

Uqaaqtuaq News

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

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

WINTER 2009 ISSUE



Pictured to the left are houses with the new walkway's installed.

Pictured to the right is the crew installing the stairs over a steep section.



Inalik Walkway Project is Complete!



Pictured above: Ribbon cutting ceremony performed by (left to right) Robert Keith, Chairman-Kawerak Board of Directors, Andrew Milligrock, Mayor of Diomedes and Patrick Omiak, Diomedes IRA President on October 2, 2008.

Pictured below is Left to Right-Bryan Maher (Hardy Ent.), Edward Soolook (Diomedes), Russ Hardy (Hardy Ent.), Mark Alder (RP Kinney) and Jeanette Pomrenke (Transportation Program Director). Big Diomedes is in the background.



Pictured above is Edward Soolook (laborer) and Russ Hardy (construction manager) Eskimo dancing at the potluck celebration. Pictured to the left is the old stone walkway next to the new fiberglass & treated lumber walkway. Pictured below left: Brandi Ozenna smiles with Bryan Maher (Project Foreman) in the background.



The Inalik Walkway Project launched August 15, 2008 with the offloading of the Archl landing craft with over 120,000 pounds of stainless steel handrails, fiber glass decking, treated lumber, various materials and tools on Little Diomedes. The offload was not easy because there is no harbor or port for any vessel to offload, just large boulders.

Walkway construction began August 21 by Hardy Enterprises which is a construction firm based in Fairbanks and Nome. Russ Hardy (owner/manager) and Bryan Maher (foreman) hired twelve local carpenters and laborers to construct the project. The walkways were completed on September 23, 2008 with the installation of 1,272 feet of decking, 209 stairs, 39 step-ups and 754 feet of handrails. The community organized a ribbon cutting ceremony, potluck and Eskimo dancing on October 2, 2008.



Congratulations to Sara Neubauer for achieving her Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling *Interviewed by Dawn Salesky, Education, Employment & Training Vice President*

Congratulations to Sara Neubauer, Kawerak's Vocational Rehabilitation Director, for achieving her Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling through the Western Washington University.

Dawn: Please tell me about the degree that you have earned.

Sara: It's a Masters of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling, and it's specifically geared towards vocational rehabilitation. I started in 2006 and I'm graduating December 13, which happened to be my birthday!

Dawn: There's a lot of exciting things happening to you on that day... it's also going to be your 4th year anniversary working for Kawerak.

Sara: Yes, it is! I'm very excited...I'm going to walk in the ceremony and my parents are going to meet me in Seattle.

Dawn: How did you find out about this program?

Sara: I was at a meeting with all the tribal VR Directors in the State, and we were discussing the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. One of the people at that meeting was from Western Washington University -her name was Cathy Matrone, and she talked to me about the program. I decided to sign up for it. She let me know about the scholarship with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and I was able to get that scholarship. It was a really good opportunity that I just couldn't pass up.

Dawn: So you were working on your degree and also working a full time job. How did that work?

Sara: It is a system through the internet and teleconferences. There's the Blackboard site where our classes are posted. We get to talk to fellow students and we have to post on the discussion board every week. We are assigned assignments though the blackboard site. There's a section in the site with our assignment due dates. At the beginning of every quarter, we have to participate in teleconferences to go over the syllabus and things like that. I had to make two trips down to Seattle for the in-class section of the degree, where we did some testing and we also participated in lectures with our professors. That's all completed. That was for one week each time.

Dawn: Did you also start out with the Certificate program before going for the MA Degree?

Sara: Yes, the Certificate in Client Services. That was in 2005. I signed up for Masters Degree program after completing the certificate program.

Dawn: Does NWC also use a system that is similar with distance-delivered classes?

Sara: I think they do. Most of their assignments and coursework is over the internet also using the Blackboard system.

Dawn: One more question: do you have any advice for people in rural Alaska that would like to do distance delivery classes while they are working?

Sara: Yes, because you can! It's a lot of work. Just because you are in a distance delivery program, doesn't mean that you don't have to do all the papers and all the research and put in the

time. It's possible to still work and get your degree on evenings and weekends, and when you are not at work. You know, I didn't even know that this was a possible thing before I heard about the program, and I don't think a lot of people know that you can get your degree over the internet! Some programs don't even require that you go to the university at all. It's completely online. I really encourage people to sign up for these online degree programs because you increase your skills, you increase your ability to make money, and it's possible if you are willing to put in the work.



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VISION STATEMENT

"Building on the Inherent Strength of Our Cultural Values, We Shall Assist Our Tribes to Take Control of Their Future."

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak is increasing training and technical assistance services to tribes.

Kawerak Divisions are:

Community Services
Employment, Education & Training
Children and Family Services; and
Natural Resources.

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF:
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, Inc.

Kawerak Starts the Bering Strait Suicide Prevention Program

by Bridie Trainor, Wellness Program Director

In an effort to confront the growing number of suicides in the Bering Strait Region, on be-



half of Kawerak, Eileen Norbert, along with Donna James, applied to the US Department of Health and Human Services for a Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention grant. On September 30, 2008 Kawerak was recognized as one of twenty-three newly funded grantees in the nation under the *Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act*.

Kawerak will receive \$1.5 million dollars to be implemented by the **Bering Strait Suicide Prevention Program** over a period of three years. The grant will focus on the villages in our region since their youth have the highest rate of suicide and limited access to resources.

The program will be managed under the supervision of Jay Craft,

Vice President of Children and Family Services. Bridie Trainor (Hoogendorn) was hired in December as the Wellness Program Director, and Michael Hannigan of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northwest Campus is recognized as the program evaluator. A Wellness Program Coordinator will be hired as well.

Pictured to the left is Bridie Trainor (Hoogendorn), Wellness Program Director. She returned to Nome four years ago and has since married and begun raising a family of her own. Bridie has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and spent three years working with Norton Sound Behavioral Health as a counselor and case manager for the Healthy Paths /Kusqi House program. She is looking forward to traveling throughout the Region helping to re-instill a culture of wellness in our Bering Strait Region villages.

Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship Recipient Graduates from University of Hawaii

by Heather Payenna, Kawerak Higher Education Scholarship Recipient

This past fall I received my Bachelor of Arts in History. After graduating from Nome-Beltz, I attended the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs for one year. After deciding to venture out, I transferred to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I earned my degree.

After successfully receiving my degree I moved back to my hometown of Nome, where I currently work as a substitute teacher. This summer I hope to enroll at the University of Alaska – Southeast. With some luck, in June, I will be headed back to school to continue my education and obtain a Masters of Arts in Teaching, so that I might become a high school history teacher. Eventually, I would like to end up back in Nome teaching at the very high school I attended!

As a rural kid from Alaska I was very blessed and fortunate to receive many scholarships from the local community of Nome. Also, the support I received from friends and family was incredible. I would like to say thanks for everyone who helped me earn this degree!

If you are interested in receiving a scholarship call Brian James, workforce development specialist toll free at 1-800-450-4341 or direct at 443-4345 or via e-mail at bjames@kawerak.org. Applications can be downloaded at www.kawerak.org



Pictured above is recent college graduate Heather Payenna.



Head Start Spotlight

Pictured is Dan Karmun with Kawerak Head Start kids in Nome during Music Week.

Photo taken by Katie Bourdon.

Kawerak, Inc.

Interview with Sheldon Nagaruk by Emily Murray

Sheldon Nagaruk was born in Elim on his Aunt Helen's kitchen floor. His parents are Paul and Josephine Nagaruk. He is the eighth child in a family of fourteen children. His Eskimo name is Unganguug. His Eskimo name is after Sheldon Oscar, his Aunt Lily Aukon's oldest child. Sheldon grew up at Koyuk his first six years and the rest of the time in Elim.

He said everyone went camping when he was growing up. As soon as the ice went out everyone moved to camp. Elim people fished during the summer for their dogs and subsistence use. The only people left were the postmaster and store manager's families.

He married Emily Saccheus on June 9, 1974. They have two sons and a daughter, Floyd Stewart or "Stu", Gerald and Cheryl. One daughter Diane was adopted to Selma Lofgren. Stu passed away February 12, 2000 while going to a basketball game at White Mountain. In memory of "Floyd Stewart Nagaruk," the Annual Basketball Tournament in Elim is named in his memory. Emily and Sheldon have eight grandchildren and one step-granddaughter. He attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and graduated with an Associate of Arts in Electronics. He worked in Hollywood as an electronic technician before he got drafted. He joined the Marine Corp and served thirteen months in Vietnam.

Sheldon started working for the Aniguiin School as the Bilingual/Bicultural teacher. He

speaks both Yupik and Inupiat. He studied the Yupik written language with Dr. Oshito Mioka from Japan at the University of Tokyo. As soon as Dr. Mioka learned Sheldon was hired as the Bilingual/Bicultural he came to Elim. They worked together for a month and half on the Yupik Orthography-this is a study to read and write in Yupik.

