



TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

# 2020 ANNUAL NEWS



## St. Paul Island Report

## SPECIAL ANNUAL EDITION

### MISSION

Ataqan Akun. To ensure the optimal quality of life for all Tribal members and never forget where we have come from.

### VISION

Empowered, healthy families contributing to a thriving culture and sustainable community.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Aang aang!** Wow, 2020 is behind us! What a wild ride it's been the last 10 months! The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all in many ways, and basically taught us all how to live differently. I am forever grateful that our community took very proactive measures to hopefully prevent a mass infection here.

Among the challenging measures taken was figuring out how we keep our organizations functioning without having a lapse in services. Luckily we have made upgrades to our internet system, allowing our Tribal Government essential staff to maintain social distancing requirements by both working from home and in the office. It has been very different working from home for those of us that have had to - I sure missed being around our staff daily!!

In 2020, we have continued to do well despite the challenges the pandemic presented. All departments have done well, and I commend all for a job well done in the face of adversity. Our staff has persevered and done a great job for you, the membership!

My focus this year, as in years past, has been on our partnerships with other entities and organizations. I am a firm believer that we need to work together to continue making our community a better place for all. We partner and help other entities where we can to assist them in achieving their strategic goals. One example of a great partnership is the one we have with CBSFA. Year in and year out we have completed many wonderful and meaningful projects in our community together, including building the Vessel Repair Facility and Marine Warehouse down on the waterfront, beautification of our community through painting, assistance to elders on roofs, supporting the college campus program at the school as well as the Unungam Tunuu program, and many other projects. With the City, we have provided assistance to Public Safety with much needed resources with money brought in from outside granting agencies, thereby saving our community

from using our limited resources. We are also working on an emergency generator project for City Hall. This would ensure that our RecHall can be an emergency shelter. We are actually also getting one for our Tribal Government office building through the same grant and hope to have these projects wrapped up next fall. In my opinion, working together is beneficial to raising the quality of life in St. Paul. We are much better off with strong entities on island to continue providing essential services and much needed employment to keep our economy stable.

I look forward to getting our community members vaccinated and really rounding the corner on this pandemic. I plan on taking the vaccination myself when it is offered to me. I encourage all to take the vaccination also. Pharmaceutical companies have been working on vaccines for many, many years and I believe they are totally safe. The side effects of a sore arm or headaches or whatever they may be are definitely better than the effects of getting super sick from the virus and possibly dying. Please, I encourage all to get the vaccination. It is the only way we are going to put this COVID-19 pandemic behind us. I hope as a community, we have a better 2021 and we are all reunited with long-distance family members and are able to have a fishing season. Let's all do our part to keep our community safe but moving forward!

Txin qağaasakuqing,



Amos T. Philemonoff, Sr.  
President, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**Aang.** As I prepare this newsletter it is impossible not to reflect on the fact the world is confronting a pandemic in which one person dies every 30 seconds in this country. COVID-19 is the greatest threat of our generation and it is profoundly impacting every community, household, and citizen on earth. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of lost ones and to the healthcare workers and first responders who are working around the clock fighting this pandemic.

The Tribal Government of St. Paul started 2020 from a position of strength. In February COVID-19 surprised us all and it was a moment when we really appreciated all those years of emergency management preparation and our strong community partnerships. At the very moment COVID-19 became a threat to St. Paul, the Tribal Government immediately organized our Tribal Incident Command System including Unified Command (UC) with the City. As a result, we were able to very quickly organize and deploy tribal and community assets to defend against this pandemic. The effect of this early response by Tribal and City leadership was critical to St. Paul's security and our ability as a community to mitigate COVID-19 impacts on health and economy.

In parallel with these efforts, we organized an Economic Response Team to deal with COVID-19 impacts on tribal operations and economy. A Tribal Government team of Anchorage and St. Paul business staff members quickly identified community vulnerabilities, potential threats, and then implemented economic and operational responses to the pandemic. We leveraged our commercial Tribal Network that provides wireless connectivity throughout St. Paul and Anchorage. This critical piece of infrastructure allowed us to work remotely in Anchorage and St. Paul without any loss of productivity or access to central files and software. Within two weeks our entire operation was either working from home or in offices with less than 25% occupancy. In St. Paul we repurposed housing assets to serve as quarantine facilities and developed workplace safety plans to support continued operations. As a result, we only had to shutter

a few operations thereby protecting jobs, services, and economies in the Community.

Congress passed the CARES Act by mid-year and with other stimulus funding we were able to prop up areas of our economy impacted by the pandemic. Our team honed in on grants and other federal assistance made available to tribes. Within 6 months we successfully secured over \$5M for the island including \$1.2M for our partner CBSFA. The funding is currently being used for a wide variety of purposes ranging from coordinated community responses to COVID-19, to direct assistance to members, as well as plans for mitigation and restorative efforts as we move closer to a vaccine.

It was decided important community projects should move forward despite COVID-19. Working with the City we came up with plans to keep St. Paul safe and allow contractors to proceed. The \$4.4M Phase II Vessel Repair Facility project and the \$1.2M Store Refrigeration project advanced as planned. Backup generators for the City and Tribal offices are in progress and a third generator was secured for the Store. Next year's construction season looks to be equally busy with nearly \$5M of work scheduled for the clinic and some new housing.

All things considered we managed to have a pretty good year. Residents were safe and our economy was mostly intact. Business revenue, employment, and net income hit all-time highs. Total revenue exceeded \$14M, job creation over \$3.6M, and net income over \$600k. The real story of course is St. Paul and its response to this pandemic. After 25 years of serving St. Paul I can't help but reflect on the decisions St. Paul has made over the years to build this Tribal Government and how those decisions affected our ability to respond to this pandemic. The Aleut Community was prepared thanks to everything we've built including our strategic partnerships with the City, CBSFA, TDX, SCF, and PSD. We're going to come out of this stronger.

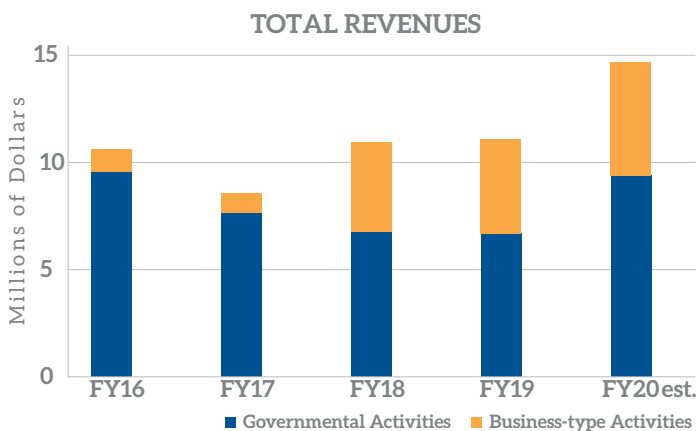
Patrick N. Baker, Executive Director  
Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Justin Carr, CFO



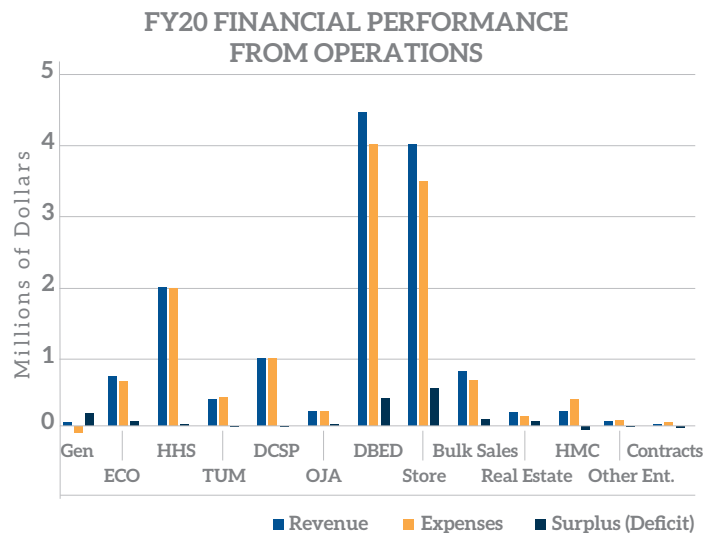
I am pleased to report the Tribe remains fiscally sound. We saw increases in revenue, a positive bottom line, and healthy liquidity ratios at year-end.



