

Uqaaqtuaq News

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

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

SPRING 2010 ISSUE

Shishmaref receives 1st Automated Teller Machine

by Lahka Peacock, Rural Financial Services

On March 23, 2010, Shishmaref residents began enjoying the benefits of an ATM in their community. As one gentleman put it who attended the ATM informational workshop, "We have waited 20 years for one of these things!"

The ATM installation was part of Nome based, Rural Financial Services' initiative: "Bringing Banking to Rural Alaska." Kavik Peacock, a partner in Rural Financial Services (RFS), stated that the ATM installation in Shishmaref came about as a result of financial education workshops held this past summer in all of the Bering Strait Region's villages. "We continually heard from workshop attendees that more and more of their benefits, such as; social security, unemployment and public assistance were being deposited onto prepaid cards and receiving checks were no longer an option. Although the cards brought some conveniences they also created some prob-

lems with getting cash, so we decided to test an ATM in one village and Shishmaref was selected as the trial site."

The Shishmaref IRA Council and Kawerak's Community Planning & Development Department worked with RFS from beginning to end on the project. Lahka Peacock, RFS partner, stated that without the bright and hardworking people from these two organizations, the Shishmaref ATM would not have been possible.

Rural Financial Services has hired and trained a local Shishmaref resident as an ATM maintenance agent and plans to hire agents in other villages where ATM's are placed. "The local agents are instrumental to the long-term success of the ATM's and future banking services RFS brings to the Bering Strait Region's villages, stated RFS partner Lahka Peacock.

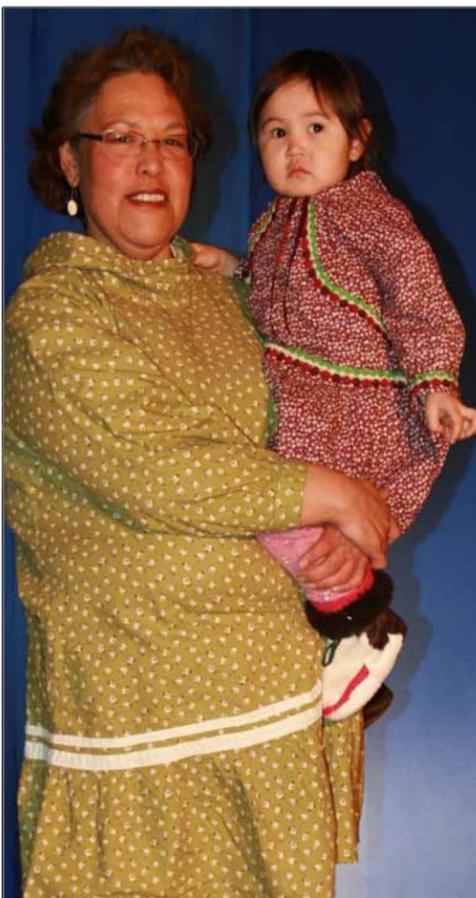
RFS hopes to bring ATMs to other villages in



Davis holds his the first cash withdrawal from the newly installed Automated Teller Machine in Shishmaref.

the Bering Strait Region soon and is already looking at the communities of Savoonga and Gambell. For more information about the Shishmaref ATM, please contact Rural Financial Services at (907)317-7193 or 304-6021.

Bering Strait Regional Conference 2010 was a huge success with hundreds of attendees, 48 workshops, 5 dance groups and lots of fun had by all! See the pictures below and on page six. All photos courtesy of Julie Raymond-Yakoubian.



Benefits of having a Village Public Safety Officer Program

by Joseph Masters, State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Commissioner

For law enforcement in rural Alaska to be truly effective, we need to recognize the need to have some type of law enforcement presence in every community.

Our Alaska State Troopers do a fantastic job of responding to reports of crime, conducting investigations and making regular visits to communities and schools. However, our current hub-and-spoke model, utilized to optimize troopers' response, certainly does not provide the presence I believe is necessary to end domestic violence and sexual assault within a decade. This administration recognizes that fact and has thereby set a goal to have a meaningful law enforcement presence in rural Alaska. We are offering every community in Alaska the opportunity to have a trained law enforcement officer – if they want one. To start, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has requested continued funding for 15 additional Village Public Safety Officer positions every year for the next 10 years as long as we can continue to fill them. Currently, there are 71

funded positions. The purpose of starting up a law enforcement presence in every community is to prevent crimes instead of simply responding and making arrests. VPSOs make a difference. Having an officer's presence has a significant impact on reducing victimization and when victimization does occur, it has an affect on our ability to prosecute. Research conducted by University of Alaska Anchorage's Justice Center determined having VPSOs reduced the rates of serious injuries caused by assaults in those communities by 40 percent. Unfortunately, there are 90 communities in Alaska with a population of more than 50 people that are without a law enforcement presence. In addition, the likelihood that the Department of Law accepted troopers' sexual assault investigations for prosecution was 3-1/2 times greater in instances where a VPSO did the initial re-

As Jacob Tobeluk Jr., a VPSO in Marshall, said, ***"It's not just the uniform, it's not just the pay, it's the community that I work for. I love making a difference in the community."***

of the country getting well-trained VPSOs in more villages will have an immediate impact in lowering the number of sexual assaults and sexual abuse of minors. VPSOs are valuable in assisting Troopers in their investigation of sexual assaults by taking the initial report, securing evidence and helping victims get the proper support.

The dedication and commitment of the VPSOs I've met around the state is amazing. As Jacob Tobeluk Jr., a VPSO in Marshall, said "It's not just the uniform, it's not just the pay, it's the community that I work for. I love making a difference in the community." These sentiments were echoed by the many other VPSOs. Fundamental to recruiting and retaining VPSOs is creating positions that provide a sense of **value, achievement, belonging and empowerment**. We have made some significant gains to strengthen compensation for VPSOs such as increasing the starting hourly wage from \$17 to \$21 and implementing an automatic graduated increase for lon-



Commissioner Joseph Masters

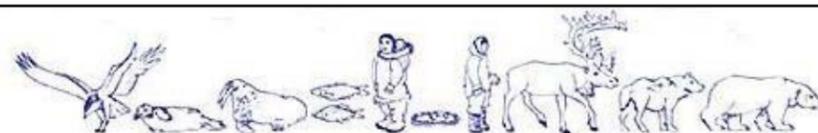
gevity. Future plans include adding cost of living increases and facilitating the development of quality housing. I am very pleased with Governor Sean Parnell's request of \$1 million in Alaska Housing Financing Corporation grants and low-interest loans to assist communities in building VPSO housing. These investments are working and have resulted in a 50 percent increase in filled positions over the past two years. In addition to providing critical support for the troopers, VPSOs' duties includes misdemeanor criminal investigations, search and rescue, emergency trauma treatment, assisting health aides and maintaining and organizing a fire department and its equipment and most importantly, do community policing. DPS provides training

Continued on Page 7 See Benefits of VPSO

Editor's note correction: pictured to right is Henry Nashalook. His father was the last known Chief of Unalakleet not Henry as noted in the previous issue of the newsletter.



sponse. In a state that has more than twice the average of forcible rapes as the rest



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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,
- Education, Employment & Training,
- Children and Family Services,
- Natural Resources and Transportation

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

Eskimo Heritage Program Featured Story

This is from the archives of Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program. Stop by their office and view their photos, slides, translated stories or videos. Article and photo submitted by Colleen Reynolds, EHP director and Eva Mendalook, EHP specialist.

Reindeer Herding *Interview with Emma Willoya conducted April 20, 1980.*

In the spring the reindeer begin to shed their hair. The flies irritate their skin, and the hide is no good to use. Often they move out to the coast to wade in the ocean, lapping up salt. They drink water from the streams and eat fresh greens. When they finish shedding, the skin becomes strong again and the deer grow fat. They stay lean while shedding because of the bugs and flies.

The herders watch the herd closely in the spring while the deer are fawning. They have to notch the fawn's ear to match its mother's earmark. Later in June, they look them over to decide which fawns will make good sled deer. They say, "Someone should try out that deer." So they catch the fawn with a lasso and tie it to the ground for a few days. They use a long line so it won't tangle. In this way, the fawn gets used to the line.

Then the handler brings a collar and harness and puts them on, one at a time. The fawn fights them. It jumps and runs like a bucking horse. But it is still tied to the ground. Pretty soon, it begins to respect the line, then the collar and harness.

A sled deer wears a specially made collar and harness. It must fit snugly and not tickle the deer anywhere. It should be pliable and durable. There is a line to the sleigh, long so that the sleigh does not hit the hind legs of the deer. A line is attached to the tines on the deer's antlers to make him turn. That is why the deer must learn to respect that first long line, for it is just one line which controls and steers a sled deer.

The deer must learn all this. It cannot be force-trained. During training, the deer is handled and talked to, so it gets used to everything. A handler must be patient to tame a wild deer. It is time-consuming work. That is what reindeer herding is all about.

Then summer comes. The herders have been watching the deer all this time. They must decide which young bulls will be castrated to make steers. These steers will be driven to Anchorage and sold for reindeer meat.

Our summers are not very long. Starting in June when we pick our greens, then July, August, September. You look around and some of the deer are peeling already. Look, holy smokes! Some of them are turning into bulls! They have to be caught and castrated before

they become too wild and too many. Now they begin to fight. Sometimes the bulls get their horns so tangled that the herders have to saw them apart. They cut their horns right off.

There's no fooling about that. Reindeer have to be watched day and night, if there's going

The herder also uses the hide and leggings to keep his family warm. None of the skins or leggings are wasted. They are not spoiled. Even the newborn fawn skins are used for kids' parkas because they are so light. Mothers use them to pack their babies in. Month-old fawn skins are used for men's pants and outside parkas. Hides are tanned differently for different purposes. Hand-tanned, home-tanned skins are more durable. They last longer and are warmer than skins tanned Outside.

Why? A skin tanned Outside is soft like cloth and nice to touch. But it draws moisture. If it's used for a parka, it draws cold air. Someone wearing it will get frozen cheeks. If it's used for boots, it draws moisture and gets more wet inside than outside. I've seen this. There's no fooling about that. Native Inupiaq learned that long before the white people came.

When I was working for the Nome Skin Sewers, one big boss came to me. He slapped his hand on the desk and said, "You're going to make me nothing but Outside-tanned boots. These skins stink too much!"

So I said, "But they're not going to keep you warm."

"You make them for me Outside-tanned anyway!"

