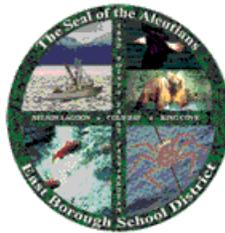
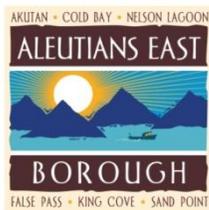


In the Loop



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

Activity on Mt. Pavlof Slows Down Following Days of Ash Plumes and Flight Cancellations



Mt. Pavlof reached its most active level on May 17th and 18th. Photo by Theo Chesley.

There's no question that the power of Mother Nature is both incredible and unpredictable. Just a week ago, Mt. Pavlof kicked up a small ash cloud. A few days later, the volcano was belching up ash plumes that extended several hundred miles downwind of the volcano. Today, it's as if the dragon is sleeping.

“Since then, the seismicity has pretty

much dropped off compared to what it was earlier this week”, said Chris Waythomas, Acting Scientist In Charge of the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO). “There have been small, intermittent explosions. Occasionally, they’ve been big enough to generate some minor ash emissions, but generally, the activity is much diminished from what it was earlier. However, eruptions are still occurring.”

The spectacular scene that played out in front of surrounding communities is a sight many residents

won’t soon forget.

During its most active phase recently (May 17th and 18th), residents saw ash clouds billowing thousands of feet into the air. As the sun went down, a lava fountain glowed from on top of the mountain.

“It was amazing,” said Rachel Kremer, who first glimpsed it from her window in nearby Cold Bay. She went outside to a field so she could get a better view of the mountain and grab a few photos.



Residents in Cold Bay, Sand Point and Nelson Lagoon were able to see a lava fountain on top of Mt. Pavlof. Photo by Rachel Kremer.



In a matter of days, Pavlof’s plume grew from a small ash cloud to a plume that was several thousand feet high. Photo by Theo Chesley.

“This is the first time I saw a volcano erupt, and it was gorgeous,” she said. “I thought it was an awesome shot because it was spewing lava, and the lighting was absolutely perfect.”

“I couldn’t take my eyes off of it,” said Molly Watson, also a Cold Bay resident. “I ended up watching it until about 2 a.m. With the naked eye, you could see a small flame that appeared to be the size of a lighter flame off the top of the mountain. With a telescope, you

could see lava spurting out and flowing down the side of the mountain late into the night.”

It wasn't long before Pavlof's ash plume quickly grew in size.

“In just a couple of days' time, it went from barely smoking and occasional steam, to a moderate full-blown explosion,” said Theo Chesley, Chief Pilot of Operations with Kenai Float Plane Service. “You could just imagine the power behind it.”

Chesley, based in Nelson Lagoon, had numerous opportunities to observe and photograph the dynamic changes taking place with Mt. Pavlof while conducting charters between several



Pilot Theo Chesley has several opportunities to observe and photograph Mt. Pavlof as he was conducting charters between Aleutian communities.

Aleutian communities.

“When those plumes first came out, they were very small,” he added. “As I looked back, plumes were billowing eight to 10,000 feet up into the sky in less than a minute. It was pretty impressive. I couldn't tell where it was venting from. It looked like it was venting from the bottom and the top of the mountain. Some of it was gray-black smoke.



The ash plume from Mt. Pavlof was clearly visible from space. Photo courtesy: NASA

A lot of it was just white steam. It looked like there was a lot of force behind it.”

Even from space, the ash plume was clearly visible, stretching hundreds of feet away from the volcano.

“We have photographs that were taken from the International Space Station several days ago, showing the plume extending out over the North Pacific,” said AVO's Waythomas.



Photographs taken by astronauts from the International Space Station show the plume extending over the North Pacific.

“You could see the mountain perfectly, and you could see the ash cloud with the naked eye,” said Dave Stokes, Public Works Director for the City of Sand Point. “It was going away from the mountain, traveling northwest. That’s when the ash started settling and got into the air.”

The next morning, residents of Sand Point saw the evidence left behind.

“There was a bunch of ash on my porch, greenhouse and truck, so I hosed it off,” resident Jim Brown said.

“Even that little dusting made it kind of miserable,” Stokes added. “It’s hard on your car windows, wipers, and it’s really not good for engines. We helped the airport manager by pouring



Last weekend, residents of Sand Point woke up to find ash on their homes and cars. The following day, the ash fell with the rain on Nelson Lagoon. Photo by Theo Chesley.

about 20,000 gallons of water from the City’s fire truck on the runway and then sweeping it off, but it didn’t seem to work very well. We probably put 8 ½ hours of labor into it.”

