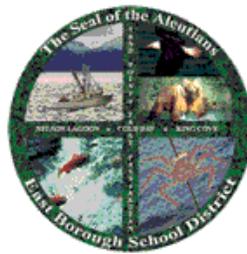
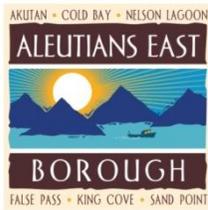


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

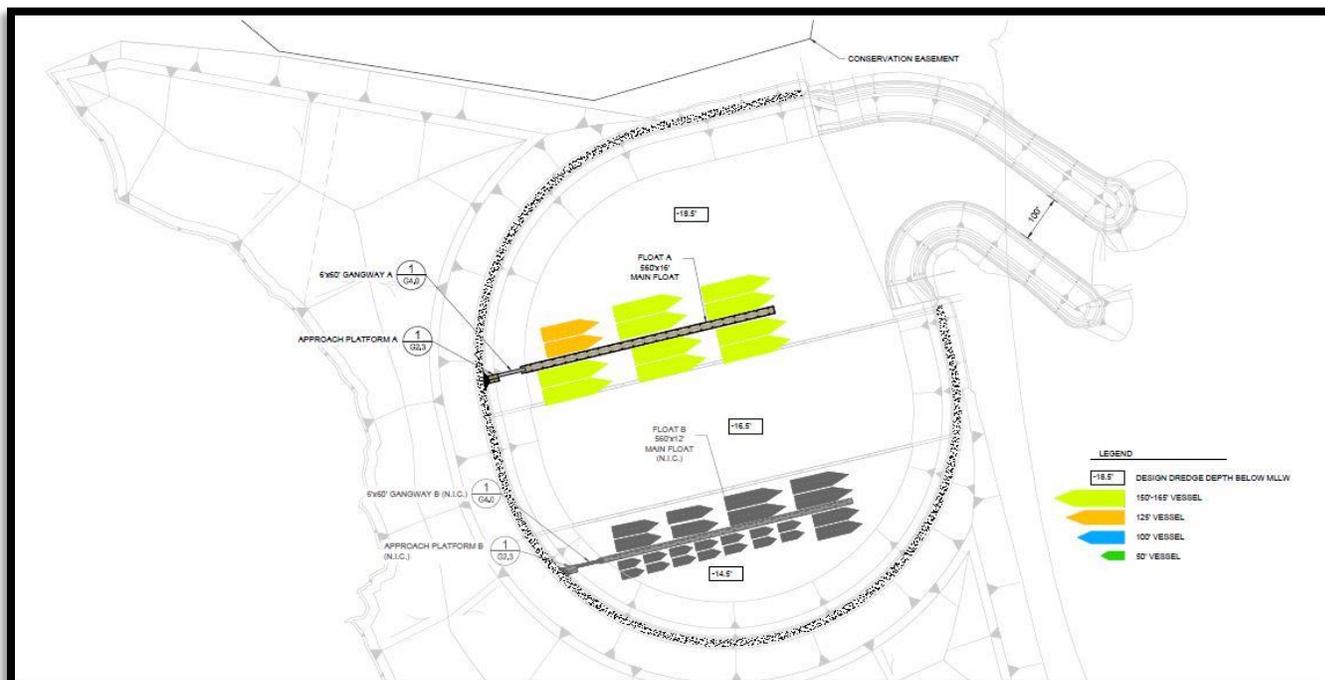
Borough to Install First Phase of Akutan Harbor Float System Next Month

While most people are getting ready to celebrate the Fourth of July, Akutan is also gearing up for another big event in the community. Early next month, materials for Float A of the Akutan Harbor will begin arriving.

“Installing floats is the most essential improvement to begin making the harbor operational and an economically viable piece of infrastructure,” said Anne Bailey, Aleutians East Borough Assistant Administrator.

Acquiring financial backing for the float system has been no easy task for the Borough, especially considering the current climate of limited funding, both at the state and federal level.

“The Borough attempted to get funds from the State Harbor Facility Grant Program for three years in order to do the entire float system, but was unsuccessful,” Bailey said. “Due to the constraints of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) money, the Borough decided to proceed with Float A, the larger of the two float systems.”



Float A Mooring Configuration. The Float A system will be able to accommodate ten vessels up to 165 feet in length and two vessels up to 125 feet in length.

