

Uqaaqtuaq News

KAWERAK, INC., UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS, AND OTHERS WITH NEWS FROM THE BERING STRAIT REGION

"Uqaaqtuaq," for experience, happening, history, true story

FALL 2011

Reindeer Herding on the Seward Peninsula

by Rose Atuk-Fosdick, Vice President of Natural Resources and Reindeer Herders Association Program Director



Reindeer belonging to tri-party herd owners Stebbins Community Association, St. Michael IRA Council and Theodore Katcheak mill in a corral located just outside of Stebbins. Photo by Tim Gologergen Jr.

Each summer reindeer herders attempt to move reindeer into corrals throughout the Seward Peninsula. In 2011 summer tallies were completed by RHA repre-

sentatives at Ongtowsruk, Olanna, Kakaruk, Stebbins/St. Michael/Katcheak, Savoonga herds with a total of 1,805 reindeer counted. This number only represents the number of animals counted in the corrals and does not represent the total of reindeer on the Seward Peninsula. Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association estimates there are 10,000 reindeer on permitted reindeer ranges in the region. The disparity between tally num-

bers and reindeer population estimates comes about because not all reindeer can be placed in a corral at any one time or any one year. Reindeer herding continues to be a traditional activity producing a preferred red meat, despite recent losses to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and predation by wolves and grizzlies. Reindeer are free ranging; meaning they roam freely without fences to keep them in a restricted area. However, herders

try to keep their animals on their permitted ranges by moving them around, especially in winter. Some permitted reindeer ranges are close to 1 million acres. The estimated total acreage of land on the Seward Peninsula is 15 million acres and the total number of permitted reindeer ranges on the Seward Peninsula is 16. For more information contact Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association at (907)443-4378.



Pictured to the left and below are **Kawerak Tribal Coordinators** participating in a training session held April 5-8 in Nome. The agenda included *Policy and Procedures* review with Aisha Uwais-Savage Concha, Kawerak General Counsel. The TCs spent the day with Ms. Concha organizing and updating their tribe's policies, procedures, ordinances and resolutions. Matt Edman, President/Owner of Analytical Innovations presented Accounting and QuickBooks training with an emphasis on: *basics of accounting, how to set up an effective chart of accounts, QuickBooks and tax reporting.*



Children from Brevig Mission enjoy Family Fun Night; sponsored by Kawerak's Children and Family Department. For more fun filled photos; please turn to page 15. Photo by Linda Divers.

KAWERAK, INC. is a *great* place to work and is looking for **YOU!** Visit our website at www.kawerak.org to find your next career opportunity. Call 443-5231 for more information.

Kawerak Congratulates VPSO Eningowuk & Shivel for graduating from the 2011 Village Public Safety Officer Academy in Sitka



Pictured from left to right: Alaska State Trooper Lieutenant James Helgoe, VPSO Jonathan Shivel from Unalakleet, VPSO Barrett Eningowuk from Shishmaref and Alaska Commissioner of Public Safety Joe Masters in Sitka at the Alaska State Troopers VPSO Training Academy graduation ceremony.

Sgt. Harrelson receives VPSO of the Year for 2010

Village Public Safety Officer Director, Gina Apolloni is pleased to announce that Kawerak's very own Sergeant Dan Harrelson received the **VPSO of the Year award for 2010**. Below is the letter that Dan received from Colonel Keith Mallard, director with the Alaska State Troopers:

You are an exceptional example of a VPSO. You can be counted on to complete any task. Your 18 years of experience and common sense enable you to handle nearly all situations. Even with your stellar work ethic, you readily accept supervision and constructive criticism to improve your performance.

In addition to your VPSO duties you are very civic minded. You serve on the city council as Mayor of White Mountain, you are a member of the local Advisory Education Committee, serve on the Fire Department, Search and Rescue team, and furthermore, you serve as Chairman of the CDQ group for the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. You are highly respected by

fellow VPSOs and are an excellent role model for all the residents of White Mountain.

You maintained a continued presence in the schools on a variety of subjects, including water



safety, fire safety (see page 18), ice safety, wilderness survival and winter travel precautions. You also educated the students on laws pertaining to sexual abuse and domestic violence. You also conducted a special workshop on bullying, thereby resulting in a significant decline in related problems.

You regularly work with health clinic staff members, the Office of Children's Services and the ICWA agent for Kawerak to resolve issues within the community. As the only VPSO Sergeant in the region, you are a 'sounding board' for other VPSOs and eagerly embraced the newest responsibility of being a Field Training Officer for the VPSO Program.

You have done an outstanding job of representing the VPSO Program. I am pleased to recognize you as the 2010 Village Public Safety Officer of the Year. Thank you for your dedication and a job well done.

KAWERAK'S VISION STATEMENT: *"Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values, we shall assist our tribes and residents to create a positive future."*

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak has increased our training and technical assistance services to tribes in the following communities:

BREVIG MISSION
COUNCIL
DIOMEDE
ELIM
GAMBELL

GOLOVIN
KING ISLAND
KOYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
NOME

SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAREF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS

ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

Kawerak Divisions are:

Community Services | Education, Employment & Training | Children & Family Services | Natural Resources | Transportation

A Culture of Wellness Returns *By Bridie Trainor, Director, Wellness*

Building on Our Strengths, the Bering Strait region is wrapping up a three year Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention project. Beginning in October, Kawerak Wellness will again receive federal funding, this time in partnership with Maniilaq as the **Northwest Alaska Wellness Initiative (NAWI)**. The three year funds will expand the Bering Strait Youth Leaders program, continue the development of Village Wellness Committees, increase skill building relationships between elders, adults, and youth, and provide culturally effective outreach and training. Efforts will focus on those most at risk including youth not attending school and residents of the Nome Youth Facility and Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, both sharing residents from the two regions. Although services will be available throughout, the project will focus primarily on five communities within the Bering Strait region each year. Maniilaq will focus on four of their twelve villages annually.

RurAL CAP, in partnership with Kawerak and Norton Sound Health Corporation, has been awarded a State grant as well. The **Strategic Prevention Framework - State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)** was developed to strengthen existing Wellness Coalitions in Alaska such as the Regional Wellness Forum. The communities of Savoonga, Shishmaref, and Teller will be the focus of these efforts showing what can be done throughout the region. Through Kawerak, each of the three

communities will maintain a part-time Wellness Coordinator along with the support of a Wellness Development Specialist in Nome. This initiative will address the prevention of alcohol abuse and related issues through a comprehensive, community-wide approach. This grant is the first in three potential years of funding to prevent youth alcohol use among ages 12-20 and adult heavy binge drinking.

Kawerak Wellness was also awarded a three year **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)** grant through the Division of Justice. This project will support Camp Igaliq, Story Sharing with Elders, follow up for youth returning to their communities following juvenile detention and the development of Community and Regional Wellness Groups.

Although suicide rates remain high in our region we are seeing a shift in the way we interact. Looking at the whole picture makes it

possible to understand the roots of the issue and find long term solutions. Efforts have been ongoing and it's encouraging to know that, over time, real progress has been made. It's important to share that perspective with younger generations since the stories we tell about our past and present help create our future.

Community and organizational engagement has grown around Wellness. There's greater understanding about the way issues impact one another. There's also a lot more people talking, not just about what they see, but about what they want for their families and community, and how to get there. That's a huge step when you're addressing others and still on your own path. These topics are always challenging, but people are starting to recognize these efforts are for everyone. Drawing on the wellness from within each community and working together with all our resources, we continue to see positive changes.

Laughter Rains on Camp Igaliq 2011 *By Bridie Trainor, Director, Wellness*

Steady rain only served to strengthen friendships for 32 youth from across the region who travelled to Salmon Lake for *Camp Igaliq*, July 11-15.

Sponsored by Kawerak Wellness, four participants returned as chaperones while Earl (*Keggulluk*) Polk and Evon Peter shared cultural history, stories and lessons along with Elders and guest presenters. Participants shared songs, drumming and dance. Youth noted that the sharing circles were among

the most important aspects of the camp. Elders witnessed youth in their agreements with each other to end domestic violence and abusive behavior. Rene Brown of Norton Sound Health Corporation shared suicide prevention guidelines. The CAMP department shared healthy tips for activities and eating. Stephanie Johnson of the Nome Youth Facility shared substance abuse education. Luisa Machuca and Mandy Johnson shared youth education and employment resources including a personal interest inven-

tory and career finder. Campers enjoyed many games, canoeing and two trips to Pilgrim Hot Springs.

Participants look forward to a DVD of their time together and have enthusiastically kept in touch through a *Camp Igaliq* Facebook page.

Thank you to all those who participated, presented and especially to the Lutheran Church for use of their campsite.



"Camp was important to me because I've been having a lot of problems and I didn't really let it out until I came here. It felt awesome, I don't have to carry all that hurt inside of me."

"I've learned how to deal with the depression and pain. I learned how to be more myself and learned how to open myself up to others, because I've never really done that before."

"It was important because it made me feel like a better person, start learning, start being smart, I know what to do now."

"You should go to someone, talk about it. If you don't, the pain will just stay with you...I came here to camp, which really inspired me. I started to open up, to talk to someone, and I started to feel better."

Camp Participants

Kawerak, Inc.

Community Education GED Graduates

by Kristine McRae, ABE/GED/ESL Program Specialist



Front Row: Deanna Strickland, Ida Sockpick, Berta Kuzuguk, Jolene Kuzuguk, Kristy Kuzuguk, Connie O'Connor and Elizabeth Steve. **Middle Row:** Letia Martin, Tracey Woods, Vanessa Johnson, Edna Ruud, Caitlin Mocan, Jordon Pootogooluk, Marie Pushruk and Florence Seetook. **Back Row:** Joshua Brock, Cody Cordeiro, Gideon Barr, Patrick Iyatunguk, Zachary Ailak and Dixie Thornton.

May is an exciting time for Kawerak's Community Education Program. Each year we share in the celebration of GED graduates throughout our region and this year, 22 of our 32 graduates attended the combined ceremony with the University of Alaska's Northwest Campus on May 5th. Fourteen of this year's GED recipients are from the villages in the Bering Straits region, and seven hailed from Shishmaref! We are proud of our students and tutors.

For many students, achieving the GED diploma is the first step toward becoming self-sufficient through education and employment. Most employers and trade schools require a high school diploma or GED, and graduates earn on average \$10,000 per year more than those without the credential. Graduates in the Bering Straits Region have several opportunities for furthering their education and vocational skills. Kawerak's EET Division and the Nome Job Center are great places to

start for graduates seeking to further their job training and education.

For each individual who earned his or her diploma this year, many more are still working toward that goal. Some students only need to pass one or two exams to pass the GED, and the Community Education Program encourages friends and family members of these students to support them in their goal. Over the next couple of years, the GED test will undergo some significant changes. First,

the tests will be administered by a private testing service on the computer. Second, there will be a charge of about \$40.00 for each of the five tests. The Community Education Program will continue to provide GED tutoring and preparation in the region, and we encourage existing students to contact us to complete their tests!

For more information about preparing for the GED or taking classes please call Community Education toll free at 1-800-478-7574 or here in Nome at 443-4470.

Kawerak Employee receives Doctorate Degree: Dr. Lily Ray

My name is Lily Ray and I have been in Nome working for Kawerak Natural Resources for a year. I was hired to lead Kawerak's Ice Seal and Walrus Project, a large research project to map and document the traditional knowledge of seal and walrus hunters.

