Cold Bay Rallies as the Community Responds to Emergency Landing of American Airlines Plane

For a small community, Cold Bay knows how to respond to emergencies in a big way. Two days ago (Wednesday, Oct. 12th), Mayor Candace Schaack received a call from Cold Bay Airport Manager Harold (“Happy”) Kremer III at 8:50 a.m. She learned that an American Airlines 787 jet traveling from Shanghai to Chicago was
going to make an emergency landing on Cold Bay’s 10,000-foot long runway with 114 people on board in about an hour.

“The plane was having engine issues,” said Mayor Schaack. “Happy was checking to see if I could go and open up the Community Center in case the passengers got off the plane and we needed to put them somewhere.”

When planes divert to Cold Bay because they’re forced to make an emergency landing, it’s all hands on deck for the town, starting with DOT employees, who are also the community’s first responders.

“The DOT guys sped by with the fire trucks in case something major happened,” Schaack said.

Clinic physician’s assistant Royce Snap immediately jumped into action after getting word from Kremer about the incoming plane. She soon discovered that only one EMT was available in case passengers and crew needed emergency care.

“So I started making calls,” she said. “I knew there was a veterinarian in town, so I called him. I mean, medical is medical if it’s a big disaster. He had an EMT from out of town with him. I then called the other lodges to see if they had any medical personnel so I could enlist their help. I ended up with about five people at the clinic. We reviewed triage procedures quickly, and they got the ambulance ready.”

While the clinic was on standby, employees from PenAir, Grant Aviation
and G & K, were ready to lend a hand in any way they could.

According to American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein, Flight 288 diverted to Cold Bay after an indicator light in the cockpit reported a possible mechanical issue. Fortunately, the 787 landed safely on the runway.

“Thank the lord everything went smoothly and no one needed to be seen at the clinic,” Schaaack said.

Because TSA doesn’t have a presence in Cold Bay, passengers stayed on board the plane and in the tarmac area while they were monitored.

“The passengers were pretty cozy in there. Everybody was just relaxing. They were being well taken care of. I was able to go aboard the plane and meet the crew,” Schaaack said. “I brought them smoked salmon. They were pretty excited about that. The crew was so happy-go-lucky. I’m very impressed with American Airlines. There wasn’t a person among the crew who wasn’t smiling.”

A few hours later, a PenAir flight and a Coast Guard plane departed from the runway. The American Airlines flight crew coordinated with the Cold Bay Airport manager to allow passengers to deplane and stretch their legs on the tarmac. The flight crew walked around the plane with the passengers to explain various aspects of the 787.

While they were on the tarmac, Corren King, a ticket agent with Grant Aviation, helped to provide security and monitored the passengers.

“I supplied a lighter for the smokers and monitored the passengers because of TSA regulations,” King said.
King also had an opportunity to talk with some of the passengers, many of whom were American or Asian. King said a Chinese lady walked up to her and asked for a lighter. After she handed it to the passenger, the lady handed her a cigarette from China.

“There was a little bit of a language barrier,” King said. “She held up her camera and said, “Can I?” King agreed and they took a photo together.

“There were some really nice people on board,” she said.

Another man who King spoke to asked if anyone in Cold Bay knew Will Fuller, an employee with G & K Inc.

“He heard from a friend that Will had caught a 13-pound silver salmon at the recent Cold Bay Silver Salmon Derby and he wanted to meet him,” King said. “So we introduced him to Will, and they took pictures together. It was pretty neat.”

King said some passengers expressed disappointment that they couldn’t go into town and wander around.

“They had never been here before, and they liked the looks of it,” she said. “Several of them got phone numbers of people in the community so they could make a scheduled stop and come back to hunt, fish or just visit the area. A lot of the passengers said, “You guys have great hospitality, and you’ve been very helpful. Your community is just awesome!’ That was pretty neat.”
At about 6:30 that evening, American Airlines sent a replacement plane from Alaska Airlines to pick up the passengers in Cold Bay and transport them to Anchorage where they would then continue on to Chicago the following day. The Coast Guard hangar temporarily doubled as a staging area during the transition from the American Airlines jet to the Alaska Airlines plane. Cold Bay employees helped to deplane passengers, unload bags from one plane and load them onto another.

“The (American Airlines) pilots were wonderful,” King said. “One in particular was escorting an elderly lady off of one plane, into a wheelchair and helped her onto the Alaska Airlines plane. The pilots were running up and down the stairs carrying bags. It was an awesome crew and an awesome planeload of passengers.”

Schaack said everything went like clockwork.

