

The Arctic Sounder

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October 13, 2022

COASTAL FLOODING



Photo by Lee Guthrie

Water covers a major part of Eben Hopson Drive that runs along the coast in Utqiagvik. The storm that battered several North Slope and Northwest Alaska communities last week mostly subsided by Saturday.

High water levels, winds subside after Northwest Alaska storm

Storm brings damage, flooding to Arctic coast communities

ANNIE BERMAN AND ALENA NAIDEN
Arctic Sounder

A storm that caused damage and flooding along Northwest Alaska's coast last week had died down by Saturday morning, with elevated water levels dropping significantly in communities from Utqiagvik to Point Lay.

"This storm is done causing impacts to the Arctic coast into the Chukchi Sea region," Jonathan



Photo by Jerica Niayug Leavitt

The storm surge reached the coffee shops located in front of the Utqiagvik's Top of the World hotel on Friday morning.

■ See page 8, **STORM**

■ See page 3, **ELECTION**



Natural maps

A mapmaker is turning clay and ash into portable ceramic pieces of Alaska.

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Inuit tattoos

New generation of artists working to revitalize the once-banned art form.

PAGE 5



Fall harvest

Utqiagvik whalers serve fall harvest in drive-thrus and at the polling site.

PAGE 6

Alaska's Teacher of the Year strives to reach all students

Harlee Harvey has been living her dream in Point Hope

ALENA NAIDEN
Arctic Sounder

Being an educator in rural Alaska was a dream and a calling for Harlee Harvey. Since she moved to Point Hope to work at Tikgaq School eight years ago, she saw that being a village teacher also means finding a new home.

"Teaching is my job," Harvey said, "but we love the community of Point Hope. We're not just

there to go to work and go home. We want to be a part of the community."

Harvey, who was announced as Alaska's 2023 Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education and Early Development this summer, started thinking about becoming an educator in rural Alaska while studying at University of Alaska Fairbanks. She volunteered at a school in Goodnews during her last year and became even more passionate about the idea, so right after graduating in 2014, she moved to Point Hope with her husband Alex Harvey to



Photo provided by Harlee Harvey

Harlee Harvey received the award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development on Aug. 30 at Tikgaq School, where Harvey has been teaching for the past eight years.

■ See page 11, **TEACHER**

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ALASKA VOTER ADVISORY

November 8 Statewide Election

The **NOVEMBER 8 GENERAL ELECTION** will use ranked choice voting.



THE NOVEMBER 8TH ELECTION WILL BE AN IN-PERSON ELECTION

with polling places open on election day 7am-8pm
elections.alaska.gov/election-polls

Absentee In-Person & Early Voting

begins October 24th. The list of locations is available at elections.alaska.gov/avo

RANKED CHOICE VOTING: HOW TO MARK YOUR BALLOT

Fill in only one oval per candidate, in each column.

You do not have to rank all the candidates, but it won't hurt your first choice candidate if you do.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MISTAKES TO AVOID

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you skip a ranking your next ranking moves up. Here, if your first choice candidate is eliminated, your third choice counts as your second choice and your fourth choice would count as your third choice.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode (Undeclared)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you give more than one candidate the same ranking, those rankings and later rankings will not count. Here, only your first choice counts.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your vote only counts once, even if you rank a candidate more than once. When a candidate is eliminated in a round, they are eliminated from all future rounds.

State Senator District B					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Larry Doe (Registered Democrat)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mac Allen (Registered Republican)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Tiffany Strait (Nonpartisan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you skip two or more rankings in a row only the rankings before the skipped rankings will count. Here, your first choice counts and the fourth choice would not count.

For more detailed information, sample ballots, and explainer videos, visit www.elections.alaska.gov/rcv.php.



ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

pulled me through on that one," Ahsoak said. "This time, I had three opponents, and I'm sure the villages pulled me through again."

In his campaigning, Ahsoak focused on the lack of housing across the North Slope and the need for childcare services, as well as the plight of Kaktovik students who recently held a silent protest at the North Slope assembly meeting to draw attention to the lack of recreational space in the village.

"We still have work to do to get our Kaktovik students a gymnasium so their lives can get back to a normal, physically active life like they once had before their school burned down," he said in his candidate statement.

Ahsoak thanked residents across the North Slope villages for their confidence in him, as well as leaders who came in before him.

"We have lots of work to do," he said, "and as always, I will do it to the best of my ability."

Carla SimsKayotuk is securing Seat A-6 Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik, with 511 votes. Philip Sittinchilli is behind her by almost half, or 253 votes. Victor Mekiana gained 230.

John Hopson and Crawford Patkotak ran unopposed for seats A2 Wainwright and A-3C Barrow respectively.

For the North Slope Borough School District, the winner in the race for Seat D Point Hope and Point Lay is the incumbent and the current school board president Nancy Rock. She gained 594 votes while her opponent Tariek Oviok got 420. Frieda Nageak, who was the

only candidate for Seat C Utqiagvik, won it with 1003 votes.

Results for the Utqiagvik mayoral race postponed

Elizabeth Asisaun Toovak is leading the Utqiagvik mayor race, according to the latest vote count. With 199 votes, Toovak is 31 votes ahead of Forrest Deano Olemaun.

The official results were to be released on Monday but were postponed until Oct. 25, according to the city clerk Mary Lum Patkotak.

The reason for the delay is that Olemaun requested an investigation of the election claiming campaign misconduct by his opponent Toovak.

Toovak is the external affairs coordinator at the Iñisagvik College, and at her job, she sent emails to college employees, faculty and students, urging them to vote in the upcoming elections. She did not ask email recipients to vote for her but provided them with information about polling locations and ways to register for voting.

"Don't forget to vote Oct 4!" Toovak wrote in the email. "You have the right to vote, and your employer is legally obligated to allow you the time to go vote. Iñisagvik College always goes a step further and will give you a ride to the voting polls!"

Olemaun said in his statement that the emails were campaign misconduct because using municipal dollars and resources for campaigning is prohibited.

"She signed her own name and face to the emails. The emails went out to hordes, maybe hundreds of people," Olemaun said. "This race will be decided by less than 29 votes. Her prohibited emails

will decide this race."

Toovak said that she did not promote her candidacy in her emails to college employees and students. Instead, she said she informed the college about the upcoming election as she usually does with other community events.