Shortly after starting work at Kawerak, in October 2010, I earned my Ph.D. in Geography through Clark University and the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Resilience and Adaptation Program, an interdisciplinary graduate program. It took me 6 years to finish my PhD, and for most of that time I was living in Fairbanks, although I did spend six months living in Galena, Alaska.



The first part of the Ph.D. process involved taking classes and learning about different areas of the academic literature. Then I had to choose three subject areas to specialize in, create lists of the most important literature in those areas, read all that literature, and take an oral exam. For me, the hardest

part of this was that most literature was very abstract and theoretical, and I prefer applied work.

Once I had passed my oral exam, I had to find a research question and write a proposal of how I would answer it. I had to use the academic literature I had studied to show why this question was important, and I had to propose methods that were supported by that literature. I was interested in whether community participation in wildfire management in rural Alaska could make it more ecologically sustainable and more compatible with local lifestyles. I used a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods, including interviews, surveys, and a Q-sort, to under-

stand why some residents of Galena and Huslia were frustrated with wildfire management and how they perceived risk reduction planning. Older Koyukon residents shared their traditional knowledge of the boreal forest, their observations of wildfires over their lifetimes, and their traditional use patterns. Residents of all ages ranked statements about wildfires, wildfire management, and risk reduction in Galena.

The results showed that traditional knowledge could make an important contribution to wildfire management. Federal management policies closely followed science from the Lower 48 that did not al-

Continued on page 9, see Kawerak

Low Fish Runs in the Rivers near the Nome Area *by Loretta Bullard, President*

Given that the summer subsistence fishing is over, we thought we would share with the region, some of the salmon returns (counted at the various weirs) from throughout the region over the past eight years and this year's count as of October 6, 2011.

2009 was an exceptionally bad year. In looking at the table for 2010, there are a number of rivers with very low returns of various fish species. We encourage sports, commercial and subsistence fisherpersons to minimize your take of these depleted species, so that the stocks can rebuild.

Some advice: Don't target those species with low counts: avoid catching them in the first place (even for catch and release.) According to Charlie Lean, NSEDC Biologist:

If you catch salmon when they just enter fresh water on rod and reel and fight them to exhaustion (and subsequently let them go), they will rarely survive to spawn. Salmon that are close to spawning in fresh water, will not fight as hard, and generally will survive to spawn; If you catch depleted species in your seine

net, return them to the water immediately (before you pick the remainder of your net) to increase their likelihood of surviving. Don't kick fish back into the river, it will kill them.

Don't put your hand in their gills. If fish are bleeding from the gills, they will not survive.

Mucus on a fish helps protect it from bacteria. Don't let fish flip and flop their mucus away, they'll be more prone to bacterial infections.

And, for those of you that would like to guesstimate what our future returns will be based on our prior counts, for your information:

- ◇ Chums generally return when they are 4 or 5 years old;
- ◇ Pinks return when they are two years old;
- ◇ Silvers are generally 4 years old;
- ◇ Jack Kings are usually 4 years old, females kings are generally 6 years old and male

- kings can range from 5 to 7 years old;
- ◇ Most sockeyes are five years old, but can be 4 to 6 years old.



Logan Hebel, top, Walter Buster Atuk watch Clara May Atuk cut chum salmon. Photo by Alice Atuk, taken in the late 1980s at Nook fish camp.

“We’d like to encourage region residents to get engaged in state and federal forums which manage our fish stocks.”
Loretta Bullard

Escapement Goal	Snake River	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	As of 8/23/11	As of 10/6/11	
1,600-2,500	Chums	2,201	2,146	2,967	4,106	8,147	1,244	891	6,973	4,323	4,323	
	Pinks	2,856	126,917	13,813	74,028	4,634	145,761	769	51,099	6,997	7,011	
	Silvers	489	474	2,948	4,776	1,781	5,206	50	2,243	83	343	
	Kings	50	17	31	32	61	13	6	43*	1	1	
	Sockeye	84	22	275	302	1,354	143	2	124*	7	14	
Nome River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011	
2,900-4,300	Chums	1,957	3,903	5,584	5,677	7,034	2,607	1,565	5,906	3,442	3,582	
	Pinks	11,402	1,051,146	285,759	578,555	24,395	1,186,554	16,490	165,931	14,312	14,403	
	Silvers	548	2,283	5,848	8,308	2,437	4,605	1,370	4,114	453	1,833	
3,150	Kings	12	51	69	43	13	28	30	9*	8	12	
	Eldorado River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
	Chums	3,591	3,277	10,369	42,105	21,312	6,746	4,943	21,211	16,227	16,227	
6,000-9,200	Pinks	173	60,866	12,356	222,348	833	244,641	1,119	48,136	489	489	
	Silvers	115	1,151	689	55	2	38	2	2*	1	1	
	Kings	29	25	32	41	14	36	31	23*	3	3	
Niukluk River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011	
Greater than 23,000	Chums	20,018	10,770	25,598	29,199	50,994	12,078	15,879	45,561	23,496	23,607	
10,500	Pinks	75,855	975,895	270,424	1,371,919	43,617	669,234	24,204	434,205	15,338	15,425	
2,400-7,200	Silvers	1,282	2,064	2,727	11,169	3,498	13,779	6,861	9,042	1,616	2,405	
	Kings	179	141	41	39	30	33	204	15*	18	18	
	Pilgrim River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
No Goal	Chums	15,200	10,239	9,685	45,361	35,334	24,550	5,427	25,379	38,963	41,740	
	Pinks	14,100	50,760	13,218	17,701	3,616	92,471	483	29,239	3,337	3,364	
	Silvers	677	1,102	304	973	605	260	18	272*	39	269	
	Kings	1,016	925	216	275	501	137	52	44*	40	44	
	Sockeye	42,729	85,417	55,951	52,323	43,342	20,452	953	1,654*	8,404	8,449	
	North River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011
No Goal	Chums	9,859	10,036	11,984	5,385	8,046	9,502	9,798	16,131	18,140	19,898	
25,000	Pinks	280,212	1,162,978	1,670,934	2,169,890	583,320	241,798	190,291	150,807	123,334	150,807	
550-1,100	Silvers	5,837	11,187	19,189	9,835	19,944	15,648	22,276	7,608	1,662	3,624	
1,200-2,600	Kings	1,452	1,125	1,015	906	1,948	903	2,355	1,256	864	864	
Kwiniuk River		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011	
11,500-23,000	Chums	12,123	10,362	12,083	39,519	27,756	9,483	8,739	71,403	31,595	31,604	
8,400	Pinks	22,329	3,054,684	341,048	1,347,090	54,255	1,444,213	42,962	634,169	29,936	30,023	
650-1,300	Silvers	5,490	11,240	12,950	22,341	9,429	10,462	8,677	8,058	2,178	3,288	
	Kings	744	663	342	195	258	237	444	138	57	57	

Beringia Center of Culture & Science welcomes Amy Russell

Amy Russell is an Alaskan historian who has a strong work background in Alaskan museums, libraries and



archives. Her historical research has focused on Northern and Western Alaska. In 2009, she wrote a history of the Bering Land Bridge Preserve for the National Park Service and completed her master's thesis on significant changes that the introduction of missions and schools, reindeer herding, US government administration and catastrophic events such as the 1918 flu epidemic brought to Inupiaq communities on the Seward Peninsula. She has specialized training in cultural resources preservation and the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).



Ms. Russell is very excited about working with the Seward Peninsula communities to develop programs for the Beringia Center of Culture and Science and to obtain a future facility for our museum.

If you would like to contact Amy, please give her a call at (907)443-4340 or via email at arussell@kawerak.org.

Top Ten Energy Saving Tips

By Walter Rose, Energy Development Specialist

1. **CLEAN AND INSPECT THE FLAPPER** door on all vents exiting your home. Make sure they close all the way. Clothes dryer vents get clogged with lint and stick. If your laundry room is always cold check the flapper.
2. **THE FRONT DOOR** gets more use and abuse than any other part of your house. Weather stripping wears out and should be replaced before every winter. Fuzzy felt weather stripping works best in cold weather. Rubber stripping gets stiff and doesn't seal right when it gets cold. If your arctic entry is cold, check this.
3. **SEAL PROBLEM WINDOWS** with plastic film. Sometimes blinds are located inside the casing, underneath where you will be installing the film. Set the blinds before installing film or you'll find yourself tearing it down and doing it again. If your home feels cold and drafty, seal the windows with film.
4. **CLEAN THE FAN** on your Monitor or Toyo regularly. It will waste energy, wear out quickly, and fail to heat your home if you don't. In extreme cases failure to clean this fan creates a fire hazard.
5. **CLOSE THE FLUE** on your wood stove when the fire is safely out or the stove is not in use. Otherwise the heat in your home goes up the chimney and out. Closing an open flue can save you 30%.
6. **PULL FURNITURE A BIT** away from cold exterior walls in the winter. Your home will feel warmer and more comfortable. Some types of heating appliances need this extra space to work efficiently.
7. **UNPLUG ENGINE** heaters when not needed. If you use one regularly, put it on a timer. Four hours is the maximum your engine will ever need. Pay attention to them, engine heaters use LOTS of energy.
8. **CHECK FOR A THERMOSTAT** on your plumbing's heat tape. Thermostats turn tape on when pipes are in danger of freezing, and off the rest of the time. This is a COMMON problem; check it.
9. **WATER HEATING** is our second largest energy consumer. Every five minutes of showering uses about 1 kWh. Baths use about 5 kWh. Take more showers than baths. Take quick showers; don't linger.
10. **TEACH AND PRACTICE GOOD ENERGY HABITS** Teaching your kids good energy habits is one of the best ways to have a lasting energy saving impact. Habits like turning off lights when you leave the room, turning the TV off when you're not watching, and not leaving the front door open will last a lifetime. Figure out fun ways to teach kids how to save. You will have fun and save as well.

See the next edition of "MultiPower-Local" for more energy saving tips.

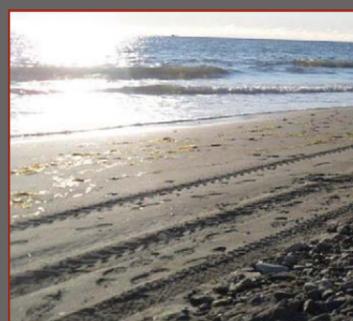


Elder Wisdom

Kivinatuq

"I use to use this one that makes you drunk. We call it Kivinatuq. Never again have I taken that one. Kivinatuq sounds like a staining which would be like staining oneself, One's nature and one's being It sounds like getting twisted about, but not really physically It would be more mentally than it would be physically."

*William Kaputak
Little Diomede*



Report from the Shaktoolik IGAP Department

By Isabelle Jackson, IGAP Coordinator

I would like to announce that the **Shaktoolik IGAP Environmental Program** is running smoothly. So far, we've sent out: **963** pounds of crushed cans, **73** pounds of plastic bottles, **3,200** pounds of lead-acid batteries, **2,512** pounds of e-waste and approximately **30** tons of scrap metal & white goods (large household appliances such as; refrigerators, stoves, freezers, washer & dryers see photo below).



The collection of scrap metal started at our landfill in 2004 and now in 2011 we are finally able to see it removed from our village. The junk yard looks a lot cleaner and more organized. That was a lot of hard work with lots of heavy lifting involved. We spent two and a half weeks cleaning up the junk yard; which included staging, crushing, palletizing and moving all the refuse into containers! We are the first village in the Bering Strait region to send out scrap metal through the Regional Backhaul Program.