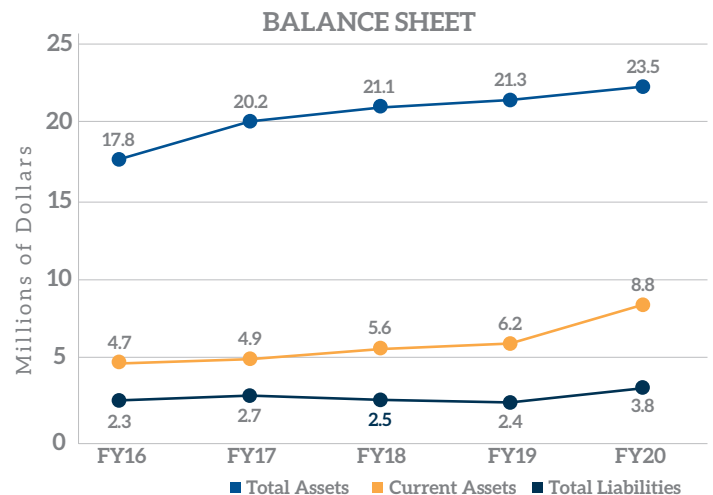
**Tribal revenues exceeded \$14M. Revenue from governmental activities fluctuates with new programs and capital projects. Revenue from business-type activities increased significantly with the purchase of the Aleut Community Store in FY18.**

The federal grant-funded divisions continue to bring in and operate multimillion-dollar, multi-year programs, as described in last year's newsletter and the following pages. We're also generating reserves with the Indian Health Service compacts passed thru Southcentral Foundation and the BIA Self-Governance compact. Those reserves totaled approximately \$1.1M at the end of FY20. These funds can be used for a wide variety of costs in future periods.

Tribal enterprises generated approximately \$640,000 of net income, the majority of which came from Bulk Sales and the Aleut Community Store. The store continues to perform, both as an economic contributor to the community and as a financial investment of the Tribe.



**Tribal revenues are spread across many activities. Health and Human Services (HHS) is the largest federal grant funded division. The Bering Sea Campus and most capital projects are accounted for in DBED. The store and bulk sales are the primary income-generating enterprises. General fund expenses are negative due to excess indirect cost recovery, which will self-correct in subsequent years.**



**Tribal assets continue to increase, with current assets exceeding total liabilities by a ratio of more than 2:1.**

I hope to see everyone soon. I miss coming to St. Paul!

Justin Carr, CFO/CIO

# STEAM TEAM UPDATES

Veronica Padula, Academic Program Director



Happy new year from the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center team. In this year in review newsletter, our most honest reflection on 2020 is that it was a challenging year in many ways on a local and global scale, but it was incredible to

see the St. Paul Island community come together to keep each other safe and healthy through incredible sacrifice and compassion. We are extremely proud of the work that the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center has been able to do in 2020, facing the year's challenges head on and adapting to the situation to ensure that we could provide educational opportunities and support to the community in a safe, healthy and meaningful manner.

While the campus is still a relatively new component to the tribal government, we grew in our capacity and expertise as the educational and research arm of the organization in 2020. We expanded our team to include Educational Program Coordinators, a Media Specialist and a Case Manager, providing support to our Campus Operations Manager on the ground. This team has played a vital role in strengthening our relationship with the Pribilof School District by working closely with the new superintendent, providing space as needed for students, offering a math and coding class to enhance STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) skills for middle school students and offering an after school space in which students could receive tutoring or catch up on homework when necessary.

The campus also began building an online framework within the Canvas Learning Management System to deliver course content to students. The learning management system is an online tool used by many learning and training institutions to enhance classroom learning - it provides teachers with tools such as a platform through which they can communicate with their students, assign homework, track progress, grade quizzes and tests, and provide their students with real-time feedback on their work in class.

While many learning institutions have used canvas for the past several years, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for such systems as many schools went remote in the spring of 2020 and students were forced into distance learning situations. The learning management system will house the curriculum that campus has developed for the career and college readiness, marine debris prevention and Native American language programs - all ongoing grants that support campus activities. Three of the St. Paul Island School's teachers are also each creating their own special "community quilt" courses on Canvas where others can learn about topics like traditional foods, mythology and culture. Additionally, the Pribilof School District will be integrated into the campus learning management system in fall 2021, allowing all of St. Paul Island School's teachers and students access to this invaluable education resource. Parents can also access the learning management system, allowing them to track their children's progress, communicate with teachers more often and assist their children in their learning progress and success.

Beyond the students of the St. Paul Island School, the campus has been working hard to foster an environment of growth and personal/professional development through assisting adult community members in realizing their goals. Our partnerships with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus and Iḷisaḡvik College have enabled us to offer various courses on St. Paul Island and to enroll students in distance learning programs. For example, Bristol Bay Campus has brought numerous Alaska Native Art courses to island such as ivory carving and bentwood hat making. HMC took a course in Home Energy Basics this past November, inspiring them to learn more about solar energy and solar panels and other forms of renewable energy that could help the community save money on costs and become more sustainable over time. The campus staff also lives this philosophy and fosters an environment of growth and development by taking classes themselves - the

*Continues on page 20*

# HOUSING, MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION

Danielle Lestenkof, DBED Manager/Housing Manager



Thanks to the quick response of the Tribal Incident Command System Team and staff dedication to developing workplace safety plans, HMC has been able to operate business relatively normal to what it was before COVID-19

became our “new normal”, even with all of the challenges that were presented.

The maintenance and construction crew have had a full slate this past year with keeping all of our tribal buildings/equipment in working order, performing rehabilitation/weatherization projects on community homes, performing energy efficiency upgrades to tribal facilities, installing boilers at the store and in homes, and responding to community work orders.

In 2021 they will begin upgrades to the CAC, rehabilitate house 101, begin the sitework and construction of three new duplex units located on Colonel Fouke Road, and continue to repair community member’s roofs/ windows/boilers that qualify for our home rehabilitation/ weatherization program.

In 2021 they will begin upgrades to the CAC, rehabilitate house 101, begin the sitework and construction of three new duplex units located on Colonel Fouke Road, replace the St. Paul Health Center’s siding and roof, and continue to repair community member’s roofs/ windows/boilers that qualify for our home rehabilitation/weatherization program.

If you are below the income limits listed in the chart below and haven’t participated in our low-income housing rehabilitation program in the last 10 years, please email [dnlestenkof@aleut.com](mailto:dnlestenkof@aleut.com) for an application for assistance.

|      | 2020 MFI |           |           | 100,100   |           | ALEUTIANS WEST |           |           |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
|      | 1 Person | 2 Persons | 3 Persons | 4 Persons | 5 Persons | 6 Persons      | 7 Persons | 8 Persons |
| 80%  | \$56,056 | \$64,064  | \$72,072  | \$80,050  | \$86,486  | \$92,893       | \$99,299  | \$105,706 |
| 100% | \$70,070 | \$80,080  | \$90,090  | \$101,100 | \$108,108 | \$116,116      | \$124,124 | \$132,132 |

## PERSONAL + COMMUNITY HEALTH

We are committed to advocating, educating and promoting healthy, holistic life styles that incorporate culturally appropriate values and health concepts within our communities. Through this mission we hope to empower our tribal members to take personal responsibility for their own health.

### SERVICES:

Behavioral Health Services  
Outreach and Education  
Prevention  
Outpatient  
TK Healing to Wellness



# HUMAN RESOURCES

René Warner, HR Manager



The COVID-19 Pandemic has tested all our leaders' capacities to guide our workforce through the ever-rapid and increasing waves of change. Though change is inevitable, it usually comes at a slower pace. Due to the pandemic, many employers and employees were quickly forced into adapting to the "new normal". Since March 2020, the Tribal Government of St. Paul has continuously been exploring various ways to keep our employees connected as remote work and social distancing has become an ongoing reality. To face this head on, our Unified Command Team was activated in March and continues to collaborate to address the pandemic challenges and help navigate our employees forward.

A large part of our focus has been the human perspective and how to ensure the safety of our community. What training and development will our employees need? How can we continue to motivate them? How can we keep our employees and customers safe? Communication has been a huge part of managing this change. Our goal is to positively engage any changes by letting employees know what we are trying to accomplish and why it is important.

We want to continue build a healthy and prosperous community to ensure a sustainable tomorrow.

There is no doubt that the entities of St. Paul Island are still wrestling with these challenges. Our local leaders have tirelessly committed their time and resources to building us up stronger than before and proving how resilient we are as a community. Though this pandemic has been challenging, it has given us the opportunity to focus on strengthening the culture of our workplace and community.

A huge thank you to all entities and community members for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times. Stay safe and healthy!

