2019: Culture, Community, Change

A world of its own
Alaska’s blackfish is an evolutionary loner that fins through lakes and tundra ponds across the state.

Looking back on a dynamic year across the Arctic

BY SHADY GROVE OLIVER
The Arctic Sounder

Like any year, 2019 was full of both ups and downs for people across the Arctic. There were celebrations of culture, history, heritage and language. Communities came together and at times, found themselves divided on major issues facing the region. Changes at the state level brought both cause for hope and concern.

Teachers on the North Slope passed the 290-day mark working without a contract. #MushingTwitter raised thousands for local organizations. Youth traveled to Iceland to talk about climate change and Kivalina fishermen found strange ice eggs in a local river. A group of students from Utqiagvik performed Inupiaq songs and dances on stage at Disneyland. Nalukataq, Kivgiq and Qatnut all took place over the summer. Join us as we take a look back at some of the biggest stories of 2019.

Financial upheaval
Rural Alaska spent much of 2019 wondering how much money several critical programs would have by the end of the year. When Gov. Mike Dunleavy released his draft budget in early 2019, many across the Arctic felt his proposed cuts disproportionately hurt the more remote parts of the state.

Likewise, many representatives from rural areas said they felt the administration was putting an undue burden on their areas to fill the gap.

“I had thought that he was going to go ahead and declare war on the criminals that were out there as his No. 1 priority, but he seems to have declared war on rural residents,” said Sen. Donny Olson (D-Golovin).

According to numbers shared during one of the North Slope’s board of education meetings at the time, the district stood to lose $22 million under the Dunleavy budget.

“That was what we called the ‘doomsday’ budget proposal from the governor,” said former Superintendent Stewart McDonald. “As you can see, to try and entertain it, is a complete and total decimation of most of our programs.”

While education and public safety cuts were often in the statewide spotlight, the petroleum property tax cut that was proposed would have had a potentially greater impact on the borough itself, taking away the greatest chunk of its funds, which it currently uses to finance the services it provides.

“We do not have the ability to eliminate programs at any level to conform to such legislation,” said Fadil Limani, the North Slope Borough’s Anchorage-based deputy finance director. “The borough does not have the reserves that the (Office of Management and Budget) Director

Rookie musher Jessica Gable waves to fans as she approaches the Kobuk 440 finish line in Kotzebue.

Above, left: Kotzebue residents find many of their boats swamped when high water inundates the town on Aug. 3. Right: Frank Lane, son of the late and renowned dancer Wilfred Lane, dances his father’s song with the Qikiqtaraugruk Northern Lights Dancers during Qatnut in Kotzebue.

Dance groups from villages across the North Slope come to Utqiagvik for Kivgiq, or the Messenger Feast, which is held about every two years.
A look at upcoming elections in 2020

Year promises politics galore for Alaska

BY JAMES BROOKS

Tired of politics after 2019? Bad news: It's entirely possible that some Alaskans will go to the ballot box five times in 2020.

Five elections, all with advertising, polling, mudslinging and more.

In the coming year, Alaska has a statewide general election, a statewide primary, a Democratic presidential primary, three municipal elections, and a special election, plus the usual municipal elections and anything that might come out of the Alaska Legislature.

Here's a look at what we know you'll see on ballots in the coming year, what might happen and what could be added in the coming months.

Ballot measures

Two statewide ballot measures are trying to make the cut in 2020, and backers have until Jan. 11 to get the 28,501 signatures they need. The first measure would be a ballot measure called North Slope oil fields, and the second would implement ranked-choice voting in Alaska's statewide elections, restrict so-called "dark money" campaign contributions and create an "open primary" for elections.

The oil tax initiative is shaping up to be a tough one for backers and against the measure have already collected more than $60,000 apopecie and are beginning to advertise. The last time a ballot measure was on the ballot, back in 2014, the two sides raised $15.3 million in the most expensive state-level political campaign in Alaska history.

There's also a prospective ballot measure to move legislative sessions to Anchorage, but that measure hasn't gotten the same level of attention, and a campaign finance report from October shows little activity. A fourth ballot measure, creating a "bill of rights" for Alaska education, has been abandoned.

Any measures that make the Jan. 21 cutoff would appear on the August primary ballot unless the Legislature fails to adjourn by its 90th day. If the legislative session runs longer, the measures would appear on the general election ballot in November.

Democratic presidential primary

Alaska's Republican Party has canceled its 2020 presidential primary, leaving the voters to choose between President Donald Trump, which means Alaska Democrats get the first election of the year on April 4. Democrats and some lawmakers and the governor have also said they support a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the Permanent Fund dividend, but that idea does fewer supporters in the Legislature.

If those ideas (or something else) get enough support during the legislative session, they would show up on the November ballot.

Referendum

If lawmakers don't pass a constitutional amendment they might instead pass a law that changes the traditional PFD distribution formula in state law. That law hasn't been followed since 2016, and almost every state legislator has said the law should be changed. There is no agreement on what the new formula should look like, however.

A significant number of Alaskans still support the traditional formula, and several state lawmakers have looked at that idea, but if the Legislature acts, there will be a movement to gather signatures and overturn that change via a ballot measure. Any successful referendum would show up on the November ballot.

Bond measure

Earlier in 2019, the Alaska Municipal League approved a resolution asking the Legislature to borrow money for port, harbor and airport projects, and if the Legislature agrees, the question would be on the November ballot.

Constitutional amendments

Among the items on the Legislature's lengthy agenda this session are 21 possible constitutional amendments, but only a few of them will be on the air.

It takes a two-thirds majority in the House and a two-thirds majority in the Senate to send a proposed amendment to voters. That's a high threshold to meet — it's only happened three times since 2000. That said, both the Senate president and speaker of the House have expressed support for a lighter constitutional spending cap, an idea proposed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

Some lawmakers and the governor have also said they support a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the Permanent Fund dividend, but that idea does fewer supporters in the Legislature.

If those ideas (or something else) get enough support during the legislative session, they would show up on the November ballot.

November general election

In addition to the presidential and statewide races, some legislative races are garnering early interest.

In Anchorage, Democratic candidate Liz Sneyd has announced she will run again for House District 27. The incumbent, Republican Rep. Lance Pruitt, hasn't registered for re-election yet and defeated Sneyd by fewer than 200 votes in 2018.

In South Anchorage, Democrats are targeting the state Senate seat newly filled by Sen. Josh Revak following the death of Sen. Chris Birch, and they're expected to challenge the House seat vacated by Revak and now filled by newly minted Republican Rep. Mel Gilliss. Gilliss, a former Democratic candidate, beat Republican Mark Bogich for governor and Calvin for U.S. House in the 2018 election, and Senate District M as a whole was nearly split down the middle between Dunleavy and Bogich.