Funding for Float A came from several sources: \$1 million from the EDA, \$1 million from the Borough, \$750,000 from APICDA, \$350,000 from the City of Akutan and \$300,000 from the State of Alaska, for a total of \$3.4 million.

The Akutan Harbor Float Project went out to bid on June 6, 2015. In late August, four bids were received. Following a thorough review, the Borough provided a Notice of Intent to award the bid to Pacific Pile & Marine. The following month, the Borough entered into a contract with Pacific Pile & Marine for \$2,832,000.

The Float A system is composed of a heavy-duty timber and is 16 feet wide by 560 feet long. Float A will be able to accommodate up to ten vessels up to 165 feet in length and two vessels up to 125 feet in length.

Pacific Pile is expecting materials to arrive in Akutan shortly after the Fourth of July. The company anticipates completion of the harbor’s Float A by the end of July.

In the fall of 2012, construction of Akutan's 12-acre harbor was completed. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Aleutians East Borough provided the funding for the construction. The City contributed land, rights-of-way and in-kind services.

"The construction of a functional harbor is a pivotal event for the community," said Bailey. "It's the culmination of decades of planning that will significantly improve the economy, the transportation network and the quality of life of the residents."

Army Corps of Engineers Provides Cold Bay with Update on Formerly Used Defense Site Environmental Restoration Work

The Army Corps of Engineers is continuing cleanup work in Cold Bay more than 70 years after the area served as a military installation, known as Fort Randall, during World War II. Multiple fuel storage tank locations and drum disposal areas were left behind long after the war ended. Due to concerns of contaminated groundwater, the Corps has been working diligently for more than a decade on cleanup and environmental restoration projects in Cold Bay. On June 22nd, the Corps held a public meeting in the community to discuss restoration work of the formerly used defense site.

There are four open projects that the Corps is working on. The first one, the Drum Disposal & Beach Seep Areas is located just north of the eastern end of the east-west runway and above the bluff.

"There was a large underground storage tank there that leaked diesel fuel into the ground," said Beth Astley, Project Manager with the Army Corps of Engineers. "We have a high-vacuum extraction treatment system, which began operating in 1999, to remove fuel from the groundwater table.



High-vacuum extraction system building at the Drum Disposal Area. Photo courtesy: Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps also installed a bio-venting treatment system in 2007 that blows air through a series of injection points in the ground. The oxygen helps to break down the petroleum in the soil more quickly.



In 2006, the Underground Storage Tank #1 was removed. Photo courtesy: Army Corps of Engineers.

“We’re currently working to recover fuel from the soil and the groundwater table to stop the migration of fuel to the upper beach,” Astley said.

The second area of concern is the Underground Storage Tank #1 (UST#1), located just north of the Alaska DOT firefighting building. In 2006, the underground storage tank was removed, and the contaminated soil underneath, down to the

groundwater table, was dug out and hauled away.

“What’s left is a plume of fuel in the groundwater smear zone down gradient of where UST#1 was located,” Astley explained.

Astley said the Corps has been monitoring the groundwater for the fuel, and the agency has been able to determine the extent of the plume. The next step is to evaluate alternatives to remove the contamination from the UST#1 groundwater plume.

“It looks like a fairly stable plume,” she said. “We are still finding product, which is pure fuel floating on top of the groundwater table. We’ve been removing fuel with absorbent socks from the wells that contain product in the interim until an official decision is made on the remedy.”

A contractor who works for the Corps removes and replaces the absorbent socks periodically.

The last two projects include Milepost Fuel Storage Area 4 and Milepost Fuel Storage Encampment Area 5, located along Frosty Mountain Road.

“We’re concerned about possible fuel spills where the Army stored and used fuel during World War II at Milepost 4,” Astley said.

Milepost 4 appears to have been used primarily for tents.

“Troops dug multiple pits in the Milepost 4 area and they placed canvas tents inside for shelter from the wind,” Astley said. “The Corps is planning a remedial investigation to test for fuel contamination related to heating the tents.”

Buildings were located at Milepost 5, including a powerhouse and a vehicle maintenance garage.



“The focus of the remedial investigation will be on likely sources of contamination,” she said.

In late July, an environmental contractor working for the Corps will collect soil samples for the first phase of the remedial investigation. The remedial investigation report will provide information about soil contamination at the Milepost 4 and 5 areas and will include recommendations for any additional investigation that is needed in order to evaluate risk to human health and the environment.