“Happy Kremer does an incredibly good job keeping everyone informed, and is great with communication. I’m so impressed with my community, and I’m so proud to be a part of Cold Bay,” she said. “To know that everybody came together when something like this happens, is really cool.”

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**Knik Construction Kicks Off Cold Bay Airport Rehabilitation Project**

**Includes Paving of Apron Taxiway to Borough Terminal Building**

After years of planning, DOT’s Cold Bay Airport rehabilitation project is moving forward after Knik Construction was recently approved as the official contractor for the job. On September 20th, crews got to work.

“We are currently mobilizing,” said Knik Construction Vice-President Dan Hall. “We have some of the gear on site, and we’re crushing material for the project so we can start dirt work for the new apron and connecting taxiway.”

The new apron and taxiway will be built adjacent to the main runway leading to the Aleutians East Borough’s terminal building, which houses offices for the FAA and the National Weather Service.
The rehab project also entails crosswind runway improvements to address the runway visibility zone. That entails reconfiguring the runway to enhance safety, moving the runway edge lights, adding 40 feet of additional pavement and new runway markings. In addition, crews will repave the main runway and replace the edge lighting system.

With winter just around the corner, Knik Construction has a short window to operate in.

“We currently have 15 people on the job,” said Hall. “Our goal is to work until mid-November. That’s weather-dependent, of course.”

The weather, not surprisingly, has presented some challenges already.

“Barge schedules this time of year are pretty weather-dependent,” Hall said.

Due to stormy weather, the barge was delayed from coming into Cold Bay, postponing work for several days. However, once supplies came in, workers hit the ground running.

After crews wrap up in mid-November, they plan to resume work in early May. Hall said the goal is to wrap up work on the rehab job by the end of July. In the meantime, Knik Construction is looking for additional workers, ideally from the region.

“We’re hiring as many locals as we can find,” Hall said. “So if anybody is looking to work locally in Cold Bay, we’d appreciate it if they’d reach out.”

To apply, visit: http://www.lynden.com/knik/employment.html

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**Akutan Geothermal Project Heats up with Test Production Well**

The City of Akutan’s geothermal project is picking up speed as it launches into the final phase of its multi-year grant funded project to explore renewable energy reserves in the Hot Springs Bay Valley. During the summer, crews drilled a test production well to determine the potential of the geothermal resource. This included drilling a 1,950-foot deep test well and constructing a 10,000 cubic yard test sump that will be used to temporarily hold fluids extracted from the resource before re-pumping them into the test well. The flow rate and temperature of these fluids will help determine the viability of the resource.
The next step will be to conduct flow testing. That will occur next summer after the well has had time to settle and stabilize over the winter. The extent of testing will depend on an analysis of this year’s drilling results, and is expected to be wrapped up by the middle of next month. At that point, technical experts from Geothermal Resources Group will determine whether the well drilled this year will support the proposed flow testing. In addition, they will provide recommendations for the extent of testing and research proposed for 2017, depending on available funding.

The findings collected from the flow testing will help those working on the project to quantify the resource and come up with a cost/benefit analysis and development plan for a successful geothermal power plant.

During the past several years, work done included drilling two test holes and conducting a magnetic telluric survey. In addition, technical experts carried out extensive data analysis to locate the geothermal resource and determine the best options for drilling and extraction. Other field studies were conducted to identify logistical and geographical limitations with each potential drilling site. A final site was chosen as the best option for drilling a test production well at a location that would support a future geothermal power plant. It’s located about 1.5 miles from the mouth of Hot Springs Bay on the north side of the valley.

Besides the City of Akutan and the Geothermal Resources Group, other project participants include the Major Drilling Group International, Kirkman Consulting LLC, Joe Henning Construction, Alaska Minerals LLC (camp services) and Northern Pioneer Helicopter.

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**King Cove Helps with Construction of Elders’ Tower, Installation of Bells at St. Herman Church**

It was literally music to the ears of many community residents when King Cove’s nine church bells were installed and played for the first time at St. Herman’s Orthodox Church last month. For those who grew up in the nearby Aleut village of Belkofski as well as relatives with strong ties, it was an historic day.
“Many in King Cove trace their family history to the village of Belkofski,” said Reverend Andrei Tepper of King Cove’s St. Herman Orthodox Church. “Many even grew up there and lived there for many decades. The church in Belkofski was a very important part of village life. Villagers loved the church, attended services regularly and contributed generously to its upkeep.”