He taught Aniguiin students their culture. They learned how to sing Yupik hymns. They made basket sleds, berry buckets, spears, berry combs, fur caps, mittens, mukluks, seal hooks and jig sticks. They learned the traditional place names on their land. He let them draw a map on sealskin with the place names and animals on it. Sheldon worked for 24 years at the school. During the summer he was a commercial fisherman or as a heavy equipment operator. He retired from Aniguiin School in 2004. Sheldon's message to the youth is: "Get a good college education or a good trade. It is really



Pictured above from left to right are Emily, Cheryl, Stu and Sheldon Nagaruk Family. Picture taken by Emily Murray in Elim. Emily is Sheldon's wife, Cheryl is their daughter and Stu is their grandson.

important to have, without it; you will have a tough time."

Emily Murray interviewed a number of people on behalf of the Eskimo Heritage Program. She concentrated her efforts on the area close to her own hometown of Elim. This comes from one interview. This project is funded by the National Park Service Beringia Grant. The project is "Historical Preservation." For more information contact Colleen Reynolds at the Eskimo Heritage Program, 443-4386, or creynolds@kawerak.org.

Polar Bear and Sea Otter hides/skulls & Walrus Ivory must be tagged within

30 DAYS FROM DATE HARVESTED OR BEACH FOUND

All Native subsistence-harvested and beach-found **walrus ivory** must be tagged within 30 days by the hunter or the person who found it before the ivory can be carved, traded or sold to another Alaska Native.

Polar bear and sea otter hides and skulls must also be tagged by the hunter within 30 days—see your village tagger. Ivory found on the beach by anyone who is not an Alaska Native can only be tagged at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices in Alaska.

For more information or a list of tagging locations please call John Trent or Brad Benter at the U.S.F.W.S. Marine Mammals Management office at 1-800-362-5148.



Kawerak Elders Advisory Committee Welcomes New Member



Pictured above is Kawerak Elders Advisory Committee's newest member: Esther Kimoktoak of Koyuk. Welcome aboard Esther!

Picture taken by Colleen Reynolds

Financial Fitness Symposium

By Patrice Shook, Planning & Development Specialist



Students From Nome-Beltz High School

Have you ever scratched your head a week after you received your paycheck wondering where all your money went? November 13th at Pioneer Hall 24 participants from the Bering Straits region discovered the secrets to managing their finances. John Williams, of the Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services, arrived in Nome with an arsenal of techniques geared to helping with that problem.

The class was attended by a wide range of participants. There were many junior and senior high school students as well as professionals looking to improve their client's, as well as their own, finances. One of the main points Williams brought out was write down what you spend. Keep a daily journal of all your expenditures. Williams stated, "You will be surprised how your money goes. Even buying candy bars can add up to \$60 a month. When you find out where your money goes you can make better choices."



Financial Fitness Symposium Participants.

The training on how to manage and balance a bank account was not just on reconciling your bank statement. Williams gave tips such as getting your checks direct deposited into savings accounts instead of your checking account because it draws interest. Then put just what you need into checking. He also suggested having two savings accounts. One account should be used for actual savings and another account used for purchasing large items.

Williams also explained about individual development accounts. (IDA's) These are savings

accounts that enable low-income families to save, build assets and enter the financial mainstream. IDA's reward the monthly savings of working-poor families who are building towards purchasing an asset - most commonly buying their first home, paying for post-secondary education, or starting a small business. IDA's make it possible for low-income families to build the financial assets they need to achieve the "American Dream."

The match incentive - similar to an employer match for 401(k) contributions - is provided through a variety of government and private sector sources. Organizations that operate IDA programs often couple the match incentive with financial literacy education, training to purchase their asset, and case management. Caroline Hymer of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development stated, "What a wonderful training. I only wish I could have seen more of it. I hope that John Williams can come back again to teach more about this information."

Williams also explained about the credit reporting agencies and how they work. The **Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003** is a United States federal law, passed by the United States Congress on November 22, 2003, and signed by President George W. Bush on December 4, 2003, as an amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The act allows consumers to re-

quest and obtain a free credit report once every twelve months from each of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting companies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). In cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission, the three major credit reporting agencies set up the website, www.annualcreditreport.com, to provide free access to annual credit reports.

The act also contains provisions to help reduce identity theft, such as the ability for individuals to place alerts on their credit histories if identity theft is suspected, or if deploying overseas in the military, thereby making fraudulent ap-

plications for credit more difficult. Further, it requires secure disposal of consumer information.

Williams then explained how to build and protect your credit. If you find misinformation on your credit report, it is your legal right to dispute the report. There is even a standard form on Microsoft just to dispute the credit reports. An excellent tip is to run off copies of your credit report and take to companies when buying a major purchase such as a car because every time a company runs a credit check on you it shows up on your report. Too many inquiries actually can hurt your credit!



Caroline Hymer with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development

John Williams has lived in Fairbanks since 1976 graduating from West Valley in 1987 and the University Of Alaska Fairbanks in 1993 with a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Political Economy. His family owned a wholesale business, Polar Supplies Inc. which had an office in Nome in the 1980's, and a local bar which they continued to own until 2004. He worked for K&L Distributors for 7 years as a salesman traveling from Fairbanks to Tok and Chicken, through Delta and during the summers through the Denali Park area.

The Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services Home Ownership Center Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote safe, affordable housing, focusing on sustainable homeownership, self-sufficiency, sound environments, healthy quality of life and communities that can sustain these values.

Employment, Education & Training

The **Employment, Education and Training Division** provides support and assistance to tribal members who are seeking employment opportunities or who are continuing their education. To learn more call: (800) 450-4341, or (907) 443-4367.

Did you know that in 2008 E.E.T. Division partnered with . . .

- Over 41 participants to receive their GED;
- 40 families to obtain childcare financial assistance in order to keep their jobs;
- Over 84 college students to receive financial assistance;
- 30 families to receive general assistance in order to maintain the household while working;
- Over 255 participants to receive village based training;
- 42 vocational rehabilitation participants to develop their employment or subsistence related plans.



EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES

Child Care Services assists with funding child care expenses for Tribal members who are: employed, seeking work or enrolled in a training program. CCS also operates the Uiviilat Child Care Center and provides technical assistance to home care providers in the region. To learn more call: 443-9073 or toll free 1(866)283-2273.

Community Education Program provides educational opportunities in ABE/GED. Services include: classes in reading, writing & math to prepare for GED examinations and English as a Second language classes. On-call Community Education Tutors are located in some communities with distance delivery assistance to those living outside of Nome. To learn more call: 800-478-7574 or 443-4468.

General Assistance Program provides temporary assistance to income-eligible individuals and families to meet their basic needs and may include: general assistance, burial assistance, emergency and disaster assistance. To learn more call: 800-478-5230 or 443-4371

Direct Employment Program is a one time grant for initial employment-related and living expenses that are essential for

eligible tribal members to transition to full-time employment. To learn more call 443-4351 or toll free 800-450-4341.

Higher Education Program provides scholarships to tribal members of the Bering Strait region who are enrolled to an accredited college or university. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA for successive scholarships. Scholarships are used for books, fees, tuition and other academic costs. To learn more call 443-4351 or toll free 800-450-4341.

Supportive Services provides assistance to Alaska Native and American Indians living in Bering Strait region to secure employment or complete goals toward employment. For more information call 443-4351 or toll-free call 1-800-450-4341.

Summer Youth Program provides short term work experience through summer job placements, and is available to income-eligible youth ages 14-21 years old. For more information call 443-4354 or toll free: 1-800-450-4341.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides vocational guidance and services to residents of the Bering Strait region who have disabilities that are barriers

to employment. To learn more call: 877-759-4362 or 443-4362.

Vocational Training grants are available to tribal members to attend vocational training. This may include tuition, airfare, rent or groceries. Applicants must apply for additional financial resources prior to receiving VT assistance. For more information 443-4388 or toll free 888-898-5171.

Village Based Training as requested by employers and communities prepares individuals for employment opportunities, as funding permits. Participant eligibility varies for each training program. Examples of training programs are: Construction Safety, Boiler Repair, Carpentry, Residential Electricity & Plumbing, Heavy Equipment, HAZWOPER, Welding & Energy Efficiency. To learn more call 443-4388 or toll free 888-898-5171.

Bering Strait Regional Apprenticeship Program registers apprentices under the Department of Labor in the following trades: Carpentry, Residential Electricity, Plumbing, and Heavy Equipment Mechanics. Call 443-4388 or toll free 888-898-5171

How can I apply for EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING SERVICES?

To apply for services, you can call the phone numbers listed below each EET Program description in this brochure or go to www.kawerak.org to download applications. **Applicants must provide verification of tribal enrollment when submitting applications.** Individuals requesting financial services may be required to provide additional documents such as other EET forms or personal documents which provide income information, proof of identity and residency, transcripts, or proof of program enrollment. *Gambell and Nome Eskimo Community tribal members that are living within their community need to apply for services at their local IRA office.*

Higher Education Scholarship 2009 Spring Recipients

Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship program provided scholarships to the following students attending post-secondary education for Spring 2009. To the right is a list of students, their major and university.