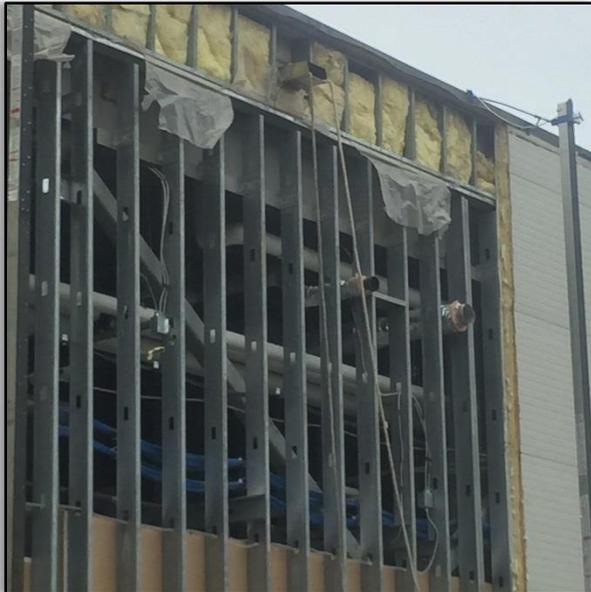
In addition, the Corps will update the public involvement plan in 2017. Anyone who would like to provide input into how the Corps shares information with the public about these Cold Bay environmental projects can contact Beth Astley.

“We welcome input from the public on the best ways to communicate that are specific to each community,” she said.

To contact Beth Astley, email: Beth.N.Astley@usace.army.mil or call (907) 753-5782.

Repairs on Leaks at King Cove School in Full Swing

Since before school let out for summer, the King Cove School has been buzzing with additional activity. UNIT Company, contracted by the Aleutians East Borough, mobilized at the school to begin work on April 25, 2016. The army of workers has their job cut out for them. Not long after the school was built during the summer of 2007, water leaked into the building from a variety of locations.



Steve Schwicht, Senior Project Manager with DOWL, said water had leaked in around vents, joints and places where there was penetration into the wall or other weak spots. Photo courtesy: DOWL.

“There began to be evidence of leakage showing up in the ceilings, walls, around windows and window sills,” said Steve Schwicht, Senior Project Manager with DOWL. “Primarily it was coming in around vents, joints and places where you had any penetration into the wall or other weak spots. It would eventually work its way in and find its way down into the finishes and start to create problems such as mold and other areas of concern.”

The Borough went out to bid last fall to select a company that would take on the repairs. After reviewing multiple bids, a Notice of Intent was awarded to UNIT Company in December of last year, and a contract was signed in the amount of \$2,306,000.

“The bid amount was a big portion of the selection criteria,” said Schwicht. “However, the contractor’s experience with schools, and in particular, remote schools with adverse weather conditions, also weighed heavily in the selection process.”

The newly hired architect, Lauri Strauss with design2LAST inc. conducted a site visit at the end of May. She was there on one of the days when 50 mile-per-hour winds whipped through the community while the rain was blowing sideways.

“Boy, did she ever get a first-hand feel for the challenges the crews would be facing out there on the project,” Schwicht said. “The good news is, the way they scheduled the project, and built in some flexibility into their work approach, they’ve been able to stay on track.”



Not long after the King Cove School was built in 2007, water leaked into a variety of locations, including around windows, ceilings and walls. Photo courtesy: DOWL.

The contract requires UNIT Company to finish all repairs shortly after school resumes. To get the job done, crews began some of the work last spring.

“However, they’ve got to do the lion’s share of this work and really get it knocked out during the summer break,” said Schwicht.

Schwicht said design2LAST inc. went to a great deal of effort to come up with a robust design to ensure leaking would no longer be a problem. Design2LAST inc., based in Edmonds, Washington, is a full service architecture firm specializing in sustainable architectural solutions for commercial, industrial and institutional design for new construction and renovation projects.

“The design is similar to somebody wearing belts *and* suspenders,” said Schwicht. “You have to have multiple

backup systems because of the tremendous wind that King Cove gets out here. Otherwise, anything that has a joint or has a weak spot in it, the water is going to find its way in. If it doesn’t find it the first time the wind blows by, the rain drops will certainly get in by the fourth or fifth time it blows by.”

Schwicht said design2LAST inc. came up with a system to remove the old finishes, which consisted of a type of sandwich board of insulation with a metal surfacing.