René A. Warner,  
HR Manager

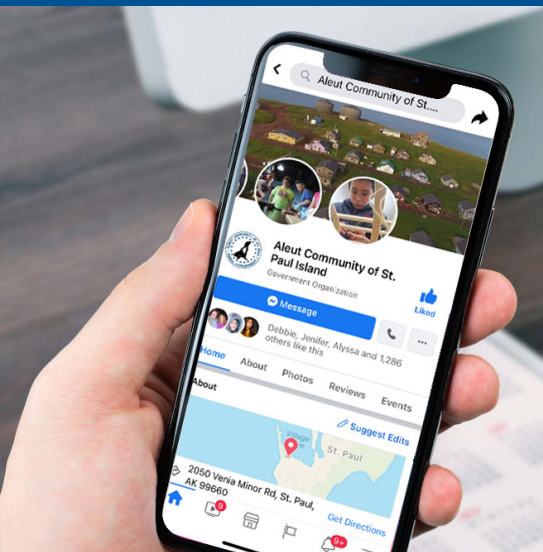
## HOLIDAY REMINDERS

The Tribal Government of St. Paul Island will be closed on the following days:

Monday May 3rd, 2021 for Easter

Monday May 31st, 2021 for Memorial Day

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please check our Facebook page for the most current job postings or events at:  
[www.facebook.com/St.PaulIsland](https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulIsland)

Applicants can apply at the Tribal Government of St. Paul during normal business hours by completing an Application for Employment. Applicants with incomplete applications will not be considered for the position. For an application for Employment, Position Description or more information please contact Rene Warner, HR Manager at [rawarner@aleut.com](mailto:rawarner@aleut.com) or by phone at 907-257-2642.

# ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION OFFICE

Lauren Divine, ECO Director



## A YEAR OF CHANGES FOR ECO

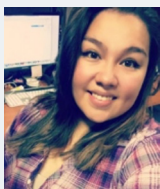
This year marked the start of a new mode of operations for us all, as we adapted to working in very different, ever-changing conditions; learned what social distancing and pandemic meant; became adept at navigating remote ways of communicating as the norm; and found creative ways to stay in touch, continue collaborations and partnerships, and encourage each other from afar. We want to share with you the changes that took place in our department this year, update you on our projects and accomplishments for 2020 and preview the year to come!

As one year ends and a new one starts, we wish you joy and lightness of heart; may your happiness be doubled each passing day and your work fruitful and enriching!



ECO Manager, Pamela Lestenkof, went on sabbatical in November 2020 after 10 years with the department. In her time with ECO, Pamela served several roles including ECO Manager and Co-Director. Pamela was integral to achieving the federal regulation

changes for the subsistence use of Iaaqudan and has always been an advocate and powerful voice for our tribal members, subsistence harvesters and hunters, and our community. She is no stranger to managing multiple grants like the EPA General Assistance Program (backhaul, recycling, solid waste, air quality) and NMFS Co-Management, with amazing attention to detail and dedication. Pamela has been a central fixture in the ECO team for ten years and is truly a source of inspiration for the rest of the ECO team. We want to say Txin qagaasakuqing to you, Pamela, for the legacy you have left behind and wish you all the best!



Traditional and Local Knowledge Coordinator, Serafima Edelen, left her role in November 2020. Serafima moved to Palmer/Wasilla with her family Roman Fratis, Jr. and Jay Taylor to pursue additional professional

and personal opportunities. During her time with ECO as the LTK Coordinator, Serafima participated on several Steering Committees and in advisory roles for the Funter Bay Internment project that included designing a museum exhibit for the Juneau Douglas City Museum; designing a traveling kiosk that accompanies the museum exhibit and will be permanently placed on St. Paul next year; and gathering input from Elders and community members on interpretive panels that will be placed at the Funter Bay site. Serafima also strengthened ECO's education and outreach programs through her participation in Bering Sea Days and Summer Culture Camp, mentoring undergraduate minority students through the Doris Duke National Scholars program, and engagement via our social media sites. Serafima brought a unique and fresh perspective to ECO projects in her role and we know she will carry that perspective with her in her future endeavors!



ECO hired Christopher Tran, into a new position of Pribilof Islands Science Technician, in October 2020. Chris moved from Seattle, Washington where he worked for Washington Department of Fish and Game to locate and assess barriers in

streams posing potential passage or entrapment problems for salmonids. He has also worked for the Tulalip Tribes to assess suitable beaver habitat throughout Western Washington. Chris has approached this position with enthusiasm and tenacity, adapting to a role that originally had significant travel to both St. Paul and St. George that was indefinitely postponed due to COVID-19. Chris is leading ECO efforts to document and synthesize our Pribilof communities' marine conservation goals and evaluate feasible actions that our communities may take in the future. Please join us in welcoming Chris to ECO!



## SUBSISTENCE HARVEST SUMMARIES

### 2019 Laaquadadan (pup) harvest summary

The first legal laaquadadan (pup) harvest season commenced on September 30, 2019. There were five laaquadadan harvests held between September 30 and October 5, 2019. A total of 112 male pups and 1 female pup were harvested from five haulout or rookery sections – Zoltoi Sands, Little Zapadni, Morjovi, Polovina and Reef. To minimize female mortality the harvest method included capturing, handling, and sexing all laaquadadan prior to harvest.

### 2020 Laaquadan (northern fur seal) hunting summary

The first legal hunting season for laaquadan occurred from January 1-May 31, 2020. There was a total of seven laaquadan hunted during the season; two were struck and lost at Reef and five were retrieved (two from Reef and three from Northeast Point). Island Sentinels were able to collect the snouts of four retrieved laaquadan and whiskers from one animal.

### 2020 laaquadan and laaquadadan (pups) harvest summary

The harvest of sub-adult male laaquadan occurred during seven harvest events from July 9-31, 2020. A total of 204 fur seals were harvested on St. Paul Island from three different haulout areas, Big Zapadni, Polovina and Zapadni Reef, with 204 sub-adult males and 0 females taken. A total of 58 male laaquadadan (pups) and 5 yearling males were harvested during seven harvests from three harvest locations, Kitovi, Polovina, and Hutchinson Hill from August 18- October 13, 2020. No females were taken during these harvests. No other mortalities occurred during this year's harvest season. No haulout was harvested more than once per week.

Harvests were scheduled on an as needed basis and monitored by ECO and/ or a NMFS representative. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions and mandates, NMFS was able to contract Jacob Merculief as an on-island representative. Jacob participated in sub-adult male harvests and pup harvests and will continue to serve his role for the 2020 laaquadan hunting season. Thank you for your hard work and willingness to serve in this position, Jacob!

### 2020 Reindeer harvest summary

The ECO manages two reindeer hunting seasons annually: a male velvet season from April 1 through July 31 and a fawn/

yearling season from August 1 through December 31. Hunters killed a total of 10 reindeer during the male velvet season and 9 reindeer to date during the fawn/yearling season.

ECO has extended the 2020 fall fawn/yearling season to February 1, 2021. Please make sure all hunts are reported within 2 business days and a permit is filled out for each successful hunt. Be safe out there!

ECO would like to remind hunters that a successful hunt begins with careful planning and preparation. Preparation requires more time than the hunt itself. Hunters should be adequately prepared for every hunt, exercise high safety standards while in the field with firearms, and be conservative and cautious when hunting every time. Please consider the current and future weather conditions before hunting; wear proper clothing and pack extra clothing for a variety of weather conditions; always pack first aid supplies, water, and food; always carry a light source (such as a headlamp or flashlight); know and abide by all regulations and ordinances; and take any other necessary precautions to ensure a successful hunt.

### 2020 Qawan (Steller sea lion) hunting summary

A total of 33 qawan were hunted from January-December 2020 from 3 locations with 23 retrieved and 9 struck and lost. All retrieved sea lions were juvenile males; all struck and lost sea lions were unknown age class and sex. Forty five percent of sea lions were hunted at Northeast Point; 49% were hunted at Reef; and 6% were hunted at Southwest Point. Eleven qawan were killed on land and 22 were killed while the animal was in the water. Overall, the retrieval rate was 70% and the struck and lost rate was 30%.

### 2021 Laaquadan and Qawan Hunting Seasons are open now

Pribilovians who reside on St. Paul are authorized to hunt with firearms for male laaquadan less than 7 years old from January 1 to May 31 annually. Please be advised that qawan hunters may also be out hunting.