So we made them Outside-tanned. Later on, he came in, the big shot, and sat by the heating stove. I was in the other room, taking inventory, when one of the sewers called, "Emma, you have to come out here! This man won't listen!" Here the man had taken off his mukluks and put them on top of the heating stove!

"Good Lord! You can't do that! Look what you did!" I went and picked them up. They were shriveled on the bottom. When I touched them, they tore to pieces. I told him, "You spoiled your mukluks! I told you they wouldn't last! Outside-tanned mukluks draw moisture and freeze your feet!" He wanted to dry them right away and he cooked them.

He began to understand that Eskimos knew a little more than he did. Next time he ordered Alaska-tanned mukluks and his feet were never cold again. Even in wet and snowy weather he wasn't cold.



Emma Willoya at the Nome Skin Sewers. Photo from EHP Archives.

to be a herd. A nice big herd, enough for their families. That is the way the reindeer herders were taught.

Now, if the herders see a reindeer with a swollen foot, too tender to step on, they never say, "Save that deer." They kill it. It's not good even for eating. If they leave it alone, soon the leg will swell up and puss will start running on the hoof. If it walks around where the other deer are feeding, then the infection spreads to the herd. The herder must keep infected deer apart from the herd. That's what we learned from the Laplanders.

It is important to keep the herd down, not to ruin the grazing grounds with too many deer. We take a fat deer for food for the winter. Kill it, sell the hindquarters, and keep the forequarters for our children at home. One common way to dispose of the meat is to sell it for dog food. Also, reindeer could be sold commercially, but then it has to be handled and labeled properly.

Traveling? Moving or leaving for College? What should you know about Contract Health Services.

by Jackie Karmun, Patient Advocate

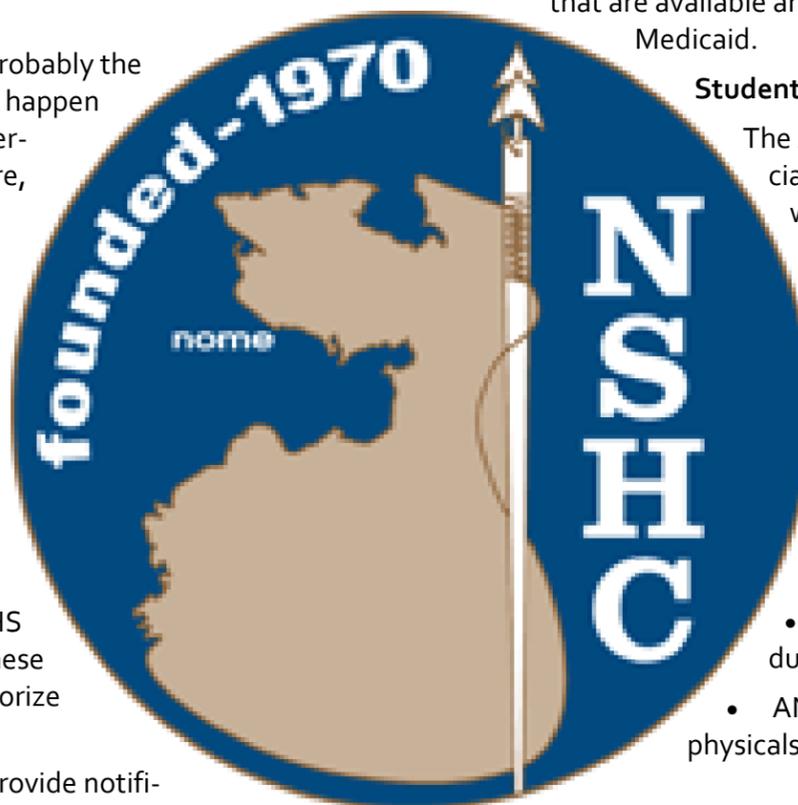
Indian Health Services provides a limited amount of funding to Norton Sound Health Corporation for the medical care you receive within our region. NSHC does not have funds available to pay for the medical care you may receive while traveling or moving outside of our service unit.

Travelers/Movers:

While traveling, getting sick/hurt is probably the last thing you would like or expect to happen to you. Should you end up in the Emergency Room at a hospital, chances are, you will receive a bill for the medical care you received. In this case, the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Contract Health Services (CHS) program may be able to provide assistance.

The ANMC CHS Traveler/Mover Program grants approval of payment for the emergency medical care you may receive while traveling or moving out-of-state. However, CHS funds are limited. You must follow these requirements for ANMC CHS to authorize payment:

- You or a family member must provide notification to ANMC CHS at 1-800-478-1636 within 72 hours of being treated. After hours, please leave a message stating your full name, date of birth and a contact number.
- An IHS hospital ("Native Hospital") must be used if available. Visit the Indian Health Services website at <http://www.ihs.gov/index.cfm?module=AreaOffices> to review the list of facilities.
- If you are moving outside the State of Alaska, ANMC CHS will provide authorization for emergency medical services for 180 days. Please keep all airline tickets, boarding passes, ferry system tick-



ets, and/or gas receipts for proof of the date you left and returned.

- ANMC CHS will need your medical records from the hospital that you were treated at. You must submit a request for medical records from that hospital and have them sent to ANMC CHS.
- You will be required to apply for and use all alternate resources that are available and which you may be eligible for, such as Medicaid.

Students:

The ANMC CHS program may also grant financial assistance for medical care you receive while attending school outside the State of Alaska. In addition to the conditions listed above, some things to keep in mind include:

- You need to maintain your Alaska residency
- You need to be a full-time student attending a vocational, technical or academic program; a letter of verification from the school is required
- You will not be covered by ANMC CHS during summer break
- ANMC CHS will not cover routine care (i.e. physicals, vision, dental)

For detailed information on ANMC's Traveler/Mover and Student Programs and requirements, please call Contract Health Services at 1-800-478-1636 or your NSHC Patient Advocate at 907-443-4212. Additional information can be obtained from their website at www.anthc.org/ps/contracthealthsvc/. (At the top of the page, move your cursor over ANMC and then click on Contract Health Services. You may then click on any of the links listed on the right hand side of the screen in order to view detailed information.)

Community Health Services in the Bering Strait Region

By Jaylene Wheeler, Community Health Services

For families based in area villages, health care services are grounded in the community health aide/practitioner program, or CHA/P. This article briefly reviews three CHA/P related topics, including operations, key points and the importance of community support.

CHA/P personnel are based in the Village Health Services (VHS) Department and are a critical partner in the health care referral system at the Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC). Other key players in the village health care delivery

system include mid-level providers and physicians. These teams are connected to both the Health Aide Training (HAT) Center and the Hospital Services Division.

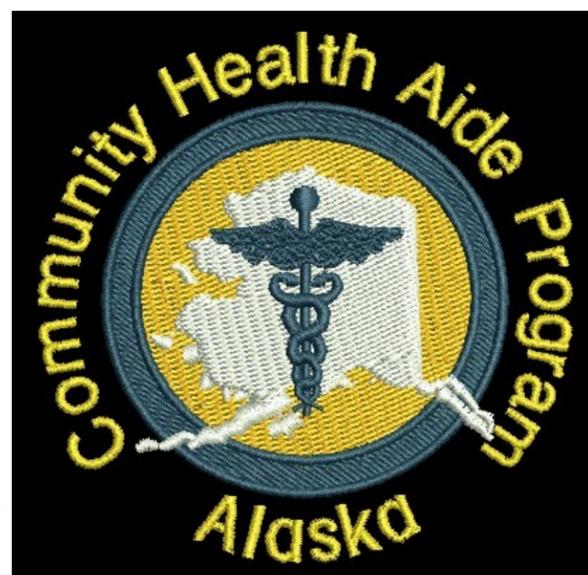
Community support is important to maintaining an efficient and fully-staffed CHA/P program. As a part of his/her training, each CHA/P is required to attend 3-4 weeks of training, per session. This means CHA/P are away from their family and home on a regular basis. With the turn-over rate averaging about 20% (2 of every 10 people), both internal (NSHC) and external (community, etc.) support is necessary.

At the present time, four Supervisor/Instructors (S/I) oversee 55+ health aides or practitioners. Each

supervisor/instructor is assigned villages of which they are responsible to supervisor, support and maintain credentials for (i.e. certification and training). In addition, each clinic has a Clinic Travel Clerk (CTC). This individual takes care of key activities such as patient registration, scheduling and travel.

The CHA/P program is unique to Alaska. While developed in 1950 as a result of the tuberculosis epidemic, it did not receive formal recognition and congressional funding until nearly twenty years later in 1968). Over 500 CHA/P are

based throughout Alaska. Each CHA/P is required to follow the Community Health Aide Manual, or CHAM. For more information about the CHA/P program, please see: www.akchap.org.



GOCADAN Study reaches Phase 2 *by Jaylene Wheeler, Community Health Services*

The Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) is a partner in a unique research study called the Genetics of Coronary Artery Disease in Alaska Natives, or GOCADAN. The research is funded by the National Institutes of Health (www.nih.gov). An active and systematic process of discovering new information, health research can help a community better understand disease or illness.

The aim of GOCADAN is to identify how genetic and environmental factors may contribute to heart and vascular disease. This is important due to rapid changes in both diet and lifestyle among the region's population. Individuals who consented to the study in 2000 ("study participant") were asked to participate in Phase 2. Current research activities, or

Phase 2, will be completed by June 2010.

The screening process involves a variety of procedures, including a physical exam, blood pressure check and blood draw. If a participant health issue is identified (ex. high blood pressure), he/she is referred to NSHC for appropriate care. This referral process was required by NSHC as a study partner.

Since 2005, the GOCADAN study has led to new-found data, i.e. publications. This could have not been done without the voluntary participation of Norton Sound area residents. The GOCADAN team has produced 13 manuscripts 33 abstracts and various informational resources. For a detailed list of these resources, please visit: gocadan.sfbgenetics.org/public/publications.html.

Electroneuromyography at NSHC

Submitted by Mary J. David, MPA Assistant Vice President, Hospital Services

What is Electroneuromyography?

A test more commonly known as an EMG. In reality it could be an EMG or an NCV (Nerve Conduction Study) or a combination of the two depending on how the patient presents.

What types of patients are referred for this testing?

People referred for this test are hav-

ing pain, numbness, and/or weakness in one or more extremities and there is no clear understanding of why this is occurring. The most common reasons include: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Radiculopathy (pinched nerve in neck or low back), Peripheral Neuropathy (Diabetes, alcohol related, or other reasons, or muscle diseases).