Fairbanks' House District 1, which was decided by a single vote in 2018, has been drawn by a Republican Rep. Bart Lebon subsequently joined the coalition House majority, giving Democrats less reason to launch a significant challenge against him.

Recall campaign

But the biggest wild card will be the recall campaign against Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

It isn't clear when or if the recall will come to a vote because of an ongoing court challenge to the recall campaign's legality. An Anchorage Superior Court judge will hear the case Jan. 10, but regardless of the verdict in that case are prepared to appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court.

If the Supreme Court hears the case with the rapidity it considers everyday verdicts, it would issue a verdict in 2020. If it operates at normal speed, a decision might not come until 2021.

Even with a speedy verdict, recall supporters still have to gather 71,252 signatures, and that process could itself be challenged in court, depending upon the result.

If recall backers gather enough signatures and the Division of Elections confirms that everything is valid, a special election would be held, perhaps several days. If either the August primary or November general election fall within that window, the recall election could be held then.

If neither election falls within that window, there would be a whole new election day on the calendar.

North of the village of Hughes, in frigid, sluggish water, dim blue light penetrates 2 feet of lake ice.

The ice has a quarter-size hole, maintained by a stream of methane bubbling from the bottom. An adult blackfish, brat- ish little fish swims up, turrts to sip air, and peels back to the dank.

The Alaska blackfish is an evolutionary loper that flings itself down to slushy ponds across much of the state. It exists nowhere else, except just across Bering Strait in Siberia. Not much Larger than a banana, the fish is entirely different from others in the state because in addition to gathering oxygen through its gills, it can pull oxygen from air.

Though many fish have the ability to breathe atmospheric air, most of them live in the tropics. Among the handful of fish able to gulp the same air as you and me has allowed it to occupy stagnant northern pools that kill other fish.

When ice seals off small lakes and ponds, the blackfish swims to the frozen bottom, and the blackfish gits out.

Just how tough is the blackfish? A rural legend is of a blackfish being killed by a janitor's ability of others from the state because in addition to gathering oxygen through its gills, it can pull oxygen from air.

There is no need to look farther than the snow, a live fish there were not too hard frozen." Indeed a fortunate observer may see the fish swim around, in spite of a circulationless dead head."

But all five fish died within three days. The physiologists concluded that the blackfish, though quite impressive, does not recover from the freezing of its tissues and cannot survive "the cold shock." "Our observations have in no sense defamed the blackfish," Scholander concluded more than 60 years ago. "Every winter they are found swimming warm from the ravenous dogs of the Yukon and Kuskokwim valleys . . . . Indeed a fortunate observer may see the fish swim around, in spite of a circulationless dead head, provided only that the fish were not too hard frozen."
Not sure what to do with holiday leftovers?

Try some of these creative recipes

BY SHADY GROVE OLIVER
The Arctic Sounder

Holiday season goes hand in hand with sharing food with family and friends. For many, that means days — and sometimes weeks — of leftovers in the fridge after the holiday festivities.

The Sounder reached out to residents across the Northwest Arctic and North Slope to find out the interesting, creative and delicious ways they use their leftovers.

Whether you make turkey or ham, tuttu or vegetables, or all of the above, these recipes can be adapted to fit whatever you’ve still got stored away.

From Lisa Mae Panik:

Panik takes a hearty approach to leftovers with her turkey soup that will keep you warm on even the chilliest of winter days.

Ingredients:
- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Rice or potatoes
- Gravy
- Vegetables

Packaged chicken noodle soup

In a pot on the stove, add the leftover items to a package of chicken noodle soup. You can put in stuffing, rice or potatoes, gravy, and any side vegetables. Add the cut-up turkey meat and heat until cooked thoroughly. What you add depends on what you’ve got left, so it’s a great way to use up small amounts of your side dishes and starches.

From Asiana Toovak:

Both breakfast and dinner are a possibility with leftovers from your turkey. She makes both morning omelets with her unused meat and a jam-packed casserole with all the trimmings.

Ingredients for the omelets:
- Ham, cut into small pieces
- Cheese, grated

Cut up the leftover ham. Put however many eggs you’d like in your pan and cook on one side. Flip the eggs and add the ham and cheese. Cook until the cheese is melted through. Flip one side over the top, with cheese and serve.

Ingredients for the casserole:
- Approx. 3 cups turkey
- 4 Tbs. butter
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups cheese, grated
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1/2 large white onion, chopped
- 1 cup gravy
- 4 Tbs. butter
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 cup cheese
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients, mixing well, as do other spice blends) and cover and bake for 15 minutes. Then uncover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich.

Vegetables
Gravy
Turkey
Cheese
Ham
Ingredients:

Turkey, bacon, ham, lettuce, tomato, cheese, bread

Condiments, to taste
Combine leftover meats with cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

From Idla Mae Panik:

Panik takes a hearty approach to leftovers with her turkey soup that will keep you warm on even the chilliest of winter days.

Ingredients:
- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Rice or potatoes
- Gravy
- Vegetables

Packaged chicken noodle soup

In a pot on the stove, add the leftover items to a package of chicken noodle soup. You can put in stuffing, rice or potatoes, gravy, and any side vegetables. Add the cut-up turkey meat and heat until cooked thoroughly. What you add depends on what you’ve got left, so it’s a great way to use up small amounts of your side dishes and starches.

From Asiana Toovak:

Both breakfast and dinner are a possibility with leftovers from your turkey. She makes both morning omelets with her unused meat and a jam-packed casserole with all the trimmings.

Ingredients for the omelets:
- Ham, cut into small pieces
- Cheese, grated

Cut up the leftover ham. Put however many eggs you’d like in your pan and cook on one side. Flip the eggs and add the ham and cheese. Cook until the cheese is melted through. Flip one side over the top, with cheese and serve.

Ingredients for the casserole:
- Approx. 3 cups turkey
- 4 Tbs. butter
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups cheese, grated
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1/2 large white onion, chopped
- 1 cup gravy
- 4 Tbs. butter
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 cup cheese
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients, mixing well, as do other spice blends) and cover and bake for 15 minutes. Then uncover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

Nobody hurt when plane makes emergency landing on frozen lake in Southwest Alaska

BY TESS WILLIAMS
Anchorage Daily News

A plane carrying Medvac Alaska members made an emergency landing on a frozen lake in a remote part of Southwest Alaska on Christmas Eve, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine plane transported a patient on a chartered medical flight from Anchorage to the Nushagak River village of Toovak’s father’s father, who loved eating casserole. He dared all the others to eat his cooking with that in mind. He was not afraid of adding any amount of his side dishes and meats for the rest of the gravy. Cover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

Nobody hurt when plane makes emergency landing on frozen lake in Southwest Alaska