"As the External Affairs Coordinator of Iñisagvik College, it is my job to keep Iñisagvik abreast of community happenings," she said. "As usual, I send out college-wide emails informing them of the elections coming up. Inform them of when and where to go vote. I've sent out three emails the past 1.5 years of three different elections, both state and local. The emails have always been neutral."

The current leader for the seat, Toovak has experience in corporate business, public health and social services, as well as various different boards, including city council. If elected, she said she plans to focus on the borough's financial stability and transparency and strengthen sustainable resources and youth programs.

"Elections are humbling, and it's been an honor running with (my opponents)," Toovak said. "As we stood together outside, campaigning for ourselves, there was a playful banter, not short of laughs."

Toovak thanked the voters for supporting all candidates and said she is looking forward to seeing the final tally.

Toovak's main opponent Olemaun is a former borough assembly, city council and school board member. In his campaign, Olemaun talked about the need to support subsistence hunters, take care of cemeteries and improve health programs.

"I believe that the city has not done enough to foster

healthy activities for the whole population," Olemaun said. "I know we can do better."

The third candidate running for the mayor's seat is Martin Qalgilan Edwardsen who had 133 votes in the results.

"It was a great turnout and a lot of candidates," Edwardsen said. "I'm just happy at my age I got to run and get my feet wet for the seat. I now know what I need to do for the next mayoral election."

Other mayoral candidates are Qaiyaan Harcharek with 90 votes, Colleen Akpik-Lemen 73, James K. Patkotak 33 and Craig Daaqsi Moore Jr. 28.

For the Utqiagvik City Council election, Justina Wilhelm who is running uncontested for Seat A, gained 639 votes. In the race for Seat B, Kristin Tuuq Gutierrez-Edwards is winning Corrine Tuurraq Danner in a close race, 368 to 306.

Recount requested for one of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly races

In the Northwest Arctic races, most of the races were clear cut, but in the assembly's Seat I representing Kotzebue, Dood Carr is leading over Craig McConnell by 10 votes, in a 422-412 count.

"Because of the close race, I requested a recount," McConnell said.

With a recount for Seat I, it will be clear in the next couple of days when the borough will finalize the results, Deputy Clerk at Northwest Arctic Borough Stella Atoruk said on Tuesday.

The leading candidate Carr previously said she decided to run for the assembly to strengthen public safety, education and housing opportunities, as well as continue providing water and sewer services in local communities

at an affordable rate.

"If elected, I plan to continue to secure all the available money that is available for services in our region through lobbying statewide and nationally," she said.

McConnel said he was disappointed in the results so far, but acknowledged that he is in a close race with a long-time politician.

"I will learn from my rookie mistakes and do much better next time," McConnel said. He added that regardless of the results, the race "was an enjoyable and learning experience. My favorite part was listening to the hundreds of people I spoke with."

McConnel said that throughout campaigning, he gained "a solid understanding of people's concerns and issues, such as high heating fuel prices.

"Reducing the high cost of living was my No. 1 priority, especially for Noatak where they pay \$14-\$20 for heating fuel," he said. "Part of the solution is to combine fuel orders to create buying power so residents can pay less."

Delores Ann Barr, Miles Cleveland and Nathan Hadley are running unopposed for Seat C, Seat D and Seat F respectively. They gained 763 votes, 758 votes and 785 votes respectively.

For the school board, Joanne Harris received 510 votes, which is 166 votes more than her opponent Alice Melton-Barr. Tillie Ticket is the only person running for Seat E and she received 750 votes.

No one ran for Seat C, but 231 voters submitted a write-in candidate. Ellen Coffin received 57 of them.

The Northwest Arctic Borough election had a 20% voter turnout.

Feds free up \$9 million for typhoon repairs

ZAZ HOLLANDER AND ALENA NAIDEN
Anchorage Daily News

Last month, the remnants of Typhoon Merbok left a path of destruction in Western Alaska, washing out roads and flooding homes in 40 communities along about 1,300 miles of Alaska's coast, according to a federal summary. The storm produced hurricane-force winds, higher-than-normal tidal ranges and storm surges of up to 10 feet above mean high water.

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Oct. 6 announced the release of \$9 million in "quick release" emergency relief funds to help repair damaged roads and bridges.

Much of that money has

already been spent repairing "substantial damage" to roads in Nome, said Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities spokeswoman Shannon McCarthy.

"Front Street was essentially destroyed," McCarthy said, adding that the money was also used to fill a gap in the Nome-Council Highway breached by high water.

State transportation officials provided the federal government with initial costs for temporary repairs, then started on the fixes before the arrival of the funds, which are freed up by state and federal disaster declarations, she said.

A new storm began hitting Northwest Alaska just last Thursday.

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OPINIONS & IDEAS

U.S. is following Alaska's lead on marijuana

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The Arctic Sounder welcomes letters to the editor. General interest letters should be no more than 300 words. Thank you letters should be no more than 150 words.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday for consideration in the next week's edition of the newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Only the writer's name and city or village of residency will be published. This newspaper also reserves the right to edit letters for content, length, clarity, grammar and taste.

Unsigned letters will not be published. Third-party and open letters also will not be published. Letters that may put the writer or this newspaper in legal jeopardy will not be published.

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President Joe Biden made waves Thursday when he announced a mass pardon for those convicted on federal charges for simple possession of marijuana, and took other actions aimed at federal decriminalization of the drug. For many states, the president's announcement marks a watershed moment in drug policy — here in Alaska, it's simply an overdue recognition that the federal government needs to follow states' lead on marijuana legalization.

Catching up to the times

Even the initial listing in 1970 of marijuana as a Schedule 1 controlled substance — the most dangerous class, indicating high potential for abuse and no medical value; even fentanyl and methamphetamine are scheduled as less dangerous — was known at the time to be an improper place for a relatively benign drug. Over time, as it became increasingly obvious that marijuana's destructive potential was overblown and its benefits were being overlooked, pushes to decriminalize and legalize gained steam.

Here in Alaska, although marijuana remained technically illegal, a prescient clause in Alaska's constitution protecting the right to privacy allowed many people to use it with little fear of serious legal repercussions — so long as they only possessed a small quantity for personal use. For



BY EDITORIAL BOARD

Anchorage Daily News

decades, that minor protection put Alaska on the cutting edge of marijuana policy, a position it kept during the initial wave of full legalization by states. In 2014, Alaska voters opted to legalize the possession, use and sale of marijuana via ballot measure, overcoming a fear-driven campaign that made dubious claims about disastrous effects from legal pot.

