Thorne Bay High School, whom he had never wrestled before. The unfamiliarity of the two showed during the first period, which ended 0-0. "I choose (to start the second period) on the bottom. Half the period went by before I countered one of his moves. I got him on his back and pinned him," said Horner of the fall he got at three minutes, 9 seconds.

As expected, Eakin reached the finals. Horner's strategy was to be the aggressor and to keep the pace up. He scored the first point on what he described as an unintentional technical violation by Eakin. That was the only point scored in the opening period. Horner chose to start the second frame in the down position and scored an escape point, extending his lead to 2-0. Eakin followed suit by starting down the third period. His escape brought the score to 2-1.

"I had to keep pushing the pace," said Horner. "He was getting tired. He shot on me and I was able to get a takedown." Those final points earned Horner a 4-1 victory, and netted him his first state title.

"I went into the match really excited," said Horner. "This was the last match of my career. I was just having fun."

Suemai takes second place

By taking second place in the 160-pound classification in the 123A Girls State Wrestling Championships, senior Kalani Suemai became Nome's highest positioned girl wrestler ever. The bracketing for the second annual girls meet, which was structured a bit differently than the boys, led to Suemai facing Katie Rios of Homer twice in two separate semi-finals matches. Suemai won both matches convincingly by pinning her opponent in 43 and 41 seconds. She also wrestled top-seeded Sydnee Kimber of Mount Edgecumbe High School twice, in 6-2 and 12-1 decisions.

In 2014 Suemai had a knee injury that prevented her from taking part in the state meet. This year, she was only able to practice for a few weeks due to the overlap of the volleyball and wrestling seasons. Despite those challenges, Suemai was able to wrestle at a high level at Bartlett. She said that after the meet she was approached by a representative of Team Alaska's wrestling squad who invited her to participate in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Greenland.

"It was cool to see all the girls show up," said Suemai of the girls growing participation in the sport. "There were definitely more than last year. It's definitely becoming a thing."

The Nanooks had two other wrestlers place in the top six. Freshman Starr Erikson took sixth in the 106-pound classification for girls and freshman Caleb Evatt also ended up sixth in the 98-pound boys division.

Other qualifiers from Nome to attend the state meet were freshman Ben Cross, junior Tim James and senior Nolan Horner.

According to Trackwrestling.com, the Nanook boys were the eighth place team with 70 points. Homer High School earned first place with 212 points. Bethel High School placed second with 168 points and Kotzebue rounded out the top three with 138.5 points.

"Leif and James led the way this

year," said head coach Dudley Homelvig after the meet. "A coach couldn't ask for better role models for Nome and Nome wrestling; top students, good athletes, relentless workers and outstanding human beings. They continue the list of Nome wrestlers I'm proud to have coached."

Homelvig noted that the team is losing seven seniors; Jeremy Knud-

sen, Sam Cross, Ethan Kelso, Kalani Suemai, Leif Erikson, James Horner and Nolan Horner. He said all were solid contributors, and it will be a hard crew to replace.

Homelvig said there were many people that helped make the 2015 Nome-Beltz wrestling team a successful one. He got coaching contributions from Charlie Cross, Matt Michels, Lonny Booshu, Jared

Miller, Duke McGuffey and Corey Erikson. He also said Brian Marvin helped with their important fundraising raffle.

see photos on page 10

Merry Christmas from the Nome Nugget Sports Department

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of Nome from NOME GOLD® Alaska corporation

THE "TOP TEN" WAYS TO AVOID THE EMERGENCY ROOM DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- #10 Don't go "through the river and over the woods". (Be careful of ice and overflow when traveling by snowmachine and four-wheeler.)
- #9 Don't "roast chestnuts on an open fire". (Be careful not to overload electrical outlets or leave wood stoves unattended.)
- #8 Be careful "rocking around the Christmas tree". (Celebrate sanely and wisely.)
- #7 Respect the "silent night". (Drive cautiously in the dark.)
- #6 Beware of "the newly fallen snow". (Shovel snow slowly, stop periodically to rest.)
- #5 Use caution "up on the house top". (Be careful hanging lights outside the house.)
- #4 Watch for "Frosty the Snowman". (Dress appropriately for the weather.)
- #3 Yield to sleighs. (Obey the rules of the road when walking or driving.)
- #2 Don't partake in "sugar plums". (No Street drugs.)

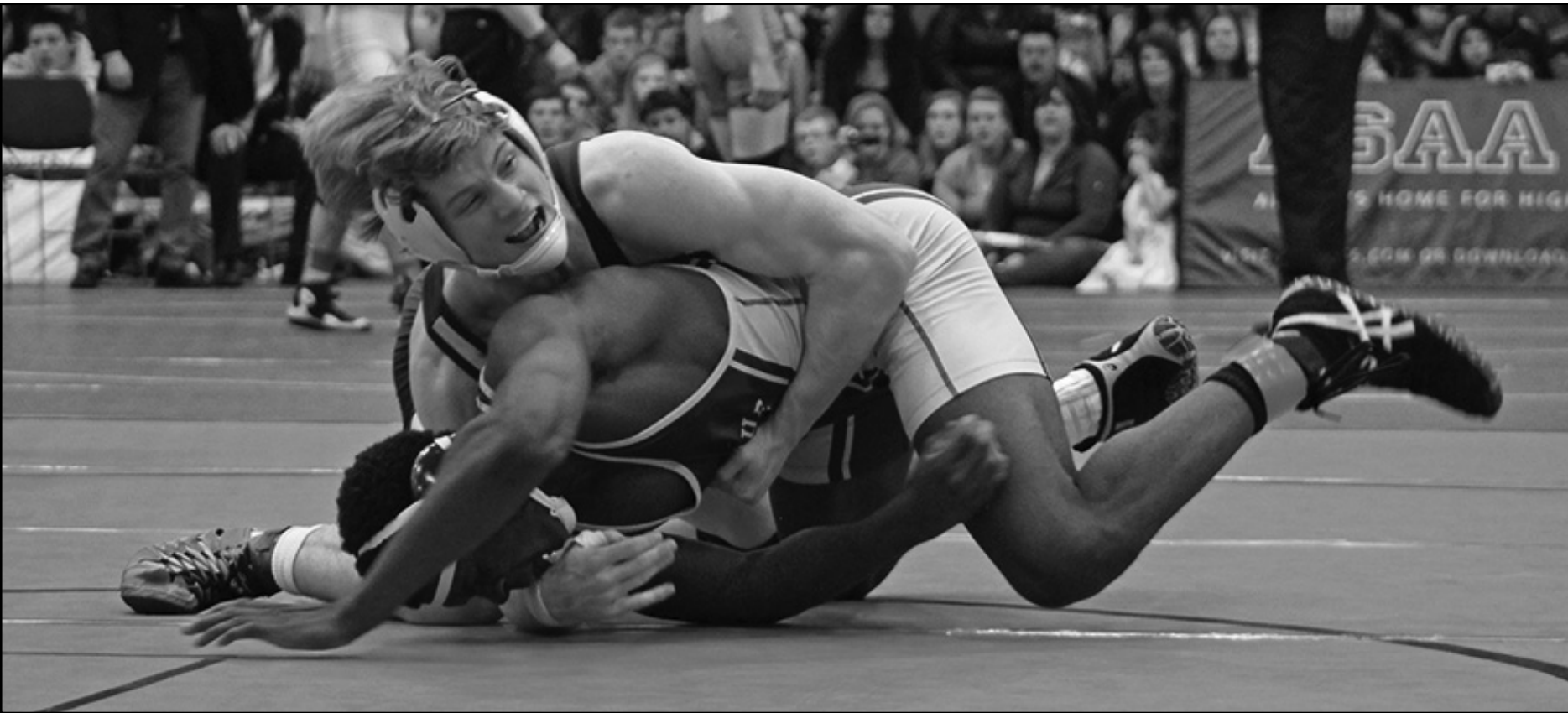
#1 The Christmas spirit is NOT what you drink; it is how you think!

The assistance and team spirit of the Nome Police Department, Nome police dispatchers and Nome Fire Department Volunteers have helped make the NVAD successful and proud. Thank you all so much.

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Officers: Chief- Victoria Erickson, Lieutenant- James West Jr., Member at Large- Wesley Perkins, Training officer- Scott Hall, Secretary- None appointed





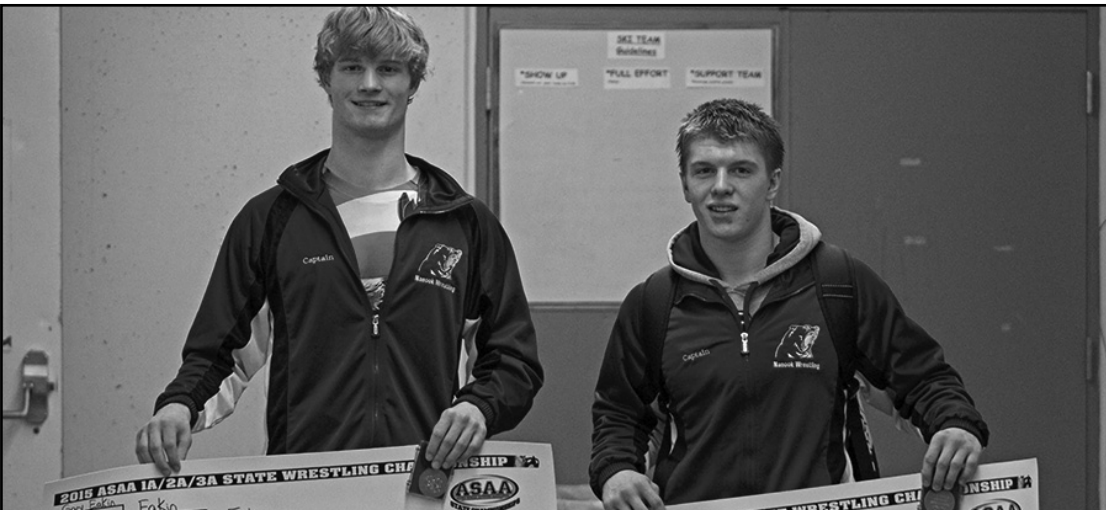
*Photos courtesy of Nome-Beltz High School Yearbook Club*  
**GOTTA BELIEVE**— Nome-Beltz senior James Horner, the third seed at the 2015 ASAA Wrestling State Championships, works hard against top-seeded, and former state champion, Gary Eakin of Kotzebue in the finals of the 160-pound division. Horner pulled off the 4-1 upset and brought home a state title for his weight class.



**MOST HIGHLY DECORATED**— Senior Kalani Suemai became the top-ranked girl in the history of Nanook wrestling by taking second place in her division at the state meet.



**THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT**— Nome-Beltz freshman Caleb Evatt, who placed sixth in the 98-pound weight class at last weekend's state meet, leads a talented crew of young Nanooks wrestlers.



**BRACKET BUSTERS**— Nome-Beltz seniors James Horner, right, and Leif Erikson beat the state's best wrestlers in their weight classes at the 2015 ASAA Wrestling State Championships last weekend. As per tradition, the new state champions got to keep the original copy of their bracket.

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Christmas

and a

Happy  
New Year!

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continuing to serve you in the new year.*

A black and white photograph of a snow-covered street at night. A large truck with its headlights on is visible in the distance, and a person is walking in the snow.



# How Nome's Paul Kudla became Santa Paul

By Maisie Thomas

Nomeites know Paul Kudla as the man walking down Front Street with his Afghan hound, Fire. Others know him as a driver for Stampede Ventures Trucking. But his long white hair and beard help reveal his true identity: Santa.

The 67-year-old truck driver is also a professional, and professionally-trained, Santa Claus. Being Santa Paul, as he is called, is more than just a job title for Kudla, it's a way of life. "I'm Santa 100 percent of the time," said Kudla, "even when I'm delivering fuel, I always have candy or something for the kids."

In 2007, Kudla, who "hates crowds, dislikes Christmas music and never particularly liked kids," seemed an unlikely candidate for Old St. Nick. But eight years later, Kudla has impersonated Santa all over the world and has gained nationwide notoriety.

