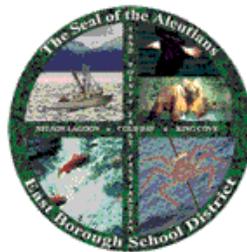
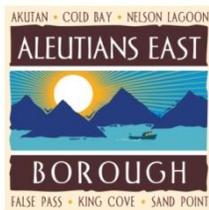


In the Loop



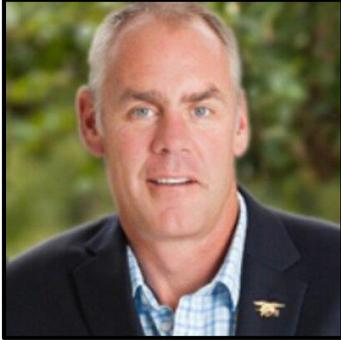
Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

King Cove Optimistic President-elect Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Nominee Ryan Zinke Will Get Community their Life-Saving Road

Last Friday (December 23rd) marked the third anniversary since U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell rejected a life-saving road from remote King Cove, Alaska to the all-weather airport in nearby Cold Bay. Since that time, there have been 55 medevacs from the community, which is often plagued by hurricane-force winds, stormy weather and dense fog. As disappointing as Secretary Jewell's decision was, today King Cove leaders and residents are feeling very hopeful that President-elect Donald Trump and U.S. Interior Secretary Nominee, Congressman Ryan Zinke of Montana, will get the job done.

“Unlike Secretary Jewell, we believe President-elect Donald Trump and Interior Secretary

nominee Ryan Zinke value human lives as well as birds,” said King Cove Mayor Henry Mack. “We are confident they will take action because they understand that the lives of King Cove residents matter. We’re encouraged that we may finally get access to a small life-saving road corridor, and our dream of safe passage to the Cold Bay airport will become a reality.”



Sen. Lisa Murkowski recently reported that she’s encouraged by her talks with U.S. Interior Secretary nominee Ryan Zinke.

Recently, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski reported that she’s encouraged by her talks with Zinke relating to the King Cove road, stating that she believes he is “very favorably inclined to be supportive.” Her enthusiasm boosted the spirits of King Cove community members and tribal leaders who have campaigned for a safe and reliable road connection through the Izembek Wildlife Refuge to the all-weather Cold Bay Airport for 35-plus years.

“We are optimistic that a change of administration will mean we will finally get to the finish line,” said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove (Native) Corporation. “This issue is and always has been about saving lives. Without a dependable and safe solution, it’s only a matter of time before someone loses his or her life. It’s time to do the right thing and solve this urgent matter once and for all.”

“Our weather can be very severe,” said Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack. “Medical emergencies in King Cove happen in all kinds of weather. A road connection has been proven to be the most reliable and safest option for us. We’re feeling very encouraged that the incoming administration will make it happen.”

So far this year, there have been 17 medevacs: three were conducted by the Coast Guard; 14 were non-Coast Guard. Of the 55 medevacs that occurred since Secretary Jewell rejected the road, 17 were conducted by the Coast Guard. Thirty-eight of the medevacs were non-Coast Guard. Those medevacs included:

- A King Cove woman in her 70s who was treated for a hip fracture. Due to poor weather, Guardian Flight was unable to come into King Cove. The patient was stabilized at the King Cove Clinic. She waited 40 hours until the weather improved to be medevaced to Anchorage by Guardian.
- A woman in her 70s suffering from heart issues was medevaced from King Cove to Cold Bay by the Coast Guard after high winds prevented Guardian Flight from coming in. She was then transferred to a Guardian Flight plane in Cold Bay and medevaced to Anchorage



King Cove leaders are optimistic that the incoming Trump Administration will help the community to get their life-saving road.

more than seven hours later.

- A woman in her 20s was treated at the King Cove Clinic for a severely obstructed airway.



The Coast Guard arrives in King Cove to medevac a woman suffering from breathing difficulties on July 20, 2015.

Due to fog and low visibility, Guardian Flight was unable to land in King Cove. The patient was stabilized. Meanwhile, a Coast Guard helicopter from a cutter in the Bering Sea was dispatched and arrived about 7 ½ hours later. The patient was transported to Cold Bay and transferred to Guardian Flight. Guardian then transported the patient to Anchorage.

- A four-week old infant boy suffering from respiratory distress was medevaced by the Coast Guard during blizzard conditions. The baby was transported to an Anchorage hospital and diagnosed with RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus).

Nelson Lagoon Makes Progress on Project to Combat Community's Long-standing Shoreline Erosion



Residents have filled approximately 250 geotextile containers to reinforce the eroding shoreline. Photo courtesy: Anne Bailey.