Kawerak participates in the SPANS (Seward Peninsula Application Network Scholarship) Program. Now it is easier to apply for several scholarships by filling out one application. Participating organizations include:

- Bering Straits Foundation,
- Kawerak, Inc.,
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.,
- Norton Sound Health Corp.
- Sitnasauk Native Corp.

Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship application deadlines are as follows:

Fall Term is July 15

Spring Term is Dec. 31

(Each organization has separate eligibility requirements and their deadlines vary).

If you are interested in receiving a scholarship call Brian James, workforce development specialist toll free at 1-800-450-4341 or direct at 443-4345 or via e-mail at bjames@kawerak.org. Applications can be downloaded at www.kawerak.org



Student Name	Major	University
Marjorie Akeya	Education	University of AK Anchorage
Adrienne Ahlstrand	Biology	University of AK Anchorage
Candice Amaktoolik	Undeclared	University of AK Fairbanks
Anna Ashenfelter	Dental Assisting	University of AK Anchorage
Yvonne Ashenfelter	Office Digital Media	University of AK Anchorage
Denise Baldwin	Culinary Arts	University of AK Anchorage
Adem K. Boeckmann	Biological Sciences	University of AK Anchorage
Amber Bradley	Pre-nursing	University of AK Anchorage
Ojanen Carin	Education	Walla Walla University
Sandra Dizon	Business Management	Charter College
Giaana Eckenweiler	Biological Sciences	University of AK Anchorage
Michelle Fancher	Undeclared	Alaska Christian College
Michael Freytag	Mechanical Engineering	University of AK Anchorage
Hunter Gray	Undeclared	University of AK Fairbanks
Marian Green	Human Services	University of AK Anchorage
Gussie Ivanoff	PhD, Physical Therapy	University of Minnesota
Kelsi Ivanoff	Community Develop.	Portland State University
Renaev Ivanoff	Biology Pre-Medical	University of Idaho
Nolan Ivanoff	Professional Piloting	University of AK Fairbanks
Bonnie Johnson	Dental Health Aide Therapy	University of Washington
Cheryl Johnson	Nursing	North Park University
Ruth Johnson	Elementary Ed.	Kenai Peninsula College
Lynnette Jackson	Nursing	University of AK Anchorage
Sarah Katongan	Undeclared	University of AK Anchorage
Kerilee Katongan	Mechanical Eng.	University of AK Anchorage
Travis Kulowiyi	Medical	University of AK Anchorage
Martin Lewis	Business Admin.	University of AK Fairbanks
Crystal Lincoln	Elementary Ed.	University of AK Fairbanks
Sandra Menadelook	Payroll Accounting	University of AK Fairbanks
Kathleen Miller	Elementary Ed.	University of AK Fairbanks
Melissa Nashoanak	Nursing	University of AK Anchorage
Morris Nashoanak	Process Technology	University of AK Fairbanks
Lainey Oates	A.A. General	University of AK Fairbanks
Francis O'Connor	Computer Network Tech.	Bellingham Tech. College
Maronda Olson	Biblical Studies	Alaska Christian College
Michael Olson	Aviation Science	Utah Valley State College
Cheryl Ongtawasruk	Graphic Design	Fort Lewis College
Tamera Ongtawasruk	Sociology	Fort Lewis College
Natalie Perry	Human Services.	University of AK Fairbanks
Denise Pollock	Government/Legal Services	St. Lawrence University
Donna Pushruk	Inupiaq Eskimo	University of AK Fairbanks
Beatrice Sagoonick	Human Services	Kenai Peninsula College
Eugene Sarren	Process Technology	Kenai Peninsula College
Molly Snell	Undeclared	University of AK FBKS-NWC
Ralph Sinnok	Civil Engineering	University of AK Fairbanks
Victoria Sinnok	General Studies	University of AK Fairbanks
Jennine Stebing	Public Policy	Pepperdine University
Chandre Szafran	English-Rhetoric	University of AK Anchorage
Quenna Szafran	Pre-nursing	University of AK Anchorage
Andrea Takak	Marine Biology	Alaska Christian College
Shawn Takak	Engineering	University of AK Anchorage
Frieda Tocktoo	Elementary Education	University of AK Anchorage
Marjorie Tully	Associates of Arts	University of AK Anchorage
Elaine Tweto	Geography	University of Colorado at Boulder
Amber Wilson	Elementary Education	University of AK Anchorage



HORIZONS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NORTHWEST CAMPUS, PART OF THE COLLEGE OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Preserving language and culture

Language and culture preservation in the Bering Strait region are getting a boost this semester with conversational Inupiaq courses being offered through Northwest Campus in Wales and Unalakleet.

In Wales, instructor Winton Weyapuk Jr. has 16 students, including five high schoolers. Unalakleet instructor Willa Eckenweiler has eight students.

The one-credit college courses are the result of community interest, teamwork among partner agencies, and hard work by the instructors.

Although the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks sells a book-and-CD set of Inupiaq phrases, Weyapuk and Eckenweiler went the extra mile for their students by creating new materials in their local dialects.

Weyapuk developed a Wales dialect phrase book with 28 sections, modeled after the language center's book by Lorena Williams of Kotzebue and ANLC director Larry Kaplan. Barb Amarok,

NWC Title III program development manager, recorded Weyapuk speaking phrases in the book and created CDs for students.

In Unalakleet, Eckenweiler created materials in both the Qawwaraq and Malimiut dialects with recording help from NWC advisor Reese Huhta. Nita Towarak is helping to teach the course. Henry Oyoumick played a large role in planning.

In both villages, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation covered costs of tuition for adults while Bering Strait School District and NWC covered high school student tuition. Unalakleet also received some NSEDC funds for supplies and elder stipends. The Wales IRA is providing space for the Wales course. The Unalakleet class meets at the village NWC Learning Center.

Would you like a language course in your community? Please call Barb Amarok at Northwest Campus: 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8406.



Documenting local knowledge

Ruby Nassuk and high school student Melanie Nassuk were among 12 high school students and five adults who took a 1-credit course called Digital Documentation of Cultural Knowledge in Koyuk in spring 2008. Students learned to conduct and record interviews, then went into the community to speak with elders on topics like traditional medicine, kayaking and drum making. Each student then produced podcasts. The National Park Service, UAF Oral History Department, Koyuk organizations, Kawerak Eskimo Heritage Program, and Bering Strait School District teamed up with Northwest Campus to offer the course.

Oceans students uncovering Bering Sea mysteries

If you've never heard of Zhemchong Canyon, you're not alone.

It's the largest canyon, by volume, in the world. Larger than the Grand Canyon by 20 percent, there is just one reason why the name Zhemchong is unknown: it's hidden deep beneath the Bering Sea.

Compared with other areas of Alaska's ocean, there is still much to discover about the Bering Sea, especially the northern Bering Sea and Bering Strait.

One group of area students is helping to remedy this problem in The Oceans, a course offered jointly through Northwest Campus and the Bering Strait School District.

Nine high school seniors from Stebbins, Brevig Mission, Shishmaref, and Unalakleet, along with one adult from Diomedes, are in the class.

Students typically meet by audio-conference (phone), or through BSSD's videoconference system. In



Eric Iyapana attends a session of his Oceans class in-person with instructor Heidi Herter during a trip to Nome from Diomedes; the other students are on the phone.

March, they will gather in Nome for a hands-on lab at NACTEC (Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Education Center).

Students have chosen questions to research and report on this

semester, hoping to combine published and local information about the region and then help make that information available through the Internet or other written news sources.

Features of the Bering Sea, like underwater canyons and volcanoes, is just one of the topics chosen.

Other students will report on Beringia, histories of whaling and hunting, a year in the life of the Bering Strait, uses of marine resources, the history of coastal erosion in Shishmaref, good hunting spots, and effects of sewage dumped into the ocean.

The Oceans is a 4-credit course that satisfies a requirement for the University of Alaska Fairbanks core curriculum in sciences. It also counts towards a UAF bachelor's degree in fisheries.

It is one of several courses NWC is offering in the afternoon, specifically for BSSD high school students. Other daytime courses for these students include college success skills and developmental English and math courses.

—Heidi Herter, Agent
UAF Marine Advisory Program

Marine Advisory Program warns: Some EPIRBs now useless

Own an EPIRB? Check your frequency! Some common emergency locator devices used in our region will soon be useless.

Many fishermen and hunters on the water use emergency position-indicating radio beacons, or EPIRBs.

In an emergency, a person may simply flip a switch on the EPIRB to notify the U.S. Coast Guard of one's location, activating the local emergency response system.

As of February 2009, the U.S. Coast Guard is no longer monitoring

121.5 MHz EPIRBs. This frequency experienced too much interference from commercial airliners, making it difficult to tell when a real emergency had occurred.

The Coast Guard will continue to monitor Type I and II EPIRBs

operating on 406 MHz. If you own a 121.5 MHz EPIRB, you will need to purchase one of those operating on 406 MHz.

And remember, if you own an EPIRB, always check the battery before you go out.