Two individuals certified in Freon removal travelled to Shaktoolik to remove refrigerant from refrigerators and freezers—Dwight Amaktoolik from Golovin and Warren Daniels from Elim. They were a great help with all the white goods and also helped us load the container vans with the scrap metal.

Locally we had a lot of help from the following individuals; Carrie Takak, Michael Kulukhon, Leonard Takak, Clarence Katchatag Jr., Abigail Takak, Clarence Savetilik Jr., Gregg Rock, Gabe Takak Jr., Betsy Bekoalok,

Vernon Rock Sr. (loader operator), and lastly my assistant, Ellen Hunt and landfill laborer Edgar Jackson Jr!

Thank you to the STG Contractors who helped us out with the use of their loader. A big thank you goes to Alaska Logistics who gave us some of their connex vans to use and worked out a deal to help us barge them out of town. Although we wanted to give up some days we all said, "We can do it!" I cannot thank the community and all the individuals and organizations enough for all their hard work that they did, it is greatly appreciated!

I want to thank the community of Shaktoolik for their willingness to recycle

pop cans, plastic bottles (#1 and #2), and e-waste to the IGAP Program. This improves our Solid Waste Management practices resulting in a cleaner and healthier environment to protect our community from the spread of potential health risks and also, reducing the amount of waste thrown away and thereby extending the life of landfill. Keep up the great work and keep recycling. We are now doing monthly door prizes! Drop off site is at the local I.R.A. office or give the IGAP staff a call at 955-3701, as we are available for pick up anytime from Monday-Friday 9am-5pm!

Lastly, I want to thank my assistant, Ellen who we know as "Doll" and our landfill laborers, Edgar Jr. and Calvin, for making this program successful! I know it gets hard at times, but we all pulled together as a team. Keep up the good work! Big thanks to the community for your great support!



Back row from left to right is: Dwight Amaktoolik (from Golovin), Leonard Takak, Warren Daniels (from Elim) and Michael Kulukhon. Front row: Carrie Takak, Isabelle Jackson and Ellen Hunt.

Tribal Council of the Year: DIOMEDE

By Cheri McConnell, Program Director, Tribal Affairs

Prior to the 2011 Bering Strait Regional Conference Kawerak asked for nominations for Tribal Council of the Year. Kawerak received many nominations including "The **Native Village of Koyuk** Tribal Council continues to keep the community in an outstanding position and is strong supporters of working together when making decisions that are best for the tribe and needs of the community." During the opening day of the Regional Conference Kawerak President Loretta Bullard and Tribal Affairs Program Director Cheri McConnell shared all of nominations (See others below).

Through a rating system completed by several of the departments at Kawerak, the top 5 Councils one of which included "Native Village of Diomedes has overcome many chal-

lenges over the last year. Transportation issues caused a food shortage this year and delayed shipment of materials to carry out their energy grant objectives. Many stranded residents

could not get home from trips or get out for needed medical care. There were school closings due to stranded teachers who could not get back, and overworked health aides and staff due to stranded residents who could not get home. The leadership and community of Diomedes worked together to overcome these challenges."

After the Kawerak Board of Directors was presented with all 5 candidates they voted and overwhelmingly honored the **Native Village of Diomedes**.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Native Village of Diomedes Tribal Council!



Other Nominations include:

Native Village of St. Michael – "for the consistency of office operations, involved Tribal Council, their success in procuring grants to serve tribal membership, their grants management, for re-activating their Elders Advisory Council and services to Elders. "

Native Village of Unalakleet – "for their successful housing program and inter-tribal efforts (Stebbins, St. Mike, Koyuk, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet) to procure funds to provide Certified Nursing Assistant support to Elders in Unalakleet and the surrounding villages and to construct an Elder Care facility in Unalakleet."

VILLAGE NEWS from KOYUK, ALASKA

By Agnes Anasogak, Tribal Coordinator for Native Village of Koyuk



Four houses that are being built in Koyuk are almost completed (see pictures below). Everyone is gathering blueberries, blackberries, silver salmon, moose and getting ready for hunting ducks. The 1st day of

school started on Monday, August 22, 2011 for the 2011-2012 school year, and the children are excited for school to begin. The Native Village of Koyuk IRA will host the next Tri-Council meeting scheduled for September 2011.



NOTICE: ACCESS TO PILGRIM HOT SPRINGS

The public is hereby notified that the property known as **Pilgrim Hot Springs** is owned by Unaatuq, LLC. Bering Straits Native Corporation is the managing partner of Unaatuq, LLC and all visitors to the

Springs are required to obtain a permit before travelling to the Springs. No hunting or fishing is allowed on the property and any vandalism and/or unauthorized use will be prosecuted.

To obtain a permit for visiting the Springs, please contact BSNC Land and Resource Department at (907)443-4312 or 443-5252. Permits may also be obtained through the Nome Visitors Center.

A day in the life of a Hunter from St. Lawrence Island: Gambell, Anders Apassingok
all photos courtesy of Peggy Fagerstrom



"Men sit all day long in these seal blinds waiting for seals. They are located all around the Island coast (top photos).

Hooks (see top middle photo) are thrown over the game (seal, walrus, etc.) and pulled back against the catch and jerked to have the hook secured in the body and pulled in.

After high winds the sea vegetables (see photo to the left) are washed in along the sandy or gravel beaches. We eat these like carrots or served with main dish. The late Steve Amngay was heard to say, 'I'm going down to the beach to take my medicine.' These sea vegetables can be boiled with a main dish or gobbled up as you walk along the beach."



Continued from page 4, Kawerak Employee receives Doctorate: Dr. Lily Ray

ways fit boreal forest environments. Koyukon residents had a much greater awareness of the effects of climate change on the wildfire regime and of the variability of wildfire effects. Additionally, the results showed that the biggest conflict was not over the amount of wildfire suppression needed, but instead over the role of traditional knowledge and local experience in management. Many residents were frustrated that management did not include traditional knowledge or understand traditional lifestyles, and they were afraid that management based only

on Western science could not protect local environments or subsistence traditions. Although my dissertation is finished, I am still revising the articles for publication in academic journals and am doing outreach to tribes and agencies about implementing some of the policies supported by the research.

Although getting a Ph.D. was difficult and sometimes stressful, I am glad I did it. One book said that getting a Ph.D. is like finding your voice. You learn how to identify and answer questions using methods that are respected by the academic world,

and the results of your work can influence both science and policy. You also learn how to evaluate existing research and to understand its strengths and weaknesses. Social science programs are especially known for teaching students to question existing science and policies. I think residents of the Bering Strait region would have a lot to contribute to the academic world, given their experiences with traditional ways of knowing and doing, and could also produce research to benefit their region. There are a lot of graduate programs that provide funding for quali-

fied students, and having a graduate degree can lead to more and better job opportunities.

Dr. Lily Ray is one of Kawerak's Social Scientists and is currently leading the Ice Seal and Walrus project. The goal of this project is to document seal and walrus hunters' subsistence use areas, traditional knowledge, policy suggestions and concerns. If anyone is interested in more information about the graduate school experience or the project, feel free to contact me at lray@kawerak.org.



Students prep for coding & billing jobs at hospital

In summer 2010 a group of administrators from Norton Sound Health Corporation recognized the need for more locally-trained medical billers and coders. A switch to a more advanced coding system and the upcoming transition to a new, larger hospital means more job openings for people with this highly specialized skill set.

The Bering Strait Health Consortium, a partnership between local organizations focused on training local residents in health care-related jobs, saw this as a great opportunity to offer a locally-based training program through UAF Northwest Campus. Residents already working at NSHC were a priority for training.

"It is NSHC's mission to provide continuing education and employee development whenever possible to better prepare our own workforce for their profession," said Angie Gorn, vice president of

Norton Sound Health Corporation.

After a community informational meeting that drew nearly 30 people, a cohort of twelve local students was formed from hospital employees and community members all seeking a chance to continue their education and become a part of this in-demand career.

A special health careers-focused grant at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, "Health and Education Training" or HEAT, was able to provide funding for books and tuition during the three-semester commitment.

Laura Gipson, student and cohort member, is thankful for the sponsorship of this program and looks forward to using her newly acquired education.

"I am grateful to NSHC, Kawerak, the HEAT program and Northwest Campus that this program exists. Being a single mother on ATAP assistance and working part time, I would have never been able to afford this type of class."

Earning two occupational endorsements is not an easy task.

The course load consists of six classes taken over three semesters. Many classes have online and lab components and include out-of-class study time. Nearly every student is working full or part time while taking these courses and several have chosen to take extra classes so they can earn a certificate in health care reimbursement through UAF.

Midterm exams taken earlier this semester marked the official halfway point in this program. Eight students are currently on track to graduate in May.

What do coders and billers do?

Medical coders review patient files and assign a code to each diagnosis and procedure using a complex classification system.

Medical billers then use those codes to submit claims to each patient's insurance company, and follow up to see that payment is made.

Because insurers typically aim to pay as little as possible for patient services, skilled coders and billers are critical players whose role is to make sure the health care provider is fairly compensated.

Spring 2012 registration underway

Registration for spring 2012 semester opened Monday, November 14, and classes start January 19. Register early to claim a seat in the classes you want!

The Spring 2012 eLearning & Distance Course Schedule will land in post office boxes soon. Shop for courses you want—then contact your advisor to make sure those courses will work for your degree program.

Financial aid season is coming! Watch for financial aid events in your community.

NORTHWEST CAMPUS ADVISORS:

Annie Kokeok / Shishmaref

- Serves Brevig Mission, Diomedea, Wales, Gambell, Savoonga, Shishmaref, Teller
- 1-855-649-2287 / 649-2287
- akokeok@alaska.edu

Kathy Commack / Unalakleet

- Serves White Mountain, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, Shaktolik, Unalakleet, Stebbins, St. Michael
- 1-888-624-3158 / 624-3157
- kicommack@alaska.edu

Erin Forton / Nome

- Serves Nome
- 443-8427
- emforton@alaska.edu



Northwest Campus faculty member Claudia Ihl shows billing & coding students a moose heart as part of their Human Diseases course this semester. In order to interpret patient charts, billers and coders need a background in medical terminology and human diseases. Students from left: Brenda Green, Wendy Deering, Gloria Landry, Laura Gipson, Adolph Brown and Glenna Tate.

Secret weapon for UA students: UAOnline!

Let's face it: the University of Alaska is a big organization, and sometimes students aren't sure who to call with basic questions. The good news is, power is at your fingertips with UAOnline. Read on, then log on to unleash the power of this secret weapon!

Q: What is UAOnline and why should I use it?

A: UAOnline provides immediate and secure Web access to:

- view and print your class schedule
- register online
- view your registration status
- check your financial aid status
- view and print unofficial transcripts
- request official transcripts
- view your account balance
- apply for admission
- view all student-related account information

Q: How do I get to UAOnline?

A: Get on the Internet and:

- Go to <http://uaonline.alaska.edu>
- Click on "Login to Secured Area (students, staff, & faculty)"

Q: What do I need in order to be able to log in?

A: Your student ID number and your secure pin.

Q: What if I have never attended UAF or UAA and do not have a student ID number?

A: You can apply for admission as a degree-seeking student or a non-degree seeking student and you will receive a student ID number. Do it right here at UAOnline!