Most people dream about seeing Santa, not necessarily about being Santa. Kudla admits that he doesn't remember having a particular affinity for the character as a child. But his best friend happened to be a professional Santa and told Kudla he should give it a try. The friend gave him the name of his agency, Cherry Hill Photo, and they found him a job. Kudla worked his first mall in Brownsville, Texas in 2007, and the rest is history.

He sits in malls, and most recently Bass Pro Shops, and listens to kids' wishes. Kudla poses for photos for five or six hours each day for six weeks each year. Kudla's agent Nationwide Santas supplies the Santas for Bass Pro Shops, an outdoor retail company.

Just as Santa flies above houses, Kudla goes above and beyond his job description. His "Santa gig," as he calls it, has allowed him to travel across the globe. And just like Santa Claus, his flight is free, paid for by Nationwide Santas. According to Kudla, one of the best parts of his job is that his flights and hotel rooms are paid for. Kudla has certainly made the most of his opportunity for travel. A few years ago, Kudla took part in the Santa Olympics in Norway. The event pits over 100 Santa impersonators against each other in games such as skiing and kick sledding. He was one of 16 Santas to travel to Kyrgyzstan for the Festival of the Santa Clauses and Friends. The San-

tas toured various religious centers and met the vice president of the Central Asian country.

Unlike many of the Santas, in what he calls a growing field, Kudla has "ivy-league" credentials. In 2007 and 2008, Kudla attended classes at the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, known as the "Harvard of Santa Schools." The non-profit Michigan institution is now in its 79th year of operation, making it the oldest school of its type. The CWH School helped Kudla to embody Santa both physically and mentally. Along with grooming techniques, Crimson graduates learn techniques for singing and reading to children as well as how to properly do the famous "ho, ho, ho."

This year, Kudla is appearing on the big screen for the first time. He is one of 10 Santas featured in the first season of the show "Santas in the Barn." The participants are competing for the accreditation of Best Santa in America. Contestants are judged by their skills in various "Santa activities," such as climbing chimneys and pushing sleighs loaded with presents. The winning Santa is awarded \$100,000 and a donation made in his name to a charity of his choice. Should he be crowned, or rather capped, winner, Kudla wants the money to go to Make-A-Wish Foundation. The charity helps children battling life-threatening illnesses.

But when asked what keeps him sitting among crowds and listening to Christmas music for hours at a time, it's for not the paid trips or fame. Kudla says it's the kids. "Santa means a lot [to children], and I want to be that special Santa." Though he doesn't have children of his own, it turns out Kudla likes kids more than he thought. And he is committed to them. "Hopefully I'll be a Santa right up until the end, it's the best thing I've ever done," he said.

Kudla said his favorite part about the job is, "Just the magic in the children's eyes when they see Santa." To help bring children's dreams of Santa to life, he puts a great deal of effort into making his look realistic.

Although he has the wire rim glasses, long white beard and the perfect "ho ho ho," Kudla is missing one of Santa's key traits: the belly. To compensate for his lack of girth, Kudla wears a gel vest to complete his \$5,000 outfit. The hair and beard



Photo courtesy of Paul Kudla

**ON THE JOB—** Santa Paul and his Afghan hound Fire pose for a glamour shot on the job.

are also an illusion: Santa bleaches his hair. The outfit goes beyond the red coat and hat. Kudla's custom-made attire includes hand-made boots and hat along with bells, keys, bags, a belt, and a special watch. Along with the typical accessories, Kudla also has a number of pacifiers. "People always say 'oh, some kid dropped their binky,' but they're mine." He said that this is a Scandinavian tradition he learned when he traveled to Norway.

His close attention to detail has paid off: Kudla said that even among other professional Santas, he is

known for being the most realistic. He is also known as the one who resides closest to the North Pole. And just how did the Quincy, Massachusetts native end up in Nome? "I was chasing a lady," Kudla laughed. The lady, a traveling nurse, was stationed in Nome in the early 2000's. Kudla first arrived in Nome in the summer of 2003, and got a job working at Alaska Cab Garage. As is the case for many Nomeites, he left but couldn't stay away. "What keeps me here are the people, they know me because of my dog, and I get along with the people here." After drifting

around the country, Kudla was back for good in 2005.

Kudla likes the small town environment, where everyone, especially the children, knows him. Professionally and personally, Kudla lives for the small moments of happiness and excitement he brings to children, the moment when they put aside their shyness to see the magical man who brings presents. "If I can get one kid like that a year, it makes it all worth it."

It doesn't matter if this moment happens while delivering fuel, walking his dog or sitting in a mall.



Photo by Kim Hunt

**UNIQUE—**Driftwood is decked in Christmas decorations on the northwest side of Savoonga in early December.

## Grinch stole NES trees

By Diana Haecker

To their consternation, Nome Public Schools maintenance staff found on Monday morning that the two small spruce trees planted in front of the Nome Elementary Schools had been cut and mutilated.

The trees barely stood three feet tall despite their old age — they were planted when the school was built in the late 1980's — but an unknown person apparently sawed off the tip of one tree, and hacked off some meager branches of the other tree.

NPS Superintendent Shawn Arnold said the assumption is that somebody took them for Christmas

trees. He said it was sad to see that somebody would do that and that if somebody was in need of a Christmas tree, he would've gladly helped to provide a tree. NPS notified the Nome Police Department of the theft and is now looking for information. A public announcement stated that if those were indeed stolen for Christmas decorations, "it is very sad, because it goes against the spirit of goodwill and fellowship that is part of this."

Contact the Nome School District Office at 443-2231 if you have more information.

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Photo by Sally Grimsrud

**STOCKINGS WILL BE FULL**— Gambell high school students Caitlin Konahok and Braden Koonooka proudly display dozens of the wooden cars their class produced for the younger children in their village. The construction was part of the BSSD's district-side Santa's Workshop project.



Photo by Nancy Persons

**LOTS OF HAPPY CHILDREN**— Students from Nancy Person's second grade class in Unalakleet are super excited to open their packages which contained wooden toys. The gifts were part of a cooperative project between village shop and art teachers that saw hundreds of Bering Strait School District children receive presents.

## Santa's Workshop recruits a troop of elves from the region

*BSSD students make over 1,000 toys for village youth*

By Keith Conger

Santa knows he can find reindeer for his sleigh in the Seward Peninsula region, but this fall he also used the 15 schools of the BSSD to enlist hundreds of elves in the form of middle school and high school students.

In this year's Christmas story, Santa is played by Chase Ervin, the Career and Technical Education Facilitator for the Bering Straits School District. Ervin was a classroom teacher prior to his district office position. One of the projects he developed was called Santa's Workshop where older students in his school constructed, and then presented, handmade toys to younger students. "In Koyuk we did this and it was extremely successful," he said.

Ervin devised a formula where the entire Koyuk school became involved. The high school kids used wood to cut out and shape the toy parts. Middle school students did all the sanding and painting, while younger kids were involved as receivers of the presents.

This year, due to his position as a BSSD coordinator, Ervin had the opportunity to turn the entire district into Santa's Workshop. He said the schools, "really took it and ran with it. Everyone came together and worked hard."

Even though not all BSSD schools currently offer wood working classes, each site became involved in at least some part of the production. To fill the number of toys needed, those with active shops were able to generate and send out a surplus of unpainted, roughed out playthings. Schools that lacked the means to produce toys finished their presents by painting them and assembling axles and wheels. In all, the cooperative project was able to exceed the 958 toys required to get a present into the hands of all preschool through fourth grade students in the district.

Santa had a ready-made task force of helpers for his Nebraska-sized workshop. After the wood workers roughed out the toys, they were passed along to each site's art liaison. The BSSD Itinerant K-12 Art Integration Specialist Robin Child helped coordinate these on-site art facilitators who each year take on the tasks of supporting student art endeavors and sparking community engagement. They also help administer school-wide art projects such as Santa's Workshop.

Child said each art liaison chose a way to complete the project within their school. Some of the sites worked on toys during class, others

had after-school painting parties. Sites were also responsible for settling on a distribution method for the toys. Many schools shared the presents during their Christmas programs.

Steven Abbott is the CTE/shop teacher at the St. Michael school where presents were parceled out on Thursday night. He said that wrapped presents were placed in six large boxes for distribution during their Christmas program. Students from each class were given an unnamed present and were allowed to trade if they wished.

Abbott likes the Santa's Workshop and said in the past his students have created and donated toys to the Marine's Toys for Tots program. He said Santa's Workshop is great for his classes because it incorporates all four points of project planning that he teaches to his shop students. This includes thinking of an idea, drawing and sketching it out, coming up with methods and materials, and then creating the work. "You can apply this plan to everything in life," he said.

St. Michael was one of the sites that achieved an oversupply of toys. The school needed 85 gifts, but Ab-

bott's classes produced an additional 260. He said that during the height of the "assembly-line" production, his students were cranking out 28 per hour. They had such fun making the wooden cars, trucks, tractors, helicopters, planes and knick-knack boxes that he allowed each worker to keep one toy for every four they produced. These extra St. Michael toys brought the district's production numbers up to well over 1,000 units. "We went through over 800 tires and axles," he said.

"I've never seen as many of the older students as excited about a project as this one," said Gambell art teacher and liaison Sally Grimsrud. "The kids loved this project. They loved the fact they were making them for their little brothers, sisters, and cousins," she said. On Wednesday the older students delivered the gifts to the classrooms of the younger students. She said that third grade teacher Lani Bauer stopped everything when her class received their presents. Bauer let her kids have creative playtime as they build ramps and race courses from objects around the classroom. "It's what we call the teachable moment," said Grimsrud.

"This is a gift project. It teaches the students how it's special to give," said Golovin CTE instructor David Herrmann. "This teaching collaboration, along with a lot of hard work from the students, yielded some 60 toy kits for distribution across the district and another 35 for the Golovin students to give to their younger siblings," he said.

Herrmann and his wife Sonia had front row seats to the gift giving at Golovin's Christmas program on Thursday night as they played Mr. and Mrs. Claus. "The gym floor was quite busy with little kids testing out their new cars and trucks," said Herrmann after the program. "Big brothers and sisters helped point out the customized features like their basketball jersey number on the side or initials on the bottom. The whole school has experienced the gift of giving that has always made this time of year so special."

After the program Golovin principal Gay Jacobson added, "When the elementary students opened the cars they were extremely happy! I'm so thankful to the secondary students for making something our elementary students love."



Photo by Sally King

**AUTO DETAILING**— St. Michael high school students produced 345 wooden toys for the BSSD's district-wide Santa's Workshop project. The final touches were applied during a holiday painting and hot cocoa party in Art Liaison Sandy King's classroom. The painters were, from front to back, Esther Otten, Mary Tom-Oyoumick, Ryleigh Elachik, and LouAnn Niksik.



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**FAR AWAY, BUT VERY MUCH ALIKE—** One of the things Finland's Selkie School shared with Nancy Persons's second grade class in Unalakleet was Tero Mustonen of Snowchange Cooperative demonstrating ice fishing.

*Photos courtesy of Selkie School*

**KANTELE—**Finnish teacher Minna Kilpelainen, right, showed how her students use the Kantele, a traditional instrument. They sang a Kalevala song that has not been used for over 116 years in their Selkie village.

## Unalakleet class exchanges Christmas gifts of culture

*By Keith Conger*

It may take Santa hours and hours to fly the nearly 4,000 miles between Alaska and Finland, but for the second grade class of Unalakleet teacher Nancy Persons, and a class of school children in Kontiolahti, it took only a fraction of a second to deliver their presents. In lieu of Christmas offerings with ribbons and bows, the youngsters from the southern Norton Sound village and their northern European counterparts used the Internet to give knowledge of their culture as gifts.

Every Christmas for the past eight years Persons' class and the 30-some students from the Selkie Primary School in eastern Finland have gotten together via Skype for Christmas greetings and cultural exchanges. The two rural schools share the commonalities of residing in small, northern-latitude villages in the countryside, as well as coming from places with unique and rich cultures.