Nelson Lagoon residents are working hard to reinforce the village's eroding shoreline through construction of a geotextile container revetment. The revetment, to be made up of hundreds of geotextile containers weighing approximately two to three tons each, will line the shoreline protecting the village's homes and infrastructure from the threatening erosion. The basic premise of the revetment is to design a structure that can be built using local resources, such as sand, with local labor and equipment. In addition, the structure can be easily maintained by selectively replacing containers due to normal wear and tear. Last month,

AEB Assistant Administrator Anne Bailey and an engineer from HDR, hired by the Borough to study and devise solutions for the community's erosion, visited the village to observe the construction progress while the project was in full swing (Nov. 7 – 9, 2016).

HDR Coastal Engineer Ronny McPherson reported that work on demolishing the remaining dilapidated portions of the timber seawall and removing debris on the lagoon side of the community was approximately 90% complete. Residents helping with construction had filled approximately 250 geotextile containers (45% complete), and had placed about 150 of the containers along the shoreline revetment design layout.

Residents plan to continue work on filling and placing the geotextile containers to complete the revetment. Work will continue into the spring/summer of 2017.



Residents will continue work on the revetment into the spring/summer of 2017. Photo courtesy: Anne Bailey.

King Cove Holds Second Anti-Drug Community Meeting

Police Say Anonymous Drug Tip Hotline Starting to Pay Off



Substance abuse is a problem of epidemic proportions. Whether you live in a large urban city or a small rural community, there seems to be no escaping the devastation drugs can wreak on the lives of people using as well as on family members and friends. For the second time within nine months, the City of King Cove hosted a community meeting aimed at gaining the upper hand on the sale and use of illegal drugs such as methamphetamines and heroin.

“This was a good opportunity for the police department to get feedback from the community about whether the drug problem in King Cove is getting any better or worse,” said King Cove Police Chief Robert Gould.

The meeting was held during the second week in December. It was designed to be a follow up to the first meeting held last April. At that time, the city introduced the community's anonymous drug tip hotline, so police can follow up on any leads.

"It has worked really well for us," Chief Gould said. "I hope people in the community will continue to call that number."



King Cove Police Officer Rudy Demoski Jr. plans to share his DARE anti-drug education background with students and teachers at the school.

Gould said as a result of the drug tip hotline, police have been able to get a fair amount of drugs off the street.

"Providing us with information has certainly helped us a lot," Chief Gould said. "It has enabled us to gather information which often leads to arrests. We need to encourage people to keep calling the drug tip hotline because every call is important. It might not lead to something today, but later down the road, it might help us out with a case. Every call we receive is well-documented."

During the meeting, police also provided a display of illegal drugs so those unfamiliar with heroin or methamphetamines, for example, would know what to look for. Police also described how drugs physically affect people so parents, teachers and others in community would be aware of the signs.

"People in the community are aware of what we've been doing, so they're more comfortable and open about asking questions," Gould said.

The police department also introduced its newest officer, Rudy Demoski Jr., who joined the force in August. Demoski's law enforcement career includes DARE anti-drug education in the schools throughout Alaska.

"We're looking forward to utilizing him in the King Cove School," said Gould. "I'm very excited about that."

Recently, police met with students in the school to educate them about the dangers of drugs. Gould says he would also like to have officers meet with teachers to make them more aware of drugs in the community and what signs they should be aware of.

The police canine officer, Faro, has also been instrumental in tracking down drugs.

"He's a very good dog, and we've very happy with him," Gould said.

Chief Gould said feedback from the community is indicating that drug activity within King Cove has quieted down in recent months.

“I think we’re on the right track,” he said, “but we still need to keep the pressure on. It’s an ongoing problem. I think the community knows it’s never going to go away. However, I think we have the drug dealers’ attention. They’re looking over their shoulders now.”

Gould said he’s very grateful to the mayor, the city council and the community for their support.

“Without it, this wouldn’t be possible,” he said. “The people of King Cove are really the eyes and ears of this community.”

Gould acknowledges that drug abuse affects everyone, whether directly or indirectly.

However, thanks to tips from the community, the police department is getting a handle on the situation.

“We definitely want people to keep using the drug tip hotline,” he said. “It’s really making a big difference for us.”

The drug tip hotline is: **(907) 497-7676**.



The police canine officer, Faro, has also been instrumental in tracking down drugs in the community.

Isanotski Corporation’s Larger Store Opens for Business in False Pass

Residents, fishermen and others passing through False Pass may have noticed that the Isanotski Corporation’s grocery store is much bigger than before with far greater selection compared to the old store. The corporation built a new and larger building and relocated it conveniently next to the False Pass harbor. The Corporation had leased the old building from the City for years, however, that was no longer an option.

