

Uqaaqtuaq News

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

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

SPRING 2009 ISSUE

Chinook Salmon Bycatch Decision Made by NPFMC

by Mike Sloan, Natural Resources Division Fisheries Biologist

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) met in April and took final action on Chinook salmon bycatch management in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The pollock trawl fishery has taken increasingly high amounts of Chinook salmon bycatch during recent years with a peak of 121,909 fish occurring in 2007. According to genetic information, the majority of Chinook bycatch are bound for rivers in Western Alaska. The challenge for the NPFMC was to find a management strategy that balanced the need to protect dwindling Chinook salmon stocks, which support subsistence and commercial fisheries in Western Alaska and Canada, with potential impacts of bycatch restrictions on the \$1 billion Bering Sea pollock fishery.

Concerns about severely declining Chinook salmon runs and impacts on subsistence and



Chinook Salmon (Qawiaraq lñupiaq dialect: tağyaqpak). Photo courtesy of Nome Eskimo Community.

commercial users prompted a dozen Norton Sound residents to attend the NPFMC meeting and share their views with council members during the public testimony period. Representatives from Kawerak, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference and other organizations gave testimony to the council. Norton Sound Economic De-

velopment Corporation (NSED) provided funding to send five Norton Sound area residents to the meeting for this purpose.

Most Norton Sound attendees asked the NPFMC to consider an annual hard cap of around 30,000 Chinook or lower, and many highlighted the hardships and impacts of the declining salmon runs on their villages, fami-

Continued on page 6, see Local Reps.

VPSOs Graduate in Sitka

by Gina Appolloni, VPSO Program Director

Kawerak's Village Public Safety Officer Program is pleased to announce the graduation of four cadets from the Training Academy in Sitka, Alaska. Pictured from left to right are: Gerald Otto from Elim, David Slwooko from Koyuk, Winfred Olanna, Jr. from Brevig Mission and Harley Huntington from Shishmaref.

Gina Appolloni, VPSO director, notes this brings the total number of officers in the region to nine with six additional openings in Diomedes, Golovin, Wales, Stebbins, Gambell and St. Michael. Please call Gina at 1(877)219-2599 if you would like to become a VPSO in one of these communities.

The VPSO Program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as: search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention and basic law enforcement. The presence of these officers has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages. As a result, VPSOs are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members; hence their motto:

"FIRST RESPONDERS—LAST FRONTIER"

See page 3 for more VPSO articles.



Kawerak Interns at CAC

by Denise Pollock, Higher Education Intern



Denise Pollock
Higher Education Intern

enrolled member of the Native Village of Shishmaref IRA Council. I have been living in Lancaster, Massachusetts for the last eight years, but I was raised in Barrow and Fairbanks. I just finished my second year at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. I am a double major in English and Government. At U.C., I am involved in the Advocates Program that educates the campus on sexual assault and provides support systems for survivors. I have done presentations on Sexual Violence in Alaska Native and Indian communities.

I am working as an intern at the Child Advocacy Center for the sum-

My name is Denise Pollock. My parents are Maggie and Mark Pollock and my grandparents are Elizabeth and Herbie Nayokpuk. I am a tribally

mer. I have been writing articles for the CAC Newsletter to educate surrounding villages and communities about child sexual abuse. I will be travelling to Unalakleet, Koyuk, Teller, and Shishmaref to raise awareness about safe touching and community involvement with child sexual abuse survivors.

I want to focus on how the justice system could be improved to gain the trust and input of Native peoples and how to implement traditional alternatives to the healing of survivors. This internship gives me a chance to come back to Alaska to be with my family and become more familiar with the main issues and struggles happening in this region.

I eventually want to get involved in tribal law, international indigenous law and human rights. I am passionate about traveling, learning languages, writing and literature to preserve cultural stories.

The Higher Education Internship Program provides summer work experience for Higher Education scholarship recipients living in or returning to the Bering Strait Region for the summer. The program has 11 interns employed at various work sites. If you have questions about the Intern Program, call Trisha Gray, Youth Employment Director at (907) 443-4361.

10 Tribal Members Complete Carpentry Class

by Lew Tobin, Education, Employment & Training Division Regional Training Specialist

On April 20th, 2009 ten Bering Strait Tribal members took a step towards financial independence. They enrolled in a Carpentry Training Program through Kawerak's Education, Employment and Training (EET) Division. Over the next four weeks, students learned carpentry terms, tools and skills in a classroom setting and in a practical exercise.

The students of the class were: Philip Castel, Charles Ellana, Robin "Bubba" Fagerstrom, Robert Joe, Jr., Colin Kulikhon, Gabriel Muktoyuk, Richard Okinello, Scott Payenna, Derek Saclamana, and Henry Titus. They were instructed by Erik Noet, a local carpenter, who has completed an instructor's course from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). These students' NCCER

certifications will be recognized and honored anywhere they go within the United States. This is the second course of the 4-year Carpentry Apprenticeship Program sponsored by local employers and Kawerak through the Bering Strait Regional Apprenticeship Program (BSRAP). The first class in all the BSRAP programs is the basic construction safety (CORE) class.

Qualified individuals who are employed by companies who are part of BSRAP (or companies in this region who are willing to join BSRAP) may apply to be apprentices in one of four construction fields: Carpentry, Plumbing, Residential Electrical Wiring, or Heavy Equipment Mechanics. They do this through their employers. In the apprenticeship program they promise their employers to work



Pictured above is a carpentry student cutting spacers.

8,000 hours (about four years) under a Journeyman in all aspects of their field. Kawerak sponsors the apprentices through their required annual 3 week classroom training.

Kawerak is hop-



Pictured from left to right, front row: Colin Kulikhon, Charles Elanna, Henry Titus, Philip Castel & Lew Tobin. Back row: Richard Okinello, Derek Saclamana, Scott Payenna, Instructor Eric Noet, Robert Joe, Jr., Gabe Muktoyuk & Robin Fagerstrom.

ing to increase the number of licensed Journeymen (only certified Journeymen can legally wire or plumb houses for pay in the State of Alaska and only Nationally recognized Apprentices can assist them) and apprentices in this region (one journeyman can only supervise one apprentice).

The project for the class was to build a 10 by 20 foot building (the beige with blue trim that is on Kawerak's lot across from the two main buildings on Sepalla Drive). The building will be used by Tumet as a Parts and Headquarters Building for their Brevig Mission road project. The building was made extra strong to be transported and

used in the various villages by Tumet.

Kawerak's Education, Employment and Training (EET) Division's Village-Based Training (VBT) Program sponsored the class. Since 2001, VBT has sponsored over 300 training programs for the 20 tribes of the region and has had more than 3,000 students participate. The VBT program has had CORE: Carpentry 1, Electrical 1 and Plumbing 1 courses at all 15 active village locations. Other programs like: Heavy Equipment Operation Training, HAZWOPER, Boiler and CPR classes have been taught in villages that have provided the fa-

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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
- UNALAKLET
- WALES
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

State working to improve Public Safety

by State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joe Masters

Making Alaska safer is a top priority for this administration, and to that end, much progress has been made.

Quality service delivery is dependent on attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. For years, the Alaska Department of Public Safety has struggled with vacancies. Last August, the department had 43 Alaska State Trooper vacancies. Today, every Trooper position is filled. A new crop of recruits is preparing for future service at the Training Academy in Sitka. Upon completion of an 18-week academy program and 15 weeks of field training, they will be at work protecting our communities.

This is an encouraging development, but recruitment efforts won't stop there. The department will continue to find new Troopers to keep up with the natural attrition of personnel, looking both inside and outside Alaska, and with efforts to recruit rural Alaskans, women and returning members of our National Guard.

We are focusing on Village Public Safety Officer program improvements and expanded services for 15 villages in fiscal year 2009, and are working with legislators for 15 more in fiscal year 2010.

We're proud of the success of our search-and-rescue efforts. Last

year, DPS participated in more than 694 search-and-rescue-related events and saved 460 lives. This could not have happened without our partnership with volunteers, military and community organizations. In fact, 2,794 responders have committed more than 22,988 man hours and 995 aircraft hours to ensure the safe return of Alaskans and visitors to the state.

Crime in Alaska is far too often fueled by alcohol. The department has had success cracking down on bootleggers. In 2008, our alcohol and drug enforcement unit seized more than 1,000 gallons of bootlegged alcohol, representing an approximate street value of close to half a million dollars, and importation arrests were up by more than 30 percent. Overall, the unit served more than 400 search warrants and filed more than 2,000 charges for prosecution. In addition to our record-setting illegal alcohol seizures, we also seized approximately \$18.5 million in illegal narcotics, with significant increases in the seizures of imported heroin and methamphetamine. In 2008, the unit seized almost 5,000 grams of heroin with a street value of \$1.4 million - more than four times the amount seized in 2007.

Something DPS has established to help make our roads safer is the new Bureau of Highway Patrol. Based out of Fairbanks, Palmer

and Soldotna, three teams consisting of Troopers and local law enforcement officers will have statewide jurisdiction and will work to reduce fatalities and major injury collisions through proactive, sustained and high-visibility enforcement, education and technology. The focus will be on impaired driving enforcement, seatbelt enforcement, aggressive driving and speeding enforcement, young driver education and collision investigations.