An economic boon

Nearly eight years later, legal marijuana has largely been a success story for Alaska. Residents and visitors are able to purchase the drug with clear indications of its quantity and potency, and even consume it on-site at a few establishments. Fearmongering about huge increases in underage use of the drug hasn't been reflected in reality; for the most part, it has become just another line of business. Additionally, its positive effects on the state economy are clear, with tax revenue from the drug supporting treatment and education efforts and the dozens of grow operations, dispensaries and testing facilities providing jobs for Alaskans.

Legalization has also been a net positive for the Alaska business community. A

burgeoning network of small businesses has appeared, spawning new entrepreneurs, mom-and-pop shops and a whole new ecosystem of private investment and development. By nearly every measure, the move to legalize marijuana in Alaska has been a good thing.

With the federal shift in policy, some of the biggest barriers to operating a marijuana business could be eased. Even though marijuana is legal in Alaska, banks have shut down accounts and refused to do business with marijuana entrepreneurs because of its federal classification, resulting in inefficient and potentially dangerous cash operations for transactions, payroll and tax payments. If the federal government modifies its classification of marijuana, it could open the door for businesses to gain access to banks and even be listed on U.S. stock exchanges. This is long overdue.

New possibilities

With the federal government waking up to reality on marijuana, it's time for the U.S. and state governments to take a broader look at overall drug policy and consider similar moves for psychedelics such as psilocybin, which are showing promise in treating post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, major depressive disorder and, poetically, drug addiction. Research institutions such as Johns Hopkins

have made great strides in demonstrating the drugs' potential; their efforts should be expanded and the government should consider how best to make such drugs available to the people they can help.

Earlier this year, the Veterans Administration launched groundbreaking clinical trials of psychedelics as a potentially powerful treatment for PTSD, a scourge that affects far too many of our veterans and first responders. While full legalization may not yet be in the cards for most such drugs, we should be moving toward making them available in the ways that make the most sense, whether via prescription or under the care of medical personnel. Alaska could and should lead the nation by either decriminalizing or even legalizing many of these important compounds to help unlock their potentially positive uses.

The federal moves toward decriminalization of marijuana are welcome; they are also overdue. We shouldn't wait another 52 years before making more commonsense moves on national drug policy. The federal government should expand research of the medical potential of psychedelics and take steps toward rescheduling those drugs as well. Following the science on their therapeutic potential could have major benefits for Americans currently suffering with few other good options.

Time to vote yes on a constitutional convention

We often hear that our state's constitution is a model constitution. If we're talking about form and brevity, I would tend to agree. But if our constitution is so perfect, why did our founders include a provision to vote on a constitutional convention? Why make it every 10 years, the shortest duration of all such provisions in state constitutions?

Our founders knew that constitutions reflect the time and place they are written in. They are based on certain expectations about the state of the economy, the population and the government's role in them. When our constitution was written, we were a poor territory with a small population looking to gain control of our natural resources instead of letting outside corporations bypass us and work through



BY ROBERT MYERS

For the Arctic Sounder

Washington, D.C.

Times have changed significantly. Our state is still sparsely populated, but our population is nearly three times the size and much more heavily concentrated in the Southcentral sections of the state. We had been relatively poor and reliant primarily on renewable resources like fish and timber. Oil was just starting on the Kenai, and mining was in a significant decline.

Now we are rich and economically reliant primarily on non-renewable resources like oil and metal mining. The Permanent Fund is the largest financial resource in the state,

bringing in significant returns every year. The old problem was having control of and access to our wealth. The new problem is how to distribute our wealth.

Our constitution needs to change to reflect these changes within our state. We had similar problems in the 1970s and altered our constitution accordingly. Of the 27 amendments to our constitution, 16 were adopted between 1970 and 1984. We need to do it again.

The difference between now and the 1970s is that our Legislature hasn't been able to address the changes adequately. It's primarily the nature of the institution that is the problem. The Legislature is charged with preparing the yearly budget and other day-to-day policy questions. Because of our ongoing budget

crisis, our Legislature has been focused on what is happening right now instead of the changes in our state that will affect how we look for the next generation or two. In the 1970s, the concern was how the state should divide up a growing pie. Now we're having close to the opposite problem. It's much tougher to be generous when your side might lose something as well.

Elections every two to four years don't help. They encourage short-term thinking. While a number of legislators are able to rise above that and project out over the next few decades, the nature of the body pulls them back into short-term thinking.

The solution is a constitutional convention. We elect a body of individuals who don't

ALASKA SCIENCE FORUM

Mapmaker creates portable ceramic pieces of Alaska

Bits of mineral soil represent a connection to all corners of the state

BY NED ROZELL

University of Alaska Fairbanks



Photo by Ned Rozell

Kelsey Aho shows ceramic tiles she created from minerals gathered around Alaska.

help her share Alaska with people who might not get to those places.

Kelsey Aho works as a mapmaker for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. She is also an artist who collects earthen materials on her travels around the state.

Throughout Alaska, Aho has gathered mineral soils — including clays when she can find them — as well as ash. She has collected from, among other places, the Denali Highway, Hartney Bay near Cordova, the Chilkat River and Murphy Dome in Fairbanks.

Aho transforms the soil into palm-size ceramic tiles that



Photo by Ned Rozell

Kelsey Aho holds ceramic tiles she has fired from clays and ash.

“I can hand a piece of the Yukon River or Mendenhall Glacier to someone thousands of miles away and say ‘This is what the glacier’s edge looks like,’ or as they move their hand across the piece, ‘This is what the river feels like.’”

Aho creates the touchstones in the pottery studio by forming the material into a square shape after mixing it with commercial clay. Then she slides the tiles into a kiln and heats them to about 1,800 degrees

Fahrenheit. The tiles come out as brittle ceramic pieces that turn into stoneware when partially glazed and fired a second time to about 2,200 degrees.

She got the idea for the project after her aunt and uncle’s house in Michigan burned down. Aho’s father Doug, a fellow clay enthusiast, gathered some of the ash and gave it to his daughter.

Aho pulverized the ash before applying it to the exterior of a few serving dishes she fired at a studio in Juneau. There, the ash melted, creating a shiny coating with colors and textures reminiscent of the lost house and some of the things within it.

