Nome hears potential for small-scale nuclear energy

By Peter Loewi

Just two weeks after the topic of Nome being powered by a micro-nuclear reactor came up during a meeting with the Governor, Associate Vice Chancellor of Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Green Holdmann, was back in town to give a presentation to the public on the potential of such a project. Holdmann is the author of a recent study, and his decade-old predecessor, on use cases of nuclear energy in Alaska. With her was Richelle Johnson, an economist at UAA.

The meeting, hosted by Nome Joint Utilities System and framed as a community discussion on power, attracted only a small audience to City Hall but they engaged in a hearty discussion, lasting two and a half hours. All five members of the NJUS Board, one member of Common Council, and four local residents not affiliated with a public body joined the mayor, city manager, and NJUS assistant manager. There is currently no plan to use nuclear energy in Nome. It comes with a two to three-year licensing process, Holdmann expects reactors to be deployed and operating in the next five to 10 years.

As part of her presentation to the Alaska State Legislature, Holdmann has a road map with four key questions: Does the technology exist? Is it safe? Is it economic? And is it responsible? Her presentation to Nome was largely based around these four questions, as well.

What’s the status of the technology? Nuclear energy has been used for power for almost 70 years and is currently used in over 30 countries. In the USA, it generates 20 percent of all electricity, about the same as all renewables combined. It has also been in use in Alaska before, in the 1940s at Fort Greely. In the mid-2000s, Galena asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to look into approving a small reactor there, but that proposal ended when their Air Force Base closed.

Conventional nuclear power plants are extremely expensive and slow to build. Instead, research and industry are shifting towards developing “microreactors.” The definition isn’t solid, but the U.S. Department of Energy website says it generally means a plant producing one to 20 megawatts. A proposed reactor at Eielson Air Force Base outside of Fairbanks is expected to be

Researchers find even higher algal levels in regional waters

By Diana Hackler

After alerting the region to very high levels of harmful algal blooms west of Kotzebue and Gambell two weeks ago, scientist onboard the research vessel Norseman II has found even higher numbers of Alexandrium catenella algae cells near Wales, Diomede and Shishmaref.

According to a press release from Norton Sound Health Corporation, the Norseman II traveled near Wales on August 18 to collect seawater samples. Closest to Wales, the samples indicated a concentration of the Alexandrium catenella algae at over 1,000 cells per liter. About 15 miles away to the south, the vessel detected high levels of concentration of the algae with 55,000 cells per liter.

On Friday, August 19, the same vessel traveled near the Diomede islands and collected a water sample with extremely high concentration of the algae, with over 100,000 cells per liter of seawater, which 1.5 miles from the islands.

On Saturday, August 20, the research team sampled about 20 miles outside of Shishmaref, where they found a concentration of over 20,000 cells per liter.

According to Don Anderson, a senior scientist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, entire coastlines are closed to shellfish harvesting on the Eastern Seaboard when more than 1,000 Alexandrium catenella are detected in a quarter liter of seawater.

The Alexandrium catenella is a phytoplankton that can produce harmful algal blooms, which are toxic and can harm marine life and people who consume shellfish harvested from areas where the algae are present.

On August 18, the algae were found in samples collected near Wales, Diomede and Shishmaref, and in a sample collected near the Diomede islands. These findings are consistent with previous reports of high levels of Alexandrium catenella in the area.

Researchers continue to monitor algal blooms in the region and recommend that people avoid consuming shellfish from areas where high levels of algae are detected.

COVID cases

By Peter Loewi

Following last week’s announcement that the United Kingdom had approved Moderna’s “bivalent” COVID vaccine which partially targets the wily SARS-CoV-2 virus, and partially targets the Omicron variant, Pfizer and BioNTech announced this week that they had asked the Food and Drug Administration for approval of their bivalent vaccine, which partially targets the BA.4/5 Omicron subvariant currently circulating.

The data Pfizer and BioNTech submitted, which was released to the public, in a press release, contains that these trials haven’t been conducted on people yet. Many scientists are comparing it to the current flu vaccine, which requires only minor tweaks, instead of full new clinical trials. The most recent human clinical trials are from the BA.1 bivalent vaccine, which appear to be more effective than the original vaccines, but according to a press release

lease from the companies, “A clinical study investigating the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine in individuals 12 years of age and older is expected to start this month.” The vaccine could be available to the public in September.

The FDA turned down the idea of BA.1 boosters this spring, but according to Dr. Peter Marks, the director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, the FDA is “very interested” in BA.1 boosters for everyone else.

For this round of COVID-19 vac

continued on page 4

Region has 27 active COVID cases

By Peter Loewi

“Told people that our agency is here to save the world, and I mean it,” Dr. Rick Spinrad said. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration visited Nome last week as part of a 10-day tour of Alaska. On this trip, he visited Juneau, Kenai, Homer, Anchorage, and after Nome was headed to Fairbanks. He gave a Strait Science presentation about NOAA’s Arctic Goals, met with tribes and city officials and toured the Port of Nome.

“The leading edge in terms of impacts on climate change, on fisheries, on ocean conditions, is right here, right here in Alaska,” he said.

Spinrad, who was sworn in as the Navy, Spinrad ended up running the research vessel Norseman II have found even higher numbers of Alexandrium catenella algae cells near Wales, Diomede and Shishmaref.

