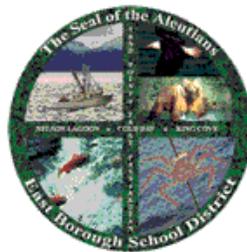
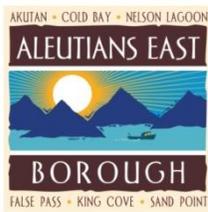


In the Loop



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

King Cove's Waterfall Creek Hydroelectric Facility Goes Online



Two jet Horizontal Pelton turbine, fabricated by Canyon Industries. Photo by Gunner Bendixen.

The City of King Cove is pleased to announce that its new Waterfall Creek hydroelectric facility went online earlier this month. The new hydro has been performing exceptionally well and producing up to 400KW.

Waterfall Creek is the community's second run-of-the-river facility. King Cove's first hydro facility, Delta Creek, went online in 1994 and is about twice the size of Waterfall Creek. Together, these two renewable energy sources are expected to produce about 75% of the city's annual power demand of 4.5 megawatts.

These two hydroelectric facilities provide King Cove with the distinction of being the most prolific, single-site renewable energy community in rural Alaska.

“The community is very excited about Waterfall Creek being completed and does not expect to hear the sound of our diesel support system until winter,” said King Cove Mayor Henry Mack.

The final project cost is expected to be about \$6.7 million. The project has been funded with \$3.3 million (50%) in grants from the Alaska Energy Authority and the Aleutians East Borough; \$3 million (45%) in long-term debt from the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank and AEA’s Power Project Fund; and \$400,000 (5%) in contributions from the city.



Waterfall Creek controls and switchgear, manufactured by Controlled Power. Photo by Gunner Bendixen.

The project required twelve years from the initial concept, design, permitting, funding and construction.



Waterfall Creek diversion and intake structure viewed from upstream. Photo by Gunner Bendixen.

“The city’s perseverance in completing the project has largely been driven by 22 years of success with Delta Creek,” said Mayor Mack. “This hydro has displaced more than three million gallons during this time, with more than 50% of the community’s total power production coming from this renewable energy source.”

King Cove’s current cost of a kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity is \$0.30. This cost is one of the least expensive throughout rural Alaska

where the average cost is \$0.45/kWh. The average cost of electricity in the lower 48 is \$0.12/kWh. With Waterfall Creek online, the city is confident that it can maintain or possibly even lower its kWh rate.

There is some irony with the timing of Waterfall Creek coming online and King Cove being simultaneously informed by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska that the community is no longer eligible for a power cost equalization (PCE) subsidy. About 186 communities throughout rural Alaska receive the PCE subsidy, including more than 35 communities that have some amount of renewable power generation.

The community is planning a formal dedication of the Waterfall Creek hydro facility later this summer. The city will also be issuing a detailed report at that time, documenting the project's unique history, challenges and what the city can expect its renewable energy future to look like.

Construction Upgrades, Paving on Sand Point's Boat Harbor Road to Begin in July

After more than seven years of planning, the QT (Qagan Tayagungin) Tribe is excited to get the ball rolling on construction upgrades to Sand Point's Boat Harbor Road beginning next month. The upgrades will include standardizing the width of the road to 24 feet, realigning the road to better center it within the right-of-way, raising the elevation of certain sections of the road, replacing three drainage culverts, installing a guard rail and paving the road.

The QT Tribe partnered with the Unga Tribe for the improvements and the paving of the road (from the airport road to just before the bridge). The QT Tribe is managing the project and the Unga Tribe is providing some funding. The QT Tribal Council recently awarded the project contract to Brechan Construction LLC.

"We're looking forward to having this project completed," said QT Tribe Executive Director Tiffany Jackson. "It's something we've been working on for more than seven years. We're pleased to see all our efforts coming together and having the contract for construction finally in place."

The work will begin in July and is expected to wrap up in September.

