



A G 'W A N E R M I U T

AFOGNAK
PEOPLE'S
NEWSLETTER

KASITAQ

Chair Letter

Cama'i Tribal Members:

Dig Afognak was a great success this summer. We had 206 campers this season: 50 at Harvesting, 44 at Survivor, 40 at Shareholder, 52 at Music and 19 at Alumni. This does not include the 12 Staff, 34 guests for the picnic and 21 day visitors that dropped in throughout the camps.

The addition of the low ropes course and the zipline were amazing. Our oldest zipper was 76 years old and loved it. We are so thankful for these additions to camp and the enhancement to our teambuilding/leadership curriculum.

I'd like to send out a huge quyanaasinaq to our amazing staff including regular office staff, Dig Afognak seasonal staff and youth interns. They work very hard to ensure camp is safe and fun for all of our campers and do a phenomenal job. If you see any of the following people around, thank them for the hard work they do at camp:

Kate Blondin
Melissa Borton
Emily Capjohn
Andy Charliaga
Jason Charliaga
Ralph Christiansen
Sadie Coyle

Kimberly Dolph
Taletha Gertz
Nina Gronn
Jordan Hayden
Dee Jerling
Jeremy Kewan
Mariah King

Lynda Lorensen
Denise Malutin
Susan Malutin
Nancy Nelson
Shurina Skonberg
Georgiana Spears



In addition, camp wouldn't be what it is without the many volunteers and supporters of Dig Afognak. Quyanaasinaq for everyone's dedication.

Included in this newsletter is the report from Afognak Native Corporation (ANC) on the 2nd Annual Afognak Youth Charity Golf Tournament. We are so grateful for ANC and their staff and families for all of the hard work and dedication that goes into this amazing tournament. The funding raised goes directly towards our Dig Afognak camp.

Finally, our Annual Meeting and Election is scheduled for Saturday September 23, 2017 at the ANC building, 300 Alimaq Dr, Kodiak, AK 99615. We look forward to seeing our tribal members to reconnect, learn about the exciting things your Tribe is working on, have lunch and win some prizes. Hope to see you all there.





Department of Justice

Zipline and Low Ropes Elements Installed and Implemented at Dig Afognak 2017



As you can see by the pictures our low ropes courses that teaches communication, team building, trust, and safety was completed and implemented at Dig Afognak. The low ropes elements taught the kids how to spot appropriately while a team mate was walking across the cable all while communicating what was needed from their team mates to successfully complete the task, such as; "I'm short, but you can use my head to balance instead of my shoulder"; or "the best way to pass each other without falling off the cable is going to be at the tree". At the end of each exercise it gave us a chance to talk to the kids about what they learned from each exercise, how important it is to verbalize in a nonthreatening/accusatory and positive way what you need from your teammates or they may not know what you need and can fall and get hurt and the team won't be successful. It was also asked how they could use these exercises in their daily life. The kids gave answers such as sports, school, church activities, family and even friendships.

This was the first time these activities were implemented by staff, and we would like to hold another training next spring so that we can be even better next summer. Of all trainings I've done, I've learned the most from this one and I think that our youth can learn so much about themselves and others as well.

The zipline was also in full swing this summer. The smiles on the kids and adult's faces were amazing to see. The zip line also is a huge test of trust and faith. To overcome fears of heights, balance, body issues, etc. was amazing to see and be a part of. This was our first year, and we learned some lessons and I think things will go smoother next year.



If you are interested in taking the teambuilding training next Spring please get in touch with Taletha at 486-6357 or taletha@afognak.org.

I also wanted to say a quick thank you to Stacey Simmons who wrote this grant, these activities would not be possible without her! THANK YOU STACEY!! Also, to our funding agency the Department of Justice-Quyanaa! Most important, I wanted to thank the staff of Dig Afognak, the office staff at NVA, and their families for making the zip line happen. It is a huge team effort to make it happen-I appreciate each and every one of them for their hard work to make it happen; from helping with trails, advocating for the program, driving campers, making signs, giving their time, helping get the gear where it needed to be, or taking care of paperwork—THANK YOU!

Afognak Island Journey 2017



July 4th, 2017 the Independence Celebrations of our Nation were quite normal! The Minnesota towns sponsored patriotism, parades, street dances, food vendors, and fireworks as they did in the previous years.