Since then, Aho has spread clay from Alaska beaches into jars and slipped ash from road cuts into sealable plastic bags. She has asked friends and scientists roaming the state to do

the same.

This effort has netted her bags of Alaska from all over, including permafrost soils pulled by scientists from beneath the frozen ground surface. Aho has created pottery from the fragments of Alaska and given them back to people who brought her the raw materials.

Over the days and weeks, the raw and fired clays have deepened her connection with Alaska.

“It’s been my way of exploring and building a relationship with the land,” Aho said.

Aho’s Alaska pottery tiles will be featured at the Alaska Biennial 2022 exhibit at Anchorage Museum from Nov. 4, 2022, until March 5, 2023.

Ned Rozell is a science writer with the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

New generation of artists are revitalizing Inuit tattooing

Unlike Western tattoos, ‘It’s quieter, it’s more patient,’ says Iñupiaq artist

EMILY MESNER

Anchorage Daily News



Photo by Emily Mesner / ADN

Artist Sarah Whalen-Lunn sits in the studio in her Anchorage home on Oct. 4.

The stencils of completed tattoos inside Sarah Whalen-Lunn’s home studio pay homage to the hundreds of intimate and healing sessions she’s had at her home since becoming a tattoo artist about six years ago.

A hand-drawn pair of wolves is pinned next to a raised fist with “solidarity” written underneath. Nearby, there are cutouts of a polar bear, harpoon and cluster of berries.

The imagery-based tattoos were done traditionally by Whalen-Lunn, an Anchorage based Iñupiaq artist.

Giving tattoos has helped Whalen-Lunn connect with her culture and those in her community. When she first started, she could count on one hand the number of women she had seen with facial tattoos.

Now, she guessed, that number is in the hundreds.

Tattooing, Whalen-Lunn said, is a “tradition that we had for thousands of years, before this tiny little blip of colonization and religion and missionaries, and now we can take it back.”

An expression of identity

Whalen-Lunn is part of a

new generation of Indigenous tattoo artists bringing new life to the techniques practiced in Alaska for thousands of years by Iñupiat and Yup’ik women. Christian missionaries who arrived in Alaska in the 19th and 20th centuries banned many cultural practices of Indigenous people, including tattooing.

Inuit tattooing consists of two different methods, hand-poke and the original technique of skin-stitching. Hand-poke uses a needle to poke ink into skin whereas with skin-stitching, which is less common now, the tattooist uses a needle to sew into the skin with thread dipped in ink, according to the Anchorage Museum’s exhibition page on

Tattoos and expression

The museum exhibition was part of Tupik Mi — a film

and Inuit tattoo revitalization project that Anchorage’s Holly Mititquq Nordlum introduced around 2016.

Historically, tattooing was done throughout the Circumpolar North by women for women.

Traditional markings — including tavlugun (chin tattoo), sassuma aana (tattoos on the fingers representing the sea mother), iri (tattoos in the corner of the eyes) and siqniq (forehead tattoo, also meaning “sun,”) — are extremely personal and are often used as an expression of cultural and individual identity, Whalen-Lunn said.

“The whole process is different,” she said of Inuit tattooing, compared to Western tattooing. “It’s quieter, it’s more patient. It is not necessarily about the aesthetic of how it looks, but it’s about the

intention in it.”

For hand poke sessions, Whalen-Lunn said she hand builds the tools for every recipient during the appointment, ensuring they are made with intention.

A resurgence

Whalen-Lunn was one of a handful of artists selected to participate in the Inuit tattoo revitalization project through the Anchorage Museum’s Urban Intervention Series of the Polar Lab program. The program was led by Nordlum, who is originally from Kotzebue, and Greenland tattoo artist Maya Sialuk Jacobsen. Ultraviolence Tattoo owner Jake Scribner was the cohort’s Western tattoo mentor.

“At the time I had no idea that our people had tattoos, like no clue,” Whalen-Lunn said.

It was during the 2016 training that Whalen-Lunn first heard Iñupiaq being spoken.

Her mother, Irene “Bumba” Hayes, was taken out of Unalakleet at a very young age, she said, which resulted in Whalen-Lunn’s acute disconnect from her culture.

“There’s been such a resurgence in Indigenous art and Indigenous pride and you see it in all aspects,” she said. “(You see it in) language, you see it in food, you see it in art, you see it everywhere. It’s like coming back home. People are looking for ways to come back home.”

Whalen-Lunn began

traveling to Alaska’s northern villages to tattoo after she said received a Rasmuson Foundation grant in 2018 — the first tattooer awarded such a grant.

Through a National Endowment for the Arts grant, she and her 16-year-old child, Bowie, visited St. Paul Island this past August and Whalen-Lunn tattooed residents for two weeks — her first work trip since the pandemic.

The trip was, in part, an opportunity for Bowie to see if tattooing is something they are interested in.

“We did quite a few things where they got to experience truly what it’s like to be one Native with one other Native doing this work that hadn’t been done in, you know, over 100 years for us,” Whalen-Lunn said. “Just seeing that excitement and that kind of hunger that (Bowie has) for being involved in this traditional tattooing. It’s just pretty incredible.”

As she continues, Whalen-Lunn hopes that Inuit tattooing becomes more normalized and a part of everyday life for younger generations.

Her own traditional markings help her understand herself and provide a way to give back to her community.

“They steel you up in who you are, they kind of force you to walk a little bit taller,” she said. “They force you to try and do a little bit better. They’re constant reminders of your ancestors, of who’s walking with you. So, they change you.”

Utqiagvik whalers distribute fall harvest at polling site

Crew brings catch to election workers alongside usual drive-thru service

ALENA NAIDEN
Arctic Souder

When election time falls on the whaling feast, those who are busy assisting the voters might miss the community celebration. Unless the whaling crew brings them their servings right to the polling site — like Alex Kaleak Sr. and Diedre Kaleak from Aana Crew did on Oct. 4 in Utqiagvik.

“We knew we were serving on Election Day and the workers there don’t get off of work until we would already be done serving so we wanted to make sure they got a bag too,” Alex Kaleak said. “The workers were very happy to get a serving knowing they were missing out on the drive-thru.”

For Kaleak, this is the first season he is whaling as a captain, and it’s already a success. Aana Crew went out to the water every day after the fall season’s open fire on Oct. 1. Three days later, Kaleak with four other hunters and his 11-year-old caught a whale.