“It was leaking and old,” said Isanotski Corporation General Manager Melanie Hoblet. “It was well past its useful life. We didn’t have enough room to keep merchandise on hand or in stock. We didn’t have enough storage space.”

Crews from BKR Construction Services started building the new store, which measures 80' X 40', in August and completed the job during the first week in October. The Corporation officially opened for business on November 8th. Lack of storage space is no longer an issue.



The Isanotski Corporation's larger and improved store opened for business in False Pass on November 8th. Photo courtesy: Melanie Hoblet.

“We have a mezzanine, a walk-in cooler and freezer, office space and added storage space for merchandise,” Hoblet said. “We have double the aisles. It’s terrific!”

Hoblet said the location is also ideal.

“It’s right up the float gangway and across the parking lot from the harbor,” she said. “It’s situated near our crab pot storage, north of where we were based before. The location will provide better access to fishermen and transient

traffic.”

The new store manager is Jeffrey Johnson. Hours of business are Monday – Friday 3 – 5 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. on Saturday. During the summer, the store is typically open Monday – Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 3 – 5p.m.

The Corporation is still in the process of ordering supplies, which include mostly groceries. The Corporation gets new shipments of groceries every two weeks from Seattle, delivered to the City dock by Coastal Transportation. Hoblet said the Corporation also hopes to stock rain gear, boots and gloves.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to carry everything that people need or want in our community,” she said. “We also intend to serve the fishermen and the fishing fleet better in the summer months when we have increased traffic.”

The phone number for the store is (907) 548-2800. The Corporation accepts credit or debit transactions in addition to cash. Boat accounts can be set up through the office at (907) 548-2217. The Corporation also runs the crab pot storage yard in False Pass as well as a liquor store and a check cashing business. All of the businesses can be reached on VHF Ch. 6.

False Pass Students Master Life-Saving Paramedic Skills



Middle and high school students at the False Pass School participated in an intensive Emergency Trauma Technician certification course this month. Photo courtesy: Kevin Barnett.

Students at the False Pass school recently acquired paramedic skills that could someday save the life of someone close to them. As part of their health class, middle and high school students took part in an intensive Emergency Trauma Technician certification course. The week-long instruction included basic on-scene trauma and medical care interventions to assist victims of accidents and medical emergencies.

“I asked them whether, as part of their health class, they would want to do this,” False Pass teacher Kevin Barnett said. “They all enthusiastically said ‘yes’. Through eight-hour days of some very stressful simulations and skill tests, they all came on time every day and stayed late without complaints.”

False Pass students Alex Dulian (senior), Jerimiah Balamoutoff (sophomore), Dayton Hoblet and Mekena Sandell (8th graders) learned basic life support, including CPR and rescue breathing. They also learned various methods on how to stop bleeding and how to protect patients from further injury. In addition, they mastered the proper application of devices to stabilize patients before transport, such as splints, braces, backboards and cervical collars. Furthermore, the students became well-versed in how to access a scene and to prioritize their actions in order to effectively achieve the best outcomes for victims. Various scenarios included simulated injuries or



Jerimiah Balamoutoff at the scene following a simulated 4-wheeler accident. Photo courtesy: Kevin Barnett.

medical conditions requiring emergency response, ranging from restoring a heartbeat to using an AED device to emergency obstetrics.

“These are skills that will help them contribute in a very important way to their community and will give them a continued sense of pride for a significant accomplishment,” Barnett said.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes offered the class free of charge to anyone in False Pass who was interested. Some of the students participated two years ago in the course and were recertified this year.



Alex Dulian in “clean gear”.
Photo courtesy: Kevin Barnett.

“EAT views a well-trained emergency response team in town as a valuable asset to the well-being of the community as a whole,” Barnett said. “The class was taught by Susan Davis who also offered the class to those of us who participated in the fall of 2014.”

The students began their life-saving lessons on December 8th and finished up on December 16th with “moulage” (fake injuries with makeup simulation) on the last day of the course. The students completed more than 40 hours required for certification.

“Two students (Kayton and Makena) were 8th graders, and they both did extremely well, demonstrating a level of maturity and conscientious attention to task we generally do not see displayed in middle school students,” Barnett said. “Alex and Jermiah participated two years ago, and decided to get recertified. All of the students went through the entire initial certification course. I am very proud of all of them.”

TelAlaska Accepting Annual Photo Contest Entries

Last call for photos! TelAlaska is accepting entries for their annual photo contest for the 2017 Rural Alaska Telephone Directory through January 26, 2016. The award for the winning photo is \$250. If you have a great photo taken in any of the following communities, they'd love to see it!

Brevig Mission, Cold Bay, Cooper Landing, Council, Elim, Fort Yukon, Galena, Golovin, Iliamna, King Cove, Koyuk, Little Diomed, Moose Pass, Newhalen, Nome, Port Lions, St. Michael, Sand Point, Seward, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Stebbins, Teller, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Wales, White Mountain.