Please report subsistence use of laaquadax, qawax, and isugix (including retrieved and struck and lost) to ECO Island Sentinels within 24 – 48 hours, or two business days. Same-day reporting is ideal so that ECO can continue to collect

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# ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

*Continued from page 9*

valuable biological samples (canine teeth and whiskers) from retrieved animals, especially during the time of the year when carcasses are more likely to wash out with high tide or freeze, impacting our ability to collect samples. Of course, hunters have first right to collecting any hard parts from their hunted animals, including canine teeth and whiskers. Please coordinate your hunts with our Island Sentinels, Paul Melovidov and Aaron Lestenkof, or the NMFS on-island representative, Jacob Mercurief, so that we can sample the harvested animal.

We thank the St. Paul Island marine mammal hunters for their continued active participation in ECO's real-time



subsistence monitoring program, and cooperation in reporting subsistence use in a timely manner. Please contact ECO at 546-3200 if you have any questions or concerns. Your participation is vital! Qaġaalakuŋ!

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALING AND WELLNESS

Charlene Naulty, Director



### Directors Update

Slum Tagadagan Qaġataa!

Through all the extraordinary challenges of 2020, we have learned much that can serve us in 2021 and beyond. This year's watershed moments have taught us that the pressure for immediate solutions in a crisis can sometimes produce lasting changes for the better. 2020 challenged us in unanticipated ways, ways that have changed our community forever. In spite of numerous challenges, the community has demonstrated marked resiliency through locally guided innovation and adaptive practices and approaches to support youth.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that "American Indian and Alaska Native people have suffered a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 illness during the pandemic." The high levels of concern for the health and safety of vulnerable Tribal members have led us to issue continued directives that limit participation in in-person meetings, events, and/or activities. As well, the school has implemented hybrid learning plans for the 2020 - 2021 school year. While many community members undoubtedly welcome protective health and safety precautions, such limitations continue to compel our community-based programs to

innovate and sustain program measures through newly etched paths. Based on current circumstances, our community prevention program staff are learning how to navigate web-based communication platforms, develop social media initiatives to reach youth audiences, and strategically plan.

We are fortunate to have received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to partner with the Bering Sea Campus and the community to create a series of short videos to help promote reliance during the pandemic. You can view those videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLp-DoXMknrz-cb6SJCKg9A/videos>.

### APPLYING FOR MEDICARE

Desta Baker, Elder Services Specialist

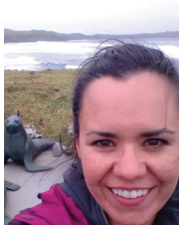
Are you 65 or older and want to know more about Medicare? There are more than one that you can file for, Part A, B, C or D.

Medicare Part A: Covers inpatient hospital costs, home health care, and nursing facility stays. Out of pocket costs will depend on how long you stay in the hospital or if you have paid the Part A deductible, if you have worked at least 10 years and paid Medicare taxes you don't have to pay a premium deductible.

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# OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE ADMINISTRATION

Marissa Merculieff and David Avraham Voluck



2020 saw a sharp rise in Office of Justice and Governance Administration (OJGA) activities, in part due to the distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tribal Government provided difficult but important leadership in the federal CARES

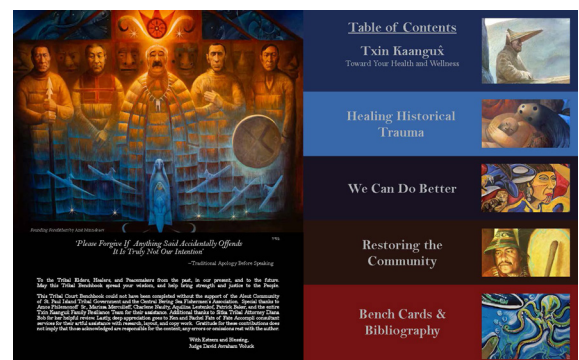
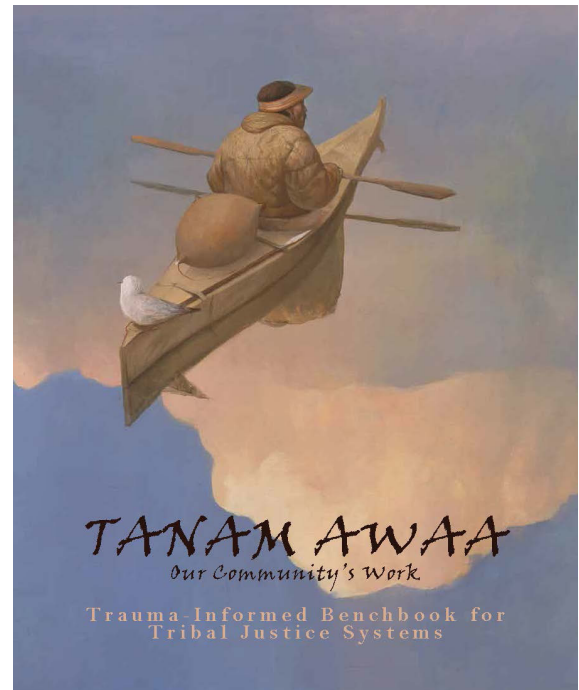
Act funding litigation, protecting inherent sovereignty and ensuring governmental Tribal relief funds were issued directly to federally recognized tribal governments.

The Tribal Court set a record with 47 new cases. The Cross-Deputization Agreement with the City of St. Paul Dept. of Public Safety is working well, with over 40 tribal citizens diverted out of the State of Alaska criminal justice system and toward civil resolutions in Tribal Court. St. Paul Island continues to provide leadership to the entire State of Alaska by modeling cooperation between municipal public safety departments and tribal justice systems.

OJGA continues to provide technical assistance to other Tribes around Alaska and the Nation with the release of Judge Voluck's Trauma-Informed Benchbook for Tribal Justice Systems. A copy was mailed to all 229 Alaska Native tribes. Tanam Awaa (Our Community's Work) is available for viewing at <https://www.alut.com/justice/>.

Finally, the ACSPI also set a new record this year and welcomed 60 new enrolled tribal members. New email addresses were established for enrollment ([tribalenrollment@aleut.com](mailto:tribalenrollment@aleut.com)) and Tribal Court ([court@aleut.com](mailto:court@aleut.com)). Anyone seeking assistance or further information on enrollment or Tribal Court, please use the new email addresses.

OJGA joins the world in looking forward to 2021 as a year of healing, while we continue our mission of furthering self-governance, tribal justice development, and service to the Island as well as sister tribes throughout Alaska and the Nation.





# TANAĖ-UNAAĖIM MAQAĖSINGIN (TUM)

Aquilina Lestenkof, Director (UnaaĖiĖ, UnangaĖ)  
For information email: [adlestenkof@aleut.com](mailto:adlestenkof@aleut.com) or  
phone (907) 546-2546



## Unangam Tunuu (language) Revitalization

### Summer Language Intensive, 2021

The TUM has held six annual Summer Language Intensives (SLI) at the Civic Center on St. Paul Island since 2015 to teach and train teachers of Unangam Tunuu and provide summer employment. In 2021, for the first time, college credit from IĖisaĖvik College will be available to both teenager and adult SLI participants: 6 credits for attending the SLI and completing course requirements under the instruction of Anna Melovidov Porath. The course will be for those who have attended an Unangam Tunuu download camp or are familiar with 'Where Are Your Keys?' teaching methodology and will focus on training participants to become teachers of Unangam Tunuu. In addition, advancing Unangam Tunuu acquisition will be part of the process.

## Unangam Tunuu Speaking Learning Teaching (UTSLT)

Starting in August 2020 and continuing into 2021, eleven adolescents, grades 8th-12th, attending St. Paul Island School are developing the ability to use an array of strategic techniques to teach Unangam Tunuu. In turn they are learning and speaking Unangam Tunuu, as well as practicing the fine art of accountability to and for one another (teamwork) by pulling each other through lessons and assigned team organization tasks. (See Pages: 'Sample Lesson' & 'An Important Technique' - opposite page)

## For Your Information

- A three-year Department of Education, Alaska Native Education grant to support Unangam Tunuu revitalization will end on September 16, 2021. The project is in the process of being evaluated.
- The tribal government will seek funds to continue Unangam Tunuu revitalization.
- TUM director, Aquilina Lestenkof, plans to retire as the TUM director by 2024. She intends to continue involvement in Unangam Tunuu.
- Visit [www.tanamawaa.com](http://www.tanamawaa.com) for Unangam Tunuu resources to be added in 2021.