As the ash cloud rose up to 22,000 feet, PenAir cancelled multiple flights. Passengers hoping to fly in or out of Aleutian communities, such as Sand Point or Cold Bay, were stranded for days, creating a backlog.

“No pilot wants to fly through a dust storm,” said Waythomas. “Ash is abrasive stuff. It’s basically finely ground up rock particles. It abrades the leading edges of airplanes. It can frost the windows and interfere with communications. Big jets, of course, can have real problems with it because it can be ingested into the engine.”

Fortunately, the ash plume didn’t reach the altitude where international flights travel (30,000-plus). However, Pavlof has been known to produce ash clouds reaching as high as 50,000 feet.

“That was in 1986,” said Waythomas. “Pavlof had an eruptive period that lasted almost two years.”

However, residents are hoping this time, Pavlof has quieted down for a while. The weather lent a hand as rain fell on Monday (May 20th). The problem was, ash fell along with it, coating the

small community of Nelson Lagoon. Resident Merle Brandell said the wind was blowing north-northeast earlier during the week, and then the wind started coming out of the south.

“I think we got a little backdraft of ash that was going to the Pacific side,” he said. “You could see the ash on the garage doors and on trucks. We couldn’t see out of our windows. Everyone pretty much stayed inside. Some people who were outside said it (the ash) was pretty sharp and grainy.”

Twenty-four hours later seemed to make a world of difference.

“The next day when I got up, it mellowed right out,” Brandell said. “It was barely steaming at all, which is a good thing.”

In the meantime, the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the National Weather Service are keeping a close eye on Pavlof.



Pavlof Volcano, on the morning of May 22, 2013. At the time this photo was taken, there was very little ash emission. Photo courtesy of Ryan Hazen and Brandon Wilson.

“It wouldn’t surprise us if it perked up again,” said Waythomas.

Geologists say Pavlof is one of the most active volcanoes in Alaska. Eruptions lasting a short or long duration are somewhat common.

“Some have lasted for a month. Others have lasted for a couple of years. It characteristically spikes up in activity, then quiets down and spikes up again, so this could happen,” he said.

“For it to settle down so quickly is a blessing for sure,” said Chesley, “but it may just be taking a breather before it gets pumped back up again. We’re hoping it won’t. Let’s keep our fingers crossed.”

Brazilian TV Crew Heads to AEB Communities Next Month

Brazil is the world's largest cod market, and a significant portion of that comes from Alaska. So it's not surprising that the South American country would want to obtain more knowledge about how the fish makes it from the ocean to the marketplace and finally to the dinner plate. With that in mind, a Brazilian television crew is heading to False Pass next month to learn more about where so much of this resource comes from and do a TV show about it.



A Brazilian TV crew will feature the seafood processed in False Pass in a television show.

The group will arrive in Anchorage on June 21st and will travel to Cold Bay and False Pass on the 22nd. The television crew also plans to visit Nelson Lagoon on the afternoon of June 23rd, and may also visit other nearby communities.

“We’ll tour the community of False Pass and the (Bering Pacific Seafoods) plant. We also plan to visit the fishermen, get out on the water to see more of the area and give the group a chance to go

fishing themselves,” said Joe Jacobson, International Program Director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI). “We’re still working with APICDA to hammer out the details. The trip will primarily focus on learning more about Alaska and expanding export diversity.”

ASMI is hosting the trip. Jacobson said Record TV, one of the largest networks in Brazil, approached Jose Madeira, one of ASMI’s representatives in Brazil, after hearing him deliver a presentation about Alaska seafood. “After further discussions, they thought it would make a great TV segment,” said Jacobson.

Record TV’s afternoon show, *Programma da Tarde*, a three-hour live daily show, will produce the segment. The show is broadcast throughout Brazil and to 150 other countries. The Alaska segment will be hosted by Guilherme Arruda. He will be accompanied by a television crew of three.

“The show targets Brazilian housewives and has a strong tourism/adventure/culinary interest,” said Jacobson. “It’s a great target audience for a feature on the qualities of Alaska seafood.”

Brazil is ASMI’s newest market. ASMI opened an office there on a limited basis in October 2011.

“2013 will see a dramatic increase in the direct export of Alaska seafood to Brazil,” Jacobson said.