In 2008, Tero Mustonen was visiting Alaska as part of Snowchange Cooperative. According to the group's website, "In the past 15 years Snowchange has developed into a major force in international climate and indigenous policy and research." The website goes on to state, "Snowchange Cooperative is also a network of local and indigenous cultures around the world – our partners include the Saami, Chukchi, Yukaghir, Inuit, Inuvialuit, Inupiaq, Gwich'in, Icelandic, Maori, Australian Aboriginal and many other local and indigenous peoples and communities."

During his visit to Unalakleet, Mustonen contacted the school principal about setting up a cooperative exchange between the children of his hometown and the students in the Western Alaska community. Persons said yes to the unique opportunity and her classes have been participating ever since.

Through this activity Persons' second graders have become part of an international school project sponsored by Snowchange Cooperative called "School at the Heart of the Village." Not only have the young kids from Unalakleet met with children from Selkie, but they have also had exchanges with the School of Norya, in the Republic of Udmurtia, Russian Federation.

Persons said on December 8 and 9 her Unalakleet students shared Inupiaq translated Christmas songs, Eskimo dancing, local subsistence activities such as berry picking and local clothing including kuspiks and skin sewings. The children from Selkie presented their Christmas songs, demonstrated their unique musical instruments and provided traditional recipes. The kids from Norya have exhibited their well-preserved, age-old traditions and dress.

Mustonen says, "Our project focuses on preservation of traditional language, place names, subsistence and cultural practices as well as renewal of traditions at the village level through the schools. We have successfully integrated the local traditions into the curriculum in the

three locations where this project works." He added, "This project has a real potential to be a model educational initiative for the remote villages of the Arctic and North, and at the same time promote revitalization

of traditions as well as internationalization."

"Overall they think it is fun to see people in another country," said Persons in reference to her second graders' experience. "And they love

hearing them talk. They also like that they recognize some of the Christmas songs by the tune, but not the words. They always enjoy the cultural exchange, and are especially interested in their language, and are

intrigued that we do a lot of the same things, such as fish, hunt and pick berries."

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Breakfast with Santa



HAPPY CUSTOMERS— The Marbles are served by Ariana Adams and Eli Tozier at the Breakfast With Santa.



PRINCESS SIGHTING— Addison Knudsen is excited to meet Snow White, played by Nicole Santonastaso, at Breakfast With Santa on Saturday. The theme of the event was A Fairy Special Christmas.



WHO IS THIS GUY?— Young Ryu Weaver does not quite know what to make of Santa during the Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE— Girl Scout Madison Johnson serves coffee to Buddy and Ryan Okleasik at the Breakfast With Santa on Saturday. This event marked the sixth year for the Nome Preschool and Nome Literacy Council fundraising event.



HANGING OUT WITH THE CLAUS'— Alexa Miller and Iryna Kadatska tell Mr. and Mrs. Claus what they want for Christmas at the Breakfast With Santa event on Saturday.

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## Christmas in Shishmaref

By Irene Ahgupuk

Christmas traditions that are still being celebrated here in Shishmaref start on the 24th of December at the church where only the top of the Christmas tree is seen from all the gifts gathered around the tree, behind the mantel, and ending in the back room.

The community comes together, bring gifts, sing, children from Pre-school to Junior High say their peace's and share their song, we pass out the gifts and as we walk out the door church council members pass out goody bags with hard candy, an apple and an orange.

On Christmas morning we gather at church for the morning service. At the end of the service, an IRA council member announces the time for the feast to be held at the school along with the names of the lead chefs and dates of certain age groups for foot races to be held December 26 through 31.

As soon as church is over people

go to the school to get reindeer or caribou meat to cook for the feast, numerous pots of soup are brought to the school from different homes along with what the cooks have made at the school. Everyone gets excited after we eat soup because soon after berries and Eskimo ice cream are passed out from ladies, who made it at home to share. After we finish our feast it is important we sing the doxology in Inupiaq before we leave, only to return to the gym about an hour later to continue to celebrate with Eskimo dancing and basketball games to follow.

The next day is the start of with dog mushing, foot races and snowshoe races; foot races are held outside unless it is too cold and are moved to the school gym. At night we gather at the gym to hear the "Hip Hip Hooray" 1st, 2nd and 3rd place racers stand up to exchange gifts with their fellow racers, receive a ribbon along with a check from the IRA. After we hear the "Hip Hip

Hooray" and "There is nothing written down" family members and friends go down and place a gift into the racer's bag. If we do hear "There is something written down", we wait before we go down to bring the gifts, because someone is bringing down an extra special gift to one of the racers.

Long ago I remember this is a time when cousins got to tease their cousins by giving a silly but loving gift, we as a people have a great sense of humor. Each night we have at least 30 groups that go up to stand hear their "Hip Hip Hooray," receive a check and gifts. When the last group is celebrated we go home for 30 minutes to open our gifts, have a snack and then come back to the gym to continue our night with Eskimo games, we start with two or three women's games than the men's games finish the evening. This is when we would thank our family and friends for the gifts. Women's games are fun and full of laughs. Men's

games are to show strength and endurance, some include the finger pull, ear pull, leg wrestle, seal hop and the "reindeer" one. These activities continue till the 30th. On the 31st one- year-olds and elders foot race at the gym, afterwards the Eskimo football game begins.

The football game is held near the lagoon, where there is no number limit of men playing on the field, the game usually last up to three hours, it would begin in the light of day and end as it gets dark. The winner of the game gets to rest after the celebration of the foot racers that evening, that night we do not go home for 30 minutes we stay while the loser of the Eskimo football game serves coffee, tea, juice and cookies before we start the Two Foot High Kick competition. That evening cake mixes are brought to the gym for volunteers to take home to bake for the New Years' Church service the next day. Before the Two Foot High Kick, women compete in the mukluk race, where

boots are mixed in a box than dumped onto the floor as they race to be the first to put their boots on.

As the night goes on with the high kick, people donate money in memory of loved ones who have passed, the money is then divided between the top 3 Two Foot High Kickers. This event usually end a few minutes to midnight, than we bring in the New Year with Eskimo dancing. We make our way to the door at midnight to watch the fireworks at the lagoon.

Our Christmas week of celebrations ends where it started, at the church. After an evening of sharing songs, we end the night with an old tradition of a movie and cake, each year we alternate the beginning of the treats with A's or W's, either Ahgupuks or Weyiouannas are the first called down stairs to get dessert.

## Unalakleet celebrates Christmas Tree lightning ceremony

By Laureli Ivanoff

The snow didn't come straight down that night. It rarely does in Unalakleet, but it was close. It was the type of snow that seemed to quiet the night. It seemed to bring individuals closer together, like we all received a reassuring pat on the shoulder. The snow, along with the hot cocoa, sugar cookies and singing, played a part in giving residents in Unalakleet a very welcomed sense of belonging and community.

Because, as we all know, winter can bring difficulty with below zero temperatures and wind that can take your breath away. While this winter has brought relatively mild and pleasant weather so far, our community has been riding what seems to be a very long cold snap, or a storm that won't end. Our community has laid

to rest eight people in the past months, the most recent life remembered on Monday. And we still have one dear lady missing.

What the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony told us last Tuesday was that while the wind and weather can postpone a community event, there is always a break. Amid pain and difficulty, there is light to celebrate. The ceremony showed us that during hard times, it's important to come together, share food, smiles and sing.

"I love it when the people are there and wondering when the lights are going to turn on," Lauren Nanouk-Jones said at the ceremony. The 11-year-old won the children's essay contest and her words welcomed and opened the event. "Then, finally, the tree lights up! Everybody

is happy and amazed. They have a twinkle in their eyes. It is just joy all around," she read.

"And that's what the evening truly brought," Unalakleet Mayor Leona Grishkowsky said. "The community counted down, five-four-three-two-one, and Lauren turned the Christmas lights on. She captured our celebration of light perfectly."

"After the tree lights up," Lauren read, "then they are clapping. The

tall tree stands, and the lights make it seem so magical. I love it. I love watching the people smile when everybody is amazed," she said.

With the Christmas tree lit, the celebration continued with songs from the Inupiaq Singers, the 4th Grade Christmas Tree Choir, the High School band and a carol from siblings Heidi Ivanoff, Jeff and Karl Erickson. The crowd of more than 150 people then sang together, "O

Come All Ye Faithful."

The tree stands outside the Unalakleet Evangelical Covenant Church and remains lit throughout the holiday season.

This year, the colors on the tree are a symbol of joy and the child's reminder that no matter how stormy a time may be, there is light in this world that brings magic and wonder.



Photo by Paul Ivanoff III

**TREE LIGHTING—** The Unalakleet Inupiaq choir sings at the tree lighting ceremony in Unalakleet.

## In Savoonga, Christmas comes more than once a year

By Kimberly Hunt

The idea that Christmas comes but once a year doesn't necessarily apply in bush Alaska. This year, citizens of Savoonga enjoyed three versions of the holiday.

The first came in October when Operation Santa Claus loaded a C-130 military transport plane with groceries for distribution by the local Native corporation and backpacks full of school supplies and toys, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and even an ice cream machine. For four hours in mid-October, Christmas came to Savoonga.

Christmas came again on the evening of Wednesday, December 16, when students at Hogarth Kingeekuk Memorial School performed their annual Christmas program. Progressing by grade level from the preschool Head Start through 7th and 8th grades, classes took the stage along the north wall of the school gym and sang or sang along to holiday classics such as "Joy To The World," "I Saw Three Ships," "Deck The Halls" and "Here Comes Santa Claus."

After the program, students returned to homerooms and, like the lyrics of "Here Comes Santa Claus" say, it was Christmas once again. Students received hand-sewn backpacks full of treats ranging from yo-yos and hand-knit hats to Slim-Jim sticks, school supplies and toiletries.

Savoonga's Christmas season will conclude at the town's Presbyterian Church with a performance of the Nativity Play on December 23 and a late-night service on the Dec. 24. Families usually have dinner at home, says village resident Raynard Toolie. "There will be fireworks and Eskimo dancing January 1 for New Year's," Toolie added.

Shaina Soonagrook confirmed traditions common in the town. "We usually go to the Presbyterian church," she said, "and then on Christmas Eve, we finish handing out gifts and we have dinner at home."

"On New Year's, we go to the church and then we go riding around on sleds and wait for the fireworks," Soonagrook said.

## "Ballin Below Zero"

With Cam Smith and Tyler Eide

December 28 - 31

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# OF TEAMS SLOTTED FOR EACH DIVISION:

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MUST HAVE AT LEAST 4 TEAMS SIGNED UP BY FEB. 3 FOR A DIVISION TO OCCUR.

- Must be 19 years old OR 18 years old & a high school graduate
- Double elimination except Championship Game
- Players must use same color uniform with #s on one side
- Must not be more than 4 months pregnant
- Teams must arrange their own housing

Sportsmanship Nominations are due February 3

For more information, the rules or the sportsmanship nomination form email [loibc@nome.net](mailto:loibc@nome.net) or call 907-443-2867 during the evenings & weekends.

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on Facebook!**



# Christmas Doings

**Published in Nomania, 1938  
From the Archives of the Carrie  
M. McLain Memorial Museum**

Our Superintendent of Schools remarked to me at Christmas time: "It is good to live in a place where they really celebrate Christmas, isn't it?" Yes, Nome really has a great time at this season. Some, it is true, celebrate it in a bibu-lous way; others in a Bible-ous way — but one way or another, we celebrate.

Among the features of pre-Christmas days are a program and gift-giving at the Eskimo Methodist Church, the Sunday School pageant and choir cantata at the Federated Church, Midnight Mass at the Catholic Church and the Community Christmas Tree and program at the Territorial School. During this program a procession of Eskimo singers, clad in beautiful fur parkas, and carrying candles, slowly enters the hall singing Adeste Fideles. The perfect beauty of this performance is marred only by fear that some candle is too near to the wolf-ruff of the parka in front of it, and may scorch the fur. But such practical observations are likely to be forgotten while watching the happy faces of the singers. At the close of the program, Santa Claus appears on the stage with a real live reindeer (or tow if the herders are lucky in training two), and there is a sleigh full of bags of candy and nuts for the children. Santa is hopefully expected, for he has been seen driving his reindeer along the snowy streets during the afternoon, with bells-a-jingle.