## Disinterment/Re-interment of Sophie Tetoff (UnangaĖ, St. Paul Island)

In December 2020, the Office of Army Cemeteries expressed interest in moving forward with disinterment of Sophie Tetoff. The disinterment/re-interment, originally planned for the summer of 2020, was postponed in April 2020. The tentative plan is for Lauren Peter, granddaughter of Agnes Tetoff Larson, to accompany the remains of Sophie Tetoff to St. Paul Island for re-interment in summer 2021. Sophie Tetoff died on May 6, 1906 while attending Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.

n haqaax̂ta.  
natxin malgaax̂t  
ugan kayux Tanam  
m anuxtanaa ngiir

Title: Aslixsxaan Ixamnakuḡ (distance)

Props: none

**Teacher notes:** The place names will change depending on who's playing and whether you're playing with real information or using TQ: Lie to me.

### Part 1

- 1 Alqutaḡ, Qanahligan, Qanaagan
- 2 Aang (or aang aang.) Aslixsxaan ixamnakuḡ, Ukudigalix (or ukudigaadix or ukudigaasada)
- 3 Qilam ixamnaa, Qam agalaa, Angalkingam ixamnaa
- 4 Alqutaltxin, Altxin
- 5 asaḡtaltxin, aqaḡtaltxin, tanaḡiltxin
- 6 Ixamanaḡ tutakuqing, Kaanguḡ tutakuqing, Maqaḡil(a)kaqing
- 7 ilan, ilaan

My Turn/Your Turn  
SL (or Look Ma No Hands!)

Alex: Aang (or Aang aang)  
Bailey: Aang (or Aang aang)

Alex: Qilam ixamnaa  
Bailey: Qilam ixamnaa

Alex: "Alex" asaḡtakuqing. Alqutaḡ asaḡtaltxin?  
Bailey: "Bailey" asaḡtakuqing.

Alex: Alqutaltxin?  
Bailey: Ixamanaḡ tutakuqing! Altxin?

Alex: Ixamanaḡ tutakuqing. Qanahligan tanaḡiltxin?  
Bailey: Tanaḡ Amigim ilan tanaḡikuqing. Qanahligan tanaḡiltxin?

Alex: Tanaḡ Amigim ilan tanaḡikuqing. Qanaagan aqaḡtaltxin?  
Bailey: Tanaḡ Amigim ilaan aqaḡtakuqing.

Alex: Aslixsxaan ixamnakuḡ.  
Bailey: Aslixsxaan ixamnakuḡ.

Alex: Ukudigalix.  
Bailey: Ukudigalix.

Send It Around (or Boomerang)

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last edit: 1/6/21



page



1/1

AN IMPORTANT TECHNIQUE FOR LEARNING UNANGAM TUNUU is **Craigslists** (see 'Color-Coding' below for definition of Craigslis.) which consist of grammar the adolescents in the Unangam Tunuu Speaking Learning & Teaching classes have practiced through teaching each other, August to December 2020:

Alqutaḡ, Alqutax, Alqutan  
Alqutaḡ, Klin  
Qanahligan, Qanaagan  
Aang, Kuuguu  
Alqutaltxin, Altxin  
akuḡ, akux, akun  
alakaḡ, alakax, alakan  
asaḡtaltxin, asaḡtaltxin, asaḡtalix  
waya, wakux, wakun  
ingaya, ingakux, ingakun  
ilan, ilaan  
aang, ukudigalix  
ixamanaḡ tutakuqing, kaanguḡ tutakuqing, maqaḡilkaqing

### Color-Coding of Unangam Tunuu Fluency Freeway Lessons

**Props** - are item(s) needed to -back up/prove/make more obvious - what you are talking about in the lesson. Usually, all props are listed. But they might not all be used at once. Sometimes a lesson does not have a prop.

**Teacher note** -provides you with details to assist you with leading the lesson.

**Stage Directions** -help you set up props and/or players and at times can be stated to players.

**Techniques (TQs)** - are used to communicate instructions to the players. TQs help you tell player(s) what or what not to do, or help you ask players what they need. If you or a player is new to a TQ say the TQ out loud and sign it as you say it. With repetition TQs can be conveyed by signing them only. This way a team of players refrain from using English and stay in Unangam Tunuu. For more information the Techniques Glossary address is: <https://whereareyourkeys.org/technique-glossary>

**Alex:** - is written in black and is usually the question that starts each dialogue. The question is sent around to all learners using repetition to grasp the concept.

**Bailey:** -is the response to the question (Alex) and is written in red.

1 k, q: akuḡ, alqutaḡ -is an Unangam Tunuu (UT) Accent and is meant to assist with pronunciation.

1 aang, kuuguu -this is a Craigslis. Craigslis give players a chance to say the words in a lesson before saying the sentences the words are in. A Craigslis is performed by the lesson leader having learners copy him/her speaking the list, in most case, three times.

Sample lesson page

An important technique

## TUM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Since 2015, the TUM has held six annual Summer Language Intensives (SLI) to teach and train teachers of Unangam Tunuu and provide summer employment.
- Eleven adolescents, attending St. Paul Island School are developing the ability to use an array of strategic techniques to teach Unangam Tunuu.

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PEACE

Charlene Naulty, Director



## Directors Update

Slum Tagadagan Qaġataa!

For the Department of Community Safety and Peace, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has taken over our daily workload, changed our work, the way we approach it, and the

way we are doing it. It has forced us to take a step back and analyze the way we operate which has led us to make some much needed changes. As we start a new year, faced with another surge in coronavirus cases and fresh obstacles, it's critical that we are armed with the tools we need to support our staff and community. We are currently operating in a hybrid model –those who are able to work from the office are keeping normal business hours, and those who are unable to be in the office due to daycare or elder care responsibilities are working remotely –to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and the Tribal members we serve.

Tribe and City formed the St. Paul Island Unified Command to work together to prepare for and respond to the pandemic. We continue to develop and implement strategies and response plans to limit community spread of COVID-19. The Unified Command worked with the State of Alaska and Southcentral Foundation to secure the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. As of January 13, 2021 SCF was able to give the first dose of the vaccine to 104 community members and will start the second dosing January 27, 2021 to be completed on February 10, 2021. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) process, and guidance to industry for developing a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit:

### COVID-19 Vaccines

#### Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained

<http://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua>

DCSP staff have been able to work with entity leaders and subject matter experts to develop or revise the Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan, Food Security/Food Bank Plan, Tribal Mitigation Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, Pandemic/Influenza Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and Infectious

Disease Policy. Over the course of the last 8 months we have worked to ensure those who live in St. Paul have the appropriate level of safety and security measures in place by adding personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and cleaning/sanitizing crews or added responsibilities to staff in all of our Tribal Office locations. We have maintained appropriate building closures when unable to reopen due to mandates and the inability to meet the safety standards in place in the community. We have been able to purchase and maintain an appropriate level of community PPE and supplies to ensure we have no supply chain interruptions and have made the PPE available to the community as needed.

We have opened Tribal transient housing to ensure those traveling to and from St. Paul Island have a place to safely quarantine. The food bank has been expanded to ensure we are able to meet the basic needs of the community and those who have had to seek alternative food sources for any reason. We were able to work with the CBSFA to purchase 2100 lbs. of halibut in 6oz portions. We were able to offer a stipend for local subsisters time to harvest seal and reindeer that was also placed in the food bank for distribution.

The Tribal staff pulled together to work towards seeking as many COVID-19 related funding opportunities available to us to ensure a safe and relatively smooth transition in operations and service delivery. In the DCSP specifically with the funding secured we were able to purchase needed equipment for local on island staff working remotely (laptops/tablets), and expand bandwidth to those providing virtual critical services. For our customer owners we were able to purchase cell phones and minute cards and tablets/laptops to loan out, the eligibility is as follows:

1. parents, guardians, and/or children that are in foster care for visitation or case planning
2. those who are in our shelter or transitional housing program and need a way to reach out to the advocate
3. those who are victims of ANY crime who need to reach out for help



4. those who need substance abuse treatment, seeking mental health services and have no ability to call help lines or providers
5. those who travel for medical and don't have a way to communicate with providers or family
6. those who seek our help to call to the State for welfare assistance programming
7. those who are down on their luck and need access to services

## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA): HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROTECTS NATIVE CHILDREN

By Sheridan DesGranges, Deputy Director DCSP

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a Congressional statute established in 1978 that seeks to correct for historical mistakes that caused the removal of many Indian children from their traditional families.

ICWA was enacted because non-Native agencies were removing 25-35% of Indian children from their families and placing them in non-Indian homes.