Contractors Making Significant Headway on Cold Bay Airport Rehab Project

A Surprising Find: Bible and Prayer Book Buried in Asphalt near New Taxiway



Crews finished work on the taxiway and apron by the Borough Terminal Building at the Cold Bay Airport last week. Photo by Hap Kremer.

Crews are making great strides toward wrapping up work on the Cold Bay Airport Rehabilitation project. The goal for completion: July 31st. As the deadline approaches, the project engineer is confident they'll meet that goal. As of today, it's 60% complete.

"We're working a lot of hours with no days off," said Kim Steed, project engineer with R & M Consulting. "We're trying to get the work done as soon as possible."

One of the main highlights includes the new taxiway and apron to the Borough's Terminal Building. After a significant

amount of work, crews wrapped up that portion of the project last week.

Workers with Knik Construction are currently concentrating on the main runway. Steed says crews have paved 6,100 feet of the 10,180-foot-long runway on the east side and all of it on the west side.

"We have the contractors getting that remaining section ready," he said. "They're installing underground electrical duct to handle the new runway



Crews work on the last lift of asphalt for the apron next to the Borough Terminal Building at the Cold Bay Airport. Photo by Paul Schaack.

lights. They're also milling (grinding) the old runway asphalt. They'll be paving here in about another week or so."

Steed said the crews accelerated part of their schedule on the main runway (Runway 1533) about three weeks ago after learning that Northern Air Cargo needed to land there to haul out a shipment. At that point, the northern 6,000 feet of the runway were closed where crews were milling up the asphalt. Only 4,000 feet were available.

"As we were doing this, I was contacted by someone from Northern Air Cargo," Steed said. "They wanted to know when the runway would be back to full length."

Steed told them it would be July. However, the representative with Northern Air Cargo said they had a contract with Peter Pan Seafoods to haul seafood out of there, and they needed a minimum of 6,000 feet of runway to get the job done.

"So we worked with the contractor, and over three days, we paved enough to extend the southern half of the runway, to 6,000 feet," Steed said. "Then we installed lights and so forth, so they could land."



A bible and a prayer book from 1941 were found buried beneath the asphalt at the Cold Bay Airport. It was discovered when contractors were milling close to the area where the new taxiway intersects with Taxiway Delta. Photo by Hap Kremer.

One of the most surprising occurrences during the project was finding a bible and a prayer book from 1941 buried beneath the asphalt. Steed said about a month ago, the contractors were milling close to the area where the new taxiway will intersect with Taxiway Delta. At the time, they were removing the top two inches from the existing runway surface.

"I was out there and noticed that the milled asphalt looked odd to me," said

Steed, "so I brushed some of the dirt out of the way and saw that it was paper. I started pulling on it and out came a section of the bible. Hap Kremer found another one in another location close by. So, I guess back in 1941, when they put the original asphalt down, that's what they did. They'd place a bible in it for good luck."

Kremer notified his brother, Cold Bay Pastor Joshua Kremer about the discovery, and he asked to see it. Pastor Kremer said he thought back to when he was in junior high, and he had a conversation with one of the men who built the runway during World War II.

“He said there were a lot of problems,” Kremer said. “It was kind of boggy and marshy where they have the runway. They lost heavy equipment because of it. So I was thinking they were probably getting frustrated. At that point, they brought in a priest, a preacher or an army chaplain to bless this project because they needed to get it done.”

Pastor Kremer was amazed when he visited the area where the bible and prayer book were buried.

“You can lift some of the pages and see some of the chapter verses,” he said.

Pastor Kremer thought it would be appropriate to repeat history, and he knelt over the area.

“I thought we should ask for the lord’s blessing again since they’re renovating the runway,” he said. “I also prayed for the unity of this town.”

Other non-typical material found beneath the runway included two and three-foot boulders that were buried. Steed said that’s unusual, considering there are almost no rocks in Cold Bay.

“I’m sure, back during World War II, the army probably barged all the material in from a nearby material site, offloaded it here and built this runway,” he said.

However, digging up the bible and prayer book was something no one expected to find.

“Yeah, I had no idea. But if you dig around here, you can find almost anything,” Steed said.