Another attraction — more unusual than the reindeer in this part of Alaska — is the really-truly Christmas tree. Our trees have to be brought in by dog team from seventy or eighty miles down the coast. The tree for the Christmas community program was a 16-foot one. In order to get it here, about six or seven feet of the top had to be cut out. This was to be spliced in after the tree reached Nome. Extra branches were also sent to make the bottom of the tree fuller. But somehow on the trip the driver lost the top part of the tree. A six-foot tree that was to be used in a home was loaned to take the place of the top that had been lost. It looked like a hopeless task, but with a small tree, the bottom of a big tree, extra branches, plenty of planning and lots of hard work, pretty decorations and many colored lights — lo, on the evening of the school program, a tall, stately, beautiful Christmas tree greeted us. Someone jokingly said that never again could he say with Joyce Kilmer that "only God can make a tree."

The tree for the church program came from 250 miles down the coast. It was cut in late September and shipped to Nome by steamer.

When it reached here it was placed in cold storage and kept frozen until about ten days before Christmas. Then it was brought out and put in warm storage until it thawed and was delivered for use.

On Christmas Eve the Eskimo choir, well-clad in fur parkas and mukluks, goes caroling. Usually a team of horses draws a sled to convey the singers; but on this occasion there was so little snow that the streets were open for automobiles. A truck moved us about town — too rapidly, I thought, to give the music a chance. By eleven o'clock we were at the Nevada having sandwiches, and had only Belmont Point and the Sandspit yet to visit. The prospects were good for getting home by midnight.

But a short way out of town, the truck stopped. After some effort to get it started, we decided to abandon it for the night, and continue to the Point on foot. There was three-quarters of a mile to be covered. The ground was icy and my mukluks were slippery. I was sitting down half the way, it seemed to me, much to the amusement of all. We finished our singing at the Point, and went to the Sandspit, crossing Snake River on the ice. Our leader then announced that people were expecting us to sing out by the radio station — the other side of town! We could not ignore the hopeful light, which would be shining in their windows for us! We sang all the way out there and back, and were beginning to feel a little bit worn around the vocal cords when we quit about four o'clock in the morning.

It had been a sublime night, our impressions had ranged from heights of celestial beauty to depths of human wretchedness. During one of our stops we had seen a drunken man coming toward us. He was shaking his fists at us and shouting the vilest, most blasphemous language — apparently because we had been singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve. But the group continued its singing, and clear as a bell across the cold air rang the beautiful strains of "Silent Night" in the Eskimo language. Two of the girls had written it down for some of us. This was not an easy task, for Eskimo is not a written language, and all the words but be spelled phonetically. Sometimes, seven, eight, or nine syllables have to fit where, in English, there are but three or four. Singing it with the Eskimo choir called for close attention to timing of words, and was fun.

As we went to our homes, the Northern Lights that had been playing across the sky for hours were still shedding mystery and beauty. A yellow crescent moon shone above the frozen sea. The beginning of Christmas Day! Light and shadow, beauty triumphing over ugliness — such is life, here and everywhere.



*Photos courtesy Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum*

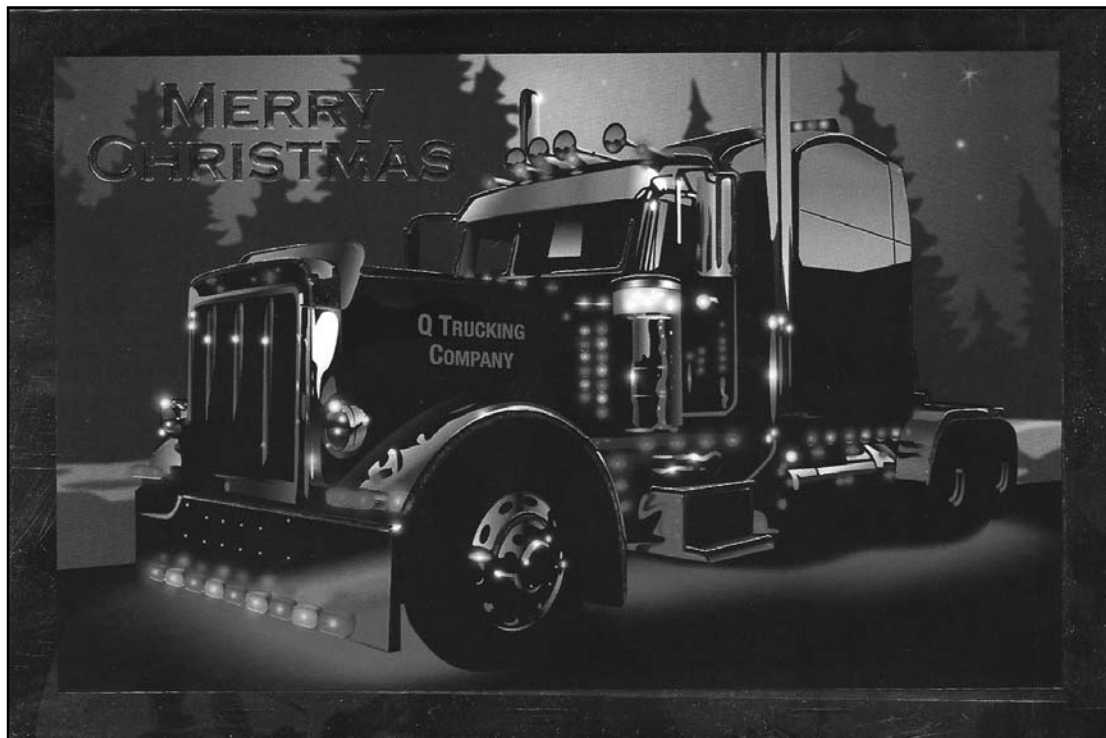
**FESTIVE**— Glittering Christmas trees and paper chains set a festive scene for a choir performance in Nome, 1947.



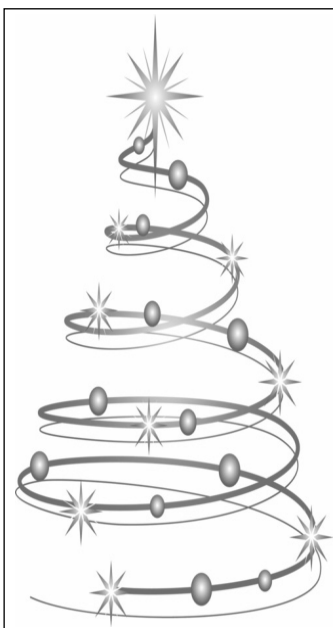
**SCHOOL PLAY**— Santa Claus, soldiers, and little stars line up to take a bow following a school Christmas play in Nome, 1947.



**DEEP SNOW**— The Nevada buried in winter snow on the corner of Front Street. Nome, circa 1910.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from all of us at Q Trucking**



## Thanks

**The Nome Cancer Support Group, ICANs,** thanks Everts Air Cargo for transporting Christmas Trees for our sale, Bells Nursery for supplying the beautiful trees, wreaths, and poinsettias, Nome Joint Utilities for moving the trees, the National Parks Service for housing the trees, and the many volunteers who got the trees delivered.



# The Bush Pilot and the Nuns

By Chuck Sassara

A letter arrived on my desk in the capital city of Juneau. To my surprise it was an invitation to give the graduation address at the mission school in Saint Mary's, Alaska. I readily agreed, this would be fun. I would be reunited with my good friend, the mother superior.

Every time I would have a trip to the Yukon River delivering the mail, I would walk up to the mission school to visit her and the Jesuit priest. I always asked her as I was departing, "Do, you or the nuns need anything from Anchorage?"

A few months later I found myself stuck in St. Mary's. The weather had slammed the door shut again. Nothing to do but sit it out for a few hours.

It didn't take long for mother superior to find out that I was stuck. She sent one of the kids to the airstrip to round me up and send me back to the school.

"What do you mean you're going to sleep in the plane, you come on over to our house, I will find you a bed" she said. "That would be really nice, but will the nuns agree to that?" I responded. She laughed and said, "Sure they will. Besides I'm the boss you know." She winked to assure me. "They will get a kick out of it. Having a man around the house and all."

That night as I settled in for the night in a real bed instead of being bent into a pretzel in the cockpit of a Cessna 185 I thought to myself, "Someday I'm going to have to write a book."

I was up early in the morning trying to scrounge up a cop of coffee in the empty dining room when mother superior strode in.

"How was your night? Chuck, did the goblins get you?" she asked. "Nah, I slept like a log." I lied. "All night I kept waiting for a bolt of lightning to strike me." By this time the place was coming alive, food was being applied to empty plates. Mother superior approached me with two plates and motioned me to follow. As we took our seats she asked me a strange question.

"Chuck, with your last name, I was wondering if you can speak Italian?"

"Just a few words." I responded, "Why?"

Mother superior continued. "We have a nun here who was born in Italy, so after we eat, how about going to the kitchen and saying hello to her?"

As I stepped into the kitchen I looked around. There she was. All 4'6" of her with an apron tied around her waist. Pot in hand, a hand that had known decades of toil.

I approached her from the back leaned down and whispered "BOUN JORNO, come e la vita qui." She quickly turned around, raised her hands to her face and began to cry. She hadn't heard her mother tongue in over 60 years. She began to try to explain to me that she couldn't remember how to speak Italian. I told her that I had exhausted my vocabulary as well.

Then began a round of talk with Sr. Tecla, mother superior and myself all trying to speak at the same time. Broken English, broken Italian and broken Yupik Eskimo, what a time we had.

As I made ready to leave I said to Sr. Tecla, "Sister I'll be back around these parts in about a week, do you need anything from Anchorage?" For the life of me I couldn't think of what a 80-year-old nun would need but I always asked.

To my surprise she turned to me and said, "There is one thing I've always wanted. I would like to be a United States citizen."

I was flabbergasted it took my

breath away. I took her hands in mine and just held on. I turned to mother superior. "Tell me what happened here?" I implored. I actually needed to sit down. I picked up a glass of water and downed it.

The story began to tumble out. Mother superior began the tale. "Sr. Tecla was a young nun born in Italy who traveled by ship to New York then was processed through Ellis Island. Somehow she managed to get on a train to Seattle, then onto a steamship bound for Nome. Then she hopped into an open longboat, which took her across Norton Sound and up the Yukon River to the mission. She didn't speak a word of English, I don't know how she ever made it."

Still clinging to her frail hand, my mind began to race as I digested this story. My course of action was clear. Sr. Tecla would have her wish. Whatever mountain needed moved would be moved.

I hugged both of the ladies. I told them I'd be back as soon as possible. As a trudged up to the strip I began to formulate a plan. The first order of business was to contact a federal judge.

I called Ray Plummer in Anchorage an old friend from Big Lake days. "Hi your honor this is Chuck Sassara I need a big favor." Yeah sure, what's going on?" he asked. "There is a Catholic nun over in St. Mary's Mission who wants to become a United States citizen. She'd been there for about 60 years. Could you go over there and set up court so we can help her out. She is old and frail and won't fly so this is it. What you think?"

"Chuck, that's amazing. I'll call my clerk and see if he will come with me. We can convene the court out there. It will be an honor to take her oath of allegiance."

An hour later he called me back. "My clerk was really excited when I told him. He says he is ready to roll just tell us when." "Thanks your Honor, I'll call you as soon as I can put the pieces together."

The next call was to Ray Peterson, president of Wien Consolidated Airlines.

"Ray, I need to ask for a big favor."

"What is it?" he asked. "Run it by me; anything but cash" he laughed. We both hooted on that one.

"Ray, what it is, I would like your flight to St. Mary's to stay on the ground for at least two to three hours this coming Thursday."

"While I don't know about that," he said, "what's going on that you need our plane parked?"

"It's this, Ray. I'm trying to get a nun in St. Mary's her U.S. citizenship. U.S. Judge Ray Plummer has agreed to convene court in St. Mary's so she can take her oath, I think we would need to be on the ground for at least two hours."

"Look, I'll get right back to you," Ray said. "I will call the crew and see if they will agree to this. You're fine with me. I'll bet I know her. What's her name?"

"Her name is Tecla, she's from Italy and of all things I just found out there's another one there. Her name is Sister Scholastica. Born in Germany. She's been there at the mission for over 46 years."

