Nome mourns first COVID-19 death, case numbers continue to rise

By Julia Lerner

More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic, Nome has seen the first COVID-related death last week.

On Wednesday morning, a Nome resident died of COVID-19. The individual, a man in his 60s, passed away after being medevaced to a hospital in Anchorage. NSHC said in a press release that next of kin have been notified.

COVID-19 cases across the Nome, Norton Sound and Bering Strait region are rising. As of Tuesday, there are 113 active COVID-19 cases in eight regional communities: 64 in Nome, 34 in Brevig Mission, four in Unalakleet, four in Shaktotlik, four in Elim, one in Koyuk, one in Stebbins, and one in Shishmaref.

In the last week, NSHC identified 83 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the region to 113.

On Wednesday, NSHC identified 15 new COVID-19 cases, including nine in Brevig Mission, four in Nome, one in Shishmaref and one in Unalakleet. One of the individuals who tested positive on Wednesday is a NSHC employee, but did not have any contact with patients, according to a NSHC press release.

The following day, 20 individuals in the region tested positive for COVID-19, including 11 in Brevig, seven in Nome and two in Shaktotlik. One case in Nome and both cases in Shaktotlik were travel-related cases.

Over the weekend, NSHC identified an additional 26 new COVID-19 cases, including 20 in Nome, three in Brevig, two in Elim and one in Koyuk.

On Monday, Oct. 18, patients in five communities received positive COVID-19 test results: 13 in Nome, three in Unalakleet, three in Brevig Mission, two in Shaktotlik and one in Stebbins. In Nome, five of the new cases were close contacts to previously identified cases, one case was travel-related and seven were community spread. In Brevig Mission, two of the cases were close contacts and one was community spread. In Shaktotlik, all of the cases was travel-related, and one was a close contact. In Unalakleet and in Stebbins, the cases were travel-related.

“In the Lower 48, cases are on the downside for the most part,” said Norton Sound Health Corporation medical director Dr. Mark Peterson. “Case rates are dropping. Hospitalizations and deaths are dropping. They’re not zero by any means, but they’re starting to fall.”

Across the state of Alaska, continued on page 4

ALGAL HOTBEDS — The map shows algal cyst hotbeds off the northwest Alaska coast.

Harmful algal blooms more frequent in northwest Alaska

By Julia Lerner

Warming sea waters are contributing to a massive growth of harmful and toxic algal blooms in the waters of the Bering Sea, putting both marine animals and human lives at risk.

On the Web: www.nomenugget.net
E-mail: Diana@nomenugget.com

According to Don Anderson, a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, “The recent warming that we’re seeing in the bottom waters supports the earlier and faster germination of these blooms,” he explained during a UAF, Northwest Campus, Strait Science presentation last week. “It also supports longer periods favorable to blooms. So, what you’ve got is a dramatic increase in the potential for local initiation of blooms.”

Anderson presented his research during a Strait Science lecture on Thursday, October 14 via Zoom and discussed increasing levels of these harmful algal blooms, what’s causing them, and how it might impact regional residents.

Algal blooms, which occur naturally in the summertime, are becoming more frequent in the Bering Strait region due to climate change and warming seas. These algal blooms can detrimentally impact an aquatic system in several ways: Blooms can produce toxins that poison fish, mammals and birds; Non-toxic blooms can proliferate to the point of consuming all available oxygen in the water, choking fish gills and smothering food sources.

Anderson’s presentation, which drew a large crowd of participants from across the region, focused on several types of toxins produced by these algal Blooms, including domoic acid and saxitoxin, which can cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, or PSP, and Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning, or NSP for short, Anammox Shellfish Poisoning.

Algal blooms, which occur naturally in the summertime, are becoming more frequent in the Bering Strait region due to climate change and warming seas.

On the Web: www.nomenugget.net
E-mail: Diana@nomenugget.com

Alaska Airlines to change aircraft serving Nome

By Diana Haucker

It was not a press release that announced changes to Alaska Airlines’ service to Nome, but whispers on the street. Those whispers proved true as Alaska Airlines confirmed this week that it indeed plans to use smaller aircraft to transport passengers between Nome and Anchorage, starting in the summer of 2022.

“The new schedule will include a blend of 737 and an Embraer 175 (E175). Both are jet aircraft,” said Alaska Airlines spokesperson Tim Thompson in an email to the Nugget. “The Embraer 175 will be used on the Nome- Anchorage route. Most of the other daily flights will remain the E175.”

The E175 is a 76-seat twin-engine jet, with 12 first class seats, 12 premium seats and 52 main cabin seats that are similar to a 737 aircraft. In the main cabin, seating is two seats per row. The E175 is similar to the 737 in amenities onboard the aircraft and guests can expect the same service they are accustomed to when flying with Alaska Airlines, he said.

If smaller planes will start serving Nome, will the travel time be longer?

No, said Thompson, travel time will not be longer. “The E175 flies at the same altitude and about the same speed as a 737,” he said.

Across the state of Alaska, continued on page 4

CHANGE — Alaska Airlines plans to replace the 737s with a smaller planes for the morning flights, starting in summer 2022.
Despite ominous threats of mass resignations, 99.3 percent of 4,600 Providence health care system’s employees comply with their mandate to get inoculated against COVID-19. A small number received an exemption. The rest, about 30 employees, are put on administrative leave and if they chose not to comply, their employment will be terminated. However, a 99.3 percent compliance rate proves the skeptics are wrong. Vaccination mandates work. Other health organizations, including NGOs, have similar vaccination mandates in place. Shifting the work force from a deadly virus is not only protecting individuals but also is assuming that health care providers remain as healthy as possible, as we all depend on them now more than ever.

Businesses, Native organizations and the federal government has mandated vaccination against COVID-19, increasing vaccination rates across the nation and giving us hope that the elusive ‘herd immunity’ may be reached.

