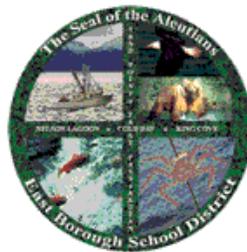
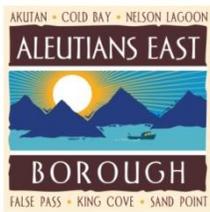


In the Loop



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

Tustumena to Return to Service on August 15th

AMHS Gen. Manager Captain John Falvey is Confident about Extensive Repairs

After two delays for the M/V Tustumena's return to service, ferry customers can now rest assured the Tusty will be back in business on August 15th. The Tustumena is scheduled to sail out of the Ketchikan shipyard on or about August 11th. It will begin its regular service in Homer and Seldovia before heading out to the Aleutian Chain communities. The plan is for the Tustumena to complete three chain trips for the remainder of this season.

"We think we've got her in good shape now," said Captain John Falvey, general manager of the Alaska Marine Highway System. "She's going to last a few more years until the new (replacement) vessel is built."

The 53-year-old Tustumena was originally scheduled to return to service on May 27th. However, the discovery of extensive steel wastage in the engine room pushed that date back to the middle of summer. On May 4th, people living in Homer, Seldovia, Kodiak, the Aleutians East Borough as well as elsewhere along the Aleutian Chain received word that the Tustumena's return to service would be delayed until July 18th due to necessary repairs. That delay caused a hardship for individuals, businesses and local governments counting on the ferry service for deliveries of vehicles, cargo and passenger service. On May 9th, the Alaska Marine Highway System announced that Coastal Transportation, Inc. would assist AMHS customers by offering to carry cargo on an "as able basis" for the same cost AMHS charges. Then on June 5th, a second notice went out to the public stating that more repair work was needed on the Tustumena. At that point, the return to service was pushed back to August 15th.



The M/V Tustumena is scheduled to return to service on August 15, 2017. Photo courtesy: AMHS.

"I know it's been very hard on the chain communities," said Falvey. "However, neither I nor the U.S. Coast Guard will allow a ship to sail unless it's certified and safe. The repairs done on the Tustumena were extensive, and when the ship sails from Ketchikan, it will have passed all its USCG inspections, and it will be considered ready for passenger service. I feel very good about that."



"The repairs done on the Tustumena were extensive," said Captain John Falvey, general manager of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Falvey said to begin with, the ferry needed some deferred and general maintenance. After discovering widespread problems, steel plates were replaced in the hull, in various locations in the engine room and in compartments running from the engines to the stern of the ship. Steel replacement work was also conducted in the

spaces between the engine room and the actual hull of the ship.

"It was a tremendous amount of work," said Falvey. "We were in drydock for 75 days. That's a record for a routine yearly ship overhaul."

The cost for the major repairs totaled \$4.2 million. That compares to an average overhaul cost for the Tustumena, which typically comes to about \$1.3 million.

Falvey said as far as AMHS and the Coast Guard are concerned, the Tustumena is in good shape.

“The extra time we spent on it this year should take us into next year and beyond,” he said. “At next year’s overhaul, we should be able to get it in and out on schedule and not be late.”

However, to ensure that Tustumena chain customers are taken care of next year, AMHS is taking additional measures.

“We will schedule the Kennicott for what I call an insurance run,” said Falvey. “The chain communities can count on it. We’ll run the Kennicott down the chain probably in late April or early May. The chain communities will get the ten chain trips they normally get. I’m also planning on including an extra chain trip with the Kennicott going as an ‘insurance run’. So the chain communities will get 11 runs next year during summer 2018.”



The cost of the major repairs done to the Tustumena totaled \$4.2 million.

Falvey said he is confident the Tustumena will last until the vessel’s replacement has been put into service. Preparing for that time has been a major process. For the past three years, AMHS has been designing the ship, along with its project consultant, Glosten Associates, a naval architecture and marine engineering firm based in Seattle.

“We’ve had a very robust steering committee working on this,” said Falvey. “Shore side staff, engineering and our vessel crews are very interested in this project.”

To help propel the project forward, the legislature recently approved the full funding of \$244 million for the Tustumena replacement vessel in this year’s capital budget.

“So we’ve got a good design that’s ready to go to a shipyard to bid on, after we work through the procurement process,” said Falvey.

The state-of-the-art replacement vessel will be 330 feet in length. According to Glosten, it will be longer, wider, faster and will offer more passenger and vehicle capacity than its predecessor. The design incorporates the latest hull form technologies, and will result in a 20% reduction in resistance, significantly lower fuel consumption and operating costs.