In the meantime, crews are pushing ahead to get the airport rehabilitation project done on time.

“They’re working hard, and they’re putting in long hours,” said Steed. “All the paving should be done during the first week in July. Then the electricians will do all their work. When it’s done, it will basically be a brand-new airport. That will be exciting for everyone.”



Cold Bay Pastor Joshua Kremer visited the area where the bible and prayer book were found. He knelt at the location, blessed the area and the town of Cold Bay. Photo by Hap Kremer.

Delta Airlines Thanks Cold Bay for the Tremendous Response during January's Emergency Landing

Every year, Cold Bay conducts a table-top exercise to review the emergency control plan to prepare for when commercial jets make emergency landings at the airport. The most recent exercise, held on May 31st, was no different. Except this time, in addition to the drill, gifts to the community were handed out, courtesy of Delta Airlines, the last airline to experience Cold Bay's hospitality during an emergency landing.

Cold Bay knows it's not a matter of "if" an emergency landing will happen. It's "when." The community has responded to several emergency landings over the

years. On January 14, 2017, [Delta Airlines Flight #68](#), originating from the Narita International Airport (near Tokyo) diverted to Cold Bay after experiencing a mechanical issue with one of the



Delta Airlines Flight 68, originating from the Narita International Airport in Japan, diverted to Cold Bay on Jan. 14th when engine trouble forced an emergency landing. Photo by Rachel D. Kremer.



Cold Bay community members take part in an annual table-top exercise on May 31st to review the plan regarding how to handle emergency landings at the airport. Photo by Hap Kremer.

aircraft's engines. The small town stepped up in a big way to make sure emergency personnel were staged, facilities were opened to receive the 221 passengers and crew members, and basic comforts were provided.

"The community of Cold Bay has demonstrated that they will treat our customers and crew the way we would treat them ourselves, and that means a lot to us," said Bill Manion, Delta Airlines General Manager of Flight Control, Operations and Customer Center. "Cold Bay may be small in size



Delta Airlines sent multiple “thank you” blankets to members of the Cold Bay community last month. Photo by Hap Kremer.

and population, but their compassion and humanity is as big as the Pacific Ocean it sits next to. We feel community members deserve our appreciation, and the gifts we sent were just a small way to share that.”

Delta Airlines sent several items to Cold Bay, including blankets for community members, fruit and a plaque. The inscription on the 16” x 20” plaque said, in part: “From the moment you first received the call, you pulled out all the stops to ensure our customers and crew were not only safe, but well taken care of. We received numerous compliments about your hospitality during what otherwise could have been a gravely stressful situation, and particularly around the camaraderie of

the Cold Bay Community. Here in the OCC (Operations & Customer Center), diversions are the norm, but rarely are we faced with such a complex strain of events as the Cold Bay situation. The servant leadership of your team, as well as the heartfelt gestures of the entire community, made a lasting impression – not just for our customers, but for everyone involved. On behalf of the entire OCC team, we sincerely thank you for demonstrating the heart of Delta’s culture... We simply cannot thank you enough for being there for us when we needed you the most.”

Cold Bay’s Airport Manager, Harold “Hap” Kremer, said community members were very excited and happy to receive the gifts. He also said the sentiment included in the plaque, which hangs in his office, was very touching.