The City of Bethel has also initiated a vaccination mandate in September. According to KYUK reports, the mandate a vaccination against COVID-19, and the federal government has mandated vaccination against COVID-19, increasing vaccination rates across the nation and giving us hope that the elusive ‘herd immunity’ may be reached.

Nobody wants to be told what to do and mandates seem to trigger a stubborn oppositional attitude that may have nothing to do with the issue itself.

How about launching a massive educational campaign to explain to us the science of the SARS-CoV-2 virus works? If we know how it’s transmitted, we may understand better what a good mask offers protection. Maybe how the vaccine works, in layman’s terms, may folks won’t be so reluctant to get inoculated.

I believe we can all benefit from learning about the science of vaccinations, of that new technology called mRNA that allowed the development of the vaccine at such a fast pace. Maybe instead of making people do things, we need to calmly down and listen to rational explanations from trusted experts and infectious disease specialists who can break down the science for all of us to understand. If we all could just listen to those who know their stuff, not those who do their ‘own research’ at the internet, then we may not need mandates. But first we need to stop the screaming. We need to rationally seek out the best information from experts and then consider how we can achieve the best outcome for oneself, one’s family, friends and ultimately for all of our fellow human beings.

If that doesn’t work, government will step in with rules, regulations and mandates to protect us from our selves. — D. H.

The Nome Nugget’s submission policies:

Letters to the Editor: The main body of a letter should be around 300-500 words. The letters may be edited for length and clarity. We will not print material that is libelous, obscene, defamatory, threatening, copyrighted or profane. We do not print letters that contain false statements or misrepresentations. If the process to register, report and pay tax if doing so would not folks who would willingly register and pay tax if doing so would not.”

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By Rick Thomas
Alaska Climate Specialist
Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, TAF

For the second straight winter it looks like we'll have La Niña condi-
tions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In climate lingo, “La Niña” refers to colder than average water near the equator in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean and warmer than normal ocean in the western Pacific and accompanying stronger than normal trade winds. Its regulating the preferred location of big, persistent tropical thunderstorms that these small changes in the tropics can modulate the location and intensity of the jet stream, which in turn impacts our weather.

So, given that La Niña conditions are now in place and are quite likely to last through the upcoming winter, can we use this to help with the sea-
sonal outlook? Over the past 70 years there have been 11 times with back-to-back La Niñas. When we look at the departures from average, taking into account the 4°F warming in early winter temperatures overall since 1950, we find that most, but by no means all, of the November through January’s have been cooler than what you’d expect. Most nota-

ally, the last time we had the second La Niña winter in a row, the No-

vember to January average tempera-
ture was above average even after taking into account the trend. In con-
trast, 2011/12, the year of the

Rendezvous, was easily the second coldest La Niña winter. While we

would not have thought much about it in the past, we now are very at-
tuned to the fact that early winter temperatures (and storminess) are critical to sea ice development, es-

pecially when ocean temperatures in the early fall are unusually warm. So putting all these pieces together, using nothing but the history of what’s happened in second year La Niñas (in climate science this is called a “conditional climatology”), we get that there’s about a two in three chance that November 2021 through January 2022 will be cooler than the current trend-adjusted av-

tage temperature of about 14°F and about a ten in ten chance that will average colder than the long term average of about 10°F.

Climate Watch

By Dr. Anne Zink

This year’s early fall was a reminder that winter is on its way. Alaskans are moving fast to put on snow tires and dig out ice scrapers. Cobwebs and goblins are popping up in stores and neighborhoods.

October is here. Time to winterize and immobilize. Now is a great time to get your annual flu shot – and your COVID-19 vaccine – if you haven’t done so al-

ready. The goal is to protect Alaskans as quickly as possible, to help drive down our COVID-19 cases and pre-

vent the flu before it begins circulat-

ing widely in our communities.

Last year, Alaskans did a great job of getting their flu shots before the end of October as recommended. We also did great as a state at wearing masks, practicing social circles, small, washing hands often and physical distancing from non-household members to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

As we look at the rest of the coun-

try, experienced historically low levels of flu last year as a result and helped push down COVID-19 case rates.

COVID-19 cases and hospitaliza-
tions are again high, and our health care system is again struggling to help protect yourself, your family and our health care staff. Please make an appointment to get a flu shot today – and get vaccinated against COVID-19.

The flu is responsible for hun-
dreds of thousands of hospitaliza-
tions and tens of thousands of deaths annually in the United States. Though it varies year to year, Alaska is significantly impacted by the flu. Anyone can get the flu, and serious problems can happen at any age. To learn more and to see Alaska flu data, please visit afluenza.aanr.

The flu shot is safe, significantly reduces your chance of getting the flu and helps prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death associated with flu. There’s a chance you could still get the flu even if you’re pro-
tected by the vaccine, but if you do, you will likely have a milder ill-

ness than if you were unvaccinated.

Immunize when you winterize

That means missing fewer days of work or school, plus it will help keep you in shape to fight off other dis-
tease too, including COVID-19.

Flu shots can be administered at the same time as other vaccines. If you are considering getting vaccini-
ged for COVID-19 or getting a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, check to see if your provider or clinic offers both for convenience and effi-
ciency.

We recommend that everyone age six months and older get an annual flu shot. Essential workers with high levels of contact with people outside your household should continue on page 4.

Thursday, October 21

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 22

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 24

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 25

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27

None City Hall Public hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

None Recreation Center 30 people allowed in the gym and 15 in the weight room (at one time).

None Visitor Center Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Richard Fournier Building - Library + Museum M-F 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

P.O. Box 1600 • Nome, Alaska 99762

Call your Village Agent for details or please visit our website at www.beringair.com.
Continue from page 1

though, is a different story. “Cases numbers are staying high,” Peterson says. “We can’t really say that there’s a trend down yet. There seems to be a little bit of a trend down, but we’re not necessarily see-
ing that consistently across the state. Times are tough.”