“Because the bulk of the money is federal funding (combined with a state match of \$22 million), there are very strict federal procurement guidelines that we must follow,” Falvey said. “We are

considering the use of what's called a Best Value type of bid. Not only does the price of the bid come into play, but so do many other factors, including the history of the shipyard with on-time deliveries and experience with building a ship of this nature, safety record and effective management of subcontractors. There are a lot of things that go into scoring a competitive bid when multiple shipyards throughout the United States bid on a project, all of which will be scored by an AMHS team."

"We are actively researching the process of using a Best Value innovative procurement process, which will need to be approved by the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C. This



For the past three years, AMHS has been designing the ship, along with Glostén Associates, a naval architecture and marine engineering firm based in Seattle. The ship will be longer, wider and offer more passenger and vehicle capacity than its predecessor. Photo by Glostén.

process will result in a request for proposal (RFP) being sent out to shipyards nationwide for bidding. It's not a quick and easy process, although we do feel that we will have an RFP ready that shipyards can bid on by mid-winter 2018," Falvey said. "If all goes according to plan, we think we can have a shipyard selected and the building process started by late summer 2018."

Falvey said construction for a ship of this size, on average, means a three to four-year process.

"We could realistically have a new Tustumena in service in about 4 – 4 ½ years from today."

The Marine Transportation Advisory Board will be hosting a board meeting in Ketchikan, Alaska on Friday, Aug. 11, 2017. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or via teleconference.

*To access the meeting via teleconference please call:
1-800-315-6338 and use conference code 39051#.*

Link: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=186653>

Paving for Cold Bay Airport Rehab Project Completed

Crews Working on Electrical, Painting, Touch up Work



The main runway (Runway 15/33) has been paved and striped. The runway lights have also been installed. Photo by Kim Steed.

After months of hard work and long hours, the Cold Bay Airport Rehab Project is in the homestretch. The asphalt has been laid down on the full length of the main runway (Runway 15/33).

“All 10,180 feet of the main runway have been paved and striped,” said Kim Steed, project engineer with R & M Consulting. “The new apron and taxiway (to the Borough’s Terminal Building)

have been paved and striped. The airport lights and main runway lights have been installed.”

In addition, the fence has been set up. The security gates are partially completed. Currently the electrician is working on Taxiway Charlie.

At this point, Steed estimates crews have a few more weeks of touch up work that needs to be completed.



The new apron and taxiway to the Borough’s Terminal Building have been paved and striped. Photo by Kim Steed.

“The biggest push out here right now is going to be Runway 8/26 (the crosswind runway),” he said. “All the work is done on it, except for the runway edge lights.”

Other items requiring attention include furnishing lighted airport signs. Crews also need to install precision approach pass indicator systems.

“I figure they have another three weeks-worth of work, plus or minus a day or so,” said Steed. “It should be done by then.”

Akutan Geothermal Project Heats up as it Enters Phase 2

Field work is scheduled to begin in Akutan this month to complete a feasibility study of the city's geothermal resource. Crews will begin arriving in Akutan next week to retrieve equipment and set up a work camp in the Hot Springs Bay Valley. They're scheduled to begin work on testing a well on August 13th.



Crews are scheduled to begin work on testing a well in Akutan's Hot Springs Bay Valley on August 13th.

The test will examine the characteristics of temperature, volume, chemistry, permeability and the total heat content of the well. That information will provide a verifiable indication of the geothermal power generation potential. After the test is complete, the city's geotechnical team will conduct an analysis of the data to conclude whether there's a viable resource worth pursuing. The city is hopeful that development of power and heating from the geothermal project will help to significantly decrease dependence on diesel fuel and provide a clean, inexpensive and reliable source of energy production.

"The goal is to provide the City with 2 – 5 megawatts of power generation from this resource," said Mary Tesche, Akutan's Assistant City Administrator.

The city's primary project manager, Bob Kirkman of Kirkman Consulting, LLC, will provide initial oversight of the project startup. Other key personnel

from the Geothermal Resource Group will continue with the well testing and analysis in the field. Local labor is also assisting with the project.

The City has secured funding for this phase of the project through grants from the Alaska Energy Authority, the U.S. Department of Energy and city funds.

“The city will decide on the next step for the project once we review the geotech team’s data analysis and feasibility study from this summer’s well test,” said Tesche. “We’re hopeful the test results will come back in our favor.”

King Cove Applauds Congressman Young Following Passage of H.R. 218



“The people of King Cove have fought for more than 30 years for safe and reliable access to emergency care, and it’s past time we make it a reality,” said Congressman Don Young. “Frankly, I will not rest until we do so.” Photo courtesy: Rep. Don Young’s office.