Continued on page 7 see EMG



NSHC hires Jackie Karmun as new Patient Advocate

One of her job duties is to assist with patient logistics. She is currently focusing her efforts on preventing issues from arising during patient travel to and from the villages, Alaska Native Medical Center or treatment facilities located out-of-state. Jackie is in the process of researching all areas of patient travel and is compiling the information into a Patient Travel Flowchart. This flowchart will be used as a reference and a guide for all employees that are involved in the travel process. It will also be used as a tool to help orient NSHC staff who are involved in either referring or coordinating travel for village-based patients. This may include CHA/P, clinic travel clerks, midlevel providers, physicians and travel staff.

Another of Jackie's job duties is to ensure that all patients are able to navigate easily through the NSHC system of appointments, referrals, and services provided. One of the ways she will work to prevent patient navigational issues is by creating patient education materials. The educational materials will be based on input gathered from patients via Patient Satisfaction Surveys, research from the patient

travel process, input from providers and their support staff, as well as the expectations of NSHC's systems/processes.

Finally, the Patient Advocate will be assisting in the development and implementation of customer service and patient relations initiatives. Jackie will help to coordinate a team effort within NSHC to build a "Patient First" culture through department training.

Although Jackie is the only employee with the "Patient Advocate" title, advocacy at NSHC involves more than the new position. For the "Patient First" philosophy to reach patients throughout the entire service unit, a team approach is necessary by all programs. In addition to our providers and support staff, NSHC's advocacy team consists of five Patient Benefits Specialists, five Case Managers, and two Social Workers. Since Jackie is a new employee in a brand new position, if she can't help you, she'll be happy to find someone who can! Her office is located upstairs in Administration or you can reach her by phone at 443-4212. She is available Monday thru Friday, from 8AM to 5PM.

Community Emergency Planning

By Jaylene Wheeler, Community Health Services

Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) President/CEO Carol Piscoya is encouraging each village in the region to develop a community emergency plan. The goal is for village-based medical staff to provide patient care should an emergency occur, as opposed to coordinating community needs such as water/sewer, electricity and transportation. This is where a community plan becomes critical.

As explained by Emergency Preparedness Consultant William "Pete" Petram, it is best when a community is proactive, considers potential threats (pandemic flu or flooding, for example) and identifies a means for providing adequate response as, or if, necessary.

If you are a village leader, such as a city or IRA/traditional council member, ANTHC is willing to provide community emergency

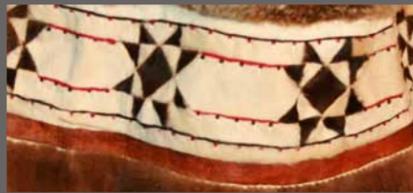
preparedness training in your home community. This service is available free of charge. The point of contact is Pete Petram, who can be reached at (907) 495-6360 or by e-mail at wpetram@anthc.org. All that is required is an invitation from the city mayor and/or IRA/traditional council president, as well as participation from key stakeholders. Stakeholders include representatives from city councils, IRA/traditional councils, village corporations and school districts.

Planning can help a community prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency situation. Visit www.ak-prepared.com/plans/ to view the template for a small-community model plan.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium emphasizes that by being prepared, communities can save lives and lessen injury; minimize property damage; and decrease costs, while maximizing reimbursement for eligible expenses.

Bering Strait Regional Conference 2010 Making history ~ Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Photos by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian



KAWERAK, INC.
General Program Information

Early Head Start



Head Start & Early Head Start Programs

PO Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762
 Phone: (907) 443-9056 • Fax: (907)443-5570
 Toll-free 1(800) 443-5294
 email: headstart@kawerak.org



Early Head Start (EHS) is a new program of Kawerak, Inc. It is a Federally and State funded program for income eligible families for children (birth to age three) within the center based model and prenatal to age three within the home based model.

What makes EHS different from childcare? Early Head Start is committed to your child's developmental success. Our program will provide your child with an initial developmental screening within 45 days of enrollment. The results of these screenings will serve as an introduction to your child's developmental skills and ensure that we are doing all we can to meet your child's individual needs. This is only the initial step of on-going screening including on

-going observation, continued screenings, and most important **PARENT INPUT**. This will ensure that we are meeting the needs of your child and family.

Early Head Start is committed to the health of your child. Through on-going monitoring of immunizations and EPSDT requirements our staff will help to ensure that your child is on the right track for healthy development.

Early Head Start classrooms have a ratio of one teacher to every four children. This ratio is much lower than the state licensing requirements which ensures that our children have the highest level of care during their time at Early Head Start.

Program Options (Elim & Brevig Mission): Center Based Part Day - Provides care for infants and toddlers, Monday thru Thursday.

Home Based Option (Nome): Provides Weekly 1 1/2 hour home visits in the child's home. We use curriculum that focuses on the parents as a child's first and best teacher.

Center Based Full Day Option (Nome): The center based full day option provides extended day classrooms for infants and toddlers. *There is a monthly charge for this option.*

Continued from page 2, **Benefits of VPSO Program**

and oversight for the program and troopers provide guidance. A VPSO is also directed by community leaders, giving the community a direct influence to better meet their own needs. I applaud the efforts of Alvin Jimmie Sr., the VPSO coordinator for the Association of Village Council Presidents, who has filled 20 of his 24 positions with Alaska Natives. All 20 either grew up in the village or a neighboring village. When you hire locally, the community has significant input in how their officers perform, what they focus on and can help provide solutions. There is a sense of pride and accom-

plishment in making the place you grew up safer. Just ask VPSO Tobeluk. VPSOs make a difference.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Masters has spent 28 years in law enforcement including positions as a Village Police Officer, VPSO, Municipal Police Officer and Alaska State Trooper.



Village Public Safety Officer 2010 Spring Academy Graduates. VPSO from Bering Strait region include: Back row is VPSO Linn Jr. 1st from left, VPSO Stotts 2nd from left, VPSO Navarro, 5th from left. VPSO Nayopuk is front row 5th from left.

Continued from page 5, **EMG Electromyography**

What does the study consist of? First, a complete examination is performed according to the patient complaints. Then the Electromyographer (Joe Kennedy, PT/NSHC) will choose which nerves/muscles to study and by which method.

If nerve conduction only, then surface electrodes are placed on the skin and then further up the nerve shocks are administered. The electrodes detect how long it takes for the shock to get to them and how much of the electricity makes it to the electrodes. Then the computer calculates if the time and amounts are normal compared to normative data that has been collected over many years.

If EMG is used, then a needle (fine wire electrode) is placed into the appropriate muscles. This is to test the health of the muscle cells and how they respond to the needle and voluntary movement by the patient. It can tell if there has been an injury to the nerve that supplies the muscle. Finally, the data is looked over and an "Impression" is formed. This impression is shared with the referring physician so he/she can make a determination if the patient needs to be referred to a specialist or undergo more conservative management.

Where were these studies done before? In the past, beneficiaries were referred to Alaska Native Medical Center's (ANMC) Physical Therapy Department and those with third party insur-

ance would be referred to one of the few Neurologists or Physiatriests in Anchorage that perform these studies. There is almost always, at least, a two week wait list at ANMC.

Why bring this technology to Norton Sound region?

- ✦ Many people do not want to travel to Anchorage for this type of testing and would rather stay nearer to home.
- ✦ Decreased costs for NSHC for the patients without other insurance.
- ✦ Decreased cost for non-beneficiaries with third party insurance. Faster turnaround time and improved feedback to local physicians regarding their patients.



More than one way to butcher reindeer

Savoonga residents learned new meat-cutting tricks during a demonstration by the Northwest Campus High Latitude Range Management (HLRM) Program in January.

Savoonga reindeer herders provided two carcasses and invited Heikki Muhonen, HLRM meat sciences consultant, to conduct the demonstration.

About 20 community members attended, including a group of young men.

Muhonen, who has been a reindeer husbandry and meat sciences instructor for many years, opened by acknowledging local traditional reindeer butchering techniques. He asked his audience to keep an open mind as he shared how he learned to butcher reindeer in his home country of Finland.

Since there were two carcasses, Heikki invited participants to butcher one reindeer as they watched him butcher the other.

"It was exciting to see the young men quickly volunteer," said Trisha Walters, HLRM program coordinator, who traveled to Savoonga with Muhonen.

Michael Karlik took the lead. He followed Muhonen's movements step by step. Others helped Muho-



Heikki Muhonen holds up a section of deboned reindeer rib meat while Michael Karlik works to produce the same cut.

nen and Karlik by positioning and holding the reindeer as various cuts were made.

With the great teamwork, both reindeer were soon deboned. Everyone was surprised when Karlik said

it was his first time butchering a reindeer, since he did such a great job.

Participants were most impressed with Muhonen's technique for deboning ribs, which resulted in one large piece of rib meat.

"It's the first time I've ever seen that done," said Carolyn Kava.

Muhonen told participants to place potatoes, onion, and other vegetables inside the boneless rib meat, roll it up like a log, and roast it.

"We learned something new from him: taking those ribs off," said Peggy Akeya. She looked forward to going home and trying it herself.

Participants were delighted to take home some of the freshly cut reindeer meat. The remaining meat was donated to Savoonga's Elder Lunch Program.

HLRM Program prepares students for natural resources jobs

While in Savoonga for the reindeer meat cutting workshop, Trisha Walters, High Latitude Range Management Program coordinator for Northwest Campus, shared information about her program with community members.

The 31-credit HLRM certificate is an accredited, two-year University of Alaska Fairbanks program that helps prepare rural students for entry-level employment in the field of natural resources. For students accepted into the program,

tuition, fees, and other costs are covered by NWC through grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Last year, the HLRM program purchased a mobile meat science laboratory that will be equipped for production of certified reindeer meat. In the future, this lab will be barged to area villages so they can process reindeer meat.

NWC is seeking funds to purchase another van to equip for cutting, processing and packag-

ing reindeer meat, potentially tripling the value of each carcass.

NWC's next step is to develop an Inspected Slaughter Certificate and a Cutting & Processing Occupational Endorsement. The meat science lab and meat processing van will be used for meat sciences instruction.

Contact Trisha Walters if you are interested in the HLRM Program. Toll-free: 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8439, or 443-8439. Email: trisha.walters@alaska.gov.



CNA student Carol Seppilu of Nome practices skills with Rae Olanna of Shishmaref posing as a patient, using a vacant patient room at Norton Sound Regional Hospital.

Five more nurse aides trained

Five students who completed a recent Nurse Aide Training course offered through Northwest Campus have earned state certification and are ready to work.