Because COVID-19 cases are not falling as quickly as hoped, Nome’s City Manager Glenn Steckman an-
nounced the City’s face mask mand-
ate will be extended until midnight on October 31. The original mandate, which took effect on October 2, was slated to end on October 15.

“We are approaching the number that is … when we ended up shutting down the restaurants [last year],” Steckman told Nome’s Planning Commission on Tuesday, October 12. “I don’t see us doing testing, but we will probably extend the mask re-
quirement another two weeks be-
cause I don’t see the counts tum-
bbling.”

Once active cases in the region fall below 40, Steckman said the mask mandate will go away. “If the cases drop down below 40, we may want a couple days, and if they continue to trend down, we’ll pull the mask mandate back”). He said. Though the mask mandate will go away when cases fall below 40, Steckman says the goal is to get ac-
tive cases in the community even low-
ner.

The goal is to try to get that ac-
tive case number down around 30 or less,” he told the Nugget. Steckman says the city has asked the Chamber of Commerce to deliver more non-vaccinated individuals.”

“In the future, we’re going to be about getting non-vaccinated individuals,” he said. “The shots for children ages 5-11 are sounding like they’re com-
ing in November, and we’re slowly getting ready. We’ll be making those available and sending teams out to get kids vaccinated in the region.”

Steckman said, “We have returned to the Food and Drug Administration to encourage anyone who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to get a second booster shot.”

“For Johnson & Johnson, it’s going to be really important that you get the booster,” Peterson said. “That booster is recommended just two months after your initial shot, so we will give you that if you got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

For individuals who received Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, booster shots are available at the NHSIC pharmacy in Nome or in village clinics.

“If you had Pfizer, you can get Moderna as a booster, and if you got Moderna, you can get Pfizer as a booster.” Peterson said. “If you’re 65 and older, get a booster. If you are 64 and work in an environment where you might be exposed to a lot of people or have medical issues that could make COVID-19 worse for you, you should get booster. Everybody else, you’re welcome to get the booster, but the FD A is not requir-
ing it for you.”

COVID-19 vaccinations are avail-
able at all NHSIC locations. In a vil-
lage, individuals can contact their local clinic for vaccination arrange-
ments. At the Nome Airport, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are offered to all incoming passengers 12 years and older.

Across Alaska, there have been a total of 127,767 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began, including 6,430 in the last week. In the state, there have been 2,911 hospitaliza-
tions, including 202 individuals cur-
rently hospitalized with the virus and 22 on ventilators. Around the state, only 21 ICU beds remain available, and 617 individuals have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began in March, 2020.

In Nome, Norton Sound and the Bering Strait regions, there have been 1,236 cases of COVID-19, 15 hospi-
talizations and one death.

Immunize continued from page 3

their house are at higher risk for flu as well as people who live or work in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. Other people at higher risk of getting severe flu dis-
ease if they get the flu include:

- Pregnant women and children under the age of one
- People 50 years and older
- Young adults and children who have chronic medical conditions like lung disease, asthma, heart disease, diab-
etes, neurologic disorders, and weakened immune systems, or those who are extremely obese
- Alaska Native people and other racial groups that are traditionally affected by chronic medical conditions that can increase the risk for severe flu COVID-19

As the weather cools and we re-
turn to indoor activities, it’s easier for the flu and other viruses to spread. For years, we’ve wint-
erized, don’t forget to immunize.

Get your flu shot this year – and every year – before the end of Oc-
tober. The flu shot is widely avail-
able. Contact your health care pro-
vider, pharmacy or a state public health center near you to ask about flu vaccine availability. And con-
sider getting a COVID-19 vaccina-
tion or booster if you are eligible. For more information visit: flu.alaska.gov and covid.alaska.gov.

Dr. Anne Zink, M.D., is a board-
certified emergency physician and Alaska’s chief medical officer.

\[\text{Notices of availability:} \]
NOME PLANNING PANEL WELCOMES NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR: STEPHEN McHENRY

By Julia Lerner

The state of Alaska is investigating a fuel leak at the Nome Elementary School, according to the Nome Board of Education.

“They haven’t had any problems in the past two years ... it’s just some fuel that overflowed in the ground underneath the school,” said NPS Superintendent Jamie Burgess explained to the Nome City Council on Monday. “NES Fuel Spill investigation ongoing through Preliminary Investigation and preliminary investigation is underway,” said Burgess.

Burgess told the Nugget, “We just have one small area that may be affected but we’re still doing some continued testing to make sure it isn’t an issue that’s larger than what we think.”

The Tuesday, October 12 school board meeting was the first official meeting following the 2021 municipal elections. Three seats were up for election, though only one seat had more than two candidates running. All three incumbents were reelected, including Bob Metcalf in seat B, Nancy Mendelhoden in seat C, and Sandy Marniton in seat A.

During the meeting, the board reflected Sandy Marniton to serve as President.

At the meeting, Burgess shared several updates regarding school operations and her experience at a Pre-Continued on page 6

School board hears of fuel leak at Nome Elementary School

continued from page 1

41

Nome planning panel welcomes new building inspector: Stephen McHenry

Nome’s planning commission met last week to learn about updates from Nome’s Historic Preservation Commission, the city planner, the new building inspector and the city manager.

The October 12 meeting had very little on the agenda, with no new business and no unfinished business from previous meetings.

Ken Hughes, the chair of the Planning Commission, provided updates to his colleagues regarding the Historic Preservation Plan document. The document, dated June 28, 2021, was prepared for the Planning Commission for financial grants, though it was contested by Nome’s City Manager Glenn Steckmann.

The commission took another look at the document during their September meeting, opting to leave it as-is, and plans to address public concerns in another phase of the historic preservation project.

“I put together a memo for the council, and I went to them and they plan on bringing back the resolution to approve phase two of the report,” Hughes explained to his colleagues.