The bronze bells were originally cast in San Francisco in the 1880s. Soon afterward, they found a home in the Holy Resurrection Church in Belkofski. Nearly 100 years later, residents of Belkofski moved away to nearby villages, where they were offered new economic opportunities. The church’s expansive collection, including numerous icons from Russia, the altar table, banners, candle stands and seven bells were transferred to King Cove, where a new Orthodox church was built in the 1980s. However, without a functioning belfry, there was no way for the bells to be played and heard.

“The bells and icons are an important part of our Orthodox worship space,” said Father Andrei. “They must not be viewed as old, lifeless objects on display. They must be a living means to bringing people into a new and vital relationship with God in the local church.”

More than three decades later, the Rasmuson Foundation helped to breathe new life into the church after awarding a grant of $24,422 in support of the construction of the Elders’ Bell Tower at Saint Herman Church. The community then provided a matching amount. Construction on the tower began in July 2016.

“It required a community team effort to get a big project like this off the ground,” said Father Andrei.

The King Cove Harbor delivered building materials and lent tools so workers could get the
job done. City crews dug the excavation for the foundation and assisted with grading the lot. A local resident offered his own heavy equipment and provided labor. He helped to lift the steel columns into place and later lifted the entire roof and set it on the columns.

“Some people brought materials that were needed, such as more cable for the bells,” said Father Andrei. “Volunteers brought lunches to feed the workers. Peter Pan Seafoods offered the use of a crane and also provided meals. The King Cove Corporation offered hotel rooms. PenAir and Grant Aviation donated air travel while the Belkofski Tribal Council sponsored the bell expert to come from Chicago. We appreciate the way the community responded to the call for help.”

The tower is mostly complete, but still needs the siding, trim, dome and cross to be installed. The crowning touches, the historic bells, were installed last month (six Belkofski bells and three new Russian bells). However, before the bells were installed, several had to be refurnished. Warren Wilson and his son, Derek, took on the job in their welding shop. The historic steel clappers (the swinging parts that strike the bells) were very rusted and corroded.

“The best cases, they needed to be cleaned up and ground to take the rust off,” said Father Andrei. “In the worst cases, they needed to be built up with new steel. In addition, the threaded rods had to be lengthened in order to fit through the thick 12” beams of the bell tower. Warren and Derek gave needed advice on the structural strength of the fixtures for the bells. They spent some long days working on this job, welding, grinding and fabricating.”

Constantine Stade, an expert in bell ringing and installation of bell towers, arrived from Chicago to supervise and assist with the installation. The largest bell weighs 882 pounds. The second largest bell weighs more than 400 pounds. Altogether, the bells weigh nearly one ton. Stade and Derek Wilson built stainless steel brackets for the three new Russian bells, which are the smallest of the collection. It took a construction crew and a telescopic forklift to lift the largest bells.

“The holes were pre-drilled in the beam, and it required precision to guide the rods into the holes,” Father Andrei said. “The operators and the crew used incredible teamwork to communicate and get the job done safely for both the workers and bells. They made a very difficult job look easy.”
Stade constructed a ringing station using strings, cables and pedals. He then started playing them soon after installation.

“He started with the smallest bells and worked his way up to the largest bells, so the peals became richer as he went,” said Father Andrei. “Many local people came to hear Constantine give a demonstration of the bell ringing before he left King Cove. It was amazing to hear them played. The sounds of the bells played together is so joyful and harmonious. They have a very rich quality. A woman whose mother lived in Belkofski years ago heard the bells on the Internet and commented that she teared up with joy. I can imagine it must be a very emotional experience for people with memories of the bells in Belkofski.”

Irene Christiansen, an Elder and lay reader from Belkofski, also had tears of joy.

“We're mighty pleased to hear the sound of the bells again. It brought good memories of our Elders that we were with and ceremonies of ringing the bells and going around the church. It sounded good and bright to hear the bells again.”

Father Andrei believes it’s beneficial to instruct the younger generations on how to ring the bells. He said Stade taught Anthony Reeve, a local teenager, how to ring them. His grandmother, Makrina, came from Belkofski.

“On Sunday, Anthony and some younger boys rang the bells at the service,” he said. “Another teen, Elia Lind, is learning how to play and is doing a great job.”

At this time, more cash donations are needed to complete work on the Elders’ Bell Tower.

“Supporters are encouraged to donate funds, if they can,” he said. “Miles can also be donated to help with travel for the crew. Without the incredibly generous grant money from the Rasmuson Foundation, we never could have built the tower. It was a huge stimulus.”

Once the tower is completed, there will be a blessing and dedication ceremony.