King Cove Tribal and Community leaders are delighted after House Bill 218 passed during a hearing on the floor on July 20, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The legislation passed with bipartisan support 248 to 179.

“We are so grateful to Congressman Don Young for his unflagging support in pushing to get this bill passed,” said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation. “This is another step forward in the process of getting our life-saving road. We so appreciate all the support

we’ve received from Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, as well as Alaska Governor Bill Walker, the Alaska Legislature, the National Congress of American Indians and the Alaska Federation of Indians. We won’t stop fighting to get this essential single-lane gravel road until our people have access to the nearby all-weather Cold Bay Airport. The health and safety of our people are so important.”

“We are also happy that the Trump Administration and the Department of the Interior are willing to work with us on this issue,” said King Cove Mayor



Since the Obama Administration’s Interior Secretary Sally Jewell denied the road on Dec. 23, 2013, there has been a total of 63 medevacs in King Cove.

Henry Mack. “We are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We and our loved ones are hopeful we will soon have the peace of mind knowing we won’t have to fly or travel by boat in dangerous weather during a medical emergency. That means the world to us.”

Since the Obama Administration’s Interior Secretary Sally Jewell denied the road on Dec. 23, 2013, there has been a total of 63 medevacs. Of those, 17 involved the Coast Guard and 46 were non-Coast Guard medevacs. The remote community of King Cove is only accessible by small plane or boat. The community is frequently plagued by hurricane-force winds, stormy weather and dense fog, which grounds or delays plane travel at least 30 percent of the time.

Tiffany Jackson Running Again for National School Boards Association



Tiffany Jackson of Sand Point is planning to run again for her seat on the National School Boards Association.

Tiffany Jackson of Sand Point, president of the Aleutians East Borough School District, is once again running for the National School Boards Association (NSBA). Jackson is currently finishing out the term of Frank Pugh, who left that seat vacant last year after he was elected as NSBA secretary/treasurer. When Jackson was elected to the NSBA board in the spring of 2016, it also marked the first time that an Alaska Native/American Indian won a seat on the NSBA’s governing body.

For the 2018 term, Jackson will be running for her first full three-year term. She is running unopposed. Jackson was nominated by the Association of Alaska School Boards. She is currently going through the interview process with the nominations committee, which will make its recommendation. If recommended by the nominations committee, her seat is expected to be certified when the delegate assembly meets in San Antonio, Texas next April.

“It has been an honor representing the Pacific Region on the NSBA so far,” said Jackson. “I hope I’m representing the needs of our students well. My goal is to empower local school boards and influence smart policy decisions, which will lead to increased student achievement for all students.”

The NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. Jackson is the immediate past president of the Association of Alaska School Boards. She has served on the Aleutians East Borough School Board since 2007, and has served nine terms as president. In addition, she is the executive director of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point.

Monte Chitty Hired as Akutan's New VPSO



Monte Chitty was hired as Akutan's new VPSO. Photo courtesy: Monte Chitty.

Originally from Texas, Monte Chitty is no stranger to the Aleutians. He moved to Akutan in December shortly after being hired as the community's new VPSO. Before that, Chitty had lived in False Pass for a couple of years as that city's VPSO. He was also employed by the maintenance department in False Pass.

"I love the Aleutians," said Chitty. "Before False Pass, I spent three years in Cold Bay. So, we've been in the Aleutians area for several years now."

Chitty had less than two months to settle in Akutan before he was shipped off to Sitka for four months of training at the Alaska Trooper Academy. VPSO recruits attend a 15-week Alaska Law Enforcement Academy, an additional 2-week Rural Fire Protection Specialist class, and a 1-week Emergency Trauma Technician class.

Chitty returned from training in early July, and hit the ground running.

"The first two weeks I was back, I had several different small calls to go to," he said. "I think it was just people getting used to the VPSO being back in the village. Several of the calls were related to the bar."

Chitty said because the fish plant in town is so large in Akutan, the majority of his law enforcement calls are related to people employed there. He said approximately 1,600 people work at Trident Seafoods.

"You have people working there from all over the world that speak different languages," he said. "Many times, it's not a legal issue that causes me to be there. It's a disturbance of the peace because

two different cultures have clashed. So, it's a matter of going over there and explaining to them how things have to work."

Chitty said dealing with language barriers can be challenging.



Akutan VPSO Monte Chitty, his wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Larissa, are transitioning well into the community. Photo courtesy: Monte Chitty.