More details and an entry form are available on TelAlaska's website: www.telalaska.com.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes Monthly Report December 2016



Elder Luncheon in King Cove – Nov. 16, 2016

Service

○ Adak - Upcoming Services:

- December 11 – 15th – Jennifer Harrison, CEO
- December 14th – Elders Luncheon or Dinner (Tentative)
- February 2 – 9th - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant

○ Akutan - Upcoming Services:

- January 23rd – February 1st - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant

● Cold Bay - Upcoming Services:

- December 7 – 9th – Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant
- January 28th – February 3rd - Dr. Costa and Gabby Costa, Dental Assistant

○ False Pass – Upcoming Services:

- December 1 – 7th – Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant
- December 27th – January 11th – Dr. Koehler, Medical Director
- February 3 – 10th - Dr. Costa and Gabby Costa, Dental Assistant

● King Cove - Upcoming Services:

- December 6th – February 10th – David Modde, BH Clinician
- January 9th – 21st - Dr. Costa and Gabby Costa, Dental Assistant
- January 30th – February 3rd – Jennifer Harrison, CEO

○ Nelson Lagoon - Upcoming Services:

- December 6 – 10th – Dr. Isgro, BH&W Director
- January 21 – 28th - Dr. Costa and Gabby Costa, Dental Assistant

○ **Sand Point - Upcoming Services:**

- January 2 – 9th – Dr. Costa and Gabby Costa, Dental Assistant
- January 2 – 21st - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant

○ **Whittier - Upcoming Services**

- No upcoming services planned.

People

• Welcome our New Hires:

- **Jonathon Mason**, Physician Assistant, Long-Term Itinerant – Jonathon has been working for EAT as a short-term itinerant since May 31, 2016. On November 14, 2016, he started as a long-term itinerant. Long-term contracts enable EAT to provide a flexible schedule to providers as well as provide continuity of care for our patients. Jonathon worked in Adak, King Cove, and Sand Point in 2016 and we are planning for him to work in those clinics again in 2017.



• Open Positions:

- Behavioral Health Clinician – King Cove
- Clinic Manager – King Cove (Relocation expenses reimbursement is offered.)
- Clinical Information Clerk (CIC)/Janitor* – Adak
- Community Health Aides* – Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point, and recruiting for CHAP itinerants
- Community Health Aide (CHA)/ CHR* – Akutan
- Dental Hygienist(s) – Traveling to all sites
- Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant – Adak, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for Itinerants
- Registered Nurse (RN) Case Manager – Sand Point
- Physician – Recruiting for itinerants
- Planning and Development Manager – All sites

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



- **Caught Ya Caring Winners for November:**



- I would like to nominate **Bonita Babcock** (CHAP, King Cove). Pictured on the left. We have been short staffed recently and at one point Bon was our only permanent provider at the clinic for about 2.5 weeks while the other providers were out on PTO and personal leave; thankfully we had a lot of itinerant coverage to help out. The thing with having tons of different itinerants is they all have to be orientated to our clinic, Bon did this wonderfully, she showed

each one as they came in the ins and outs of the lab, pharmacy, Cerner, and the ER. She took care of all the vaccines and pretty much did an AWESOME job. Thanks Bon for holding down the fort! You are very much appreciated

- I would like to nominate **Bonita Babcock** (CHAP, King Cove). Last month I had caught the flu that was going around. Being a solo provider, I have never been able to “take a sick day” during the past 3 ½ years I have worked for EAT. Bonita, after bringing a medevac patient to Cold Bay saw how sick I was and volunteered to stay in Cold Bay so I could go home. I truly appreciate her willingness to help.

- I would like to nominate: **Bonita Babcock, Summer Mack, and Joanna Karlsen** who all had > 110 encounters from July to September. Thank you all for your hard work, caring ways, dedication to your communities and individual patients, and Eastern Aleutian Tribes. We are so very appreciative of all that you do!

- I would like to nominate **Lora Mack** (CHR/Janitor, King Cove). Pictured on the right. I had a call from an elder’s daughter that Lora Mack had gone above and beyond as a CHR. The caller’s mother’s steps had gotten moldy and were slippery when they got wet. Lora scrubbed the elder’s step so a fall potential would be eliminated. The family was very appreciative.



- I would like to nominate **Linda Mack** (HR Assistant, Anchorage). I watched her do orientation with two wilderness providers and she did an outstanding job. The two providers stated they felt like part of the family because Linda was so caring and thorough on her orientation process “they called

themselves Linda's little ducklings" – this is outstanding customer service and shows great compassion of making new providers feel welcome and part of the team.

Got News?

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



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

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

