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 Gologerger Jr.

Each summer reindeer herders attempt to move reindeer into corrals throughout the Seward Peninsula. In 2011 summer tallies were completed by RHA representatives at Ongtowasruk, 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 numbers 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 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 Appolloni 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BREVIG MISSION COUNCIL</th>
<th>GOLOVIN KING ISLAND</th>
<th>SAVOONGA</th>
<th>ST. MICHAEL TELLER</th>
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<tr>
<td>DIOMEDE</td>
<td>KOYUK</td>
<td>SHAKTOOLIK</td>
<td>UNALAKLEET WALES</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELIM GAMBELL</td>
<td>MARY’S IGLOO NOME</td>
<td>SHISHMAREF SOLOMON STEBBINS</td>
<td>WHITE MOUNTAIN</td>
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Kawerak Divisions are:

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

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

Representatives from Kawerak Wellness Program, Norton Sound Health Corporation & Maniilaq develop a culturally effective prevention/intervention training program May 26-27 in Nome which was funded through the new Northwest Alaska Wellness Initiative.

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

S teady 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 inventory 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
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 at the Northwest Campus on May 5th.

The graduates 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 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.

May 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 understand 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 adequately consider the local context. Reciprocally, government officials were frustrated that residents did not follow their plans. Residents of all ages ranked statements about wildfires, wildfire management, and risk reduction in Galena.

Kawerak Employee receives Doctorate Degree: Dr. Lily Ray
Low Fish Runs in the Rivers near the Nome Area by Loretta Bullard, President

iven 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 fishpersons 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.

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

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### Escapement Goal

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<th>River</th>
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<th>2010</th>
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### Other Information

- **As of 8/23/11**
  - 1,244
  - 132
- **As of 10/6/11**
  - 4,500
  - 1,487

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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.
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

Kivinatuaq

“I use to use this one that makes you drunk.
We call it Kivinatuaq.
Never again have I taken that one.
Kivinatuaq 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
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 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!
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 Diomede has overcome many challenges 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 Diomede 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 Diomede.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Native Village of Diomede 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.”

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**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.

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**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)443-4322 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 Aningay 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 qualified 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.

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 Gray’s Mosquito Bar Camp August 1-5 on the Fish River.

“I feel 1 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 activities, putting up Native foods, and connection to land and nature.

The Gray’s 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 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 participent 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

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 Haugen, who had been director for the past 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.”
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 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 parka (qusugaq) 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 are Jana Harcharek of Barrow, direction 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 Ongtowasruk of Wales; Sylvester Ayek of Nome (born on King Island); and Rachel Riley of Anaktuvuk Pass.

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 initiatives under the NMNH Recovering Voices program. The project is funded by the National Heritage program with additional support from Alaska Airlines, Kawerak, Inc. and the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD).

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 Ongtowasruk. Photo by Dawn Biddison.

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 21, 2011. Two groups from the classes known as the “6ers” 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.

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” 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):

Diomede 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 Diomede. 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 competed 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 Diomede 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.

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 $425 plus on-campus housing, meals and travel. On campus housing is $2200 and meal charges vary between $325 and $1700, depending on the meal plan chosen.

R on 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!

BRINGING ALASKANS TOGETHER

At Era Alaska, we help Alaskans keep strong ties to their roots. With service to nearly 100 communities statewide, we connect you to the remotest villages and the biggest cities. So no matter where you travel in Alaska, you’re never farther than a flight away from family and friends.

flyera.com | 800-866-8394 | Nome: 907-443-2414

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).
Chinik Eskimo Community, by Irene Aukong

Congratulations to both Girls and Boys Golovin Martin L. Ol- way to AKLAQS!! The Lady Aklaqs coach also won the #1 spot and will be repre- sents sharing traditional native food and traditional Eskimo games after age 16. We still have our building back we hope to continue the Healthy Snack Program. A small band continues to play throughout the evening, and re-elected Irene Aukong and Dean Peterson as members. The three new homes are just about half way done. Kevin Zwiefot from Norton Sound Health Corporation will be here soon to look at the mold issues in our community homes. He will look forward to his visit. Dr. Mark Keala, Aurora Johnson, Sheryl with the help of our vision care provider, have also re- pleted their annual dental visit February 14-25, 2011, thanks for bright smiles! AVEA talked about the underground excavation with Heidi Muhonen on April 12, 2011 at the EDA building.

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

Below are the Village Reports from each representative.

Kawerak News

& 26th of March with various teams from our region. Kawerak is happy to be back in our region after 4 months and is finalizing a contract with Council Native Corporation to provide family oriented programs to our membership. We hope everyone enjoys the spring weather and has a safe and prosperous hunting season.