Eileen Bechtol, Nome’s city planner, shared information about a possible “all jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.” This could be including the tribal entities that are federally recognized through ANCSA [Native Village of Nome city limits],” she explained. “I thought I could email the heads of each of the jurisdictions and ask if they are amenable with being partners with us. After the plan is approved, they’ll be able to get money for mitigation projects.” The hazard mitigation plan would provide funding for projects to protect from incessant weather conditions in Alaska.

“We got a grant for the museum when it was on Front Street for a weather door, projects like that,” Bechtol said. “We got grants to tie down propane and oil tanks.”

The planning commission also welcomed the new building inspector to Nome: Cliff McHenry, a longtime Nomeite, updated the commission on his activities in his first week, including examining permit requests, abatement concerns and meetings with Nome’s Chief of Police Mike Hemtrell.

Commissioners were excited to welcome McHenry in his new role. “I think it’s, that [CMP] is serving as our city building inspector now with [John] Burgess here and I’m really glad that the city was able to get someone so quickly for this position,” said Commissioner Sara Lizak.

“It’s great to see somebody who’s been kind of doing this stuff all along doing it officially now,” said Commissioner Gregory Smith. “I look forward to having him inspect my property, and it’s good to have him. He’s already hitting all the challenges of the job right off the bat.”

Commissioners heard from Nome’s City Manager Glenn Steckmann about a new snow complaint hotline the city is introducing. “If people need their road cleaned or we need something, they will be directed to call one telephone number instead of going through everybody that they know in the city government,” Steckmann explained.

“We’re also looking for places to dump snow. We are missing a couple of locations where people have drawn their interest in leaving their property, so that may have an impact. One of our dump trucks caught fire in the past weekend down at the Port, so that will be one less dump track that we’ll have available.”

The next meeting of the planning commission is scheduled for November 2 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.
The school has since adopted a Professional Boundaries policy, which addresses school employee behavior regarding students.

“I appreciate that we’re ahead of the norm with the adoption of a professional boundaries policy and that [Burgess] sponsored subsequent staff training,” NPS Board Member Barb Beltz said. “Thank you for going above and beyond.”

Other board members echoed Aarons’s sentiments.

“Being early adopters of this policy is important,” said board member Darlene Trigg. “Thank you for working with us to figure out how to best work through implementation at our district.”

Burgess said the school district is working on finding more ways to involve students in extracurriculars and alternative sports. This year, the district plans to add cross country skiing to their school-sponsored sports.

“We’re super excited,” Burgess told the board. “We’re really started to try and expand and reach and give more students opportunities to participate in extracurriculars. We added E-sports a while ago, and we believe with the addition of cross-country skiing, we will really open up opportunities for students who don’t participate in some of our other sports. We’d like to cast the net as wide as possible.”

The next step, Burgess says, is to assemble a team and hire a coach.

“There will be a little work to kind of get it off the ground, especially financially,” she explained. “We will have to hire a coach. Once we have that, the team, they’ll be working to do some sort of fundraising as well as reaching out to some of our community partners and some other possibilities for grants to give them the equipment that they need to get started.”

In addition to hiring a new cross-country skiing coach, the school district discussed the hiring of a school nurse for the district through a Department of Health and Social Services grant.

The grant, initially pitched to the superintendent to financially support COVID-19 screening and testing, was offered to NPS in May 2020.

“At the time, we decided that, because we have a pretty robust testing infrastructure in place, which is not the case in many places around Alaska, that this wasn’t something that we wanted to take on,” Burgess said. “At the time, we decided to decline the grant.”

DHSS approached the school again and said the grant funds could be used to hire a school nurse.

Well, that was a completely different conversation, and we were super excited about that possibility,” Burgess said. “The challenge, of course, it’s great to have the money and have the availability, but now we have to find somebody to fill the position.”

Each month, the school board honors students across the district with “student of the month” awards. This month, the awards, including certificates and gift cards, were awarded to Stanley Cohen Booth at School and Melody Olanna at Nome-Beltz Middle School and Emily Walluk at Nome-Beltz High School.

All Around the Sound

Honors Dr. Sarah Aarons, formerly of Unalakleet, received the Geological Society of America’s Doris M. Curtis Award.

The award celebrates women who have made profound contributions to the field of geoscience.

“The changing environment in the Arctic, the lack of representation of Indigenous people in STEM and the geosciences inspired my career path,” said Dr. Aarons.

“We cannot make informed decisions about climate policy, oil and gas exploration and mineral extraction without a fundamental understanding of how the Earth works.”

Native American and Alaska Native people are severely underrepresented in Earth science, despite that many Indigenous communities are reliant on the land for subsistence.

Only 20 Native American/Alaska Native women earned geoscience PhDs from 1973-2016. My experiences as a Native woman in academia shape my advocacy and mentorship approach, and I look forward to continuing my commitment to addressing the overwhelming lack of historically excluded students and those from non-traditional backgrounds in Earth science.”

Dr. Aarons is an Assistant Professor and earth scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego.

Dr. Aarons is the daughter of Dr. Charlie Aarons and the late Martha Anagick Aarons of Unalakleet.

Photo courtesy Pravy Olanna

STUDENT OF THE MONTH NBHS— Melody Olanna, second to left, was awarded student of the month honors and poses with her family during last week’s school board meeting.
Nome Eskimo Community (NEC) is hosting a public meeting to discuss a 3D concrete printing housing development project in partnership with Xtreme Habitats.

When: The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday 10/21/2021 at 5:15PM

How to Join:
1. By computer or device: Go to https://tinyurl.com/NECHousingMeeting and enter the passcode: 452492; or Go to zoom.us in your web browser or open the Zoom app on your device. Click “Join a Meeting” and enter the Meeting ID: 850 4513 3429 as well as Passcode: 452492
2. By phone: Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter meeting ID: 850 4513 3429 and Passcode: 452492

Attendees will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and ask questions. Two $50 Amazon Gift Cards will be raffled off to attendees.