Finding funds for college

Financial aid events coming to area villages

Interested in earning a college degree but need help getting started? Would you like to take a class but need financial assistance?

University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus academic advisors Kacey Miller and Reese Huhta can help!

In addition to the many local funding opportunities available, applying for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is also very important.

The FAFSA is the only way for students to access federal and most state support, including grants and low-interest loans.

To help individuals apply for the FAFSA, NWC hosted its third annual College Goal Sunday in Nome on Feb. 8. A total of 32 people were present, with five students completing their online



NWC advisor Kacey Miller helps twin Nome-Beltz High School seniors Sharon (center) and Ahbree Verdin through the FAFSA online application process at the NWC Computer Lab.

FAFSA application.

The event is part of a national program designed to help students—particularly low-income and first-

generation college goers—clear the paperwork and financial hurdles to higher education.

This year, NWC is also taking

Financial aid event schedule:

January 27	Wales
February 8	Nome
February 18	White Mountain
February 19	Stebbins
February 20	Saint Michael
February 25	Unalakleet
March 4	Koyuk
March 18	Shaktoolik
March 26	Golovin
April 2	Teller
April 22	Elim

College Goal Sunday region-wide.

Traveling throughout the region this spring, Kacey Miller and Reese Huhta will offer mini College Goal Sunday and financial aid events.

They will also be available to help anyone take distance classes with NWC, apply for college admission, or pursue a wide range of financial aid options.

College Goal Sunday, the FAFSA, and Northwest Campus are your key to a college education!

—Kacey Miller, NWC advisor

NWC instructor takes courses on the road

Do you want to learn to use office computer programs or improve your grant-writing skills?

Training might be closer to home than you think!

A recent addition to Northwest Campus offerings are applied business and computer courses taught in area communities.

Sponsored by Kawerak, NWC instructor Melanie Burtis travels to villages to deliver courses requested by community leaders and organizations.

A big advantage is that students don't have to leave home to take courses and earn college credit.

"It was good for her to come out because airfare and lodging cost quite a bit for us when we have to travel to training," said Christine Amaktoolik, Elim city clerk, one of ten people who took a grant-writing course Burtis offered in Elim last August.

Amaktoolik pointed out other advantages to having an NWC instructor travel to the village:

- By coming to where the students live, the instructor was able to get a better idea of community needs and dynamics;

- Paying for college courses is less costly than paying per-student fees and airfare for a private trainer; and

- Students can stay in their dry village and not have to deal with the bars in a city like Nome.

And it was fun to stay in the village. Emily Murray, also in the Elim course, said the class ended

with a picnic of roasted fish at Moses Point.

"It's real good for UAF to show that support for the communities," Murray said. "It's also an asset for our communities, especially from a university."

Northwest Campus recently purchased 12 laptop computers that Burtis takes along when teaching a village course.

Courses are delivered in one-, two- or three-credit formats. The most popular format is a one-credit course offered in three days.

Classes in outlying communities are going strong! Classes held this academic year include the Elim grant-writing course, and QuickBooks courses in Stebbins, Unalakleet and Teller. Last year, courses were offered in Teller, Golovin, Shishmaref, White Mountain, and Wales.

The courses are sponsored by local agencies and employers such as Kawerak; NSEDC; and cities, Native corporations, and tribal councils in the host villages.

Courses available to all Norton Sound rural communities include introduction to personal computers, introduction to digital photography, and introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access.

If you would like to schedule a class in your community, call Melanie Burtis at 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8421.



The 2008 CNA class. Front, from left: Amber Bradley, Theresa Olanna, Sophia Nayokpuk. Back from left: Rebecca Haviland, Samantha Ustaszewski, instructor Karen McLane, Clorissia Raymond, and Katrina Raymond.

Start a health career

The sixth annual certified nurse aide (CNA) training course at Northwest Campus is coming up, giving 10 more area residents the chance to step into a health care career.

CNAs help care for patients in settings like long-term care facilities, such as Quyanna Care Center in Nome.

Training this year is April 27-June 11. It includes three weeks of class in Nome and two weeks in Fairbanks. In Fairbanks, students get hands-on practice with patients at 80-bed Denali Center.

Norton Sound Health Corporation regularly hires CNAs. CNA training also gives students a good picture of whether a nursing career is for them.

The Bering Strait Health

Consortium is working to bring a branch of the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing to Nome by January 2011. Interested students should start now on the more than 30 credits required before they can be accepted into the nursing program.

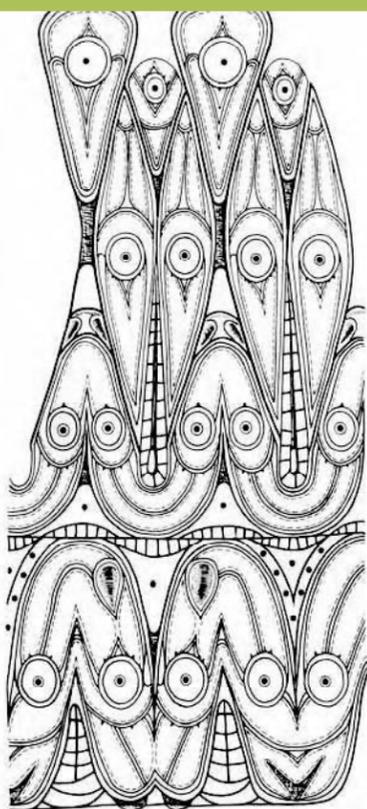
To apply for one of the 10 seats in the CNA class: call Lena Mathlaw at the Nome Job Center: 1-800-2626, ext. 9355.

High school students should apply through NACTEC; your principal can help.

Apply by March 25!

For information about the Nome nursing program, please call NWC advisor Kacey Miller (1-800-478-2202, ext. 8416) or Reese Huhta (1-888-624-3158.)

BERINGIA MUSEUM OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE UPDATE



"Perpetuating the Culture of the Indigenous People of the Bering Strait Region."

Bering Strait Native Corporation Donates \$25,000

On November 14, 2008, the Bering Strait Native Corporation Board of Directors passed a motion authorizing a \$25,000 donation to support the Beringia Museum of Culture and Science (BMCS).

Trudy (Anderson) Sobocienski gave an overview of the background, plans, and future of the project and answered questions from the Executive Committee on November 13, 2008 at the BSNC Board room.

This donation is unrestricted fund-

ing that is made available to produce brochures, a media kit and other like materials to create a successful package of information. Additionally, having unrestricted funds allows for the staff to solicit funding from state and federal leadership. Tribal dollars that come from federal agencies cannot be used to lobby congress.

BACKGROUND on the project: The Beringia Museum of Culture and Science is the vision of the people of the Bering Strait Region. The land has been purchased and is located across from Kawerak

Administration offices on Seppala Drive.

The Framework for **SUSTAINABILITY** includes planning for leadership, fiscal discipline, cutting edge technology, sound administration and energy conservation. Excitingly enough, the University of Fairbanks is leading an initiative to create a "Bering Strait Research Consortium" and are interested in exploring the option of a long-term lease agreement within the Cultural Center.

ANA awards Kawerak 3-Year Culture Grant

The **U.S. ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS (ANA)** awarded Kawerak, Inc. a three-year grant beginning October 1, 2008 to create cultural training kits and traveling exhibits. The Eskimo Heritage Program and the Cultural Center Planning staff will work in conjunction with the Bering Straits School District to create the toolkits and test in the village schools. Exhibits will be designed in years 2 and 3 of the grant.

In addition, Kawerak staff will create and participate in events to provide information to youth throughout the Bering Strait Region about job opportunities in the cultural center, museum studies fields and college information. Students will be sought out to work as interns in the summer months in the cultural center planning.



Pictured is Moronda Olson, Kawerak College Intern & Trudy Sobocienski at the future site of the center located across the street from Kawerak. Photo taken by Bernard Richert with Economic Development Administration.

Cultural Center Planner Accompanies Dignitaries to Teller

Kawerak's Cultural Center Planner was asked to serve as a tour guide on a day trip to Teller with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer, the Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Economic Development, and Alaska's Regional Director for the Economic Development Administration.

ISSUES DISCUSSED: On the way out of town, the group drove by the new hospital site and were informed about the project history, future plans, and the recent patient hostile

opening. They were briefed on the Alaska Tribal Health System and the first responders in Bering Strait villages; Village Public Safety Officers and Community Health Aides.

The success of the Community Health Aide/Practitioner Program, the Behavioral Health Aide Program and the Dental Health Aide/Therapist Program was highlighted and it was mentioned that these programs serve as model programs in Afghanistan and South Africa. However, there has not been a significant increase to the original Alaska-based program

which jeopardizes the health status of the Bering Strait Eskimo people even further. Ms. Sobocienski shared that **one priority that would have great impact** on local economies throughout the region in a short period of time is to expand the Alaska Marketplace competition. Many people in the region are submitting sound business plans and winning seed money to start small business. More applicants can benefit by this project if additional funds were made available.