After they brought their catch back to the village on Oct. 3, it was processing time: the crew cut whale meat in the

evening at Kaleak’s house.

“It was a little tight space but we were able to get it all done,” he said.

On Oct. 4, they cooked and bagged up the individual portions, so that each community member who came to their drive-thru serving line that evening could receive a bag of boiled meat, tongue, heart, kidney, intestines, uunaalik (the skin and fat), a piece of the flipper, a biscuit and a cup of boiled fruit.

“It is a very blessed feeling to be able to feed many, many people as a whaling captain,” Kaleak said. “Me, my wife and family would like to thank each individual who helped in any way this season. Many more to come.”

The whale Aana crew landed was the eighth whale landed in the community for the season. In total, the village caught 15 whales, according to Tony Kaleak. Lil Whaler Crew caught the first one on Oct. 1. Then on Oct. 10, the Paniquq Crew landed the last, which, at 34 foot, was also the biggest Utqiagvik whale of the season.

“This season has been a very blessed season,” said Bernadette Adams, whaling co-captain of the Aaluk Crew that landed a whale on a sunny election day. “The season went quick but all the whales struck this fall were landed and none lost.”



Photo courtesy of Mary Lum Patkotak

Panigeo crew landed an almost 26-foot whale this fall and served it to the community last week.



Photo courtesy of Mary Lum Patkotak

A man holds a bag with whale meat during the Yugu Crew’s feast last week.



Photo courtesy of Mary Lum Patkotak

People enjoy food during the whaling feast from the Arey Crew in Utqiagvik last week.

Biden’s Arctic strategy cites competition with China, Russia

RILEY ROGERSON
Anchorage Daily News

The Biden administration has released its vision for U.S. strategy in the Arctic in a new document that underscores competition with Russia and China over the next decade.

The 15-page document, titled “National Strategy for the Arctic Region,” is intended to set the U.S. agenda for the Arctic until 2032. The strategy is focused on security, climate mitigation, economic development and international cooperation in the region.

The Arctic “possesses considerable economic potential, from tourism to vast natural resources,” said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, calling the document “an important step towards shaping the future of the region.”

The strategy comes as tensions have ramped up in the Arctic. Russia, the largest of the eight Arctic nations, has built up military infrastructure in the region and is conducting military exercises. The Kremlin is also seeking to up Russia’s economic activity in the region through tax incentives for

energy companies to invest in the Arctic. Also, China declared itself a “near-Arctic state” in 2018, signaling interest in the region. Russia and China have been collaborating on development in the Arctic, raising U.S. and NATO concerns.

The Biden administration’s strategy includes investing in tracking capabilities to monitor threats and activity in the region. The document outlines regular Arctic military trainings and exercises, as well as a plan to expand the Coast Guard icebreaker fleet and support a deep-water draft harbor in Nome.

The strategy also outlines the administration’s climate mitigation goals in the region.

Sherri Goodman, a senior fellow at the Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program and the Polar Institute, said the focus on security and climate distinguishes the report from past Arctic strategic documents.

“We’re an Arctic nation because of Alaska, but our interests, of course, as the United States are global,” said Goodman. “What stands out to me is this strategy elevates

attention both to climate change and to security.”

An August study found that the Arctic is warming four times faster than the planet. The White House strategy mentions the administration’s broad goals to reduce carbon dioxide, methane, and black carbon emissions, and also clean up contaminated Alaskan lands.

The strategy acknowledges that rising temperatures and melting ice in the Arctic could spur new economic opportunity by opening up shipping routes and shifting fish migration patterns. The document states that federal agencies will support sustainable development in Alaska renewable energy, critical minerals production, tourism and research. The strategy also includes investing in Alaskan infrastructure like broadband, ports, and airfields.

The strategy does not explicitly mention investments in natural gas or oil, but discusses supporting a “just energy transition.”

That disappointed Alaska Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan. Sullivan said in a statement that the strategy’s “excessive

focus on climate change” sends a “troubling message” about resource development in the region.

Sullivan said he worries that “despite America’s increasing national economic and security interests in the Arctic that are being directly challenged by Russia, and increasingly challenged by China, the administration will continue to focus on shutting down responsible resource development.”

“This strategy very clearly falls short when it comes to our Arctic resources,” Murkowski said in a statement. “It gives very little attention to the opportunity and necessity of domestic production of the vast resources in our Arctic.”

The Obama administration released a strategy for the Arctic in 2013, and since then, all five branches of the military have released similar documents. Sullivan called the Biden administration’s strategic plan a more detailed “improvement” from the 2013 document and Murkowski called it “an important message to the American people that the United States must continue to advance

Arctic priorities.”

The document makes several mentions of working with Alaska state and local officials as well as Alaska Native communities in executing the Arctic strategy.

The White House released the strategy days after two Russians fled to St. Lawrence Island and requested asylum to avoid mandatory military service, according to Murkowski’s office. Murkowski said the nearest federal agencies who could process the Russians were 700 miles away.

“What this incident makes clear is that even as Putin undertakes rapid military and industrial development in Russia’s Arctic, the United States is behind in its Arctic initiatives,” she said in a statement.

Goodman said the strategic document opens the door to increased federal funding to the Arctic.

“The Arctic should be getting increased attention within agency budgets as a result of this strategy,” she said. “That’s something that we’re going to need to look at when the President’s budget is released next year.”



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STORM

FROM PAGE 1

Chriest, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, said last Saturday afternoon.

A coastal flood warning that had been in place for several communities along the coast was lifted early Saturday morning. Along the Chukchi Sea coast, communities saw tides drop by early Saturday, according to Chriest.

"It's a beautiful day out," said Billy Adams, reached at home in Utqiagvik by phone Saturday. "The storm is over but the work is just beginning."

The storm began hitting Northwest Alaska overnight on Oct. 6.

The highest gusts reported were 90 mph at Cape Lisburne — an exposed point jutting into the Arctic Ocean north of Point Hope — and at about 2,000 feet elevation in the Brooks Range, where a 96 mph gust was recorded early Oct. 6, according to Bobby Bianco, a Fairbanks-based meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

A number of communities along the coast were experiencing gale — or storm-force gusts.