This Fourth of July, 2017 was the beginning of my Afognak Island Journey. The journey began with a late evening drive from northern Minnesota to the Minneapolis/St Paul Airport to catch my planes from Minneapolis to Seattle, Washington, to Kodiak, Alaska and beyond, on July 5, 2017 at 7:00 AM Central.

My onslaught of lengthy plane rides came to a halt at 4:30 PM in Kodiak, Alaska! Taletha Gertz picked me up at the airport and transported myself and my luggage to the Shelikoff Lodge to get ready for my Afognak Island Journey.

An early rising on July 6, 2017, brought me to the Native Village of Afognak Office to meet and converse with the fine people that did so much to ensure my journey happen with style.

July 7, 2017 the Native Village of Afognak vans and trucks loaded up supplies, suitcases, totes, and people to take us out to Anton Larsen Bay to meet the skiffs to take us to Afognak Shareholder Dig Camp 2017, on Afognak Island, Alaska.

Shareholder Dig Camp 2017 began in the Yurt. All campers, Elders, and staff attended to listen to the camp etiquette, expectations, and requirements. After the completion of Lighting the Oil Lamp, prayers, were quietly said and the

camp activities began. Susan Malutin's project for us this year was to hand stitch an Alaskan Trapper hat using leather, sea otter, thread and needle, and for some of us, a lot of time. The design of the trapper hat along with materials used, complimented the sea otter/leather mittens hand stitched at the Shareholder Dig Camp 2016. While continuing with the sewing of the hats stories of our lives were told, our feelings were shared while showing love, and did we giggle and laugh.

The Woman's Cabin for the 2017 year was decorated with the personalities of Marci Orth, Evie Russell, Jordan Haydon, Mariah King, Rebecca Dawn, Mary Fearn and myself. Again the stories were expressed, the love shared, while the laughter floated through the woods of Afognak! But later on there was a surprise visitor/camper, Danielle King. I was totally under the impression Danielle would NOT be making it to camp on this particular day. THE SURPRISE WAS AWESOME! My dear friend from Whale Island showed up to participate in all camp activities. I was thrilled and I know I called Danielle a "Stinker" a few times.

Our Shareholder Dig 2017 Picnic was a dashing success! This Family Celebration included all ages of descendants from Afognak Island. Of course the food served was made with love, real butter, smiles, and flavor. The Picnic gives a hint that camp is coming to an end. Sadly camp time ran out and it was back to Kodiak for everyone.

In between camps I spent time

with Ruth Dawson and Lydia Olsen listening to stories from their memories! These two sisters are Kodiak's living legends.

Well soon to start up was the Music and Language Camp 2017, at our Five Star Camp on Afognak Island.

Approximately 74 people attended the Music and Language Camp, with ages ranging from 5 months to Elder status! All of these

children are raised by their parents and their village, and they demonstrated respect, courtesy, and Native Pride. During the Music and Language camp the children listened, laughed, danced, sang, created art projects, and shared their love while honorably extending respect to all!

The last evening of Music and Language Camp, the children and some elders, under the direction of Samantha Heglin, and Peter Squartsoff displayed Native Pride with songs and dance performances. The camp was divided into four groups. Each group presented their interpretations of two separate songs:

Group 1: Traveling Sun'Ami

Group 2: Asgurluta Staaman Palayat –
4 Boats

Group 3: Alingnillkina – Lullaby
Qukitaaq – Bashful eyes

Group 4: Kayaking Quyanaa
(Performed in Honor of Dennis Knagin)

"...stories were expressed, the love shared, while the laughter floated through the woods of Afognak!"



See JOURNEY, Page 7



Dig Afognak 2017 Pictures



2017 Dig Afognak Camp Sessions Review



We had another successful summer at Dig Afognak. 206 campers attended the 5 camps that were offered, approximately 34 people came for the Shareholder picnic and 21 stopped in for day visits. The new low ropes course and zipline was incorporated at every camp and the youth loved it!

The Dig Afognak season started off with Traditional Harvesting and Earth camp, there were 50 campers for the week. Activities consisted of gillnet fishing, hunting seal, deer and sea otter and teaching participants how to butcher, clean and skin their harvest. Art projects for this week were paddle carving and making pouches. Participants also made devil club salve, did beach cleanup on Catcher beach, participated in language activities, and a compass program through KANA.