Native Village of Koyuk by Darin Douglas see page 6

The Native Village of Koyuk held their Spring Elimination Youth Activities Program. With the funds we will have camping trips to Serpentine River for traditional subsis- tence food gathering with elders and youth interactions. The Native Village of Brevig Mission by Gilbert Tocktoo

Transportation Program

Kivgiq. We had two elders and one council attend the annual meeting, we wish everyone a safe and prosperous hunting season.

Native Village of Savoonga by Gregory Toolie

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 NYU positions filled and qualified staff on board we are closer to meeting our goals and objectives and can better plan for the future.

Fall 2011

Alaska Native Health Center by Janice Dickens

President Kathy Johnson at the NVU Annual Meeting gave the thanks for all the hard work, dedication, and Honored Guests. We appreciate your participation, inter- est, and most especially appreciate you exercising your right to vote. The Native Village of Unalakleet was formed for the purpose of determining if our community, our elders, and re-elected Irene Aukong and Dean Peterson as members. The three new homes are just about half way done.

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

The Village Council membership directed a semi-annual meeting today to discuss the $5/10 or more Native blood quantum requirement to become tribal enrolled. The meeting on September 25th did not address this. An undrafted ordinance is being considered and we are dealing with this issue. Because this issue is sensitive, it will need to be handled carefully and respectfully. It is also 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 make a conscious decision that will be respected, rational, and long lasting.

Many state, regional, and national issues will affect us here in Unalakleet. We are working with our Tribal Coordinator George John-

Native Village of White Mountain by Willa Ashenfelter

In 1996, NEC filed a NAGPRA claim with the Smithsonian Museum for materials that were held here in Nome. NEC was the only Tribe in Alaska with such an agreement. That allowed us to access Title IV-E reimbursements through Kawerak; NEC was the only Tribe in Alaska with such an agreement. These funds were very helpful, so we will continue making training and education your goal.

Heritage Language Preservation Conference in Anchorage, AK with Bernadette Sumpf, who will attend this summer's conference and will present on this subject.

The 16th at the Nome Elementary School. This is a fun year from March 12-20th. The Nome/Golovin snowmachine race will be held April 15th. We are looking forward to a meat cutting demonstration on April 12, 2011.

Nome Eskimo Community, by Mary Carter

Neither, the Tribal council, or the Tribal Council from 5 to 7 member as a means to ensure that our history, culture, and traditional values and ways continue on.

The White Mountain Drinking Water Source Protection Plan needs to be changed and in agreement by both tribes. It is time to adopt measures and plan for the future. We have a duty to protect our water and the natural resources provided by the air, land and sea and on the village fueling the local economy.

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Neither, the Tribal council, or the Tribal Council from 5 to 7 member as a means to ensure that our history, culture, and traditional values and ways continue on.

The White Mountain Drinking Water Source Protection Plan needs to be changed and in agreement by both tribes. It is time to adopt measures and plan for the future. We have a duty to protect our water and the natural resources provided by the air, land and sea and on the village fueling the local economy.

The natural resources provided by the air, land and sea and on the village fueling the local economy.

The Nome Eskimo Community, by Mary Carter

The second week, Evon Peter and April Pitt with Kawerak; NEC was the only Tribe in Alaska with such an agreement. These funds were very helpful, so we will continue making training and education your goal.

Heritage Language Preservation Conference in Anchorage, AK with Bernadette Sumpf, who will attend this summer's conference and will present on this subject. —to-

Peace to their memory. Thank you.
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 families 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 case-worker. 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.
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).

- **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 backup pieces. No task is ever turned down 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.
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, 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 them 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.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) by Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Program Director and Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Kawerak Services Directory

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- Child Advocacy Center
- Children & Family Services
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Wellness Program
- Community Services Division
- Community Planning & Development
- Regional Recycling & Backhaul Program
- Tribal Affairs
- Village Public Safety Officer Program
- Education & Employment Training Division
- Preschool Services
- Community Education
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- General Assistance
- Higher Education Scholarships
- Village Based Training
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Youth Employment
- Natural Resources Division
- Eskimo Heritage Program
- Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Fisheries Program
- Land Management Services
- Reindeer Herders Association
- Social Science Program
- Subsistence Resources
- Wildlife Resources
- Administration
- Accounting
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Planning
- Beringia Center of Culture & Science
- Transportation
- Tumet Industries, LLC

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Kawerak, Inc.

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

Director 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; Dinah Sayers, 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.

Uqaaqtuaq News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus, Norton Sound Health Corporation & other partner agencies. Articles and photos can be sent to djames@kawerak.org or call (907)443-4389.

“Uvoaalkun suli” translated in Inupiaq language means: More tomorrow! Guyanna!

Uqaaqtuaq News