ASMI’s goal is to continue to support the cod market (salted, known as *bacalhau*) while promoting direct exports of cod, salmon, black cod, Ikura, pollock and other products to Brazil.

“ASMI wants to make sure the crew has an experience that showcases the very best of Alaska’s fishing communities,” Jacobson added. “For APICDA, which is involved in both seafood and tourism, the impact will be twofold.”



The Alaska segment will be hosted by Guilherme Arruda of the Brazilian TV show, *Programma da Tarde*.

Land Use Permitting Project Makes Headway

AEB’s project to develop a Resource Development Land Use Permitting Project is progressing well. The first task of the project, gathering residents’ opinions and recommendations on resource development land use regulation, has been completed through community meetings and an online survey.

The project began with community meetings in Cold Bay, King Cove, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point in January 2013 to solicit suggestions, offer ideas and ask important questions about how the permitting system might work. A community meeting wasn’t planned in Akutan because flight access was logistically challenging at that time. The meetings were advertised with flyers in public spaces and through the Borough’s e-newsletter.

At the same time, an online opinion survey was advertised twice through the Borough’s e-newsletter so that those who could not attend the public meetings could provide input. The same survey in hard copy was mailed to all Akutan mailboxes, as an alternative to an Akutan community meeting.

A report summarizing residents' opinions and recommendations was prepared and can be found on the Borough's website. Click the link below for more info:

[Final Report - Task 1 - AEB RD Permit Project Community Involvement](#)

The objective of the program is to develop responsible resource use or extraction opportunities to create local jobs and revenue while protecting the environment and community values.

In order to accomplish those goals, residents recommended:

- Oil and gas, mining, extraction of gravel, sand and rock, eco-tourism businesses (e.g. guided hunting, fishing, birding, outfitters), alternative energy projects (e.g. wind, geothermal and hydro-electric), research projects, aqua-culture and the production of drinking water be included in the permitting system.
- A more comprehensive and stringent permitting process should be required for projects that may pose a higher environmental, social or economic risk to the region and residents. These may include oil and gas and mining. Small-scale gravel and some eco-tourism businesses which pose a low risk, should have a more flexible permitting process.
- Universities and non-profit organizations should be required to obtain a permit to conduct studies (e.g. wildlife or water quality) associated with a resource development. In the community meetings, residents agreed that these studies should require a less rigorous permitting process.
- A streamlined permitting process, with lower fees should be required for local entrepreneurs and businesses to help fast track projects, such as alternative energy or gravel extraction, which have value to the communities.

AEB's consultant for this project, Harvey Consulting LLC, is now in the process of embarking on the second task of this project. That task involves amending the AEB Code Title 40, Chapter 20 Planning, Platting and Land Use, Resource Development to expand AEB's authority to implement a Resource Development Land Use Permitting Program. A draft of the code revisions will be completed this summer. A workshop is planned for September 11, 2013 in Sand Point to present the proposed code revisions to the Assembly. The proposed code will be introduced at the September 12, 2013 Assembly meeting, with plans for adoption in October 2013.

Linda Kay Kremer Joins Cold Bay City Council



Linda Kay Kremer is sworn in at the Cold Bay City Council on Tuesday, May 21, 2013. Linda is filling Seat C, left vacant by former council member Kurt Uttecht. Kurt recently took a full-time position with the City as Director of Public Works.

Photos by Harold "Hap" Kremer

Cold Bay Residents Clean up their Town



Devin Lyons helps load up a truck full of garbage during Cold Bay's City Cleanup Day. Photo by Harold "Hap" Kremer.

Cold Bay residents decided to do a little spring cleaning outdoors earlier this month. On May 1st, the community got serious about cleaning up the town. That meant collecting a substantial amount of garbage and delivering it to the dump.

"Lots and lots of trash was collected," said Cold Bay City Clerk Dawn Lyons. "I have no idea how many trips were made."

Nearly everyone in town took part in the annual event. Afterwards, the City hosted a barbecue.



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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2013

No.: 13-2524

Contact: Linda Bustamante, 907-269-8654, Linda.Bustamante@alaska.gov

New Video Describes Challenges of Building Rural Airports

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Division of Statewide Aviation released the second video, in a two-part series, illustrating the vital lifeline aviation provides for 82% of Alaskan communities.

Filmed at airport locations across the state, Alaska's Aviation Lifeline Counting the Costs features interviews with airport construction and management staff who describe the fiscal and logistical challenges of building airports in the rugged, remote parts of the state.