"I've got a limited Spanish-speaking background from Texas," he said. "We have a lot of Filipino workers, and I can speak to them in Spanish."

Chitty said he often relies on interpreters when it comes to taking care of issues concerning people from other cultures.

Overall, he's enjoying his job. He, his wife, Sylvia, and 17-year old daughter, Larissa, are transitioning well into the community.

"Our youngest daughter will be finishing up high school this year," he said. "The Aleutians East

Borough School District is where she has pretty much grown up."

Chitty and his family are looking forward to getting to know people better in Akutan.

"I think the village has been very accepting of us," Chitty said. "I really believe the village has done well to make us feel welcome here."

Akutan Dance Group Participates in World Eskimo Indian Olympics for the First Time

Last month, Akutan's dance group made its official debut at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics (WEIO) for the first time. However, this was about far more than just a first for the group, known by its official name, Akutanam Añasniikangin.

"Actually, I believe it's the first time anyone from our region has ever attended as a dance group," said Josephine Shangin, Akutanam Añasniikangin dance leader. "I talked to a lot of other people,

and they've never heard of any Aleut (Unangan) dance groups attending as competitive or non-competitive. It's very exciting!"

Akutanam Āsniikangin is only five years old. The dance group was created during Akutan's first Qigiigun culture camp in 2012. Eleven members, ranging in age from 5 to 38 years old, participated in the World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

"On this trip, I invited one male drummer who is part of the Anchorage Unangax dancers," said Shangin.



Akutanam Āsniikangin, the Akutan Aleut dance group, performed last month at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics. Members include: dance leader Josephine Shangin, Karen Ravenscroft, Anthony M. Shangin, Shawn Philemonof, Dustin Newman, Sarah Bereskin, Anesia Kudrin, Nikita Shangin, Mia Bereskin, Ian Shangin and Emma Lulu Shangin. Photo courtesy: Pauline Tutiakoff.



Performing at WEIO was both an honor and an amazing opportunity for the members of Akutanam Āsniikangin. Photo courtesy: Marc Lester of the Alaska Dispatch.

dance camps held in the early 2000s.

"Three songs that we performed are on loan to us from the Atka dancers," said Shangin. "We did our men's drumming after our song "Qigiigun Akungin" and before exiting. On the last night, we did an Atka dance that's an invitation song."

For Shangin and the other members, performing at WEIO was both an honor and an amazing opportunity.

WEIO, was hosted in Fairbanks on July 19 – 22, 2017 in Fairbanks. Shangin said there were three categories of dance groups at the event: Indian, Eskimo and Aleut.

The categories were either competitive or non-competitive. There were a total of two Eskimo groups, which were non-competitive, two Indian groups (competitive) and the Aleut dancers from Akutan (competitive). Shangin said Akutanam Āsniikangin performed two songs that were written by regional participants at two separate



“It was awesome for us!” she said. “We’d like to thank our sponsors.”

As a result of the group’s performances at WEIO, Akutanam Āsasniikangin is becoming more well-known and respected.

“We were approached about dancing at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games,” said Shangin. “So we’re looking forward to hearing from one of their representatives in the next couple of months!”

Youngest dancer Emma Lulu Shangin (seen in photo on the left) holds the trophy awarded to Akutanam Āsasniikangin at WEIO. Photo courtesy: Josephine Shangin.

Windstar Cruises to Set Sail for Sand Point in 2018

Windstar Cruises, a luxury, small yacht-style cruise company, will visit Sand Point in September of next year during its sailing from Seward to Tokyo aboard the *Star Legend*.

“We haven’t visited Sand Point before,” said Michele Hanson, Windstar Cruises Product Manager.

“We wanted to stop at a small town in the Aleutian Islands to give our passengers a sense of what life is like in the Aleutians,” added Jess Peterson, Manager of Deployment. “This half-day stop will give them a chance to stretch their legs during this trans-pacific cruise.”

Hanson said the cruise ship hopes to offer passengers kayaking and zodiac tours from the ship.

“The wildlife opportunities are abundant,” she said. “Our guests will have the opportunity to take



Windstar Cruises will visit Sand Point for the first time in September 2018. Photo courtesy: Windstar Cruises.

photos of the harbor as well as walk or hike along the new trail systems. The hiking trails are easy to moderate, so most of our guests should be able to enjoy the day.”



After the cruise company visits Sand Point, Windstar Cruises will determine whether to return based on customer feedback. Photo courtesy: Windstar Cruises.

The *Star Legend* Will make its scheduled stop in Sand Point on Sept. 14, 2018. Passengers will explore the community from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., depending on the weather. The cruise ship will stop at Dutch Harbor on the following day.