Please call 907-443-2246 or send an email to information@neclaska.org if you have any questions.

IT IS TIME TO TURN ON YOUR WATER CIRCULATING PUMP

With temperatures dropping, Nome Joint Utility System reminds you it is time to turn on your water circulating pump.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water & Sewer Department – 443-6349.

Three regional businesses receive NSEDC Small Business Initiative grants

NOME—With the help of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation’s Small Business Initiative, three local entrepreneurs will be able to expand or deliver services that were previously unavailable in the region.

On October 5, NSEDC’s SBI program awarded a total of $150,000 to three Nome-based businesses following a review of proposals and business plans and an interview with the program’s judges.

Awards went to Isaac Thompson’s Arctic Works LLC, a for-hire machine shop; Last Frontier Eye Care LLC, an independent eye care clinic; and David Stickel’s South Paw Services, a heavy equipment services firm.

Arctic Works, LLC will establish a commercial, for-hire machine shop in Nome. The shop will specialize in machine tools such as a mill, lathe, hydraulic press and other large machine working tools. The purpose of the shop is to service, rebuild, repair or make individual parts for vehicles, boats or other uses. Arctic Works aims to provide services that currently are not available in the region on a commercial scale. The grant funding will allow Arctic Works to expand a shop to house its equipment.

Last Frontier Eye Care, LLC will use the funds to expand their optometry clinic’s ability to serve the Norton Sound region. Last Frontier Eye Care will utilize the funds to purchase equipment that is currently unavailable in the region. The pieces of equipment will be utilized to provide patients with glaucoma and post-cataract care as well as those suffering from dry eyes or bacteria buildup around their eyes.

South Paw Services offers landscaping, trench digging, septic tank installation, hauling gravel and snow removal. South Paw Services targets the needs of residential customers in the Nome area along with commercial properties that need periodic services such as snow removal. The grant funding will allow South Paw Services to expand its equipment and improve its facility.

In 2021, 16 proposals were received, and an independent panel of judges narrowed down the applicants to six finalists who gave presentations during the final evaluation process. All six finalists will receive new laptops and QuickBooks Pro software.

An independent panel of judges reviewed proposals in August and decided which businesses advanced to the final round. The same judges returned for the final round at which time they determined which businesses received funding and award amounts.

The 2021 judges included former SBI recipient Merle Apassingok of Gambell, Mark Vink and Annabelle Cunningham of Unalakleet, and David Olson and Donna James of Nome.

The 2021 recipients have two years to implement their business plans and utilize the available funding.

The SBI is held every other year with the next competition to take place in 2023. A maximum of three awards are made each competition with an individual award cap of $50,000.
FLYING HIGH—Senior Raina McRae soars in the air during the Warrior vs. Nanook game with the assist of Clara Hansen (left).

Bethel wins Arctic Pinkies Tournament

By Sara Bioff

Nome-Beltz Middle High School hosted the annual Arctic Pinkies Tournament on Friday, October 15, and Saturday, October 16, 2021. The weekend started off honoring the Nanook seniors with Senior night. The Barrow Whalers and Bethel Warriors brought their JV and Varsity teams to play. Bethel took home first place for varsity and second with JV. Their players awarded All-Tournament Team were Jordan Wheeler and Haley Sandvold, with MVP player Bryn Garrison. The Nome Lady Nanooks came in second with both JV and Varsity teams while also having All-Tournament players Lupe Callahan and Clara Hansen. Barrow placed third for varsity and first for JV; on their All-Tournament team was Jillian Chrestman-Adams.

The tournament was supposed to begin on October 14, however, the Seward Seahawks and Dimond Lynx did not attend due to mandates in place for COVID-19.

The tournament was a three-team double elimination. The Friday games consisted of Barrow taking the lead for the JV team and Bethel in the lead for varsity. The first game of the night, Bethel versus Nome, started with a close match 28 to 26 Bethel. However, the second set ended with 25 to 14 Bethel for the win.

On Saturday, October 16, Nome beat Barrow and then went up against the undefeated Bethel. Bethel won that game and won against Barrow beforehand, which brought them up to the championship games. Nome played the loser bracket against Barrow to see who would accompany Bethel in the championship games. Nome took the win, which brought the fight for first place between Bethel and Nome, leaving Barrow third. Bethel won against Nome, beating them in both sets. Bethel won the championship, leaving Nome with second place.

When asked what her most memorable highlights from the weekend games were, senior varsity player Raina McRae said, “The adrenaline rush from off-court was awesome when the scores were so close. When I wasn’t on court, I was jumping up and down and screaming at the top of my lungs. I even knocked over the chair behind me at one point.”

Regions is coming up next for all teams across Alaska, and when asked if the Nanooks are prepared, McRae said, “I think the region is going to look a lot like Pinkies. We’ve played Kotzebue this season already, too, so I think with a bit more work and a lot of motivation, we got this in the bag.”

LADY NANOOKS AND THE SPIRIT BOYS— (Front l-r) Imari Bright, Dorothy Callahan, Sophia Marble, Kellie Miller, Tori Gray, Karis Evans, Clara Hansen, Raina McRae and Guadalupe Callahan. (Back l-r) Bode Leeper, Paris Hebel, Devon Crowe, Tommy Cushman, Parker Kenick and Colin McFarland.

LET’S GET HYPE—Tori Gray leads the Nanook Varsity girls with a cheer, “Turn it up,” to get ready for the next game against Bethel Warriors.

BSSD Volleyball News

Photo by Maggie Gray

IN WHITE MOUNTAIN— Gambell Qughsatkut lining up before the game against White Mountain in the White Mountain Wolves den on Friday, October 15.
The Delta variant is looking for you, the non-vaccinated.
You, who are young and healthy!

Your family, friends and neighbors are concerned about you!
Or, get so sick that you have to go to the hospital in Nome.
Or, even be put on a ventilator in Anchorage.

