Construction on Coast Guard’s Second Hangar in Cold Bay Nearing Completion

Crews are making major strides toward wrapping up work on the Coast Guard’s second hangar in Cold Bay. Construction began nearly a year ago – on Aug. 20, 2015. Now the project manager and workers are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. This month, the focus has been on power and HVAC work, including the heating, boilers, electricity and the lights.

“They finished the doors earlier this month,” said Coast Guard Project Manager Mark McAll. “Currently, they’re working on buttoning up the concrete around the perimeter.”

Construction on the Coast Guard’s second hangar in Cold Bay is getting much closer to completion. Photo by Harold “Hap” Kremer.
“Hopefully, before the first of the month (August) we can seed the area so we can start growing some grass around the hangar.”

The second hangar will provide an expanded Coast Guard presence in Cold Bay during the fishing and crabbing seasons. The dimensions of the building is 70’ X 90’. It has space to park another helicopter and provides room for a heated administrative office, a restroom and a shower for Coast Guard crews returning from missions.

McAll says most of the work is done. It’s now down to the little stuff.

“Right now, it’s about testing everything out and documenting it,” McAll said. “We’re working on training manuals for the maintenance guys that have to maintain it.”

While the weather can have its ups and downs during the fall, winter and spring in the Aleutians, the summer weather has presented few, if any, challenges in getting the work done.

“We’ve had good weather,” he said.

McAll said the scheduled completion date for the Coast Guard hangar is October 15 – 20, 2016.

“The project is right on track,” he said. “Actually, it’s slightly ahead of schedule.”

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**Association of Alaska School Board of Directors Holds Summer Meeting in Sand Point**

Last weekend (July 23rd and 24th), Sand Point was the setting for the Association of Alaska School Board of Directors summer meeting. Every summer, the meeting is held in the home of the Association’s Board president. This year, Tiffany Jackson, the president of the Association, hosted the event.

“It allows the board to get insight into different areas of Alaska,” Jackson said. “Most of the board members, except for maybe one, had no idea what it was like out here in the Aleutians.”

Their work included completing the executive director’s evaluation and extending his contract. They also finished the board self-evaluation. In addition, the board members worked on a number of policy revisions.
“Probably one of the most important things that we did this weekend was resolutions,” Jackson said. “We don’t take any positions on education issues in the State of Alaska that our membership hasn’t approved first. So every year, resolutions are forwarded from the board as we take first shot at them.”

The board began with resolutions that were about to sunset. Those resolutions that the board believes are still pertinent were forwarded to the resolutions committee for consideration. Action is expected during the Association’s annual conference in November. Anything that’s approved by the resolutions committee will then go before the membership.

“If the membership approves it, we consider that to be our marching orders for the Association,” Jackson said.

One resolution the board focused on is taking a stand against consolidating schools in Alaska.

“In an attempt to save money, the state has discussed the possibility of consolidating schools. We believe it’s very important that local control remains with the local school boards,” Jackson said.

The board also believes in supporting the Alaska Marine Highway System and increasing service whenever possible.

“It’s important to several areas in Alaska because when we can depend on ferry service, we don’t have to rely on charter flights for school business or student travel,” she explained.

Jackson said the board also concentrated on belief statements. One that is critical to the region is the issue of equity.

“Equity is not the same as equality,” Jackson explained. “Equality is everybody gets the same thing. Equity is everybody gets what they need to be successful. That’s something we’ve focused a lot of energy on lately.”

Along those lines, the board adopted their long-range plan last March, which includes five goals. One of the goals is to empower the board to increase the academic success of Alaska Native students and increase graduation rates among Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to pursue their goals.
“So when we talk about equity, it’s making sure that some of our groups, which may not have been performing as well, are getting the resources they need to be successful,” Jackson said. “We’ve had some push back from some groups who are questioning why we’re focusing on Alaska Native students. Our thought is a rising tide floats all boats. When we’re improving our education system, and we’re working to serve these students, it’s improving the educational system for all students. It’s also important to consider cultural bias when we consider national tests to assess our students so that isn’t a barrier to their success.”