Depending on how the visit to Sand Point goes, Windstar Cruises may plan to come back in the future.

“We’ll evaluate the success of the stop after the first visit, based on customer feedback,” said Hanson.

Based on the beauty and outdoor opportunities Sand Point has to offer, it’s probably safe to say that Windstar Cruises and passengers will want a repeat performance in the years to come.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes Monthly Report

People

Welcome:

- Anita Moran, Finance Director (Anchorage) started on June 26th
- Cameron Spivey, NP Itinerant, signed a long-term contract starting July 4th
- Terri Douglas, NP Itinerant, extended her long-term contract starting July 13th
- Shonna Wheeler, Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) started on July 17th

Open Positions:

- Behavioral Health and Wellness Manager – Anchorage-based with travel (25%-50%)
- Community Health Aides* – Nelson Lagoon, Adak, and recruiting for traveling CHAPs
- Community Health Aide (CHA)/ CHR* – Akutan and recruiting for traveling CHAPs
- Dental Hygienist(s) – Traveling to all sites



Color run in Nelson Lagoon. June 8, 2017.

- Mental Health Clinician – Anchorage-based with travel (25-50%) to King Cove and other villages and/or recruiting for traveling clinician(s)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)/Physician Assistant (PA) – Adak, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for traveling NP/PA
- Physician – Recruiting for residents and traveling Physicians (King Cove and Sand Point)

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

Service

• Adak - Upcoming Services:

- August 20 – 27th - Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa (Dental Assistant)
- September 27 – October 4th – Jennifer Harrison (CEO) for visit and community potluck

• Akutan - Upcoming Services:

- August 15 – 25th – Jennifer Harrison (CEO)
- August 14 – 19th – Dr. Ubedie (Optometrist) with Grace (Optician)
- August 17th – Community Potluck

• False Pass – Upcoming Services:

- September 11 – 13th – Dr. Leoncio (SCF Village Doc)
- September 18 – 25th - Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa

• King Cove - Upcoming Services:

- July 24 – August 12th – Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa (Dental Asst.)
- August 28 – September 8th - Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa (Dental Asst.)
- September 18 – 22nd – Dr. Saunders (SCF Village Doc)
- September 18 – 22nd – Dr. Humphreys (SCF Optometrist) with Geri (Optician)
- September 25 – October 6th - Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa



• Nelson Lagoon - Upcoming Services:

- August 12 – 19th – Dr. Michael Costa, Shonna Wheeler (DHAT), and Gabby Costa

- September 14 – 16th - Dr. Leoncio (SCF Village Doc)

Sand Point - Upcoming Services:

- September 11 – 22nd – Dr. Millie Lyerly (SCF Dentist)*

Whittier - No services scheduled at this time.

Events

On **May 5, 2017**, **EAT and APIA hosted a MAT and Detox Mini-Summit** to discuss how to bring Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and detox to the Aleutian Region with a team of experts. We invited people from the State of Alaska, Southcentral Foundation, and Drug Enforcement Agency. The meeting was focused on educating each other about the need in our region, strengths and opportunities of working together, and challenges to overcome. An action plan was developed at the end of the day. Below are some pictures from the event:



Five Doctors determined to solve the problem: Dr. Melodie Isgro (EAT BH&W Director), Dr. Donna Galbreath (SCF Senior Medical Director), Dr. Martha Cotten (RASU), Dr. Danita Koehler (EAT Medical Director), and Heidi Brainerd (RASU Pharmacist)



Dr. Danita Koehler (Medical Director) and Jennifer Harrison (CEO) – This event was so important, Dr. Koehler wore a dress!

On **June 7, 2017 Nelson Lagoon Clinic** hosted a well-attended potluck with special guests from Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Tiffany Webb and Suzanne Nunn, who talked about tobacco prevention. On June 8, 2017, Tiffany and Suzanne hosted a fun-filled Family Feud game where 16-20 people competed for prizes based on surveys that they had filled out during the potluck with questions about tobacco and living in Nelson Lagoon. After the game, several young ladies participated in the Color Run, even though the weather had turned a little chilly. See picture at the top of the first page. Below are some more pictures from Nelson Lagoon community potluck:



BBQ Cooks: Ellen Lori McNeley, Katie Johnson (Clinic Lead/CHR Lead), Kenneth Brandell, & Tom Gibson (CHA)



BBQ Cooks: Tammy Brandell and Ellen Lori McNeley

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[Link to AEB's Facebook page](#)

[Link to King Cove's Facebook page](#)