- First go to <http://uaonline.alaska.edu>

- Select "Apply for Admissions"

- Then select "New Student" and follow the directions for either degree-seeking or "No Degree Intended."

Alternatively, complete a registration form and turn it in to the Northwest Campus registration coordinator Carrie Cockerham.

Q: I forgot my student ID number. How can I find out what it is?

A: Look up your student ID by going to <http://uaonline.alaska.edu>

- Select "Login to Secured Area (Students, Staff & Faculty)"

- Select "look up your ID here"

■ You will then be directed to the Easy Login Maintenance Option where you can retrieve your 8-digit student ID.

Q: I still can't find what I need. Help!

A: If you get stuck trying to navigate UAOnline, give a call to Carrie Cockerham, registration coordinator, at 443-8403, or 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8403.

Cultural camp a hit with Nome teachers

Seven Nome educators got a glimpse into the lives of their students by participating this summer in what could become an annual Nome Public Schools Cultural Training Camp.

Northwest Campus organized the camp in partnership with Nome Public Schools and with Tom and BeeJay Gray. The camp took place at the Grays' Mosquito Bar Camp August 1-5 on the Fish River.

"I feel I can relate to my students in a more authentic way," one teacher noted after the camp. "I feel I've been exposed to things that help me to understand subsistence and camp life."

The camp, which combined a UAF college course with typical fish camp activities, was the idea of Barb Amarok, village outreach coordinator at Northwest Campus and a member of the Nome Public Schools Board of Education.

Amarok had participated in a similar camp in summer 2006.

"The experience was incredible because we the participants had the opportunity to camp with Athabascan elder Howard Luke and gain knowledge that enabled us to become better teachers in Alaska schools," Amarok said.

Amarok brought the camp idea to the Nome school board, which supported the idea but did not have funding to support it. So Amarok

successfully sought funding for the camp from Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

NSEDC covered costs of staying at the camp, while teachers paid tuition fees for a 3-credit course called Native Cultures of Alaska that was taught at the camp. The course was taught by Paul Ongtooguk, a University of Alaska Anchorage professor and Nome-Beltz High School graduate.

But the learning didn't stop there.

The Grays kept the group busy learning how to seine, cut, and traditionally dry, smoke, and can fish. They shared with the group about Native ways of knowing, traditional family roles, subsistence

"I feel I can relate to my students in a more authentic way."

—Nome teacher's reflection on the Cultural Training Camp

activities, putting up Native foods, and connection to land and nature.

The Grays also boated the group to White Mountain to participate in a tour of the school there with principal Andy Haviland, giving the Nome teachers a glimpse of school facilities in an area village.

By the end of the five-day camp, the teachers were amazed at all they had learned.

"It gave me more understanding of the culture, what people do when not at school," one teacher noted later.

"I loved being able to see Grays' lifestyle and interactions with their family members and neighbors at camp," wrote another. "I loved being able to talk with them and to get to know fellow teachers better."

"I feel I can relate to my students in a more authentic way," noted another teacher. "I feel I've been exposed to things that help me to understand subsistence and



Cultural Training Camp participants ready to head to the Grays' camp, from left: Lisa Leeper, Kent Runion, Kevin Knowlton, Rachel Ventress, Paul Ongtooguk (UAA professor), Barb Amarok, Lilianne Hurell, and Jeff Collins.



Teachers Rachel Ventress, Lisa Leeper and Kent Runion learned to cut fish under the expert guidance of BeeJay Gray.



BeeJay Gray and Kent Runion can fish.

Metcalf named interim director for UAF Northwest Campus

University of Alaska Fairbanks Vice Chancellor Bernice Joseph has named Bob Metcalf interim director of Northwest Campus.

In his 20 years with NWC, Metcalf most recently served as assistant to the director. For many years he was the campus registration and records coordinator.

Metcalf replaces Lee Hagen, who had been director for five years after many years as a UAF faculty member. Among her accomplishments are solid partnerships with the region's school districts, extensive campus renovation and maintenance projects, increased enrollments, and substantial federal grant awards.

Within the last six years, NWC received awards totaling \$6.7 million from the U.S. Department

of Education's Title III program. Funds awarded in 2005 supported systemic program development and support for Native studies efforts, and funds awarded in 2010 are being used to expand regionally relevant educational opportunities for Alaska Native scholars.

Outside funding sources have become critical to rural campus survival as state funding remains flat.

"I am pleased with the stability of the campus and knowing that we have committed faculty and staff who will continue work diligently to promote student success," Joseph said of the transition in leadership at NWC. "I'm confident that Bob Metcalf will keep the campus moving forward in a positive manner."

camp life."

Another teacher summed up these important insights this way: "Having shared this camp experience has given me an even richer sense of who many of my students are."

The teachers had such a meaningful experience that they didn't want it to end. The group met for

a potluck picnic Sept. 15, along with five new teachers who didn't attend the camp. Planning will soon begin for a cultural camp for teachers in summer 2012.

To learn more about the 2011 Cultural Training Camp, check out the video developed by participant Lisa Leeper by going to www.nomeschools.com.

Technology doesn't have to be scary

My name is Jack Gadamus and I am the new I.T. specialist at Northwest Campus.

Whether you are a new or returning student, your enrollment with Northwest Campus should be about the class. My goal is to help you focus on your class and to help you overcome any technology issues.

Technology can be intimidating at first, but if you spend some time with our NWC GOLD Process and or ask me for help, you'll find that technology can be an awesome tool!

I encourage you to contact me if you ever have any questions or problems. Getting help is easy!

Phone: 907-443-8421 or 800-478-2202, ext. 8421

Email: nwc.helpdesk@alaska.edu

Chat and FAQ: www.nwc.uaf.edu > Frequent questions > Computer/Technology FAQ



Iñupiaq Language & Culture Seminar at the Arctic Studies Center

by Aron I. Crowell, Alaska Director, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, National Museum of Natural History

A recent Iñupiaq Language and Culture Seminar at the Arctic Studies Center in Anchorage brought together eight fluent speakers of Alaska's northernmost Native tongue for four days of intensive discussions about National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) objects in the Smithsonian exhibition, *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska*.

The workshop took advantage of the exhibition's high-access design, which allows objects to be removed from display for handling and study in the adjacent Community Consultation Room (CCR). The CCR sessions created a unique audio, video, and textual record of the Iñupiaq language's vanishing "high forms," its rich lexicon of terms for traditional objects and cultural practices, and the nuances of variation among several dialects. Participants took delight in the chance to converse at length in their first language about items that included a Sledge Island walrus harpoon (unaaq) collected by Edward W. Nelson in 1880; a 1906 skin drum (qilaun) from Point Hope; and a woman's caribou fur



Participants in the workshop from left to right: Jana Harcharek, Sylvester Ayek, Herbert Foster, Sr., Willie Goodwin, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, Rachel Riley, Alvira Downey and Faye Ongtowsruk. Photo by Dawn Biddison.

parka (qusunnaq) from Barrow, acquired by John Murdoch during the 1881-1883 International Polar Year Expedition.

One goal of the project is to document a language that is now spoken fluently by fewer than 600 people, 92% of them over the age of 65. Another is to create language teaching videos for use in the North Alaskan schools. Principal advisers to the project – both among the youngest fluent speakers of the language – are Jana Harcharek of Barrow, director of the NSBSD's Iñupiaq Education Program, and Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, director of the Eskimo Heritage Program in

Nome. Elder participants included Willie Goodwin, Herbert Foster, Sr., and Alvira Downey of Kotzebue; Faye Ongtowsruk of Wales; Sylvester Ayek of Nome (born on King Island); and Rachel Riley of Anaktuvuk Pass.

The group recorded detailed, dialect-specific vocabularies and cultural traditions associated with each item, then individually took turns in front of the video cameras to "teach from the object" in short statements that will be transcribed and translated on DVD presentations for classroom use.



Jana Harcharek wears a cloth atigi she made based on the 1883 parka behind her, using the pattern published in Murdoch's "Ethnological Results of the Point Barrow Expedition." Photo by Dawn Biddison.

The ASC will work with bilingual curriculum developers to develop a guide and resource book for teaching the words and phrases spoken by elders. This Beringian Heritage project, which will be extended next year to include St. Lawrence Island Yupik, represents one of the Arctic Studies Center's major initiatives under the NMNH Recovering Voices program. The project is funded by the National

Park Service's Shared Beringian Heritage program with additional support from Alaska Airlines, Kawerak, Inc. and the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD).



Aron Crowell films an Iñupiaq language discussion by Herbert Foster Sr. Photo by Dawn Biddison.

Cake Decorating Extravaganza!

Rebecca "Becca" Callahan, EHS Home Based Teacher and Kimberly Carter, RHA Specialist brought a little bit of Kawerak into the classrooms at



Nome Elementary School, February 11, 2011. Two groups from the classes known as the "56ers" participated in cupcake decorating techniques voluntarily taught by Becca and Kim. The children frosted and decorated 150 cupcakes and a sheet cake. Cupcakes were donated to Elders groups around Nome.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE FOR THE REGION

Kawerak is pleased to provide a report on the following transportation projects in the Bering Strait Region:

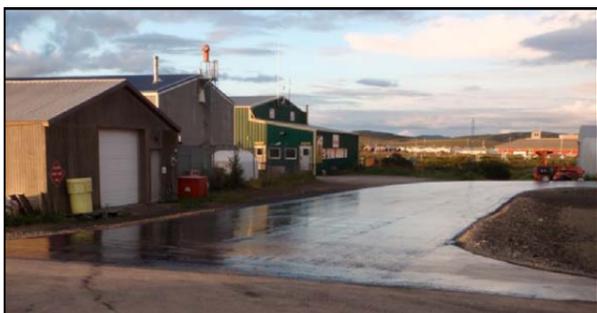
Gambell Community Streets Project:

The scope of work included the construction of 2.7 miles of new roads in Gambell, Alaska with high float as the finished product and maintenance of 1,000 feet of the Evacuation Road.

Tumet Industries, LLC was awarded the construction contract and construction began on July 2010 and final inspection was completed on August 9, 2011.

Unalakleet Community Streets:

The scope of work was the construction of 5.25 miles of community roads with asphalt paving as the finished product topped with sealant for protection.



Photos of applying sealant in Unalakleet.



ProWest, LLC was awarded the construction contract and construction beginning on site in September 2009 and final inspection was completed on August 17, 2011.

Kawerak's future planned construction projects, dependent on funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads program, will be:

- St. Michaels Community Streets in 2012
- Stebbins Community Streets in 2013

The transportation program has the following maintenance projects:

Brevig Mission Maintenance

Tumet Industries, LLC will install 2 storm drains on Agiapuk Avenue, one 8" culvert on Steji Road, a storm drain inlet and filling an open ditch on Tutu Street. The work will begin in late August 2011.

Teller Coyote Creek Subdivision Maintenance

Tumet Industries, LLC will install approximately 180 feet of 12" culverts, 100 feet of 24"



Gambell Community Streets. Photo above is application of high float emulsion in Gambell and photo below is chip seal being rolled over the emulsion. Photos by Steffen Verdin.



culverts, clean and grade existing ditches for better drainage. The work will begin in September 2011.

Dust Control

This summer Kawerak contracted with Tumet, LLC to apply a dust palliative, EnviroKleen, on 430 feet on the Nome-Council Road in front of the community of Solomon. The palliative was also sprayed on the major community streets in Koyuk.