A plane carrying Medvac Alaska members made an emergency landing on a frozen lake in a remote part of Southwest Alaska on Christmas Eve, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine plane transported a patient on a chartered medical flight from Anchorage to the Nushagak River village of Toovak’s father’s father, who loved eating casserole. He dared all the others to eat his cooking with that in mind. He was not afraid of adding any amount of his side dishes and meats for the rest of the gravy. Cover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

Nobody hurt when plane makes emergency landing on frozen lake in Southwest Alaska

A plane carrying Medvac Alaska members made an emergency landing on a frozen lake in a remote part of Southwest Alaska on Christmas Eve, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine plane transported a patient on a chartered medical flight from Anchorage to the Nushagak River village of Toovak’s father’s father, who loved eating casserole. He dared all the others to eat his cooking with that in mind. He was not afraid of adding any amount of his side dishes and meats for the rest of the gravy. Cover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

Nobody hurt when plane makes emergency landing on frozen lake in Southwest Alaska

A plane carrying Medvac Alaska members made an emergency landing on a frozen lake in a remote part of Southwest Alaska on Christmas Eve, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine plane transported a patient on a chartered medical flight from Anchorage to the Nushagak River village of Toovak’s father’s father, who loved eating casserole. He dared all the others to eat his cooking with that in mind. He was not afraid of adding any amount of his side dishes and meats for the rest of the gravy. Cover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.

From Asisaun Toovak:

For a fun and filling club sandwich, you need leftover items to a package of cheese, lettuce, tomato and bacon to make a fun and filling club sandwich. It’s a great (and portable) way to eat your leftover main course.

Nobody hurt when plane makes emergency landing on frozen lake in Southwest Alaska

A plane carrying Medvac Alaska members made an emergency landing on a frozen lake in a remote part of Southwest Alaska on Christmas Eve, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine plane transported a patient on a chartered medical flight from Anchorage to the Nushagak River village of Toovak’s father’s father, who loved eating casserole. He dared all the others to eat his cooking with that in mind. He was not afraid of adding any amount of his side dishes and meats for the rest of the gravy. Cover and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes.
What has the last decade of news taught us about rural Alaska?

As many a wise person has said over the generations, the only thing certain is change. But while change is inevitable, it is how we respond that matters. So, what has changed in Alaska in the past decade and what can we learn from those changes that will help us move forward into this new decade?

Alaskans have a climate change story to tell.

Climate change is happening and rural communities, especially those in coastal regions of Alaska's arctic, will be on the front line of these changes.

A decade ago, most of the world had heard the term “climate change” or at least “global warming,” but for most Alaskans, the impacts were still subtle. Those who study the environment on a daily basis, however, knew that changes were afoot. Water temperatures were warming as the global average and the impacts have been felt far beyond the receding edges of glaciers. The six hottest years on record in the Arctic have all taken place in the last six years, scientists report. Sea ice has retreated to record low levels and old sea ice is all but disappearing. Without that sea ice, winter storms are battering the coastlines of Alaska, and the first of many coastal communities are being forced to move from land they have occupied for generations. Alaska has also seen yearly bird and marine mammal die-offs as biologists scramble to trace the complicated sets of factors that are causing these population collapses. Those who depend on subsistence harvest have been deeply impacted by Alaska's changing climate as snow and ice, that allow for easier travel to hunting areas have become more and more unpredictable.

As the population with the best seats in the house on the story of climate change, we must embrace our role as experts in how we must adapt and react to this new reality. If we tell this story to the rest of the world, we may be able to help others adapt and influence public policy decisions that could slow this trajectory toward a warmer world.

Rural schools are young and inexperienced

In the past decade, for most Alaskans anyway, the reality of climate change and what it means for our state has set in. Alaska is warming faster than the rest of the nation, and the average and the impacts have been felt far beyond the receding edges of glaciers. The six hottest years on record in the Arctic have all taken place in the last six years, scientists report. Sea ice has retreated to record low levels and old sea ice is all but disappearing. Without that sea ice, winter storms are battering the coastlines of Alaska, and the first of many coastal communities are being forced to move from land they have occupied for generations. Alaska has also seen yearly bird and marine mammal die-offs as biologists scramble to trace the complicated sets of factors that are causing these population collapses. Those who depend on subsistence harvest have been deeply impacted by Alaska's changing climate as snow and ice, that allow for easier travel to hunting areas have become more and more unpredictable.

As the population with the best seats in the house on the story of climate change, we must embrace our role as experts in how we must adapt and react to this new reality. If we tell this story to the rest of the world, we may be able to help others adapt and influence public policy decisions that could slow this trajectory toward a warmer world.

Public safety system is broken

In the past year, increased reporting on Alaska's rural public safety system has shed light on a reality that many living in those communities already knew all too well. For many rural Alaska communities, where domestic violence, alcohol and drug use is common, attempts to address the problem can be undermined by the state to improve conditions for new teachers coming to Alaska as well as programs to train and employ Alaskans as teachers, this cycle will continue and another generation of rural Alaskans will be robbed of the joy and promise that can come from a positive learning environment.

Internet connectivity a boon for Alaskans statewide

High-speed connectivity, combined with the over-expanding resources found online is leveling the playing field for many rural Alaskans. While many rural communities were left behind due to slow connection speeds at the beginning of this decade, a large number now have the capability to access the internet to provide a bright spot for rural Alaska as moving into a new decade filled with unprecedented changes and challenges. Luckily, Alaskans are a scrappy and adaptable lot. The sooner we, as a state, face these challenges and begin actively searching for real solutions, the sooner we will be able to rise above them as a stronger, more resilient state.

Comparing Alaska's 2019 successes and failures

While the year is drawing to a close, many of us find ourselves looking back to survey our wins and losses since January. It can be a worthwhile exercise for helping us take a more objective look at how the year progressed and how our future selves are likely to see it from a greater distance. It's just as helpful for us as a state to review the successes and failures of 2019.

Let’s start with the failures — it certainly wasn’t the smoothest year for Alaska.

No fiscal plan

In August, Gov. Mike Dunleavy and the Legislature ended a year of budget-related feuding in what was essentially a victory for no one. The Legislature wouldn’t fund the Permanent Fund dividend under the 1982 formula, as the governor wanted, but it also couldn’t muster the votes for a budget veto override that would have allowed legislators to assert their own fiscal vision. The result, effectively, was another year of kicking the can down the road on the budget, spending much of Alaska’s fast-dividing savings.

Even worse, unless the Legislature can articulate a longer-term budget vision and fund the votes for it this year, the result may not be much different: Gov. Dunleavy’s budget proposal for the coming year is essentially the status quo from what was passed in 2019, but with more spending on PFDs. That would mean big, unsustainable draws from both the Constitutional Budget Fund and Permanent Fund earnings. Our state can ill afford that, so Alaskans should hope legislators can move us closer to a balanced budget.