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Region has 27 active COVID cases

By Peter Loewi

Following last week’s announce
Opinion: Alaska’s economic development strategy needs more robust input

By Lois Epstein

How can the State of Alaska develop a fresh direction and justifiable strategy for our collective economic future? Those writing the state’s economic development strategy need to incorporate input from people and organizations not traditionally involved in business as usual such as the Alaska oil and gas industry, which still seems in denial about climate change. Robust input on the strategy from diverse stakeholders such as conservation, labor union, government employee and economic justice advocates is essential and that would require extending the public comment period beyond August 26.

A non-publicized 30-day public comment period on the draft Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2022-2027 opened on July 27, a document needed to obtain certain types of federal funds. While the draft strategy contains some admirable goals, public involvement to date lacked involvement by key organizations. That can be remedied, however, through additional outreach by the authors.

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) along with the Alaska Development Team in Governor Dunleavy’s office created the draft strategy, available at https://sas.adc.state.ak.us/doc-links. The University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, under contract with DCCED, performed the background research and the public process, and center staff wrote the document.

The public process included a strategy committee composed of state leaders from business, government and the nonprofit sector that provided “strategic guidance.” Unfortunately, the strategy committee had key stakeholder gaps, excluding conservation organizations and labor unions, especially industrial workers, caregivers and teachers. As a result, the draft strategy does not contain emerging climate change-related sectors such as workers who would prevent fugitive methane emissions from oil and gas infrastructure through leak detection and repair (which will be required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the newly enacted federal Inflation Reduction Act). Following research by University of Alaska engineers, direct air capture of carbon for storage underground using the state’s abundant renewable energy also could be a growth sector, with potential payments from Outside industrial customers to inject carbon from the atmosphere and from substantial Inflation Reduction Act subsidies. Growth in telemedicine could be a way to reduce related travel with its associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The draft strategy also does not address Alaska’s severe shortage of state government jobs that are tough things to achieve, they are essential to improve the lives of all Alaskans and should be part of any comprehensive economic development strategy.” Notably, the draft strategy’s vision does seek to create “an enduring economic structure where all Alaskans adapt, grow, and thrive” so the strategy’s goals need to build on this economic future vision.

Focusing merely on entirely organizations that are invested in the state’s office of economic development’s strategy committee was a missed opportunity. That oversight can be addressed through outreach by the strategy’s authors and by comments submitted by diverse stakeholders. As a neutral facilitator, the University of Alaska could build on a revised version of this strategy and then lead future, statewide discussions on how Alaska could best adapt to climate change while flourishing a green economy.

Lois Epstein, P.E., is a licensed engineer who owns an environmental consulting small business in Anchorage. She has lived in Anchorage for over 20 years and currently is the board chair of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group. This commentary is reprinted with permission and was first published at Alaska Beacon on August 22, 2022.
Coastal Current, which flows from melted and moves north. Sea ice continued to slide southwest along the northern Chukotka coast even as ice well offshore up along the northern Chukotka coast. These north winds all summer across the Bering Strait. Typically, the Siberian Coastal Current weakens and merges with the northward flowing water through the Bering Strait, but this summer the same north winds kept ice near the coast also enhanced the southeast push of the current, and the result was some ice in the Bering Strait. The ice appears to have moved south of East Cape about August 7 and since then ice has been drifting southwest and slowly melting near the Russian coast. No ice has been reported as far east as the Diomede Islands. For about ten days ice continued to slide southwest along the northern Chukotka coast and then into the Strait. However, by August 18 there was very little ice remaining to the northwest of East Cape, cutting off the supply of ice. What do we know about the frequency of this kind of happening? Elders tell us that at least into the 1960s that sometimes during late summer, large chunks of old, multi-year ice would sometimes come down from the north and move as far south as St. Lawrence Island. Modern western science is not much help here as the satellite-based tools for monitoring sea ice are not able to accurately detect small areas of ice near land. We know for sure that it’s been years since this has happened, but presumably this has not happened since the 1990s.
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cines, given the safety profile in pre-
vious vaccines and experience with vac-
cines against other viruses, the FDA is
said to be making their deci-
sion based on only efficacy data from trials in
humans. The vaccine would be made in the same way as the pre-
vious round of safe and effective vaccines but will contain coding to
target an additional protein.

This move, which has both critics and supporters, is one of several being
made in response to the current need to increase agility in times of
crisis. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, direc-
tor of the Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention, also announced last week that the agency would be look-
ing at a deep review of itself after three
difficult pandemic years. Changes
include speeding up data releases and
improving communications, both of
which was agency was criticized for
repeatedly in the last several years.

In Anchorage, Nome Public Schools is working with Norton Sound Health
Corporation to plan a back-to-school
vaccine clinic to make sure students and
staff are protected heading into the
new school year. A date has not been
decided yet.

NSHC’s Medical Director Dr. Mark Peterson wrote in an email to
the Nome Nugget: “There’s still a significant number of children who
have not had their initial COVID
vaccines. We know that it is vital for
anyone 6 months and older. We
strongly recommend that children 6
months and older receive three COVID
vaccinations. COVID vaccines can be
received in our outpatient clinic.
Parents/guardians can call our clinic at 443-1333 to ask for a
next scheduled visit.

This same number can be used for
other missed vaccines as well. ‘Dur-
ing the pandemic, some children got
behind on their routine childhood
vacccines. We are working hard to
make sure those patients catch up,’ Dr.
Peterson wrote.

In Alaska, hospitalizations jumped state-wide after a several
week decline, but cases have de-
creased both in residents and non-
residents. Case rates are still high.