"Chuck, just stand by I'll get in touch with you it as soon as I can." I could tell that Ray was excited. Ray was an old bush pilot who had pioneered flying in northwestern Alaska.

Within hours it was all coming together. My next call was to United States Sen. Mike Gravel in Washington, D.C. Mike and I had served together in the Alaska state legislature.

"Hey Mike, I need a big one." "Let me guess," he said. "You want an airline route direct from Paris to Nome?"

"Nothing that easy," I said. "I just want you to steamroll some

paperwork through the federal bureaucracy for me. Look Mike, there are two elderly nuns at St. Mary's Mission in Alaska who want to be United States citizens. They have been there for years and years. I've got their applications all filled out. I even signed their names for them. By me, of course. I'm going to express mail them to you today. See if you can get them approved right away. I mean in one day!"

"Sure," Senator Gravel responded. "I'll have one of my staff take them over to the INS and I'll have them stay right there till they are approved. I'll instruct them to stand there with their hand out 24 hours a day if need be."

The following day Senator Gravel was on the phone. "Sisters Tecla and Scholastica's applications have been approved and are in the mail to you. Good luck the rest of the way."

"Thanks Senator," I said. "I'll keep you informed on how this all turns out."

On the following Thursday morning the Wien Consolidated Fairchild F27 turboprop began its trip to St. Mary's with a very excited group of passengers and crew.

As we touched down on the gravel runway the first happy sur-

prise of the day was waiting for us. There must have been 50 people gathered around all smiling and waving.

The captain shut down the engines and we all piled out. The crowd of mostly Eskimos dressed in the finest of furs was there to escort us into the village. For some reason they insisted that the judge's clerk, the flight crew, the judge and myself climb up into the back of an old World War II Army 10 wheeled truck and ride to the school, a distance of only a few hundred yards. We all protested saying we could walk. But they wouldn't allow it. This old 6x6 truck was the only vehicle in St. Mary's. We climbed up into the back and stood there and waved as we slowly rolled down the one lane dirt road with our escort walking on each side. We stopped in front of the gymnasium, piled out and walked in. Another surprise. The gym was packed full. Every square inch filled. Eskimos in their finest fur garments, elders to infants. Many of them couldn't speak English but knew exactly why they were there. These people had traveled by dog team, snow-machines and in some cases walked over 100 miles to Saint Mary's Mission from over 50 tiny villages scattered across the tundra. All there to be witnesses to the cer-

emony. The pilot, co-pilot, flight attendant, the judge and I looked at each other. I could see the emotion in their faces.

Ray Plumer went into a dressing room and reappeared as a black robed judge, representing the United States of America. A table flanked by the U.S. flag and the State of Alaska flag had been placed in the center of the basketball court.

He walked up to it and took a seat. The clerk said in a booming voice: "Here Yee! Here Yee! The court of the United States of America is now in session."

Sisters Tecla and Scholastica stepped forward and faced the judge. Two tiny nuns dressed in black habits raised their gnarled work worn hands.

I don't think anyone took a breath while Tecla, 80, and Scholastica, 75, recited their pledge to defend their country against all aggression, foreign or domestic.

They became citizens of United States of America. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The pilot, co-pilot, flight attendant and I were trying to wipe off the tears. Everyone began to sing God Bless America.

It was CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 1969.

## Christmas Week Church Schedule

### Our Savior Lutheran Church

5th Avenue & Bering  
443-5295

- Thursday: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm
- Friday: Christmas Morn Service 11 am (w/ communion)

### Nome Covenant Church

101 Bering Street  
443-2565 • Pastor Harvey

- December 24th - Candle Light Worship 7 pm
- December 27 - "The Boy Jesus" Sunday worship 11 am
- December 31 - Watchnight Worship, Movie "The War Room" - 9:00 - 11:59 pm

### Community United Methodist Church

West 2nd Ave & C Street  
443-2865 Pastor Charles Brower

- Christmas Eve Candle light service, December 24, 2015 at 7 pm.

### St. Joseph Catholic Church

Corner of Steadman & W. King Place  
443-5527

- Thursday December 24  
Children's Mass at 5:30 p.m.  
11:30 p.m. caroling then Mass at Midnight
- Christmas Day Dec. 25  
Mass is at 10:30 a.m.



## Merry Christmas



*The City of Nome extends best wishes for a happy Holiday Season  
and a New Year filled with peace, joy and success.*

*We look forward to serving you in 2016!*

## CITY OF NOME

**Mayor Richard Beneville, Nome Common Council, Nome Police Department, Administration & Clerk's Office, Public Works Department, Nome Recreation Center/Swimming Pool, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department, Nome Volunteer Fire Department, Port of Nome, Kegoayah Kozga Library and Nome Planning Commission.**



Obituary

**Leroy Christien Martin**  
August 19, 1990-October 5, 2015  
Leroy Christien Martin, age 25, born in Nome to Lawrence and Christine Martin on August 19, 1990. Survivors include parents Lawrence and Christine Martin; sisters and brothers Louise, Letia, Richard, Vincent and Philomena; grandparents Joe and Martina Aparezuk; nieces Shalaeya, Christine, Donazeah, Alice, Jacinta, Tiana, Leanna, Abigail; nephews Ivan and Hayden; uncles Peter Sr., Peter Jr., Ralph, Benedict, Hermes Sr., Dyuk; aunts Anna Sr., Bridgette, Celestine, Rachel, Hilda and Tessie; and many relatives too numerous to mention.  
Leroy was preceded in death by his grandparents Vincent and Alice Martin, uncle John Martin I, uncle John Washington, brother Lawrence Paul Martin II and niece Avril Martin.  
Leroy was 25-years old and resided in Anchorage. He completed his GED, loved music, loved to dance and sing, loved to take walks, and loved his family. Everyone that knew him loved him.  
We would like to thank Dr. Erin Johnson with Behavioral Health, Peter Martin, Sr. for making the cross and coffin, Gwen and Bill of Anchorage for donations, Kehl's

Legacy Funeral Home for the flowers, State of Alaska for coffin and airfare, Sully for helping with equipment, Peter Martin Sr. and Jared



Leroy Christien Martin

Alaska Democrats announce new party chair

Last week, Mike Wenstrup announced he will be stepping down to make way for his successor Casey Steinau of Big Lake (Mat-Su valley) as chair of the Alaska Democratic Party ahead of the 2016 election cycle.  
Wenstrup, a Fairbanks resident, was elected party chair in 2012. His departure follows the election of independent Governor Walker and Democrat Lieutenant Governor Mallott who formed a "Unity Ticket." At the local level, five progressive-backed mayors were elected to serve the Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks-North Star Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough.  
"This is really bittersweet for me," Wenstrup told the Executive Committee. "I'm proud of what this party has accomplished and am confident the party is well-positioned for victory in 2016."  
Wenstrup had put in motion plans to step down as chair several months ago. The gavel will be passed to the new party chair Casey Steinau of Big Lake, who currently serves as Vice Chair for the Alaska Democratic Party and Regional Vice Chair for the Mat-Su Democrats.  
Steinau has had a successful 20-year career in real estate sales and investing. She also brings to the party valuable experience as a small business owner, former field representative for former Senator Mark Begich

and long-time community volunteer for a variety of causes from garbage clean-up to the fight against homelessness.  
Steinau plans to focus efforts on grass roots organizing, community outreach and voter protection as party chair.  
"We will continue to build a diverse and inclusive party," Steinau

said. "I look forward to engaging hardworking Alaskans in the political process to ensure everyone's voice has an opportunity to be heard."  
Steinau will begin serving as chair of the Alaska Democratic party in January.

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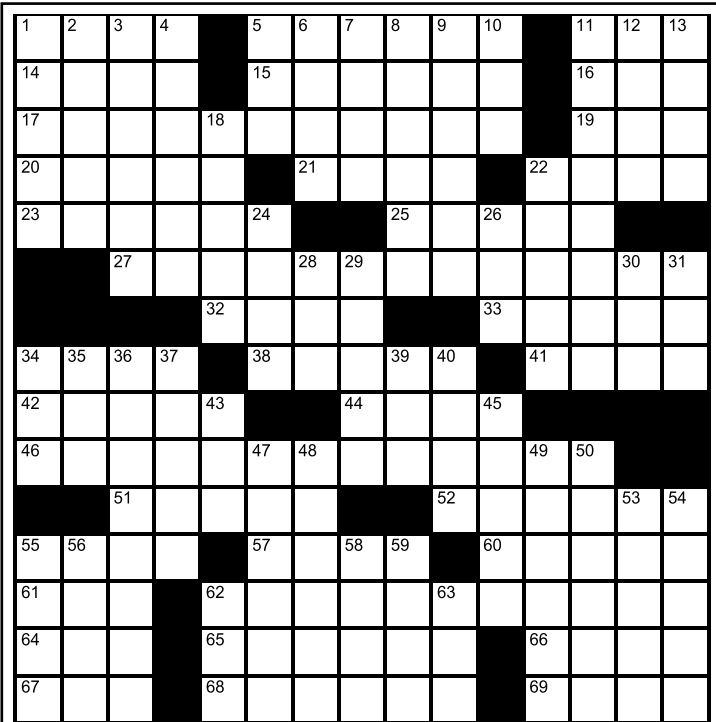
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Henry, Victor and Alberta Steve, Rose Nashoanak, Fred and Marcia Pete for food donations, Albert Teayoumeak for preparing Leroy, Alaska Airlines and Bering Air for transportation. Cyril Pete for using his truck to bring Leroy to the house. City of Stebbins for purchasing the tickets for immediate family.



Across

1. \_\_\_\_ Christian Andersen

5. Medicated lozenge

11. Stop on a crawl

14. Chill

15. "Hip Hip, \_\_\_\_!"

16. "\_\_\_\_ calls?"

17. Admirer of anything French

19. On, as a lamp

20. Andrea Bocelli, for one

21. "\_\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)

22. Bit of dust

23. Hush-hush

25. Muhammad's religion

27. Light or popular music (2 wds)

32. Put one's foot down?

33. Magical wish granter

34. \_\_\_\_-friendly

38. Codeine source

41. Exclusive

42. Vestibule

44. Girasol, e.g.

46. Performance given only once at any one place (hyph., 2 wds)

51. Close-knit group

52. "Stop right there!"

55. Face-to-face exam

57. "Hamlet" has five

60. Boredom

61. Family head

62. HNO2 (2 wds)

64. "\_\_\_\_ not!"

65. Consecrate

66. Battering wind

Down

67. Arch

68. Marked with sinuous lines, botany

69. Aims

Down

1. Sword handles

2. Acquiesce

3. Shade

4. Married woman, Spanish

5. Even if, briefly

6. Catch, in a way

7. \_\_\_\_ and aahs

8. Emotionally stressful event

9. Most robust

10. Artist's asset

11. Trigger, e.g.

12. Condo, e.g.

13. Information unit

18. Colgate rival

22. Bison features

24. Apprentice

26. Chair part

28. Chop (off)

29. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"

30. Bubkes

31. "Fancy that!"

34. Alien?

35. "My boy"

36. Someone visually attractive (2 wds)

37. Kidney-related

39. Bull markets

40. Buddy

43. Free from, with "of"

45. Narrow country roads

47. Granular

48. Bully

49. Period of legal minority

50. Classic yo-yo maker

53. Association of persons of the same trade

54. Keeps out of sight

55. "What are the \_\_\_\_?"