High winds peeled back the roofing tin on the NANA office building in Kivalina. A resident there watched as his window shattered, ruining his couch with glass pieces. The wind also destroyed one of the first homes built in the village, according to Frances Douglas. The house, which was uninhabited, belonged to her grandfather.

"It has been slowly rotting. It was gonna collapse sooner or later," Douglas said. "It was a pretty sturdy structure for being so old. It couldn't handle the wind, I guess. I was fortunate that it didn't just fly up — the roofing or the walls or plywood or anything."

In Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk said he lost some roofing and had to tie down his stove oil tank. But others didn't get the chance.

"Some people's tanks blew away, broke their fuel lines," Oomittuk said Oct. 6.

On Friday, Utqiagvik residents had described flooding in different parts of the community,

Jerica Niayuq Leavitt reported major flooding in some



Photo by Bruce Nelson

A road in Kotzebue was flooded during the storm on Oct. 7.



Photo by Frances Douglas

One of the oldest houses in Kivalina collapsed during the storm on the night of Oct. 7. The uninhabited structure belonged to Frances Douglas' grandfather and was one of the first dwellings built there. Kivalina Volunteer Fire Department responded and cleared the debris.



Photo by Jerica Niayuq Leavitt

Waves crash in in the Sadie Neakok playground in Utqiagvik on Oct. 7.

areas of Utqiagvik, saying that "waves (were) crashing in the Sadie Neakok playground."

"The operators are working diligently to protect our drinking water source by using sand bags," she said on Friday.

Also flooded was the Nalukatagvik, an outdoor area in Utqiagvik where the city holds its annual whaling feast, according to Leavitt.

A photo by Nelda Nungasak taken Friday morning showed white-capped waves bearing down on flooded Stevenson Street, a main road that parallels the water's edge, as if the Arctic Ocean were moving inland.

Adams said that the revetment along the Utqiagvik's coast was "broken in places."

While city and borough



Photo by Sophie Lea Tracey

A house in Point Lay is seen after the metal roofing and insulation blew off from it during the storm on Oct. 6.

employees were addressing the infrastructure damage, Utqiagvik residents temporarily lost access to some businesses and the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory in the Point Barrow area, where Iñisagvik College is located, Sarah Brotherton said.

In Point Lay, "the storm surge has all but covered the barrier island," according to resident Bill Tracey.

"Some of our boats that weren't pulled up enough are flooded, as the shoreline here in town (is) completely underwater," Tracey said on Friday. "The bluff we live on is eroding with every wave."

Farther south in Kotzebue, flooding affected the houses on the lagoon side, including the National Guard hangar, as well as houses by the Tent City area, according to Angeline McConnell.

"We are expecting significant erosion along the coast, really from Utqiagvik all the way down to Unalakleet," said Chriest.

The winds associated

with the storm had generally peaked by Friday morning. Adams listened to waves crashing all night Friday, and said he was happy to see that the waves had subsided and high winds had died down by Saturday morning.

"We only had 30 mph winds. If it had been greater than 40, things would have been much worse," Adams said.

A couple buildings on lower ground were still surrounded by water, he said, expressing concern about some homes near the beach in an area with significant erosion. He said that some of the water that overflowed into the lagoon had subsided Saturday.

During the worst of the storm, the weather service received numerous reports of damage, including power outages in Savoonga that began Wednesday night; roofs and windows damaged in Kivalina; water over the east end of the old runway in Golovin; a dock damaged and seawater entering the lagoon at Point Lay; and damage to the school roof in Wales.

Chriest said no additional significant flooding or damage had been reported last Friday night into Saturday.

Since Oct. 6, several communities saw water well above what's normal, though nowhere near the level of flooding experienced during September's typhoon system.

This storm was "exceptionally strong," Chriest said, with west winds blowing waves onshore.

It followed on the heels of the destructive remnants of Typhoon Merbok, which last month left a path of destruction in Western Alaska, washing out roads and flooding homes in 40 communities along about 1,300 miles of Alaska's coast.

Chriest said the weather service was monitoring yet another storm system that was expected to move south out of the high Arctic on Tuesday, "bringing some additional elevated surf and strong winds to the Arctic coast."

"We don't anticipate the winds to be as high nor the water to be as high as with this most recent storm. But we are expecting southwest winds gusting 45 to 55 miles per hour down from Utqiagvik to Point Hope," he said.

MYERS

FROM PAGE 4

have to worry about the next election. They have the ability to have open dialogue and true compromise because they aren't bound by reelection pressures.

We likely will attract an entirely different type of person to run to be delegates because of the one-time nature of the

position. Their only concerns will be the long-term future of our state and whether or not their changes will be ratified by the people at large.

Let's not forget the importance of that ratification. The people will have a final say over all changes. We won't have a runaway convention unless the people want it to run away.

Knowing that, the smartest

thing the delegates could do is create a set of amendments so that one to two poison pills won't cause all of their work to be rejected. We likely won't have a completely new document at the end of the process.

Our founders were smart people. They realized that circumstances change, and we need to change with them. Our economic circumstances

have changed with the decline of oil. We need our economy to diversify outside of that narrow range of activities. Our constitution needs to change to reflect these new circumstances and provide for future growth.

We can't do that with our budget process and spending policies in limbo every year. We need to solidify our spending with a spending cap

that adjusts to the economy, find long-term certainty on the Permanent Fund dividend, and address who owns our resources, both the natural and financial ones.

Let's trust the people, end the gridlock, and hold a constitutional convention.

Sen. Robert Myers represents Fairbanks and North Pole neighborhoods in the Alaska Senate.

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR
THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT
KOTZEBUE
IN PROBATE**

In the Matter of the Estate of
WARREN RICHARD THOMPSON,
Deceased.
Case No. 2KB-22-00057 PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Jeanette M. Cook, Personal Representative, c/o Woelber & Associates, P.C., 821 N Street, Suite 206, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, or filed with the Court.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, on September 15, 2022.
Jeanette M. Cook
by Tonja Woelber, Woelber & Associates, P.C.
821 N Street, Suite 206
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

PUB: 9/29, 10/6, 10/13/2022

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil and Gas
Public Notice of Application to Expand the Prudhoe Bay Unit**

The Department of Natural Resources gives notice under 11 AAC 83.311 of an application to expand the Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) area. The proposed expansion area is located on the North Slope, and to the west-northwest of the current PBU boundary. Hilcorp North Slope, LLC., P.O. Box 40067, Prudhoe Bay, AK 99734, the PBU Operator, filed an initial Application on behalf of itself and the other Working Interest Owners, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., ExxonMobil Alaska Production Inc., and Chevron U.S.A. Inc., with the Division of Oil and Gas on August 17, 2022. After discussions between the Division of Oil and Gas and the Working Interest Owners, the Application was deemed complete on October 5, 2022.