The week in numbers
On Tuesday, August 16, NSHC
identified six new cases of COVID-
19 in the region. There were two
cases in Nome, two in Unalakleet,
one in Brevig, and one in Shishmaref.
This made for a total of 18 active
cases in the region, with 12 in Nome,
three in Unalakleet, and one in each of
Brevig, Gambell, and Shishmaref.
On Thursday, August 18, NSHC
identified eight new cases of
COVID-19. Three were in Nome,
two in Savoonga, and one each was
identified in Gambell and Shishmaref.
This made for 24 active cases in the
region. Eleven of the ac-
tive cases were in Nome, Savoonga
had six, Shishmaref and Unalakleet
had two, and Brevig, Ellis, and
Gambell each had one. Several cases
in Savoonga from the previous day
which hadn’t been reported were added to the active case count.

Over the weekend, from Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21, NSHC identified 13 new cases. In total, 11 of the new cases were in Nome, Unalakleet and Savoonga each had one. Active cases in the re-
gion sat at 18. Twelve of them were
in Nome, four were in Savoonga, and Shishmaref and Unalakleet each
had one.

On Monday, August 22, NSHC identified 15 new cases across the re-
gion. Seven of the cases were in Sa-
voonga, five were in Nome, and
Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, and White
Mountain each had one.

As of press time, there were 27 ac-
tive cases in the region, with 11 in
Nome, 10 in Savoonga, two in Un-
alakleet and one case in both Shish-
maref and White Mountain.

Since the start of the pandemic, the United States has had 95,395,407
officially reported cases of COVID-
19 and 1,296,393 associated deaths.
Alaska has had at least 277,007
cases, 3,843 hospitalizations and
1,296 deaths. There are currently 86
people hospitalized due to COVID-
19.

Nome and the Norton Sound and
Bering Strait region has had at least
6,349 cases, 48 hospitalizations and
six deaths.
continued from page 1

around five megawatts, or roughly the size of a coal power plant. "Dias
sells the project as the first step in
building a large scale, commercial
data center currently used by FEI.

According to the NRC, the project
will be the first to test the capabil-
ities of a microreactor, which is a
smaller scale version of the con-
temporary large-scale reactors.

The microreactor is a closed,
self-sustaining system that can
produce and store its own fuel.

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produce and store its own fuel.
NOAA has six branches, and Spurful ran briefly through all of them. There are the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, the National Oceans Service, the National Weather Service, the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and the Office of Coastal and Atmospheric Research. Together, they have 16 satellites, 15 ships and five aircraft; there are also 321 offices in the NOAA Corps, a uniformed service, who serve across the federal government. He responded to a question about the budget saying that to accomplish all of what they are legally required to do would take about $15 billion, but their most recent budget was only $7 billion.

NOAA produces ocean charts and maps salmon genetics, among many things, but it isn’t without challenges. Spurful used the word “extraordinary” in describing the backlog in ocean surveys and the difficulty in making weather observations across Alaska, and talked about the possible technological solutions, such as fish counts being conducted by underwater drones. He summed it up before taking questions. “We’re about science, service, and stewardship. We’re trying to impact lives, livelihoods, and lifestyles.”

There were a lot of questions and comments, both from people in the room and those who participated online. Everyone was appreciative of the presentation, and there were equally many suggestions. Many of the questions were about coordination with others. Three different participants asked how NOAA coordinated with three very different entities: tribes, the Department of Defense and Russia. Spurful explained that they’re looking at better connectivity with tribes, including a new pilot project with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium on climate resiliency, and was open to suggestions on how engagement with Sea Grant, for example, could be expanded.

NOAA also has a responsibility to support the Department of Defense in domestic applications, he said, noting that the National Ice Center, a collaboration between the Navy, the Coast Guard and NOAA, has been around since 1995. He had a “very meaningful” discussion with General David Nahon, the new head of the Alaska Command, and his comment to the audience was that NOAA’s capabilities weren’t adequate to address the problem. A list of those discussions, he said, hinge on services out of Nome.

He didn’t have an answer for how best to address staffing at National Weather Service sites across the region, but said they were looking at potential solutions. “Here in Alaska, there has to be close alignment between what we do and what DoD needs, and that’s another part of the discussion,” he said, hoping to bring up “environmental domain awareness” with Alaska Command and the new Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies.

Spurful said that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine put a halt to communication, but there is recognition that dialogue on fisheries management, for example, needs to happen. He has been advocating for a comprehensive National Arctic Strategy which would combine and build upon existing defense and research strategies to include natural resource management and could serve as a basis for engagement with other Arctic countries. Suggestions from the audience were equally wide ranging, and included expanding the Northern Trawl Survey into the Chukchi Sea to help monitor the impact climate change is having on species migration and adapting the “lives, livelihoods, and landscapes” mantra to better fit Alaska Natives and other Arctic communities.

..."if it actually happens."

The report that Holdmann and team will produce will focus on the economics, but that’s only one piece of the puzzle. Future energy needs and development must be balanced with a social and environmental responsibility to what is already here. “We need to really have some kind of consensus on what direction we’re going as a community,” Nome Mayor and NJUS Manager John Handeland said.

Holdmann and Handeland have more discussion on the details of the study, but as of last week they expected it to be completed later this year. When it is, there will be a presentation on the economic side and an opportunity to discuss the bigger picture, as well.