We know you have questions and concerns about the vaccination. Please contact your physician for advice.

Please consider getting vaccinated.

www.nomealaska.org
Ralph “Pirciq” Ivanoff
June 12, 1923 – Oct 2, 2021

Fisherman extraordinaire, Ralph Ivanoff (“Pirciq” was born June 12, 1923 to Paul and May Ivanoff in Shaktaktik, Alaska. The eldest son of 10 children he grew up in many communities across the State of Alaska while his parents were teaching at RIA schools.

Ralph later attended school in Eklutna before furthering his education in a trade school.

Ralph and his first wife, Laura, had six children, raising them in Nome and Saint Michael. In Nome, he worked as an airplane mechanic and loaded supplies for miners at Granite Mountain. He continued his work in the airline industry, working for AK Star Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Wien Airlines as a cargo handler before retiring.

On September 1, 1974 Ralph and Millie were married. Together, they raised Robin, Dean, Peter and their granddaughter, Dawn. Ralph and Millie spent many years in the outdoors and traveling outside of Alaska, on an acquired lifetime pass privileges with Alaska Airlines.

Ralph was an avid subsistence hunter, fischer and gatherer. His passion and love for the outdoors was obvious to those who witnessed his countless hunting and fishing adventures. Ralph loved to share his knowledge and stories with family and friends, near and far. As a young adult living on Ninivak Island, he was a very successful trapper providing for his family with the furs he sold. He enjoyed teaching his children the subsistence way of life through many camping, hunting and fishing trips. He often brought his boys out hunting, teaching them the proper way to hunt ugrik, walrus, caribou, moose, small game and birds, and continued hunting and fishing well into his 90s.

Ralph was the longest commercial salmon fisherman in the Norton Sound, beginning his fishing career in the late 1950’s before the fishery became recognized by the state in 1961. After 58 years of fishing, Ralph concluded his final season in 2019 at the age of 96.

Ralph had a nickname for many, had a great sense of humor, and laughed and teased those dearest to him in the community. He had the ability to speak and understand most Native languages and dialects from Bristol Bay to Barrow and had valued friendships in all locations.

“We will miss his genuine love of life and his cherished wisdom. Ralph is survived by his wife of 47 years, Millie Ivanoff; children Henry (Yvonne, Isabella-In Memoriam, Barbara-In Memoriam), Weaver (Lucia), Burkholder (Hada), Herb (Heidi, Lena-In Memoriam), Larry (Maggie), Jerry (Brenda), Don (Steve, Zoe-In Memoriam), Galen, Rick, Dean (Trina); and Art; sister Eva Ryan; 44 grandchildren; 107 great grandchildren; and 17 great great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents Paul and Henrietta Hansen, Fena Bunch, Laurina Ryan, and Johnny Ivanoff, Emma Moses, Paul Ivanoff II, Henrietta Hansen, Fena Bunch, Laurina Ryan, and Glenn Ivanoff.

A celebration of the past will bring a smile to your face, but you recognize that it may need to find an outlet for it. Direct this sudden influx of energy through many camping, hunting and fishing trips. He often brought his boys out hunting, teaching them the proper way to hunt ugrik, walrus, caribou, moose, small game and birds, and continued hunting and fishing well into his 90s.

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2021 AFN Convention to be held virtual in December

Last week, the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors decided to hold its all-virtual annual convention on December 13 and 14, 2021. After consultation with state, federal and tribal health officials, and reviewing current data trends, AFN made its decision out of concern for the safety and health of the thousands of attendees who come from every part of Alaska, including AFN delegates, presenters, other participants, artists and exhibitors, and the public.

In August the AFN board postponed the convention from October to December to give time for the city of Anchorage to get the COVID-19 numbers turned around. The current information shows continuing high rates of COVID-19 cases, transmission, hospitalization and deaths, particularly in Anchorage, the convention host city, which is on an upward trajectory according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

“Safety is paramount to our decision,” said Sheri Buretta, chair of AFN’s Convention Committee. “Our convention is a large indoor gathering where CDC guidelines of social distancing are not practical. The situation in Anchorage has not improved nearly enough to risk the health of convention participants, particularly our Elders and other vulnerable attendees, when hospitals across the state are under extreme pressure right now.”

As was done for the all-virtual 2020 AFN Convention, a robust virtual meeting platform will be combined with live statewide TV and radio broadcast coverage, and live streaming on multiple video channels.

A full agenda will be released to the public in early December. AFN will also develop an online Native arts marketplace featuring many of the same Native artists that have had booths in the exhibit hall during in-person AFN Conventions.

This year’s convention theme is “ANCSA at 50: Empowering Our Future.” The passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act fifty years ago was a groundbreaking, remarkable achievement for Alaska. A model around the world of Indigenous self-determination, ANCSA has led to tremendous economic benefits and opportunities for Native people and for all Alaskans.

AFN will proudly celebrate that accomplishment while acknowledging there is plenty more work to be done. This year’s theme emphasizes the importance of addressing the collective work ahead of the Native community to empower our people and face the challenges of the future together.

Since its passage, ANCSA has been amended in significant ways and with technical fixes. AFN recognizes that there is unfinished business and unmet promises, particularly in the area of subsistence rights and food security, public safety and law enforcement, and economic development.

AFN delegates and members should watch their email for the updated 2021 Convention Delegate Packet. The packet will include resolution, sponsorship, and registration information. A print version will be mailed as well. An updated registration form will be sent to delegates who have not yet registered.

Focus On Your Family.

Tune in weekday evenings at 6:30 for Focus on the Family with author, lecturer and host, Dr. James Daly.

It's a program you can use every day.
It's thought provoking.
It's Biblically-based.

Listen...then focus on your family.