The annual course involves training both in Nome and in Fairbanks, at the 90-bed Denali Center long-term care facility. Students work hard and study long hours to earn nine college credits in just over two months.

The newly-licensed CNAs include Carol Seppilu of Nome; Rae Olanna of Shishmaref; Dorothy Kava of Savoonga; Logan Gusty

of Stoney River; and Katie Miller of Teller. Brenda Evak of Nome also completed training and is awaiting state testing. A consortium of agencies in the region work together to organize and fund the course.

Working as a CNA opens the door to a nursing career. Nome will be a host site for the University of Alaska Anchorage two-year nursing program starting this January. More than 30 credits of courses are required before a student can be admitted to the nursing program. To get started, contact an NWC advisor! Call 1-800-478-2202.

Opera, art galleries and film festival bring course content to life for teacher aides taking arts class

To really study art, you have to experience it.

So students in a recent art appreciation course at Northwest Campus took a field trip to Anchorage Feb. 5-6 to visit art galleries, the opera, and a film festival.

All students in the class were Bering Strait School District teacher aides, working toward college degrees with support from BSSD.

The course, "Aesthetic Appreciation: The Inter-relationship of Art, Music, and Theater," is a multicultural survey of art and culture beginning with prehistoric art, and is unique in the way it discusses relationships between art forms.

Instructor for the course was NWC adjunct Wesley Jessup, who is also Beringia Museum project director for Kawerak.

The weekend began Friday morning, Feb. 5, with a behind-the-scenes preview of the Smithsonian Gallery at the Anchorage Museum, with gallery director Aaron Crowell.

Crowell showed the group how Alaska Native art from across the state was to be presented in state-of-the-art cases and featured at video stations. Over 800 pieces of Alaska art will return to the state

for the first time from the Smithsonian Museum of National History in Washington, D.C.

The class then toured the rest of the art museum, viewing traditional works, and pieces using experimental materials and media.

The group also visited the International Gallery of Contemporary Art and the Alaska Native Art Foundation gallery, and learned about the art market in the Bering Strait region.

Students ended the first day at the Indigenous World Film Festival at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where they watched three films and met Homer-born actress Q'orianka Kilcher, who starred as Pocahontas in the Christian Bale movie *The New World*.

The festival showed students that filmmakers all over the world are tackling engaging and sometimes difficult topics about First Nations and the challenges and strength of sustaining cultural identity and practice.

On Saturday, the class visited Alaska art collector and businesswoman Alice Rogoff Rubenstein, who is on the board of the Nome Native Art Center and founded the Alaska Native Arts Foundation. Rogoff discussed the work in her



ART F200X students (seated from left) Zilma Joe, Nancy Jackson, Ethel Fuller, Sam Otton, and Rachel Olson (standing, right) visit Alice Rogoff Rubenstein's home in Anchorage. Standing at left are Aprille Pitt (BSSD staff working with teacher aide education) and Rogoff.

collection, much of which is from the Bering Strait region.

The trip closed with the group attending a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at the Anchorage Opera. The class experienced how this art form weaves together music, art, and theater in ways tragic, humorous and always very dramatic.

All costs of the field trip were covered by BSSD through its

Alaska Native Education grant, which funds courses for BSSD teacher aides seeking a college degree. BSSD pays for tuition, books, and supplies for courses that teacher aides want to take as part of their degree plans. Teacher aides pay the bills up front via deductions from their paychecks, and are reimbursed by BSSD when they complete the course with a grade of "C" or better.



Instructor Glen Tate (center) with students Ryan Akeya (left) and Preston Rookok.

Driven to succeed

More area residents are getting behind the wheel, thanks to some recent courses offered by Northwest Campus.

In March, NWC adjunct instructor Glen Tate traveled to Savoonga to teach a Commercial Driver and Safety Education course. Several weeks later, Barb Amarok, NWC Title III program development manager, administered the state Department of Motor Vehicles general knowledge and air brakes tests in Savoonga. As a result, four Savoonga residents earned an off-road commercial driver's license: Ryan Akeya, Preston Rookok, Bryan Rookok Jr., and Tiffany Rookok.

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and the Native Village of Savoonga funded the training.

In May, NWC developmental studies instructor Mike Rutledge traveled to Savoonga to teach a workshop to prepare students to get a state driver's permit. By the end of the course, 28 Savoonga residents had passed the written test to get a permit.

Since then, at least three students have gone on to earn their driver's licenses, coming to Nome to take behind-the-wheel instruction from Jim Adams. The Savoonga permit training was funded by Northwest Campus and Kawerak's Education, Employment and Training Program. The Nome-based behind-the-wheel training was funded by Kawerak's Youth Employment Program.

Financial aid opportunities at Northwest Campus

Mike Saclamana Scholarship

Each year, Northwest Campus awards two \$500 scholarships to Northwest Campus students who are pursuing a degree. To be eligible, students must demonstrate a commitment to continuing their education, community service, and leadership. Next deadline to apply: April 11, 2011.

Northwest Campus Scholarship

This scholarship covers the cost of tuition, books, and fees. It is meant to be a supplemental scholarship after other funding sources have been sought. This opportunity is open to any student in the Bering Strait region who is taking courses through

UAF or Northwest Campus. Deadline to apply: two weeks prior to the start of your class.

Needs-Based Tuition Waiver

This waiver covers only tuition for classes offered through Northwest Campus. To be eligible, students must demonstrate financial need. Deadline to apply: two weeks before the start of your class.

For more information on any of these scholarships or for an application, visit the Northwest Campus website (nwc.uaf.edu) or contact Liz Guthier by email (elizabeth.guthier@alaska.edu) or by phone: 443-8403 or 1-800-478-2202, ext 8403.

Fall registration starts July 26

It's never too early to think about getting back to school!

Registration for the fall semester for courses offered by Northwest Campus and the College of Rural and Community Development will officially open on Monday, July 26.

Copies of the fall schedule have been mailed to all post office boxes in Bering Strait region villages, and will be available in the Nome post office lobby.

The schedule can also be viewed

online from a link at our web site: www.nwc.uaf.edu.

Northwest Campus staff will be available to assist with registration as of Monday, August 2.

Before August 2, students can register into some courses online at: uaonline.alaska.edu.

Due to construction at our campus this fall, in-person registration will take place in the NWC Sepala Building at 303 Moore Ave., behind the Aurora Inn.

Considering A Roadmap Forward: The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

by Denise Michels, City of Nome Mayor, Alaska Municipal League President and Transportation Director for Kawerak, Inc.

The University of Alaska's Institute for Applied Circumpolar Policy's held a workshop in October titled, "Considering a Roadmap Forward: The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment" in Fairbanks with international participants actively involved to review and discuss the policy issues facing circumpolar nations identified in the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Report 2009.

This report is the first step to move those recommendations forward. The workgroup participants came up with implementation strategies, identified stakeholders that should be involved, and provided a timeline that is concrete.

As a representative for Inuit Circumpolar Council at this meeting, I conveyed the message that the recommendations under Section II. "Protecting Arctic People and the Environment" of the report is vitally important as a permanent discussion; ICC will be at the table and consulted with at the local level regarding laws, regulations and policies which are being framed by the national and international bodies, as it will have a direct impact on our way of life.

As the Mayor for the City of Nome and the Transportation Director for Kawerak, Inc., a regional non-profit that provides services in the Bering Strait Region, I gave a report on the economic opportunities that Nome's port, as a hub community for the Bering Strait region, is

witnessing with the increase in Arctic shipping. Since 1990 the Port of Nome had 34 ports of call and at the end of 2009 we had 301 total dockings. Of those vessels that used Nome's port, in 2008 three vessels successfully navigated through the Northwest Passage and in 2009 four vessels completed the same trip. There was also an increase in ports of call with the Chukchi Lease Sales in 2008. Our message is clear-- we are witnessing an increase in Arctic Ocean vessel traffic and this increase is happening now and we need to be proactive instead of reactive.

As a member of the Infrastructure Workgroup we created a "roadmap forward" for the four recommendations under "Section III. Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure" of the report. After completing the draft implementation strategy, identifying stockholders, and establishing deadlines it was apparent that it will take major coordination to get the implementation strategies through various NGO's (need to spell out), national and international governments and agencies. The University of Alaska-Fairbanks's Dr. Mike Sfraga, Director, Geography Program and Associate Dean, School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences will provide the draft report to participants in the coming weeks.

I hope that ICC will play a strong role in facilitating discussions in the Arctic States/Nations to ensure Indigenous communities are provided with the information to allow leaders at the local, state, national and international level to be well informed and to ensure leadership participate in the process. ICC has a diverse



membership that has a full depth of knowledge that ICC should tap into to help aid and navigate through the intertwined bureaucracy to complete the end results.

As the Mayor for the City of Nome and Transportation Director for Kawerak I will continue to advocate proactively to see these recommendations move forward and I look forward to working with ICC to review draft policies and regulations and participate in the discussion, analyze impacts and be fully engaged with the development of these implementation strategies.

For more information go to www.arctic-council.org

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Call 443-5231 for more info.