Progress continues with the current lab and a new lab. At our current lab, analysts have been hired, trained and certified, and robotics have been introduced. The casework backlog that had grown over the years has been significantly reduced and the Combined DNA Index System (or CODIS) database backlog will be eliminated by July 2009. We also received notice that outsourcing of additional lab work, if necessary to protect public safety, would be supported. As for work toward a new lab, a \$1-a-year lease has been negotiated with the Municipality of Anchorage for a site on Tudor Road, and construction site preparation is in progress. We continue working together with the governor's office, the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and legislators through a thorough due diligence process to de-



Pictured above is Commissioner Joe Masters with VPSO Winfred Olanna, Jr. from Brevig Mission. Photo taken by Gina Appolloni, VPSO Director.

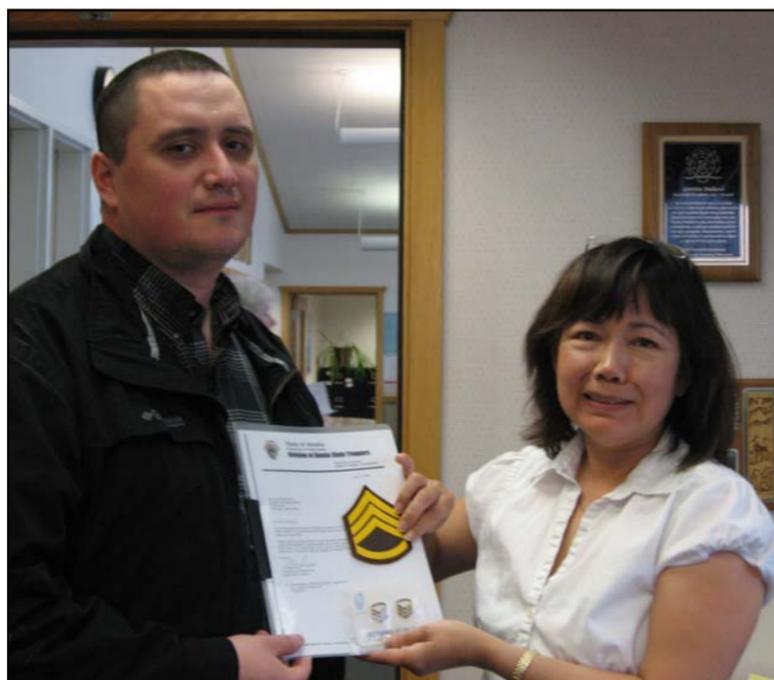
termine the right design. Material costs have actually dropped significantly since the last estimate, so Alaskans may see some timely cost savings.

We're encouraged by all the positive developments at DPS, and we appreciate the governor's strong support of the department as we move forward. Alaskans can be assured of the state's strong commitment to ensuring that our communities are safe places to live for all of us.

Joe Masters is commissioner of the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

Peratrovich earns rank of VPSO Sergeant

by Gina Appolloni, VPSO Director



John Peratrovich, Savoonga Village Public Safety Officer was recently promoted on June 10, 2009 to the rank of Sergeant and will now honorably wear the Sergeant Stripes and collar brass.

Alaska State Troopers Captain Steve Arlow notes, "This proves John's hard work and demonstrates his professionalism in his field."

Congratulations to Sergeant Peratrovich!

Keep up the great work!

Kawerak, Inc.

NWC Graduates Keep their Eye on the Prize

by Kristine McRae, ABE/GED/ESL Program Specialist



This year's Nome graduation ceremony brought in GED recipients from all along Norton Sound and beyond. Of this year's 39 GED graduates, 14 live in regional villages. But early on May 7 the fog rolled in and we got nervous. Would our village students make it to the celebration? The morning stretched into the afternoon and, one by one, the planes landed. By the time we headed to Old St. Joe's for rehearsal, nine excited students from Gambell, Savoonga, Wales, Elim, and Koyuk headed with us, along with 11 of our local grads to practice the processional, recessional, and

everything in between. That evening our grads looked regal, decked out in their black gowns and caps with tassels.

Our own MaryJane Litchard handmade colorful corsages for the ladies and boutonnières for the men. Valerie Reamer, this year's student speaker, shared a message of inspiration with her fellow students, "I wanted to have a real career, not just a dead end job. I didn't want my kids to think I would have to depend on someone else. . . I didn't succeed the first time, but eventually I did. Our kids will see us trying and that will

inspire them to try, too. My plan is to attend a two-year program to become a certified x-ray technician. . ." UAF's Northwest Campus celebrated three Associate degrees and one Master's degree in the annual combined celebration. A new treat this year came from Unalakleet: Judie Kontongan baked four delicious cakes enjoyed by a packed house of friends and family. And at the end of the evening, with all the gowns hung and diplomas dispersed, we were reminded that Graduation Day, the first Thursday in May, really does mark the start of summer in Nome!



Valerie Reamer during her keynote address.



Pictured is Rachel Takak and Irene Otten.



Bering Strait School District Recognizes Kawerak Head Start

by Malinda Besett, Head Start Director

On February 10 the Alaska Head Start Association presented the School District Collaboration Award to Bering Strait School District in Juneau, AK. Kawerak Head Start Director Malinda Besett nominated BSSD for its continued partnership with the Head Start programs throughout the region. BSSD has continued to support the Head Start programs through training, follow – up support and curriculum materials through hands on approach. Ms. Besett presented the award to school Board member Melvin “Dumma” Otton who accepted the award on behalf of the district when it was presented at the association’s statewide conference. In response to the award, Superintendent Hickerson said, “BSSD is honored to receive this award and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Kawerak to support the preschool children of our district. Each year the association presents awards to different individuals and business’ throughout the state. For more information on the awards or the Alaska Head Start Association please visit <http://www.akheadstart.org/>.



Pictured above is Jim Hickerson, BSSD Superintendent; Malinda Besett, Kawerak Head Start Program Director and Melvin "Dumma" Otton, BSSD School Board Representative.



Eddie the Eagle visits the Cranberry Classroom in Nome with Trooper Merrill to talk about Gun Safety.



Teacher Valentina Koonooka in Gambell with the 3 year old children at the gym.



2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The countdown to the 2010 has begun, the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to national, tribal, state and local officials and community leaders to ensure an accurate count of all people. This affects the appointment of congressional seats and how the federal government annually allocates \$300 billion in federal assistance to state, local and tribal governments. Alaska will be the first in the nation to be counted, starting January 2010. Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is important to everyone in the community.

www.census.gov/2010census

USCENSUSBUREAU



Alaska 2010 Census Jobs Field Postings

- Lister/Address Canvasser \$17.50 per hour
- Crew Leader Assistant \$17.50 per hour
- Crew Leader \$19.00 per hour
- Recruiting Assistant \$19.00 per hour
- Field Ops Supervisor \$20.50 per hour

Employment Hotline 1(866)861-2010

Call to sign up for pre-employment testing. The US Census Bureau is an equal opportunity employer.

Local Reps at Chinook Bycatch Hearing

Continued from page 1.

lies, and traditional culture. During public testimony, Morris Coffey of Stebbins said, "The pollock fisheries have been able to maximize their harvest of pollock for the last eight years at the expense of Chinook fisheries in the Lower Yukon and the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Rivers in Norton Sound." Jack Fagerstrom of Golovin said, "We lost our chum and now are in danger of losing our Chinook. You can't put a value on culture."

The NPFMC's action in April provides two options for the pollock industry: participate in an incentive program (IPA) and fish under an annual bycatch cap of 60,000 Chinook salmon, or fish under a simple bycatch cap of 47,591 fish with no incentive program. The bycatch cap which would be divided between seasons and fish-

ing sectors (offshore catcher-processors, motherships, inshore catcher vessels, and CDQ). Once a sector reaches its seasonal bycatch cap, they would be prevented from pollock fishing for the remainder of the season. If any sector operating under an IPA exceeds its proportion of 47,591 Chinook three times during a seven year period, they will have their bycatch allocation permanently reduced to its proportion of 47,591 salmon.

The pollock industry will be required to submit annual reports highlighting incentive measures taken and a performance evaluation for incentive programs. The NPFMC action taken provides for the rollover of unused seasonal Chinook bycatch allocations to the following fishing season, and also allows portions of sector by-

catch caps to be transferred between sectors. Implementation of the new bycatch management strategy is expected to occur in early 2011.

In June, the NPFMC will start developing management guidelines for reducing chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea trawl fish-

eries. Kawerak will be actively participating in this process and will provide updates as they become available. For further information or questions about bycatch issues, please contact Michael Sloan, Fisheries Biologist at 443-4384 or Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Scientist at 443-4273.



Clockwise from the top is Jack Fagerstrom of Chinik Eskimo Community in Golovin providing comments. Below is NPFMC Chairman Eric Olson and another council member as they listen to public testimony. Bottom picture is Austin Ahmasuk speaking to the NPFMC. Below right is Morris Coffey of Stebbins Community Association and Muriel Morse of Koyuk as they wait to comment to the NPFMC. To the left is Rose Fosdick, Vice President of Natural Resources Division testifying before the council. Travel expense for five tribal regional representatives was funded by Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. Photos by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian.





Picture above is a large crowd of fishermen as they listened and waited to comment at the NPFMC hearing held in Anchorage, Alaska April 2009. The Bering Strait region was represented by a dozen people. Photo by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian.