Spurful explained that NOAA has a strong regulatory role, too, with an office of law enforcement, but acknowledged it wasn’t enough. “I’m comfortable we have the foundation and a basis for carrying that out, but it’s probably not sufficient in the light of some of the impacts that we’re seeing both from pollution and from climate change and from development,” he said.

Others doubted down. Bob Metcalf pointed out the US Circumpolar Council uses the phrase “rightsholder” instead of “stakeholder” for the purposes of dialogue, and Nancy Mendelhall asked if there is a contact going forward for subsistence issues.

“Short answer,” Spurful said, “is yes. There is already a start, but again he stated he knew it wasn’t sufficient. “You have my commitment to addressing this.”

Dr. Barb Amarak asked what here to save the world really means, though. Marine mammals are dying, birds are dying, industrial and commercial shipping, mining, and transportation infrastructure development are all increasing. What active steps is NOAA taking to protect the land and water, she asked.

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“The precious metals people”
A track chair offers new mobility to injured Nomeite

By Megan Cannon

In 2014, when he was just 25-years-old, Bryce Warnke-Green lost 90 percent of his mobility in a horrific industrial accident in Nome. The neck of a crane had fallen onto the cab of a track he was driving at a gravel pit near the Dexter By-pass. He became a quadriplegic and due to his care needs, he relocated to Palmer.

His father Louie Green Jr. recalled that soon after the accident, one of his son’s biggest concerns was that he might never be able to participate in subsistence activities again.

“He was really a subsistence hunter and fisherman for the family,” Green Jr. said. Eight years later, a new track chair specially built for Warnke-Green holds a lot of promise. The device could allow him to once more travel over challenging terrain like rugged tundra, sandy beaches and construction sites.

Warnke-Green made a homecoming trip back to Nome last weekend for the debut of the mobility vehicle built by the non-profit organization Second Chance Modifications.

A public event at the former Nome Youth Facility on Saturday, Aug. 17, showed how he could ride in the unique chair that’s fitted with treads instead of wheels.

“That having limitation lifted a little bit is a really big deal,” his father said.

Second Chance Modifications was established in Nome last year, said Jake Kenick, vice chairman of the organization. Phil Price has been leading the creation of their debut device, securing a track and chair and modifying it in a fabrication shop.

“It is basically a little machine,” said Price. “It has definitely given him a lot more mobility than his chair will.” Price showed off the vehicle during the Fourth of July Parade on Front Street.

Price is still working on further modifications and customizations for the chair so that Warnke-Green could operate it without any assistance. But once it’s complete, he envisions that it would allow Warnke-Green to go to the beach, traverse over somewhat of a rocky terrain, cruise through muddy water up to six inches deep and even push snow out of the way.

Price added dozer blades to the edge of the chair because Warnke-Green wanted to be a dozer operator before the accident.

Though Warnke-Green is essentially the company’s first “poster child,” the Second Chances team thinks that, with the right funding, they could build more chairs for other people with mobility issues in Nome and the Bering Strait region. Price said the chair will be in Nome for the next month for anyone interested in the vehicle to see, before it will be shipped to Palmer.

“The Nome Community Center donated a bus for Warnke-Green to get around and go sightseeing while he was in town for a few days,” Green Jr. said. For the family, the homecoming trip was a reminder of the support they’ve received from Nome.

“When Bryce got hurt, his community stepped up,” Green Jr. said. “They went over the top and funded raising. To come back here with Bryce, almost eight years later, and then to see this community step back up again, it was it was overwhelming to me, and Bryce felt it, too. I want to say thank you to the people on this town.”

Peltola emerges as front-runner, but Palin could still win in ranked-choice election

By Megan Cannon

Last Tuesday, Aug. 16, Alaskans went to the polls to vote in a special general election and the regular primary. Democrat Mary Peltola, a Yup’ik fisheries advocate and former state legislator from Bethel, emerged as the frontrunner in the race to fill the late Don Young’s seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. But under the state’s new ranked choice voting system, she’s not guaranteed to win.

Peltola received 38 percent of the first-choice votes according to the latest available update from the state’s Division of Elections. She was followed by former Alaska lawmaker and former Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who received 28 percent of the vote. Nick Begich III, a Republican from a family of prominent Alaska Democrats who was Young’s campaign chairman in 2020, came in third with nearly 20 percent.

Because of Alaska’s new ranked choice voting system, a candidate must receive more than 50 percent of the vote to win an election. If there is no clear majority winner after first-choice picks are counted, then the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and those voters’ second choices are counted. If Palin receives enough second-choice votes, she could emerge ahead of Peltola.

The Division of Elections will determine the ranked choice results on Aug. 31. Alaskans will then know which candidate will be sworn in to serve the remainder of Young’s term in Congress until January.

Primary results

The Aug. 16 ballot also included a regular primary for the next full House term which will start in January. The newly adopted voting system uses open primaries, which in this case meant each voter, regardless of political affiliation, got to pick one from a field of 22 candidates. The top four will advance to the November general election ballot.

The order of the candidates was the same as in the special election. Peltola had 35 percent of the vote, Palin had 31 percent. Nick Begich had nearly 27 percent. With 3.7 percent of the vote, the fourth-place candidate was Republican Tara Sweeney, who withdrew from the race on Tuesday, Aug. 23, saying she doesn’t see a path to election victory.

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THE NOME NUGGET

LOCAL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022
Nome's kids kept their noses in books this summer

By Megan Cannon

There's a long list of reasons parents and educators encourage kids to pick up books during the summer break. Reading can be entertaining, comforting and informative. It can also help prevent the dreaded "summer slide."