56. Aggravate

58. Beethoven's "Archduke \_\_\_\_"

59. Princes, e.g.

62. Bother

63. Adaptable truck, for short

Previous Puzzle Answers

1. B. E. A. M.

2. A. D. A. M.

3. P. I. P. E. R.

4. O. L. L. A.

5. D. O. N. E.

6. A. N. I. S. E.

7. O. D. O. R.

8. R. I. T. E.

9. S. T. E. P. S.

10. R. E. H. A. B. I. L. I. T. Y.

11. A. T. E.

12. R. A. T. I. F. Y.

13. M. A. N. T. A. S.

14. H. O. T.

15. O. R. B.

16. D. A. F. T.

17. S. T. R. O. P.

18. S. T. E. E. P.

19. C. O. O.

20. T. R. A. N. S. L. I. T. E. R. A. T. I. O. N.

21. A. I. M.

22. O. D. E. L.

23. R. A. T. T. Y.

24. M. A. I. M.

25. P. E. R.

26. I. L. L.

27. P. L. E. A. S. E.

28. S. T. O. L. E. N.

29. S. T. R. I. P. C. A. R. T. O. O. N.

30. C. A. T. T. Y.

31. M. E. A. L.

32. A. S. E. A.

33. O. R. I. E. L.

34. P. E. R. I.

35. L. I. N. G.

36. G. E. N. R. E.

37. S. P. E. C.

38. E. N. D. S.

HOROSCOPES

December 2015 — Week 4

♈

CAPRICORN

December 22–January 19

Promises must be broken this week as a work matter moves front and center. Give it your all, Capricorn, and you will get the results you were hoping for and more.

♉

ARIES

March 21–April 19

Psst, Aries. You're nowhere near the heart of the matter. There is more detective work to do. A memento inspires a new tradition.

♊

GEMINI

May 21–June 21

Settle down, Gemini. You will not blow it. You've done your homework, and it will show. A youngster asks a question you've been dreading.

♋

CANCER

June 22–July 22

Hope pervades this week, Cancer, as the impossible becomes possible. A friend makes a quick recovery. Throw a little celebration for them.

♌

LEO

July 23–August 22

Yes, yes, yes, Leo! There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Just one last step to complete, and it will be party time. An investment begins to pay off.

♍

VIRGO

August 23–September 22

Va-va-voom, Virgo. You've been sticking to a fitness goal, and people are starting to notice. Your doctor will, too, when your reports come back better than expected.

♎

LIBRA

September 23–October 22

Uh-uh, Libra. Matching wits at an office event is ill advised. Listen and learn. The cat is let out of the bag at home, and you're stunned to say the least.

♏

SCORPIO

October 23–November 21

Yikes, Scorpio. All of the holiday spending is starting to take a toll on your pocketbook. Good thing there are some bargains coming up. A loved one shares a story.

♐

SAGITTARIUS

November 22–December 21

Visions of sugarplums may not be dancing in your head, but they are in others. Take it easy on your team, Sagittarius. An argument is put to rest.

♑

AQUARIUS

January 20–February 18

Party time, Aquarius. Don't say no. Put on your dancing shoes. There is so much to celebrate. A phone call clues you in to a friend's dilemma.

♒

PISCES

February 19–March 20

The countdown is on. Are you ready, Pisces? If not, now is the time, and you should start with that favorite haunt. Wishes are granted.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Winter Products

🐾 LED Collar Lights

🐾 Pet Safe Ice Melt

🐾 Dog Booties

🐾 Dog Jackets

🐾 Dog Beds

🐾 Straw

Nome Animal House

443-2490

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

Sun: closed





NATIVITY SCENE— The Nativity Scene is displayed in front of the Nome Covenant Church. Photo by Diana Haecker

Saying It Sincerely

Rev. Karen Sonray,  
Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church

Luke 2  
At Christmas time we like to have certain things that bring back memories from the past— traditions like candles, “Silent Night”, our favorite cookies, a decorated tree. But, think about it, the first Christmas was not filled with expected and traditional things at all.  
The first Christmas was filled with mystery and the “unexpected!” It was filled with surprises.  
Sometimes we do not like surprises, but God is often hidden in the unexpected. He sent the Angel Gabrielle to announce to Mary that she would bear God’s Son— a Savior for the world. Mary didn’t say, “ I don’t like surprises.” She said, “May it be

so – I am your servant.” So, too, the shepherds were doing their ordinary care of their flock, when the most unexpected vision appeared to them from the Heavens announcing that a Savior had been born for all people that night.  
This Christmas, let us not worry too much about the traditions and expected things. Let us instead be open to God’s Spirit moving in this Holy day. Let us be open to the unexpected wonders He is bringing to us. Let us focus on the inner treasure of this good news! A Savior has been born for us. He comes in ordinary flesh, vulnerable and fragile— a little baby.  
“The Son of God did not want to be seen and found in heaven. Therefore he descended from heaven into this humility and came to us in our flesh, laid him-

self into the womb of his mother and into the manger and went on to the cross. This was the ladder that he placed on earth so that we might ascend to God on it. “ Martin Luther  
God has chosen to come to us in our humanity, in the flesh. This is what theologians call the Incarnation. He will experience all that we do as human beings— the joy and zest of life, breathing in the fresh air of a new day, the sorrows and joys, the disappointments and fellowship that come with friends and family. He will even die for us and experience death. He does this so that we will never be alone no matter the hardship or doubts. Thanks be to God who sent us His Son Jesus born at Christmas.  
Merry Christmas!

Cranberry Brussels Sprouts

Recipe by Kendra Miller, MPH, RDN, LD with Miller Health Consulting, LLC

Makes 8 Servings  
Preparation Time: 5 minutes  
Bake at 400°F for 20 minutes  
Difficulty Level: Easy

Ingredients:  
2 Tbsp. Olive oil  
3 c. Brussels sprouts, halved  
¼ c. Cranberries, dried  
¼ c. Walnuts, chopped  
3 Tbsp. Balsamic vinegar



Directions:  
1. Preheat oven to 400°F.  
2. In an 8x8" baking dish combine olive oil, brussels sprouts, cranberries, walnuts, and balsamic vinegar.  
3. Bake for 25 minutes. Serve warm.

TIP:  
\*You can use either fresh or frozen Brussels sprouts with this recipe. For frozen sprouts, extend baking time by 5 minutes.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size	½ cup
Amount of Servings	8
Calories	89
Total Fat (g)	2
Saturated Fat (g)	0
Cholesterol (mg)	0
Sodium (mg)	3
Total Carbohydrate (g)	3
Fiber (g)	1
Protein (g)	1
Vitamin A (%)	2
Vitamin C (%)	16
Calcium (%)	1
Iron (%)	1

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Church Services Directory

- Bible Baptist Church**  
443-2144  
Sunday School: 10 a.m./Worship: 11 a.m.
- Community Baptist Church-SBC**  
108 West 3rd Avenue • 443-5448 • Pastor Aaron Cooper  
Sunday Small Group Bible Study: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
- Community United Methodist Church**  
West 2nd Avenue & C Street • 443-2865  
Pastor Charles Brower  
Sunday: Worship 11:00 am  
Monday: Thrift Shop 4:00 to 5:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: Thrift Shop 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Wednesday: Faith Followers 5:45 to 7:30 pm
- Nome Covenant Church**  
101 Bering Street • 443-2565 • Pastor Harvey  
Sunday: School 10 a.m./Worship 11 a.m.  
Wednesday: Youth Group 6:30 p.m. (443-8063 for more info)  
Friday: Community Soup Kitchen 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
5th Avenue & Bering • 443-5295  
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m..  
Handicapped accessible ramp: North side
- River of Life Assembly of God**  
405 W. Seppala • 443-5333  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Last Sunday of each month Worship: 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 7:00 p.m.  
For more information contact Pastor Austin Jones
- St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
Corner of Steadman & W. King Place • 443-5527  
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m./Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
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 the Nazarene**  
3rd Avenue & Division Street • 443-4870  
Pastor Dan Ward  
Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

# It's Hoop Time.

Don't miss a minute as Nome Nanook basketball comes your way on KICY AM-850. Brought to you by Lewis & Thomas, Attorneys at Law, The A/C Value Center, Bering Air, Nome Outfitters, Hanson's Safeway, The Nome Community Center's Tobacco Control Program, Nome Joint Utility System and Tundra Toyo. Don't get too far away from a radio this season! Or, listen on-line at [www.kicy.org](http://www.kicy.org).

## KICY AM-850





SECOND GRADE CHOIR — Ron Horner directs the second grade choir during the Christmas Concert at the Nome Elementary School.

Photo by Diana Haecker

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

## Employment



**Nome Eskimo Community is recruiting for two (2) positions located in Nome, AK:**

- **Executive Assistant:** non-exempt, regular full-time position. The pay range is \$22.43/hour - \$25.24/hour. This position is open until filled.
- **ICWA Specialist II:** non-exempt, regular full-time position. The pay range is \$22.78/hour - \$25.63/hour. This position is open until January 08, 2016.

To ensure the safety of children who receive services, Nome Eskimo Community will complete a Criminal History Background Check on all applicants considered for the ICWA Specialist II position.

To be considered for employment, the report must be free of crimes involving sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor, unlawful exploitation of a minor, indecent exposure, crimes of violence against persons, and must show that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony within the past

ten years.

Native preference per Public Law 93-638

A full copy of the job descriptions and an employment application can be obtained from the Nome Eskimo Community Website [www.necalaska.org](http://www.necalaska.org) or from the Nome Eskimo Community Office at 200 West 5th Avenue.

**For any questions, please contact the Human Resources Manager, Cathy Lyon, at 907-443-9131 or by email to [cathylyon@gci.net](mailto:cathylyon@gci.net)**

12.24

### POSITION AVAILABLE CITY MANAGER

The City of Unalakleet is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. The Manager is appointed by and reports to an elected seven (7) member City Council and serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the City.

#### JOB SUMMARY

The Manager is responsible to the City Council for the administration of daily operations and manages a staff of 20, providing municipal services and enforcing local ordinances. The City Manager

administers the policies of the City Council and supervises department directors and City office staff.

#### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

A Bachelor's degree in business of public administration or a closely related field from an accredited college or university; proven and demonstrated executive level management experience with a minimum five (5) years of experience. A combination of education, training, and experience may be substituted (at the City Council's discretion) for the preferred qualifications. Applicant must possess strong organizational and planning skills. Experience working within a diverse multicultural community is a plus.

#### SALARY

\$60,000-\$70,000 annually and a potential for housing. Actual salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

#### TO APPLY

Interested persons should provide a letter of interest and a resume showing complete education and job experience by mail to: Leona Grishkowsky, Mayor, PO Box 28, Unalakleet, AK 99684; or email to [leonalea@gmail.com](mailto:leonalea@gmail.com). Questions can be directed to the City of Unalakleet at 907-624-3531. EOE

**This position is open until filled, with the first application review date of January 15, 2016.**

All applications are subject to public disclosure.  
12.17-24, 1.7-14

## Legals

### THE CITY OF NOME

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Conditional Use Permit

**A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NOME PLANNING COMMISSION TO SEEK COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Approval of a Conditional Use Permit for Northwind Ministries to operate a Commercial Business retailing various hardware supplies at 405 East 5th Ave., which is currently zoned for Residential Use.

DATE: Monday, January 4, 2016  
TIME: 5:30 P.M.  
LOCATION: City Hall Chambers

12.10-17-24

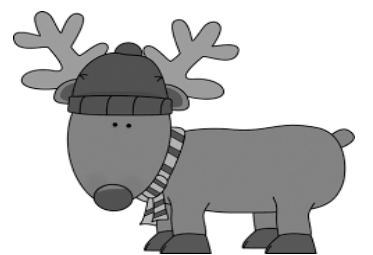
## Classifieds

**FOR SALE** — Premium goose down Eddie Bauer parkas with fur trim hood, new made in Canada. One man's small at \$350; one man's large at \$400. Call Joe 801-580-1359.

12.24

**WANTED** — Mark Knapp at The Cutting Edge in Fairbanks is buying legal ancient walrus ivory, musk ox horn, mammoth ivory and teeth. Very good prices. 907-452-7477, [cuttingedge@gci.net](mailto:cuttingedge@gci.net).

12.3-1.28



## Real Estate



**Nome Sweet Homes**  
907-443-7368

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UGLY  
HOMES**

[www.nomesweethomes.com](http://www.nomesweethomes.com)

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Difference in the  
Health of our  
Region?**



Apply to Work at

**NORTON SOUND  
HEALTH CORPORATION**

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- Trainee
- Professional
- Recruiter

For a current vacancy list, go to [Www.NortonSoundHealth.org](http://Www.NortonSoundHealth.org) or contact Human Resources at (907) 443-4530

NSHC is a drug-free workplace and will apply Alaska Native/American Indian preference for hire (under PL 93-638 and Veteran Preferences). NSHC will also initiate a criminal history/background check for all positions.