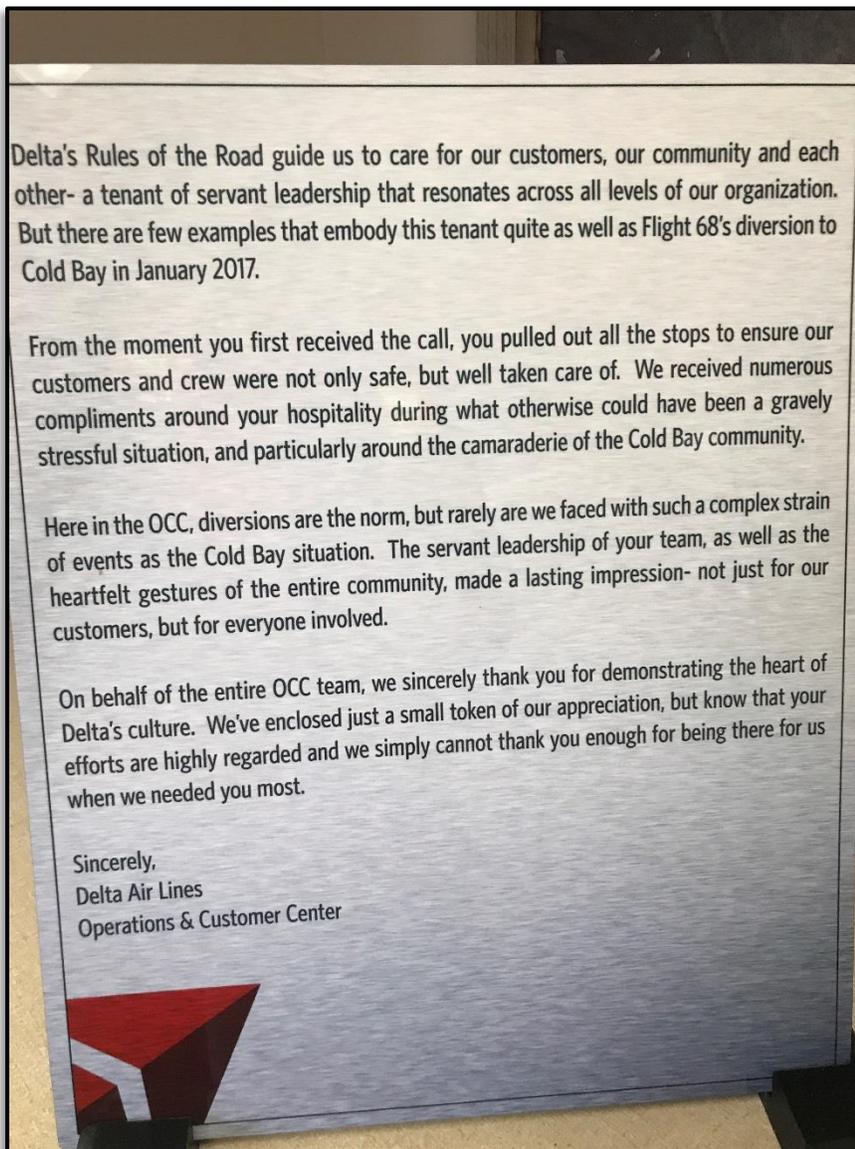


Delta Airlines also sent fruit to the community. The fruit and blankets were given out during the emergency tabletop exercise. Photo by Hap Kremer.

“I got a tear in my eye when I read that,” he said. “It just means a lot to me that they are so proud of the work that we did and that we were able to handle the diversion well.”

In addition to the tabletop exercise held every year, Cold Bay also conducts a full-scale drill every third year, involving a specific scenario, which helps to keep the community’s skills sharp. After

each emergency landing, the community holds a debrief to iron out any kinks. The exercises provide an opportunity to go over any discrepancies, and update the emergency control plan.



Delta Airlines' Operations and Customer Center also sent a 16" X 20" plaque of a thank you letter. It now hangs in the Cold Bay Airport Manager's office. Photo by Hap Kremer.

“For the most part, it’s a well-oiled machine,” said Kremer. “It’s amazing how this little town pulls together when there’s an emergency landing.”

January’s diversion wasn’t the first time Delta Airlines diverted to the Cold Bay Airport. The last time was in 2013.

“Delta operates many flights across the Pacific, almost every one of them without complication,” said Bill Manion, of Delta Airlines. “There are, of course, those occasions when problems arise. In the North Pacific Rim, we are faced with limited options if landing the aircraft is required. We have diverted three such flights to Cold Bay. Based on those experiences, we have the utmost confidence in what awaits us when we

arrive there.”

“I’m very grateful and appreciative of all the community members that were able to help out and support us during these times,” said Kremer. “I also want to say a big ‘thank you’ to Delta for sending the plaque and the gifts. It means a lot.”