"Research shows that children who don't read during the summer can lose up to two months of learning by the time they return to school in the fall," said Marguerite LaRiviere, director of Nome's Kegoayah Kozga Public Library.

This year, LaRiviere said 117 youth registered for Nome's summer reading challenge, setting their own individual reading goals. The overall aim of the challenge was to get kids reading at least 50 minutes between the end of May and the end of July.

LaRiviere drew from two themes for this year's summer reading program. The Alaska State Library's 2022 theme, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," encouraged kids to incorporate reading into their outdoor activities. LaRiviere thought the Collaborative Summer Library Program's 2022 theme "Oceans of Possibilities" was also fitting for kids who live with the Bering Sea in their backyard, as she used their programming as well.

This summer marked a return to in-person programming that was more typical before the pandemic started. The library counted 676 participants in this summer's reading challenge, with 117 youth turning in their reading forms to receive certificates of completion and other prizes.

Kids who turned in their summer reading forms received certificates of completion and other prizes, including a book of their choice. LaRiviere said the funding for the books was provided by the Bering Sea Lions Club this year.

"We have had a wonderful summer full of rebuilding our programs and library services. We are very grateful to promote summer reading again in person," LaRiviere said.

Nome's kids kept their noses in books this summer

Photograph of kids reading books by Lizzy Bohn

How to run for public office

By Diana Haecker

RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE— Siguanna Tapqiq, far left, presents an informational session on how to run for public office and what is actually involved in holding a public position, at Northwest Campus on Tuesday, August 23. Panelists included, from left to right, Bryant Hammond, city clerk; Glenn Steckman, city manager; Jerard Brown, Common Council member; and Scott Henderson, Common Council member. School board members Darlene Trigg and Barb Amarok joined online. Seven interested people attended the workshop online. The deadline to run for this October’s municipal election is August 30.

Elections

continued from page 7

Governor

In the primary for Alaska governor, the Republican incumbent Mike Dunleavy had a clear lead with nearly 42 percent of the vote. He was followed by independent former governor Bill Walker and Democrat former Alaska House representative Les Gara, who each had around 22 percent of the vote. The fourth candidate to advance to the November election could be Republican and Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce, who received nearly 7 percent of the vote.

U.S. Senate

With 44 percent of the vote, Republican Lisa Murkowski had a narrow lead in the primary for her seat the U.S. Senate. Kelly Tshibaka, a Trump-backed former commissioner of the Alaska Department of Administration, was behind Murkowski, with nearly 40 percent of the vote. There was a wide gap between those two front-runners and 17 other candidates on the primary ballot. Democrat Patricia Chesbro received 6 percent of the vote.

Alaska House District 39

House District 39’s seat has been held by Neal Foster, a Democrat from Nome, since 2009. He was ahead in the primary, with 56.5 percent of the vote. Foster’s challenger Tyler Ivanoff from Shishmaref, who is registered with the Alaska Independent Party, received 43.5 percent. At the time of the latest available update from the Division of Elections, votes had been counted from 27 of 28 precincts of House District 39.
DO YOU NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?

Newly married? Lost a job? Had a child? These events may qualify you for a Special Enrollment.

Free local help is available.
A United Way Healthcare Navigator can help you:
- Enroll in ACA insurance
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Back to School Checklist:
- Pencils and crayons
- Backpack and water bottle
- Healthy snacks
- Well-child checkup and immunizations

GET READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!
Put childhood immunizations on your back-to-school list.
Now is a great time to schedule your child’s yearly checkup.
Making sure kids are up to date on all childhood vaccines helps keep everyone healthy.
Percy Koppezuruk Nayokpuk was born August 29, 1952 and passed away in August 2, 2022. He was a lifelong advocate and community leader, dedicated to serving his community and to his family. Percy was a true example of a man who lived his life to serve and give back to his community.

In his early years, he was a part of the Nayokpuk family. Even in his earliest years, it was obvious that Percy was very talented and smart. He attended Shishmaref Elementary School in Fairbanks, Alaska, which set the stage for his lifelong career as a successful business operator and owner.

Percy married Inez Nayokpuk (Nunugook) in 1973 and together they welcomed their son Thomas, and three daughters: Gwendolyn, Sheila, and Sophie. Inez tragically passed away in 1996.

Percy was very talented and smart. He attended Shishmaref Elementary School in Fairbanks, Alaska, which set the stage for his lifelong career. He became a general store owner and operator. Early in his professional life, Percy was very involved in the formation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), a role that brought him to Japan, Russia, Canada, and Greenland.

As a young professional, Percy spent time as a math teacher at Nome-Beltz and as a hotforight fighter. He was a lifelong advocate and leader for the village of Shishmaref and the whole Bering Strait region. Percy began his official regional leadership in 1985 when he was elected to the Bering Straits Native Corporation Board of Directors. He dutifully served on the board for 30 years. Percy also served as city clerk of the City of Shishmaref and spent several years as the mayor of Shishmaref. He will always be remembered for his leadership and professionalism.

One of Percy's greatest abilities was to charm people with stories and history. His deep knowledge of the local history and culture, coupled with his sharp wit and clever humor, made his stories unforgettable. Percy's charm drew crowds of people to his vendor booths at venues such as the AFN, Fair, Rondy, and other gatherings.