Kawerak's Spring 2010 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

First	Last Name	College or University Name	Major
Edmond	Aketachunak	University of Alaska Anchorage	Business Administration
Marjorie	Akeya	University of Alaska Anchorage	Education
Madelyn	Alvanna-Stimpfle	University of Alaska Anchorage	Early Childhood Education
Candice	Amaktoolik	University of Alaska Fairbanks	English
Dianna	Amaktoolik	Charter College	Medical Assisting
Dwight	Amaktoolik	University of Alaska Anchorage	Automotive Technology
Vernae	Angnaboogok	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Rural Development
Kimberly	Ayek	University of Alaska Anchorage	Exercise Science K-12 Physical Education
Denise	Baldwin	University of Alaska Anchorage	Culinary Arts
Rachael	Bauman	University of Alaska Anchorage	Business Administration
Amber	Bradley	University of Alaska Anchorage	Pre-Nursing
Jonathan	Clark	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Diesel Heavy Equipment
Jenny	Dill	Arizona State University	Philosophy
William	Dixon	University of Alaska Anchorage	Education
Giaana	Eckenweiler	University of Alaska Anchorage	Biological Sciences
Kaare	Erickson	University of Alaska Anchorage	Cultural Anthropology
Michelle	Fancher	Alaska Christian College	Undeclared
Hazel	Freytag	University of Alaska Anchorage	Biology
Trisha	Gray	University of Alaska Southeast	Business Administration - HR Management
Shannon	Hawkins	University of Alaska Anchorage	Undeclared
Brenda	Henry	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Elementary Education
Roy	Henry	University of Alaska Fairbanks-NWC	Computerized Information System
Tia	Holley	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Social Work
Gussie	Ivanoff	University of Minnesota	Doctor of Physical Therapy
Renae	Ivanoff	University of Idaho	Pre-Medical (Biology)
Tricia	Ivanoff	Southwestern Oregon Community College	Physical Therapy
Ruth	Johnson	Kenai Peninsula College	Elementary Education
Sasha	Johnson	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Biology
Kerilee	Katongan	University of Alaska Anchorage	Mechanical Engineering
Sarah	Katongan	University of Alaska Anchorage	Undeclared
George	Koontz	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Elementary Education
Leona	Lien	Alaska Pacific University	MBA Info. & Communication Technology
Patricia	Lillie	Michigan State University	Educational Administration
Stephanie	Lincoln	University of Alaska Anchorage	Nursing
John	Longley	Clark Community College	Japanese
Billi	Miller	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Elementary Education
DeAnn	Moore	Lesley University	Education Fine Arts
Lainey	Oates	University of Alaska Fairbanks	General Studies Associates of Arts
Theresa	Olanna	University of Alaska Anchorage	Health Sciences - PA
Angela	Olsen	Green River Community College	Nursing
Maronda	Olson	Kenai Peninsula College	Biblical Studies
Cheryl	Ongtawasruk	Fort Lewis College	Graphic Design
Tamara	Ongtawasruk	Fort Lewis College	Sociology
Nichole	Otton	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Accounting
Natalie	Perry	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Rural Development
Denise	Pollock	University of Massachusetts	Government and Legal services
Heather	Santin	Folsom Lake College	General Education
Eugene	Sarren	Kenai Peninsula College	Process Technology
Ralph	Sinnok	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Civil Engineering
Quenna	Szafran	University of Alaska Anchorage	Nursing
Janice	Tom	Charter College	Criminal Justice
Iris	Topkok	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Early Childhood Education
Marjorie	Tully	University of Alaska Anchorage	General Studies Associates of Arts
Elaine	Tweto	Western Washington University	History
Emmylou	Vial	Fort Lewis College	Psychology
Katie	Wilson	University of Alaska Fairbanks-NWC	Accounting - Business Administration
Amber	Wilson	University of Alaska Anchorage	Elementary Education

Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held April 7 ~ 8, 2010 in Nome.

Below are the Village Reports from each representative.

Native Village of Diomed (NVD): by Frances Ozenna
Bering Air landed on ice airstrip on Feb 2. We are very pleased to have airplanes on a daily basis considering the hardship we felt last year with practically no passenger transportation services from July -Nov 2009. We are very thankful for Kawerak and NSHC for their efforts to improve transportation services. We are expecting there will be no transportation when Evergreen Helicopters starts shutting. We are anticipating the ice run way to last until mid May due to location and thickness of ice. What a lucky year for Diomed. The months of Feb and March have been busy times. NVD held their Annual Community Meeting on Feb 28th. Kawerak President and staff, Corp of Engineers, and State ADOT were invited to participate. It's not often we are able to hold meetings with outside organizations that benefit our future. The Small Boat Harbor was the spotlight of the meeting. After the guests left on a Bering Air Charter, the regular annual business meeting continued. NVD elections results were: re-elected Arthur Ahkinga, re-elected Robert Soolook, Jr., re-elected Karen Kazingnuk, and newly elected Orville Ahkinga, Jr. These four will be sworn in during the next monthly meeting. The agenda covered 2009 annual financial reports for all departments. A Representative from each outside organization gave a report to include: Kawerak, NSHC, EWC, AEWC, Nanuuq Commissioner, ANICA Delegate, AI-TC, BSHA, and BSSD. The tribe reminded community members to prepare for another hardship with passenger transportation with Evergreen Helicopters. There were 28 community participants at the meeting. NSEDC staff held a community meeting on April 2nd with a presentation on businesses and funding available. NVD submitted 2 proposals last fall. The funding announcements will be in late March. If funded we will have our Bowhead Whaling Equipment Upgrade and the Elder's Assistance dumping and hauling. NVD invited Deana Wiggins for a 3 day "High Risk Work Shop" for kids. This workshop was made possible by funding from NSEDC Drug and Alcohol Prevention and NVD Youth Leadership funds. Our tribal family service coordinator, Samantha Menadelook worked on putting this together. She did a swell job. We would like to see more workshops related to this type and more.

Native Village of Brevig Mission (NVBM): by Stewart R. Tocktoo
AVEC continues to work on the new generator hook up and bulk (fuel) tank and hopefully everything will be up and running this summer or fall. NSHC held an ASIST training on March 9th & 10th, pertaining to suicide prevention. NSHC is also planning to construct a duplex this summer to house the mid-levels and dental team near the new clinic. Currently the health aide position is not filled. We need to encourage our youth to get into the medical field. Snow fences were installed last summer; they are working and they need to be extended westward. NVBM held their annual meeting and Stewart R. Tocktoo is the newly elected President. The tribe has finally hired a grant writer. March 4-6, the high school hosted the Bering Sea Conference IA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament with the boys playing in Brevig Mission and the girls playing at Teller. Thank you!

Chinik Eskimo Community (CEC): by Irene Aukongak
BSDC is in the process of planning to build three houses in Golovin. CEC held elections in February. Welcome Maggie Moses, Irene Navarro, and Eleanor Amaktoolik. Other Council members include: Duane Lincoln, Maude Panipchuk, Irene Aukongak and Dean Peterson.
We would like to thank our guest speakers that attended our Annual Tribal Membership meeting in February; Melanie Edwards, Sterling Gologergen and Lynn Anasogak. Golovin's health aides were also recognized at the same meeting; Melissa N. Lewis, Thomas Nayokpuk and Clinic Travel Clerk Ruth Peterson. Luke from E-Commerce and Allen, Kawerak I.T. were in town to set up the new computer lab at the EDA building. The Census 2010 counters arrived on March 22. Shawn McKnight with Kawerak Transportation was here March 11 to meet with all the entities to sign the joint resolution for the up-coming possible dyke road to protect Golovin from floods. Dr. Kelso, Janet Amaktoolik and Sharon Lock with NSHC Dental were here in Feb for two weeks. A new City Council was formed. Our Martin L. Olson school students were first to make history for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Spelling Bee this year. Molly Moses represented our region at the State Spelling Bee. Chelsea Fagerstrom placed 2nd and Tatiana Chanar placed 3rd. The church has been renovated and the new pastor -Brad with his family (Julie and Zeb) will be moving here soon. Julian Navarro graduated from the VPSO training held in Sitka and returned home.

Native Village of Koyuk: by Morris Nassuk
Our IGAP program is collecting e-waste for backhaul. The items collected are obsolete or non-working electronics: VCRs, TVs, computers, typewriters, etc. These items will be sent to Total Reclaim of Anch. Our IGAP program set up a staging area outside the landfill for white goods, abandoned vehicles, waste oil, and other large items. Staff is currently seeking funding to purchase connexes. This grant will continue until 9/30/11. The objectives to be completed are; build capacity to develop and administer environmental programs to respond to the issues and needs of; solid/hazardous waste and pollution prevention; backhaul, recycling and community outreach programs will be conducted; water testing of the Koyuk River; random testing of household or businesses to establish baseline water quality data.
We are looking forward to the carpentry class which will be held at our IRA office and the actual construction will be just outside the building. Derak Otton, son of David and Ruth Otton, passed the fishing orientation at Seward. He is very excited and can't wait

to go fishing. Our local corporation has a fuel delivery service now. We have seen a lot of neighboring villages passing through to go tuttu (caribou) hunting and with much success they are going home happy with loads of meat. Thank you, Ruthie
Additional Comments: I was told that Senator Lisa Murkowski was in Koyuk recently. Plans are in place to put permanent trail stakes in Koyuk. The Elders would like to see better funding for the meals program. The trail staking will go from Bear Creek in Koyuk to Elim. A board member wanted to know if Koyuk was coordinating with Elim. There is lumber and post located outside the IRA for this project. Robert Keith suggested Koyuk look into the new trail staking posts that the State is using, which is tripod in shape, but has some sort of spring, which allows the stake not to be knocked over.

Mary's Igloo Traditional Council (MITC): by Albert Oquilluk
MITC has donated to the Christmas activities in Dec and will be able to donate to the community Easter egg hunt this year. We also helped purchase satellite phones for the newly formed Teller Emergency Services (Search & Rescue). Grant updates: we received funding from the Energy Grant and will be purchasing energy efficient refrigerators or freezers for our Tribal homes. MITC has also received funding from the Rasmuson Foundation and the State for trail staking and a shelter cabin/Elder & Youth camp at the New Igloo area and are excited about that. We are still waiting to hear from IGAP and the NSEDC outside entity funding. MITC is also waiting to start the sled building project with Joe Garnie (wood to be delivered). Teller ran out of heating fuel in mid March as we do every year. The City is running and has started their services back in Dec such as HBT haul; laundry mat and having the office open for the public. The City will hold a welding class through NSEDC and the dates will be posted at a later date. ANTHC will be building a new ball court as soon as the Native Corp. leases land to the City. MITC will be hosting a Hazwoper course in May through Kawerak. We will close out the year saying goodbye to Jay & Denise Thomas and John & Noele Weemes as they are moving but will remain in the District. We are happy that the MINC and Teller Native Corporation are part owners of the Pilgrim Hot Springs.

Nome Eskimo Community: by Bantu Nichols
This report summarizes activities and accomplishments at NEC since Jan 2010. In Dec, Bristol Environmental completed the designs for our community roads projects and in Jan, we then applied for additional construction funds as follows: \$905,000 from the Indian Reservation Roads High Priority Project funding in the amount of \$805,000 and \$350,000 in BIA ARRA Stimulus funding. Receipt of these funds will determine how we proceed with our planned projects. We recently provided the City with \$60,000 to be used for road maintenance activities in 2010. We plan to expand our Family Services Program through Tribal Title IV-B funding for foster care recruitment and licensing activities. In addition, we're applying for funding to increase staff capacity to provide expanded supportive services to our member families. We hope to accomplish this through a three-year grant that includes two additional positions; one for Anch office and one for Nome. In March, we also purchased a vehicle for our Anchorage office to aid us in expanding family support to our clients. Tribal Services held its annual Youth Basketball Camp during Iditarod with 55 youth. We're currently exploring ways to offer summer internships and establish job search assistance for our college students seeking summer employment opportunities and staff are preparing for our summer youth and cultural activities. We recently signed another MOA with Rural Cap for the 2010 Weatherization Program. Last year, our Housing Program completed weatherization and energy efficiency cost saving measures on 17 homes, and this summer will complete work on an additional 15 homes. With our Energy Grant, we're completing weatherization and energy efficiency cost saving measures on our office building. Last fall, we had the floor of the main office building re-insulated, replaced numerous windows, and will replace doors and sealants this summer. We've also requested cost estimates to replace the baseboard heating system which we hope to complete this summer.