“Some of the problems the school building had included joints that were aligned horizontally,” Schwicht explained, “so water would just kind of sit in there, if it got blown in. Crews are removing that and putting on a sealant and new flashing with several other layers around windows, joints and penetrations to make sure water cannot get in. If they find a spot where there’s significant mold, they’ll remove and



The newly hired architectural firm, design2LAST inc., came up with a robust design to ensure leaking would no longer be a problem. Photo courtesy: DOWL.

replace the material. We don't want to take a chance with any mold there.”

The goal is to repair the building so it can withstand the harsh Aleutian weather. That has often meant working with Mother Nature on good days, and knowing when to stand down on days when the weather isn't cooperating.

“They've had a few days when they've had to work around it or only get partial days in,” Schwicht said. “But the approach they've taken is if they get rained or weathered out, they can work inside and do other tasks there. If they've had bad weather earlier in the week, they'll work on Sunday, too. They know they have to strike while the iron's hot. By working several different parts of the project concurrently and on parallel paths, it opens up several different places for the crews to work on, and they've been able to stay busy.”

In addition to the unpredictable weather, transportation has been a challenge.

“It really seems to be typical, especially of remote work in Alaska,” said Schwicht. It's not only the transportation by barge to get materials here, but arranging for crews to come in at this time of year when fisheries and cannery work is kicking in. So we planned for that well in advance. Fortunately, UNIT has been flexible. In cases where things didn't make it onto the barge, they've had to make other arrangements.”

Schwicht said the tremendous coordination they've had from the Borough to make sure crews had housing and locations where they could stage their equipment have helped to make the job go smoothly.

“They have been terrific to work with,” Schwicht said. “Whenever we had a need, I'd send an email or make a phone call and the Borough was right on it.”

Schwicht said everything is coming together well and the crew is right on schedule.



Crews plan to wrap up all repair work on the King Cove School by September 1st. Photo courtesy: DOWL.

“By the middle of August, they’re going to be pretty well wrapped up with interior finish work,” Schwicht said. “They will complete all work by September 1st.”

AHA Planning to Build Four-Unit Independent Senior Living Center in King Cove

Next year, the Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA) plans to build a 4-unit independent senior living center in King Cove -- the first of its kind in the East Aleutian region. The City of King Cove was the catalyst for propelling this concept in motion with discussions starting back in 2009 - 2010 with Eastern Aleutian Tribes regarding the possibility of the City offering the Community Center and adjacent 3-acre lot as the nucleus for a senior care facility.

“This project has been in the works for quite some time,” said AHA Executive Director Dan Duame. “We’ve done a couple of surveys. King Cove certainly has the largest growing senior citizen population in the region.”

Outside of the Aleutians East Borough, the closest facilities are in Unalaska and St. Paul, both of which have 15-unit senior living centers.

“There just aren’t any other facilities available in the region,” Duame said.

While many senior citizens prefer to live in their homes, sometimes it becomes difficult or impossible without some assistance because of health conditions or the need to downsize and not have the responsibility of keeping up with a large home. As a result, some have had to relocate to Anchorage, away from family and friends.

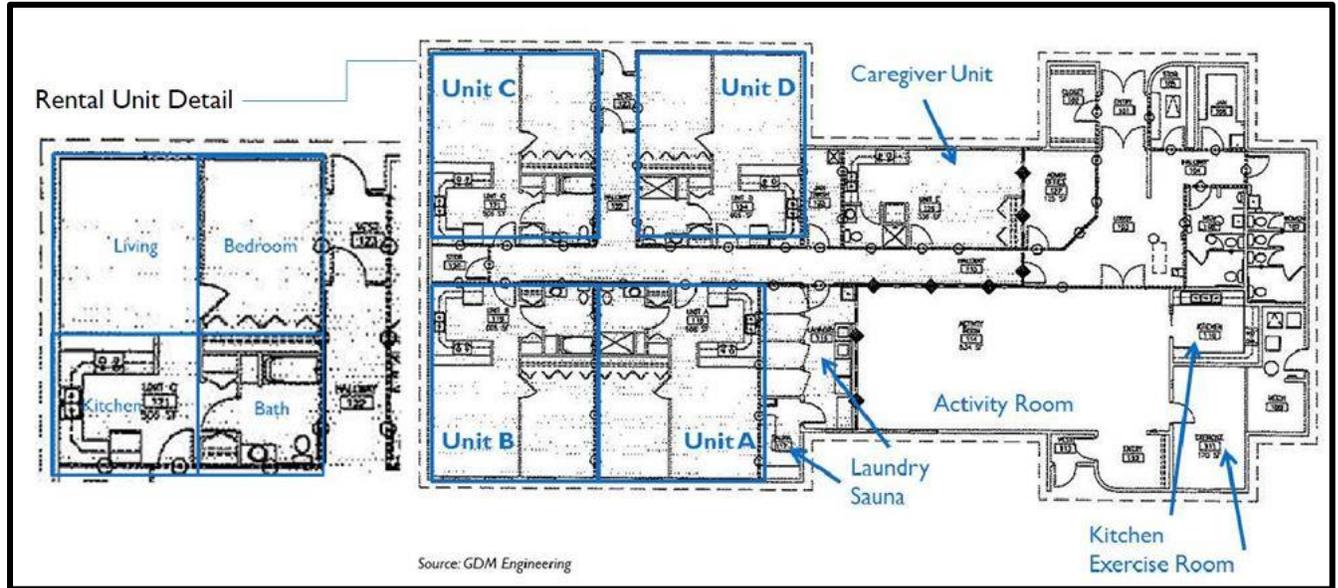
“Our surveys indicated that four units would probably not be hard to fill, depending on the living costs,” Duame said. “We’re going to try to make it as fair and reasonable as we possibly can.”