He was an avid dog musher, and his late wife Inez entered dog races during the Shishmaref Spring Carnival and other villages. Percy was also able to play piano, guitar, and accordion. He became an active community leader, dedicated brother, spouse, parent, father, uncle, cousin, grandson, and friend. One who deeply valued people, business, and leadership. One who saw value in teaching and mentoring young people. One who was committed to living a subsistence lifestyle. Percy lived and died by his community and to love his family. He will be forever grateful for the blessing of his life. Percy is survived by his companion Josie Weyiouanna, his sons Tom and Walter, his daughter Gwendolyn and (Dennis) Davis, Sheila, and his partner, Angelica Avuguk, Sheila Dixon (and Preston Dixon).

Percy Koppezuruk Nayokpuk was a lifelong advocate and community leader, dedicated to serving his community and to his family. He was a true example of a man who lived his life to serve and give back to his community.
Pauline Paneatuk Sharpe was born on March 16, 1958 to Ralph Sr. and Margaret Olanna in Nome, Alaska. Pauline Sharpe passed away peacefully at her home in Anchorage on July 19, 2022.

She grew up in Nome with her siblings Queenie, Chubby and Jeanie where they spent their time berry picking, fishing and going to camp among many other activities. Some of her fondest memories that she shared were dog sledding with her dad, and ice fishing with her family. She also enjoyed taking care of her grandpa Phillip Nunorruk.

Pauline had a fun sense of humor, loved doing puzzles and playing scrabble with her closest friends. She also enjoyed cooking, hosting get-togethers, people-watching and ministering the love of Jesus throughout her life, her faith remained anchored in the Lord.

Pauline is preceded in death by her parents Ralph “Tootick” Sr. and Margaret “Paka” Olanna as well as her sister Jeanne Waltz.

She is survived by her second husband Brian Sharpe, sister Madeline “Queenie” Engebretsen and brother Ralph “Chubby” Olanna Jr. She is survived by her children Kevin Crandall, Tina Roberson, Ryan and Leslie Crandall, Vanessa and Lowen Guzman, David Crandall and Janelle Gnanou.

She was also survived by her grandchildren Gwendolyn, Tyler, Travis, Brandon and Jazmin; son-in-law Daniel Minato; daughter-in-law Dana Ningeulook, grandchildren: Katherine Barr, brother-in-law Dana Ningeulook, laws Frieda and Davey Ningeulook, Koonuk and Elmer Nayokpuk, in-laws Perry Eningowuk, Herbert, Lawrent, Warren and Roderick Nayokpuk, Delbert and Dilon Guzman, Samara Bryant, and great-grandchildren Ragen O’Connor and Alofa Sene.

Services 4
1 whole roasting chicken, rinsed lemon, cut into 4 pieces
6 cloves garlic
Harissa (see below)
Salt
2 cups couscous
2 cups chicken stock

Heat the oven to 375 F. Fill chicken cavity with lemons and garlic. Rub the chicken generously with harissa. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Put the couscous and chicken stock in an oven-safe baking dish. Place the dressed chicken on top. Bake covered for 45 minutes. Remove the cover and bake for another 15 minutes, until chicken is cooked through. Serve with a tossed mix of cucumber, cilantro, lemon juice, and oil.

Harissa

1 tablespoon coriander seed
2 tablespoons crushed New Mexico red chiles
4 cloves garlic, unpeeled
2 cup extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tablespoons sugar

Put the chicken in a food processor. Puree. Season with salt, sugar, and crushed red pepper to taste. The Harissa is ready to serve.

Serves 4
2 cups couscous
1 teaspoon cumin seed
large cloves garlic, unpeeled
4 large red bell peppers
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons crushed New Mexico red chiles
Salt and pepper to taste
Stir coriander, caraway and cumin in a small skillet over medium-high heat until aromatic, about 30 seconds. Transfer to a food processor. Cook garlic in the same skillet, covered, over medium-low heat until tender, about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let garlic cool, then peel and add to processor. Char bell peppers over a gas flame or in a broiler until blackened on all sides. Encroach in a paper bag; let stand 10 minutes. Peel, seed, and coarsely chop peppers. Add peppers, oil, sugar, and crushed red pepper to processor. Purée. Season with salt and pepper.

Tributes of love to Pauline Paneatuk Sharpe will be offered at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

For more information please contact Pastor Austin Jones 443-4870.
**Employment**

**Job Openings**

**NMS is hiring for a full-time Custodial Services Manager and full-time Custodians to join and support the Nome School District. The Custodian Manager requires one year of relevant experience and supervision of employees. Some experience of general cleaning practices is required for the custodian position. Custodian rate of pay is $18/hr - $24/hr (DOE) plus full benefits. Apply today by visiting careers.mnsusa.com. For more information contact Aaron Makkar, Senior Recruiter, at (907) 265-4173.**

**Job Openings**

**NMS is seeking to fill multiple Food Service Worker openings to join and support the Nome Public Schools Dining Services team. This position will support breakfast and lunch kitchen operations, with food prep, food service, dishwashing, cleaning and other duties. Starting pay is $23-$24/hr plus full health benefits. Minimal experience required!**

**NSDEC Job Opportunities**

**Communications Director (Anchorage, Nome, or Unalakleet):** The Communications Director manages internal and external communications and the dissemination of information regarding NSDEC. A Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism, Communications or a related field and at least 4 years of applicable work experience is required. **Refuge Technician (Nome):** The Refuge Technician is responsible that equipment and facilities at NSSP operate efficiently. A high school diploma and at least 2 years of applicable work experience is required. **Community Development Coordinator (Unalakleet):** The Community Development Coordinator is responsible for promoting in the social, economic and cultural development and facilitating community relations while assisting with the administration of Community Development Programs. A Bachelor’s Degree in rural development, business administration or related field and at least 2 years of applicable work experience is required. **Community Liaison (St. Michael):** NSDEC Community Outreach Liaison. Liaisons are a presence in member communities that do not have an NSDEC office. Liaisons are responsible for the administration and facilitation of NSDEC programs and operations that enhance the quality of life for the residents of the NSDEC-organized informational bulletin board, and are expected to be available at regularly set times and locations.