To our disappointment, the MOA with the City and Corp of Engineers is not yet finalized. In Jan, all parties met to finalize the agreement but then encountered an obstacle with the State Historic Preservation Office which we're currently trying to resolve. Kendra Nichols and Dora Davis are actively recruiting, screening and conducting drug tests for the NSHC Hospital Replacement Project. Neeser Construction has been a presence in our community as they prep the job site for the new hospital. Under Neeser, Alaska Works Partnership will conduct training on Metal Stud Framing, May 3rd-14th in Nome; and the Labors Union will conduct OSHA, CPR & first aid training, dates to be determined. NEC has two new council members; Cynthia Ahwinona was appointed to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of Irene Anderson, and Tiffany Martinson was appointed to fill the seat vacated by the departure of Chris Perkins. The Tribal Council held elections of officers, and Bantu Nichols will serve as President, Lester Keller, Jr. as Vice-President and Jack Omelak as Secretary/Treasurer. Now that we have a full council, we'll proceed with financial training and also schedule sessions for the Tribal Council to meet with program staff to gain insight and a better understanding of our responsibilities and the programs and services that we provide. Lester Keller was re-appointed to serve as our representative on the Kawerak Board, and Alfred Sahlin and Cynthia Ahwinona were appointed to two seats on the NSHC Board. Bantu Nichols will serve as alternate for both Boards. NEC has several new employees: Stephanie Vacek was hired as Accounting Specialist, Josie Stiles as Human

Resources Manager, Bruce Klein as Planning & Development Specialist, and Gerald Trigg as Tribal Resources Specialist. To better meet the needs of staff and clients, we moved the Administrative offices (including Accounting, Planning and Human Resources) to the 2nd floor of the NEC office building and Tribal Services to the 1st floor. For Administrative staff, this move minimizes the level of disruption that was occurring due to heavy public traffic, and for Tribal Services it creates easier accessibility to services for our clients. We've run out of office space at NEC and will develop plans to renovate the remaining space in the garage facility for additional offices; this must be done before we can add any additional positions at NEC.

This year, we're exploring the expansion or enhancement of services through programs that are offered through the DHHS. Funding opportunities include a vast array of possibilities in the youth, family, wellness, and intervention & prevention arenas. In addition, we're considering reorganization of our Tribal Resources Program to establish a Committee to focus solely on subsistence advocacy on behalf of our membership. In Feb we dispersed our first NEC Newsletter which is attached and we hope that you share it in your communities.

King Island Native Community: by Lisa Ellanna
KINC was awarded the EECBG grant to do energy audits on 20 Elder homes for future retrofitting, in the amount of \$12,600. We originally asked for the full grant to do retrofits, but it was not considered by the DOE. The IFB went out and bids are due this week. Roads: 1. Adding additional gravel to the Woolley Lagoon road this summer; 2. Partnering with the State on various streets, including the bypass road this summer; 3. Doing maintenance activities this summer, including thawing the culverts down at the Woolley Lagoon road, several times this spring; 4. KINC will build a storage shed to house maintenance equipment; 5. We are looking into the types of trail stakers to erect along our Woolley Lagoon road and on various areas of the Nome-Teller Highway; 6. We are entering into a contract with Bristol Environmental to conduct a Ferry Feasibility Study; 7. We are looking into the possibilities of a public transit system here in Nome, and will be contracting possible partners here in Nome. 8. Countless community members have expressed the need for additional dust control and KINC will be working with City and the State on how best to address the issue.

KINC is looking into grant sources for a community hall add-on to our current tribal office building. ICDBG, Title IV Loans and other sources will be approached. We are in the process of creating a tribal legislative priorities packet for our Congressional Delegation to review and we've opened a dialogue with our Congressional delegation regarding our housing issues. We had our annual meeting on December 12th. The newly elected members are Lisa Ellanna and Carmelita Nattanguk. The council is comprised of: Marilyn Koezuna-Irelan, Chief; Ruth Ojanen - Vice Chief; Ben Payenna - Treasurer; Carmelita Nattanguk - Secretary and Members Lisa Ellanna and Carmelita Nattanguk. The Alaska Humanities Forum has been approached for funding by OSU for completion of the King Island Place of Nome project - Data Management and further website development. This website is currently operational, but not all information is available yet. KINC has purchased 10 SPOT emergency locators for hunters to use this spring. We are looking forward to a successful spring hunting season.

Native Village of Shaktoolik (NVS): by Matilda Hardy
The Annual Tribal Membership meeting will be held March 12th, in the gymnasium. The NVS council invited guest speakers from Kawerak Transportation will speak at the annual meeting. The Annual election for four seats on the NVS council will be held March 23rd. On Monday, March 8th, the NVS council hired a landfill operator and two laborers on behalf of the IGAP so that they could take care of the landfill and clean it up after the snow melts. Also to collect garbage from homeowners who pay a monthly fee for this service.

The Wellness Coalition discussed how they would like to utilize the Story Circle with Elders and the Youth Mentoring funds. Shaktoolik VBC will work with the school itinerant and NSHC counselor to address bullying, tools and Ivory will be purchased for ivory carving lessons, a wellness summit will be held at the Annual Elder & Youth Summer Fish Camp, and there will be Elder storytelling while giving an instruction on a traditional hobby such as carving, ulu making or skin sewing. The council hired a new administrative assistant and her name is Loretta Jackson. She will be a great asset to the NVS. The Shaktoolik and Elim high school girls formed a basket ball team and together they won the regional championship for class IA. Several local people will be heading to the IA State Basketball championships to support their local girls on the combined team. *Additional Comments:* They took fourth. Thank you Kawerak for the Make A Wish for Jacob Tacktoo.

Village of Solomon: by Katie Stettinger
Since our last Board meeting, Brian James was elected President, from the Annual Membership meeting in November of 2009. In March the Solomon Bed & Breakfast was open during Iditarod. Hopefully that will bring more interest to the BNB next year. We are planning to be open for Iditarod 2011 so we should see an increase in guests stays at the BNB. We received some informative ICWA training from Melissa Taylor that was beneficial to us. Our tribe has increased by six (6) more members this year. That brings our total to 95 members!

Continued on Page 13

Kawerak Village Reports *(continued from page 12)*

Native Village of St. Michael (NVSM): by Shirley Martin

The NVSM IRA held their annual Tribal Membership meeting January 16. The results of the election are as follows: Shirley Martin – President; Milton Cheemuk – Vice-President; Elsie Cheemuk – Secretary; Virginia Washington – Treasurer; Charlie Fitka, Jr.; John Lockwood; and Thomas Cheemuk, Sr. as Members. As of the date of the annual meeting we have 496 tribally enrolled members. Unfortunately, over the Christmas holiday there were a couple of break-ins, one at the IRA and the other at the City. These actions were very upsetting to us, as we did provide activities for everyone and yet there are folks who decide to make bad choices during a time that we bring everyone together and celebrate.

Community members of the City, Corporation, School, and IRA participated in Emergency Response training on January 21-22 courtesy of a CAMP grant. The City sponsored a Little Dribblers basketball tournament held in Jan. Due to an interest in the Crab Fishery, Rich Ferry gave a presentation on how to commercially fish for crab with 10 people in attendance. All three entities had an interest in NSEDC's Outside Entity Funding this year. At a joint meeting it was shared that SMNC was going to apply for the three projects to include feasibility studies for an anemometer (wind study) to work cooperatively with AVEC, a deep water port and teen center. The City's interest is to have the old garage that sits on the old airport refurbished, since there was a total loss of the newer one last summer due to arson. The SMK IRA wanted to submit an application to NSEDC for a Reindeer/Seafood plant, but chose not to; opting to fully support the SMNC objectives because they were listed on our LEDP.

The SMK was awarded the Grant Writer grant, thank you Kawerak. The 2010 Census began the week of March 15. Through the NWC, a three day Quick Books class will be held in the NWC/UAF computer lab within the IRA building from the March 22nd-24th. The SMK IRA will sponsor the Steve Otten Memorial basketball tourney March 24-27. We are hoping that the AC Co. will consider our letter of request for a long-term lease to house a potential VPSO for SMK that was signed by our community leaders. We've had calls from folks inquiring about the free tax preparation that was offered last year. Upcoming activities include an Easter egg hunt for the youth, Yupik days in May, the annual spring clean-up, and an energy assessment. Good luck and safe travels to everyone when going out spring hunting and have a great summer! *Additional Comments:* Village Operations wrote a letter of concern for housing for a VPSO- see if we can have two VPSO's in St. Michael that would serve St. Michael and Stebbins.

Native Village of Teller (NVT): by Wesley Okbaok

NVT is sponsoring School Attendance Parties for the months of February, March, and April. We are working with the School and Head Start. The pizza parties are for students who have 90% or more attendance. For the month of February we had 57 students eligible. Volunteers have organized a Teller Emergency Services. NVT council has donated funds to purchase two Satellite Phones for the Search and Rescue services. NVT is working with MITC and the school to offer Elder lunches. Elders had lunch on Dec 28 and a dinner on Feb 18. The food was donated for both events. We are also working with the school to have Elders eat at the school at least twice a month. Teller hosted the Bering Straits IA Girls Basketball Regional Tournament March 5-6. This event we enjoyed by all who attended. NVT attended a Joint Community Meeting held February 24. Local organizations met to talk about the NSEDC funding and application process to best address the community needs. Also discussed, was the upcoming Easter community activities. *Additional Comments:* Teller ran out of fuel on March 11, 2010. Wes Okbaok wanted to thank Kawerak for writing a letter to DOT regarding this crisis.

Native Village of Unalakleet (NVU): by Janice Dickens

The winter quarter continued to be very busy for the NVU, and its administrative offices with the hiring of Tracy Cooper, as the new Elder care project manager which has been funded by a 2 year ANA grant. This project also includes the hiring of project coordinators from the sub-regional villages of Koyuk, Shaktoolik, St. Michael, and Stebbins (each hired by their Tribal Councils but funded by the ANA Grant). All will work together with Tracy and the National Research Center on Native American Aging, part of the Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences to conduct an Elder needs assessment and study of our area's capacity to meet them.