In addition to Indian children being removed at a higher rate than non-Indian children (25-30% versus 5-10%), Congress recognized that cultural ignorance and biases within the child welfare system that contributed to this discrepancy in child removal.

ICWA recognizes the priority of keeping Indian children connected to their culture by requiring states to make assertive efforts to place Native children within extended family or Tribal homes.

ICWA is designed to give Indian families the "gold standard" of child welfare practices. It requires States to determine if children are of Indian descent from the onset of the case. If Indian heritage is determined, the State is required to provide active efforts to prevent the unnecessary removal of the children from their parent(s).

If Indian children are determined to be unsafe in their parents' care, the State is required to try to locate a family member or Tribal home for that child's placement. Additionally, ICWA requires parents to be notified promptly (within hours) of

involuntary removal of a child so that parents can participate in court proceedings and be advised of their rights.

ICWA mandates that when an Indian child is removed from their parents' home, the State is also required to notify the family's Tribe. This notification allows for the Tribe to exercise their jurisdiction and assist in the child's placement in an acceptable home, such as with a relative or trusted tribal member.

ICWA became necessary legislation because Indian children are disproportionately represented in our national foster care system. Nationally, Indian children are 2.5 times more likely to be taken into protective custody than non-Indian children; in some states, the rate is as high as 14.8 times higher.

In Alaska, 63% of children in State custody are Alaska Native. ICWA requires the State to make active efforts to prevent Indian children's removal from their homes.

If your family is contacted by your local child protection agency, it is important to get an ICWA representative involved on your behalf. The ICWA worker can assist you with navigating the State's investigative process, assist in developing a safety plan to prevent the removal of your children, assist in locating family for temporary placement, and can participate in court proceedings with you or on your behalf. To get an ICWA representative to help you, call 907-257-2682 (Anchorage) or 907-546-8316 (St. Paul).

The ICWA federal act is a powerful, important part in providing aid and care to Native families and we are happy to assist you with that act's many family protective provisions.

## VICTIM SERVICES HOUSING OPTIONS

Chelsea Lekanof, DCSP Housing Coordinator

### Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter

The Department of Community Safety and Peace operates a four-bed emergency domestic violence and sexual assault shelter in St. Paul. The shelter is available to victims/survivors and their children 24 hours a day, every day. Individuals accessing the shelter may stay there for up to 30 days. While at the shelter, an individual's basic needs are covered by the shelter. The advocate works with the individual on safety planning, accessing community resources, provides

*Continues on page 19*

## BUSINESS NEWS



### AWALIX, INC.

It was a year of milestones for Tribal business interests and Awalix, our emerging Tribally owned 8a corporation, was no exception. Awalix was formally registered as an LLC in April 2020 (Federally and within the State of Alaska) and the process that we started in 2019 with the Small Business Administration (SBA) (the government agency that oversees the 8A application process) to file for 8A status for Awalix was completed in September of 2020 when the required paperwork for 8a certification was submitted. In early November 2020 we received a request from the SBA for additional paperwork and clarifications. On Dec 3, 2020, we received notice that our 8A paperwork had been received and accepted for processing.

From here there are some next steps that are required as a part of the formal acceptance. They include formalizing a business plan for Awalix, establishing a board, creating a website and some additional regulatory pieces that we will need to document but this stage represents a '90% complete' moment and the most significant hurdle (that of the SBA accepting the application) has been met. Awalix should be fully formed in 2021, allowing us to staff the company and start accepting contract and other work.

### GENERAL UPDATE SABREWING/ACSPI

#### Year in Review 2020:

Amos, Dylan and Patrick visited the Sabrewing facilities in March 2020 (prior to COVID-19) and were able to see the Rhaegal prototype in person. At that time the aircraft was only partially assembled. The trip was an effort to work through some business details, talk about future, and inspect the current status of the aircraft.



On May 8, 2020, Sabrewing, as part of the Air Force's 'Agility Prime' event, officially unveiled the Rhaegal prototype aircraft. This event was webcast and attendees included Rep. Eric Swowell (CA), Sen. Murkowski (AK), Ed De Reyes and Oliver Garrow, and Amos Philemonoff. Many of you may have seen the event live or after the official unveiling and were able to see the full 'Rhaegal B' prototype. For those who wish to see it, a link can be found on our Facebook page (and is also up on YouTube under 'Agility Prime').

### Summer 2020

Flight testing with Sabrewing's flight simulator began in June and refinements on the prototype continued. Initial simulator testing has been promising and has produced greater than anticipated flight results. ACSPI staff and Council members were able to see the simulator in a live presentation by Sabrewing in November.

### Fall 2020

ACSPI, Sabrewing and the Consillio group have been working to secure secondary funding (to the tune of around 30-50 million) for the platform and test range. We are very happy to report that, after two years of lobbying and meetings, follow up, and with a lot of support from our Alaska delegation (and specifically, Sen. Murkowski's office), 25 million dollars of funding was allocated to the Air Force for Agility Prime in the



*Photos of the Rhaegal prototype aircraft which was unveiled at the Air Force's 'Agility Prime' event.*

*Previous page shows the aircraft's fuselage. Above image shows the internal structure of the aircraft.*

spending bill recently signed into law via a congressional veto override. Next steps will be to seek (and acquire) the funding. This funding will be in place within the next six months and is the formal kick start to finishing the prototype and initiating testing in St. Paul.

### Testing (timing and preparation)

First steps to prepare for testing in St. Paul will be to identify and train the 3-5 individuals who will be hired into test range roles with testing and job mentoring for these individuals sometime in March-May of 2021. First testing for the prototype will occur on military facilities in California and will include St. Paul personnel (as part of their formal training). To prepare for testing operations in St. Paul, the Bering Sea Campus will build training programs for the 3-5 test range personnel and for an additional anticipated 8-20 positions

that we will need for the ground support crew. For test range personnel, we anticipate starting that process in earnest in January-February of 2021. For ground crew personnel, we anticipate starting the process of identifying and training crew sometime this summer or early fall of 2021. The goal is to have our personnel ready to go by Fall of 2021 (or sooner). The test range positions will be high skill, high pay and very technical positions with ample on the job training and support, while the ground crew will be targeted to entry level and skilled positions with additional on the job training and mentoring support. Mentoring for both programs will be provided by Sabrewing employees and by our educational partners through the Bering Sea Campus (Iḷisaḡvik College and the Bristol Bay Campus of UAF). Our goal is to train and staff a full service and support staff for the test range and operations and to have these individuals earn good pay, learn great skills, and create viable and sustained careers for themselves and their families.

### How this relates to Awalix/8A:

For us to be prepared for military contracting and Federal work related to Sabrewing, we need to have our 8A in place. We put a lot of time working on the very involved regulatory process to get Awalix certified and we are on track for this process to match the funding that is going to be in place. We anticipate being in position to receive these funds and will continue to work through the regulatory process to assure we are in a position for success.

### Bottom Line

COVID-19 created massive delays in funding for the Sabrewing project, much of the anticipated government funding was delayed 9-12 months and investor funding was similar. Couple that with the logistical limitations of COVID-19 and the effects that would have had on trying to initiate testing this year (even if the drone and program had been ready to go) would have been challenging, if at all feasible. This said, necessary work progressed in 2020 that should allow us in 2021 to begin the work that leads to testing onsite in St. Paul and we hope, given the progress of vaccines and the safety and health of everyone involved, that we can finally see the drone fly and have the resources, equipment, training and staff in place to sustain those operations for the foreseeable future.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

Continued from page 17

## ALEUT COMMUNITY STORE

Larry Nutter, Manager

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN. There were many ups and downs this year for the store.

Financially we had a great year, sales increased over \$400,000. Thanks to crab season we were up February and March by \$100,000 over the previous year. We have received many compliments from the boats about our in-stock rates and condition of our store, in addition to improved customer service.

Then the pandemic hit causing many shortages that continue to this day. Cleaning supplies and now Pepsi Products as well as Coke with shortages due to aluminum shortage for making cans to name a few.

We have been building our back stock up in the heavy movers/popular items that we can get in case we have to weather any more storms.

This past summer/fall we replaced all our refrigeration systems, and this is saving the store on energy consumption, with a cost analysis just being completed. This saving will be passed down to our customers with a price reduction by up to 5% on meats, freeze products and chill to equal what

we have saved on energy costs. The achievement of savings on energy are in line with the overall mission of store to reduce the costs we can reduce to pass on savings to our membership, these are costs we have control over unlike the costs of freight, cost of goods, etc.