Legislature-governor stalemate

The first year under Gov. Dunleavy’s leadership was a case study in government dysfunction. Neither the governor nor the Legislature were able to generate enough support for their respective fiscal strategies, and attempts to find common ground or compromise were summarily rebuffed. It wasn’t until August that there was any sign of moderation from the governor’s camp, with Gov. Dunleavy backing off some of his most controversial cuts. The months since haven’t offered many clues as to what the new year will bring, but Gov. Dunleavy did opt for a pause to the cuts he championed in his first year, so at the very least, perhaps the 2020 legislative session won’t be consumed by outrage over the depth and breadth of proposed cuts to services.

Systemic failures to provide equal services

More than a decade earlier, 2018 has brought into high relief the difference between life in Alaska’s urban and rural communities — specifically, the state’s two-tiered justice system. A collaborative investigative effort by the Anchorage Daily News and ProPublica has revealed that one in three Alaska

The Arctic Sounder

www.thearcticsounder.com

Letters to the editor

THE ARCTIC SOUNDER welcomes letters to the editor. General interest letters should not exceed 300 words. Thank you letters should be no more than 150 words.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday for consideration in the weekend issue of the newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Only handwritten letters and city or village of residency will be published. This newspaper also reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, grammar and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Third-party and open letters also will not be published. Letters that may put the writer or this newspaper in a legally产权 will not be published.

Letter writers are encouraged to use e-mail — the fastest and most efficient method for submissions. However, we also welcome letters by fax, by mail or those hand-delivered.

Letters to the editor

THE ARCTIC SOUNDER welcomes letters to the editor. General interest letters should not exceed 300 words. Thank you letters should be no more than 150 words.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday for consideration in the weekend issue of the newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Only handwritten letters and city or village of residency will be published. This newspaper also reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, grammar and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Third-party and open letters also will not be published. Letters that may put the writer or this newspaper in a legally产权 will not be published.

Letter writers are encouraged to use e-mail — the fastest and most efficient method for submissions. However, we also welcome letters by fax, by mail or those hand-delivered.

Letters to the editor

THE ARCTIC SOUNDER welcomes letters to the editor. General interest letters should not exceed 300 words. Thank you letters should be no more than 150 words.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday for consideration in the weekend issue of the newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Only handwritten letters and city or village of residency will be published. This newspaper also reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, grammar and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Third-party and open letters also will not be published. Letters that may put the writer or this newspaper in a legally产权 will not be published.

Letter writers are encouraged to use e-mail — the fastest and most efficient method for submissions. However, we also welcome letters by fax, by mail or those hand-delivered.

Letters to the editor

THE ARCTIC SOUNDER welcomes letters to the editor. General interest letters should not exceed 300 words. Thank you letters should be no more than 150 words.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday for consideration in the weekend issue of the newspaper. However, meeting that deadline is no guarantee that the letter will be published.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Only handwritten letters and city or village of residency will be published. This newspaper also reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, grammar and taste. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Third-party and open letters also will not be published. Letters that may put the writer or this newspaper in a legally产权 will not be published.

Letter writers are encouraged to use e-mail — the fastest and most efficient method for submissions. However, we also welcome letters by fax, by mail or those hand-delivered.
Men can do more to stop violence in villages

I have been involved in social services and health care my entire career in Alaska. So you’ll excuse me if I tell you how tired I am of hearing about all the programs that are going to be funded to prevent sexual and physical abuse and violence. Some of these programs may have worked a little, most don’t work at all. Women still flee if possible to Anchoraghe or Fairbanks to get away from it, only to find that the violence has followed those cities to stay safe too. More money for rural policing doesn’t help in small villages where hiring a full-time officer is too expensive.

So the violence continues in the villages as help continues to be miles away by air. In our smaller villages especially, there is no safe home if someone is drunk or drugged and determined to do damage, determined to somehow shred the fabric of the community.

You know how to stop that kind of violence in the villages? By making it unacceptable with more than just words at a meeting or declarations from some health corporation or municipal government or another police officer being called. The best way to achieve that level of unacceptable can only happen when the men of the village get involved on a very public level.

This is not about signing pledges. Words on paper are worth nothing if no true actions back them up. And the actions that need to be backed up are making them public and loud. Very loud.

The good men in any village need to visibly turn away from their cousin or brother or buddy who beats his wife up. They need to publicly tell an abuser that they want nothing to do with him if he doesn’t change. They should not allow him to run for city council, apply for a police Safety Officer or be their hunting buddy. Good men in the villages need to cut abusers from their personal lives, their ANCs life and their friendships — in other words, they need to shun them so that life in the village becomes isolated, impossible, humiliating and unpardonable. Good men can then make the choice to change their ways, leave their village or live a life of isolation.

Will this stop a lot of men from being abusers? Probably not. But it will let them know that they are no longer free to wreak havoc in their villages without consequence that can be felt on a daily basis. Everyone knows who they are because they see their sisters, mothers, aunts and nieces walk- ing around bruised and scared all the time. These women aren’t hard to spot. I could see them coming a mile away. I could see them months in the field of social work.

So let’s publicly out and humili- ate ever abuser in every village. While the women can do this, they risk extreme physical harm if they do unless they are backed up by the good men in their village. Men need to become leaders in this process. The campaign because they are a large part of what keeps abusers abusing — no fear of any real repercussions. I am sick and tired of the days when a man could violate his family at night and sit on the city council the next day. And so should every man and woman in this state who has watched this abuse continue unabated for decades without any hope of it ending.

You want to be a real man? Stand up for your women in the most public places in your village and let every single woman who dares to say hello to you or who thinks of you as a friend. Your reluctance to confront them publicly gives them permission to keep abusing. If you want to give the women in your village the best Christmas present ever, then stop allowing abusers to be a part of the village. Let there be a great word of mouth in your village that says no abuser will be handled another way.

Elise Sereen Pakkoth is the author of two memoirs about her life in Alaska; both available at AlaskaBookstoreCalendars.com.

Our state and Native corporations strengthen each other

Alaska Native corporations are the epitome of local business. Owned and controlled by our shareholders and firmly rooted in our ancestral homelands, ANCs are not going anywhere. The mechanism toward economic self-determination, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), was mandated by Congress, and the location of its implementation has been, and will be, the home of our people for thousands of years.

Through the passage of ANCSA, the federal government created Alaska Native corporations. ANCSA was a different approach to federal Indian policy by Congress with an intended goal to create a path toward economic self-determination for Alaska Native people. ANCSA extinguished aboriginal title to Alaska and divided the state into 12 distinct regions. It mandated the creation of 12 private, for-profit Alaska Native regional corporations and more than 200 private, for-profit Alaska Native village corporations (collectively, ANCs).

