WEIO Games A Family Tradition for Carol Pickett

Ancient sports unique to Alaska were re-enacted last week at the 41st Annual World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, and for UA’s Carol Pickett and her family it was a week rich in remembrance, tradition and achievement.

“The games go back to a time when life was very different,” Carol said.

Eric Goold, the staff writer who covered the games for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, put it this way in his opening story on July 18:

“Athletes didn’t compete for money. They did not seek fame or fortune or celebrity. Sports were used to teach vital skills of survival. Communities and whole nations of people gathered to share food and stories and participate in athletic events. No one paid money for the privilege of watching, nor were the athletes compensated by anything other than pride and respect.”

For more than 20 years, Carol has participated in the games. “I started in 1979 with just doing the Greased Pole Walk. That was back in the days when WEIO was held at the UAF’s Patty Gym. The next year I was kicking and doing all the games.

“Everyone is asking me how many medals I have now. I have no clue. Well over a hundred, I suppose. One of these days, I’ll get around to counting them,” she said.

She has more now than she had before because she took the gold medal in the Toe Kick, a bronze medal for the One Hand Reach and a bronze in the Alaskan High Kick.

Carol’s son, Jared Pickett, 17, a senior at Howard Luke Academy, was raised with these games. She said, “He was always with me at WEIO and when I was coaching around town. He’s competed in WEIO events for fun over the years, doing Greased Pole Walk, Ear Pull, Indian Stick Pull and Scissor Broad Jump. The first time he did the Ear Pull, I think he was seven years old. I had a real hard time watching him because I know how much it hurts.”

Jared is currently employed with Northern Inua, a demonstration of traditional Native games and dances sponsored by the UA Museum.

“This is how he started getting serious about the games,” she said. “Learning more games, and becoming more competitive. I’m very proud of him and how he did in all the games. A kid after my own heart.”

In this year’s games, Jared tied for first place in the Blanket Toss, and he received the bronze medal for Drop the Bomb and a bronze for One Hand Reach.

Carol’s daughter, Caitlyn Pickett-Bowell, got her first taste of the competition this year. “I signed her up for Scissor Broad Jump,” Carol said. “She made a distance of 13 feet and nine inches. Not bad for her first time, and she’s only 10 years old. I only went 21 feet. ”

There’s no question the WEIO games will continue to be a family tradition. “I found out that I’m much more proud and enthusiastic when it’s my children’s names in the paper and on the news,” Carol said. “I’ve had my time. It’s their time now.”

Beth Behner Named Director of Labor & Employee Relations

Beth Behner, who joined UA as senior labor relations coordinator in June 2001, has been named director of Labor and Employee Relations for statewide. She has been acting director of labor relations since last March.

Before joining the university, Behner was director of personnel and labor relations for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and her juris doctorate from Case Western Reserve University, School of Law.

Behner was certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources by the Human Resource Certification Institute earlier this year. To become certified, an applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience.

“Certification as a human resource professional clearly demonstrates a commitment to personal excellence and to the human resource profession,” said Susan Meisinger, president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management.

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Jacobs Breaks New Ground Delivering Admin Course

Janet Jacobs, UA’s Executive Director of Human Resources, is distance delivering a masters level course for the UAS Public Administration program. This is the first time a distance delivered course offered through Juneau has been delivered from the Fairbanks campus.

UAS, UAF and Statewide media and technology services have worked together with Jacobs and the UAS Public Administration department. Jacobs’ lectures are captured in both audio and video formats, sent to Juneau through fiber optic cable, relayed to a satellite from Juneau and delivered from the satellite to 10 campus locations throughout Alaska and Yukon. Thirty-nine students from Ketchikan to Whitehorse to Unalaska use an instant messaging system and interactive web page to participate in class discussions as well as telephone lines to speak directly to the class and instructor.

“The three second delay is a minor inconvenience compared to the enormous benefit these students receive from the opportunity to participate in class discussions,” claims Jacobs. Coordinators of this class continue to pursue higher quality program delivery and look to expanded delivery of such programs in the future.

Wind in Her Sails
by Kate Wattum

My father and I began building the “Weekender” the fall of 2000 from a set of plans I purchased from Stevensons Boats. It was described as an 18 ft sailboat that “…anyone could build in his backyard from materials readily available at your local lumber store…”. We had been enough to stop us, but we jumped right in. My father lives in Palmer and has a huge garage with every tool imaginable, so I traveled to Palmer every other weekend to work on the boat.