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**Legal Classifies**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Louise Ahangnatoguk

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Louise Ahangnatoguk DOB: 7/24/1927, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00024PR

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of the Estate of Daniel Omedelenau

In the Matter of the Estate of Daniel Omedelenau DOB: 1/21/1951, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00036PR

You are notified that the court appointed Jerry Bernhardt as personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims by 4 months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims may be presented to Bernhardt, c/o Alaska Legal Services Corporation, PO Box 1446 Home, AK 99762, or filed with the Nome Court at PO Box 1110 Nome, AK 99762.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of the Estate of Matthew Scott Bernhardt

In the Matter of the Estate of Matthew Scott Bernhardt DOB: 12/1/1991, Deceased. Case No. 2NO-22-00065PR

You are notified that the court appointed Jerry Bernhardt as personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims by 4 months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims may be presented to Bernhardt, c/o Alaska Legal Services Corporation, PO Box 1446 Home, AK 99762, or filed with the Nome Court at PO Box 1110 Nome, AK 99762.

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**Classified Advertising**

**Deadline is noon Monday • (907) 443-5235 • Fax (907)443-5112 • e-mail ads@nomenugget.com**
**Trooper Beat**

*Nome Eskimo Community*

**JOIN THE CREW AT NEC**

We offer great benefits and competitive salaries. We are also willing to consider applicants interested in part-time work or reasonably flexible work schedules. Contact us for details!

1) **Executive Director – Nome**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Responsible for the administration and management of all Nome Eskimo Community operations.
   - Range: DOE

2) **Tribal Services Manager**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Responsible for program implementation, and management of educational, training, employment, and welfare assistance services.
   - Range: ALASKA $30,44 - $37,70 DOE

3) **Carpenter – Nome**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Responsible for carpentry, construction and repairs for all NEC Housing Projects.
   - Range: 8, 9, 10, 12, 26, 41 - $31,97 DOE

4) **Housing Coordinator – Nome**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Responsible for administrative and program support for the NEC Housing Programs.
   - Range: 7, 8, 9, $29.76 - $27,68 DOE

5) **ICWA Specialist II – Nome**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Provides case management and program support for Tribal children and families with Child Protective Service involvement.
   - Range: 6, 7, 8, 24.23 - $25.24 DOE

6) **Labworker**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Provides primary manual labor as required to complete housing projects.
   - Range: 9, 10, 11, 12, $26.78 - $31.97 DOE

7) **Transit Driver – Nome**
   - Regular/Full-time
   - Must pass driving requirements and must possess a current City of Nome Chauffer's License.
   - Pay Range: 8, 9, 10, 12, 24.24 - $28.41 DOE

For a complete list of vacancies and job descriptions and to apply, go online to [www.necalaska.org](http://www.necalaska.org).

**Questions? Call NEC at 907-439-2246 or email [jobs@necalaska.org](mailto:jobs@necalaska.org)**

**HIRING PREFERENCE:** When possible, NEC extends a hiring preference for employment in accordance with section 7 (b) of Public Law 95-490.

**WE ARE A TRUE FREE WORKPLACE!**

When required, applicants must pass a criminal history check to be considered.

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**Shaktoolik Native Corporation**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

Shaktoolik Native Corporation will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, November 07, 2022 at 10 a.m. or upon establishment of a quorum. Place to be determined at a later date. This year the shareholders will be electing three (3) directors. Any shareholder 18 years of age or older, and in good standing, may file for nomination to the SNC Board of Directors. A candidate must be file and received, on or before September 23, 2022 at the close of business day. All interested shareholders of the Shaktoolik Native Corporation may forms from the Shaktoolik Native Corporation at the address listed above.

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**Seawall**

Shaktoolik Native Corporation

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

The following meetings are scheduled:

**2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE**

The candidate filing deadline is **Tuesday, August 30, 2022** at 5:00 PM for the Annual City of Nome Municipal Election (which will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022).

The following meetings will be up for election:

- **2 City Council (two 3-year terms)**
- **2 Utility Board (one 2-year term and one 3-year term)**
- **2 School Board (two 3-year terms)**

Contact City Hall at 443-6863 to obtain the forms necessary to file.

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**Notice to All Guides, Transports, Hunters, and Others Persons**

If you believe that the Shishmaref Native Corporation ("SNC") has put in-place a complete ban on all guiding for either caribou or moose on all SNC lands.

This ban is effective immediately. SNC lands include, but are not limited to, those lands within Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Game Management Units 22, and 23. All guides and other individuals are responsible for determining the boundaries of SNC lands and for ensuring compliance with this ban. SNC will take all legal means necessary to enforce and ensure strict compliance with this ban.

If you are aware of any violations of this ban, you are encouraged to report the violations directly to the SNC corporate office at (907) 649-3751/3030.

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**THE NOME GUGLET**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022**

**Public Notice**

The Nome Police Department has not issued any notices to the public since Monday, August 15, 2022.