Parish Looks to Finish Historic Bell Tower

By St. Herman Church

St. Herman Church in King Cove is planning for the final stage of construction of the Elders' Bell Tower in July of this year.



Irene Christiansen tightens the ceremonial nut after the steel frame was erected in July 2016. Photo courtesy: St. Herman Church.

The bell tower houses the historic Belkofski bells and was built last summer in two stages. The first stage saw the laying of foundation below grade with concrete pads on which steel columns were mounted. The steel columns and beams provide a strong frame for the 40-foot tower to withstand the often-stormy weather of the lower Alaska Peninsula. Winds gusting upwards of 70 mph and even more are not uncommon during parts of the year.

The second construction stage involved building out the walls, floors and roof of the tower as well

as the installation of the historic bells.

A highlight of last year's construction was the participation of an expert in Orthodox bell towers and bell ringing. Constantine Stade traveled from Chicago and coordinated the installation of the bells. Local metal workers offered their skills to completely refurbish all the old bell clappers, some of which needed to be fortified with new steel.



Derek Wilson and Constantine Stade work together to make brackets for hanging the bells. Photo courtesy: St. Herman Church.



A view of the Elders' Bell Tower under construction. Photo courtesy: St. Herman Church.

Our window for building is quite small in this part of Alaska. Due to the worsening weather in September, the project was put on hold until the next building season. What lies ahead now is to complete the tower by putting on the cedar siding and installing the dome and the cross, which were made by an Orthodox Native Alaskan carpenter in Kodiak and delivered on the Tustumena ferry.

There are still many expenses to cover for the completion of the project. We would like to ask our dear friends and benefactors to consider making a donation to help offset the costs of the final stage of construction. We are greatly blessed with your prayers and loving support. Thank you!

APICDA's Community Reboot Conference

Source: Aleutian Wave Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2017 edition



APICDA hosted its Community Reboot Conference April 25 – 26, 2017 in Anchorage.

In late 2016, the senior leadership of APICDA asked The Foraker Group, an Alaska nonprofit support organization, to assist them in envisioning their direction with the outcome of greater impact. It was at that session that the suggestion was made that it was time for APICDA to “reboot,” or in other words, rethink how they had supported communities and seek a more inclusive approach. This was also referred to as each community creating its own form of “paradise.”

leadership have met every year in a Community Conference. Traditionally, these conferences included an update on APICDA's businesses and reports from each of the communities. After the executive staff retreat, it was determined that in order to reboot the direction and impact, this conference should include more engaging dialog between community members resulting in each community developing their own plan for the future.

The Foraker Group, through the facilitation of founding CEO, Dennis McMillian, was asked to structure and moderate the



Dennis McMillian, founding CEO of the Foraker Group, moderated the conference.



Larry Cotter, CEO of APICDA, gave a presentation on the status of APICDA enterprises.

Community Reboot Conference. Prior to the event, a survey was sent to every adult in the six communities; over half of those solicited completed and returned the survey.

On April 25 - 26, 2017, the conference was held in Anchorage with representatives from every community in attendance. The sessions began with an address from Lt. Governor Byron Mallott on the state of the state and the need for communities to work together to find

adaptive responses to today's fiscal challenges. Larry Cotter, CEO of APICDA, followed the Lt. Governor's presentation and provided information on the current status of APICDA enterprises; which were significantly improved over the prior years' report.

Dennis McMillian moderated ongoing discussions with the intent of helping every community envision the best way APICDA could support them in developing their own "paradise". The first discussions were intended to take the pulse of the



Residents of Nelson Lagoon discussed how to develop the community's plan for the future.

representatives on needs and issues so that when they reviewed the results of the survey, with broader input from their neighbors, they could determine how much alignment there was between



Residents from Akutan identified the community's needs and challenges as part of their community plan.

the representatives in attendance and those at home. There were also presentations on sustainability as well as identifying and labeling challenges, in order to better equip the participants in their planning. We found significant alignment from the participants in the room to the survey results. In addition, Dennis McMillian met with youth in their own session to bring their voices into the discussion.