"This video demonstrates the importance of aviation as a lifeline to remote Alaska, and explains why rural airports are challenging and expensive to build and maintain," said Deputy Commissioner Steve Hatter. "We desire for people to better understand the work we do and some of the unique project and fiscal challenges we face in accomplishing our mission to deliver safe and efficient aviation infrastructure."

The new video "Alaska's Aviation Lifeline: Counting the Costs" can be viewed at these links:

- Vimeo at: vimeo.com/65427672
- YouTube at: youtube.com/watch?v=2g5MKkJpjjg

The first video "Alaska Aviation Lifeline Story" can be viewed at these links:

- Vimeo at: vimeo.com/39894638

- YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDGw09luApE

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 255 airports, 11 ferries serving 35 communities, 5,619 miles of highway and 720 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to “*Keep Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.”

King Cove Students Take Life-Saving Swim/Boating Safety Class in Sand Point

A group of King Cove students took a recent course that could, someday, save their lives. King Cove Teacher Paul Barker escorted 4th, 5th and 6th graders to Sand Point earlier this month so the students could immerse themselves in swimming and boating safety.

“I think some people have the conception that it’s just a week in the pool and a fun time,” said Barker, “but Water Safety Instructor Jason Bjornstad provides comprehensive swim lessons to these kids, and he goes a lot further by providing several other important water safety skills.”

Since they come from fishing communities, the kids grow up spending a significant amount of time out on boats. However, many of them don’t know how to swim.



Kids prepare to practice new swimming techniques in a friendly relay race. Photo by Paul Barker.

Bjornstad makes sure kids living in the nearby east Aleutian communities master these skills.

“We teach them life jacket safety and how to rescue someone out of the water using the “reach, throw, don’t go” method,” Bjornstad said. “We teach them how to maintain and properly put on survival suits and how to operate life rafts in an emergency. We also teach them what they can do and what signals to use if their boats go adrift or they’re stranded.”



Kids practice immersion suit training and exercises. Photo by Paul Barker.

About seven years ago, Bjornstad took a course in teaching marine safety, thanks to the suggestion of AEB Mayor Stanley Mack and a grant from the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA). He then began teaching the skills he learned to kids in the community.

“I thought it was pretty important to get them educated about water safety because we live on an island and the kids grow up around the water,” he added.

Word soon got out, and kids in King Cove started coming to Sand Point, year after year, to take advantage of the program.

“It’s a great opportunity for the kids from King Cove, who don’t have a

pool, to learn these skills,” said Bjornstad.

“They love it because they get to go into the pool, so they’re instantly engaged,” Barker added. “They’re motivated right off the bat because swimming is something they never get to do. The kids are very responsive to the instruction. They’re very attentive because they know that unfortunately, accidents can happen out on the boats.”

Bjornstad also trains the kids in CPR



Students get hands on experience and a demonstration with emergency flares. Raietta Kuzakin is featured in the front. Photo by Paul Barker.

and provides instruction in boating safety.

“He also has them go into the pool, fully clothed, and shows them what to do if they fall into the water,” said Barker.

“We teach what you can do to save yourself if you fall overboard and the importance of not panicking,” Bjornstad added. “We also teach them how to use signals, such as flares and mirrors, if they end up stranded somewhere. If an accident ever does happen, these kids will know how to handle the situation,” said Bjornstad. “They will have the skills to survive.”



Students from King Cove, Cold Bay, and False Pass pose for a group photo at the end of the trip. Photo by Paul Barker.

“He’s great with the kids,” said Barker. “He relates to them really well.”

Teaching these critical safety skills to kids is a

rewarding experience for Bjornstad.

“One summer, I was down in the harbor, and I saw a skiff with a couple of kids in it coming around the point. All of a sudden, the skiff stopped. I could hear them talking, saying, ‘there’s Jason. We have to put on our life jackets.’ Ever since then, every time I see those kids, they’re in life jackets in their skiff. So that makes me feel pretty good. It’s working.”

It’s working for other communities, too. Kids from Cold Bay and False Pass are also taking advantage of the water safety class. Bjornstad is hopeful the instruction will expand even further.

“It would be nice if the school district would implement a marine safety class into the curriculum,” he said.

In Kodiak, students are unable to graduate unless they complete a marine safety course.

“The more we’re aware of water and boating safety skills,” Bjornstad added, “the better off we’re going to be.”