**Notice to All Guides, Transports, Hunters, and Others Persons**

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If you are aware of any violations of this ban, you are encouraged to report the violations directly to the SNC corporate office at (907) 649-3751/3030.
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC, GUIDES, PILOTS & HUNTERS

• The public is reminded the land ownership within the outlined areas on the map are predominately privately owned by Unalakleet Native Corporation and its Shareholders.

• Hunting by non-shareholders is not allowed. Hunting by Shareholders, spouses of Shareholders, and descendents of Shareholders for subsistence purposes is permitted. For other allowable uses of land by non-shareholders, please contact:

Unalakleet Native Corporation
907-624-3411

NOTICE TO GUIDES, PILOTS & SPORT HUNTERS

• The Public is reminded the land ownership within the outlined areas on the map is predominately privately owned by Council Native Corporation and its Shareholders, and White Mountain Native Corporation and its Shareholders.

• Sport hunting by non-shareholders, guides and their clients, and hunting by aircraft is NOT ALLOWED. Hunting by Shareholders, spouses of Shareholders and descendents of Shareholders for subsistence purposes is permitted. For other allowable uses of land by non-shareholders, please contact:

Be advised CNC now has a Land Use permitting process. Contact CNC for more information. Any privately owned in-holdings are excluded.

Game Unit 22A - Unalakleet River Area

• The public is reminded the land ownership within the outlined areas on the map are predominately privately owned by Unalakleet Native Corporation and its Shareholders.

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Unalakleet Native Corporation 907-624-3411

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Be advised CNC now has a Land Use permitting process. Contact CNC for more information. Any privately owned in-holdings are excluded.

Game Unit 22B - Niukluk and Fish River Arean

• The public is reminded the land ownership within the outlined areas on the map are predominately privately owned by Council Native Corporation and its Shareholders, and White Mountain Native Corporation and its Shareholders.

• Hunting by non-shareholders is not allowed. Hunting by Shareholders, spouses of Shareholders, and descendents of Shareholders for subsistence purposes is permitted. For other allowable uses of land by non-shareholders, please contact:

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Unalakleet Native Corporation 907-624-3411
On Monday, August 8, 2022, a small team from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, deployed an unmanned robot, an Octopod glider, off the shores of Nome to test the feasibility of the glider in a research setting. NOAA is now researching how to better understand and monitor the changing ecosystem of the Arctic. Two NOAA personnel were joined by Farley Marine of Nome to deploy the glider from the Audrey Kadi, a 170-foot vessel, 6.5 miles southeast of the Port of Nome. The search vessel is owned by Heather Tabisola at 206-526-6662, heather.tabisola@noaa.gov

LAUNCHING — Nick Delich of the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory prepares the glider for deployment off the Audrey Kadi, on August 4.

Ocean glider collects data in Norton Sound

By Jim Mennard, ADF&G Area Manager Norton Sound

Silver commercial catches and escapement goals have been weaker than expected and the run is not as strong as the department forecast. During the past 10 years, fish counts have dropped from 192,000 (1992) to 20,000 (2021). The escapement goal for silver salmon is 70,000 this year.

Larger than normal size of sea lampreys have caused smaller numbers of pink salmon to enter Norton Sound. The historical average first passage of pink salmon at the tower is August 25. The average weight is 8- to 9-pounds.

Nome Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 1 king, 80 sockeye, 1,000 chum, 25 pink and 180 silver salmon by three permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Marine waters are open 7 days a week. The Pilgrim River weir has been pulled, and the escapement count was just over 1,300 sockeye this year. A recent aerial survey of Salmon Lake and Grand Central River estimated just under 1,100 sockeye.

Port Clarence District

All net fishing is closed in the lower Kuzitrin River from 300 yards upstream of the confluence with the Pilgrim River to the Kuzitrin River mouth and the entire Pilgrim River and its tributaries until further notice. Salmon Lake is closed to all salmon fishing. Elsewhere subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. The Pilgrim River weir has been pulled, and the escapement count was just over 1,300 sockeye this year. A recent aerial survey of Salmon Lake and Grand Central River estimated just under 1,100 sockeye.

Kotzebue

An August 14 count of salmon has resulted in daily catches above average. This season’s harvest is 420,000 chum salmon and is the ninth highest in the 61-year commercial salmon fishing history. The average weight was below 8 pounds and the last year the average weight was 7.7 pounds in 2012.

South Slope District

Cumulative counts through July 25 were 15,194, 66 sockeye 1,100 chums, 687,000 pink and 93 silvers. High water has prevented project operation.

Shaktoolik Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 460 sockeye, 1,200 chum, 533 pink and 7,300 silver salmon by 23 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Net fishing is open 7 days a week, except beach seining for chum and pink salmon is closed.

North River Tower — Camp Joel Escapement goals: King 1,200-2,600; Chum-No goal established; Pink 45,000; Silver 550-1,100 (survey goals — SEDEC project). Cumulative counts through July 25 were 13,029 chums, 13,379 pink, and 141,468 silvers. The historical average mid-point of silver passage at the tower is August 22.

Golovin Subdistrict

Commercial Fishing: Harvest is 170 sockeye, 8,800 chum, 1,100 pink and 800 silver salmon by 10 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Open 7 days a week.

Ingluk River Tower — No escapement goals yet established — SEDEC project. Cumulative counts through August 14 were 981 kings, 42 sockeyes, 17,000 chums, 618,000 pink and 5,555 silvers. High water has prevented project operation.