44 campers attended Dig Afognak's "Survivor" camp for the second camp offered. This year we had worked with Camp Fire Alaska and had them come out to work with the youth on cold water safety, team building and wellness (relaxation yoga and stress management), they were a great addition to have at camp for this session. The youth also participated in learning first aid, wilderness survival, gun safety and their art project for the week was sewing a survival pouch. In spite of the poor weather and getting stuck for two extra days everyone had a great time.

Our third camp session we had 40 shareholders and tribal members attended the Afognak Shareholder camp. They made bracelets, painted pictures, sewed trapper hats, hiked and visited. The picnic was held at camp as winds were supposed to pick up and getting all the campers back to camp could have made for a shorter picnic. It all worked out great and those that came got to visit, hike, and try out the zipline.

Cauyaq "Music"/Language camp was the largest with 52 participants, what an inspiring camp. It was wonderful to hear and see our Alutiiq language and dance being throughout the camp and how much the youth have embraced it. The youth also made rattles and painted Alutiiq wood dolls, animals or birds. Campers also enjoyed taking part in Native Youth Olympics, hiking and playing games.

To wrap up of 2017 Dig Afognak season, and for the first time ever we had an Alumni weekend for participants that have aged out. There was 19 alumni campers and their children attended the 3-day camp. They enjoyed reconnecting and coming back to Dig Afognak.



We want to express our deepest appreciation to the following for volunteering to teach or work at camp:

* Michael Bach with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak * Wade Bartleson * Keiara Blondin * Candace Branson with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak * Amber Borton * Rick Borton * Bruce Broding * Rebecca Dawn * Jessica Eans * Ana Fisk with Afognak Native Corporation * David Galat with KANA * Aiyana Gertz * Skylar Gertz * MJ Gonzales * Marya Halvorsen with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak * * Natasha & Seamus Hayden * Samantha Heglin * Melanie Hill with CampFire Alaska * Doug Inga * Mikie Kozak * Tonya Lee with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak * Bob & Denise May * Ray May * Lacy Nugent * Jason Phipps with CampFire Alaska * Chad Pruitt * Rebecca Pruitt with Alutiiq Museum * Margaret Roberts * Evie Russel * Germaine Salmine with Koniag Education Foundation * Teri Schneider * Hanna Sholl * Stacey Simmons * Stevi Sison with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak * Aidan Skonberg * Anastasia Skonberg * Peter Squartsoff with Native Village of Port Lions * Matt Thorp with Afognak Native Corporation *

If we missed anyone please know your help was priceless! Quyanaa!!

See **REVIEW**, Page 6



We also do not want to forget the following for their generous financial contributions and in-kind donations for Dig Afognak:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris & Tom Abell • Afognak Native Corporation • Alaska Humanities Forum • Alaska Leader Foundation • Afognak Youth Charity Golf Tournament Volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Seafoods • Adam Borton • Rick Borton • Meagan Christiansen • Jim Dunham • Carl & Lorraine Ellison • Gerad Godfrey • Greg Hambright • KANA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kodiak Rental Center • Koniag Inc. • Tonya Lee • Roger Malutin • Matson Navigation Co. • Bob May • Ray May • Natives of Kodiak • Native Village of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Lions • Loretta Nelson • Julia Naughton • Andi & Marius Olsen • Hans Olsen Jr. • Donna Roduta • Sun'aq Tribal Bingo • Malia Villegas • Suzy Villegas |
|--|--|--|---|

Afognak Youth Charity Golf Tournament 2017

On June 29th, we held the Second Annual Afognak Youth Charity Golf Tournament. By all measures, the Tournament was a great success! I am pleased to say that the Tournament sold out all 36 team slots that included 144 total players. Many in attendance said that ours was the best golf tournament in Alaska! We were fortunate to host Notah Begay III, Golf Analyst for the NBC Golf Channel, and one of the only Native American golfers to play on the PGA Tour. With four PGA Championship wins, his participation provided a substantial amount of credibility to our event and elevated it to a level not previously enjoyed by such events in Anchorage in recent memory. Most importantly, however, is that we again were successful in hosting an event that raised \$41,033 to support the Alutiiq youth in the Native Villages of Port Lions and Afognak.

Matt Thorpe, Senior Vice President of Operations, and I were fortunate enough to visit Port Lions and the Dig Afognak Camp this year before the Golf Tournament to learn first-hand about the cultural lessons taught to the Alutiiq youth. We arrived toward the end of the first week of camp as the "Traditional Harvesting and Earth Camp" was wrapping up. During this week, youth ages nine through 14 take part in Alutiiq subsistence activities with local Elders and adult mentors, harvesting, preparing, and preserving traditional foods. The harvesting and recycling activities are designed to teach youth to preserve and keep our lands clean for future generations.