Melvin Otton testifies at NPFMC Hearing

The following is Melvin Otton's testimony at the NPFMC Hearing:

Chairman Olson, Members of North Pacific Fisheries Management Council:

Thank you in advance for allowing me to speak on a subject near and dear to my people's heart and soul - our sustenance, we depend on for our physical and spiritual survival. The Chinook salmon being one of the foods we depend on.

My name is Melvin Otton, better known as Dumma. I live in Koyuk, Alaska, located on the Norton Sound, more specifically located in

the Norton Bay. I come here representing the people of the Native Village of Koyuk.

Norton Bay has three (3) salmon bearing rivers flowing into it: The Koyuk River, Inlitalik River, and the Ungalik River. All three rivers produce Chinook salmon spawning areas. The Inlitalik River produces the largest run of Chinook salmon. The salmon arrive after the middle of June and run for approximately

two and one half to three weeks in the Inlitalik River. The majority of Koyuk people harvest Chinook salmon in the Inlitalik. The Chinook is an important addition to our diet of other salmon and different species of fish in our area.

My family harvest Chinook in the Inlitalik River at the same set net site my father utilized since I was a child. When my father was unable to fish Chinook for subsistence any longer, he gave me the site to fish at, to this day. Traditionally my family harvest from 75 to 100 Chinook salmon annually. We freeze up to 10 Chinook, give approximately 15 salmon to relatives, elders, and people unable to go fish for Chinook. The remainder is made into smoked strips. My family, from my wife, children (both

adult and minor) as well as grandchildren help from setting, tending, repairing, and cleaning the net, cutting the fish, brining, glazing, stripping and smoking. We also have other children from the village come to our fish camp to help and learn to care for fish.

The Koyuk and Ungalik Rivers also have Chinook runs. Some local people harvest Chinook salmon in both rivers.

The Norton Bay and the three rivers located in the Norton Bay have been insulated from effects of salmon crashes, more specifically the chum salmon shortage to the west and south of the Norton Bay. The summer of 2008 was the first time the Chinook salmon run was abnormal from previous runs. The Chinook run started slow, diminished, picked up, diminished, and dwindled to sporadic. This was the first time my family did not make any smoked strips. We froze 5 for our use and gave away approximately 25 to relatives, elders, and other people. Whatever food we put up is used not just for everyday use, but also play on important part during special occasions such as birthdays, funeral potlucks (celebration of life), church gatherings, community meals such as

"This was the first time my family did not make any smoked strips."

Comments by Koyuk fisherman to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Hearing prior to decision regarding bycatch of Chinook by Pollock Fishermen (April 2009).

Thanksgiving, or Elder meals.

By doing our part, utilizing food gathered for subsistence, we ensure that who we are continues on to our future generations. Teaching our children (both our own and other children in the community) to respect the food given to us by our Creator ensures that our culture and the food we depend on continues. When there is mention of bycatch, it really saddens my heart that there are people willing to give up respect for humans and food given for our use, by practicing "Legalized wanton waste" for the sake of the bottom dollar.

Our people in Koyuk therefore for the sake of getting along with other people support a bycatch limit of 32,482. Thank you again for hearing our plea. I remain, Melvin "Dumma" Otton of Koyuk, Alaska.



A 160,000 pound catch of Pollock. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

Continued from page 2, Tribal Members

cilities required by the courses and adequate attendance. Kawerak's VBT also has special classes available for more specific needs: Appliance Repair, Concrete Finishing, Welding, GPS Training, Ocean Hooka Diving, Highway Flagging and Refrigeration. Another segment of the training program is run in conjunction with NWC-UAF

for Computer, Grantwriter, Nursing and Accounting Classes. VBT also has specialists to train classes in applying energy efficient projects in the home.

These programs are designed not only to help students gain employment in various professions, both in their own villages and anywhere

they may move, but also to prepare them to be better homeowners who will feel confident making repairs and remodels to their homes and cabins. They will also be able to fix costly repairs or without bringing in specialist from the surrounding cities. This fosters self-sufficiency in the region. VBT's goals are not just to provide

employment, but to increase the quality of life and independence in the villages.

For more information about Village Based Training contact Lew Tobin, Regional Training Specialist at 1-888-898-5171, in Nome call 443-4388 or via email at ltobin@kawerak.org.

Northwest Campus Section

Kawerak, Inc.

Kawerak, Inc.

Kawerak Helps Coordinate Job Fairs in Shaktoolik, Gambell & St. Michael

by Dawn Salesky, Education, Employment & Training Vice President

The Kawerak Education, Employment and Training Division promotes self-sufficiency through employment and training. On April 21-23, Kawerak helped to coordinate job fairs in the communities of Shaktoolik, Gambell and St. Michael.

There were about 12-15 out of town presenters who attended each fair. There were training program representatives from the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward, the Job Corps in Palmer, and Northwest Campus. Scholarship and grant agencies such as the Alaska Dept. of Labor, Kawerak, and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation also provided information about how to pay for college. The Alaska

Dept. of Labor and Kawerak's Youth First Initiative program held group discussions about future career options in Alaska. In addition, there were presenters who talked with youth about jobs in their field of work or organizations, such as Kawerak Headstart, the National Park Service, NSEDC, Norton Sound Health Corporation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Alaska State Troopers, and the local IRA and Corporation offices. Close to 150 students and families stopped by the job fairs.

More Job Fairs are scheduled for the week of August 24 in Koyuk, Unalakleet, Savoonga, and Teller. For more about the Job Fairs call Dawn Salesky, EET Vice President at 1-800-450-4341.



Omie McGuffey discusses careers with Norton Sound Health Corporation with Shaktoolik middle school students.



Pictured above is Reese Huhta with Northwest Campus discussing degree options with students.



Pictured left is Fred Tocktoo as he talks with students about National Park Service Careers.

Higher Education Intern Works in the Human Resources Office

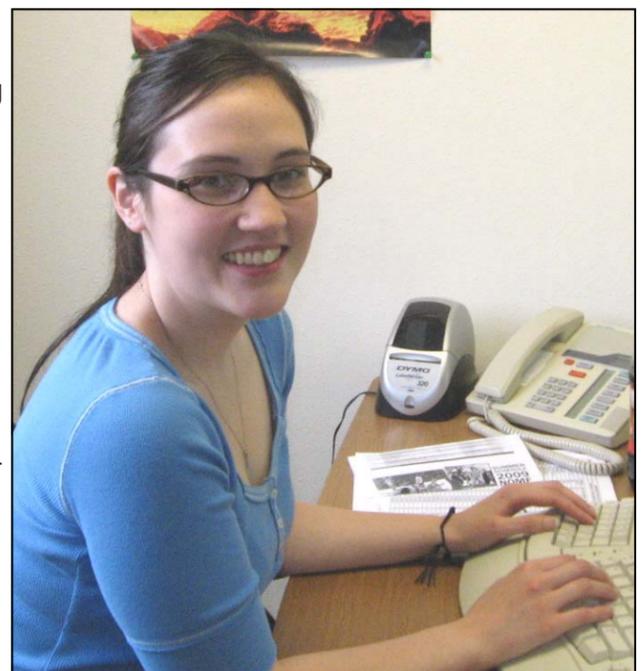
by Maronda Olson, Higher Education Intern

My name is Maronda Olson. My parents are Mo and Karol Olson. I am a tribally enrolled member of the Chinik Eskimo Community. I grew up in Nome and moved to Anchorage in 2001. After graduating from high school in 2007, I attended Alaska Christian College in Soldotna. In May 2009, I graduated from ACC with a two year certificate in Biblical and General Studies. If accepted, I plan on attending Belfast Bible College in Belfast, Ireland during the Fall 2009 semester. I then plan on returning to Alaska and attend the University of Alaska Anchorage beginning in the Spring semester of 2010. At UAA, I will start on my prerequisites for Dental Hygiene. After I have completed the required classes, I would like to enroll into UAA's Dental Hygiene Program.

This summer, I am working as the Human Resources Assistant to Myra Stotts and Reatha Bahnke. This is my second summer working as an intern at Kawerak. Before working at Kawerak, I had very little work experience. Since

then, I have expanded my basic computer and communication skills. I think that working here will help me with future jobs and knowing how to work in a professional workplace environment. In Human Resources, I work on various tasks such as; filing, review and compile information from employee files, make data entries into the HR/Payroll computer software system, write correspondence letters, make New Hire packets, work with Microsoft Office programs, make new employee ID's, as well as other various office oriented tasks (like using a Polaroid camera and a typewriter)! I like working here at Kawerak. The employees here are great and I enjoy working with them. I have learned a lot in my time working here and am grateful for this opportunity.

To be a Kawerak Intern; applicants must be a Higher Education Scholarship recipient. To apply for a scholarship call Heather Payenna, Intake Coordinator at 1(800)450-4341 or in Nome 443-4358.



Pictured above is Maronda Olson, Higher Education Intern.