We also have the following projects in the planning stage with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):

Diomed Small Boat Harbor Approaches-905 (b) Analysis

The purpose of the feasibility study is to identify alternatives for resolution of navigation and shore protection needs at Little Diomed. It also determines if there is a Federal interest in a construction project, that it addresses the navigation and shore protection needs of the study area and is consistent with Water Resource policies, and is engineering and economically feasible, and is environmentally acceptable to the community and local sponsor.

In 2010 a draft report was presented to the community for comments. A subsistence survey was completed this spring. Tidal data has been gathered and is being reviewed. The next step is to conduct an on-shore topo survey in the vicinity of the study area and single beam bathymetry 25 feet out from shore. With limited air access to Diomed for the last several years, it's impacted the timeline of the project. We continue to plan for this next phase.

Shaktoolik – Interagency Intergovernmental Support Study (IIS)

The project is to define accurate estimated inundation levels from storm surge, provide benchmarks for evaluation of existing structures and more detailed erosion analysis for Shaktoolik, Alaska. This project is funded in partnership with the Denali Commission and the USACE.

The final outcome is a 25-50-100 year depth of water and how fast the surges are coming in during a storm. The report will be presented to the community for comments in mid September.

Golovin – Section 103 Shore Protection

The study is to identify alternative resolutions for storm damage reduction for Golovin, Alaska around public facilities. A draft preliminary report was reviewed by the leadership in the community and a project agreement will need to be in place. The USACE has informed us that funding after 2012 is not available and Kawerak has requested that the USACE find additional funding so the project agreement can be executed.

Kawerak continues to work with our partners for intermodal transportation planning and project coordination including State of Alaska DOT/PF, the Denali Commission, AVEC/ ANTHC, and FHWA.

Staff continues to travel to the communities to conduct Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts. This is part of the Relative Need Distribution Factor of the Transportation Allocation Methodology that determines the amount of funding available to allocate to tribes.

AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology, Village Internet Agent Program

Alaska traditionally has been underserved when it comes to Internet access. Especially in the remote rural areas, many small communities have no broadband or even local dial-up service, and the vast majority of those with Internet connections receive a signal too slow for transmission of media-rich content. However, Alaska's telecommunications companies are working with the federal government to expand broadband access statewide, bringing new connectivity and opportunities to rural residents.

In fall 2010, The University of Alaska's Office of Information Technology and 21 partners, including AVTEC, received a \$4.5 million grant to implement

"Bridging the e-Skills Gap," a project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under the federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The grant will subsidize training in computer skills and broadband awareness for residents in remote villages across the state, and AVTEC's role involves recruiting and training technicians to maintain personal computers and networks in the communities scheduled for broadband service.

For the grant-funded training, AVTEC will adapt its existing Information Technology (IT) program to train Village Internet Agents (VIA) through a four-month course of study in Seward, offered twice a year beginning the fall semester

2011. Courses will cover Fundamental PC Technologies, Advanced PC Support, Networking for Home and Small Business, and Working at a Small-to-Medium-Sized Business or Internet Service Provider (ISP). After achieving VIA certification, graduates will have the option to earn AVTEC PC/Network Technician certifications by completing required additional courses. Students may also elect to continue their education by pursuing associate degrees from UAA or UAF, since VIA courses count toward AAS degrees.

The school recently hired VIA Program Instructor, Allen Sagoonick, graduated from AVTEC in 2000 with PC Support Technician and Network Support Technician certi-

fications. He was formerly employed with Kawerak, Inc. as an IT Technician responsible for villages from Stebbins to Shishmaref, including Diomed, Gambell and Savoonga. Allen helped build networks and learning centers in each village, and connected users to various ISPs such as GCI, Starband and AT&T. He also did contract work installing networks, security cameras, PC support, and point-of-sale systems for cities, corporations and other village-based entities.



AVTEC Village Internet Agent Program

What is the AVTEC Village Internet Agent program?

The VIA program provides a student the technical skills necessary to install and maintain the increasing computer and broadband network technologies in rural Alaska. Graduates would be prepared to perform service work on behalf of ISPs and local and regional organizations.

What courses make up the VIA program?

This program allows the participant to become an AVTEC certified Village Internet Agent by completing four courses over a four month period. Two courses cover PC technologies and two courses concentrate on small network technologies.

When is the program offered?

For the 2011-12 school year there are two start dates. The fall semester program is August 23rd through December 15th and the spring semester dates are January 17th through May 10th. The program is 80 days of instruction – 6 hours per day.

Are there prerequisites to enter the program?

Students enrolling in the VIA program should have a reading grade level of 10.5 (585 TABE), basic keyboarding skills and some experience using a personal computer operating system. Contact the AVTEC Admissions Office for details on testing. Students should also have good study habits and communication/interpersonal skills.

What is the cost of the program?

The VIA program tuition is free to qualifying students. Students will need to provide for their own housing, meals and travel. On campus housing is \$2200 and meal charges vary between \$325 and \$1700, depending on the meal plan chosen.

What else will the student need to provide?

All student materials will be provided by AVTEC. To provide access to the online curriculum and resources, students will be provided a laptop they will retain upon graduation. This is to facilitate future online course opportunities that will be available to the program completers. A small technician's tool set is also provided.

What do I need to do to qualify for the free tuition?

As the program is focused on providing local technical support in rural Alaska, being from a community located off the road system is a qualifier.

Who do I contact to enroll or receive more information?

On the Web: www.avtec.edu/VIAProgram.htm

AVTEC Admissions: admissions@avtec.edu or 800-478-5389



Tribal Veteran Representative Training

Ron Huffman was among more than 30 individuals who attended the 5th Annual Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR) training held in Anchorage May 3-5, 2011, the largest group since the program started in 2007.

Ron was appointed by Kawerak, Inc. to represent the Bering Strait region as Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR). Mr. Huffman is a retired Air Force veteran and is one of 13 members appointed by the Governor as an advisor to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and, through the Governor, other departments and agencies for the state on matters concerning veterans, their dependants, and their survivors. A TVR is an Alaska Native Veteran or a recognized individual appointed by an Alaska Native group, health care organization, government, or council. These individuals serve as points of contact for Veterans in their community and as liaisons between the Veteran and the Veterans Administration (VA).

The group spent three days learning about VA healthcare benefits, VA disability, pension, and vocational rehabilitation benefits, and burial and memorial affairs benefits. They also had the opportunity to meet service officers from the various Veterans Service Organization, the State Veterans Administrator and staff from the Veterans Center in Anchorage. The Alaska Veterans Administration staff will maintain regular contact with the group through conference calls, video conferencing and email to increase networking throughout the state with these new VA partners in outreach to Alaska Veterans. For information and assistance regarding Veterans Affairs' services, please contact Ron at (907) 443-4468 or email: rhuffman@kawerak.org.

Kawerak Family Fun Night

Did you know . . . that Kawerak's Children & Family Services Department's Tribal Family Coordinators run a Family Fun Night in all of the communities so parents and their children can have a night of fun activities each month?

On this page are pictures from the Family Fun Night hosted by Linda Divers, Tribal Family Coordinator for Brevig Mission. Looks like FUN!



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ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER now has a 24-HOUR AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE.

Getting to and from ANMC has never been easier! ANMC completed an agreement with LifeMed Alaska to support a 24-hour shuttle service. This means ANMC customers will have transportation to and from ANMC and the Ted Stevens International Airport at any hour of the day.

Sunday thru Friday, the shuttle will run 4:30 am to midnight; departing ANMC at the top of the hour and departing the airport at the bottom of the hour outside of the Alaska Airlines baggage claim. On **Saturdays**, the hours are noon-5 pm. Special pickups can be arranged outside of the listed hours by using the phone on the hotel reservations board at the airport and dialing "16." This will connect customers to ANMC operators.

For more information about ANMC's shuttle service, Call toll free at (800) 478-6661 or in Anchorage at 563-ANMC (2662).



Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held March 30 ~ 31, 2011 in Nome, Alaska.

Below are the Village Reports from each representative.

Chinik Eskimo Community, by Irene Aukongak

Congratulations to both Girls and Boys Golovin Martin L. Olson High School Basketball teams for making it to ASAA State basketball tournament in Anchorage this year, they are our Champions! Special thanks to the guests that attended the Chinik Eskimo Community, Tribal Annual Membership Meeting last month in February: Dawn Salesky-Kawerak EET Division, Paul Whipple-Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority, Aaron Thom and Linda Austin-ANICA, Inc. We very happy for John Baker of Kotzebue, our 2011 Iditarod Champion, OUR VERY OWN ALASKAN! Chinik Eskimo Community held their annual elections in February and have a new Treasurer, Irene Navarro, and re-elected Irene Aukongak and Dean Peterson as members. The three new homes are just about half way done. Kevin Zwiffel from Norton Sound Health Corporation will be here soon to look at the mold issues in our community homes. We look forward to his visit. Dr. Mark Kelso, Aurora Johnson, Sharon Lock, Janet Amuktoolik Barr and Derek Simon completed their annual dental visit February 14-25, 2011, thanks for bright smiles! We look forward to the Meat-Cutting Demonstration with Heikki Muhonen on April 12, 2011 at the EDA building. Thanks to UAF Northwest Campus.

King Island Native Community by Leona Mayac

New IRA tribal council members: Frances Contreras, Leona Mayac, Caroline Muktoyuk-Brown, and Raymond Paniataaq. Our officers are: Benjamin Payenna – Chief, Ruth Ojanen- Vice Chief, Carmelita Nattanguk – Secretary, Frances Contreras – Treasurer. King Island Dance Group was able to attend 2011 Kivgiq. We had two elders and one council attend the annual Bering Strait Regional Conference. King Island Native Community IRA council member will meet with Aisha Uwais-Savage Concha, General Counsel to help update our children's codes. Transportation Program –We have hired Heather Payenna as our new transportation planner

Native Village of Brevig Mission by Gilbert Tocktoo

For your info, the Native Village of Brevig Mission has set the Native Village of Brevig Mission Annual Meeting date for March 26, 2011 at 1:00 P.M. and will be held at the multi-purpose building. Election will be for the election of two Tribal Council members whose term expires this year. The current Elders Advisory committee will remain the same for this year and we have five (5) elders on the committee. In FY-2010 the Native Village of Brevig Mission enrolled 30 new Tribal members and two (2) Tribal adoptions were done. We're still having problems with the internet between Teller and Brevig Mission, the underwater cable being too expensive, the underwater cable was deleted from the project. Putting an overhead at the Teller-Brevig channel Nook, we held a joint meeting with Teller Native Corp., City of Teller, Teller IRA along with Mary's Igloo entities. AS of now, the majority of the Joint Councils with Teller and Brevig Mission did not agree with the overhead at the channel. AVEC talked about the underground cable and they did not agree with the underground cable. Will keep you posted on the internet. NSHC is planning to come to our community to host the 40th Anniversary of NSHC. We are looking forward to the event for a Community Potluck and activities within our community. Brevig Mission Native Corporation held their Shareholders Annual Meeting on March 25, 2011. Seven Board of Directors will be elected at this annual meeting. With spring season in progress, we wish everyone a safe and prosperous hunting season!