“The Elders’ Bell Tower will be dedicated in honor and blessed memory of our local elders,” Father Andrei said. “The Christian faith has been central in the lives of our people for generations.
Our elders embody that faith in God and service to the local community as a way of life in rural Alaska. The restoration of the bells in the Elders’ Bell Tower is a small token of recognition and appreciation for our Elders. It’s also a call to our youth and all of us to continue the tradition of living faith in our own lives.”

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**Student Athletes from Sand Point, King Cove Excel in State Cross Country Championships**

Sand Point and King Cove cross country runners gave it their all at the state championships in Anchorage on October 1st. Six student athletes from both schools competed against more than 140 other runners in each of the two 123A races.

Colton Mack, a senior from Sand Point, outrivaled all of the other runners from southwest Alaska, coming in at 44th place in the boys’ race, with a time of 18:18.

“He just had a monster race,” said Sand Point Co-Coach Curtis Jensen. “He ran a super fast race and had a really strong finish. He beat his district qualifying time by a minute and a half.”

Ian Samuelson, a senior from King Cove finished in 120th place with a time of 20:30.

“He pushed really hard all the way to the end, even though he was fighting a nasty cold with a bad cough,” said King Cove Coach Etta Kuzakin. “He did really well.”

Graydon Severian of King Cove finished 146th place with a time of 22:59.
“Graydon had a pulled muscle in the bottom of his foot, which caused some problems,” said Kuzakin. “He wasn’t able to put his usual 100 percent in, but just being able to get to state and push himself is great. I’m very proud of both boys.”

In the girls’ 123A race, Elaine Mack, a freshman from King Cove, outdistanced all of the other runners from southwest Alaska, coming in at 54th place with a time of 23:04.

“She did absolutely fabulous,” said Kuzakin. “She pushed really hard. She’s quite the runner. By the time she finished, she had nothing left in her tank to give me. From a coach’s perspective, that means she gave it her all, and I couldn’t be prouder. I really look forward to the upcoming years with her.

She’s going to cause some havoc.”

Sand Point runners Brittany Gardner, a sophomore from Sand Point, and Abi Vose, a freshman, were almost neck and neck as they finished the race. Abi Vose came in 125th place with a time of 26:37. Brittany Gardner came in at 126th place with a time of 26:41.

“This is Abi’s first time to state and her first year running cross country in high school,” said Jensen. “She had a strong race, and we’re hoping to have her come back next year. This was Brittany’s second time back to state. She beat last year’s time by a pretty wide margin. Brittany was fighting an ankle injury, and that caught up with her on the course. She was hurting pretty badly by the end, but she still finished strong.”

Fortunately, the course this year was in good condition and hard packed. Last year, it was an entirely different story – muddy and sloppy after several days of rain.
“We couldn’t have asked for a better course,” said Kuzakin. “It was absolutely fabulous.”

“I think most of the runners were running very quickly,” said Jensen. “All of the kids did a great job.”

**Notice of Filing of Legislative Review Annexation Petition by the City of Sand Point**

The City of Sand Point (Petitioner), a first class city in the Aleutians East Borough, has filed a petition with the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) to annex territory by the legislative review method. The petitioner’s representative is Sand Point City Administrator Andy Varner. The territory proposed for annexation consists of Popof Island, the eastern border of Unga Island, the southern border of Korovin Island, and several small uninhabited islands, all within Popof Strait, Korovin Strait, and a portion of West Ngai Strait. The territory proposed for annexation consists of 245 square miles of Popof Island and its surrounding waters.

Standards governing annexation to cities are set out in AS 29.06.040-060, 3 AAC 110.090-140, and 3 AAC 110.900-990. Procedures for city annexation are in AS 29.06.040 and 3 AAC 110.400-700.

The petition and related documents, including a map of the territory proposed for annexation, will be available for public review at the following locations, days and times:

1. Sand Point City Hall, 249 Main St., Sand Point, AK 99661  8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F
2. Sand Point Library, 269 Red Cove Road, Sand Point, AK 99661 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., M – Sa.
Any interested person may file written comments with the LBC regarding the annexation petition. Additionally, a person with the capacity to sue may file with the LBC a responsive brief supporting or opposing the petition. Public comments and responsive briefs must be filed in accordance with 3 AAC 110.480 and 3 AAC 110.700. The LBC has suspended 3 AAC 110.700(d) so the public is not required to send a paper original if an electronic comment has already been filed. A person who files a responsive brief gains certain procedural rights and duties during the petition proceedings. Inquiries may be directed to LBC staff whose contact information is listed below. The deadline to file responsive briefs and written comments on the petition with the LBC is 4:30 p.m., December 7, 2016, at the address, fax or email below.