All of this work is in preparation for the 2nd year of the grant which will fund the development of a plan for and workforce of Certified Nurses aids to deliver home care to Elders while we continue, collectively to develop a facility to house Elders who need more hands on care. This project represents years of planning to keep the Elders at home and in place as they age, and as they wish. NVU is happy to have started the work on this project and is looking forward to it. In addition, NVU has also added Victoria Kotongan to the staff as the Project Administrator for our NALEMP and White Alice Site remediation projects. The NALEMP project consists of a feasibility study/remediation plan for the removal of a large fuel tank located in the village. The White Alice remediation is a much larger 2-year project to resolve spilled fuel and PCBs on the site which was cleared years ago. This position will work with the Environmental Specialist and NVU General Manager who, acting for NVU, will manage the 2-3 year, \$4 million dollar project according to a Cooperative Agreement with the USAF. Like the ANA Grant funded project, this position, along with many more jobs as the work gets underway, is fully funded. Currently NVU has other projects in operation: now that all applications for the Home Modification Program for Elders and people with special needs

have been reviewed and accepted, work will begin within 2 weeks on the 11 homes to be modified. The Housing Department has begun the work on the winterization of 9 homes and renovation of 3 others. All three projects will provide 12 jobs for about 5-7 months. The Fish Weir Project is about to start with the construction of the Weir. The initial phase will take about 2 months and provide work for 2 carpenters. The installation of the weir and its monitors will also provide jobs along with opportunities for student involvement. The Invasive Plant/BLM project has been funded. Designed as a survey research program investigating invasive plants on the lower portion of the Unalakleet River, this project will start later in the summer and provide job opportunities for 4 adults and 4 students. Like the Fish Weir project, this one has been planned to address the diminishing subsistence stock. NVU is working closely within and outside the region on the issue of threatened subsistence stock, particularly salmon and marine mammals; of concern is the proposed trawling of the north Bering Sea and the lack of Tribal representation on decision making bodies such as the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Art Ivanoff, NVU's environmental specialist has attended most meetings related to these issues and works actively each day to forward our collective cause. He is working collaboratively and therefore we urge all to contact us if you need any information regarding these issues.

Native Village of White Mountain: by Willa Ashenfelter

We would like to thank Kawerak for the 2009-2010 After School Activities, we are using the funds for a basketball stipend to practices for k-jr. high, continue to pay Enid Lincoln for Bilingual classes/field trips for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, and Eskimo Dancing. Also, thank you for \$2000 in funding for the Parking Making activities through the Mentoring Activities fund. Also thanks for the Summer Youth Program throughout the summer. We had a very dependable and hard worker, Yorise Olson. Our presentation to the 2009 BSRHA Indian Housing Plan went well and our village stressed that the BSRHA needs to let us be more involved in their projects in our village. We are sorry that our previous ANICA store manager, Davis Lincoln has decided to resign last month but we are glad to have Lincoln M. Simon, Sr. as the newly hired Store Manager. We were happy to have Jim Kaiser for the stain glass classes for a couple of weeks working with the students and adults in Jan. The Tribe sponsored the annual village Thanksgiving Potluck for the community again this year and is coordinating 3 nights of Alaani games, wellness activities after Christmas. These activities are geared toward families interacting with one another, youth, Elders and the whole community. We had our annual meeting on Dec 16th, which had a good turnout. Willa Ashenfelter and Linda Lone were re-elected to the council and we welcome Enid Lincoln as a new member. The council consists of: Lincoln "Mike" Simon, President; Willa Ashenfelter, Vice President; Linda Lone, Secretary; Carol Ashenfelter, Treasurer; Members: Rita Buck, Louise Simon and Enid Lincoln. Elder representative is Phillip Brown. Since we are still working on 2009 priorities, the 2010 priorities are the same. We had our community wellness workshop, Feb 4-5 with Bridie Trainor and Evon Peters which received a good turnout from the community. We enjoyed this workshop. We are happy to have Martin Lincoln as our grant writer. He is new and learning, thanks to Kawerak for the grant writing funds. BSSD is having their district ski meet here starting March 25-27th. Good luck to all skiers.

Native Village of Stebbins: by Fred Pete, Sr.

The New Year is moving along fast. The old IRA building has been turned into 4- one bedroom apartments. It is not quite complete with mudding, painting and installation of flooring and cabinets. Word of Terry Kotongan is that he is home recovering and getting stronger. Terry was the foreman for the project, prior to having a stroke, keep him in your thoughts and prayers this Easter season. The Emergency Preparedness work session took place in Jan 2010, during a very cold spell. William Petram, emergency management consultant with ANTHC and Barbara Collins, infection control/employee health department of NSHC came for the work session. Pandemic flu was used as a good example relating to being prepared for "Emergency Disasters." Stebbins is not quite done with this effort and we expect to have Mr. Petram return in the near future. In Feb the City introduced, with my urging, to work on adopting ordinance 10-02-11-01, which establishes the City Department of Emergency Management, as it is incumbent on the City by State Law, AS 26.23.060. Local and inter jurisdictional Disaster Services. State political subdivisions are responsible for disaster preparedness and coordination of response, in conjunction with other political subdivisions (IRA's/Traditional Councils) by establishing and inter jurisdictional planning and service are under the AS 26.23.060.

From last Jan's experience in trying to conduct the workshop it would be better to hold a workshop/ work session in the evening. There were 17 people that showed up on January 21 and 11 on January 22. There were individuals representing IRA, City, Stebbins Native Corporation, the Store, Police, the school principal and some teacher's aides were able attend. Expect to have a better turnout and participation when the meeting is held in the evening. A quorum is needed from each. SNC's new office is being used, as of the first week of March 2010. This building is a marked improvement for the old one, with a beautiful panoramic view of the Native Village and surrounding area. The IRA purchased a Kelly dump/ tractor from Tumet last fall. It has now sustained damages with its console/instrumentation and one flat tire from vandalism. I hope to service this soon to get it ready for use this spring and summer. It has the potential to pay for itself this summer. Need to fix it and obtain liability insurance

soon. Need assistance with this. The AVEC plant is currently situated on airport property and poses a safety hazard for flights coming and going. AVEC is under pressure to move it by 2011 otherwise we face imminent closure of the airport. The IRA, City and SNC are scrambling to get funding this 2010 season from Denali Commission and have submitted resolutions urging for funding. The Subdivision Streets Project is permit is in place from the Corp of Engineers to move forward with doing a 2000 foot street within the subdivision. The Community Association and the Housing Authority (SHA) were disappointed to learn that the project would not happen this year. The IRA has worked to have the Community Association/SHA, ANTHC, and AVEC to work cooperatively with this project and we have made progress. We need to get the one permitted street done so that we can move forward with building more homes in Arrssauyaq Subdivision aka Stebbins Subdivision Street. Four streets were dedicated to our respected Elders that passed on.

The Biomass Pilot Project (stimulus): the IRA got red flagged from Susitna Energy Systems relating to a grant from the Depart of Energy for \$52,400. Kawerak on behalf of other villages, assisted with putting a grant package together. SCA is getting a wood furnace for the project. Dalsen Energy, Inc. of Anchorage has been hired as a consultant and Thomas Deerfield as the contractor, AEA has joined in on the Biomass Pilot Project, infusing another \$35,000 that will be used to purchase the furnace which will be housed in a connex and will be ready for installation when it arrives possibly the last barge. This will alleviate the IRA's sole dependence on fossil fuel, with potential saving in using heating #1 Fuel around \$23,000 a year. There is an abundance of drift wood (spruce preferred) within Norton Sound; DOE personnel in Golden, Colorado have a hard time grasping the availability of wood. The current plan is to use a 20' or 25' container, which will have room for the Garn unit heat exchanger, plumbing, and electrical. It will have a small amount of extra room, but not enough for significant wood storage. Another idea is to get a 2nd 20' container parked next to the Garn container for wood storage. May not get the extra container as it may be cost prohibitive, don't really need an extra container. David Fredericks is with Garn Furnaces and lives in Tok. Dave joined in with the project and is helping us order the Gran brand furnace. David's company is Alaska Heat Technologies (AHT). David has voluntarily added \$5,000 to the overall project budget, to help with the system engineering/design and integration. It's great how other parties of AEA & AHT have come together with this project. We are moving ahead with the Elders Facility Project in Unalakleet. Look forward again for the Avian Bird Flu project this spring and the non salmon species survey project.

Native Village of Shishmaref (NVS): Read by Donna Bar

The NVS has been updating our personnel policies. The new I.R.A. Council has started drug testing and will continue with all staff. Our tribal membership is continuously growing with a total of 798 tribal members. The clinic lift station was served by A.N.T.H.C. The V.B.C. Program has a hunting trip tentatively scheduled for April 1-4 for youth & hunters to go to Serpentine Hot Springs. We had a successful Elders & Youth Assembly at the school on Feb. 23, and will continue monthly until end of the school year. Our Elders Advisory Committee is becoming more active including monthly storytelling at the school with Josh Wisniewski, UAF. Shishmaref is hosting the 2010 Spring Lutheran Conference April 7-10, and we will have a permanent pastor. Annual Spring Carnival is set for April 14-21 that includes: Inupiaq Days April 14-16 and basketball tourney April 13th-17th and wrap up the month with a Career Fair end of April. The Census count has started here in Shishmaref. The Tannery is officially closed until September 2010. Our community now has a Dental Health Therapist. The junior high and elementary students participated in a couple of basketball tournaments. Our Native Store will be receiving a new P.O.S. system between April and June. Our Friendship Center held an annual Easter egg hunt on April 4 and ordered supplies for the Diabetes Program. We received a final copy for the Coalition group and we are becoming more active including monthly meetings and inviting surrounding villages for their participation. The Health Council had a successful meeting with N.S.H.C. staff at the end of Feb. The I.R.A. Office started selling clothing with our logo to benefit our Elders and Youth Program. The Shishmaref Environmental Program did a presentation at Nome during the Bering Straits Waste & Water Workshop sponsored by Kawerak. Our plan is in progress. The local leaders participated in an Incident Command System with Homeland Security. Thanks to Kawerak and N.W.C.C. for providing assistance to have a couple classes. We were scheduled to have a QuickBooks Class that has been rescheduled for a later date. Our community started a B.S.R.H.A. Weatherization Program and submitted 110 applications recently. *Additional Comments:* We also had studies presented to Shishmaref from the NANA region; that concluded the musk ox are healthy in our area. They examined Musk Ox teeth. Annual Meeting- Elder of the year awards, honoring past Elders. The Wellness Committee is still trying to get organize. IRA wanted me to bring up, that we have been having trouble with our substitute Tribal Coordinators getting paid; they have to wait four weeks to get paid. We have a hard time trying to find people to cover when people are sick or traveling. SNT budget is really tight. We would like to see if they could get emergency pay.