Since the nearly 50 years ago, the 12 Alaska Native regional corporations have evolved in response to a growing shareholder base and the ever-changing economic conditions of the state and country. Through our subsidiaries, ANCs operate in a variety of industries including construction, environmental services, natural resource development, technology services, real estate, government contract- ing, and more.

The diversification of business interests is a natural progression toward sustainable corporations that provide meaningful mone- tary and non-monetar y returns to Alaska Native shareholders for the long term.

Guided by our Alaska Native values, ANCs invest in people and communities by contributing to programs and organizations that broadly enhance Alaska and its communities with no police pres- ence whatsoever, a fact that con- tributes to social ills and leaves rural residents feeling less safe. The state has a mountain of work to do in making sure Alaskans have equal access to justice. It should make a greater commitment to that goal in 2020.

But 2019 wasn’t all doom and gloom for Alaska. Here are some successes we saw in 2019.

Earthquake recovery

The magnitude 7.1 earthquake of March 2019, that shook Alaska across the Southcentral region, but it brought out our best in the year that followed. Anchoraghe residents helped each other put their lives back together and, one day after the earthquake, we have largely moved on to other things.

Though we’ve moved on, we’ve learned some lessons from the quake about the vulnerability of our infrastructure and the impor- tance of building codes, and sometimes we still exchange a nervous glance or two during a earthquakes. Sometimes we still exchange a nervous glance or two during a earthquake.

That’s healthy: Complicity is our enemy, and we don’t want to get lax where our safety is con- cerned.

Employment strong

Even amid the chaotic see-saw of budget cuts and restored funds, the state employment pic- ture was stable throughout 2019.

Alaska continues to have the highest unemployment rate of any state in the nation, and there are other factors that complicate the picture, but the job picture in Alaska remained stable and in some cases improved. That was an economic plus for a state that badly needed one as it struggled to emerge from recession.

But the employment picture continues to challenge signific- ant amounts of the construction and infrastructure spending across the state was on military and other federal projects, not all of which will continue indefi- nitely.

If Alaska can’t find a way to fund some level of capital spend- ing to maintain existing infra- structure and periodically build new facilities, the weakness in those economic sectors could be exposed, putting the jobs of thou- sands of Alaska laborers and trade workers at risk.

Federal aid for rural public safety

Unfortunately, federal authorities have seen Alaska’s public safety situation in rural communities for what it is: an emergency. To assist in turning the tide and pro- vide the necessary funding for our communities where it’s lacking, the federal government has allocated $52 million so far.

Used properly, that money should help build capacity in dealing with rural public safety issues and better maintain facili- ties that have fallen into disre- pany.

What it won’t do, however, is solve the problem on its own. Our state, communities and individual residents must all commit themselves to doing more to keep our communities safe. We see that in cities like Anchorage and Fairbanks too, but especially so in the Bush.

We can make 2020 a better year than 2019, building on our suc- cesses and learning from our failures. But it will take commitment from every man and woman in our state and its people.

EDITORIAL BOARD

From Page 4

Michael Docter, for the Arctic Sounder

BY ELISE PAULAK

The Arctic Sounder

BY KIM REITMEIER

For the Arctic Sounder

B

Our state and Native corporations strengthen each other on ANCSA lands. The reve- nuer sharing agreement is a mean- ingful demonstration of Alaska Native control over the decision-making authority over the lands and resources on which Alaska Native people have depended for thousands of years.

Sens. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan and Congresswoman Don Young represented the state and the people of Alaska when they secured the legislation ensuring that the $52 million slated to go to the state’s Alaska Native Regional Corporations will be dedicated to public safety projects in Alaska’s rural communities. Congress has followed up on this commitment, passing an additional $35 million to be used for public safety and community safety enhancement purposes.

The ANCSA Regional Corporations are grateful for their tireless efforts on behalf of our more than 130,000 Alaska Native shareholders.

Kim Reitreimer is the executive director of the ANCSA Regional Association (AR). AR represents the 12 land-based Alaska Native regional corporations created pursuant to ANCSA; collectively, they rep-resent the business interests of more than 130,000 Alaska Native people.

For the Arctic Sounder

Byline: Elise Sereen Pakkoth is the author of two memoirs about her life in Alaska, both available at AlaskaBookstoreCalendars.com.
Eight years after it was cut, others have been needed. But in the most recent version of the budget appropriation, the role of law enforcement throughout the state, as well as treatment and support for survivors and the people who assault them. The event was moderated by Shady Grove Oliver, a reporter for The Arctic Sounder, the local newspaper, they wrote.

It was in line with many conversations happening at the state level this year.

As he committed to doing before the end of the last session, House District 40 Rep. John Lincoln (D-Kotzebue) took up the topic as a priority.

He brought House Bill 14 before House State Affairs for its first hearing on Feb. 28. It tackled the so-called "Schneider loophole." The bill and its terminology stemmed from last year’s sentencing of Justin Scott Schneider, who strangled an Alaska Native woman on an Anchorage roadside in 2017 and then ejaculated on her. After striking a plea deal, Schneider left with no jail time, as he was given credit for the time he spent wearing an ankle monitor at home.

The case struck a nerve with people across Alaska, which is a state that sees some of the highest rates of sexual assault and domestic violence in the country. Schneider’s seemingly lenient sentence, which was in line with how the law was written at the time, sparked public outcry.

Ripples from the Schneider case led to several changes at the highest levels. Judge Michael Corey, who approved the plea deal for Schneider, was voted out of his seat in the following election, although he maintained he was just following the law as it stood.

With bipartisan support, the bill passed the House later in the session with a vote of 36-1, with Rep. David Eastman (R-Wasilla) the only vote against.

"I wanted it done this session," said Lincoln. "It can wait until next session, but I was trying to demonstrate to the public that the legislation can act quickly on something that’s a priority for us as a state, which I think this is."

HB 14 included language to boost the profile of strangulation in an assault. It made it so strangulation automatically qualifies as a first-degree assault and can also be used as an aggravator for sentencing. For example, when a sentence is being decided for a sexual assault, it may be harsher if strangulation was involved. The bill also made unwanted contact with ejaculate a potential sex crime, whereas it previously counted only as a form of harassment.

Had HB 14 been in place when Schneider was sentenced, he could have received significant jail time and been required to register as a sex offender.

"He sexually assaulted her by any common sense definition of the term, but our laws didn’t reflect that," Lincoln said.

For Lincoln, it was important to send the right message to survivors of crimes like these.

"If they’re deciding whether or not to come forward and they see these all cases of people who have sought justice and didn’t get it, they’re disinclined to come forward in their case," he said. "It perpetuates this problem we have of people being mistreated and not naming their abusers and seeking justice."

From spring to fall
There was a standing ovation on the final evening of the 2019 Kigluaq as past members of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) stood or sat in a semi-circle around Chairman Crawford Patjkotak in the Barrow High School gym.