Is it too good to be true? Scam Alert

by Kevin Smith, Accounting Specialist Northern

A true story: An older man, no longer employed was active every day; hunting, fishing and camping. He didn't have much money to spend on daily expenses, let alone pay for the subsistence expenses for ATV, snow machine, guns, boats, motors, nets, rifles or ammo. Therefore he was extremely happy to show me a letter and check he received in the mail. The official looking letter on letterhead said he had won \$200,000. An official looking check, with all the appropriate banking information, was also enclosed; however it was written for only \$3,000. The letter directed him to cash their check and return a check to them for \$1,000, which was needed to complete the banking transactions and they would send him the remaining balance of his winnings.

He was smiling and waiting for my reaction; he expected me to celebrate with him. I told him the letter and check were a scam and that if he was able to cash the check and his bank later found there were no funds within the fraudulent company's account, then he would be liable and would have to return the funds.

Not completely believing me, he went to the bank and showed the banker the check; the banker called the number listed on the letterhead. Sure enough someone answered in a professional voice; however when they, on the other end, heard the banker state his name, the name of the bank and heard the request to verify the check was legitimate, they on the other end hung up the phone on the banker.

This attempted scam where individuals are asked to send money in order to receive a prize or to be entered in a sweepstakes happens in every town and community in Alaska; whether in Nome, Shishmaref, Stebbins or Savoonga. People receive notices via mail, phone or email about prize money or sweepstakes and are then asked to send money or a check.

In this time of economic distress, more and more people are falling victim to scams and other fraud. Scams can occur over the phone, through the mail, or online.

One of the most common scams that many people have fallen victim to is the Nigerian letter or "419" fraud. This can either be in the



form of a letter that arrives in the mail or an email in which the recipient is offered an opportunity to share in a percentage of a large sum of money in exchange for assistance in transferring that money out of a foreign country, usually Nigeria. The author of the letter tries to convince a willing victim to send them money of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons. Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often described in detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are transferred out of the foreign country, usually Nigeria. Once the victim stops sending money, any personal information that was disclosed is used to empty bank accounts and max out credit cards. Some victims have even been lured to the foreign country where they have been robbed, imprisoned, or worse. The Federal Bureau of Investigation does have some tips to avoid this particular scam:

- **If you receive a letter from Nigeria asking you to send personal or financial information, do not reply in any manner. Send the letter to the U.S. Secret Service, your local FBI office, or the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. You can also register a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel.**
- **If you know someone who is corresponding in one of these schemes, encourage that person to contact the FBI or the U.S. Secret Service as soon as possible.**
- **Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or foreign government officials asking for help in placing large sum of money in overseas bank accounts.**
- **Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.**
- **Guard your account information carefully.**

Counterfeit checks are another big problem in this region. The most common type of this scam involves a fake cashier's check. With modern computers and printers, it is easy to make counterfeit checks. The problem occurs when a victim deposits a counterfeit check into their bank account. The victims' bank may say that the funds are "available" before it finally verifies and collects from the institution on which the check was drawn. The victim is then held responsible for the uncollectable check in which any funds used must be paid back. In many cases, the victim is asked to send money to the check issuer in advance to pay for fees or taxes in exchange for something. This technique is used in fake lottery scams and work-from-home scams as well as many others. The Better Business Bureau and State Attorney General offer tips to determine if checks are legitimate:

- Independently verify that the check is drawn from an actual account at a legiti-

mate financial institution. Do not rely on the telephone number listed on the check. Use directory assistance to get the telephone number of the financial institution and call them to verify the check.

- Do not rely on the money until the funds have been finally collected by your financial institution. Funds "availability" is not good enough.
- If you have any questions about whether a transaction is legitimate, talk to your bank or credit union.

Those who have been a victim of a phony check drawn on a federally insured financial institution should contact the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at (877)275-3342. If the check is drawn on a foreign bank, contact the United States Secret Service at (202)406-5572.

There are major problems associated with these scams in which money is required before prize moneys are released or sweepstakes entered. The most pressing problem is people lose their money or bank account identification, with which scammers can access your bank account funds. Additionally the stress level is high, especially by elderly people, when they are notified they have won and they believe the notice and anxiously try to figure out how to cash the check and send the required funds. Unfortunately some people have sent checks, as requested, never to see promised awards and most dangerously their own personal bank accounts have been robbed electronically. Of great concern is many people in the village do their banking long distance and by check because unfortunately in small villages there is no bank or banker for people to speak to in person or to ask for assistance.

If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There are a number of government agencies that provide information about consumer fraud. You can contact the following agencies if you have concerns or want to report fraud:

Federal Bureau of Investigation:
(907)276-4441 or www.fbi.gov

United States Postal Inspection Division:
(877)876-2455 or
www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Better Business Bureau: (703)276-0100 or
www.bbb.org

United States Secret Service:
(907)271-5148 or www.secretservice.gov

Alaska Consumer Protection Unit:
(907)269-5200 or www.law.state.ak.us/department/consumer/cpindex.html

Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held April 2 -3, 2009 in Nome, Alaska.

Below are the Village Reports from each representative.

Mary's Igloo Traditional Council: Lucy Oquilluk

Teller has lots of snow this year, too much snow! Basketball season has come to a close but we are still waiting to have the Little Dribblers Tournament. Spring Break is over for the school kids. The Fitness Center is still open and City League Basketball continues every Saturday night. People are going up the river to Mary's Igloo area for pike fishing, now that it is starting to warm up. Teller still has a water shortage and is limited to two loads of laundry per household with one washer working. The laundry mat is open and water delivery is Tues., Thurs., Sat. & Sun. from 3:00—5:00pm. Staff has started moving into the new clinic, now that it is finally finished. People are pretty excited about the new clinic.

Native Village of Brevig Mission: Archie Adams

We had the Annual election on January 24. The newly elected officers are: President - Archie Adams, Vice President - Stewart R. Tocktoo, Sec./Treas. - Leonard Adams. Members: Floyd Olanna, Mary Barr and Susie Olanna. We are still in the Washeteria Building and will not move into the Multi-Purpose building until the weather warms up enough to fix the water and sewer. Hopefully it will be done in May. Gocadan's team is now in Brevig Mission to see patients. We have a lot of snow piled up all over Brevig Mission; hopefully the City workers will clean up the roads for us. Brevig Mission's Lutheran Church will be hosting the Lutheran Church Conference from April 1 to 5. This is the first time for us and we expect to see a lot of people. This will be very enjoyable for us in Brevig Mission. So come and listen to lots of singing from the different villages. Our kids have formed Pee Wee, Elementary and Jr. High School Basketball teams. They are all fun to watch, especially the Pee Wee's.

Native Village of White Mountain: Willa Ashenfelter

First of all we would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, financial donations, food donations, everything during our time of sorrow and loss of our tribal members last month. Thanks to Kawerak Tribal Affairs for our Alternate Tribal Coordinator position. Currently, Alice Lone is the newly hired alternate TC. We are in second cycle of the IGAP Grant Program. These are four year grants, so actually this is the fifth year of the IGAP program. We are continuing with the aluminum can recycling, spring clean-up, river clean-up, landfill and water quality data projects. Our new project for the other four year cycle is Alternative Energy. We are trying to coordinate a joint project with the: City of WVM, WVM Native Corporation, Chinik Eskimo Community, City of Golovin and the Golovin Native Corporation to discuss if Golovin is interested in partnering with our village on Alternative Energy. We are working on getting registered with Grants.gov to where we can start electronic submission for grant application. Please welcome the newly elected IRA Council member, Louise Simon. After serving numerous years, we sadly inform you that Ida E. Lincoln did not run for council. The newly elected Elder representative is Phillip Brown. Through the Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program, Enid Lincoln is available for tutoring the school children in our facility Mon. -Fri. 2:30—5:00pm. She is also going into the Head Start, K-5th grades to teach simple Inupiaq and Mon-Fri. nights, basic Inupiaq for all ages. We are excited about this new program. Our Elders Lunch Program through the State Dept. HSS is going very well; the Elders eat lunch at the BSSD school cafeteria with attendances of up to fifteen elders. Our grant writer Adrian Barr, Sr. applied for a USDA grant for the fencing material for the Landfill. The Landfill is funded but needs the City's resolution for their part of the agreement.

Native Village of Shaktoolik: Gabe Takak Sr.

BSRHA is still working on one of three houses; two of which have been occupied since the 2008 Holiday Season. They are waiting for woodstoves for the houses before they let the final home owners move in. Shaktoolik Annual Tribal Membership Meeting was held March 17 at 7pm in the Shaktoolik School Gymnasium with five guest speakers in attendance. Our annual election, with three open seats this year, was held on Tuesday, March 24th. The Native Village of Shaktoolik IRA Council secured several grants to build a Shelter Cabin at Iggugnak, which was stick-built in the summer of 2007. Due to weather and other constraints the stove and bunk beds will be installed this week. The Shaktoolik IRA staff members started a monthly newsletter for their members and the IGAP program has started Environmental projects with students at the school. Kawerak, RP Kinney and Associates have completed the Tribal Road Reconnaissance Study and are moving to the next phase of the process. We have commitments for the design of the Tribal evacuation roads from Kawerak and the Denali Commission \$1 million each, contingent upon an additional funding of \$1 million from other sources. The Shaktoolik IRA has also solicited requests of \$500,000 from the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, the Indian Reservation Roads High Priority Projects and the State of Alaska through our State Legislators, Senator Donny Olson, and Representative Richard Foster. The Governor's Sub-cabinet Immediate Action Workgroup has included this request through the Governor's Administration, giving it a higher chance of surviving the Governor's veto should our legislators succeed in putting our request into the Capitol budget.