Native Village of Elim: by Robert Keith

On Feb 27 Elim held its first annual meeting. Charlie Saccheus and Morris Nakarak council seats were re-elected. A lot of discussion by the membership on "concern on psychiatric help and medicating children-which targets low-income families and drug companies in

Continued on Page 15

H.R. Announces Employee of the Month: October 2009 ~ January 2010



October 2009

GiGi Immingan, General Assistance Director

- Gigi deserves to be recognized for the extra time and effort that she put into the CITGO program this year.
- She worked very hard to learn the program and took the initiative to completely handle all direct services and reporting for both the Nome and village programs at the same time (previously, we ran the village program at a separate timeframe than Nome).
- Gigi had a triple workload because she ran both the village and Nome programs and your regular General Assistance caseload all at the same time. At times there were some challenges with the program which she handled very well.
- She stayed upbeat and positive and still managed to keep up with and improve the General Assistance program.



November 2009

Aprille Pitt, Wellness Coordinator

- Aprille has positively impacted those involved with the Wellness Program.
- She consistently goes above and beyond in both creativity and consideration.
- Aprille has worked tirelessly in preparation for Camp Igaliq and taught herself the software to make an inspirational DVD of the experience for each of the participants.
- She never cuts corners when the outcome is to brighten someone's day, plus she knocks things out at incredible speed.
- She exceeds in everything she does with humor and humility.
- Aprille has added valuable knowledge with her association and contacts with the Bering Straits School District employees.



December 2009

Malinda Besett, Head Start Program Director

- During the month of December you were awarded 4 grants: 1) new Early Head Start Program which will employ 9 new staff members in Nome and villages. 2) Expansion grant to move 4 sites to full day services. This will allow children to go to school from 9:00am to 4:00pm and hire 10 new positions in the villages. 3) A one-time supplemental grant to purchase a new bus for Nome. We were also able to do some upgrades to the fire systems in two of our sites.
- The Head Start Program was the only program in the entire State of Alaska to get all of funding that she had applied for. This shows that you go above and beyond your job description to help out the children of this region.
- Malinda cares for the children of this region and it shows in all of her hard work that is accomplished..



January 2010

Mark Whitcher, Information Technology Technician

- Mark is an asset to the IT Department, is 100% reliable and extremely knowledgeable.
- He always performs above and beyond in every situation and works relentlessly on a problem until it is fixed.
- On quite a few occasions, Mark used his "old school" DOS skills that most techs today don't know, in order to save system servers (including Q) that have crashed. In the IT Department it is referred to as, "Mark's old man voodoo magic."
- Mark has served as acting IT Manager status and Summer is able to rely on him with complete confidence.
- Without direction Mark took it upon himself, to train our new Technician and has been a great mentor.
- Kawerak is lucky to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated employee.

Congratulations!

...to the following employees and board members who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in applauding and recognizing their performance for 2009!

Loretta Bullard
Kawerak President



Mary Long
Ed. & Disabilities
Specialist

2009 MATTHEW IYA CO-AWARDEES

This award is given to those employees who help make Kawerak a great place to work, who have a fun, positive attitude, a great work ethic and are 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. *Congratulations to Mary and Pamela!*



Pamela Cushman
Executive
Assistant

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Dominique Thomas,
Courier/Support Clerk
Employee of the Year

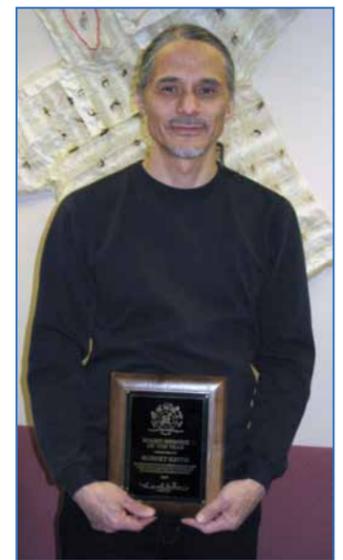
Dominique is always on time with the inter-office schedule and she is always accommodating when staff need her to make extra stops. When different departments have needed Dominique to get important mail out, she is sure to make it happen on that day because of the weather issues that can affect the mail making it out of town. Dominique has a positive attitude and a hard work ethic.

We are happy to have Dominique in the office, because she likes to break the stress with laughter. We are lucky to be able to work with her. Way to go Dominique! Keep it up!

Congratulations to Dominique!

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

At the December 2009 Kawerak Full Board meeting, the Kawerak Board selected Robert Keith, Kawerak Board Chair as the **2009 Board Member of the Year**. During the nomination process, board members were asked to write down why they thought the individual they were voting for was deserving of the recognition. Robert's fellow board members voted for Robert because of: his willingness to be active in many arenas; his consistent leadership and ability to lead; his longevity of service on the Kawerak Board; he is very smart and a role model; and he walks the walk and talks the talk.



Board Chair Robert Keith
Board Member of 2009.

Congratulations Robert on your selection as Board member of the Year!

Continued from page 13 Village Reports

which they go in and prescribe non-FDA approved medications." (Excerpt from the minutes) an attached letter written last Monday is enclosed. After doing little research this issue has an unbelievable quality to it. We will be looking more into this. We have received continued funding to sample water and pursue water rights of the Tubuktoolik River. We have gotten to round two on restarting a EPA-IGAP program, we are funded for an AmeriCorps worker and will be getting an Energy Vista worker soon. Our DOE \$42,000 energy assessment grant has been an administrative nightmare. We got the council member passwords (via mail), to verify each other into the DOE financial system. Our grant writer has written a number of other grants and we have not heard back yet if we receive one or two more grants our tribal coordinator will be

over loaded. Last winter we installed a wood furnace to reduce our fuel costs, we do not use as much of this system as we could, it has a very noisy fan, we will redesign the blower this summer. We have a meeting with Corp of Engineers in May regarding barge landing/boat harbor projects. BLM did a final signing ceremony in Elim with our shareholders in March. We are getting back 50,000 acres we lost in 1929. Elim started working on this issue somewhere in the early/mid 1980's. I started working on this in 1989 as one of the first issues I dealt with as a newly elected ENC Board member. The store manager and I went down to the ANICA delegates meeting in Las Vegas a week ago. The new management is a lot more progressive and open. Overall ANICA has greatly improved its financial standing, expanded its Anchorage warehouse, provided more man-

ager training and modernizing the village stores. Still I hope next year's delegate meeting will be held in Anchorage. Our store manager won Store Manager of the Year award, she is young and we are proud of her work. *Additional Comments:* This weekend we will be having the Elim Snow Machine Race and Elim Basketball Tournament. See attached letter that I wrote to North Star. We had two other stories that come up at our Council meetings. I got permission to address the issue. I will talk with Carol at NSHC and Child & Family Services issue. There was discussion on the issue of suicides and the North Star facility. Loretta Bullard stated that Kawerak will share the information and figure out how the children get placed in the facility and will address this issue with NSHC.

Continued from page 16 Communities Come Together for Wellness

take place among all community members as individuals and as a whole. It takes community members of all ages and background, family, friends, and service providers to create wellness. Helping to understand ourselves and each other in current and historical contexts is also an important aspect of healing. Along with Evon, members of the Wellness

Team have visited 10 villages to date and plan to reach all 15 by the end of March 2010. Over the next two years, travel and communication will continue with all of the villages to share ideas, resources, and encouragement among communities. A number of villages continue to meet as Wellness Groups to give support, build healthy relationships, and help organize activi-

ties such as Story Circle with Elders, training, and Mentor activities for which funds are available through Kawerak Wellness. If you'd like to share ideas, questions, or concerns please contact Kawerak Wellness. Bridie Trainor at 443-4393, Aprille Pitt at 443-4364, or Bobby Evans at 443-4397.

Kawerak, Inc.

Communities Come Together for Wellness

by Bridie Trainor, Wellness Program Director



participate with all 9-12th grade students. All activities are with the intention of bringing communities together toward positive shared goals. Along with planning, the workshops intend to encourage the sharing of laughter, stories, grief and healing among family, friends, and extended community members.

Beginning in June of 2009 the Kawerak Wellness Team, including Bridie Trainor, Aprille Pitt, and Bobby Evans, have been travelling to villages to participate in 2 day Wellness Group Workshops throughout the region. Gatherings are facilitated by Evon Peter, former chief of the Neetsaii Gwich'in from Arctic Village in Northeastern Alaska. Evon is found-

der of Native Movement, a nonprofit organization working to build healthy communities. Evon sponsors the Indigenous Leadership Institute, a nonprofit leadership training and development organization and now runs a consulting firm known as, Gwanzhii, LLC, a word which means "intelligent adaptation."

The Wellness Program is currently funded through a Federal Suicide Prevention Grant. Suicide is a complex issue with many aspects. One thing certain in our communities is that all members are impacted and healing must

Continued on Page 15, Communities come together for Wellness



From l to r Bridie Trainor, Bob Evans, Evon Peter and Aprille Pitt standing in front of the Brevig Mission hills.

The two day workshops are open to all community members and include a full agenda of activities including games, stories, historical timeline, sharing, drumming, dance, visioning, assessment, and approach. Though high school students are encouraged to attend the full two days, 2-3 hours of the workshop brings community members into the school to par-



Kawerak Wellness Team with the Shishmaref Wellness Group.

Uqaaqtuaq News

Kawerak, Inc.
PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762
(907)443-5231 phone
www.kawerak.org



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Information Technology	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
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 & Early Head Start	800-443-9050 or 443-9062
Wellness Program	443-4393
<i>Natural Resources Division</i>	443-4377
Eskimo Heritage Program	443-4386
Eskimo Walrus Commission	877-277-4392 or 443-4380
Fisheries Program	443-4384
Land Management Services	800-443-4316 or 443-4323
Reindeer Herders Association	443-4378
Subsistence Resources	443-4265
<i>Transportation</i>	443-4395

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!