Approval of the unit expansion would not limit or diminish access to public lands or public or navigable waters beyond any limitations already contained in the individual oil and gas leases proposed to be included in the unit. Exploration and development of the proposed expansion area would occur in accordance with an approved unit plan of exploration and development.

The proposed PBU expansion area covers approximately 9,053.11 acres and includes all or portions of the following:

- T12N-R13E, U.M., Sec. 1 - 2, 11 & 12 (all)
- T12N-R14E, U.M., Secs. Section 5 - 8 (all)
- T12N-R14E, U.M., Secs. 17 - 20 (all)
- T13N-R13E, U.M., Secs. 13, 14, and 24 (all)

You may review the non-confidential portions of the application on the Division's website at <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Library/>, in-person at the Division's office, or by writing to Division of Oil & Gas, Units Section, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560. The Division charges a photocopy fee of \$.25 per sheet, per 11 AAC 05.030(a)(3)(A).

Any person may file written comments on the application. Comments must be received by close of business Tuesday, November 15th, at 4:30 p.m., Alaska Time, and should be mailed to the Division of Oil and Gas, attention Heather Beat, Unit Manager, at the above address, or emailed to DOG.Units@alaska.gov. The Department will consider all timely written comments and evaluate the application based on the criteria in 11 AAC 83.303 and 83.336(a)(2). After the close of the comment period, the Department will issue a written decision to approve or deny the unit formation application. Individuals or groups of people with disabilities, who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services, or alternative communication formats, please contact Lorence Williams at (907) 269-8507, or TDD (907) 269-8411 (5 days before end of comment period).

This notice also appears on the State of Alaska website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/pubnotfrm>.

PUB: 10/13/2022

AO23UN-10-019

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SES Midstream, LLC Gas Supply Pipeline Private Non-Exclusive Easement

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas (Division) received an application from SES Midstream, LLC (SESM) dated, September 16, 2022, requesting authorization to construct a gas supply line on state land on the North Slope. The proposed supply line and easement will be adjudicated under AS 38.05.850. The Division is providing public notice and an opportunity to comment.

Applicant: SESM (see application for contact information)

Project ID: ADL 421951

Location: See application for MTRS.

Project Description: SESM is proposing to construct and operate a gas supply line between a currently abandoned line operated by Hilcorp North Slope, LLC, and SESM's planned gas treatment facility. Up to six million cubic feet of gas per day may transit from Flow Station 1 through the gas supply line to the gas treatment facility. The proposed easement measures 300 feet long and 50 feet wide, with a total easement acreage of 0.344 acres.

The application package is available for review at the Division's Permitting Section, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100, Anchorage, AK 99501, or online at <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Home/Newsroom>. Please send comments to the Division by email to dog.permitting@alaska.gov, or by regular mail to the Division address above. All comments must be in writing. A copy of the final decision will be sent to any person who provides written comments. An eligible person affected by this decision may appeal or request the commissioner's reconsideration in accordance with 11 AAC 02.

All comments must be received by the Comment Deadline: 4:30 pm, Alaska Standard Time, October 23, 2022.

The Department of Natural Resources complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This notice will be made available in alternative communication formats upon request. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate may contact the address above or call 907-269-8411.

Posted: September 23, 2022 PUB

DATES 9/29/2022, 10/13/2022

AO 23PE-10-016

CROSSWORD

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THEME: HALLOWEEN

ACROSS

1. *Trees in famous Wes Craven's horror movie
5. *Vampire's altered form
8. Sheltered nook
12. Uh-huh
13. Fancy-schmancy
14. Rodgers of the Packers
15. "At _____," to a soldier
16. I, to a Greek
17. With clear mind
18. *Popular Halloween decor
20. Alternative to Saran
21. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
22. Blue, but not as in color
23. Cause of wheezing
26. To that
30. Corn site
31. To "_____ out" a competitor
34. Longship propellers
35. Synchronizes, for short
37. #34 Across, sing.
38. Magazine's special feature
39. Per person
40. Like a certain fund
42. Thailand native
43. Embarrassed
45. Afternoon nap
47. + or - item
48. Sacrificial spot
50. What libraries do
52. *Eviction of a demon
55. Hair-loving parasite?
56. Cher, e.g.
57. Golfer's equipment
59. "Beat it!"
60. Celt
61. On its own
62. Type of sailing vessel
63. Old age, archaic
64. Leak through

DOWN

1. *Michael Myers has only one in "Halloween Kills"
2. Meadows
3. *Halloween face cover
4. Expression of exasperation
5. Ill-gotten gains
6. 19th century business magnate John Jacob _____
7. Comparison word
8. *Witch's pot
9. Killer whale
10. Emptiness
11. Last word in a fairy tale
13. Statue of mourning Virgin Mary, pl.
14. Aquarium scum
19. Light sources
22. Pronoun for a ship
23. Away from harbor (2 words)
24. Popular animal protein replacement, pl.
25. a.k.a. doctor fish
26. Through, in a text
27. Sunrise side, pl.
28. *Not a trick
29. Plural of ostium
32. Common second person pronoun contraction
33. *Witch's four-legged companion
36. *Leatherface's signature weapon
38. Hipbone-related
40. Family _____ and wing _____
41. Stellar
44. Data transmitting device
46. Kane and Goldberg, of TV
48. Type of rotation
49. Cherished
50. Nessie's home
51. European currency
52. Competitive advantage
53. Uncontrolled swerve
54. Remote control option
55. Dropped hallucinogen
58. Gene Vincent's "Dance to the _____"