The Native Village of Shaktoolik has hired the firm Ecology & Environment to complete the, "Suite of Emergency Plans." This includes: the evacuation plan, the community evacuation plan, hazard analysis and risk mitigation plans. Vivian Melde is a planner with Ecology & Environment; she came to Shaktoolik to meet with the community and local organizations and spent a week teaching a course on the National Incident Command System and the Incident

Command Systems. During the week long course there were more than a dozen participants. The IRA Council is working with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) to develop a design analysis report for the construction of a community evacuation center. This organization examines the cost effectiveness of the building methods, materials, guidelines, codes, and standards utilized in cold climates. CCHRC promotes and advances the development of healthy, durable, and sustainable shelters for Alaskans and other circumpolar people through unique, applied research. We continue to work with the Denali Commission and the ANTHC on the clinic project. There are several issues that have delayed the construction of the new clinic including: relocation, erosion, high costs of construction and storm surges. As a cost saving to the clinic we have decided for a modular design and are continuing to work with staff from the Denali Commission on revising the business plan. Shaktoolik was bombarded with a series of storms that left in its wake more snow than in previous years. Forcing crabbers to slowly bob along the snow-machine trail to Cape Denbigh, where crabbing has been excellent this year. Shaktoolik has a new VPSO early this week, his name is Lucas Stotts. Lucas grew up in Nulato and graduated from Nome Beltz High School. His parents are Preston and Myra, who work as a Police Sergeant and a Human Resources Specialist, respectively. His fiancée, Emily Kremer, has joined him and will be working as a Kindergarten Teacher at the Shaktoolik ECE program.

Native Village of Shishmaref: Donna Barr

The Native Village of Shishmaref held a successful Annual Meeting Feb. 14. The business plan for a new Clinic building has been submitted and we are awaiting the results. The sewer lift station, for our existing Clinic, will be funded through the ANTHC and hopefully will start this coming summer. The National Park Service from Kotzebue flew to Shishmaref and notified the community that they will be putting 17 radio collars on Musk Ox in the area. The project will begin sometime in April 2009. The Friendship Center and Afterschool Activities programs are in full swing. Our Annual Spring Carnival is scheduled for the week of April 13 and Inupiaq days are scheduled for April 15-17. The seawall continues 750 feet, going east towards the Washeteria Sewage Lagoon.

Native Village of Diomedede: Patrick Omiak Sr.

Community issues: The beginning of this year is moving fairly fast, the snowfall so far has been a record for this decade. Constant snowing and blowing snow has made it difficult for four homes. There has been a lot of shoveling to keep the houses from being buried. The City posted public notices reminding parents to educate their kids about touching electrical service wires. A crew of labors had shoveled in several areas that had lines that are dangerously within arms reach. The Native Village of Diomedede has received a BIA Pass through Funds from Kawerak Transportation. The Jan. & Feb. months have depleted the fiscal 2008 funds in the amount of \$4,249. We are expecting the first quarter's funding with the rate the snow keeps coming, we will deplete that funding by the end of this month. Is there a possibility that Kawerak can disperse the majority of the funding now? The Native Village of Diomedede has researched information regarding the total cost to maintain the walk ways, the City's usual expenditure to maintain the walkways is \$20,000 (annually). This includes wages, payroll liabilities and program supplies. The City has routinely maintained our walkways since the early 1980's. Since there is no ice runway for flights to land we may not have airlines serving Diomedede this year. Transportation will not be getting any easier. In 2008 the first plane landed on April 2nd. With transportation delayed due to weather and no ice runway the Diomedede Native Store shelves were bare (hardly any dry and can goods) up until yesterday, March 16th. The IRA Council has hired a new store manager in Nov. 2008. They are currently learning the ropes of how to manage the store. Since late Feb. and early March the total of 13 community members (three families) returned home, they had moved out of Diomedede a couple years ago. Last year Diomedede's population dropped at least 15%.

There was a dog that was constantly biting people, the dog was disposed of by the City. NSHC OEH said the dog was not infected with rabies. BUSINESS: The Native Village of Diomedede's Annual meeting was held on Feb. 8 at the Recreation Hall. Only 22 tribal members participated. The meeting was held 2-10:30pm. The meeting ran smoothly this year compared to previous years. Refreshments included: polar bear stew, walrus stew, pies, banana bread and cornbread. The agenda covered: 2008 fiscal reports, Tribal Council Representative's report, organizational management and fiscal capacity for 2008, elections, community concerns and future projects. During the elections there were two people elected into office: Gabriel Ozenna Sr. was re-elected for the three-year term and a welcome back to Jerry Iyapana who was elected for the one-year term. The USCG mailed out Boater's Registration forms to boat owners (no one has filled them out yet) and AEWC has sent 2009 boat Captain's registrations to the five boats that are registered. Medical services discussion took up a large part to the meeting with what kind of services to be provided and transportation was also an issue. Our community is relying on one certified Health Aide which is making it difficult for the Health Aide to take time off or leave for medical reasons. This year the Native Village of Diomedede will be making certain that all health care providers are certified. The City has missed the March 2009 deadline for the New Clinic Project with Denali Commission. They approved to send the City Clerk and Tribal Coordinator to meet with Jim Sanders of Alaska Summit Enterprises. Jim Sanders covers Diomedede for the Denali Commission projects. If all goes well, the

proposal should be filled by June 2009. The main delay to this project in our community is consider, "non-distressed" making it harder to find additional funding to cover the project costs that are estimated at 2.5 million. The Native Village of Diomedede matched awards of \$420,000 these will not lapse until 2013 with the State of Alaska Legislative Assistance. The Native Village of Diomedede has resubmitted the Administrative for Native American (ANA) grant for Inalik Inupiaq Language Preservation Project. This is a three-year request of \$136,500 federal monies and a match of \$34,112 in kind services. Last year this proposal was rejected, modifications were made in addition to the first year obligated to language assessment. During the annual meeting, "Board Walk Opinions" were discussed. The Tribal Coordinator, Frances Ozenna submitted the opinion list to Kawerak Transportation. A total of ten need requests need to be modified to suit Diomedede. Overall we are still getting used to the boardwalks and of the benefits of less littering, the leveled areas are appreciated especially by the Elders and it makes it easier to haul and dump. Rural Cap VISTA ENERGY Program will start in April. This request was submitted in February. Our Tribal Coordinator will supervise the member that applied for the position. This is a one-year program to study energy efficiency that best suits Diomedede for the future. Circumpolar Expeditions will be working through-out the Tribe to launch a website for promoting tourism. The State of Alaska DART Program has awarded funding that would provide training, brochures, website and the possibility of a visit with our relatives from Siberia. Circumpolar Expeditions will be contacting Kawerak Heritage to assist with this, hopefully to happen soon. Notices have been posted for "Little IRA Council" Youth Leadership committee and Elder's Committee. No elders have signed up yet and Little IRA Council's first meeting will be soon.

Native Village of Wales: Frank Oxereok, Jr.

The Council is having a very busy quarter; they are revising the IRA Council Policies and Procedures. Willie Echuck, Tribal Affairs Accounting Training Specialist was here Feb 27 to review policies for the office. We have made some changes in our Accounting processes in preparation for audit. Our 2009 Budget and 2008 final quarter have been submitted to Kawerak and approved. All our taxes are up to date with the IRS and the State. We are very proud of our "Kingikmiut Seawolves" girl's basketball team; they came in 4th place and were awarded the "Sportsmanship" award at the tournament held in Golovin. Congratulations to Vanessa Tingook- Captain and Julia Ongtowsruk-Co-Captain who both earned "All Tourney" awards. Our "Little Dribblers" basketball team have been practicing, are coached by Andrew T. Ningealook and Captained by Janelle Cothorn. They will be traveling to Teller March 20-23, funding was made possible through NSEDC. Beginning in Jan. 2009, Winton Weyapuk Jr. started teaching Inupiaq classes (Wales' dialect) on Tues. and Thurs. when the weather permits. These classes are very interesting. NSEDC conducted an Outreach meeting March 2nd. Anna Oxereok, Tribal Family Coordinator ordered supplies for grades 3 on up, to learn the techniques of "Harpoon Making." Our boys will be taught by Gilbert Oxereok and Winton Weyapuk Jr. Sewing material was also ordered for our children, grades 3 on up, to make mittens, beaver hats, etc. These funds were made available through NSEDC. Anna will ask for female volunteers to assist the girls with the techniques of skin sewing and beading. May your families have a safe, successful "hunting" season!!

Stebbins Community Association: Fred Pete, Sr.