Jackson said the Association’s weekend gathering resulted in a very productive and successful meeting.

“We were able to get a lot of work done during the meeting,” she said.

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**Floats Installed in Akutan Harbor**

Earlier this month, Akutan reached another milestone. About nine days ago, Pacific Pile & Marine, a contractor for the Aleutians East Borough, finished installing the Float A system in the Akutan Harbor. Materials for the $3 million project were barged into Akutan during the first week of July. Crews began installing the floats, made of heavy-duty timber, right away.

Pacific Pile & Marine completed the float installation on July 20, 2016. The Float A system is 16 feet wide by 560 feet long. The Float A system will be able to accommodate up to ten vessels up to 165 feet in length and two vessels up to 125 feet in length.
King Cove Leaders Praise Alaska Delegation for Legislation to Construct Life-Saving Road

King Cove tribal and community leaders thanked U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and Congressman Don Young for introducing identical bills in both chambers of Congress (on July 13th) which includes a land transfer and road construction linking the remote Alaska community to the all-weather Cold Bay airport. The small life-saving road would provide safe and reliable transportation access from King Cove to Cold Bay. Frequent severe weather often makes travel by air or boat dangerous for medevac patients and rescue personnel.

“We are profoundly grateful to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, Congressman Don Young, Alaska Governor Bill Walker and the Alaska Legislature for their long-standing support of our needs,” said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove (Native) Corporation.

“This is and always has been a human rights issue,” said Henry Mack, King Cove Mayor. “Building a small, gravel road will ensure that we will have a dependable lifeline to safety instead of putting patients and rescue personnel at risk while waiting for the weather to improve. When an emergency happens, every second counts.”

The legislation, S. 3204 and H.R. 5777, calls for an equal-value land transfer in exchange for a short, single-lane, non-commercial road between King Cove and the nearby all-weather Cold Bay Airport.

“We are hopeful that this long-fought battle for safe, reliable transportation access will soon be over,” said Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack. “We just want to have what most Americans take for granted – the ability to get to a hospital safely when medical emergencies occur.”

“We have said over and over that we won’t give up until this becomes a reality,” Trumble said. “Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Congressman Don Young have demonstrated to us that they won’t give up on us either. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation.”

Since U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell denied the road on Dec. 23, 2013, there have been a total of 46 medevacs. Of those, 17 involved the Coast Guard and 29 were non-Coast Guard medevacs.

press release from Sen. Murkowski's office/U.S. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Officer from Georgia Joins
Sand Point Police Department

It’s a long way from home for Sand Point’s newest police officer. Officer Cody Sanders moved here from Clayton, Georgia in mid-July, a small town where he spent most of his life.

He began his law enforcement career with the Elberton Police Department in 2011. Afterwards, he served with the Rabun County Sheriff’s Office, and later, with the Clayton Police Department, all of which are located in Georgia.

“This (Sand Point) is a little bit more remote compared to where I’m from,” he said, “but for me, it checked all of the boxes.”

During Sanders’ job search, he knew he wanted to work in a small town. He noticed online that the Sand Point Police Department was hiring, so he applied for the job. To his delight, he was later hired, so he packed his bags and headed to Alaska.

“I really like the small town atmosphere,” he said. “It’s a little bit off the grid, but it doesn’t get too cold (in the winter). It’s similar to where I’m from, so that helped me to make my decision.”

Sanders and his wife, Carrie, moved here on July 14th, and the couple is awed by their breathtaking surroundings.

“The scenery is beautiful,” he said.

While police work is his passion in his professional life, enjoying the outdoors is his favorite thing to do on his days off. Both he and his wife enjoy hiking.