Recipe courtesy of Katie Serbinski of “Mom to Mom Nutrition” on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 2

Ingredients:
4 slices French or Italian bread
3 tablespoons prepared pesto
2 large roasted red peppers
4 slices mozzarella cheese
2 tablespoons butter, softened

Preheat skillet or grill pan over medium-low heat.

Spread inside bread slices evenly with pesto. Stack red peppers and mozzarella cheese.

Spread outer sides of bread with softened butter and grill until toasted and cheese is melted, about 5 minutes per side.

Rest 1 minute before cutting.
Southern NSSP Office Manager (Unalakleet): The Southern NSSP Office Manager is responsible for organizing and coordinating office operations and procedures as well as working closely with the Health Resource and Accessing Departments on processing all new hire paperwork for Southern NSSP, maintaining fish tickets, performing all required inventory activities, and working with fishermen in the distribution of various applications and paperwork. A high school diploma or equivalent and at least four years of related experience is required.

Community Development Coordinator (Unalakleet): This position is responsible for developing plans for in-region community development and facilitating community outreach while assisting with the administration of all Community Benefits Department programs through monitoring and establishing development opportunities, relevant grant and funding resources, and working closely with community and regional entities. A Bachelor’s degree in Rural Development, Business Administration or related field, and at least two years applicable work experience is required.

Community Benefits Specialist (Anchorage): The Community Benefits Specialist assists with coordination and facilitation of all Community Benefits Department programs through record-keeping, advertising program information, developing annual activity plans, assisting with check requests and remittance letters, processing donation requests, and preparing activity reports. A high school diploma or equivalent and at least two years of related experience is required.

Community Liaison (St. Michael & Stebbins): NSECDD Community Outreach Liaisons give NSECDD a presence in member communities. They are expected to do no more than an NSECDD office. Liaisons are responsible for the distribution of announcements and information and applications related to NSECDD programs and opportunities, the maintenance of an NSECDD-owned mailing list, and preparing bulletins, and are expected to be available at regularly set times and locations.

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsecdd.com or contact Human Resources at (907) 443-4573.
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Member Representative Election

Public Notice of Special Runoff Election

The City of Nome shall hold a special runoff election for their Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) Member Representative seat for the remainder of a four-year term ending November 2022.

Community

Name: 

Election Date: November 2, 2021

Polling Place: Old Saint Joe’s Hall

Polling Times: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A runoff election shall be held between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes in the October 5, 2021, Nome Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) Member Representative election.

How to Join:

Party:

Room:

Phone:

Email:

Please participate to show your support and help improve safety in Nome! $50 Amazon Gift Cards will be raffled off to attendees!

The Nome Eskimo Community is hosting a public meeting to discuss updates to their Tribal Transportation Safety Plan. The Plan evaluates crash data and community priorities to determine safety initiatives that will improve Nome’s transportation system.

The meeting will be held virtually. Join online to follow along with the presentation, or you can call in to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and ask questions. Two $50 Amazon Gift Cards will be raffled off to attendees!

Please participate to show your support and help improve safety in Nome.

When:

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

How to Join:

1. Go to zoom.us in your web browser or open the Zoom app on your device.
2. Click “Join a Meeting”
3. Enter the Meeting ID: 962 1281 5017
4. Enter the Passcode: nesafely

Contact Jacob at Nome Eskimo Community for more information at 907-443-9130.

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“Meanwhile, sellers are holding firm on prices, while at the same time expressing con-
cerns over increased tax burdens if the buyer is following such a good season. These two things combined have really re-
stricted the market and there haven’t been that many sales,” she added.

“There is plenty of interest in Bristol Bay permits and boats, but the permit price is really high so right now there is a lot in talk,” echoed Lisa Gulliford at Permit Master in Tacoma, WA. Permit values are published monthly by the state Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and reflect the average of sale prices over the last three months. They need at least four transactions to calculate an aver-
age and some permits don’t sell frequently enough to do that, so they have to incorporate sales from prior to three months ago, explained Lightsey.

“But the market changes so quickly that CFEC’s permit prices are typically off, either at the high or low side. The value of salmon permits is quite literally whatever the buyer is willing to pay for it!” she added.

Other salmon fisheries also are attracting interest “which is good news and means that optimism is spreading throughout the fish-
ery," added Lightsey. “Prices that have been rela-
tively quiet for a few years are now getting inquiries,” Gulliford said. "And permits in Southeast are making a come-
back.

Before the summer season, power troll permits were selling in the low $20,000s and are now in the $25,000-$30,000 range. Movement in other Southeast salmon permits, however, is lack-
luster. Lightsey.

“Before the season drift per-
mits selling for around $55,000 and lowest asking price now is $65,000 but we’ve had no offers,” she said. "On the seine front, we sold a permit for $41,000 after the season ended, which was the first I believe since 2019. It’s a really slow market down there.”

Likewise, permits at Prince William Sound have yet to gain much traction despite a great year for pink salmon.

“A few drift permits have sold in the $110,000 range. No seine permits have been on the market, that I am aware of. And quite a few folks are moving from Prince William Sound to Bristol Bay,” Lightsey added.

Conversely, drift permits at Cook Inlet are attracting refunds from lows of $16,000-$17,000 to $30,000.

“Quite a few folks had the best season they’ve had in years. Not everyone, of course, but many brooks were really good,” she said. Likewise, seines permits at Ko-
diak have been on a steady rise from lows of $16,000-$17,000 range to $40,000 since the season ended.

At Area M on the Alaska Pen-
insula, drift permits are rebound-
ing in the high $150,000 to mid-
$160,000 range after topping $200,000 in 2019 and then drop-
ing to no sales in 2020. Lightsey says she hears a lot of concern from fishermen over cli-
mate change and algae blooms in trawl fisheries, but it’s not enough to deter them from buying permits.

“It’s kicking them into gear to take action, which I think is the case,” she said. “I think lots of this new guard of fishermen are young and energetic and in-
tegrally driven and dedicated to sustainability and preserving the future of their industry. Together with the old guard, they’re really making a difference. They’re writing letters and networking and forming advocacy groups and all those things are coming together and instilling a sense of pride and ownership in their fish-
ery and making them more in-
cluded in it to invest in it.