Pictured to the left is Trudy, Mark, Meredith Erulkar with Calista Corporation and Ben Erulkar (not pictured is Berney Richert, Alaska Economic Development Administration Director).

"I was honored to have the opportunity to visit Teller and I understand now better than ever the critical importance of economic development in your region. Your insight and intimate knowledge of the area gave us real perspective about the challenges and opportunities in rural Alaska. I know Kawerak is committed to improving the quality of life in the Bering Strait native villages and I hope you know EDA shares your commitment and appreciates the work you are doing throughout the region."

Benjamin Erulkar, Deputy Assistant Secretary for E.D.A. and Chief Operating Officer (excerpt from a letter to Ms. Sobocienski dated 10/23/08)

BERINGIA MUSEUM OF CULTURE & SCIENCE UPDATE

Bering Strait Research Consortium — Proposal to the National Science Foundation

The proposed project would:

1. initiate a new Arctic Observing Network (AON) project and
2. address the environmental (and social) observing system coverage, design, and optimization by supporting baseline observations and building a data infrastructure for the Bering Strait Region.

This baseline will serve as a starting point and a backbone for a new entity known as the Bering Strait Research Consortium (BSRC). While the organization of BSRC is still in its infancy, it currently stands as a partnership of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the National Park Service, Kawerak Inc., and other interested parties who have agreed to share information, logistics, and data to improve the quality of natural and social science research in the Bering Strait Region.

The Bering Strait Region is one that is changing quickly due to the retreat of marginal sea ice and thawing of warm permafrost. These regional impacts of global climate change are having significant effects on the ocean and terrestrial ecosystem and are leading to rapid socio-economic and cultural change. The pursuit of energy and mineral resources in the Arctic has also contributed to shifting geopolitics between Russia and the United States, neighbors on either side of Bering Strait. These changes underscore the importance of sharing knowledge across diverse interest groups and stakeholders on timescales relevant for decision-making. The proposed project encompasses observations of physical, biological, and social phenomena, including indigenous knowledge, of the society, culture, land, ocean, and atmosphere.



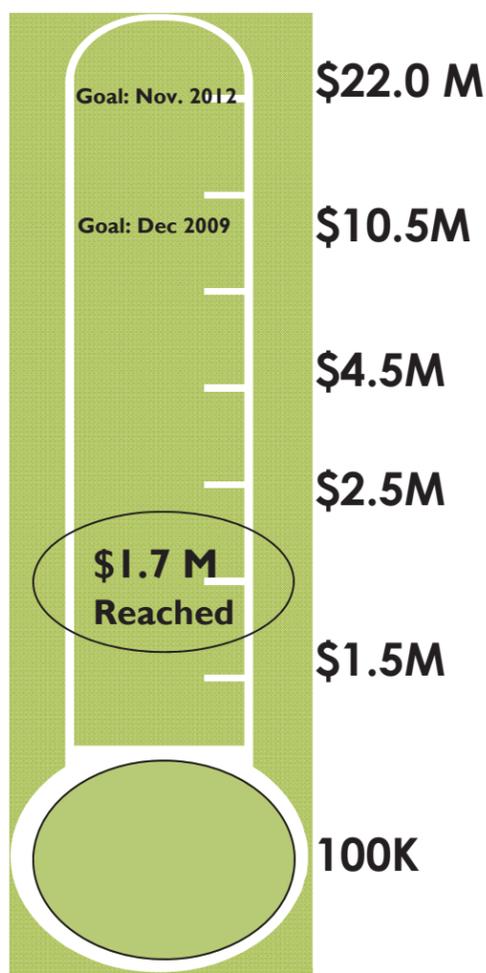
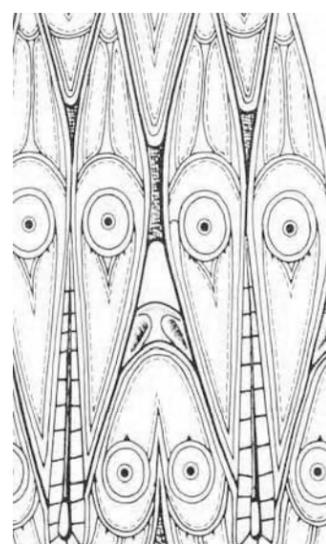
Study of Arctic Change, the Arctic Observation Network, the Sustained Arctic Observing Networks, the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, and the Alaska Native Science Commission. While it is not in the purview of this proposal to answer the science questions prioritized by these efforts, we do aim to establish, network, and maintain observations that will help investigators and community stakeholders to do so.

Broader Impacts:

This proposal enhances the infrastructure for research and education through its support for a Bering Strait Research Consortium. It broadens participation of under-represented groups in science including women (the PI and one co-PI are female) and Native Alaskans. The proposed creation of a 'Bering Strait Research Scholar' program as part of the project will advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning in a rural setting. The proposed project would also broaden data dissemination by networking disparate observational datasets and making them available directly to stakeholders on time-scales meaningful for decision-making. This, in turn, benefits society, particularly in the Bering Strait Region.

I would LOVE to have a physical space in Nome for the consortium in the cultural center. I hope that by the time your building is built, I will have found enough funding to pay for this long-term lease.
 Jessie Cherry, University of Alaska Fairbanks

There are several science and policy-driven plans for Arctic environmental observations with which this proposal aims to coordinate. These include the Study of Environmental Arctic Change, the International



The Capital Campaign is underway!

Send tax-deductible donations to:
 Beringia Museum of Culture & Science
 c/o Kawerak, Inc.
 PO Box 948
 Nome, AK 99762
 tanderson@kawerak.org
 www.kawerak.org
 Tax ID # 920047009

Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held December 10~12, 2008 in Nome

Below are the Village Reports from each representative

NATIVE VILLAGE OF WHITE MOUNTAIN: Willa Ashenfelter

Thanks to Kawerak for the 2008-2009 After School Activities program funding and the Johnson O'Malley funds which were given to the school. A letter was sent to BIA in Washington D.C. nominating Denise Michels to the Indian Reservations Roads Program Coordinating Committee as the Alaska region primary representative. We are working on the list of names in White Mountain for the Alaska Territorial Guard. White Mountain has a list of 92 former ATG members. At the time there was a Boarding School here. Our Tribal Coordinator is in the process of faxing to various villages the list because some of them are no longer living in White Mountain. The IRA Council has selected Peter Buck as the Primary representative to the Beringia Museum of Cultural Science with Adrian Barr being the alternate. Our annual meeting (General Assembly) is scheduled for Saturday, December 13. There are four council seats up and the elder representative. The Tribe hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. We are preparing for the three day wellness activities for Christmas. Thanks to NSHC CAMP department and BSRHA grant, the youth and children went out berry picking, hiking, ice fishing, we had CampFire USA here for a couple of weeks working with the youth and children. The children had fun experiencing and actually going places since some children do not experience some of these important traditional activities. We are in the process of working on our multi-year IGAP grant (2009-2012) which Eric Morris our IGAP Coordinator will be attending the workshop first week of December. We completed the first four years by the end of September. We will continue with our current projects of Aluminum can recycling, river clean up, spring clean up, water quality testing and landfill project. We are still working on our back haul project (large equipment, electronics, batteries, etc.). The Solid Waste Management Plan is nearly complete; we are on our final draft.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHAKTOOLIK: Gabriel Takak, Sr.

Shaktoolik has a new road to the new dumpsite, 2 houses are finally completed with move-ins on Monday after Thanksgiving, and mentions the high fuel costs in the villages.

CHINIK ESKIMO COMMUNITY: Jack Fagerstrom

Not much is going on here in Golovin. Winter is well on its way or is here. Community members have been busy with ice fishing for trout at camp and tom cod around Golovin. There's snow on the ground but we could still see the gravel but I'm sure there is more on the way. Our EPA coordinator has been busy trying to get a snow machine to retrieve broken down snow machines during the winter months. This will help in keeping the country side or waters from being polluted with gas/oil or debris from the machines. Northwest Campus will be here in either January or February to hold a grant writer class for community organizations that are interested in learning more about grant writing and the process. Luckily this fall we didn't suffer any high water or flooding. The Chinik Eskimo Community Council Members and Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

TELLER TRADITIONAL COUNCIL: Norman Menadelook, Sr.

The 4th Annual Teller Cultural Festival was held September 27-28, 2008. Eskimo dances were performed by Teller, Brevig Mission, King Island and Pamyua. The Teller School Gym was packed during performances Saturday and Sunday. The food was very good and plentiful during the potluck Sunday. We sponsored one (1) Elder, one (1) youth and went half and half with Mary's Igloo Traditional Council on a chaperone to attend the 2008 Elders and Youth Conference at AFN this year. We also had two (2) Council Members attend the convention. We received the Grant Writer Assistance from Kawerak this year and hired a grant writer to help our Tribe and Community. We sponsored a one day Fall Village Clean-up September 22, 2008. The Clean up was scheduled before the Cultural Festival. The Tribal Council Elections were held Oct 30. Here are the results: President, Norman Menadelook, Sr.; Vice President, James Pushruk; Secretary, Jenny Lee; Treasurer, Sig Wien Omiak; Members: Dolly Kugzruk, Trudy Foster and Wesley Okbaok. We donated funds to the Teller School to hold their Community Halloween Costume Contest. The Costume Contest was held during the Annual Teller School Halloween Carnival. We donated funds to help sponsor the Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast which was enjoyed by the whole community. We were awarded the Johnson O'Malley funds and the Afterschool Activity funds from Kawerak. We have worked with the school on these grants and will continue to work with them for our youth.