Presenting of the First Dancers is March 6 & 7. The Native Village of Kotlik hosted the Native Village of Stebbins members. Kotlik had approximately 8 new dancers to be presented to Stebbins. Stebbins hosted Kotlik on March 13 & 14 with 5 new dancers. In the yupik culture one cannot participate in dancing until they have performed a debut. With this activity, relationships of friends and relatives are renewed. New dancers usually bare names of respected members of the community or loved ones that have passed on. They are presented: to friends and relatives, families of the village being hosted, and included are gift giving consisting of furs, harpoons, food, fish hooks, gloves, to name a few. This celebration also includes a basketball tournament with teams from nearby villages of St. Michael, Kotlik and Emmonak. Most everyone from these villages is related to each other either by blood and/or marriages. Teasing cousins try to out-do each other by winning ball games and Eskimo games. Unalakleet's Assisted Facility ANA grant application and Stebbins Community Association have partnered with Koyuk, Shaktoolik, and St. Michael. When the facility becomes reality, our elders will have a choice to go; if they don't want to go far from home. Individuals from these villages will have an opportunity for training and employment. In Feb. Stebbins Community Association filed a request for an extension of winter moose season for Unit 22A (south that includes Stebbins and St. Michael). In January, we had inclement weather and in Stebbins, there was only one week of suitable weather for hunting that prompted the request to the State F & G and the Federal Subsistence Board. The State F & G denied the request and the Federal Subsistence Board approved unanimously, so Stebbins and St. Michael had another 2 weeks of moose hunting in Feb. The Stebbins/St. Michael road programs were busy in Jan, Feb and March with snow removal. We have one grader available for both villages and as of this report; roads are clogged between the two. The City has used ANTHC's equipment to keep the roads within the village clear and the road to the dump open for waste disposal. Stebbins Community Association continues to be involved with the Chinook By-catch issues and will be sending Morris Coffey, Vice-President

Kawerak Village Reports *(continued from page 12)*

to testify during the April meeting of the North Pacific Management Council. At our recent IRA Council meeting, we had upped our position to include 0 cap and opposition to Pollock fishing, in light of the damage being done to the Chinook salmon and the bureaucracy of CDQ program. Morris is a subsistence fisherman and holds a permit for commercial salmon fishing on the Yukon. The Stebbins water and sewer project is still on the drawing board. The last site chosen for the sewage lagoon was found unacceptable after they started to work on it. The mud is too thick and several feet deep. Another site has been chosen by the water/sewer committee that involves the City, IRA and Corporation on 14 c3 land belonging to the City. We will not be seeing running water anytime soon. The Water Reservoir and Plant Facility are also pending.

Native Village of St. Michael: Charlie Fitka

Activities that occurred since our last report given to the Board in December include: two days fiddling, with an excellent performance from the Bethel South Beat Band. This event was a cooperative effort made by the Stebbins Community Association and the Native Village of St. Michael. A disco dance was also held for our youth and those young at heart. Each home was delivered a bag of goodies from Santa himself, courtesy of the SMK IRA. Every household received at the time, two boxes of the energy efficient light bulbs from Kawerak. And to welcome in the New Year, a community feast was prepared and enjoyed by all. Due to the constant operation and maintenance problems that the St. Michael IRA underwent while providing the space for Kawerak Head Start, they have since moved into the old High School and are doing great in the new location. They now have adequate play space, as the gym is adjacent to the school. The Head Start Staff have been preparing for the Federal Review which is scheduled to take place in April. Tae Kwon Do has been introduced in our community; both young and old alike are participating. This will continue until the close of school. It has been well accepted by the residents. The SMK IRA annual tribal mtg. was held on Jan. 24. See attachment for results. We received pass-through money from Kawerak to maintain our local streets through an MOA between the SMK IRA and the City of SMK. This has been much appreciated with all the precipitation that has fallen. To document the amount of snowfall as well the amount of work it has taken to allow daily commute for our residents within the village, we've requested from KTP that Frank Myomick take pictures of the results. Plowed snow has been seen as high as 6' in some areas. Community building energy assessments were completed for the School, SMNC, City of SMK, and the SMK IRA by Alaska Building Science Network. ABSN personnel will be back in May to follow-up on the work to be completed by our local workforce. The SMK IRA has also upgraded our fire alarm system; this was important because every time the fire alarm went off, our furnace would shut down, causing pipes to freeze among other problems. Willie Echuck, with Kawerak Tribal Affairs paid a visit to St. Michael on March 20. He shared with us some office tips that we will be implementing, thank you Kawerak for that. EPA/IGAP staff attended a Solid Waste/Back Haul Training and Safety School in Fairbanks on Jan. 25-31 as well as the 2009 AK Forum on the Environment in Anchorage in February 1-7. Because we are phasing out of the Department of Defense, Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, we are looking into the Tribal Response Program to clean up the debris that is ineligible under DOD/NALEM. Potential projects include the metal and iron debris along our beaches and tar pit sites. As a result of our 2009 Annual Tribal Elections the following Council officers were selected at our duly convened meeting held on March 19: President-Shirley Martin; Vice President- Milton Cheemuk; Secretary-Elsie Cheemuk; Treasurer-Virginia Washington; Members-Charlie Fitka; John Lockwood and Richard Elachik Mr. Fitka was appointed by the Council to fill in the remainder of the term for Mrs. Esther Andrews which will expire in 2009. We are grateful that he is willing to take on the responsibility of serving our tribe. Happy Easter and good luck to everyone in their subsistence endeavors from our community to yours!

Teller Traditional Council: Norman Menadelook, Sr. Teller Traditional Council had members attend the 2008 BIA Providers Conference in Anchorage December 1-5. The Council donated funds to help sponsor the 2008 Community Christmas feast and the week-long games. Our Council and Grant Writer have been working in conjunction with the Kawerak Transportation staff on the road funding. Due to the storms we have had our Community has a lot of snow this year. The Teller Clinic staff moved into the new clinic on March 11, 2009. Staff and board members came to Teller and held a Community Outreach meeting on March 4, 2009 at the school gym. The meeting was informational. **KAWERAK REGIONAL CONFERENCE:** The Council sponsored two members, one elder, one youth and went half and half with Mary's Igloo Traditional Council on a chaperone to attend the conference. The attendees stated that the conference was very good. They did miss Monday due to weather. **TUMET:** Teller Traditional Council participated in a Teleconference on March 3, 2009 with Brevig Mission, Council, and Mary's Igloo Traditional Council to delegate a Board Representative and Alternate Board member for Tumet. **COMMUNITY UPDATES:** Teller is currently out of heating oil as of March 17. We have had no trash and honey bucket pick up for several months. We are low on water for the community. The Community Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled to take place Easter Sunday.

Nome Eskimo Community: Lester Keller, Jr.

Our report summarizes projects, activities and accomplishments since the beginning of the new fiscal year. We have three new Council members elected at our annual meeting in November: Chris Perkins, John Bahnke III and Lester Keller, Jr. Chris Perkins and Alfred Sahlin will serve as our representatives on the NSHC Board and Lester Keller as representative on the Kawerak Board. We have confidence that these individuals will not only represent the best interest of our membership but will work diligently for the benefit of our region. **ADMINISTRATION:** We are very pleased to announce that Debra Evans has been hired as our Accountant in January. She replaces Emma Goodwin who was promoted to the position of Deputy Director. Debra has quickly grasped nonprofit tribal accounting as well as our processes and accounting system. In a very short time, she has become valued. **TRIBAL SERVICES:** In January, Joni Ahmasuk joined us as the Youth Services Specialist, who will maintain the responsibility for our Tribal Youth Grant and the coordination of youth activities. Katie O'Conner was the Tribal Services Coordinator in December and is providing assistance to Joni, Dawn and Marsha Sloan the Tribal Services Director. Dawn Warnke, Tribal Services Specialist continues to administer Higher Education, Training and Direct Employment & Welfare Assistance services. This team has been extremely busy with the After School Study Program and community youth activities. We've held several Family Fun nights in addition to the typical "open gym" activities we've offered a variety of hands-on arts & craft activities. We've had a very high turnout for these activities, and surprisingly, a lot of fathers who participated in these activities with their children. Staff participated in several tracks during the regional conference with Joni conducting a Musk Ox harvesting presentation. During the week of Iditarod, we held our annual Mini Mukluk Basketball Clinic. This is a popular activity that draws many youth. Planning is underway for our summer cultural camp that will be held at Tom and BJ Gray's camp on the Fish River. **FAMILY SERVICES:** Mariah Sallaffie left her position as Case Manager in February. Due to the planned growth for Family Services, we are reactivating and have begun recruiting to fill the Family Services Director position. We had considered applying for the new Tribal Title IV-E Program but decided to step back for a year until a template for the required tribal plan has been created and technical support is in place. We're working on a Title V Family Preservation Grant to expand family support services and are communicating with the State on the possibility of foster parent recruitment at NEC. **HOUSING:** We finalized our partnership agreement with Rural Cap to provide Weatherization Services to the community of Nome and have recruited for four laborer trainees who will be required to participate in a training program before they are allowed to work on projects. Assessments and scope of work were completed on nine homes the materials have been ordered with work scheduled to begin in May. NEC will soon advertise for additional applications from within the community. The Housing crew completed a home renovation project in December and another will be complete by the end of March. **TRANSPORTATION:** We continue efforts to increase our annual funding allocations of the IRR Transportation program. Traffic counts, proposed roads and a bridge were added into our 2009 and 2010 inventory submittals, which should increase our funding. We finalized an MOA with the City of Nome and will soon pass-through funds for community maintenance activities. Efforts are also underway to finalize an MOA for design & construction activities with the City. **TRIBAL RESOURCES:** Austin Ahmasuk continues to advocate on behalf of NEC. In January, Austin was appointed to serve as our representative on the Eskimo Walrus Commission. Due to our request for tribal consultation, a meeting with the National Marine Fisheries Services was hosted at NEC on January 22nd. This meeting was well attended by regional representatives. Austin presented a paper addressing concerns regarding the Chinook Environmental Impact Statement and testimony was given by many participants of the meeting. In February NEC requested, through our rural legislators, that a Board of Game meeting be held in Nome. We've been advised that the Board of Game will hold their fall meeting in Nome on November 13-16 at the Mini Convention Center. We have on-going communications with EPA to secure Air Quality funds for dust control activities in the Nome area and the EPA staff will travel to Nome to meet with us this spring. Austin is currently gearing up for summer activities under NEC's Quality Assurance Protection Plan. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:** The Community Resources Guide and 2009 NEC calendars were distributed region-wide. In addition, the NEC website is in place and we've received positive feedback from tribal members and residents. Please visit our site at necalaska.org to view information on programs and on-going activities. Staff worked with NWC to develop supervisory curriculum for professional development purposes and the majority of our employees are participating in the program. Joel continues his efforts to secure funding for new services and partnerships at NEC. We submitted a 21st Century Education Grant application and staff are currently working on an Alaska Native Education Grant-both include partnerships with the Nome Public Schools. In addition, Joel is working on grants for the Tribal and Family Service Programs.