“There was plenty of good terrain for hiking in northeast Georgia,” he said. “I enjoy fishing, riding ATVs and pretty much just being in the outdoors.”
Sanders said his wife, Carrie, is also amazed by the sweeping views surrounding them.

“She really likes the scenery, and she likes to hike,” he said. “It seems like there are a lot of places to get out and walk and check out the beautiful scenery.”

In the meantime, Sanders is getting his feet wet while he goes through field training with the Sand Point Police Department. He’s looking forward to getting to know everyone in town while gaining experience with the Sand Point P.D.

“So far, so good,” he said. “Everybody has been very welcoming and nice.

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**QTT Culture Camp in Sand Point Offers New Activities, Classes for Students**

Every year, the Qagan Tayagungin (QT) Tribe’s Culture Camp offers an impressive array of cultural classes and activities for young participants, from kindergarten to 12th grade, to immerse themselves in. This year, The QTT Culture Camp (July 18 – 23, 2016) took it a few steps further.

Two new classes were introduced to the culture camp this year. Tiffany Jackson, the Executive Director of the QT Tribe, taught a new class focusing on the difference between tribes and what role ANSCA (Alaska Native Settlement Claims ACT) corporations serve. In addition, Ingrid Cumberlidge taught a class about net mending for purse seines.

“They learned how to do knots and mend nets that get ripped by whales”, said QTT Culture Camp Director Carla Chebetnoy. “They really liked it. A lot of the girls are very good at knot tying.”

Chebetnoy said the QTT Culture Camp does a little bit of everything. Another interesting class offered, included the one- and two-man baidarkas, headed up by instructor Marc Daniels. A camp favorite is the drum-making class, taught by Lydia Vincler from Akutan.
“That’s a very popular class,” said Chebetnoy. “All of 5th through 12th grade kids in camp do that one. Everybody wants a drum. People are drawn to them. We also have adult classes in the evening. The students use the drums for dance class.”

Salmon preparation is another activity for the camp participants.

“The kids learned to fillet and split salmon,” said Chebetnoy. “They also learned to make salmon racks for drying. They smoked some of the salmon strips, which they really enjoyed.”

Other traditional classes include the full crown headdresses, taught by Elizabeth Brown and Karis Porcinicula, who were also the dance instructors. Bering Sea headdress instruction, taught by Keomi Chrim and Jewel Jackson, was also offered. Grass basket weaving is another sought-after activity, which was taught by Sharon Kay. The camp participants also took classes in beaded glass balls and Aleut bentwood visors, taught by Marcy DeCosta and Peter Devine Jr.

Typically, the camp is ten days long with a weekend break in between. This year, camp was five days long, culminating on the sixth day with a potluck, student performances and an art auction.

“We had a decrease in funding (for camp) so it ran a week shorter this year,” said Chebetnoy. “So we tried to get as much instruction in during a shorter period of time.”

Despite the shorter time frame, Chebetnoy said the kids thoroughly enjoyed the classes and activities.

“They were very proud of the headdresses, the regalia – everything that they made,” she said. “I think they’re very proud of their culture.”

Chebetnoy said it’s important to note that the camp isn’t just for Native children.

“We take all kids. We have kids from all over – King Cove, Anchorage, and Seattle. It’s open to everybody. The culture camp gives the kids something enjoyable to do and has a positive effect on their lives.”
Development of an Enhanced Oversight Program and Voluntary Safety Guidelines for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels

The Coast Guard is suspending development of an Alternate Safety Compliance Program (ASCP) and will instead develop an Enhanced Oversight Program (EOP) for commercial fishing vessels (CFVs) by January 1, 2017. The EOP will use existing Coast Guard authorities to provide greater safety for older CFVs (see below). In addition, the Coast Guard will publish additional Voluntary Safety Guidelines by January 1, 2017, which offer suggested measures to increase CFV safety on older vessels. The Coast Guard will provide sufficient notice prior to resuming any future development of an ASCP.

Enhanced Oversight Program.