In the near future we will begin a meat cutting program at the store with the equipment already ordered. This will cut out the middleman, thereby lowering prices and allowing us to be competitive to Anchorage pricing. We will only carry Choice meats, and this will still be a frozen meat program but will allow for some fresh meat on cutting days. Special orders will also be accepted on cutting days.

I was a meat cutter/manager for several years and look forward to training a local the art of butchering and preparing meat to carry on the tradition at our store.

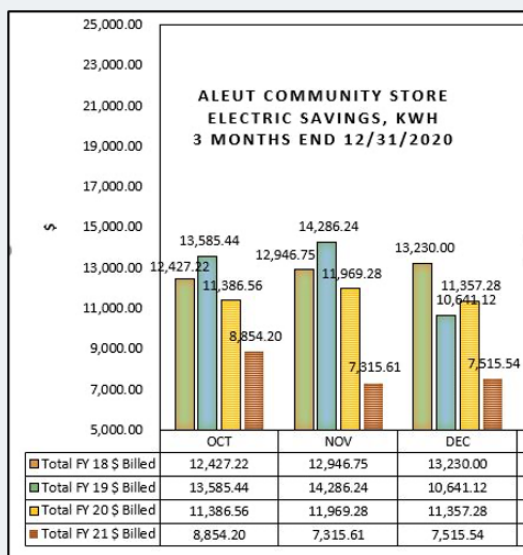
This year I have witnessed tremendous growth in our staff, I truly believe this is the best team that I have ever worked with for sure. I want to thank each and every one of them as well as the support staff at the tribal office and Anchorage. THEY ARE THE BEST.

Also, a big Thank You to Amos and Council as well as Patrick for all they have done for our store this past year during a difficult period.

Thank You

## Store Energy Retrofit Impacts

### FY20 – LED Lighting



### FY21 – New Refrigeration



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PEACE

*Continued from page 15*

domestic violence and/ or sexual assault education, while working with the individual on independency. To access the shelter or to speak with an advocate call the crisis line at (907)546-4189. All calls are kept confidential.

## Transitional Living

The Department of Community Safety and Peace also operates a three-bedroom transitional living home. This program offers safe housing to victims/survivors who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault for up to two years. While in the Transitional Living home, individuals are required to pay for rent (sliding scale fee) and cover their basic needs. An advocate meets with the customer monthly to assist with housing applications and other goals set by the customer. For more information on the Transitional Living program call (907)543-8301.

## NURTURING PARENT PROGRAM NEW COURSE TO BE PROVIDED

Samantha Zacharof, Family Services Eligibility Technician

The Nurturing Parent Program is a 16-week evidence-based parenting program that incorporates family bonding. The philosophy of Nurturing Parenting is founded on seven principles: feelings of attachment, empathy, nurturing oneself, gentle touch, discipline, expressing feelings, and expectations and self-worth.

The Nurturing Program model will consist of a group session where parents and their children meet concurrently in their separate groups that run 2 ½ hours for 16 consecutive weeks. During the groups sessions there will be lesson plans with the facilitator and parents, and a 20-minute break with snacks and beverages and a chance for parents to interact with their children. At the end of each session the parents will have a chance to evaluate how they felt about the lessons discussed for that day.

There will also be 7 home visits during the Nurturing Program, the first home visit will be before the first group session, there will also be an assessment conducted at this home visit. The second home visit will be to review the assessment. The same assessment will be conducted between weeks 14 and 15 and reviewed in the home a week later. The three additional home visits will be scheduled throughout the program, especially when parents need help understanding the material learned the week before, or if the instructor feels they did not explain the information in the parent's way of learning.

For more information on the parenting class call (907) 546-8301.



# STEAM TEAM UPDATES

*Continued from page 5*

Academic Program Director is completing a graduate degree in Fisheries, our Educational Program Coordinators and Case Manager are taking undergraduate courses, our Media Specialist is completing a degree in Music Production and our Campus Operations Manager is applying for a graduate degree in creative writing. We are not only guiding students on their journey toward success but are students ourselves, supporting each other.

Of course, all of this work cannot happen without critical partnerships with other tribal government departments, St. Paul Island entities and other academic institutions. We are able to achieve our shared goals through teamwork, which is perhaps the most valuable aspect of the campus. We hope to continue our success through strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones in the future, all in the hopes of continuing to provide a safe and valuable learning environment for all members of the St. Paul Island community.

## Updates from campus

### College and Career Readiness for St. Paul Island Students

The curriculum development team, which includes three teachers from the St. Paul Island School, continued work on developing career and college readiness curriculum, with a focus on 5th and 6th grade students this past summer. The topics students will cover include Searching Within, Connecting with Others, Empowered to Learn, Educational Paths, Career Knowledge and Transitions. We are excited to have our students enrolled in this curriculum in 2021!

### Online Learning Management System

The curriculum development team also worked hard to create a framework for an online Learning Management System (LMS) on which campus curriculum can be delivered to students. The LMS will also be integrated into the St. Paul Island School, allowing students on both St. Paul and St. George Islands to access online learning materials, allowing parents to track their students' progress and allowing teachers more means to communicate with their classes. The LMS will also allow for adult learners to access educational materials and college courses. For example,

Tribal Government employees will be able to access training modules that will assist in their professional development and growth in their careers.

### Native American Language Grant

Tribal Government was recently awarded a Native American Language grant through the US Department of Education. This project is in collaboration with the Unangam Tunuu Language teaching team, and aims to translate existing UT curriculum to the online lesson plans and develop a new course that blends UT and coding knowledge. As the UT Language team trains UT teachers, we hope the online materials and tools will assist in the process, especially in reaching students that are off island.

### NOAA Marine Debris Prevention Grant

Tribal Government was recently awarded the NOAA Marine Debris prevention grant. This project is in collaboration with the Ecosystem Conservation Office, and aims to reduce the negative impacts of plastic packing bands on northern fur seals and the marine environment. The curriculum development team created a 15 lesson plan curriculum that will be taught to 6th through 12th grade students on St. Paul Island in the spring 2021 semester. We will have many marine debris professionals virtually visiting the students to allow for career exploration and to inspire them to find solutions to marine debris. We will have more to report on this project later this year!

### SAMHSA Video Project

The campus team collaborated with the Department of Community Safety and Peace for a media development project to tackle mental health and behavioral health issues. Currently the videos the team has created address topics such as human trafficking, suicide awareness, peer pressure, hunger awareness, food insecurity and anxiety. The team will be producing more videos in 2021 so please keep an eye on the Tribal Government Facebook page and YouTube channel for links to new videos!

### Summer Happenings at Campus

While community members could not gather in large groups in 2020, the campus team adapted to the situation and found ways to get youth involved in activities over the summer. We helped host a virtual seabird camp in collaboration with the



Seabird Youth Network and Fish and Wildlife Service. We held some painting sessions for youth, especially when rock painting was such a hit for the community! We also offered tutoring for students who may have needed to catch up on their work before the new school year started. While the summer did not look the same as those in the past, we hope we were able to bring some joy to youth regardless!

## **MATH AND CODING TEACHER + CAMPUS OPERATIONS MANAGER**

From Ethan Candyfire

Working with our youth has been a joyride, I am coming up on my third year. I look forward to continuing to find new opportunities for learning experiences with our young people. This past semester we focused on an intro to electric engineering with plenty of room for free computer time, 3D printing and video making. Each student has a computer, Arduino software and an elegoo kit which gives them hands on learning. Some of the projects include coding to make LED lights blink to construction and operation of RC smart cars.

As for Campus operations the pandemic put a kink in normal business hours and regularly scheduled college courses. However, the computer lab is still open for community use and college courses are being scheduled. If you or anyone you know will need to use the space for internet services or study hour, feel free to call, text, email or find us on social media. We will assist you with a relatively flexible schedule.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

From Naomi Edenshaw

Greetings, and Happy New Year! I am on the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center team as the Educational Program Coordinator, and I am so proud of the projects I have worked on. The project that I recently led was the tribal logo project with Veronica and Marissa. I had to go through Adobe InDesign tutorials, and training to have completed these awesome email signatures. It is so cool to see everyone from tribal government use what we have created. I look forward to helping with the rollout of new updated signatures with Veronica and Marissa.

My experience with the team has been great. Another project that I have completed is applying for a type M teaching

certification through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. I had to complete online trainings and fill out forms with the Superintendent of the Pribilof School District, John Bruce. I sent out the M certification paperwork, and hope to receive my M certification soon. I also help the team with video projects, especially as a cameraperson.