Native Village of Council, by Berda Wilson

The Native Village of Council will be hosting the final Golovin Bay Watershed Alliance workgroup meeting this coming August in Council. We have hired Rhonda Hanebuth to fill our ICWA/Administrative Assistant position. We look forward to providing family oriented programs to our membership. We are finalizing a contract with Council Native Corporation to provide administrative support for their offices. Our new administrative assistant will be delegated these duties. Group A of Tumet (Brevig, Teller, Mary's Igloo and Council) has reappointed Berda Willson as our primary representative and Gilbert Tocktoo as our alternate. Their appointments expire in 2014. NVC coordinates two meetings our member tribes per year (spring and fall) via teleconference. We just held our first Tribal Council meeting via SKYPE. This enabled us to see and hear one Tribal Council member in Seward and one guest from Fairbanks. This seemed to work quite well and we will continue to seek out new technology, at an affordable price, to increase participation in our tribal government processes. Hope everyone enjoys the spring weather and has a safe and fruitful summer subsistence season.

Native Village of Koyuk by Darin Douglas see page 6

Native Village of Mary's Igloo by Albert Oquiluk

After months of having no heat in our building we are back in our office as of March 15, 2011, hopefully the heat will stay restored and we will not have to buy another Toyostove. MITC's building is very old and the wiring and the power outages is a problem for us. Our Tribal Coordinator worked out of different offices for 4 months and is happy to be back in our office. Teller is hosting a Little Dribblers Tournament on the 25 & 26th of March with various teams from our region. Kawerak Wellness will be having a Suicide Action Plan Meeting here in Teller with the 5 different organizations on March 23, 2011 to be held at the school. They will also be working with the

school children while they are here. In April Mary's Igloo will hold a Freon Removal Class and an 8 hr. Hazwoper Refresher Course in our building for anyone interested in attending, Hilmer Kiser will be the instructor. We have opened our invitation to our neighbors in Brevig Mission to attend the classes as well. The Teller School will also be hosting the Native Youth Olympics in April for the Bering Strait School District and we are excited about that event. Our Basketball teams did very well in St. Michaels during the Regional Basketball Tournament. The Lady Aklaqs placed 2nd and both our Boys and the Girls teams won the most important awards, SPORTSMANSHIP! Way to go AKLAQS!! The Lady Aklaqs coach also won the Coach of the year award. Thanks to our great coaches this year, we look forward to another great year. Now that we have our building back we hope to continue the Healthy Snack Program we started and had to put on hold due to no heat. We still currently have our Grant Writer who is based in Koyuk.

Native Village of St. Michael by Charlie Fitka, Jr.

Some of the activities that have taken place since our last report in December 2010 include a community celebration of games, feast, dancing and fireworks over the Christmas holiday. Shortly after this we held our 2011 Annual Tribal meeting on January 15, 2011, in which Norton Sound Health Corporation was invited as a guest speaker. The four seats that were filled included Seat B-3 year term – Pius Washington; Seat D – Charlie Fitka, Jr.; Seat E – C. John Lockwood; and Seat F – Virginia Washington all one year terms. The reorganization of the Council is as follows: Shirley Martin – President; Pius Washington – Vice; Elsie Cheemuk – Secretary; Virginia Washington – Treasurer; and members are Charlie Fitka, Jr., C. John Lockwood, and Thomas Cheemuk, Sr. Kawerak staff visited our community in the month of February and we've since been trying to implement the suggestions for improvement in our offices. Thanks to Cheri McConnell and Arlene Charles for your insight of our operations. We also recently hired individuals for our bookkeeper, Tribal Response Program, and Alternate-EPA/IGAP in the last month. Charlie Fitka, Jr., Margaret Acoman, Virginia Washington, as the Elders and Council representatives and Brandon Long as our youth attended the Bering Straits Regional Conference. As a result of previous EPA sponsored conferences we invited Ted Jacobson, RurAL CAP Solid Waste Liaison to give a community presentation on options in cleaning up and operating/maintaining our dump. Approximately 20 people would like to commend the community of Golovin. It was shared by Mr. Jacobson that Golovin has been successful in operating and maintaining their landfill and suggested that we contact them in our efforts relating the issue. Keep up the excellent work Chinik! St. Michael was also host to the 2011 Regional I Girls' and Boys' District Basketball Tournament March 2-5. Exciting games were played, up until the very last boy's championship game. Though I did not attend each session, it was the talk of the town as to who was to succeed onto State. Congratulations to the Golovin Lynx Boys and Girls teams, as they BOTH took the #1 spot and will be representing the BSSD in ANC! Moreover, this year's coveted Girl's and Boy's sportsmanship awards went to the Teller Aklaqs! This is a great accomplishment and says a lot about the youth from Teller and their community. Way to go Lynx and Aklaqs on a job well done and good luck to the Lynx at State! Margaret Hemnes, Grant Writer and Tracy Cooper, ANA Program Director for the Native Village of Unalakleet came to SMK to inform the SMK IRA Council of the Under our joint ANA grant with UNK, we will hire two Personal Care Attendant positions, which will allow them to work with our elders who are eligible and hopefully meet their immediate needs for care. We are very pleased to see this happening and become a reality, thanks to the committed, hard working staff of the Native Village of Unalakleet. Aisha Uwais-Savage Concha, Kawerak General Counsel, came to St. Michael to provide ICWA training to the ICWA Coordinator and the IRA Village Council members the afternoon of March 10, 2011. The following day the St. Michael Council members traveled to Stebbins to attend reindeer tri-party joint meeting. Spring season is right around the corner, everyone be safe and enjoy another season.

Native Village of Savoonga by Gregory Toolie

Things have been pretty slow after the power outage towards the end of the year and into the New Year. The State sent people to assess any damages that occurred during the outage. The good news was that the State declared an Emergency Disaster for our community. The IRA building had minimum damages, but we had to give away most of the Elders' Lunch Program food away to elders and those in need of food, in order to prevent them from freezing and spoiling. It was a cold and dark week but everyone prevailed and no serious accidents happened. Steve Sumeda came and gave Traditional Justice training to the IRA council and elders and anyone who was interested to attend. This training opened ways to start our own Tribal Court system. Everyone learned something from this training. We are looking forward to meetings with Kawerak Eskimo Walrus Commission department on the 11th of March, the Kawerak Wellness team on the March 22-24 and the Army Corps of Engineers' Dave Williams regarding our

Small Board Harbor towards the end of March. Our health clinic is finally getting a Nurse Practitioner in place of the Physician's Assistant that left last year. The weather was really bad with storms and high winds in February; March has been really nice and kind of warm. Seems like spring is arriving early this year.

Native Village of Shaktoolik by Axel Jackson

The Annual Tribal Membership meeting will have been held on Tue., Mar. 15th, 2011 at 7pm in the Shaktoolik Gymnasium. Aisha Concha, General Counsel, will have been the only guest speaker this year. There was a tri-org workshop with USKH in the afternoon of Tue., Mar 8th, with a public meeting in the evening. Immediately following the workshop and public meeting, the long range plans with Steve Ivanoff were updated. This year, one elder & council member attended BSRC. Shaktoolik IGAP staff member attended AFE 2011 in February. Last week, when the IGAP Staff took 32 bags of pop cans for recycling to Bering Air that weighed 265 lbs., the pilot was impressed. He said Shaktoolik does more recycling and back hauling than villages in the whole region put together. The grand total for pop cans since last fall was 65 bags weighing 511 lbs, plastics was 51 lbs, lead acid batteries 1600 lbs and e-waste was 1346 lbs. The ICWA Coordinator and Wellness Director are putting activities together for different age groups for evenings or weekends since we have longer daylight. People are fishing for trout and grayling and hunting for caribou. There has been very little hand-lining for crab either because of weather or the rough ice conditions.

Native Village of Shishmaref by Donna Barr

The Native Village of Shishmaref held the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2011 and has new IRA Council members. The Shishmaref Tannery has closed down for the season until next fall, with the operating cost that tannery can operate seasonally. We had a successful Christmas week activities with dog team races, foot races for all ages, and traditional Eskimo games after awards in the evenings. We receive funds from Bering Straits Housing Authority under IHBG Crime Prevention and Drug Elimination Youth Activities Program. With the funds we will have camping trips to Serpentine River for traditional subsistence food gathering with elders and youth interactions. The VBC Program has a hunting trip tentatively scheduled for April 1-4, 2011 for Youth and Hunters to go to Serpentine Hot Springs. This trip will give our youth an opportunity for hunting and winter survival skills. The Annual Spring Carnival is set for April 12-16, 2011 activities will include Inupiaq Days with the Shishmaref School, Elders and community members will demonstrate and teach traditional values. There will also be a basketball tournament with teams coming from surrounding communities, and the school will also host a carnival which the children also adults will enjoy. Ice fishing has been very slow this early winter with late freeze up and November thaw there was seal staying later than usual and was keeping the tomcod away, we had comments that fishing was two months late this year. Shishmaref Wellness Coalition will be sponsoring our 3rd Annual Wellness Picnic this coming July. The Wellness Picnic includes sharing traditional native food and traditional Eskimo games for all age groups.

Native Village of Unalakleet by Janice Dickens

President Kathy Johnson at the NVU Annual Meeting gave the following welcome address. Welcome Tribal Members, Elders, and Honored Guests. We appreciate your participation, interest, and most especially appreciate you exercising your right to vote. The Native Village of Unalakleet was formed by our ancestors in hopes that our people will control their own destiny and govern themselves. We honor their work when we work together to keep their dream of self governance alive. Our tribal government should be and is working for you and your input is vital to the success of this organization.

The grants, programs, and projects are all designed to help spur the growth of this community and meet the needs of our tribal members. Our success will depend on the council and staff working together, having the same vision and mission. With all NVU positions filled and qualified staff on board we are closer to meeting our goals and objectives and can better plan for the future.

2010 saw many changes in our organization, community, region, state, and nation. In most cases changes are good and necessary, in some cases they are scary and troublesome, but if we meet them together, standing together in unity, we can bend or use those changes to our advantage. Whether it is for more jobs, better water systems and roads, or education for our people, we must be prepared, learn as much as we can, and work together for the common good. That is how our people survived, each person contributed as best they could with what they had. We must arm our children with the tools needed to make their own way, tools like education, love of learning, being confident, learning a trade, accepting who they are, and being happy about any job well done. We must be innovative, resourceful, and willing to pay the price to get what we want. We must be resolute and support one another. This community that has produced doctors, lawyers, teachers, professionals, and skilled tradesmen, and we can keep producing them but each person must decide for themselves that

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Kawerak Village Reports *(continued from page 12)*

is worth doing, so make please continue making training and education your goal.

The NVU's tribal membership directed a semi Annual meeting to discuss the ¼ or more Native blood quantum requirement to become tribally enrolled. The meeting on September 25th did not have a quorum and was postponed. Many tribes are also dealing with this issue. Because this issue is sensitive, it will need to be dealt with thoughtfully, carefully and we cannot be too hasty in making decisions that will affect so many people that are not here or have not even been born yet. Let this generation be the ones to make a good decision that will be respectful, respected, and long lasting.

Many state, regional, and national issues will affect us here in Unalakleet and will affect our way of life. Budget cuts are of grave concern especially related to health care, education, and welfare. Many of our elders fed and provided for their families by trapping, hunting and fishing, all of which did not allow for contributions to social security or retirement accounts, how will they survive these cuts if what they receive now is already meager? We must find ways to help them and those in need. High prices of gas, fuel, and food are here already in rural Alaska and will only get higher. Every tribal person capable of learning must obtain training or education so all the available jobs will be held by our own people and the money will stay in the village fueling the local economy.