"This is the culmination of all the hard work of all our Elders, those who have gone before us, through their prayers, through their hard work," Patjkotak said to the crowd.

The AEWC and the North Slope Borough joined together on the last night of celebration to commemorate a landmark decision in 2019 with regard to Alaska Native whaling rights.

"The rights for our indigenous whalers to carry our litipituk whaling culture into perpetuity is a blessing and cause for great celebration," said Borough Mayor Harry Brower Jr. "We have been honored to commemorate and celebrate this week. Our ancestors and past Elders have fought so hard for our rights to manage our harvests and preserve nutritional and cultural security for our children and grandchildren."

Last year at its regular meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to approve the automatic renewal of the bowhead whale quota for Alaska Native whalers. The IWC also voted overwhelmingly to renew the current quota of 75 annual strikes for the 11 villages.

It was a hard-fought win for the whaling communities, who long advocated for automatic renewals, which they said would amount to a permanent guarantee of subsistence hunting rights. The right to hunt the resource would no longer be dependent on the will of commissioners at meetings, but would continue so long as certain provisions — like healthy stocks — were met.

After a good spring season on the Slope, fall whaling season got off to a strong start in both Kaktkovik and Nuiqsut, where crews landed the Slope’s first whales in late summer.

That didn’t hold true for Utqiaqvik, which saw September, October and November pass without crews landing a whale for the hub community.

"When we first started the season, we were going out every day in the dark. We’d take off in the dark and come home in the dark. We’d take off in the dark. We’d have to come home in the dark. We’d take off in the dark.

We weren’t really spotting any. I mean, some people were, but we were chasing pretty much whales with no blow. We weren’t seeing the blows at all," said Co-Captain Chucky Hopson at the time. "We were seeing the whales once or twice."

Biologists track the annual patterns of the bowhead migration and have been doing so for four decades, through the Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals program, or ASAMM. "We have 40 years of perspective to look at this problem from," said biologist Megan Ferguson.

"We’re seeing a pattern in the bowhead whale distribution near
Father. Whale Captain. Census Taker.

Usually, Sam spends his time out at sea. Today, Sam and others like him will be out in the villages and communities to help us get an accurate count for the 2020 Census. By opening your door you will ensure our voice is heard for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

It's not too late. Start here at 2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau
One of Utqiagvik’s main roads is closed due to flooding just past the Top of the World hotel on Aug. 1.

“It’s a relief for the community, including Elder Wesley Aiken, who gives the invocation. The ceremony, which was held at the Utqiaġvik Regional Corporation Building, was a celebration of the community’s resilience and strength in the face of the flooding.”

“Down on the Yukon delta we were out there that day going over a thousand hours of boating three or more times a week, and over a thousand gallons of gas. So, to see the whale pulled up, you exhale, like I’ve been holding my breath for a long time.”

“One of the boats that were out there that day went over a thousand hours of boating three or more times a week, and over a thousand gallons of gas. So, to see the whale pulled up, you exhale, like I’ve been holding my breath for a long time.”

“I live in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”

“The flooding was caused by a weather system that moved up to the Bering Sea from the tropics and raised water levels and dump rain across much of western Alaska. It was out of character for early August, local residents said at the time.”

“I can tell you for the 34 years I’ve lived in Kotzebue, that’s the highest I’ve ever seen the water,” said Kotzebue Public Works Director Carl Jennings. “It’s been holding my breath for a long time.”
Notice of a Workshop of the North Slope Borough Assembly

To: General Public:

You are hereby notified that there will be a Workshop of the North Slope Borough Assembly to be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the NSB Assembly Room, 1274 Agvik Street in Barrow, Alaska.

Dated: January 2, 2020

Shela H. Burke
Borough Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT KOTZEBU

KIC Bison, LLC, vs. JAE & TRACY ENTERPRISES, INC., JAE CHUL KIM, and TRACY INSOOK KIM, Defendants.

Case No. 2KB-17-00229 Cl

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of a decree of foreclosure in the Judgment of the Superior Court for the State of Alaska issued September 13, 2018 in the above captioned cause, the following property will be sold at foreclosure, to-wit:

Lot Nine “A” (9A) Block One (1) Swan Lake Subdivision, Tract 9, U.S. Survey No. 2645, according to the replat filed April 23, 1987, as Plat Number 87-3; records of the Kotzebue Recording District, Second Judicial District, State of Alaska.

The common street address is 606 Bison Street, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. the undersigned will sell the above-described real property to the highest bidder for cash, cashier’s check or money order made payable to ‘Clerk of Court’. The sale will be held in the first floor lobby of the Nome Courthouse, located at 113 Front Street, Nome, AK 99762. For information regarding said property or sale, call Michael Jungreis of Reeves Amodio, LLC at (907) 222-7100. The Creditor reserves the right to set a minimum bid for the property as well as submit an offset bid on its own behalf. The sale may be postponed to facilitate the bidding process. This property is subject to redemption rights in accordance with Alaska law.

Dated the 26th Day of December 2019

REEVES AMODIO, LLC
attorneys for KIC Bison, LLC

/s/ Mike Jungreis
ABA #7711184
500 L Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501
mj@reevesamodio.com

Remember the 3 R’s: REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.
ACROSS
1. Fresh talk
5. Jet follower
8. Sherlock Holmes’ assignment
12. U in I.C.U.
13. Tiny river
14. Fires
15. Weather ______________
16. “How to Make an American Quilt” author
17. Distinguishing feature
18. Master of legal thriller
20. “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” singer
21. Keyboard key
22. G, in solfa
23. Master of Western fiction
26. Flavorful rice dish, pl.
30. Former name of Tokyo
31. Broadcasting devices
34. Whiskey without water
35. Dried fruit and spices, in a pie
37. Member of Shoshonean people
38. Discombobulate
39. Drawn to light
40. Young traveler’s inn
42. “____ it or lose it!”
43. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
45. Chase away
47. Philosophical system
48. Single-cell protozoan
50. Home on a limb
52. James Bond creator
55. Site of Taj Mahal
56. First queen of Carthage
59. Goes up or down
60. Jiffs
61. What accomplices do
62. 2 aspirin, e.g.
63. Old college one
64. Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday

DOWN
1. Blazer or Explorer
2. Baptist leader?
3. “I ____ The Body Electric” by Whitman or Bradbury
4. Sound setup
5. Like a ballerina
6. “do” spot
7. Thieve
8. Master of romance and particularly prolific
9. Palm tree berry
10. Sleigh runners
11. Is, in Paris
13. Podium
14. Counter seat
15. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
16. *How to Make an American Quilt” author
17. Distinguishing feature
18. Master of legal thriller
20. “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” singer
21. Keyboard key
22. G, in solfa
23. Master of Western fiction
26. Flavorful rice dish, pl.
30. Former name of Tokyo
31. Broadcasting devices
34. Whiskey without water
35. Dried fruit and spices, in a pie
37. Member of Shoshonean people
38. Discombobulate
39. Drawn to light
40. Young traveler’s inn
42. “____ it or lose it!”
43. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
45. Chase away
47. Philosophical system
48. Single-cell protozoan
50. Home on a limb
52. James Bond creator
55. Site of Taj Mahal
56. First queen of Carthage
59. Goes up or down
60. Jiffs
61. What accomplices do
62. 2 aspirin, e.g.
63. Old college one
64. Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday

THEME: BEST-SELLING AUTHORS

ACROSS
1. Fresh talk
5. Jet follower
8. Sherlock Holmes’ assignment
12. U in I.C.U.
13. Tiny river
14. Fires
15. Weather ______________
16. “How to Make an American Quilt” author
17. Distinguishing feature
18. Master of legal thriller
20. “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” singer
21. Keyboard key
22. G, in solfa
23. Master of Western fiction
26. Flavorful rice dish, pl.
30. Former name of Tokyo
31. Broadcasting devices
34. Whiskey without water
35. Dried fruit and spices, in a pie
37. Member of Shoshonean people
38. Discombobulate
39. Drawn to light
40. Young traveler’s inn
42. “____ it or lose it!”
43. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
45. Chase away
47. Philosophical system
48. Single-cell protozoan
50. Home on a limb
52. *James Bond creator
55. Site of Taj Mahal
56. First queen of Carthage
59. Goes up or down
60. Jiffs
61. What accomplices do
62. 2 aspirin, e.g.
63. Old college one
64. Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday

DOWN
1. Blazer or Explorer
2. Baptist leader?
3. “I ____ The Body Electric” by Whitman or Bradbury
4. Sound setup
5. Like a ballerina
6. “do” spot
7. Thieve
8. Master of romance and particularly prolific
9. Palm tree berry
10. Sleigh runners
11. Is, in Paris
13. Podium
14. Counter seat
15. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
16. *How to Make an American Quilt” author
17. Distinguishing feature
18. Master of legal thriller
20. “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” singer
21. Keyboard key
22. G, in solfa
23. Master of Western fiction
26. Flavorful rice dish, pl.
30. Former name of Tokyo
31. Broadcasting devices
34. Whiskey without water
35. Dried fruit and spices, in a pie
37. Member of Shoshonean people
38. Discombobulate
39. Drawn to light
40. Young traveler’s inn
42. “____ it or lose it!”
43. Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
45. Chase away
47. Philosophical system
48. Single-cell protozoan
50. Home on a limb
52. *James Bond creator
55. Site of Taj Mahal
56. First queen of Carthage
59. Goes up or down
60. Jiffs
61. What accomplices do
62. 2 aspirin, e.g.
63. Old college one
64. Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter

Do you know what Bruce Lee’s vegetarian brother is called?

Brocco Lee

The Salisbury cathedral clock is a large iron-framed clock without a dial, in Salisbury Cathedral, England. Supposedly dating from about 1386, it is said to be the oldest working clock in the world, although similar claims are made for other clocks.

Answers: No cheating!
Point Hope, Hepa's success highlights in 2019

By Tommy Wells

When it comes to success in athletics, the Arctic Sounder’s pages were loaded with highlights in 2019. Teams in the newspaper’s coverage area were among the most successful squads in the 49th state.

Few, if any, had as huge an impact as the Point Hope boys’ and girls’ basketball teams, which swept the Class 2A state titles in March. The Harpooners and Harpoonerettes were the toast of March Madness as they rolled through March Madness.

The Harpooners, who spent much of the season chasing a perfect record in the basketball world, missed that mark by three-three-point shots from Henry Kowunna to a 53-47 victory over Metlakatla in the finals of the Class 2A state tournament.

The loss denied Barrow its second state title in three years. Another major milestone by an area resident, albeit, she tends to be in the background at most events — came when Kotzebue’s Nicole Stoops was presented the prestigious National Native American Top 40 Under 40 Award in August during a special ceremony at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Phoenix. Stoops, the second member of her family to net the award, helps operate the Eskimojoe youth basketball program in Kotzebeue.

Another big story that caught the attention of the area’s residents happened in October at the same time Barrow was making its third straight appearance in the state football title game. The Whalers’ trip highlighted the 10-year anniversary of Point Hope’s reign as the best 8-man football program in the state’s history.

In 2009, the Harpooners were part of a North Slope-inspired program to launch 8-man football in Alaska. Point Hope, under the guidance of head coach Gary Lamar, won the inaugural state title by edging out Voznesenka in the first state title game. Point Hope also won the 2010 title, again beating Voznesenka in the finals.

Another big story to capture the attention of the area’s residents was the two younger sisters, Qutan was 28th at 24:01.1. Hailstone, along with her younger sister, Qutan, posted the girls’ top performances in the girls’ division. Carolyn legged out a 15th-place run with a mark of 22:59.3. Qutan was 28th at 24:01.1. Anauatavak Pass stand-out Claire Fry also starred in the meet. She ran her way to 22nd overall with a time of 23:11.1.

A little farther from home, Vaka Tuifua and Stone Tuifua both created plenty of attention on the football field. Vaka helped lead Poteau (Oklahoma) to the Class 4A state football championship in December. Tuifua, a former stand-out at Barrow, transferred to Poteau prior to his senior season to boost his college football opportunities.

The move appears to have been a good one for the former Whaler star. He was among the state’s top defensive lineman and has drawn interest from several Division I programs, including Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Stone, a sophomore 1-back at Morningside College in Iowa, helped lead the Mustangs to the 2019 NAIA national championship. Tuifua caught a 6-yard TD pass in the title game.

The Kotzebue High School girls’ cross country team had three runners sprint their way into the top 50 and finished eighth in the Division II team standings at the ASAA/First National Bank State Cross Country Championships. As a team, Kotzebue had all five of its scoring runners place in the top 60.

Laveah Makisi led all Kotzebue runners by legging out a time of 22 minutes, 26.1 seconds. She finished 23rd in the individual standings.

Another major milestone by an area resident, albeit, she tends to be in the background at most events — came when Kotzebue’s Nicole Stoops was presented the prestigious National Native American Top 40 Under 40 Award in August during a special ceremony at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Phoenix. Stoops, the second member of her family to net the award, helps operate the Eskimojoe youth basketball program in Kotzebeue.

Another big story that caught the attention of the area’s residents happened in October at the same time Barrow was making its third straight appearance in the state football title game. The Whalers’ trip highlighted the 10-year anniversary of Point Hope’s reign as the best 8-man football program in the state’s history.