The two-phase project would entail first completing a major remodeling to the existing interior of the King Cove Community Center to include an upgrade of the kitchen, common areas and adding an efficiency apartment. According to Duame, a major goal is to provide a comfortable



Next year, AHA plans to build a 4-unit independent senior living center in King Cove, the first of its kind in the East Aleutian region. The City of King Cove donated the Community Center building and an adjacent 3-acre lot for the project.

and inviting space for elders to “accommodate any activities the community may want to support.” The small efficiency apartment would allow for a temporary caregiver, if one of the residents needs the help. The second phase would be to add four one-bedroom apartments onto the exterior of the existing facility.



The project is estimated to cost approximately \$1.5 million. That includes grant funding from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to do the architectural, engineering and survey work. An Indian Community Development Housing Block Grant for \$150,000 will go toward rehabilitation. The two tribes in the community, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the Belkofski Tribe, both contributed matching funds. Other organizations that contributed funding include Eastern Aleutian Tribes, the Alaska State Mental Health Trust and the Aleutian Housing Authority. The City, the owner of the Community Center, agreed to donate the facility to AHA for the project. In addition, the City is assisting with utilities through the senior utility subsidy.

“We just recently applied for another Indian Community Development Block Grant for the new construction phase,” Duame said. “If we get this grant, we could realistically start in spring or summer of next year.”

AHA is confident this project will fill a need in the community.

“We hope to provide the seniors out there with a convenient way to live and help them to remain in their community,” said Erin Wilson, AHA Deputy Director. “That’s what we’re shooting for.”

U.S. Commerce Department Announces 2016 Fishery Appointments for North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Earlier this month, The U.S. Commerce Department confirmed Governor Walker's nominations to fill two seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with Alaskans Michael "Buck" Laukitis and Theresa A. Peterson.

Michael "Buck" Laukitis is a commercial fisherman from Homer and the owner of Magic Fish Company. Laukitis' daughter and son-in-law operate the family fisheries business with him. Laukitis and his family also spent many years residing in the Aleutians. In 1990, he and wife, Shelly, settled a remote homestead near False Pass. The family moved to Homer full time last year.

Laukitis currently serves on the board of Seafood Harvesters of America and the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation. He has also served on the False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee from 1990 to 1999 and was president of the North Pacific Fisheries Association from 2001 to 2013.

Theresa A. Peterson is an active fisherwoman from Kodiak. Fishing is a family business for Peterson, her husband and three children. Peterson has worked with the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) for more than a decade as Kodiak Outreach Coordinator. She views the work as an opportunity to give back to the fishing industry, which has given so much to her and her family.

Peterson spearheads AMCC's working waterfronts program. She currently serves on the Advisory Panel for the NPFMC.

Urban Unanga̋ Culture Camp in Anchorage Passes on Traditional Practices to Next Generation

Anyone who visited the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association headquarters in Anchorage last week during the Urban Unanga̋ Culture Camp could have easily forgotten they were in the middle of a city. Children and their adult mentors from throughout the region and Anchorage gathered for a week-long camp to share and learn traditional knowledge of Aleut art, culture, traditions and history, passed down from thousands



Kids learned a variety of cultural activities at the Urban Unanga̋ Culture Camp, including dance, basket weaving, bentwood visor construction, kayak construction, drum making, headdress, regalia sewing and language.

of years ago.