The boat was finished last summer and I brought it to Fairbanks to finish the rigging and the endless little details. I should probably mention that I didn’t have the foggiest idea how to sail. The extent of my knowledge was: the wind pushes the boat through the water and I should steer with the tiller. Not understanding sailing jargon or fully comprehending the complexities of sailing didn’t bother me in the least. I knew I would love sailing and I figured experience would be my teacher.

This summer, Dad and I launched the boat Father’s Day at Chena Lakes. Granted this isn’t Fairbanks’ sailing mecca - but given my admitted knowledge base, regarding sailing, starting out in a pond is wise. Well, the boat didn’t sink (I knew it wouldn’t because it seemed to hold water really well) and it did sail - considering the limited wind. So except for the fact that we couldn’t steer the darn thing - I counted it as a successful day. This past weekend, I took my three kids out in the sailboat at Chena Lakes, and even with the limited wind, we had a fun time.

For Sale or Trade
Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: bob.miller@alaska.edu

Amanda Wall, x5116
Free cat to a good home. Declawed, nice kitty.

David Burzow, 479-2692 or x5005
Woodburning Stove, Beautiful Antique Everett with front & side loading. Includes damper and some piping. Great for cabin or small home. $275.00

Joyce Helens 907-786-6949 or 907-240-9213
1998 White Mazda MPV 4x4 (mini-van) All Sport 5 door, 4 captain’s chairs and a rear bench seat, seats 7 plus cargo/pets/kids/ camping stuff. ’98 was the last year Mazda made the 4x4 van. 2 sets tires, excellent condition. 65k miles, CD, roof rack, alloy wheels. $518,00

Very large antique primitive hutches with original curved glass doors and doors, hand-hammered metal door hardware/key. Some carved wood relief. From an European farmhouse. Can e-mail pictures. Best offer over $2k. Call Joyce 978-6949.

Bess x6301: A “Shiny Red Lawnmower” for sale. Gas, one-pull start, 20” Murray - Mows like a charm!!
PUPPIES!! AKC Labrador Retrievers. On site chocolate mom and black dad. Includes first puppy shots and dew claws. Litter of 11 going fast - only 4 left (3 boys and 1 girl). Excellent temperament in both parents. They will be ready the first week of August. Just in time for duck season!!

Richard Burton (ARSC) and Marylou Burton 479-4379
Need a house sitter (or alternatively someone to come by daily to feed cats and water garden) for various 1-3 week blocks throughout the summer. Some compensation for putting up with the rude cats. No firm dates yet but first trip planned for mid-to-late July. If interested call or send email to: burtons@mosquitonet.com.

Dan Palow 417-2778
40 gal. Fish Tank w/stand setup includes EVERYTHING including fish! Hood, a filters, gravel plant decorations heater water vacuum, etc. $200.00

Pro Form 535C Treadmill w/Mat. Target pulse analysis, cushion base, space saver $200.00

Queen Size Maroon Futon w/ wood arm rests $200.00

Kate Wattum x5974:
Shopsmith Mark V - 500 all parts, attachments and manuals for the basic unit: disc sander, tablesaw, drillpress, lathe and horizontal boring machine. Assorted attachments including: bandsaw, biscuit joiner (never used), sawdust collector, chisel set (a piece - never used), Grinding Wheel II (never used), $1200.00 OBO

Jennifer Balster 488-6010:
1996 Toyota Tercel DX, 4 door, new struts and timing belt, 40 mpg, immaculate interior, no body damage, needs new windshield. Asking $4000.

Erika Van Flein, x754 (days), 457-6017 (evenings):
Free aged horse mane. Great for gardens. You haul it away. Don’t be shy, there’s lots!

Betty Studebaker 479-4226:
Like New - 2 Herman Miller Task Chairs, Dove Grey color, tall, pneumatic stool with full foot ring, seat and foot ring have height adjustment. A great deal at $250 for pair.

Janet Jacobs 457-5790:
Honda FR700 Rototiller. Very good condition, starts easy, works well. $700.

Barb Stockwell 474-6498:
1999 Royce Union Comp 1 Freestyle BMX Bike Chrome color $75 obo

On the Move is Online
Go to: www.alaska.edu/opa/onthenmove. Deadline for the next issue is Monday, August 5th by the end of the day.