Another indicator of con-
fidence – both brokers said boat sales are brisk. “I think good things are happening!” said Gull-
iford.

Alaska’s statewide salmon catch this year topped 222 mil-
ion, 32 million more fish than projected.

Harbor sur-
veys are near for your local harbor waters clean? Are there sewage pump pauses, rest rooms and adequate disposal stations for trash and de-
bris? Do Alaskans even notice or care?

Two quick surveys for boaters and communities aim to find out.

“We want to hear from boat users in the harbors as well as community members. And we’ll be doing a survey for harbor masters and harbor staff as well,” said Tav Ammu, a Bristol Bay fisherman and Alaska Sea Grant fellow who is leading the proj-
cet.

Disposal of sewage, called blackwater, is a top concern, she said. There’s a scarcity or no gabbage bags for flushing into the harbor and Ammu said many boat owners don’t use good disposal practices.

“Probably half of the people I’ve talked to have maintained Marine Sani-
tation Devices (MSDs) on board, but they just weren’t being util-
ized. That was kind of an “aha” moment for me,” he said. “It’s not that people aren’t interested in it, it’s just that they don’t have options or they have the capability but they don’t use them.

In the words of one fisherman: “I can tell you that it is obvious that we are doing is paying lip service to ‘no poo in the blue’ as there is not a single pump station in Bristol Bay and we really truly don’t know what 5,500 fish-
ermen are doing every day.”

Bailiff added, “It is a glimpse of possible catches for the end of the season there’s plastic debris floating all over the place,” Ammu added. “I know there are fishermen who go around at the end of the season and fill up garbage bags of floating trash that people tossed overboard or it fell overboard or whatever. And if it wasn’t for those individual fishermen, there’d be plastics just floating and dissolving into mi-
croplastics.”

The harbor surveys will let Alaskans pinpoint problems and offer solutions, which Ammu will discuss at the Harbor Masters’ Conference later this month in Anchorage. Find the surveys at www.surv-
veymonkey.com/Com-
munity.

Help with halibut

Halibut stakeholders are being asked to weigh in on two impor-
tant issues: bycatch in the Bering Sea and halibut fishery manage-
ment.

On bycatch: after six years of discussion, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is poised to require Bering Sea bot-
tom trawlers targeting flatfish while halibut are in the gear. Rules as all other halibut users.

Nineteen Seattle-based bottom trawlers targeting flatfish, called the Amendment 80 fleet and in-
cluding boats owned by Alaska Native groups, has a fixed cap on halibut bycatch whereas yearly catches for commercial, sport, charter and subsistence fish-
ermen fluctuate according to the health of the stock.

The bottom trawl bycatch take of over four million pounds comes off the top of all other users. Halibut fishermen from Bering Sea communities, for ex-
ample, were allowed less than 1.7 million pounds this year; and under three million pounds in the Western Gulf.

The public is asked to send written comments on the NPRP’s proposal to re-in the A80 halibut bycatch through October 25.

Send comments to: https://www.regulations.gov enter [NOAA-NAFS-2021-0074] in the search box and click on the Comment icon. Submit written comments to Glenn Mer-
ril, Assistant Regional Admin-
istrator, NMFS/Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

On halibut management: Ideas for new or amended propos-
s are invited by the Inter-
ational Pacific Halibut Com-
mission.

The IPHC oversees the bio-
logy of the stock for the West Coast, British Columbia and Alaska, and sets annual halibut catch limits. An example of a new regulation saw this year’s halibut fishery extended by one month to December 7.

The IPC will give a first glimpse of possible catches for 2022 at its interim meeting, held electronically November 30-Dec-
ember 1. The annual meeting is set for January 24-28 in Seattle.

Scott Fields has 30 days in ad-
vance of both meetings to www.iphc.int/form/regulatory-
propose.
GiveAKaShot.com

Protect Our Economy and Give Alaska a Shot at Recovery

Week 7: Oct 17-Oct 23

Getting your first dose during week 7? Enter to win by Saturday!

Week 7 Eligibility Expires at 11:59 pm Oct. 23
Entries limited to one per person. Eligible Alaskans should enter to win ONCE based on the date of your FIRST dose. You do not need to enter the sweepstakes weekly.

Alaskans vaccinated before Sept. 2 can enter to win anytime before Oct. 30

You can enter for a chance to win if you:

• Are an Alaska resident
• Are age 12 or older
• Received your vaccination in Alaska
• Received a first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at any time before or during the sweepstakes period
• Or if a veteran, at any VA hospital or VA clinic

Other restrictions apply. See GiveAKaShot.com for more details.

Week 5 Winners
J.R. Gilliland
Anchorage (Adult)

Finn Peterson
Anchorage (Youth)

Week 4 Winners
Amber Shanagin
Anchorage (Adult)

Wyatt Ottesen
Fairbanks (Youth)

Week 3 Winners
Jim Durkee
Fairbanks (Adult)

Elia Samuelson
Bethel (Youth)

Week 2 Winners
Ashley Pack
Palmer (Adult)

Mollie Witt
Anchorage (Youth)

Week 1 Winners
Carin Kircher
Valdez (Adult)

Ethan Benton
Kodiak (Youth)

2 Winners each week!
Vaccinated parent/guardian of youth winners will receive a $10K cash prize

Free language interpretation services available
GiveAKaShot.com

If you do not have access to the internet or require language or other assistance, call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline for assistance. Callers must ask that they be entered into the Give AK a Shot Sweepstakes, provide the required entry information, and provide the required acknowledgements and consents.

Call the State of Alaska COVID vaccine helpline
at 1-907-646-3322 or toll-free
1-833-4-VAXLINE (1-833-482-9546)
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Sat/Sun: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.