The natural resources provided by the air, land and sea and on which we have depended on to feed our families may be in danger of being polluted and over harvested. Now is the time to act to protect and preserve what we already have. Those who covet what we depend on, or the area they live in, can make and pass laws allowing them to get what they want. We must learn ways to protect our way of life for future generations and do it in a good way.

Our Housing Department has created many jobs and closed out many grants & reports. NVU Housing is also close to completing the renovation of two houses and will start two more this spring. The Insulated Skirting Project on the ten Title VI houses has greatly increased the fuel efficiency and they will soon qualify them for selling to "Low-to-Moderate Income" occupants, bringing NVU closer to providing more houses to the village.

I praise and thank God for bringing us through another year. I ask you to pray for those that cannot be here with us and we can share a moment of silence for those that have passed on. Peace to their memory. Thank you.

Native Village of Wales by Ellen Richard

I hope everyone had a "Happy New Years"! Wales began with a New Years' Dance. We continued to have stormy weather with very strong south winds gusting to 90mph.

At the end of January 2011; one of our Elders, Faye Ongtowsruk attended a Heritage Language Preservation Conference in Anchorage, AK with Bernadette Stimpfle for the Eskimo Heritage Program. At the same time, another Elder Pete Sereadlook substitute for Faye Ongtowsruk attended a Bering Sea Elder's Advisory Group Meeting in Nome.

The second week, Evon Peter and April Pitt with Kawerak Wellness came to Wales working actively with the Wales Kingikmiut School Students and the community members at the Kingikmiut School. On February 12, 2011, my granddaughter Nevaeh Renee Richard and I assisted our Tribal Family Services Coordinator Anna M. Oxereok, Cecelia Tingook- Anna's daughter, Joanne Keyes and her daughter Shawna, along with Tanya Pelowook prepare for Sunday's Valentine Party.

February 13, 2011 at 2:00pm the Valentine Party was held at the Tribal Multi-purpose Room which was well attended by the children, mothers, grandmothers and even a newborn baby. There were various activities to entertain everyone from ironing "Valentine patches onto clothing, card-making, beading and making trinkets to take home."

February /March 2011 - Pearl Mikulski, Vice President of Community Services Division of Kawerak, Inc and Bryant Hammond came to Wales February 28th thru March 4th, 2011 to work with the community of Wales on the Local Economic Development Plain (LEDP) 2011-2016. The Wales LEDP was attended by local community members, elders, two (2) Wales Native Corporation Board of Directors, and the Wales Tribal Council Members (City of Wales did not participate). Also Cheri McConnell and Melissa Buchanan, Accounting Specialist-Northern worked with our Tribal Coordinator George Johnson. Frances Ozenna came to work with him updating the finances, filing, etc. As I mentioned before, Wales continued to have high wind storms where I called in to Loretta Bullard, President for EMS several times when our employees were unable to make it to work. Since then, once March arrived we are enjoying sunny blue skies with no wind or mild winds

Native Village of White Mountain by Willa Ashenfelter
We appreciate Bobby Evans, Evon Peters, and Bridie Trainer coming to White Mountain in January to work on a Suicide Prevention Action Plan. We still need to complete that plan. Parka making is going well with 12 participants. The Tribe will be participating in the Alaska Plant Materials Center, Rural Village Seed Production Project. Planting, production, harvest, and cleaning will be supervised and monitored for a period of

two years through a grant. At the end of the two-year period the local producers should be trained sufficiently and the markets firmly established. The industry should be self-supporting and self-sufficient as any other seed producer in Alaska. We are the only village selected in the Bering Straits region. Other villages in the program are Kotzebue, Barrow, Aniak and Metlakatla. We are excited about the program. The Golovin Bay Watershed Alliance has developed their By-laws and has been approved by the Native Village of White Mountain. Various meetings has taken place in White Mountain, Golovin, and Nome.

In January the council reorganized and the results are as follows: President-Lincoln "Mike" Simon Sr., Vice President- Mary D. Charles, Secretary - Enid J. Lincoln, Treasurer- Willa Ashenfelter, members are Rita Buck, Linda Ione, Shawn Bergamaschi, and elder representative, Phillip Brown. The Tribe has a new IGAP Coordinator Assistant; we welcome Jay Adams back home. The MET Tower project, a grant with DOE is moving forward. This grant is between Chinik Eskimo Community and the Native Village of White Mountain for alternative energy. Since Eric Morris stepped down as the IGAP Coordinator, a project contact needs to be selected by both tribes. Key contacts needs to be changed and in agreement by both tribes. Toby is the program contact.

The White Mountain Drinking Water Source Protection Plan final draft with Eric DiGerlando of Alaska Rural Water Association is complete. The representatives from the community will review the plan on April 19th.

Nome Eskimo Community, by Mary Carter

This year, the Nome Public Schools eliminated bus service for after school activities at the high school which affected the ability of those students without transportation to participate in both educational and athletic activities. In January, we provided funding to reactivate bus services for activities. NEC's annual Iditarod Youth Basketball Camp, facilitated by the Challenge Life Foundation, will be held March 14th - 16th at the Nome Elementary School. This year, efforts are underway to offer income tax preparation for local elders. Dates are not finalized but several days will be scheduled and advertised. This service will be available to elders and not open to the general public. Our application for Title IV-B funding was approved which will allow us to enter into a direct Title IV-E agreement with the State of Alaska effective July 1st. For several years, we've had a tri-party agreement with Kawerak and the State that allowed us to access Title IV-E reimbursements through Kawerak; NEC was the only Tribe in Alaska with such an agreement. Under the agreement, Kawerak applied their indirect rate to our reimbursement which resulted in less funding for NEC. Due to diligent efforts, we've been successful in expanding our funding base but Title IV-E will allow us to increase our reimbursement level even further, and it has now put us in a position where we're comfortable funding another position for the Family Services Program. This agreement will also strengthen our ability to directly negotiate with the State for greater benefits for members. We'll begin advertising for the new position the end of March. Proposed work plans for the FY 2012 - 2013 EPA grant will be reviewed by the Tribal Council in March, and a draft environmental plan for the Tribe will be reviewed in April. The first three-year grant focused on program development and the new grant includes environmental activities such as recycling and backhaul projects that will require partnerships with local entities. To generate interest in the environmental or natural resource professions, this summer NEC will have an intern position for one of our higher education students, based in the Tribal Resources Program. Rather than having the garage renovation done by a contractor, we decided to do the project ourselves. We hired a Project Supervisor, a carpenter, and two carpenter/ laborers who will convert the upstairs area into office space. Project completion date is May 31st. NEC contributed \$50,000 to the City of Nome for 2011 road maintenance activities. In February, the Transportation Committee met to identify new routes for inclusion in the IRR inventory and update transportation priorities for our Long Range Transportation Plan. A small boat ramp at the Belmont point, the repair and extension of bike paths, and beautification projects will be added into the plan. We discussed the "Scenic By-Ways" program and will propose a meeting with reps from the City of Nome, Nome Chamber of Commerce, and local area Tribes to discuss the program, obtain input for possible projects, and garner support for a plan to access these funds. This spring, we'll move forward with our Nome Roads Project, and although we anticipate the project to being complete by July, the scheduled completion date is the end of September. Once the project is done, planning efforts will begin for the next project. In 1996, NEC filed a NAGPRA claim with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Last summer, the museum contacted NEC to follow-up on the claim, and coordination efforts are underway to repatriate the remains and funerary objects. Two NEC representatives will travel to DC this spring to finalize the claim. The Tribal Council held annual election of officers and Cynthia Ahwinona was elected to serve as NEC President, Lester Keller, Jr. as Vice-President and John Bahnke, III as Secretary/Treasurer. Cynthia Ahwinona and Alfred Sahlin were re-appointed to serve as representatives on the NSHC Board and Mary Carter will serve on the Kawerak, Inc. Board. The Tribal Council approved revisions to the Personnel and Tribal Council policies. A positive change was approval to have quarterly, rather than monthly council meetings, with special meetings as needed. The Council developed their schedule for 2011 and also supported the development of a drug testing policy for NEC. Although we conduct NEC orientation for

new employees and training for council members, we're developing more detailed orientation packets for new program managers and tribal council members. We renewed our medical/dental/vision and life insurance policies for 2011 and are fortunate that the increase in premiums was only 11%, versus 20-25% in prior years. Accounting closed out FY 2010, audit prep is complete and required materials submitted to our auditors. Once the audit is complete, work will begin on the 2010 Final and 2012 Proposed Indirect Cost Proposal. The accounting software conversion is scheduled to begin in May and will be ready for activation on January 1, 2012. Like other Tribal organizations nationwide, we're waiting to hear what Congress will do about the national budget, thus tribal funding. We're bracing for budget cuts and will be very conservative with our spending. We plan to complete the projects that are underway, reassess funding, and proceed in a methodical and conservative manner.

Stebbins Community Association by Peter Martin, Sr.

Since the last December report I had mentioned that SCA had applied to NSEDC grant for the BIOMAS PROJECT. Unfortunately this was not funded. We are still looking to other funding sources for the completion of project, once it is in Stebbins. The unit is still in Nome docked and waiting for the Shipping season. After this winters expenses for fuel, we are anxiously awaiting the wood burning equipment for the coming winter season. Our long time Chief Herder resigned recently after years of herding due to age. The organization misses his expertise and now in search for his replacement. We are currently utilizing one of the elder herdsman for temporary assignment of the position. Job vacancy have been posted and will be selected the next regular IRA monthly meeting. Sales of reindeer for the organization have been good. We have been monitoring the herd from our winter camp at Koquq. JOM funding has been a big help four our local schools both Headstart and BSSD school in Stebbins. We have helped with funding new books for the Stebbins Headstart, trips for Jr. high boys and girls for basketball meet in Kotlik, Hoby scholarship registration to go to Hugh O'Brien in Anchorage on May 19-21, 2011 for two students, registration fee for ACT TEST for eight students. Thank you SCA!

Recently we had a house fire in Stebbins and unfortunately we lost one of our community member. The city of Stebbins has the firefighting equipment but, the fire consumed the house rapidly. The house fire was caused by electric oven being used for heating the home and the individual was not able to be brought out in time because of heat and smoke. We do need better equipment for emergencies like this. Our volunteer firefighters need to get more training and have more meetings together and go on emergency drills more often. Auditors have come and gone to get audit ready and have kept our staff tribal coord. and admin. assistant busy helping our auditors getting information for their audit. Stebbins, Kotlik come and gone too. People from Stebbins went down for the Kotlik potlatch on March 4 & 5. Then the next weekend Kotlik came to Stebbins on March 11 & 12. There was also a Basketball Tournament during the Potlatch. Next mini-potlatch is scheduled for April 8 & 9, 2011. We are looking forward to a meat cutting demonstration on April 12, 2011.