MARY'S IGLOO TRADITIONAL COUNCIL: Lucy Oquilluk

The Harbor is frozen and people are fishing on a daily basis for smelt and tomcods. So far the weather is cooperating for the people to go fishing. It is starting to get colder as we reach the

winter months. The Annual Teller Cultural Festival was held on September 27 & 28 and was a huge success. We hosted the groups from Pamyua, King Island, Brevig Mission, and the Teller dancers. Every night we had a full house and the potluck was very plentiful. Thank you to all who attended and donated to this yearly event. The Teller Clinic project is still underway and hopefully finished soon. Mary's Igloo Traditional Council & bingo helps sponsor the Halloween Carnival after everyone was done trick or treating at the school. The 5th Annual Teller Basketball Classic was held November 5-8. Teams in the men's division included Shishmaref, Brevig, Wales, Golovin and two Teller teams. Women's division included Brevig and two Teller teams. All had a good time during this event. Upcoming events include the Thanksgiving feast. The Teller High School students are running the Christmas Activities this year which start after the Christmas feast and will go until New Years Eve from 7pm to midnight. We wish them all the luck as this will be their first year running the games. The Annual Fishing Derby is scheduled for the middle of December; prizes for the most fish, the biggest fish, and the smallest fish are awarded. Turkey dinner, ham dinner & a box of chocolates are awarded to the winners. One suggestion was the Head start program should try a new series for the kids in head start, which is "My Baby Can Read." One of our council members is trying this on their kids and it has been working good for them.

GAMBELL VILLAGE REPORT: Eddie Ungott

Seal hunting was excellent this fall--hunters are always coming home with meat. We held our elections in November and I was elected President again. One new council member, Kim Antogham succeeded June Walunga. We are also blessed with two bowhead whales recently, with the other being my brother's whale. Four employees and I attended the BIA Providers Conference in Anchorage this month. We are having our annual membership meeting on the 12th this Friday. The ice came a little late this year, not as thick too. One good thing though, lots of game came with it. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God bless and take care of you all.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF BREVIG MISSION: Johnee Seetot

City-The Clinic project continues, the outside is up with half the metal roofing on. The new Bulk Tank farm is nearly complete. City will be funded from NSEDC for deconstruction and demolition of the old bulk tank farm. The VPSO office and holding cell was renovated and converted from the old post office. City did sponsor the Thanksgiving feast and traditional council will sponsor the Christmas feast. Traditional Council-We have a new VPSO name Winfred Olanna, Jr. The ICWA is holding weekly family fun nights every Wednesday. We have an Alternate Tribal Coordinator. We are in need of a book-keeper. Our Annual meeting will be held in January and all the council seats are up for election. School- Students sponsored a Thanksgiving Basketball tournament. Two teams each from Shishmaref, Teller and Brevig attended. BSSD sponsored the volley ball regional at Brevig with 11 teams that attended. Golovin won. We have 102 kids in school with 8 potential graduates. We have 16 kids in Head Start: Nine 4yr olds and seven 3yr olds. We counted 14 babies born since January, steady growth.

STEBBINS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Fred Pete, Sr.

We held IRA Annual Elections on December 8 for treasurer and 3 council members. We had to postpone twice due to a conflict with the annual carnival and a death of a member of Stebbins IRA. December 1-5 was the BIA Providers Conference and the ICWA Coordinator and I returned on 12/7/08. Flight returned to Anchorage on 12/5 due to weather in Stebbins and St. Michael. Stebbins Housing Authority in 2009 will mark the 10th year since the establishment. SHA is alive and well, thanks to the team efforts of Chairman Morris Coffey, Cornelius Dan, housing manager and Keith Tryck, SHA Consultant. Keith has contributed much to the success of SHA, also thanks to council members Allen Atcheak, Mary Pete, Tommy Kirk, Fred Pete, Sr., local member At-large Serge Ustazewski for their service as Commissioners. The Old IRA project is finally underway to turn it into four-one bedroom apartments and should last until the spring of 2009. Stebbins IRA/SHA with the approval of Kawerak board hopes to obtain funding to develop roads in the Arssaiq Subdivision. We need to work on the access roads to lots in the summer of 2009, before we can do any more housing projects. This is why Morris, Cornelius and Keith have to do a presentation to the Kawerak to justify for IRR funds. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Stebbins, St. Michael and Ted Katcheak have resolved the Reindeer Management Agreement, so that we can go ahead and manage the reindeer together and for communities' mutual benefit. At this time the Stebbins Native Corporation needs to iron out their Reindeer

Grazing Permit, to follow thru with, "Assignment of Payment" to Stebbins Native Corporation. We honored requests for meat from Koyuk and Elim for their Thanksgiving Community Feast. Requests of meat will be considered on a case by case basis. We are planning to have our annual reindeer community feast during the week of December 22.

Currently, Stebbins IRA is working on Government-to-Government consultation with the assistance of Julie Raymond-Yakoubian on the issue of Chinook Salmon by catch cap. Stebbins IRA has not issued any food commodities due to dividends from Stebbins Corporation and Alaska Permanent Fund. Gladys Pete, Tribal Coordinator, went to Anchorage for training related to this program. The program requires computer generated intake forms for issuing food commodities. This is an added responsibility for Gladys on top of her Tribal Coordinator's work related to Stebbins IRA office administration. Gladys is of great service to Stebbins IRA and the community; she often does double and triple duty. NAEIR-This year Stebbins IRA will give out extra Christmas presents to our membership. "NAEIR, is a non profit organization that collects donations of inventory from manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers then redistributes those goods to nonprofit organizations all over the United States", without charges. This organization is located in Galesburg, IL 61402-9977. Stebbins IRA has been using the merchandise as extra prized (BOGEY) on top of cash prizes awarded and is greatly appreciated by the patrons. This outfit will discontinue sending flyers of merchandise if and when there are no orders placed. With that I am including a report from September as a supplemental to this village report. Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous Happy New Year and a Merry Christmas to all! Quyanna Cakneq, Thank you very much!

KING ISLAND NATIVE COMMUNITY IRA: Vince Pikonganna

KINCI has started providing afterschool tutoring for children in grades 1st through 12th. The Elders' Advisory Committee has resumed meeting monthly. We are in the process of updating our tribal council policies, our Local Economic Development Plan and our Long Range Transportation Plan. King Island will be host the annual meeting and IRA council elections this Sunday. We are in the process of planning our end of the year community activities.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF WALES: Kelly Anungazuk

Our Tribal Council continues to hold their monthly regular meetings, and IGAP meetings. Our Tribal Coordinator, Joanne Keyes successfully applied for the NSHC CAMP grant of \$15,000. Sonya Ongtowsruk, Healthy Coordinator will be working with our children to provide activities for at least 3 hours per day. She will focus on "Diabetes" and "Smoking" as educational tools-the tread mill provided by NSHC CAMP is available during the time Sonya will be at work. Our NSEDC board member, Frank Oxereok, Jr. recommended that \$5,000 from NSEDC be used for our After School activities and it was granted. The money will help us buy more supplies, etc. for our children-thank you Frank for your dedication to our children. The Native Village of Wales received \$4,106 from Kawerak through the Child Care Program for After School Activities. Our Tribal Coordinator and the Tribal Family Coordinator, Anna Oxereok attended the BIA Providers Conference. We have been busy preparing for the Christmas Activities. We have been fundraising for the upcoming 10th Annual Kingikmuit Dance Festival. Our demolition Crew did a great job tearing down old houses-thank you Clyde Ongtowsruk Sr. and his crew. The Wales Native Corporation provided this year's Thanksgiving Feast. Following the feast the community enjoyed "Eskimo Dancing." Our newest community member was born November 22nd-we welcome Ida Danelle Rose Sereadlook. Our community continues to grow. Wales is very proud to announce that we had the highest voter turnout for this year's election-thank you Kawerak for the turkeys. For the 08-09 School year AEC members consist of: Ellen J Richard, President, Joanne Keyes, Vice-President, Yvonne George, Secretary, members: Lena Sereadlook and Debra Seetook. Our City held their election in November. The officers for 08-09 Frank Crisci, Mayor; Luther Komonaseak, Vice Mayor; and the members are: Mike Ahkinga Sr., Christine Komonaseak, Matilda Crisci, Kimberly Oxereok, and Debra Seetook. Here's wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNALAKLEET: Janice Dickens

The Elder's Lunch program restarted in September and we average 40+ meals a day. The grant writer is working diligently on funding for new Elder's Assisted Living facility, and a new concept called the Green House, whereby the Elders manage and interact with the community. The Council is working with a group called Oceana to reduce the Chinook by-catch in the Bering Sea by the Pollock fishery. Tanana Chief's Conference,



..to the following board member who was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in applauding and recognizing her contribution for 2008!