Photo by Nils Hahn

SKIJORING — Keith Conger and his daughter Mallory skijor with their dogs on the Iditarod trail on Sunday, December 20.

### Sitnasuak Native Corporation

### Notice of the Special Meeting of Shareholders

- Thursday, January 7, 2016
- 10 a.m.
- Alaska Native Heritage Center  
8800 Heritage Center Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504

**BUSINESS CONDUCTED WILL INCLUDE:**

- Proposed Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to eliminate the use of discretionary proxies during Board elections
- Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws to require the Board to approve all eligible candidates for inclusion on the Board solicited proxy


Any questions please contact **Rebecca Neagle**, Shareholder Relations Manager, for more information at 929-7032 or [rneagle@snc.org](mailto:rneagle@snc.org)



**SITNASUAK**  
NATIVE CORPORATION

### Koyuk Native Corporation

P.O. Box 53050  
Koyuk, ALASKA 99753  
Office (907) 963-2424 Fax: 963-3552  
Store: 963-3551



### NOTICE OF KOYUK NATIVE CORPORATION ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the annual meeting of shareholders of Koyuk Native Corporation will be held on **January 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.**, at the Koyuk Community Hall, for the following purposes:

**1. Election of five (5) Directors**

and the transactions of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

*Building on our corporate strength and cultural identity, we shall assist our Shareholders to control our corporation and create our future.*

11.12-26, 12.10-24



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### PLEASE HELP

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

Dog food, cat food, cat litter and other donations are always welcome at the Nome Animal Shelter!

**Nome Animal Control & Adopt-A-Pet**  
**443-8538 or 443-5262**

## King Island Native Community Annual Meeting and Election

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the **General Election and Annual Meeting of the King Island Native Community** will be held on **Thursday, December 31, 2015** at Old St. Joseph Church. **Ballots will be available and voting will take place during the hours of 8:00am to 5:00PM.** Tribal members eligible to vote may vote during these hours by obtaining and submitting regular ballots at the Old St. Joseph Church. **The annual meeting will then begin at 5:30PM.** ► **Seats up for Election: 4** (4) seats are up for election this year. The potluck will begin at 5:00PM. Please bring a **dish or dessert** to share.

**PLEASE VOTE AND ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING!** We need your participation to make this election and annual meeting a success!

Please call Janice @ 443-2209 if you have any questions about the meeting, potluck, election, or rides for Elders.





THIRD GRADERS— Mr. Horner’s third grade choir performs during the Nome Elementary School Christmas Concert.

Photo by Diana Haecker

# Seawall

NOME POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASES 12/14/2015 through 12/20/2015

**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 period there were 152 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center. 74 (49 percent) involved alcohol. There were 16 arrests made with 16 (100 percent) alcohol related. NPD responded to 19 calls reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance. One was remanded to AMCC as a protective hold; and three remained at the hospital for medical evaluation/treatment. There were 12 ambulance calls and no fire calls during this period.**

## Monday, December 14, 2015

12:34 a.m., NPD officers were dispatched to a residence on the east side of town for the report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, officers contacted the subjects in question and they were warned for the level of noise. No further action was required.  
5:21 p.m., NPD received a 911 hang up call. The owner of the number was contacted and explained that the phone had accidentally been dialed while in a pocket. No further action was required.  
5:53 p.m., NPD officers responded to a residence on the west side of town for the report of a female requiring assistance. Upon arrival and further investigation, it was revealed that the female was the victim of an assault occurring earlier in the week. A suspect has been identified and the investigation is ongoing.  
9:51 p.m., NPD received a report of an assault occurring on the west side of town the previous evening. A report was taken and the investigation is ongoing.  
11:14 p.m., NPD responded to the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated female that required assistance. Upon arrival the female was contacted and identified as Justina Adams, who was found to have an active Bench Warrant, as well as current conditions of release that prohibited the consumption of alcohol. Adams was placed under arrest and was remanded to AMCC for Violating her Conditions of Release and the active warrant. She was held without bail.  
11:58 p.m., NPD responded to a disturbance call at a residence on the east side of town. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reported suspect, who was subsequently transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital for medical clearance and later remanded to AMCC on a T-47 Hold.

## Tuesday, December 15, 2015

6:05 a.m., NPD responded to a residence on the west side of town for the report of a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival and further investigation, the three persons present in the home had been involved in a physical altercation, with one of the suspects fleeing prior to officers' arrival. A report will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review and disposition.  
10:52 a.m., NPD officers responded to a motor vehicle collision on the west side of town. Officers arrived and facilitated the exchange of insurance information. No injuries were reported and the damage to the involved vehicles was minor. No further enforcement action was required.  
3:06 p.m., a citizen arrived at NPD to report an assault that occurred several days prior at a residence on the east side of town. A report was taken for the incident and the investigation is ongoing.  
8:03 p.m., NPD received a report of property being stolen from a residence on the east side of town. A report was taken and the investigation is ongoing.  
8:38 p.m., NPD received a report of a person threatening to harm themselves. Upon arrival, the person confirmed the threats and was subsequently transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital, where they were left in the care of Behavioral Health Services.

## Wednesday, December 16, 2015

2:06 a.m., NPD officers were dispatched to an apartment complex on the west side of town for the report of a possible domestic disturbance. Upon arrival and further investigation, Ernest Butler was found to have injured another member of the household. Butler was placed under arrest for Assault in the Third Degree DV, Assault in the Fourth Degree DV, Interfering with a Report of Domestic Violence and Probation Violation. He was later remanded to AMCC, where he was held without bail.

## Thursday, December 17, 2015

12:25 a.m., NPD received a report of a domestic disturbance at a residence on the east side of town. Upon arrival, a juvenile in the home was found to have broken a window in the house after a verbal argument. The issue was resolved by separation and a report for Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree will be sent to the Juvenile Probation Office for disposition.  
3:19 p.m., NPD received a report of a possible sexual abuse of a minor. The investigation is ongoing.  
8:24 p.m., NPD responded to an apartment complex on the west side of town for the report of a juvenile trespassing within one of the units. Upon arrival, the juvenile left on request and was later served a formal trespass notice from the property owners. No further action was required.  
9:52 p.m., NPD officers responded to a building on the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male causing a disturbance. Upon arrival, the male was identified as Terrence Merculieff, who was still causing a disturbance. Merculieff was placed under arrest for Disorderly Conduct and was later remanded to AMCC, where he was held on \$250 bail.  
**Friday, December 18, 2015**  
1:56 a.m., NPD responded to an apartment complex on the west side of town for the report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, the issue was found to be a verbal argument between two tenants within the same unit. Both persons were given a verbal warning for Disorderly Conduct and separated within the home.  
7:59 a.m., NPD was dispatched to the north edge of town for the report of a motor vehicle collision involving three vehicles. Upon arrival and further investigation, the road conditions were deemed to be the primary cause of the collision and officers facilitated the exchange of information between the drivers involved. No citations were issued, no injuries were reported and the vehicles involved were towed from the scene to clear the roadway.  
9:13 a.m., NPD received a report of stolen property being sold online by a third party. The investigation into the theft and selling of the stolen property is ongoing.  
11:33 a.m., NPD received a report from a citizen that they had been assaulted three days prior on the west side of town. A suspect has been identified and the investigation is ongoing.  
2:57 p.m., NPD officers were dispatched to an apartment complex on the west side of town to complete a writ of assistance for an eviction of a tenant. Upon arrival, the manager of the property agreed to give the tenant until Monday to vacate the residence. No further action was required.  
3:11 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male down on the ground. The male was contacted and refused medical attention and transportation, which was demonstrated by standing and walking without impediment. The male was released at the scene and no further action was required.

# Court

**Week ending 12/18**  
**Civil**  
Minor Party v. Kakoona, Ward; Civil Protective Order  
Kakoona, Ward v. Minor Party; Civil Protective Order  
**Small Claims**  
No current claims filed (start 2NO-15-00054SC)  
**Criminal**  
State of Alaska v. Terry Ludwig (1/18/46); Dismissal; Driving Without A License; Filed by the DAs Office 12/16/15.  
State of Alaska v. Melanie Dawn Kulukhon (4/14/87); Dismissal; Criminal Trespass

# Trooper Beat

Any charges reported in these press releases are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

On December 10, the Alaska State Troopers received a report of an Alaska resident violating probation in Hawaii. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Randall Willoya, 27, of Golovin. Willoya was on probation for a stalking order violation. Willoya was arrested on December 16, after he returned to Golovin. Willoya was remanded to the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center. Bail was set at \$20,000.00.

On December 13, at approximately 10:28 p.m., Nome AST received a report that Harold Soxie, 36, of Unalakleet, was missing. Investigation revealed that the day prior, Soxie reportedly drove north on an ATV to meet an acquaintance near Egavik. Afterward, Soxie reportedly headed back toward Unalakleet. A family member had reported that