False Pass Students Go to Akutan for Marine Science Camp

False Pass and Akutan students became “junior scientists” recently as they surveyed the marine life and documented the food web in Akutan. The school embarked on a field trip to Akun and then to Akutan via the hovercraft earlier this month. They were hosted by Akutan teacher Edwin “Chip” Sharpe and his wife, Liz. The trip was the culmination of the students’ ongoing study of marine life.

“They all loved it!” said False Pass Teacher Ward Walker. “They really enjoyed all the hands-on learning and



Students explore the area near the dock as they look for marine life. Photo courtesy: Ward Walker



Students take measurements to estimate the amount of krill found on the beach. Photo courtesy: Ward Walker.

exploring the marine life.”

We’ve all heard the saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” In this case, it took contributions from several people and organizations to make the science camp a reality. Alaska Airlines/PenAir provided transportation for the 600 pounds of equipment that was sent to Akutan. APICDA contributed \$24,000 to help fund the science camp for the False Pass and Akutan Schools. Michelle Ridgway and Karin Holser

contributed their expertise by helping to lead the science camp. Trident in Akutan assisted by catching an assortment of fish for the False Pass students. Peter and Kelly Fox put up the False Pass students at Safe Harbor Church. All of this assistance really paid off for the students.

“We took some plankton samples, did a measurement of the amount of krill that were on the beach and observed whales feeding on the krill in the bay. Then we opened up the stomachs of the fish to see what they were eating,” Walker explained. “We were able to connect to the fact that the whales were feeding on the krill, and this helped the kids figure out the relationship between the various marine animals. They were able to patch together what was eating what.”

The week-long science camp kept these “junior scientists” very busy. The students placed a camera under the water to examine marine life on

the sea floor. They also



Students examine the stomachs of the fish to see what they eat. Photo courtesy: Ward Walker.

notebooks that we observed.”

Walker believes providing the students with hands-on activities is critical.

“I think it’s vital to keep them engaged in learning,” he said. “It’s really important to have a shape to the year so that it builds toward a strong conclusion.”

Last year, they had a marine science camp in False Pass, and launched a 17-foot dory that they built. This year, they finished off the year by launching six iqyaxs (kayaks) that they built with



Students take movies of the marine life that lives under the Akutan dock. Photo courtesy: Ward Walker

examined marine life present among the dock pilings.

“We went out a low tide to look at what was in the tide pools,” said Walker. “We walked up and down the beach and wrote down everything in our



Jeremiah wins the race with one of the kayaks the False Pass students built. Photo courtesy: Ward Walker.

their after-school activity money.

“Projects like these allow the kids to honor their seafaring Aleut roots,” Walker said. “These memories will last a lifetime. We are so proud of them. We wish them safe paddling this summer.”

AEBSD Hires Four New Teachers

The annual Alaska Teacher Placement Job Fair was held in Anchorage at the Captain Cook Hotel on April 12th and 13th. AEBSD Board members, along with the Superintendent, AEBSD Principals and other Administrators interviewed candidates all day. The School District successfully signed on 4 new Teachers.



"The Board and I are very excited about the new people we hired," said Tim Stathis, Superintendent. "We've got some enthusiastic, bright and dedicated teachers coming on board for our kids next year!"

The district hired Melissa Patre as the secondary language arts teacher for the Sand Point School. Joy Smith will be the new elementary teacher for the King Cove School. Amelie Kurmes will be the new elementary teacher for the Sand Point School. Richard Bierer will join the staff at the King Cove School as a new math teacher.

Below is more information about these new teachers, in their own words.

Richard Bierer Joins the King Cove School as a New Math Teacher

Hello. I'm Richard Bierer. I was born and raised in the town of New Brighton, Pennsylvania. Growing up, I always enjoyed being outside. Camping, fishing, hiking, and swimming occupied a lot of my time. I also partook in sports. Soccer and baseball were the sports I played organizationally, but I'm always up for a pickup game of something. I love to learn new sports



New math teacher for the King Cove School, Richard Bierer, looks on as School Board Member Brenda Wilson signs his contract.

and/or games. Throughout middle school and high school, I was a member of both the marching and orchestral bands playing the baritone. Then graduation took me to college. I attended Slippery Rock University (SRU) located in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. During my college days, I continued in my extra-curricular activities. I graduated from SRU with my bachelor's degree in Mathematics and returned the following year for my Master's in Secondary Education. After finishing up my schooling, I accepted a position tutoring mathematics at Newhalen School in the Lake and Peninsula School District (LPSD). Enjoying my time immensely and getting the recommendation of the principal of Newhalen, Adam Mokolke, I began my teaching career in LPSD the following school year at Levelock School. I taught at Levelock for two years then I transferred to Chignik Lagoon School for one year. While working for LPSD in Alaska, my outdoors mentality gave me a nice edge living in the "bush". There is nowhere in the world I would rather be or work. Now that I'm beginning my new chapter in King Cove, I'm excited and filled with energy to become involved with the school as well as the community. Anytime someone needs a fishing mate, give me a call. I have always had an open door policy in my classroom that will definitely continue during my stay at King Cove. Please stop in and say hello when I get there in August.