Loretta Bullard
Kawerak President

2008 KAWERAK BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR Shirley Martin, St. Michael Representative

At the December 2008 meeting, the Kawerak Board of Directors voted by secret ballot for Board member of the Year for 2008. Shirley Martin of St. Michael was this year's recipient! Shirley is the President of the Native Village of St. Michael, she serves on the Kawerak Executive Committee and is also the Kawerak Board Secretary. Shirley received a plaque, a new Kawerak Jacket and two round trip tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies.

The following are some of the comments the board had written about Shirley: *Shirley M- She's Trustworthy,*

Courageous, and willing to work hard! I Nominate Shirley for her comprehensive work as "Secretary for the Full Board" & the "Executive Board."

The staff at Kawerak would also like to recognize Shirley for her contributions. She always reviews her Board packet in advance of the meeting, she speaks up, contributes to the discussion and is prepared to make decisions to benefit the Native people of the Bering Strait Region.

Quianna Shirley for your Leadership, congratulations on your selection and enjoy your vacation!



Pictured above is Shirley Martin and Robert Keith

Kawerak Village Reports *(continued from page 12)*

Kawerak and other groups are formulating a strategy to reduce the Chinook by-catch in a cooperative vein, and the Bering Sea Elder's group is willing to lend assistance. The Council began a strategy/assessment plan with the Native American Land Environment Litigation Program to assess the clean up of the Old Air Force Dump and abandoned 700,000 gallon fuel tank. Under the program, the tribe is eligible to contract the work. The Unalakleet Native Corporation offered their 14 plex for sale to the IRA council. After a market and feasibility study, the Council is continuing a cautious approach. Once a plan for low-income subsidy renting is obtainable, the Council will decide on the option to purchase. Have a great Christmas Holiday and prosperous New Year, even if you get socks for Christmas. They are nice and warm you know.

NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY: Clifford Johnson

As of November 1st, NEC's tribal membership enrollment is 2463. Linda is available in our main office to update member records and provide tribal enrollment verification and identification cards. After much advocacy from Tribes, these cards can be used as official identification for those who travel. The Tribal Services Program provides the majority of direct client services that are funded with self-governance compacting funds from the Department of Interior; these include the Johnson O'Malley funds used for youth activities. We also utilize funds from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice, NSHC Diabetes Prevention Program and since the fall of 2008 Department of Health & Human Services After School Activity funds. On September 30th, we completed the final year of a 3-year Tribal Youth Grant, and were recently awarded a 5-year continuing grant. In addition to academic performance and intervention and support services for at-risk youth, the new grant has components to address anti-social delinquent behavior, neighborhood disorganization and family & parenting issues. We recently learned that this grant was significantly reduced nationwide and are seeking ways to accept the grant so that we can continue the activities in spite of the reduction. Networking and partnership in the Tribal Services arena continues to grow. This year, expansion includes the development of two new educational grants with the Nome

Public Schools as our partner. These educational grants will include development of Alaska Native curriculum in science and math, summer educational programs, and a leadership/enrichment program for youth. The curriculum will include the history of ANCSA and the creation of the regional & village corporations, the role of tribal governments. Changes have occurred within Family Services. The majority of ICWA are located in the south central region. Due to high caseload in this area and the importance of our participation in home investigations to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their homes, the decision was made to have an employee based in Anchorage. Office space was leased to Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Sara Battles has transferred to Anchorage to manage our cases. This move will not only ensure ICWA compliance that protects the rights of Native children who are taken into State custody, will facilitate positive relations with the Anchorage Office of Children's Services.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF: Edwin Weyiouanna
The Tannery re-opened seasonal in September and will tentatively close end of December 2008. Everyone had a successful seal hunting harvest this fall. Everyone has been fishing. IRA had a successful Thanksgiving feast and we are ready for Christmas week activities. Local organizations held Emergency Planning and Training during the week of November 10, 2008. The IRA received a MOA from Kawerak to start the winter Trail staking. We also, received another MOA between IRA and Kawerak Transportation for local Roads and Streets maintenance. We have a new Environmental Program Manager since our previous one transferred over to Kawerak Transportation Program.

NATIVE VILLAGE OF ST. MICHAEL: Shirley Martin
The Native Village of St. Michael report for the month of October to December 2008 is as follows:
Tumet worked on the BIA road portion until the ground was too frozen then closed up until the next year to finish. The new school is completed after several delays. The grand opening was rescheduled to December 9, 2008 due to a recent death. The City's new water plant next to the Washeteria is near com-

pletion. There were three engineers from ANTHC who came to inspect the new system. The City and the Native Village of St. Michael Tribe signed an MOA with Kawerak Transportation Program. There was Quick Books training held in Stebbins by UAF NWC in September and was attended as well from both village organizations. The Kawerak Tribal Coordinator training was held in Nome October 21-23. The St. Michael Tribal Coordinator as well as her Alternate attended the Tribal Coordinator Training and all the Village Council members of St. Michael attended the AFN. The following week after the AFN in Anchorage there was an EPA/IGAP meeting that the St. Michael IRA IGAP Coordinator and president attended during the last week in October 2008. A team of (9) people came to St. Michael from Kawerak, US Department of Justice, Unalakleet, and Nome Trooper to discuss with the community the VPSO program within the region and state. An annual Beluga meeting was held in Anchorage the first week in November and attended by an IRA Village council member. GCI installed phones to those interested in having a cell phone. They will be return to provide more cell phones since they ran out at their first trip.

The IRA Village Council Member Migratory Bird representative was able to attend the annual migratory bird meeting held by Kawerak Subsistence Resources on November 18 & 19 2008. The annual IRA Village Council Turkey Tournament was held November 26-29 2008 at the old Anthony A. Andrews school gym with 18 teams participating from Stebbins, Kotlik, Emmonak and St. Michael. The village of St. Michael was given 100 turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas provided by the Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage. Thank you for the food bank volunteers in St. Michael. The St. Michael IRA applied and received funding under the NSHC Diabetes Grant. The BIA Providers Conference was held December 1-5 in Anchorage and was attended by IRA Village Council President and one staff as well as other IRA Village Council Members. The school Christmas break will begin on December 22 to January 2. Here is wishing everyone a very safe blessed happy Christmas and New Year from the village of St. Michael.

Kawerak Announces Employee of the Month: August ~ December 2008

August 2008

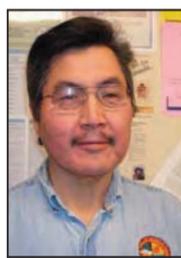
John Peratrovich, Village Safety Patrol Officer



John was nominated because he serves a large community and travels on a regular basis to appear in court. John is dedicated to the community of Savoonga and the VPSO Program. John is hard working, dedicated and goes beyond the VPSO job duties. Kawerak is lucky to have you on staff.

September 2008

Joe Murray, Tribal Family Coordinator



Joe was very helpful in getting the necessary paperwork to complete a Kawerak General Assistance application for a tribal member from another village. Joe had to get the forms and obtain information and fax them to the Kawerak General Assistance program to complete the application.

October 2008

Ann Andrews, Foster Care Recruiter/Caseworker 1



Ann was nominated because of her relentless and exceptional work towards increasing the number of Foster Homes has shown through the increase of licensed homes. She is constantly setting up professional quality booths at community events where she attracts positive individuals to become licensed foster parents.

November 2008

Mary Long, Ed. & Disabilities Specialist



Mary has been working in the Head Start Program for 19 years. She has taken on extra job duties due to vacancies in the Head Start Program. She has conducted teleconference trainings for staff that are working towards attaining their CDA's. She is a role model to those working towards this achievement.

December 2008

Angela Miller, LMS Specialist



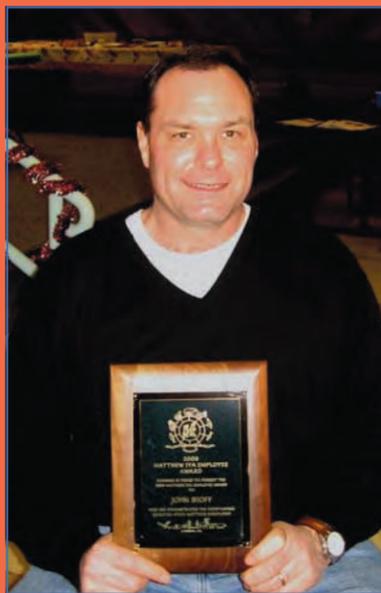
Angela makes it a pleasure to work at Kawerak. She volunteers to help in other departments when we are short staffed. She is often seen setting up, cooking or cleaning up at employee functions.



...to the following employees who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in applauding and recognizing their performance for 2008!