on December 12, at approximately 9:57 p.m., Soxie called then and stated he had returned to Unalakleet after meeting the acquaintance. The same family member missed a telephone call from Soxie during the early morning hours of December 13. After not hearing from Soxie again that day, family members searched the village and reported him missing to troopers when he was not located. Unalakleet Search and Rescue was not able to search surrounding trails that evening due to inclement weather and information on hand indicated he was in Unalakleet. Unalakleet SAR conducted a search inside Unalakleet with no success. On December 14, searchers from Unalakleet SAR sent a team on the trails surrounding the community. At approximately 10:49 a.m., AST received notification from the search party that they had found the body of Harold Soxie approximately five (5) miles North of Unalakleet on an established trail. Soxie's ATV was located approximately 2.1 miles further northeast of his body. There is no evidence of foul play. The body will be transported to the State Medical Examiner for an autopsy.  
tion and transportation, which was demonstrated by standing and walking without impediment. The male was released at the scene and no further action was required.  
3:41 p.m., NPD received a report of an abandoned vehicle on private property on the north side of town. The owner of the property was informed that they could have the vehicle towed, as it was currently on their property. No further action was required.  
4:38 p.m., NPD responded to a residence on the east side of town for the report of an intoxicated female refusing to leave the residence. Upon arrival, the female was contacted and left upon request. The female was then provided transportation to a local hotel, where she indicated she had a room paid for. No further enforcement action was required.  
5:58 p.m., NPD officers responded to a hotel on the west side of town for the report of an unruly, intoxicated female refusing to leave the premises after multiple requests by employees. Upon arrival, Officers contacted Marlene Patkotak, who was still on the premises. Patkotak was subsequently placed under arrest for Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree and was later remanded to AMCC, where she was held on \$250 bail.  
8:09 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the east side of town for the report of a loose dog getting into trash cans. The animal's owner was contacted and found to be unaware that his dog had gotten loose. The dog was returned to the owner, who then cleaned up the mess made by the dog. No damage was reported and the owner was advised of the city ordinances regarding pets.  
8:32 p.m., NPD responded to a residence on the west side of town for the report of a subject intoxicated while on current conditions of probation that prohibited the consumption of alcohol. Upon arrival, officers contacted John Saclamana, who was found to be intoxicated. Saclamana was subsequently placed under arrest for Probation Violation and was remanded to AMCC, where he was held without bail.  
9:27 p.m., NPD officers observed a vehicle operating with expired registration showing on the license plate on the west side of town. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver, identified as Melinda Erickson, was unable to provide current proof of insurance. Erickson was issued two citations; one for Expired Registration and another for Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance. She was then released at the scene without further issue.  
9:57 p.m., while on routine security checks, NPD CSO observed a male staggering on the street. The male was contacted and provided transportation to the NEST Shelter, where he was left in their care. While en route to the NEST, another intoxicated individual was observed to have fallen to the ground. Contact was made with the subject, identified as June Koonuk, who was found to be on current release conditions that prohibit the consumption of alcohol. Koonuk was placed under arrest for Violating her Conditions of Release and was later remanded to AMCC, where she was held on \$1,000 bail.  
10:16 p.m., NPD CSO responded to a business on the east side of town for the report of an intoxicated male trying to sleep inside the building. The male was contacted, refused medical attention, and was provided transportation to his residence, where he was left with sober family members.  
11:03 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male down on the ground. The male was contacted and observed falling to the ground. Due to the manner in which he fell, the Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department was dispatched to the scene. The male was transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital via Ambulance for medical evaluation.  
11:21 p.m., NPD officers were dispatched to a parking lot on the east side of town for the report of several juveniles engaged in a fight. Upon arrival, no altercation was observed, but two juveniles were contacted in the immediate area and were found to be intoxicated. The two juveniles were issued Minor Consuming Alcohol citations and each was transported to their respective residences and left in the care of sober family members. No further action was required.  
**Saturday, December 19, 2015**  
12:11 a.m., NPD CSO responded to a business on the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male passed out inside the building. The male was contacted, refused medical treatment and was provided transportation to his residence, where he was left with sober family members.  
12:43 a.m., NPD received a report of a juvenile that was refusing to return home for the evening from an undisclosed location. Officers conducted a thorough search throughout town and eventually located the juvenile at a friend's residence. The juvenile was then transported home and was left in the care of their guardian. No further action was required.  
1:41 a.m., NPD received a report of a subject receiving threatening text messages from a family member while residing outside of city limits. The reporting party was given information regarding protective orders and was informed to call NPD if there were any further issues.  
2:44 a.m., NPD responded to a report of a juvenile attempting to harm themselves at a residence on the west side of town. Upon arrival, officers contacted the juvenile who confirmed the original report. The juvenile was transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital, where they were left in the care of Behavioral Health Services. No further action was required.  
8:17 a.m., NPD officers responded to a hotel on the west side of town for a request for assistance from an intoxicated female. The female, identified as Courtney Amaktoolik, was transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital for medical evaluation. While there, Amaktoolik spat on the responding officer and was subsequently placed under arrest for Harassment in the First Degree. She was later remanded to AMCC, where she was held on \$500 bail.  
1:59 p.m., NPD officers responded to a business on the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male that was refusing to leave the premises. Upon arrival, the male had already vacated the business and was given a verbal warning for Criminal Trespass. No further action was required.  
3:30 p.m., while routine patrol on the west side of town, NPD CSO was flagged down by concerned citizens regarding two intoxicated males that appeared to be sleeping outside. The two males were contacted and observed to be alert and awake. One male declined medical treatment or transportation and was released at the scene. The second male complained of a preexisting medical issue and was transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital at his request. No further action was required.  
3:55 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male needing assistance. The male was contacted, refused medical attention. The male provided an address he was able to stay at for the night and was provided transportation to the home, where he was left in the care of sober family members. No further action was needed.  
4:51 p.m., NPD officers responded to a report of a juvenile threatening to assault another juvenile. Upon arrival, the suspect had fled the scene and contact was made with the reported victim. A report of the incident will be forwarded to the Juvenile Probation Office for disposition.  
7:15 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the east side of town for the report of a dog biting a human. Investigation revealed that the dog bit a member of the household. The wounds were observed were superficial and the owner will provide vaccination paperwork to NPD. On 12-20-15 the owner provided the paperwork that showed the animal up to date on all vaccinations.  
8:31 p.m., NPD officers responded to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital for the report of a patient causing a disturbance within the Emergency Room. Upon arrival, the patient was contacted and given a verbal warning for Disorderly Conduct. No further action was required.

1°; Filed by the DAs Office 12/14/15.

State of Alaska v. Katherine Iyapana (3/10/74); 2NO-15-634CR CTN 002: Harassment 2; Date of Violation: 10/25/15; CTN Chrgs Dismissed: 001, 003; 60 days, 0 days suspended; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due now to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days.  
State of Alaska v. Katherine Iyapana (3/10/74); 2NO-15-738CR Notice of Dismissal; Charge 001: VOCC; Filed by the DAs Office 12/14/15.  
State of Alaska v. Courtney Amaktoolik (12/5/90); Assault 4; Date of Violation: 9/25/15; Time served; Must continue applications for residential alcohol treatment; Initial Jail Surcharge: \$50 per case; Due now to AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training

9:43 p.m., NPD received a report of a subject threatening to harm themselves within a hotel on the west side of town. Upon arrival, the subject denied any thoughts or action reported and was found in the care of a sober family member. The sober family member indicated they would call NPD if any further assistance was required.  
9:51 p.m., NPD officers, while on routine patrol, observed a vehicle traveling on the west side of town without an operable taillight. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to possess all the current paperwork required. The driver was issued a verbal warning for the equipment violation and was released at the scene without further incident.  
9:59 p.m., NPD officers observed a vehicle traveling on the west side of town with only one operable headlight. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to have all the current documentation required and was given a verbal warning for the equipment violation. No further enforcement action was required.  
11:06 p.m., NPD received a report of an impaired driver on the west side of town. The vehicle was located a short time later and a traffic stop was conducted. The driver, identified as Jason Chabot, was found to be sober, but was operating the vehicle with expired registration showing on the vehicle. Chabot was issued a citation for Expired Registration and was issued a verbal warning regarding obtaining an Alaska Driver License after residing within the state longer than sixty days in the state.  
11:21 p.m., NPD CSO, while on routine patrol, observed a person lying on the ground on the west side of town. Contact was made with the subject, who was provided transportation to the NEST Shelter for the evening. No further action was required.  
11:52 p.m., NPD officers responded to a building on the west side of town for the report of an individual causing a disturbance. Upon arrival officers observed the person, identified as John Penetac, still actively disturbing other persons on the premises. Penetac was subsequently placed under arrest for Disorderly Conduct and was transported to the Norton Sound Regional Hospital for medical clearance. While at the hospital, Penetac again created unreasonably loud noise and was charged with an additional count of Disorderly Conduct. He was later remanded to AMCC, where he was held on \$500 bail.  
11:55 hours, NPD officers, while on routine patrol, observed a vehicle traveling on the west side of town without a headlight illuminated. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to have all the required documentation. The driver was issued a verbal warning for the equipment violation and was released at the scene without further incident.  
**Sunday, December 20, 2015**  
1:09 a.m., NPD responded to the west side of town for the report of two individuals fighting in the street. Upon arrival, both parties were contacted and indicated they were wrestling and that no assault had occurred. Both parties were requested to take their wrestling match to a more appropriate venue and were released at the scene. No further action was required.  
1:26 a.m., NPD was requested to conduct a welfare check on a child that was reportedly in a home without a sober caregiver. While en route to the residence, a subject was contacted with a child that was later identified to be the subject of the welfare check. The adult subject carrying the child was observed to be sober and the reporting party was informed of the child's location.  
1:27 a.m., NPD officers were informed by NPD CSO of a vehicle traveling on the west side of town without headlight illuminated and the driver of the vehicle was a subject whom had been contacted earlier and found to be intoxicated. Contact was made with the driver of the vehicle, identified as Michael Hahn Jr, who was found to be too impaired to drive and whose license was currently suspended. Hahn was subsequently placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence, Driving While License Suspended, Misconduct Involving Weapons in the Fourth Degree and two counts of Reckless Endangerment. He was later remanded to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, where he was held on \$3,000 bail.  
2:41 a.m., NPD responded to the front of a business on the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated subject falling and hitting his head. The subject, identified as Peter Olanna, was also found to be on current Conditions of Probation and Release that both prohibited the consumption of alcohol. A summons request for the violations will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review.  
3:41 a.m., NPD responded to a business on the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated female that required assistance. Upon arrival, the reporting party identified the female in question, who was observed challenging another subject to fight. Responding officers intervened to stop the altercation, at which time the female, identified as Jolene Kuzuguk, was placed under arrest for Disorderly Conduct. Kuzuguk was then transported to AMCC, where she was held on \$250 bail.  
3:52 a.m., NPD officers, while on routine patrol, observed a vehicle parked along the roadway on the north side of town. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver provided all the current information required. Investigation revealed that the driver had stopped the vehicle to change the music selection rather than doing so while in motion. The drive was released at the scene and no further action was required.  
7:10 a.m., NPD officers responded to a residence on the east side of town for the report of an assault. Upon arrival and further investigation, Denny Martin was found to have injured another member of the household while intoxicated. Martin was also found to be on current Conditions of Probation that prohibited the consumption of alcohol. Martin was subsequently placed under arrest for Assault in the Fourth Degree, DV and Probation Violation and was later remanded to AMCC, where he was held without bail.  
9:28 a.m., NPD responded to the north edge of town for the report of a domestic dispute. Upon arrival, the issue was deemed to be verbal in nature, which was resolved by separation of the two involved parties. No further enforcement action was required.  
6:28 p.m., NPD CSO responded to the west side of town for the report of an intoxicated male down on the ground. Upon contact the male was observed sitting up and standing under his own power. The male refused medical attention and transportation. He was released at the scene and no further action was needed.  
8:50 p.m., NPD was informed of a disturbance occurring outside of town, in which the Alaska State Troopers were notified. AST called back a short time later informing NPD that the suspect, identified as Stephen Sherman, was on his way back toward town and had violated his Conditions of Release by leaving his third-party custodian at the residence. NPD officers located Sherman a short time later, where he was placed under arrest and was remanded to AMCC for Violating his Conditions of Release, where he was held on \$1,000 bail. AST took over the remainder of the investigation.  
10:04 p.m., NPD CSO, while conducting a security check on a building on the west side of town, observed one of the occupants causing a disturbance inside. The subject was issued a verbal warning for Disorderly Conduct and was left on the premises. No further action was required.  
10:14 p.m., NPD officers responded to a report of two individuals causing a disturbance on the west side of town. Upon arrival, officers contacted the two individuals, identified as Homer Wongititlin and Nolan Ikknok; both were also found to be intoxicated. Wongititlin was also found to be on current probation that prohibited the consumption of alcohol and is currently under the age of 21. He was placed under arrest for Habitual Minor Consuming Alcohol and Probation Violation and was later remanded to AMCC, where he was held without bail. Ikknok required medical treatment, began spitting on responding volunteers and officers. Ikknok, once medically cleared, was arrested and remanded to AMCC for Harassment in the First Degree and was held on \$500 bail.

Surcharge: \$50 shall be paid through this court within 10 days; Probation until 12/18/16; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Shall commit no violations of law, assaultive or disorderly conduct, or domestic violence; Shall not possess, consume or buy alcohol, and any state ID issued under AS 18.65.310 must list the buying restriction until the restriction expires; Shall not have alcohol in her residence; Shall not enter or remain on the premises of any bar or liquor store; Subject to warrantless breath testing by any peace officer with probable cause to believe defendant has consumed alcohol; Alcohol/Mental Health assessment by 2/18/16; Participate in and complete recommended treatment and aftercare.

Next of kin have been notified. Alcohol is believed to be a contributing factor. This investigation is continuing.

On December 14, AST in Nome received a report of an assault in Stebbins. Investigation into the matter revealed that Brendan Pete, 19, of Stebbins, assaulted a family member. The family member received minor injuries. Pete was arrested and charged with Assault 4, domestic violence.

On December 16, at 11:57 a.m., AST received a report of damaged property in Gambell. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Eli Apatiki, 24, of Gambell, for criminal mischief 5. Apatiki was remanded to AMCC.



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# Nome Elementary School Holiday Music Program



*Photo by Keith Conger*  
DUET— Makayla Marble, left, and Brittney Goldy played a duet during last week's NBHS Christmas Concert.



*Photo by Diana Haecker*  
SIXTH GRADE BAND— Brandon Smith performs with the sixth grade band during the NES Concert.



*Photo by Diana Haecker*  
PIANIST— Kathy Horner played the piano for the classes during the NES Holiday Music Program.



*Photo by Diana Haecker*  
DIRECTOR— Ron Horner directed the performances by the different grades during the NES Holiday Music Program.



*Photo by Diana Haecker*  
GOLDEN RIBBON, SILVER BOW— Kristianna Piscoya from Mrs. Erikson's second grade class performs "Golden Ribbon, Silver Bow" at the NES Holiday Music Program.



*Photo by Diana Haecker*  
VIOLINE ANGEL— Angel Ambrose performed a violin solo under the watchful eye of music director Ron Horner during the NES Concert.