As defined in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 and the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2012, an ASCP would pose requirements on older non-classed fishing vessels beyond those just recently published in a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on June 21, 2016. Moreover, an ASCP would itself be subject to a rulemaking effort. Therefore, the Coast Guard is developing an EOP by January 1, 2017. The EOP will draw upon existing Captain of the Port authorities, can be prescribed by policy, and will build upon the existing CFV safety examination regime in Subchapter C of 46 CFR Chapter I. The EOP will focus on vessels that may pose a greater risk of vessel and crew member loss. This includes vessels of 50 feet or more in length and 25 years of more in age that operate three nautical miles or more from the territorial sea baseline of Great Lakes coastline, operate with more than 16 persons on board, or, in the case of a fish tender, engage in the Aleutian trade. The Coast Guard will engage the Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee (CFSAC) in developing the EOP and will solicit industry feedback and concerns. Further information on the EOP can be found at www.fishsafe.info or www.fishsafewest.info.

Voluntary Safety Guidelines For Older CFVs.

The Coast Guard will develop Voluntary Safety Guidelines for older CFVs by January 1, 2017. These voluntary guidelines and recommended best practices will be based on analysis of
casualty data from the past 10 years by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Further information can be found at www.fishsafe.info or www.fishsafewest.info.

**Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?**

Coast Guard CFVS personnel will be available to meet with any fishing industry group, association, or representative to discuss and receive feedback on the safety guidelines and enhanced oversight program to be issued by January 2017. Please contact the Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Fishing Vessels Division (CG-CVC-3) at 202-372-1249 or by email at CGCVC@uscg.mil. You may also contact your local Coast Guard District Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator or the local Coast Guard Sector Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner. The points of contact for these individuals can be found on the web site, www.fishsafe.info, at the “Locate Examiners” tab.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

for **FEASIBILITY OF ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS REGIONAL HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET**

**Issuance Date:** July 22, 2016

**Closing Date:** August 19, 2016, 5 PM

On behalf of the A-Team, a group of interested entities in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) requests written proposals to secure Professional Services (PS) to conduct a feasibility study on high-speed broadband internet options throughout the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region (described below in Background). The study should examine regional demand and usage, funding options, and network
ownership models. Engineering feasibility and a project business plan are separate studies for consideration at a later date.

**BACKGROUND**

Internet service in the remote Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region has been limited via expensive satellite communications, with broadband Internet speeds - as the FCC currently defines “broadband” - generally unavailable. Typically, the latency, usage restrictions and data bottlenecks associated with Internet delivered by geostationary satellites make many modern work tasks challenging in the region. Slow internet is not a problem unique to the Aleutian/Pribilof region, of course, but the investment and efforts required to tackle the issue have yet to materialize in Aleut territory.

Over the past decade, several hundred million dollars have been spent on terrestrial broadband infrastructure across Alaska. A lot of that investment has taken place in Western and Northern Alaska, as well as several other pockets of the state. Thus far, however, the Aleutian and Pribilof regions have not been part of any concrete terrestrial broadband development plans, even as the region boasts some of the nation’s most productive fisheries, holds strategic importance as a “Gateway to the Arctic” on the North Pacific Great Circle Route, and is home to a rich Aleut culture.

The Aleutian/Pribilof Island Region is full of vibrant communities with a strong economic backbone in the commercial fishing industry. The region also has great schools that could only be made stronger, a health care system that begs for modernization, a network of successful Tribal organizations, a strategic geopolitical position of national and international importance, and a multitude of small businesses and industry support sectors that can only dream of the technological advantages their counterparts enjoy in the digital world. In terms of productivity, it is difficult to quantify the lost hours and wages that every business and government office in the region suffers due to poor internet, while contemporary terms like streaming and cloud-computing are foreign concepts in the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands.