Solomon Traditional Council: Katie Stettinger

The Village of Solomon plans on applying for the 2009 Road Maintenance funds. These funds would be used for dust control, cleaning/repairing ditches and culverts and possibly pothole repair. In January, the village of Solomon hired Lorlie Shield as the ICWA Caseworker. She is a wonderful asset to the council and members. The Village of Solomon has rescheduled the Annual Meeting to the summer of 2009. We are currently updating our office equipment and office space, which has been a continuous effort. The Village of

Solomon Tribal Coordinator Kim Gray has also been working diligently on assigning tribal enrollment numbers to our membership and providing assistance to tribal members.

Native Village of Savoonga: Gregory Toolie

The Native Village of Savoonga held their annual meeting on March 13th and March 14th. We had a good turnout. We want to thank Kawerak for donating door prize items, as well as other entities. We also thank Melanie Edwards for giving a presentation, John Bioff and Helen Pootoogoolook and others. Our new school is almost finished. Electrical and inside construction is on-going; it should be done by June 2009. We had quite a few storms with one night of hurricane force winds, which did some damage to some homes. No loss of life occurred for which we are thankful for. Our whaling captains have been getting ready for the spring hunt. We've had quite a few meetings that were helpful and included a lot of information. We received a Marine Mammal Ordinance draft from John Bioff. Hopefully, we will get this signed and take action. All is well here.

Native Village of Gambell: Eddie Ungott

The month of February is one of the harshest months in Gambell. Community members have experienced hardship, especially in regards to heating fuel. Citgo has not been any help this year. However, the Native Village of Gambell has again assisted in providing the much-needed stove oil to 150 head of households in February. The NVG has now assisted in the heating fuel for the village for the last two years. It is extremely hard this year due to the high cost of stove oil being at \$7.65 a gallon. We have been constantly confronted by community members for assistance. The beginning of the New Year has brought several bereavement requests that have always been a burden of NVG. Since NVG has a Burial Assistance program, we have had many, many calls for: air-fare assistance, casket requests, funeral home bills, and funeral feast requests. This has always been a heavy burden on NVG's part. Subsistence hand-line crabbing has been going on. Those that brave the cold had been doing this on a daily basis. The Blue crabs, Dungeness, King, and Snow Crabs have always been a supplement to the daily fare for families. For that matter, hunters have brought in walrus, bearded seals, and other smaller seals (hair) whenever the weather permits. Whaling season is right around the corner and whaling harpoons and other whaling equipment is being prepared. One of the best ways to improve community issues is what we have on the Island. Gambell and Savoonga have Quarterly Island Joint Meetings where community leaders meet to discuss issues related to each community. One of the highlights of the March meeting was the discussion of the draft of the Marine Mammal Ordinance for both communities. We had input from the Eskimo Walrus Commission and John Bioff, Kawerak's Attorney, who provided input on legal issues. It is fortunate to have cooperated efforts to help improve a very critical subsistence issue in Alaska-walrus. NVG thanks Vera Metcalf (EWC) and John Bioff, both of Kawerak for their valuable input to a very important document for the people of St. Lawrence Island. Finally, NVG is sponsoring a Learner's Permit Driver training in Gambell. Sixteen individuals have applied for the training. We are providing the training through the Northwest Campus and with funding from NSEDC. This is exciting as we prepare community members' with vocational skills for the IRR project and the new Health Clinic facility. We are doing what we can to help community members obtain much needed vocational skills.

Native Village of Koyuk: Merlin Henry

Merlin Henry has been elected the IRA President for this year; Maggie Otton was re-elected to her member seat also. This coming year all 7 seats will be up for re-election. The election will take place in early December. The IRA Council asked for assistance from John Bioff, Kawerak Attorney, to come to Koyuk to introduce the changing of the election procedures/ordinance that was approved during the annual meeting in December 2008. The Elder-youth and Council members attended the Bering Strait Regional Conference in Nome in February, which was enjoyed by all who attended. The ECE/Elders had their first potluck/dinner at the Koyuk IRA Kinaq Building. The second potluck/dinner is scheduled for Friday April 3, 2009, everyone is welcome to attend. The City of Koyuk and the IRA Council have been discussing and planning for the use of transportation funds for Koyuk. Plans are to have a certified heavy equipment mechanic come to Koyuk and assess the repair work needed. Koyuk has been without operational heavy equipment for some time now. The equipment is needed to maintain the roads year round. The City of Koyuk has provided some funds that were received from NSEDC Community Benefit Share, to work on the heavy equipment. Hopefully, the equipment will get repaired. The Koyuk/Shaktoolik Easter Church Get together will be held in Koyuk beginning April 9-12, 2009, everyone is welcome to attend. Rosemary Otton is organizing a Cake Walk/Fundraiser for guest singers from out of town. NSEDC CEO Janis Ivanoff and staff were here in Koyuk for a community meeting. The community was very grateful that they made the trip to Koyuk to inform the community on the programs/benefits to the community. The meeting was well attended by community members. NSEDC has approved the request to carry over the Elder/Meal program funds from 2008 to 2009. Thank You! A lot of people from the surrounding villages are coming to hunt caribou. Fishing has picked up again. Good luck to all and happy spring.

H.R. Announces Employee of the Month: Dec. 2008 ~ May 2009

December 2008*

Kristine McRae, ABE/GED/ESL Program Specialist



As the only certified ESL instructor in the region, Kristine has made a significant impact in teaching adults the English language. Recently she helped an ABE student prepare for national certification specific to her job. This same student received her GED and is currently enrolled in distance education with UAA.

February 2009

Pam Cushman, Executive Assistant



She has a great attitude, is well organized and always has a smile on her face. When things don't go as planned, you keep a smile on your face and find a solution. You are known for saying, "We will find a way". She is a dedicated employee and brings a sense of humor to the work place. She is friendly, dependable and has a great work ethic.

February 2009

Dan Harrelson, Village Public Safety Officer



Dan has gone beyond his normal duties assisting the fire investigator. He is always willing to go an extra step when a tragedy hits White Mountain or other communities. Dan is willing to assist with new VPSO hires and is willing to talk to potential applicants about the VPSO job.

March 2009

Anna Whalin, Voc. Rehab Case Manager



Anna took the lead in working with Tribal Doctors to attend the CANAR Conference so attendees and consumers could see them as an alternative to workshops (She also secured Willie Hensley as Keynote Speaker). Anna works hard, is a dedicated and valued employee.

April 2009

Barb Fagerstrom, Accounts Payable Specialist



Barbara became a valuable employee in the short time she has been in the department; she can be counted on to be here every day with a smile on her face and ready to work. She is a fast learner and willing to learn new things. The Accounting Department is extremely lucky to have her on their team.

May 2009

Sterling Gologergen, Regional Transportation Planner



Sterling and another coworker completed a Denali Transportation Advisory Committee grant application in two days for the "shovel ready" Brevig Mission Community Street Project. Kawerak was recently awarded the \$1 million grant for Sterling's hard work.

*Editor's Notes: 1. Correction to the Winter 2009 Uqaaqtuaq News: Angela Miller was the Employee of the Month for December 2007; not December 2008.
2. Also, there is no January 2009 Employee of the Month but two awardees for February 2009.

Congratulations!



Are in order for the following employees who reached 20 years of employment with Kawerak, Inc.:

ROY ASHENFELTER, Land Manager

LORETTA BULLARD, President

GINNY EMMONS, Chief Financial Officer

MARY LONG, Education & Disabilities Specialist

FLORA MATHIAS, Head Start Teacher

ALMA SNOWBALL, Head Start Teacher

JOYCE TAKAK, Head Start Teacher

Natural Resources Welcomes New Employee

by Jack Omelak, Subsistence Resources Special Projects Assistant



Jack Omelak, Kawerak Subsistence Resources Special Projects Assistant began working in November 2008.

Currently I am involved in an ethnographic study on the historic and contemporary usage of Yellow Billed Loons on St. Lawrence Island for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The final report will be made available to interested parties by October of this year. I have also been tasked with carrying out several directives from the Bering Straits/Norton Sound

Migratory Bird Council, most notably developing an initiative for a waiver of the Federal Duck Stamp Fee for subsistence hunters and identifying methods for increasing the effectiveness and accuracy in data collection efforts by international, federal, and state agencies in the development of fish and wildlife management strategies.