Loretta Bullard
Kawerak President

2008 Matthew Iya Award John Bioff, General Counsel



This award is given to an employee who helps make Kawerak a great place to work, who has a fun, positive attitude, a hard work ethic and is supportive and appreciative of other employees. This employee recognition is in memory of Matthew Iya who was our Eskimo Walrus Commission Director at the time he passed away in 1992.

John Bioff is an excellent advocate for the tribes and Kawerak. He has probably spent more time sleeping on the floors of our tribal council offices than most employees over the years – basically enjoys traveling to the villages and truly reaches out to the tribal councils—he has built up great working relationships in all of the villages. John has taken the time to learn about the cultural customs in the region, is keenly respectful of each individual tribes' protocol and factors that

in when providing assistance to the tribes. John has a great work ethic and pays special attention to detail. He gets along with and works well with others (employees, tribes, outside agencies, etc), even on sensitive and controversial matters. And last but not least, John can laugh at himself and doesn't mind if everyone else does too!

2008 Employee of the Year Award Angela Miller, Land Management Services Specialist I



Angela was nominated because she makes it a pleasure to work here. Angela tends to the little things that make the whole company comfortable. She makes hot water and coffee, decorate and volunteer to help in other depart-

ments when we are short staffed. Angela is often seen setting up, cooking or cleaning up at employee functions. She is pleasant to everyone and makes everyone feel special and important.

Suicide Intervention Training Offered in Nome

by Jason Hymer, Norton Sound Health Corporation Injury Prevention Coordinator

On October 29 and 30, 24 people from around the Bering Straits region gathered in Nome to attend the first Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop ever held in northwest Alaska. The workshop was organized by the Norton Sound Health Corporation Injury Prevention Program and funded by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Injury Prevention Program. Trainers included Jason Hymer (NSHC), Helen Stafford and Kyla Hagan (ANTHC), and Jeanine Sparks (Wasilla High School). Workshop participants included Village Health Aides, Village Based Counselors, teachers, social workers, behavioral health staff and others from the region.

The workshop began with a brief introduction then an open discussion about attitudes and feelings toward suicide. The rest of the workshop focused on learning about the Suicide Intervention Model and ended with everyone getting a chance to practice a mock suicide intervention. After completing the workshop participants reported they felt more prepared to deal with a person who may be suicidal and would recommend the ASIST workshop to others.



ASIST was developed in Canada over 25 years ago and has been used in countries all over the world since. ASIST is currently listed as a best practice in suicide prevention by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, which means it has been proven to be an effective means of reducing suicide in communities. The goal of ASIST is to enhance a caregiver's ability to assist a person at risk to avoid suicide. After completing a workshop, participants will be able to:

- Recognize that caregivers and persons at risk are affected by personal and societal attitudes about suicide;
- Discuss suicide with a person at risk in a direct manner;
- Identify risk alerts and develop safe plans related to them;
- Demonstrate skills required to intervene with a person at risk of suicide;
- List the types of resources available to a person at risk;
- Make a commitment to improving community resources
- Recognize that suicide prevention is broader than suicide first aid and includes life promotion and self care for caregivers.

If you would like more information on ASIST, or would like to sponsor a workshop in your community, contact NSHC Injury Prevention at 443-4539 or email jhymer@nshcorp.org.

Pictured left is Helen Stafford from ANTHC Injury Prevention as she leads the group during the first ASIST workshop held in Nome.

Denali KidCare

A Healthy Choice for Our Children.

Denali KidCare provides excellent health insurance coverage for children and teens through age 18 and for pregnant women who meet income guidelines. The following income standard guide will help you determine if you meet the income guidelines for Denali KidCare.

Remember, these are only guidelines! There may be deductions that apply to your situation. The best way to find out if children or pregnant women are eligible for Denali KidCare is to apply.

Income Guidelines (effective March 2008)



Household Size	Children with other Health Insurance	Children with no Health Insurance and Pregnant Women with or without Health Insurance
	Monthly Income (150% FPG)*	Monthly Income (175% FPG)*
1	1,625	1,896
2	2,188	2,553
3	2,750	3,209
4	3,313	3,865
5	3,875	4,521
6	4,438	5,178
7	5,000	5,834
8	5,563	6,490
each additional	563	657

Note: An unborn child of a pregnant woman is counted in the household size for pregnant woman coverage.

Key Points

- » Income figures are gross income (before taxes are taken out).
- » Income eligibility is determined based on biological or adoptive parent income.
- » Permanent Fund dividends are not counted as income.
- » A standard deduction per month for expenses related to employment may apply.
- » A standard deduction per month for dependent care expense may apply.
- » Child support payments may be allowed as a deduction.
- » Income records and proof of deductions must be submitted with application.
- » Anyone may apply for her/himself or on behalf of a child or teen.
- » Children with other health insurance may still be eligible.
- » Children, teens and pregnant women covered by Indian Health Service benefits may be eligible.
- » **Not sure if you're eligible? The only way to know for sure is to apply!**

Rev. 3/08

* Based on the 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for Alaska

This message is brought to you by:



For more information on Denali KidCare visit <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/DenaliKidCare> Applications are available at Nome Public Assistance, NSHC Hospital and Village Clinics.

Kawerak, Inc.

THE PFD CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

A new way to give

Pick.Click.Give.

Kawerak, Inc. is pleased to announce that we are part of the new PFD Charitable Contributions Program for 2009. The Alaska Legislature passed a law in 2008 making this new way to give possible for all Alaskans filing for their PFD on-line. We are excited about the opportunity that it provides all Alaskans to give to their favorite non-profit organizations. This program provides a safe, secure and easy way to make a donation.

By giving through this program, you join others to become an important force in bettering our communities and our state. For those of you who already support Kawerak and the Beringia Museum of Culture and Science we ap-



Design for the Beringia Museum of Culture and Science.

preciate your gifts and hope you will use this option to make an additional donation. By donating to Kawerak you will help us start the region's first cultural center the *Beringia Museum of Culture & Science* – a comprehensive

“Kawerak is honored to be a part of this new program and would like to thank the Rasmuson Foundation, United Way, the Alaska Legislature and the Permanent Fund Dividend Division for making it seamless for all Alaskans to give to Alaska’s nonprofits.”

Loretta Bullard, Kawerak President

center for the wellness, cultural expansion and continuation of our ancestral tradition within our region and beyond.

When you go on-line to sign up for your dividend, you will see the option called, “The Gift of Giving.” Search for us by choosing Region 2 and Kawerak, Inc.. Click and follow the instructions to make a new donation, or an additional gift. At the same time, please take the extra step you will see after you make your donation to provide your contact information to us. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support and this is the

only way we will know it's you making the gift.

Donations can be made as small as \$25 or any amount that you choose by increments of \$50, up to the full value of your PFD. You can also choose up to several different organizations at one time. Please consider Kawerak and our newest project to perpetuate and share our Eskimo

Culture through the Beringia Museum of Culture and Science. Remember all donations will be considered a tax deductible donation as Kawerak, Inc. is a 501(3)C organization.

You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at pickclickgive.org. Or you can call us at (907) 443-4345.

Pick.Click.Give.

Kawerak, Inc.

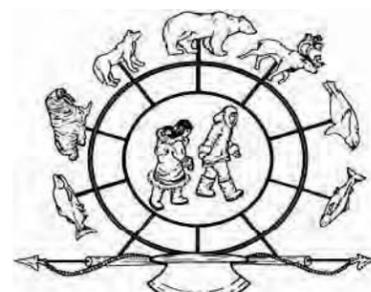
PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762
www.kawerak.org

Kawerak Services Directory

Administration	443-5231
Accounting	443-4334
Human Resources	443-4373
Information Systems	443-4357
Planning	443-4345
Beringia Museum of Culture & Science	443-4340
Tumet Industries, LLC	443-4248
<i>Community Services Division</i>	443-4246
Community Planning & Development	877-219-2599 or 443-4248
Tribal Affairs	443-4257
Transportation	443-4395
Village Public Safety Officer Program	443-4252
<i>Education & Employment Training Division</i>	800-450-4341 or 443-4354
Childcare Services	443-9073
Community Education	800-478-7574 or 443-4468
Employment & Training	443-4358
General Assistance	800-478-5230 or 443-4370
Village Based Training	443-4388
Vocational Rehabilitation	877-759-4362 or 443-4362
<i>Children & Family Services Division</i>	443-4247
Child Advocacy Center	443-4379
Children & Family Services	800-478-5153 or 443-4393
Jacob's House	443-8096
Head Start	800-443-9050 or 443-9062
Wellness Program	443-4393
<i>Natural Resources Division</i>	443-4377
Eskimo Walrus Commission	877-277-4392 or 443-4380
Eskimo Heritage Program	443-4386
Fisheries Program	443-4384
Land Management Services	800-443-4316 or 443-4323
Reindeer Herders Association	443-4378
Subsistence Resources	443-4265

Uqaaqtuaq News

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907-443-4452 fax



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Uqaaqtuaq News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus, Nome Eskimo Community & Norton Sound Health Corporation. Articles and photos can be sent to djames@kawerak.org or call (907)443-4345.

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