Broadband is increasingly viewed as a fundamental public service - much like electricity and sanitation - and the region’s economy offers the potential for a healthy return on a capital investment. The purpose of this study is to identify the factors that can make high-speed broadband internet in the Aleutian Pribilof Island region a reality.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**Timeline:**
- August 29, 2016 – November 10, 2016

**Areas of Study:**
- Current state of broadband service throughout the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region.
- Identify regional internet demand and usage.
• Identify middle mile technology options and rough cost estimates for the region: Fiber optic and fiber-microwave.
• Latest FCC, Tribal, and Congressional broadband plans, programs, and policies relevant to project funding options- to include public (broadband subsidies, grants, loans, bonding), private financing, and public-private partnerships.
• Investigate the applicability of using special construction funding within the FCC’s 2014 E-Rate Modernization Order to build middle-mile network architecture.
• Illustrate ownership models of a middle mile network, including a regional consortium, and examine management, legal, and regulatory structures of a consortium.
• Advantages/disadvantages of regional ownership of network, including an initial investigation on the ability to control end-user affordability when selling capacity on the network.
• Relevant lessons drawn from other middle-mile projects in rural Alaska, such as Terra Southwest, Quintillion, and the Kodiak Kenai Fiber Link.

QUALIFICATIONS
• Familiarity with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region, or at least rural Alaska.
• Experience with writing feasibility studies and business plans.
• Experience with the telecommunication industry in Alaska.
• Knowledge of telecommunication industry standards, practices, policies, and technologies.
• Ability to take project to next phases if deemed feasible.

PROPOSAL
• Brief description of the planned approach to the feasibility study.
• Related experience to the project.
• Knowledge of fiber optics, broadband, and/or telecommunications in Alaska and in remote/rural locations.
• Knowledge of project financing opportunities as they pertain to telecommunications.
• Knowledge of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region and/or Alaska.
• Cost of the study.

Proposals must be submitted via email to Gary Chythlook, APICDA Chief Administrative Officer, at gchythlook@apicda.com by 5:00 p.m., Friday, Aug. 19, 2016.

SELECTION PROCESS

APICDA and the rest of the A-Team shall review all proposals and select and rank the three most qualified Consultants. The selection and ranking shall be based on the criteria listed below. The order in which the criteria appear does not indicate the importance, ranking or weighting that will be used in the evaluation.

• Proposed approach to the project.
• Related experience to the project.
• Knowledge of fiber optics, broadband and/or telecommunications in Alaska.
• Knowledge of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region and/or Alaska.
• Cost of the study.
APICDA shall negotiate on behalf of the A-Team with the highest ranked consultant. Negotiations may be formally terminated if they fail to result in a contract within a reasonable amount of time. Negotiations will then ensue with the second ranked consultant, and if necessary, the third ranked consultant. If the second and third round of negotiations fails to result in a contract within a reasonable amount of time, the solicitation may be formally terminated.

1 Regional serviced communities to consider in this study are Sand Point, King Cove, Cold Bay, False Pass, Akutan, Unalaska. Further community considerations include St Paul and St George (Pribilof Islands); Atka; Adak; Nikolski; and Nelson Lagoon.

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Eastern Aleutian Tribes
Monthly Update
July 2016

Service

- **Adak - Upcoming Services:**
  - August 7 – 21st – Heidi Wilson, BH Clinician
  - October 23 – 27th – Dr. Humphreys, SCF Optometrist

- **Akutan - Upcoming Services:**
  - July 30 – August 5th – Dr. Koehler, Medical Director
  - August 9 – 13th – Dr. Isgro, Behavioral Health Clinical Manager
  - August 26 – September 10th - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
  - September 24 – 30th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director

- **Cold Bay - Upcoming Services:**
  - July 30 – August 1st - Sarah Schwartz, Dental Hygienist
  - July 29 – August 4th - Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant
  - August 10 -12th – Dr. Koehler, Medical Director
  - August 22 – 25th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
  - August 24th – Community Potluck

- **False Pass - Upcoming Services:**
  - August 1 – 5th - Sarah Schwartz, Dental Hygienist