During the second day of the



Residents from False Pass, as well as other community representatives, discussed major issues of concern, including transportation, renewable energy, community centers, housing, population and internet connectivity.

conference, participants were seated at tables to discuss six major issues that were of concern to every community: transportation, renewable energy, community centers, housing, population and internet connectivity.

Each community developed a community plan and were asked to take their work home, share their draft with all community members and adjust their vision as required. It was also emphasized that they should do their best to educate their neighbors on the complexity and interdependence of these issues. Once that review is complete, they were asked to send their final plans to APICDA to facilitate ongoing coordination between APICDA staff and community leaders to implement their plans.

Urban Unangâ Culture Camp Shares Traditional Knowledge, Skills with Adults, Younger Generations



Instructor Okalena Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory helps a student with his bentwood visor hat.

It was a flurry of activity recently at the Urban Unangâ Culture Camp in Anchorage. Last week, kids and adults from throughout the Aleutian Islands, the southern Alaska Peninsula, and Anchorage, flocked to APIA’s Anchorage headquarters to share and learn traditional skills, arts and cultural activities. Renown Unangâ (Aleut) instructors from the region spend time every year teaching children and adults about the ways of their ancestors.

Okalena Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, an expert instructor from Unalaska, teaches the “almost-lost art” of Aleut bentwood hat-making. She honed the skill after learning it from the late Andrew Gronholdt of Sand Point, a master artist well-known for reviving the ancient art of carving hunting hats (bentwood visors) called chagudax. Lekanoff-



Instructor Daniel Shellikoff displays a mask carved out of cottonwood bark.

Gregory said when Gronholdt reached an advanced age, he told her that she would be the next (expert) hat-maker.

“I’m honored and privileged to pass this on,” said Lekanoff-Gregory. “I enjoy seeing the kids learning how to do it, respecting it and taking pride in it. It makes me feel like I’ve fulfilled what Andrew wanted me to do.”



A student puts on the finishing touches onto his bentwood visor hat.

Other skills that both kids and adults learned at the Urban Unangâ Culture Camp included dance, traditional food, language, beading, headdress-making, drum-making and carving.

During the camp, instructor Daniel Shellikoff taught kids and adults how to carve masks out of cottonwood bark.

“Some take to it very easily and others take more time to learn the skill,” said Shellikoff. “I enjoy watching their progress and seeing them improve daily. It makes me feel good to have this connection back to the way things were.”



A student sands a model sea kayak (iqyax) at the Urban Unanga Culture Camp in Anchorage last week.

Instructor Teresa Smith taught students how to make model sea kayaks (iqyax) out of cottonwood bark. Smith said at first, some students experienced a few challenges in making them, but overall, it was worth it.

“There were a lot of nicks and cuts at first,” she said. “That was the worst part of it. But I enjoyed watching them learn about the culture.”

Smith said learning these skills has deep meaning for everyone involved.

“It’s important that they don’t forget where they came from,” she said. “Learning that what people did before them was much more difficult than what is done today is also valuable. Our ancestors did all these really cool things by hand. They didn’t have any kind of machines. It’s pretty amazing. It’s really nice when they



Instructor Lydia Vincler shows a student the finer points of drum-making.



Fourteen-year-old student Malcom Bosse works on his drum.

finish a project to see them beaming with pride. I’m amazed by the work the students have done.”

Instructor Lydia Vincler of Akutan



A student practices using (inert) bear repellent following a class on bear safety.



Dancers from the Urban Unanga Culture Camp perform at a picnic, hosted by the Aleut Corporation, last Saturday (June 24, 2017).

is also impressed by her students' work. She's been teaching drum-making at the culture camp since 2012.

"It's amazing because the students start with a big stick of wood," she said. "We boil it and get it ready to bend. They bend it around in a circle. We don't buy the hoops like this. The kids bend them themselves. They also do the artwork on top, too."