AEBSD Hires Elementary Teacher Joy Smith for the King Cove School

My name is Joy Smith, and I was hired as an elementary teacher in King Cove. I was born and raised in Seldovia, Alaska. I went to school at Susan B. English, taking some home school classes where needed. In my free time, I played volleyball, volunteered at the school library, and tutored for an after-school program. I also ran a pet sitting business, and one Thanksgiving, I ended up taking care of twenty-eight animals, nine of them at my house. After high school, I attended UAA as an

education major, graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a minor in mathematics. I've spent the past year working as a SPED aide at Susan B. English. My current hobbies include cooking, designing video games painting, and NaNoWriMo every November. I still enjoy volunteering at the school library and running my pet sitting business. However, I've added spending time with my two amazing nephews and my black lab, Ebony, to my favorite things to do list.



New King Cove Elementary Teacher Joy Smith signs her contract as Superintendent Tim Stathis looks on.

Amélie Kurmes Looks Forward to Teaching Elementary Students at the Sand Point School

My name is Amélie Kurmes, and I am the new elementary teacher at the Sand Point School. It has long been a dream of mine to live in Alaska. Growing up, I had the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time with my uncle and his family in Kodiak, as well as travel around other parts of the state. I quickly fell in love with everything Alaska has to offer, from the culture to the environment. I could not be more excited to live in Sand Point next year and work for the Aleutians East Borough School District!



Amélie Kurmes signs her contract as the new Sand Point elementary teacher following her interview.

I am from the beautiful mountain town of Flagstaff, Arizona. I received my Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Northern Arizona University. In Flagstaff, I had many wonderful and diverse teaching opportunities, ranging from working with students in a self-contained behavior support class to teaching 4th graders in a high poverty area.

I have always loved teaching and working with children. In addition to my experience in the elementary school setting, I directed the ballet program at a private dance studio for several years and have worked as a nanny. I find great satisfaction in being able to meet the needs of all students while providing high quality instruction in a caring, supportive environment. In my free time, I enjoy reading, travel, and outdoor activities, such as hiking and fishing. I am looking forward to getting to know my new students and joining the Sand Point community!

Secondary Language Arts Teacher Melissa Paultre Excited to Move to Sand Point

My name is Melissa Paultre. I was born in the U.S. but raised in Haiti where I was taught the value of education. In fact, that is the one thing that parents will go to any lengths to procure their children -- an education. As such, it was never a question that I would go to college. The question was only where would I choose to go. Though France was a very viable option, I opted



New Sand Point Secondary Language Arts Teacher Melissa Paultre signs her contract at the Job Fair.

for the United States instead. Once there, I got a Bachelor's in English-Creative Writing. Though that choice was long to make, once I had settled on it, it was a no brainer. In fact, it was almost a given. I love writing and always have, and I love reading even more.

With my BA under my belt, it came time to decide what course my life would take. That was a little harder to figure out. Fortunately, out of the blue one day, I fell in love with teaching: with the interaction with kids, the sometimes surprising conversations that can arise when I took the time to listen to what a kid had to say, with the pride I felt when I realized they understood exactly what I meant and with the absolute joy of seeing a child "get it." Once on that path, I jumped head first and never looked back. I got my MA in Secondary English Education. With my degree under my belt, here I am again, ready for a whole other kind of adventure.

SAND POINT, HERE I COME!!!

School District Hires New Business Manager

By David Nielsen, AEBSD's new Business Manager



David Nielsen, AEBSD's new Business Manager.

As I assume the duties of the Business Manager for the Aleutians East Borough School District, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is David (Dave) Nielsen and I am extremely excited to return to Alaska following a three year hiatus. I spent much of my nearly 20-year airline industry career working in various positions of operations and support management – much of it in rural Alaska communities. Most recently, I have been employed as an accountant at a casino hotel resort in Southern Nevada. I obtained my accounting and business administration education from Southern Utah University.