Village of Solomon by Kirsten Timbers

Cynthia Olanna, President; Brian James, Vice President; Kirsten Timbers Treasurer; Tim Stettinger, Secretary; Katie Stettinger, Member; Helen Larsen was appointed as elder representative and Cameron Piscocya appointed as youth representative. This year the tribal council will be incorporating these seats to expand the tribal council from 5 to 7 member as a means to ensure that our history, culture and traditional ways are passed between our elders and youth; that they have an active voice and hand in our tribe's governance; and that any issues that affect our elders and youth are addressed so that we protect our most treasured people—elders and youth, who are an important component to our tribe's success to ensure our cultural traditional values and ways continue on forever. Franklin Okitkon was appointed as Solomon's representative on the Bering Strait/Norton Sound Migratory Bird Council and Tim Stettinger will serve as the alternate representative. The tribal council set the dates for a 5 day summer tribal youth spirit camp this year to be July 19-23rd. Much of the activities will promote healthy spiritual wellness with youth spending time with Solomon elders, tribal council members, and other tribal members and families with a potluck style gathering scheduled as part of their camp experience. The Village of Solomon is in the process of finalizing its LEDP with a one day meeting facilitated by Kawerak and is scheduled to meet in May; November 2010 the tribal council hosted a two day planning session facilitated by Kawerak to develop our village priorities for the next five years: More Solomon gatherings and involvement, Waste management, Emergency communication, Assess the affects of climate change, Community power/electricity (wind, solar and diesel backup) Community potable water, Full operation of B&B/Community Center, Salmon enhancement, Driveway improvements to camps, Boat harbor, Airstrip improvement. The Solomon Bed & Breakfast is open during Iditarod this year from March 12-20th. The Nome/Golovin snowmachine race used the Solomon B&B as the destination and turnaround point for the youth and ladies races

Children & Family Services Program Director receives Bachelor Degree

My name is Danielle Holt (Taqaanan). I am the daughter of Kevin and Jennie Michels. I was raised in Elim and Nome. Upon graduating from Nome Beltz High School I went to a private college in Texas for one year. This is where I met my husband. We moved to his home state, Arkansas, and started a family. We now have three strong and handsome boys who are the center of our universe. A few months after our youngest son was born, we moved to Montana.

In January of 2008, while living in Montana, I started taking classes in Health Administration in addition to caring for my children at home

In 2009 we moved back Nome and I began working at Norton Sound Health Corporation in the Specialty Clinic where I processed referrals. Helping patients get the medical attention they needed was very fulfilling. After six months in that position, I was hired as the Foster Care Recruiter/Caseworker at Kawerak where I could have a more active role in helping the people from our region than in previous positions in my career.

As the Foster Care Recruiter, I took great pride in helping increase the amount of foster homes in our region and I also ensured that more of our region's children would be allowed to stay closer to home while their fami-



lies were going through difficult times. My favorite part about the job was connecting with potential foster families and traveling to all the villages in the Bering Strait region.

After serving as Foster Care Recruiter for over a year I was promoted to Acting Program Director for Children and Family Services. Then in December 2010, I officially became the CFS Program Director managing a staff of 20 people and handling a wide array of topics

concerning the health, safety and well-being of our region's children. Through this position I continue to recruit foster homes; assist in case management; negotiate and consult with the State on future policies regarding Native children; and help the families of our region in any way that I can.

In May 2011, I received my Bachelor's of Arts degree in Health & Human Services from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa. I graduated with magna cum laude honors. Although completing my degree was a lot of hard work and at times very stressful, I am glad that I did it. My husband was a huge support and continually gave me the encouragement I needed to finish my degree.

In the fall I will be talking with the Master's program advisor to pick a start date for my next goal: a dual Master's degree in Program Administration and Organizational Management.

It is the people who open their hearts and homes to children that motivated me to do more. I changed my major to Health and Human Services, because I wanted to have a degree that showed me how to be a good caseworker. I wanted to be able to give back to my community and to my region. I hope to be a good example for my children, and obtain the skills I need to give back to the community that raised and supported me.



Fire Safety



Sergeant Dan Harrelson teaching Fire Safety to elementary students in White Mountain.

Head Start Employees receives Awards at H.S. State Conference

Malinda Besett, Head Start Director is pleased to announce that several of Head Start staff, partners and advocates (including Malinda) received awards at the **2011 Alaska Head Start Association Annual Conference** held in Juneau, Alaska May 2011. Below is a description of the awards and the photo below is from left to right: Mary Long, Malinda Besett and Lillie Nylin.

Congratulations to Everyone!

- **MALINDA BESETT** received the coveted **HEAD START DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**. This prestigious award is bestowed upon the director that excels at every level as a director by meeting or in Malinda's case exceeding all facets of Head Start services. Ms. Besett expanded the Head Start to include Early Head Start for both on-site and home based programs for three villages in the Bering Strait region and also expanded services for four sites to provide full day services. She also applied for and received a one time supplemental funding for a new bus for Nome.



- **MARY LONG** received **FAMILY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**. She has worked for our program for 23 years in various positions. During the past year she worked hard to ensure that St. Michael has a smooth transition moving to a new building, creating a better working environment in St. Michael and providing weekly newsletters to parents and families.

- **LILLIE NYLIN** received the **BEATING THE ODDS AWARD**. Lillie is an Early Head Start parent in Elim. Lillie had a difficult year! I am so very pleased to say that she shines among her peers as a mother, wife, and teacher! She gives praise to God for all she

has been able to accomplish while meeting the needs of her family, caring for her mother, working with our Early Head Start staff and students, and working toward her CDA and AAS degree in Early Childhood Education.



- **CAMPBELL KRISTENSON** (pictured to the right with daughter Graciana) received the **COMMUNITY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**. Cam has been a lifelong community member in Nome. Over the past year he took a very active approach with contacting our legislative representatives at both the state and federal levels to ensure that Head Start funds were not cut in our state. When legislative officials are in Nome he takes the time to meet with them face to face to discuss the importance of Head Start.

- **NOME PUBLIC SCHOOLS** received the **School District Collaboration of the Year Award**. NPS has taken a hands on approach with collaborating with our Head Start program to provide well rounded education for our children and families during the 2010-2011 school year.



The following are awards received for 2010.

- **REBECCA CALLAHAN** was awarded the **MOTHER OF THE YEAR AWARD**. Rebecca is the mother to three biological children and two foster children. She is active in her local parent committee and volunteering in the classroom. She arranges her schedule so that she can be at the elementary school for Battle of the Books or in the Head Start Classroom for an art activity. One of her foster children is a special needs child that she has had to advocate for in order for that child to receive the best services. Rebecca is also trying to learn more about Special Education services and doesn't hesitate to ask questions if she is unsure about what is going on. She continues to seek the knowledge and information in order to provide the best care for her children (photo to the left).



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- **CHARLES (C.O.) RUDSTROM** was awarded the **MAINTENANCE MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**. C.O. has taken the time to get to know each and every one of our buildings. He calls around to companies to find the best deals on material. He also takes old materials and fixes them for future use as back up pieces. No task is ever turned down from fixing children's furniture to leaky toilets to broken sewer pipes to figuring out why our buildings are consuming so much energy. He always has a smile on his face and welcomes anyone and everyone.



To nominate a Head Start/Early Head Start employee for the 2011-2012 school year, please visit the Alaska Head Start Association's website at www.akheadstart.org for a nomination form and categories. The awards will be presented February 8, 2012 in Juneau during the Alaska Head Start's annual conference being held February 7-9. The theme for this years conference is *Healthy Beginnings for Lifelong Success*. The award nomination categories for the 2011-2012 school year will be released in February.

Kawerak, Inc.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS)

by Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Program Director and Chugach Regional Resources Commission

I am a member of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS); and one of the Alaska Representatives.

The NAFWS is a Native American/Alaska Native organization of Native fish and wildlife professionals, biologists, scientists and natural resource and environmental managers. It has a membership that covers the nation; and is divided into seven regions: Alaska, Pacific, Southwest, Great Plains, Great Lakes, Northeast and Southeast. Each region elects two representatives and two alternates to represent their region; and these two people also serve as the Board Members for the NAFWS.

The Alaska Representatives are: Fred Woods, with Bristol Bay Native Association and the alternate is Molly Chythlook also with Bristol Bay Native Association. I am currently the other Alaska Representative. I employed with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission that serves the seven tribes in the Prince William Sound area. The representatives serve two year terms; and then their positions are open either to reelect,



Directors and staff members from left: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, CRRC Executive Director; Ron Rodgers, NAFWS Deputy Director; Fred Matt, NAFWS Executive Director; Ken Maney, Southeast Representative; Molly Chythlook, Alaska Representative; Diana Mann-Klager, BIA Plains Region; Marilyn Ethelbah, Southwest Representative; Ted Lame Bull, Pacific Representative; Sally Carufel-Williams, NAFWS Education/Membership Coordinator; Ida Hildebrand, Alaska Representative; Bill Bailey, Great Lakes Representative; Don Reiter, Great Lakes Representative; Sue Young, Northeast Representative, Arthur Blazer, Southwest Representative; Dinalyn Spears, Northeast Representative; Ron Skates, Great Plains Representative; Joe Jay Pinkham, Pacific Representative; and Karen Lynch, NAFWS Media/Technical. Photo courtesy Crazy Horse Memorial, Patrick "Pat" Dobbs.

or to elect a new representative.

The NAFWS also has regional conferences and one National NAFWS Conference. The national conference was held in Juneau in 2009; in Duluth, Minnesota in 2010; and in Custer, South Dakota, May 3-5, 2011. During the 2011 National NAFW Conference, I was elected to serve as vice president of the NAFWS board; the president is Arthur "Butch" Blazer from the Southwest Region and secretary/treasurer is Donald Reiter from the Great Lakes Region.

The Alaska Region is planning its next meeting during the BIA 2011 Provider's Conference in Anchorage, from Nov. 28-Dec. We will have a meeting on November 30 at the BIA Conference afternoon session. I invite all participants to join us as our seats will be up for election; and sharing information of concern to Tribes across the nation and in Alaska.

I hope that you will come and support the Alaska Region NAFWS because it is an organization that serves tribes; and it is wonderful to

work and be with so many professional Native leaders, managers, biologists and youth and Elders who sincerely value and promote the wellness of our fish and wildlife.

As one of them said; "We have to recognize that natural resources are also our life, and life ways; and that without it; we would not exist as tribes or Tribal people. So, we have to start recognizing its importance and hold natural resources up as one of our top, or the top priority" Fred Matt, Executive Director, NAFWS.

Uqaaqtuaq News

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"Uvlaakun suli" translated in Inupiaq language means: *More tomorrow!* Quyanna!

KAWERAK SERVICES DIRECTORY

Children & Family Services Division	443-4247
Child Advocacy Center	443-4379
Children & Family Services	800-478-5153 or 443-4261
Head Start & Early Head Start	800-443-9050 or 443-9062
Wellness Program	443-4393
Community Services Division	443-4246
Community Planning & Development	877-219-2599 or 443-4248
Regional Recycling & Backhaul Program	443-4249
Tribal Affairs	443-4257
Village Public Safety Officer Program	443-4252
Education & Employment Training Division	800-450-4341 or 443-4358
Childcare Services	443-9073
Community Education	800-478-7574 or 443-4468
Employment & Training	443-4358
General Assistance	800-478-5230 or 443-4370
Higher Education Scholarships	443-4358
Village Based Training	443-4388
Vocational Rehabilitation	877-759-4362 or 443-4362
Youth Employment	443-4361
Natural Resources Division	443-4377
Eskimo Heritage Program	443-4386
Eskimo Walrus Commission	877-277-4392 or 443-4380
Fisheries Program	443-4384
Land Management Services	800-443-4316 or 443-4323
Reindeer Herders Association	443-4378
Social Science Program	443-4273
Subsistence Resources	443-4265
Administration	443-5231
Accounting	443-4334
Human Resources	443-4373
Information Technology	443-4357
Planning	443-4389
Beringia Center of Culture & Science	443-4340
Transportation	443-4395
Tumet Industries, LLC	387-0630