According to a 2012 article written by Michael Livingston, Millie McKeown and Lydia Vincler, the building and use of drums declined under Russian oppression during the early 1800s. Afterwards, American government officials and school teachers continued to chastise Aleut people who practiced traditional customs. Reviving the tradition has been exciting for instructors and students alike.

"I love teaching kids and adults," Vincler said. "Everybody is so excited to make these drums."

"If we don't learn it, the culture will die and that would be sad," said 12-year-old student Faith Rice. "It's good to know where you come from so you understand yourself more as well as others."

"I like to connect with the culture," said 14-year-old student Malcolm Bosse. "I think it's good to keep it alive. It makes me feel good."



A dancer wears a traditional bentwood visor hat during the dance performance at the picnic last Saturday.

Borough Communities Set the Stage for Celebrating the Fourth of July with Fun Festivities



Nathan Vincler rides his decorated bike while wearing his red, white and blue glasses. Photo by Rachelle Tcheripanoff.

parade from one end of town to the other, waving to everybody. It's fun for whoever wants to participate.”

After the parade, it's time to let the games begin. One of the activities includes the egg toss, a race requiring participants to hold an egg in their mouth with a

The Fourth of July is a time for families to get together, celebrate Independence Day and enjoy community events. That's exactly what the communities of Akutan, Sand Point, King Cove and False Pass have in store for residents next week.

“It's a chance for everybody to come together and have some fun,” said City of Akutan Utility Clerk Rachelle Tcheripanoff.

Akutan has numerous festivities lined up for community residents – everything from a pie-eating contest, a sack race, a watermelon-eating contest and musical chairs. The popular bike parade will kick things off. Kids and adults bring their bicycles and ATVs to the park and decorate them with red-white and blue.

“They dress up with fun hats and some wear colorful leis,” said Tcheripanoff. “Once everyone is decorated, they



Alice and Demetri Tcheripanoff ride their decorated ATV with a few kids from town joining them for the 2016 parade. Photo by Rachelle Tcheripanoff.

spoon. Another much-anticipated contest is the balloon stomp.

“That’s where a person has a balloon tied to a two-foot piece of string that’s tied to their ankle,” she said. “They try to stomp out somebody else’s balloon while keeping theirs alive. The last person standing wins. It’s a lot of fun to take part in and watch.”

A new event this year is bingo.

“We have a lot of active games, so for this one, the older residents will have a chance to participate, too,”

The fun-filled day will wrap up with a barbecue potluck and fireworks at the ball park/playground area.

“The city puts on the fireworks show every year,” she said. “They really go all out. When my family first moved here, we were very impressed with the fireworks because you’re right up close.”



Akutan children line up for the sack race during the 2016 July 4th festivities. Photo by Rachelle Tcheripanoff.



Kids in King Cove enjoy the bike parade during a past July 4th celebration.

If the weather isn’t conducive for outdoor events, the fireworks show will be postponed to another day. However, the other activities will simply be moved into the Safe Harbor Church gym.

“So rain or shine, we still do some fun activities,” Tcheripanoff said.

King Cove residents are planning to celebrate Independence Day on the first nice weather-day in July. The bike parade will jump start the day’s events. From there, participants will move over to the arena games, which will be conducted in the chapel yard. Next, the festivities kick into high gear with the marathon races.

“All of that stuff happens at the arena,” said Etta Kuzakin, a volunteer with the King Cove Women’s Club. “We have a buoy hop and a three-legged race. We also have a bucket find for one, two and three-year old kids.”

Other events include the pie-eating contest, a perennial favorite. After the arena games, King Cove residents can satisfy their hunger with hamburgers and hot dogs at the barbecue.

Then it's onto the next event: the (toy) duck race.

"That's where we put 500 ducks into the water at the creek," she said. "We give money prizes for the first through tenth duck, as well as the last duck."

One of the final events is the dolly derby, held at Ram's Creek. Kuzakin said participants can look forward to a trophy for the largest fish. The angler with the smallest fish can also claim a prize.



King Cove participants compete in the pie-eating contest during a past July Fourth celebration.