I was born and raised in Southern Idaho and have lived and worked in several states along the way. My wife Carolyn and I have been married for over 30 years. We will be leaving behind three sons, two daughters-

in-law and five grandchildren as our youngest son, Creedence, accompanies us on our journey to Sand Point. I enjoy walking, hiking, learning new things and eating fresh fish.

I am delighted with this opportunity to live and work in Southwestern Alaska, and I very much look forward to getting acquainted and becoming involved in the communities served by the AEBSD.

King Cove Firemen's Picnic Scheduled for June 1st

The excitement is heating up in anticipation of the annual King Cove Firemen's Picnic, scheduled for 4 p.m. on June 1st at the Community Center. This year, the King Cove Department of Public Safety is hoping to raise \$10,000.

The picnic is a popular community event and has been offered for more than 15 years. It's a great opportunity for friends and family members in King Cove to get together and enjoy each other's company while feasting on salmon, hamburgers, hot dogs, beans and salad. It's also for a good cause. Last year, the department raised \$9,000. The money raised goes toward awarding scholarships to graduating seniors and to pay for the costs to operate the Fourth of July Fireworks celebration and the Santa Parade.

On the day of the picnic, the winners of the raffle contest are announced. The Firemen's Picnic offers a mega raffle, which has 17 prizes, including a PenAir roundtrip to Anchorage. The raffle tickets cost \$10 each or two for \$15. The cost to attend the picnic is \$10.

"This picnic has a good turnout," said King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock. "This is the only fundraiser the department has. We thank all those who support the event."

Sunburned Arctic Seals

By Bruce Wright, Executive Director, Conservation Science Institute

In 2011, seals were showing up on some Arctic Ocean beaches with some unusual symptoms; some were dead or dying. The US federal agencies issued warnings to consumers of marine mammals in the region and began an intensive investigation of the cause. What U.S. government researchers have suspected as resulting from chemical contamination such as persistent organic pollutants, radionuclides or disease may be nothing more than severe sunburn.

Sick Seals

In 2011 more than 200 seals were stranded along the Arctic coast from villages in Chukotka, Russia, along the Alaska Arctic to Tuktoyuktak, Canada. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported diseased ringed seals exhibited hair loss, delayed



This seal shows the hair loss typical of this event.

molting, skin sores, lethargy and labored breathing. Many were dead (about 40%). Nearly 30 dead seals were necropsied finding lesions in the skin, respiratory system, liver, lymphoid system, heart and brain.

Arctic hunters reported mostly bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) and ringed seals (*Pusa hispida*) to be afflicted, but there were some reports

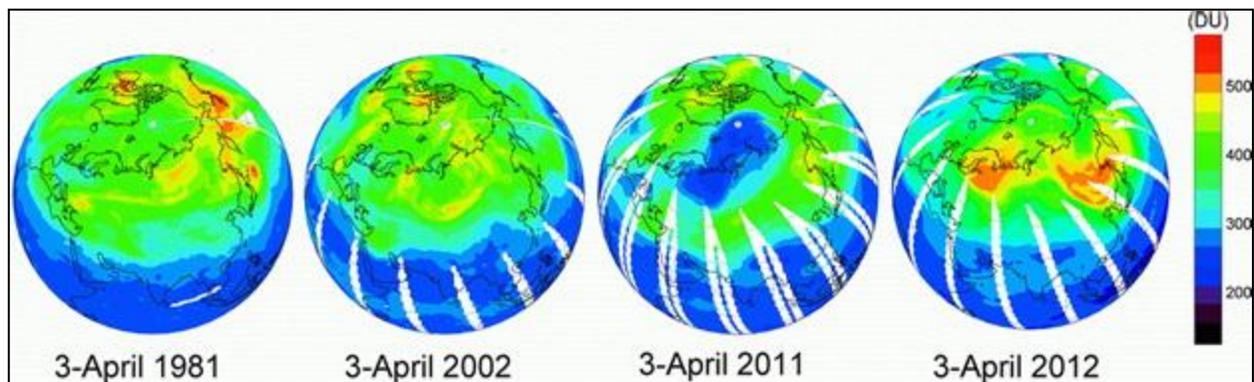
of Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) with unusual skin sores. The stricken and dead seals were

tested for bacterial, viral, fungal and toxic agents. Laboratory findings were inconclusive for poxvirus, herpesvirus, papillomavirus, morbillivirus, calicivirus, circovirus, lentivirus, retrovirus, and gammaherpesvirus. Results were also negative or at historical levels for radionuclides and the most common harmful algal blooms (HABs), domoic acid, paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and okadaic acid. The US government declared this an ‘unusual mortality event.’