“I think we had people from just about every tribe in our region,” said Liza Mack, Camp Director. “We had kids from King Cove, Belkofski, St. Paul, Sand Point, Unalaska and Atka.”



O. Patty Lekanoff-Gregory, an expert in bentwood visor construction, shares her knowledge with students at the Urban Unanga̋ Culture Camp.

Well-known Aleut instructors from the region spend time every year teaching and working alongside the younger generations to enrich the lives of those who participate.

“We had O. Patty Lekanoff-Gregory teaching how to make bentwood visors,” said Mack. “She’s an expert and has taught so many of us over the years. We also had Teresa Smith, who was teaching carving and other activities with the kids. Lydia Vincler, from Akutan, taught drum-making. Jolene Petticrew helped the

kids make headdresses. Joanna Thompson taught Attu style basket weaving. Her mom is Agnes Thompson, who is a very well-known Attu basket maker, and is currently in Atka for the summer, so Joanna is passing on this tradition. It's exciting."

It was also exciting for the kids to create traditional art with their own hands.

"I think they really enjoyed it," said Mack. "It was fun for them to be able to complete a project and do it from start to finish. They enjoyed seeing something go from a piece of wood to a bentwood visor or a drum. It's amazing."



Lydia Vincler of Akutan shares her expertise on drum making with students at the Urban Unanga Culture Camp in Anchorage last week.

Eleven-year old participant Taylor

Weiss found drum-

making to be one of the most enjoyable and challenging activities offered by the camp.

"It took a lot of work and a lot of time," she said.

She also enjoyed making headdresses.

"It was kind of hard to poke the needle through the leather,"

she added.

Dancing was another enjoyable activity for Taylor.

"It was also fun meeting new people and friends," she said.

Making learning fun for kids of all ages was one of the camp's goals. Young kids learned some of the Aleut language in a variety of creative ways.



Eleven year-old Taylor Weiss enjoyed learning about drum making, headdress sewing and dancing at Culture Camp.



Marc Daniels, along with apprentices and students, built a full-size double hatch kayak at the Urban Unanga Culture Camp.

“They learned how to play a game called Rainbow Tag so they learned all of their colors,” said Mack. “Roxana Kashatok taught the class. She would ask the kids, “O.K., uluudaX, what color is that?” They would say, “Red!” Later, she would quiz them backwards and say, “O.K., what is the word for the red, and they’d say, “uluudaX,!” She’d say, “Yay!, and said they’d say, “Hooray!” They were so proud



After the kayak was blessed, it was launched into the water at Goose Lake in Anchorage.

of themselves. It was really cute,



Culture Camp participants entertained family members with drumming and dance on the last day of camp during a picnic at the Aleut Corporation building.

and it’s been fun to see them get interested in it. It builds confidence to be able to know just some of the simple things, and it’s something to build on.”

Building on what they’ve learned is what the culture camp is all about. During the week of cultural activities, everyone who participated saw a double-hatch kayak go from its bare-bones beginnings to the finished product. The kayak was named after the late Sergie Sovoroff, an Aleut educational leader born on Umnak Island

in the village of Nikolski. Sovoroff’s work of building model sea kayaks throughout his life served an important role of carrying on the tradition of Unangan sea kayak construction during a period of time when it appeared that the ancient art could be lost forever.

At the end of last week, all of the camp participants drove out to Goose Lake to witness an exciting event. After a Russian Orthodox priest blessed the kayak, instructor Marc Daniels and his apprentices launched it into the water. Afterwards, kids learned how to get in and out of the craft safely.



Dancers from the older and younger groups demonstrated what they had learned during the week-long culture camp.

A day later, on Saturday (June 25th), culture camp instructors, participants and family members celebrated with an afternoon picnic at the Aleut Corporation building. The kids also demonstrated what they had learned through traditional dancing and storytelling.

“A lot of the things we’re learning are things we’ve been participating in, as a culture, for ten thousand years,” said Mack. “Our communities are shrinking, so having this connection back to our culture and our communities is so important. It’s just fantastic that we have so much interest and participation from people throughout our region. Learning these traditions that were used in the past is so important for us in the future.”

Click [here](#) to see more [photos](#).

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