In 2009, the Harpooners were part of a North Slope-inspired program to launch 8-man football in Alaska. Point Hope, under the guidance of head coach Gary Lamar, won the inaugural state title by edging out Voznesenka in the first state title game. Point Hope also won the 2010 title, again beating Voznesenka in the finals.

Another big story to capture the attention of the area’s residents was the two younger sisters, Qutan was 28th at 24:01.1. Hailstone, along with her younger sister, Qutan, posted the girls’ top performances in the girls’ division. Carolyn legged out a 15th-place run with a mark of 22:59.3. Qutan was 28th at 24:01.1. Anauatavak Pass stand-out Claire Fry also starred in the meet. She ran her way to 22nd overall with a time of 23:11.1.

A little farther from home, Vaka Tuifua and Stone Tuifua both created plenty of attention on the football field. Vaka helped lead Poteau (Oklahoma) to the Class 4A state football championship in December. Tuifua, a former stand-out at Barrow, transferred to Poteau prior to his senior season to boost his college football opportunities.

The move appears to have been a good one for the former Whaler star. He was among the state’s top defensive lineman and has drawn interest from several Division I programs, including Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Stone, a sophomore 1-back at Morningside College in Iowa, helped lead the Mustangs to the 2019 NAIA national championship. Tuifua caught a 6-yard TD pass in the title game.

The Kotzebue High School girls’ cross country team had three runners sprint their way into the top 50 and finished eighth in the Division II team standings at the ASAA/First National Bank State Cross Country Championships. As a team, Kotzebue had all five of its scoring runners place in the top 60.

Laveah Makisi led all Kotzebue runners by legging out a time of 22 minutes, 26.1 seconds. She finished 23rd in the individual standings.

I would like my copy of the newspaper conveniently delivered to my mailbox.

□ 1 year (52 issues) $80.00 □ 6 months (26 issues) $45.00

Fill out the blanks below, include payment and send to:

Anchorage Daily News
300 W. 31st Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Or call (907)257-4268 to pay with your credit/debit card.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________
Phone Number: ____________________
Email: ____________________________

For more information, email jada.nowling@ alaskajournal.com
August. I mean, maybe it has, but I’ve done this 30 years and I don’t really remember this in August, especially at the very beginning of August.”

Around the same time, Nome nearly hit their record all-time 24-hour rainfall, Brader said, with more than 2 inches in a single day. In 36 hours, Nome saw about 2.5 inches and there were portions of the southern Seward Peninsula that got about 3 inches.

Ungvik also saw unseasonal flooding in early August. A main road near the Top of the World Hotel flooded and had to be closed to traffic for a day. The Nakutak site was inundated with water, meaning Kivig had to be held inside the high school gym rather than outside, as planned.

While that type of flooding isn’t uncommon in Ungvik, it was quite unusual for that time of year. Unlike the flooding in Kotzebue, it may have been caused by an abundance of rainfall.

On July 31 and overnight through Aug. 1, nearly an inch of rain fell on Ungvik, which was extremely uncharacteristic for both the season and typical yearly weather trends overall.

“So, they’re more than double the precipitation they would have had,” Brader said. “Since June 1, they’ve had 3.79 inches of rain. Normally, they would have had 1.47 inches. So, that’s like 2.5 times the normal summer precipitation.”

It was also a very warm year — and summer, in particular — for Kotzebue. With its warmest May on record, its warmest April, by far its warmest March and a tie for its warmest February, past highs were already being surpassed before the community hit June.

“They’re off the charts as far as having their warmest June on record so far,” said Climatologist Brian Brettschneider at the time. “You’re at a time of climate change.”

Along with soaring temperatures, locals across the Northwest Arctic and North Slope had to keep their eyes on the early retreat of the ice, too. It’s a prominent factor in area weather.

“So, for very ocean-dominated places, like Kotzebue, this time of year, the fact that ice has been gone for nearly two months in Kotzebue Sound, the water temperatures there are more than 15 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal,” said Rick Thoman, of the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. “Historically, on June 24, there would still be some ice around in Kotzebue Sound. Now, those water temperatures are in the 50s — approaching 60 degrees now.”

In early June, the Arctic ice extent reached its typical levels for Aug. 1, as compared to the 30-year standard for 1981-2010, meaning it reached the extent it typically would have taken more than a month and a half longer to get to in the past.

Before the ice went out, it was unpredictable and unstable. Throughout the spring, hunters and travelers across the Slope and Northwest had to cut short trips across the ice or to camp, out of fear of becoming stranded or having an accident. Similar weather has changed hunting, gathering and travel plans for people for several years now, so this year did follow recent trends in that respect.

**Youth call for action**

Young people from across the Arctic gathered with international leaders and policymakers in Reykjavik, Iceland, this fall to discuss issues facing the far north and build solutions for moving forward.

Representatives of the newly-formed Arctic Youth Network, several of whom are from Alaska, were in attendance. Megan Dicker Nochask, of Labrador; Jamaica’s Tasha Elizarde and Uningvik’s Eben Hopson all made the trip.

Nochask said she shared observations she’s made from her coastal home.

“I’m only 20, but I have noticed so many changes in my community over the years. A lot of my concern right now revolves around climate change, so I was happy to talk about climate change with the people at the assembly because I can see changes right from my doorstep,” she said. “Climate change affects us all, but I think it’s important to have voices that can speak from the ground.”

“It’s critical that young people have a seat at the table at conferences and events like Arctic Circle Assembly,” she said, and are able to share their thoughts.

“It’s so incredibly important that we have indigenous youth at these gatherings because there are so many people of authority, so many political leaders, different leaders from all over, that can truly make a difference with their positions of power,” said Nochask. “It’s a collective effort. They have so much power and resources, that if they don’t listen to our concerns as youth, we’re going to have to clean up their mess. We don’t want to do that, so it’s really important they give us time and attention.”

Across the world and back in Alaska, other youth were taking a stand of their own and sending a message loud and clear. We aren’t just in a time of climate change. We’re in the midst of a climate emergency.

In Nome, a handful of students followed in the footsteps of Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and organized an emergency declaration over oil and gas resources, the statewide organization ultimately made the declaration.

“I am not an environmentalist; I am an indigenous youth,” said Quannah Potts, who was one of the youth in attendance. “We are not here to fight with our own people, we are here to stand together. This is a serious issue. I’m worried about our future generations. We’re crying up here. We should not have to cry to you guys, we should not have to come to you worrying about our future generations, our future children and grandchildren. We should be able to live our ways of life, to hunt.”

No matter how loud or small, how long-standing or short-lived, this year’s news had some common threads. Culture, community and change were at the heart of the biggest stories of 2019 in the Arctic Sounder. As this year comes to a close and we head into 2020, we’d like to say taikuu, quyanaqpak and thank you for reading our stories with us this year. We look forward to all that’s to come in the next year.