I have recently finished all of my coursework for my Master's Degree in Rural Development, but my passion lies in my under-

graduate studies in anthropology. My future goals include working towards a Doctorate's Degree in Applied Archaeology, developing an archaeological field school in the region, and continuing to work closely with the villages and groups of the region towards issues concerning Heritage Construction and Cultural Resource Management.

You can reach me at (907)443-4275, or when in Nome stop by Kawerak's Ublugiaq Building Room 207.

Mike Owens celebrates 25 years as NSHC paramedic

by Lois A. Murphy, Norton Sound Health Corporation Emergency Services Director

Just over twenty-five years ago Florida native Mike Owens and his wife Pat were making plans for the adventure of a lifetime, a summer long river raft trip down the Yukon in the Alaskan wilds. They were advised to take an EMT course 'just in case.'

Soon after, the Owens' moved to Nome, where they both served with the Nome ambulance and the fledgling air ambulance service. Pat, both hospital dietician and EMT decided to work full time in the dietary department.

Mike eventually took a position in the Norton Sound Hospital EMS. In the following years, he became one of the pillars for not just the Norton Sound area EMS program, but for the state of Alaska as well.

He established the pattern that Alaskan EMS services were developed. As the Alaskan and Nome programs grew, it became the model for many services nationwide.

Mike is as well known in the legislative halls in Juneau as he is in villages throughout the Norton Sound area, and along the Iditarod trail. In remote village clinics he is welcomed as friend and competent provider for family who need medevac assistance. Generations of rural Alaskans have found him always ready to give a caring hand, and a warm smile anytime day or as it seems to be more often in the 'wee hours' of the night.

By the way, they never did take



Pictured above is Norton Sound Health Corp. paramedic Mike Owens.

that river trip of a life time. But Northwest Alaska, the Norton Sound region and Norton Sound

Hospital are truly grateful that Mike and Pat Owens decided to stay.

Circumpolar Inuit Launch Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty

Tromsø, Norway – 28 April 2009 – Inuit leaders from Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia today launched a *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty*.



In developing this declaration, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) worked with Inuit across the circumpolar Arctic over the past six months to address the increasing focus by outsiders on the Inuit homeland known as *Inuit Nunaat*. Climate change and the subsequent race for Arctic resources have forced Inuit to address questions such as 'who owns the Arctic?', 'who can traverse the Arctic?', and 'who has rights to develop Arctic resources?'

"Our declaration," said ICC Chair, Patricia Cochran, "addresses some of these questions from the position of a people who know the Arctic intimately. We have lived here for thousands and thousands of years and by making this declaration, we are saying to those who want to use *Inuit Nunaat* for their own purposes, you must talk to us and respect our rights."

The *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty* emphasizes the unity of Inuit as one people across four countries, and also addresses the unique relationships Inuit have within each respective state. The declaration makes a strong pitch that internationally-accepted human rights standards, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other international legal instruments must be respected. It also calls for close cooperation among Arctic states and Inuit on all matters of Arctic sovereignty.

ICC Vice Chair for Canada, Duane Smith, said that provisions in the declaration "Make it clear that it is in the interests of states, industry, and others to include us partners in the new Arctic, and to respect our land claims and self-government agreements."

Tatiana Achirgina, ICC Vice Chair for Chukotka stated, "We believe that this declaration will form a solid foundation for us to continue our self-government processes here in Chukotka in partnership with the Chukotka Administration and the Russian Federation."

ICC Vice Chair for Greenland, Aqqaluk Lyngge, said from Nuuk, "This is not an *Inuit Nunaat*

declaration of independence, but rather a statement of who we are, what we stand for, and on what terms we are prepared to work together with others."

The drafting of the declaration was initiated by those gathered at an Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Sovereignty, which was held in Kuujuaq, Canada, 6-7 November 2008.

Mayor Edward Itta of the North Slope Borough, who is also ICC Vice Chair for Alaska, said, "Launching our declaration is historic as it reminds us of the day ICC was established here in Barrow in 1977. This declaration will strengthen us as one people across four countries."

ICC chose Tromsø as the place to launch the declaration as it coincided with the Arctic Council foreign ministers' meeting, as well as the *Melting Ice* conference, jointly headed by Nobel peace prize winner, Al Gore, and the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. ICC leaders participated in both meetings.

For more information contact: James Stotts at (907) 274-9058 or via email at jimmy@iccalaska.org.

Did you know . . . The ALASKA BUREAU OF ALCOHOL & DRUG ENFORCEMENT offers a reward from \$50 to \$600 when a complaint is successfully reported for bootlegging or drug dealing.

If you suspect bootlegging or drug dealing in your community, take action and call the tip line toll free at: **1(800)443-2835** or send a fax to **(907) 443-5840**.

Your can remain completely anonymous. This message brought to you by the Alaska State Troopers & Kawerak, Inc. For more information about the ABADE Program go to www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/abadel/.



Kawerak, Inc.

ESKIMO HERITAGE PROGRAM Provides Family Name Translations

Below are kinship and gender terms translated by the Eskimo Heritage Program in the Qawiaraq-Southern Norton Sound dialect.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| aaka: mother | aᅇayuuqaaᅇit: family, parents & children | niᅇauk: son in law, brother in law |
| aakaksraq: step mother | aᅇayuuqaaqtuq: he or she is growing old | nukaq: younger sibling |
| aakaqan: half sibling with same mother | aᅇun: man | nukaqᅇiq: youngest sibling |
| aakauraq: old sister | aᅇagauraq: boy | nukatpiaq: young unmarried man |
| aana: grandmother | aᅇuqaksraq: old man | nukatpiaqᅇaaq: teenage boy |
| apaa: grand father | aᅇutuqan: paternal parallel cousin, child of one's father's brother | nuliaq: wife, female mate |
| aᅇauraq: old brother | apa: grandfather | nuliaᅇiik: married couple |
| aglisaaq: child raised by someone other than his/her parents | ataata: father | nuliaksraq: bride |
| aᅇnaq: woman | ataataksraq: step father | nuliilgaqtuaq: widower |
| aᅇnaqan: maternal parallel cousin; cousin of one's mother's sister | ataataqan: half sibling with same father | nuliilgasuk: bachelor |
| aᅇnatquksraq: old woman | ila: relative or companion | nuliᅇniq: widower |
| aᅇnauraq: girl | ilagiit: relatives | nutagaq: young person, teenager |
| aᅇayu: older brother or sister | ilauraq: friend | panik: daughter |
| aᅇayukᅇiq: oldest sibling | iliapak: orphan, someone w/out relatives | qataᅇun: half sibling, brother or sister with whom one shares a parent |
| aᅇayunaaq: an elder, someone older than oneself | iligaᅇruk: boy | qitunᅇaq: son |
| aᅇayuuqaak: parents | iluliᅇun: great grand child | tikiᅇaaq: newcomer, stranger, person who arrives from another place |
| | niaqsiaq: young unmarried woman | |

The Eskimo Heritage Program was created in 1981. Local Native field-workers were hired in six communities to document and record our Elders. Since the 80's, the EHP collection has been catalogued, transcribed and translated. Staff

are digitizing the entire collection, which will make the collection more accessible for education and public use.

For more information about the Eskimo Heritage Program, or to review tapes, look at pictures or donate to the collections; call Col-

leen Reynolds, EHP Director at (907)443-4386 or via email at creynolds@kawerak.org or Eva Menadelook EHP Specialist at (907)443-4387 or via email at emenadelook@kawerak.org or toll free call at 1-800-443-5977.

Kawerak, Inc.

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

Kawerak Services Directory

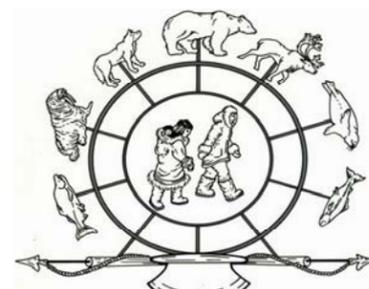
| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Administration | 443-5231 |
| Accounting | 443-4334 |
| Human Resources | 443-4373 |
| Information Systems | 443-4357 |
| Planning | 443-4345 |
| Beringia Museum of Culture & Science | 443-4340 |
| Tumet Industries, LLC | 387-0630 |
| <i>Community Services Division</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 443-4358 |
| Childcare Services | 443-9073 |
| Community Education | 800-478-7574 or 443-4468 |
| Employment & Training | 443-4358 |
| General Assistance | 800-478-5230 or 443-4370 |
| Higher Education Scholarships | 443-4358 |
| Village Based Training | 443-4388 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation | 877-759-4362 or 443-4362 |
| Youth Employment | 443-4361 |
| <i>Children & Family Services Division</i> | 443-4247 |
| Child Advocacy Center | 443-4379 |
| Children & Family Services | 800-478-5153 or 443-4393 |
| 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 |
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Uqaaqtuaq News

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Join the Kawerak Team!

Go to www.kawerak.org to review the most current job openings and to download an application. Contact the Human Resources Department for an application or for more information regarding job openings at (907)443-5231 or via email at personnel@kawerak.org.



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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)443-4345.

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