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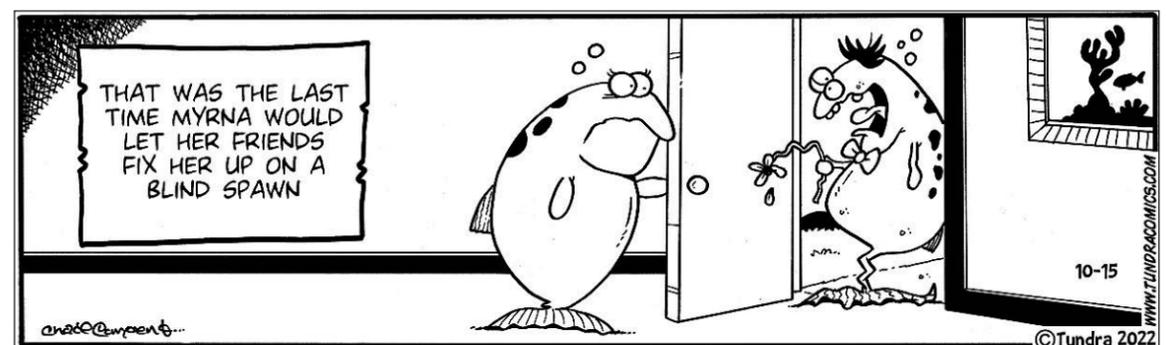
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FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES, SEE PAGE 12.



Photo provided by Harlee Harvey

Harlee Harvey jumps during the blanket toss at Qagruq feast in 2017.

TEACHER

FROM PAGE 1

become the fifth-grade teacher.

“Both Harley and Alex made themselves right at home in our community,” Point Hope resident Della Lane said.

Harvey’s passion for the craft and ability to do well as a teacher in Point Hope was noticeable from the very beginning, said Kirstie Willean who was Harvey’s mentor through the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project:

“I knew she would stick it out, I knew she was going to be a rural Alaska teacher, which is always exciting,” Willean said. “Harley had all the makings of someone who was completely passionate about what she was doing, was open to learning, and she’s always striving to do better.”

The first year of teaching went smoothly — even more so with how welcoming the community was — but then work brought more challenges, with bigger class sizes and more difficult behaviors among students.

As a new teacher, Harvey had to work on her communication style with students, her ability to organize the classroom in an optimal way and most of all — on creating trust between her and her students, by building relationship with them and proving that she is not just another temporary teacher.

“By the time they’re 10, and 11, they don’t have any trust of a new teacher, because teachers come and go,” Harvey said.

Reaching students was always important to Harvey. Born and raised in Alaska, she grew up feeling that, even if home life was turbulent or uncomfortable, school was a safe space.

“It became really important for me to provide the space that I always had growing up for other students in my classroom,” she said. “I wanted to be the teacher that I saw, who made sure that all of these

students felt important in the classroom — not just those that are naturally academically talented or your stereotypical, like, dream students — I wanted all students to feel comfortable.”

One of the things that made her students in Point Hope excited was using cultural materials to study. For a non-Inupiaq person, incorporating those into the classroom was not an easy task, but Harvey dove into the educational territory unknown to her.

“The hardest part about moving up to a village with a distinct new culture is you don’t always know what the norms are, and you don’t have that cultural knowledge base,” Harvey said. “It’s humbling to admit that you don’t know it all, and it can be humbling to admit that you don’t have all the answers, but the answers exist within school and within the community.”

Searching for insight on how to improve her practices in the classroom and how to teach cultural elements authentically, Harvey said she has been reaching out to her teacher aide, her colleagues in school, her mentor, the dean of students and other people in the community.

“I think that willingness to innovate, ask for help and listen to the feedback that you’re given from people,” she said, “that, I think, has probably been the thing that’s allowed me to be so successful.”

Willean said that Harvey was good at taking constructive criticism from anyone who she was looking up to and was ready to put in the work.

“No teacher’s job is eight hours — it’s pretty much 24,” Willean said. “She embraced that from the beginning. She knew what she was doing.”

Today, Harvey is a Mapkuk Mentor for the North Slope Borough School District’s cultural curriculum project.

■ See page 12, **TEACHER**



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TEACHER

FROM PAGE 11

Besides being a successful teacher, she also works part-time in the community library and chairs the teachers' Union. In 2020, she received her education specialist degree, and last summer, she enrolled in a doctoral program to study retention in rural Alaska.

When Harvey became Alaska's 2023 Teacher of the Year, she said she was shocked: with so many great teachers in her district and across the state, she said she didn't even expect to be nominated.

Receiving the award helped Harvey reflect on her teaching practices and successes.

"As teachers, we can be so self-critical and feel that we're never doing enough," she said. "This nomination had me think about, what am I doing correctly in my classroom? What do I do really well?"

As her former mentor, Willean said she was glad Harvey was chosen for the award.

"I'm so proud of her," she said. "I think she's a good representative of what's needed for strong teachers in rural Alaska."

For Harvey, who is also a mom of four, being a teacher in Point Hope is more than a job. She said that in her first years in the village, she was a bit uncomfortable going to community events because she didn't know anybody, but that slowly started to change.

Not long after they came to Point Hope, Della Lane said that her husband Jacob Lane invited them to their whaling crew, Tikigaq 75 Crew, and the family has been whaling since then.

"Alex is getting right into the hard work with the guys, cleaning out the ice cellar, breaking ice trail, hauling muktuk and meat," Lane said. "At home, Harley is helping us ladies with cooking; making donuts, preparing food totes for the guys out on the ice. After a whale is caught, Harley helps our crew in cutting up the muktuk and meat (for) hours and hours when it's a big whale."

"That's been amazing," Harvey said. "Our whaling captains are beautiful, amazing people, and we've learned a lot just from his experiences out on the ice and with the crew, and then my experiences, working with their crew, you know, preparing for the feast."

The Harvey family also started spending holidays in Point Hope instead of going back to Fairbanks, and instead of spending time with each other at home, they started going out to be with other people in the community.

"Most teachers leave for summer break - they stay year-round," resident Steve Oomituk said about Harvey's family. "They are really involved with the community. Meetings, funerals, dancing, church - you name it, they are there. Whaling feast, Christmas activities, Thanksgiving."

Whenever Harvey participated in new community events, she tried to make sure there was space for her participation - and that's what she did during her third year when she stayed for the Qagruq feast in 2017.

"We participated in the feast and we served and did work with our crew, and then

I did the blanket toss for my oldest son," she said. "I think it showed me that this is more than just a job."

Harvey family also has

opened up their home for children who have parents with court issues to help keep the children within the community, Lane said.

"This couple's help to our community is so appreciated," she said.

Oomituk agreed: "People love them and they're family."

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Answers to page 10 puzzles

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