The Women's Club counts on its volunteers to help organize all the events.

"It's a whole community thing where everybody chips in," said Kuzakin. "The club has always been everybody in the community getting together to do things for our kids."

Kuzakin said it takes a lot of work to pull off a big celebration like this. However, every year, all the work pays off in a big way.

"There's definitely something for everybody," said Kuzakin. "It's huge. We really go all out and try to make it super fun for everybody. It's just wonderful."

Residents of False Pass are also gearing up for a big celebration. The City, the False Pass Tribe and the Isanotski Corporation team up to make July Fourth a day to remember. The festivities include games, such as tug-of-war, a three-legged race, a ring toss and a baseball toss, complete with prizes. A (toy) duck race at the creek is another fun activity that everyone looks forward to. The events are held at the big field off Isanotski Drive or at the City Park, depending on field conditions.

"The whole community is involved, as well as fishermen and we usually get a few workers from the BP plant," said Chris Emrich, False Pass City Clerk/Administrator. "BP usually donates some things, too."

In the past, if the weather is less than desirable, the events have often been moved to the Rec Center. However, if there aren't enough people around due to fishing, that can have an impact on the date of the July 4th festivities.

"We usually end up getting 50 to 100 people," said Emrich. "It depends on fishing, how many

fishermen are here, where the openings are, when they happen to be resting for the day. Weather, of course, plays a big role.”

If there aren't enough people around at the time, the community is flexible.

“We've actually delayed it for a day before,” he said. “We just play it by ear. Word of mouth here takes five minutes to tell the whole town. It's not a big deal.”

Emrich said the town is prepared either way. He's hoping fishing is good, but he also hopes for good weather and attendance on July 4th.

In Sand Point, organizers have a whole slew of events to celebrate the Fourth of July. Organizers with KSDP Radio, the Sand Point Women's Club, the school's senior class and Behavioral Health have joined forces to arrange an exciting day for everyone.



Sand Point kids and their bikes are all decked out for the bike parade during a past July Fourth celebration.

“This year, we're going to take it to the next level,” said Austin Roof, KSDP General Manager.

“We'll have the bike parade for the kids with judging. The parade will travel down to the boat harbor,” he said. “Then we'll have games, a barbecue, contests, booth games, tables with art and vendors – all sorts of things. It's really

geared towards families, but there's definitely something for all ages.”

Games and events include the watermelon-eating contest, jalapeno-eating contest, a pie-eating contest, relay races, a selfie-station and for younger kids, a sandbox and bouncy houses.

“We're maintaining a fun family environment for the entire day,” said Roof.

A new event planned for this year includes a color run.

“It'll be an opportunity for people to enjoy a run down to the harbor,” said Roof. “People will have colors (colored powder) they can throw at the racers.”

By the time the runners finish the course, they'll end up getting doused with a rainbow of hues.

“It's a lot of fun,” said Roof.

A large-scale event such as this one takes an army of volunteers.

“Oh, it requires a lot of work,” said Roof. “We buy decorations. The city also helps us buy decorations and prizes. It takes time to set everything up and tear it all down. We have a lot of volunteers who help. This year, we’re even better staffed than we have been in the past, so that’s really great.”

Despite all the work, Roof said organizers find it rewarding.

“Yes, absolutely. It means a lot to me,” he said. “We’ve tried to do a lot more community outreach through the radio station during the last couple of years. We seem to have hit our stride, and it’s going well.”



Sand Point kids take part in the sack race during a past Independence Day celebration.

Isanotski Corporation is seeking:

A Part-time store clerk

30 hours a week (summer hours) and on-call

Able to lift 25# + self-motivated, able to follow directions of direct supervisor. The desired candidate should also be 21+, willing and able to pass a TAM (Techniques in Alcohol Management) certification to cover at the Liquor Store and be able to sell tobacco. Please provide your resume or a job application.

Please contact Melanie at the Isanotski Office for more details or to request a job application.

907-548-4030 (M-F, 8am-5pm)

isanotskicorp@justemail.net

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