We recently took a Home Energy Basics class with HMC, and that was such a great class to be in. These projects are the ones I am proud of. Furthermore, school is supposed to start back up soon, and I am looking forward to tutoring the kids that are in need of it and providing our space for kids to study. I am currently helping Sonia out with a Marine Debris Project also. I love our team, and our willingness to strive to help everyone develop professionally with our services that we provide.

## **MEDIA SPECIALIST**

From Greg Fratis

Happy New Year St. Paul! I am the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center's new media specialist. It's been an amazing year for myself regardless of COVID-19 and the many stressors that come with a global pandemic. I am very proud of the work I've accomplished this past year. Head over to YouTube and search for our media page "St. Paul Island Productions" if you haven't seen our work. I never would have imagined myself creating, producing, directing, and editing film. As most of you know, my art was heavily focused on music half my life. Being a media specialist has given me a broader view of being an artist and I'd like to thank my boss, my coworkers, and the tribal government for making this a possibility. Stay healthy everyone!

## **CASE MANAGER**

From Louis Bonner

Happy New Year! 2020 was a very challenging year, however the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center staff has made great strides to continue to offer educational and employment services to the community of Saint Paul Island and tribal members residing across Alaska and the lower 48 States. As the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center continues to grow and strengthen, we will strive to provide the best possible outcomes to ensure our community members

*Continues on page 22*

## STEAM TEAM UPDATES

*Continued from page 21*

reach their full potential. As the Case Manager for the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center, I have been fortunate to work with a great group of educational professionals providing guidance and meaningful connection to the youth we serve. I have witnessed the resilience of the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center, Aleut Tribal Government and Pribilof School District with their ability to adapt to changes quickly to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and the community during this pandemic.

I am excited to be a part of the Canvas Learning Management System development team as we ensure the successful launch of this learning management system.

This learning platform will add an extra layer of educational support for students, assist parents in tracking their child(s) academics and provide real-time communication tools for teachers. Student and adult enrollment in Canvas has steadily increased over the past couple of months with outcomes for continued growth. Through outreach activities and collaboration with the tribal government I have made meaningful connections with tribal members residing in the lower 48 States, seeking case management services to assist with completion of their scholarship and educational goals. I'm also in awe and appreciate the tribal government (management team) support for stressing the importance of staff professional development to increase staff knowledge and personal growth that allows a more cohesive and competitive workforce.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALING AND WELLNESS

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**Medicare Part B:** Covers outpatient services that are medically necessary. These services can be doctor office visits, lab testing, surgeries, ambulance rides, and more. It may not be so easy to determine which is under inpatient or outpatient due to many of these occurring in a hospital.

**Medicare Part C:** More like a private insurance also known as Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage plans are private health plans that can be chosen instead of Medicare. Part C may have lower premiums than Medigap plans but you will pay more copays as you go.

**Medicare Part D:** Helps lower the costs of your retail prescription drugs. Enrolling will not be the same as Medicare Part A & B. You will have to select a Part D plan from any available private insurance carriers in your county. The Medicare Drug plan is optional. There will be a monthly premium that you will have to pay to the insurance carrier.

### **Not sure what parts of Medicare you should apply for?**

Parts A & B are something you should have, and you must have both plans to be eligible to enroll in another Medicare plan. Most People also need Part D. You can have this as a

standalone coverage with your Medicare Supplement plan or Medicare Advantage Plan or you can look into plans that have built-in Part D Drug plan.

You can apply for Medicare at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/apply.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/apply.html) and select "apply for Medicare only" or go to the Department of Community Safety and Peace office at the clinic to pick up an application. Molly Charlie 729-6784 email: [mcharlie@southcentralfoundation.com](mailto:mcharlie@southcentralfoundation.com).

### **ONE DAY AT A TIME**

Aubrey Wegeleben, Community Education and Prevention Coordinator

With the pandemic and stressful uncertainties of 2020, the life of the community practically slowed to a halt. New ways of connecting became relied upon although sometimes not so reliable. But we all did what we had to do one day at a time, to ensure that our community remained safe.

We in the DHW continue to provide opportunity for our membership to learn, engage, have fun and be healthy. Last year some of our activities included paint night for youth and espresso-self paint night for adults, a variety of

The Bering Sea Campus and myself are looking forward to 2021, as we ramp-up delivery of services, identify new on-island training opportunities through our partnership with Bristol Bay College, UAF and Iñisaġvik College and our on-site campus to provide a safe learning environment for the youth on St. Paul Island.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

From Sonia Merculief

Aang Aang! I hope you are all enjoying the new year so far, I am an Educational Program Coordinator with the Bering Sea Campus and Research Center. I have two projects I am currently working on. I run a girls group every week with two different age groups. I am also a part of the NOAA Marine

Debris Prevention Project, from helping with the curriculum and the research part of it. I absolutely love working with the girls every week, connecting with them is honestly a blessing. Other than these projects, my experience with this team has been one of the best because there is always room to grow and learn from each other. I hope to be able to keep growing my girls group as the year goes on, keep the attendance up and guide them in what they choose to as they grow and graduate school.

Zoom opportunities like game night and a relaxation demo, a Color Me Healthy Run and community contests. Recent opportunities were purchasable drum making kits, and the online ND42 youth camp and adult clinic.

All events are for the benefit and wellbeing of everyone in the community. Many of these activities rely on your participation to continue; so, join and have fun!

The latest community activity is a snow man/creation contest. It is running through the end of January; and it looks like the snow may be sticking around, so get your creative minds going and have some fun with family and friends. Don't forget to submit a picture of your creation to be posted on our department page for voting.

What activity would catch your interest and participation?  
Email [amwegeleben@aleut.com](mailto:amwegeleben@aleut.com)

With the stress of the pandemic and limited daylight, we have available a sun lamp and acoustic chair if you find yourself able to take 15 to 30 minutes out of your schedule to lay back and relax. Call the department at 546.8301 to reserve your time.

**Practicing the following deep breathing exercise, from [webmd.com](http://webmd.com), can aid relaxation.**

- 1. Get comfortable. You can lie on your back in bed or on the floor with a pillow under your head and knees. Or you can sit in a chair with your shoulders, head, and neck supported against the back of the chair.**
- 2. Breathe in through your nose. Let your belly fill with air.**
- 3. Breathe out through your nose.**
- 4. Place one hand on your belly. Place the other hand on your chest.**
- 5. As you breathe in, feel your belly rise. As you breathe out, feel your belly lower. The hand on your belly should move more than the one that's on your chest.**
- 6. Take three more full, deep breaths. Breathe fully into your belly as it rises and falls with your breath.**

**A multitude of free relaxation scripts can be found at <https://www.innerhealthstudio.com/relaxation-scripts.html>**

**Aguuġuġ txin blagusluviix taġ!**



# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of the 2020 Tribal Annual Meeting and Elections  
to be held on  
Saturday, February 13, 2021

The Annual Tribal Membership Meeting will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **virtually on Zoom**. The Zoom link and phone number with the security passcode to join will be provided to on-island tribal members at the time of voting. You will have the option to join Zoom by video or to call-in.

Elections will take place in the Tribal Lounge to offer more space for social distancing. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided to the election polls for elders, please call 546-3257 to request a ride in advance. We will be cleaning the vehicle after each ride.

**\*\*Voting area will be limited to 15 people at a time, masks and six (6) feet of social distancing are required.\*\***

Declarations of Candidacy forms for the 2020 Tribal Council Election are available at the Tribal Office. Candidacies will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 04, 2021.

To be eligible to serve on the St. Paul Tribal Council, candidates must be enrolled members of the Aleut Community of St. Paul, and:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Physically reside in St. Paul at least 2 years immediately prior to the election
- Not have been convicted of any felony within the previous 5 years, or have any conviction against a child or of embezzlement
- Not be employed by the Tribal Government in an upper management position
- Not be employed by the Tribal Government if one Council Member is already an employee of the Tribal Government

For questions please contact:  
[info@aleut.com](mailto:info@aleut.com) before our  
virtual annual meeting. If you  
do not have email, please  
leave your question for a staff  
member while voting. Or you  
can also direct message us to  
the ACSPI Facebook page.



[www.facebook.com/St.Paullsland](https://www.facebook.com/St.Paullsland)

## St. Paul Island Report

## SPECIAL ANNUAL EDITION



### ST. PAUL ISLAND

P.O. Box 86 | 2050 Venia Minor Rd.  
St. Paul Island, Alaska 99660  
Tel: 907-546-3200

### ANCHORAGE

4720 Business Park Blvd., Ste G-42  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Tel: 907-257-2645