Local Boundary Commission staff
550 W. Seventh Avenue, 1640
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510
Phone: 907-269-4559/4587; Fax: 907-269-4539
Email: LBC@alaska.gov

Commenters must either send a copy of the comments to the petitioner and file a statement with the comments indicating that they did so, or notify the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (Commerce) of an inability to send comments to the petitioner. Comments can be sent to the petitioner at:

City of Sand Point, Attention: Andy Varner, 3380 C Street, Suite 205, Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 274-7561; Fax: (907) 274-3540; Email: avarner@sandpointak.org

After the petitioner has an opportunity to answer any responsive briefs and comments, Commerce will prepare a preliminary report on the proposals. Following receipt and consideration of comments on the preliminary report, Commerce will issue its final report. The LBC will then hold a public hearing on the proposal. If the LBC approves the petition, it will send its decision, the boundary change takes effect 45 days after submission.

It is recommended that persons interested in receiving emails of future LBC notices, updates and materials concerning these proceedings subscribe to the LBC notice list server by visiting

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http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/dced-localboundarycommission

and follow the instructions.

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**Eastern Aleutian Tribes Monthly Report**

**Service**

- **Adak - Upcoming Services:**
  - October 23 – 27th – Dr. Humphreys, SCF Optometrist
  - November 20 – 27th – Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant

- **Akutan - Upcoming Services:**
  - November 28 – December 2nd - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant

- **Cold Bay - Upcoming Services:**
  - December 7 – 12th – Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant

- **False Pass – Upcoming Services:**
  - October 3 – 7th – SCF Dental Team
  - October 3 – 7th – Dr. Stienbarger, SCF Optometrist

- **King Cove - Upcoming Services:**
  - October 10 – 14th – Dr. Isgro, BH&W Director
  - October 24 – December 3rd – Marla “MG” Moore, BH&W Clinician
  - October 31 – November 26th - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant

- **Nelson Lagoon - Upcoming Services:**
  - November 26 – December 2nd - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant
Sand Point - Upcoming Services:
- September 26 – October 8th – Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Asst.
- October 4 – 13th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
- October 10 – 22nd – SCF Dental Team
- October 12th – Health Committee Meeting
- October 31 – November 19th - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
- November 7 – 11th – Dr. Hartman
- November 14 – 18th – Dr. Humphreys, SCF Optometrist

Whittier - Upcoming Services
- October 25 – 31st - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
- October 26 – 28th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
- October 28th – Health Fair

People

Open Positions:
- Accounts Payable Technician (part-time) - Anchorage
- Clinic Manager – King Cove (Relocation expenses reimbursement is offered.)
- Clinical Information Clerk(CIC)/Janitor* – Adak
- Clinical Information Clerk (Intermittent) – King Cove
- Community Health Aides* – Nelson Lagoon and recruiting for CHAP itinerants
- Community Health Aide (CHA)/ CHR* – Akutan
- Community Health Representative (Intermittent)* – King Cove
- Behavioral Health Aide (BHA)* – Sand Point
- Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant – Adak, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for Itinerants
- Registered Nurse (RN) Case Manager – Sand Point
- Physician – Recruiting for itinerants

*Note: No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

Caught Ya Caring:

“Caught Ya Caring Winners for September:
Amanda Morgan (CHA III – False Pass) and Nikki Hoblet (CHAP – False Pass) for 1) coming in on Sunday for what seemed non-urgent, but turned into a Medevac that took 10 hours and 2) helping to host the largest potluck yet in False Pass. Good job!

Esther Bennett (CHR – Adak) and Mikani Zaima (CHA-I – Adak) I have witnessed both of these women helping the community in ways that are not within their “job description” including providing transportation, delivering health care supplies, and staying late at night for pending medevac. THANKS to both of these hard working ladies!! (Mikani is pictured on the right.)

Report on Events: The Anesia Kudrin Memorial Clinic in Akutan in hosted a Community Potluck on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. Over 47 people attended and the community members enjoyed the presentations about the open CHAP/CHR position, GPRA, Passport to Healthy Travel, immunizations, and Beauty for Ashes. (See picture on first page.)

Got News?

If you have news you’d like to share or if you’d like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.

Thank you for reading In the Loop. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to ltanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org and www.aebfish.org. For the latest news, find us on Facebook:

Link to AEB’s Facebook page
Link to King Cove’s Facebook page