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King Cove potluck – Food is ready and people are arriving.
July 14, 2016
• August 8 -15th – David Modde, BH Clinician
• August 15 – 22nd – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
• August 17th – Community Potluck
• September 12 – 14th – Dr. Leoncio, SCF Village Doc

**King Cove - Upcoming Services:**
- August 1 – 31st – Ben Steward, DHAT, and Kathy Bear, Dental Assistant
- September - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
- September 19 – 23rd – Dr. Saunders, SCF Village Doc

- **Nelson Lagoon - Upcoming Services:**
  - July 23 – 30th - Sarah Schwartz, Dental Hygienist
  - August 20 – 27th – David Modde, BH Clinician
  - September 15 – 17th – Dr. Leoncio, SCF Village Doc

- **Sand Point - Upcoming Services:**
  - August 1 – 25th - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
  - August 8 – 20th – Kortnie Swenson and Terra Swartzbacker, UAA Dental Students
  - September 12 – 24th – SCF Dental Team

- **Whittier - Upcoming Services**
  - October 25 – 31st - Dr. Costa and Gaby Costa, Dental Assistant
  - October 27 – 29th – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director
  - October 29th – Health Fair

**People**
- Welcome our New Hires:
  - **Dr. Melodie Isgro**, BH Clinical Manager – First Day on July 18th
  - **Eleanore Starr**, BH Clinician, Sand Point – First Day on August 1st
  - **Tina Cloyd**, Human Resources Director, Anchorage – First Day on August 8th

- Open Positions:
  - **Clinic Manager** – King Cove
  - Clinical Information Clerk(CIC)/Janitor* – Adak
  - **Clinical Information Clerk (CIC)/IT** – All Sites, Traveling Position (Internal Only)
  - Community Health Aides* – Nelson Lagoon
  - **Community Health Aide (CHA)/ CHR** – Akutan
  - House Coordinator/Behavioral Health Aide (BHA)* – Sand Point
  - Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant – Adak, Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for Itinerants
  - Physician – King Cove, Sand Point, and recruiting for itinerants

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

**Caught Ya Caring:**
- “Caught Ya Caring Winners for May:
While we were short on behavioral health staff in Sand Point throughout the spring, Marla Moore (BH Clinician in King Cove) picked up a lot of the slack. We now have patients who come in asking for her! (Picture on right.)

I would like to nominate Robin Gould Medina for all the hard work she does and goes above and beyond to coordinate our potlucks for our employees and always has a smile and checks in on all of us from time to time. Keep up your hard work…. you are AWESOME!!!!!!! (Picture on left)

“Caught Ya Caring” Winner for June:
- In addition to Dr. Danita Koehler (Medical Director) already caring and working above and beyond, she truly cares about me and my wellbeing. She leads by quiet example and does not place unreasonable demands or expectations on the rest of us. She spends many hours trying to provide us with the resources and support so that we can be the best provider possible.

“Caught Ya Caring” Winners for July:
- Sheena Foster (CIC from Sand Point that is helping in Akutan) was asked to print a Medicaid application for someone. She took the initiative to realize learning needs and completed areas to assist the customer. (Picture on right)
- I don’t know how to do this one, but have thought about it since last winter. I appreciate Miss Betty Calugan (Administration Director) for her caring and patient way she helps us as employees and guides us to the path that we need best for our jobs. We all have a job to do but she is there at nights and weekends when we have emergencies and need assistance. I am “Thankful” for this person who has so many years of knowledge under her belt to help us and care for us unconditionally through our journey as employees!

Report on Events:
The King Cove Clinic hosted a Community Potluck on Thursday, July 14, 2016. It was well attended and the community members enjoyed the presentations about healthy vision by Dr. Obedei; oral health by Dr. Costa, Gaby Costa, and Sarah Schwarz; and immunizations and public health by Rita Kittoe, Public Health Nurse.
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