Few cases of sick seal were reported in 2012. However, since the spring of 2012, scientists have documented 23 polar bears from Alaska with hair loss, skin and mouth sores. Tests for toxicity, thyroid function, Vitamin A and trace minerals in polar bears have been inconclusive (see http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seals/ice/diseased/ume_update0213.pdf).

Low Ozone Levels and High UV Levels

The symptoms expressed by the seals and polar bears was preceded by the lowest ever recorded ozone concentrations in the Arctic stratosphere during March 2011 and elevated ultraviolet (UV) levels throughout the Arctic and sub-Arctic (Bernhard, et al. 2012a). Manney et al. (2011) described the event as unusual because the Arctic stratosphere is normally too mild for ozone depletion to progress like the Antarctic winter. But in the winter of 2010-2011, extreme cold in the upper atmosphere lasted more than a month longer than any previous Arctic winter, and the temperatures were low enough to generate ozone-depleting forms of chlorine a month longer than normal.



Comparison of ozone column measured by satellites on April 3, 1981, 2002, 2011 and 2012.

There are reports of other marine mammals suffering from UV exposure. Martinez-Levasseur et al. (2010) identified high UV levels causing sunburns on whales. They concluded that the thinning ozone layer may pose a risk to the health of whales and other vulnerable wildlife, and found that several species of whales and dolphins had skin lesions they say are due to exposure to increased UV exposure.

Betsy Weatherhead, University of Colorado CIRES / NOAA, reports in her paper, *UV radiation: the unexplored threat to the Arctic*, to have also observed the consequences of low ozone and high UV levels in the Arctic. Weatherhead reports that humans are at greater risk from the increased UV and many organisms, including phytoplankton and zooplankton, the basis of the marine food web, may be affected. These are important food sources for many commercially important species.

The increased UV levels seen in 2011 and unusual stratospheric conditions, ironically, may be linked to global warming (Manney et al. 2011). Austin et al. (1992) and Shindell et al. (1998) predicted increased Arctic ozone depletion resulting from increases in atmospheric CO² levels due to stratospheric cooling. Increases in water vapor, a result of global warming, may also result in ozone depletion (Kirk-Davidoff et al. 1999). Rex et al. (2006) data indicates a steady trend for colder stratospheric Arctic winters, increased stratospheric cloud formation and greater ozone depletion supporting the link of climate change, ozone depletion and increased UV levels in the Arctic.

The evidence suggests a link of the 2011 'unexplained mortality event' of Arctic seals with low ozone levels and high UV levels. Some of the symptoms of the seals are consistent with radiation burns and consistent with reports of other marine mammals becoming sunburned (Martinez-Levasseur et al. 2010) and, the symptoms are consistent with those predicted by Weatherhead. But, the internal damage to the seals, including lesions on liver, brain and heart, is not necessarily only from UV exposure (van der Leun and de Gruijl. 1993). Until more research describes specific consequences to wildlife from UV overexposure and excludes those symptoms

seen in 2011, predictions for increased ozone depletion and increases in UV don't bode well for Arctic life.

Controlled laboratory experiments using test and control seals exposed to UV may provide additional evidence to support or reject the hypothesis presented here. However, we may find it best, if not more humane, to test this hypothesis by waiting and preparing for the Arctic to experience another ozone depletion event.

For more information, visit the links below:

http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seals/ice/diseased/ume_qa0612.pdf

<http://environmentalaska.us/ultraviolet-radiation-uv.html>

<http://environmentalaska.us/conservation-science-institute.html>

http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/essay_weatherhead.html

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abourdukofsky@aleutcorp.com



The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe 2013 Sand Point Culture Camp is scheduled for July 15 - 25, 2013



The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe is working hard to expand fundraising efforts and continue providing Culture Camp to our youth, free of charge. We are also working on providing an enriched program for adults. This year, we will be charging adults a \$100 fee to participate in the evening classes. There will be no charge for seniors 60 and older.

Click on this link for applications: [Culture Camp 2013](#)

For more information, you can contact the tribe at: (907) 383-5616 or by email at: qttadmin@arctic.net or chebetnoy_carla@hotmail.com.

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