"...raised \$41,033 to support the Alutiiq youth in the Native Villages of Port Lions and Afognak."

I was awestruck by the beauty of the land and the warm openness of our hosts during the trip. I can say, without a doubt, that the work that goes into the Golf Tournament and the funds raised do not go unnoticed. The smiling faces from the children and their willingness to share in cultural activities and experiences were inspiring. Matt and I are indebted to Alisha Drabek, Melissa Borton, and Yvonne Mullan for their willingness to share their culture and to educate us on the Alutiiq people's rich history.

I have often wondered why the inherent sense of family is so palpable at Afognak Native Corporation. I thought that perhaps it was because I was lucky enough to work with a small tight-knit dedicated team in Commercial Operations. While that is certainly a big contributor, I also realize that the foundation of our business is in our sense of community. Those who volunteered this year committed themselves a year ago to support the Golf Tournament event. Each person volunteered many hours ensuring the Tournament was a success through planning and in calling on our colleagues, vendors, and clients to contribute. I know that their dedication and support of our tournament that supports Alaska's children is illustration enough of our volunteer's and Corporation's core principles and values. With their help and the support of our whole extended family, we surpassed last year's contribution by \$12,119!



See **YOUTH CHARITY**, Page 8

The Camp Mess Hall walls and floor absorbed the enchanting Native Pride, Songs and Performances and will be felt for years to come! Our Afognak Camps spark the spirits of our Ancestors. Our Ancestors witnessed our youth teaching, learning, sharing, and presenting our Alutiiq language, songs and dance with Native Pride. The Native Pride presented is equal to the Native Pride once felt and presented as our customs BEFORE our lands were infiltrated by outsiders.

The skies were constant with tears of joy from our ancestors and the winds carried their sound of happiness through the mountains and over the seas.

OUR ANCESTORS DANCE ONCE AGAIN!

Special Thanks to:

Afognak Native Corporation and the
Native Village of Afognak
(Administration, Staff, and Shareholders)
for joining our Ancestors and Youth once
again!



Quyanaa!
Mary Jo Gonzales
Granddaughter of
Fedot and Lukia Gregorioff



Purple Heart Day in the United States

Purple Heart Day is an observance that commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart Medal in 1782.

The holiday also encourages people to pay their respects to fallen soldiers, to listen to the stories of soldiers and veterans, and to thank them for their service to the nation.

From the Revolutionary War to WW I

The Purple Heart was first created on August 7, 1782 by the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, General George Washington. Then known as the Badge of Military Merit, it was awarded to 3 Revolutionary soldiers in 1783.

After the end of the American War of Independence, no medals were awarded until 1932, when the medal was revived on the bicentennial anniversary of George Washington's birth. According to a circular dated February 22, 1932, Purple Heart Medals were to be awarded to those wounded or killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces as a result of enemy action on or after April 5, 1917. The United States officially joined the First World War on April 6, 1917.

1.8 Million Awarded

At current estimates about 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded since then. Today, in addition to being awarded to those who fight wars overseas, the Purple Heart is also given to military personnel who display bravery and valor as prisoners of war and while fighting certain types of domestic terrorists.

A Symbol of Bravery

The Purple Heart is a heart shaped purple medal with a gold border. The front has a profile of George Washington, while the back has the words *for military merit* inscribed on it. The medal is attached to a piece of purple silk with a silver border.

Public Life

The observance is also called the National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Appreciation Day, and Purple Heart Recognition Day. Purple Heart Day is an unofficial observance. This means that businesses, government offices and public transport do not close on this day.



See **HEART**, continued from Page 8



HEART, continued from Page 7

Veteran and military organizations hold remembrance meetings for fallen heroes and special events to thank soldiers, veterans, and Purple Heart recipients on this day. Many people fly the American flags at their homes and businesses as a way to show their solidarity with the troops.

The Purple Heart Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, recommends donating time and money to the foundation or to other organizations working with Purple Heart recipients and their families on this day. They also encourage people to listen to soldiers and veterans and learn more about their life stories and their military service.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Did You Know?

- Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water
- Of all the Earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans
- Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water, and 2% is frozen
- A person can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water
- Each day in the United States, we drink about 110 million gallons of water
- A leaky faucet can waste 100 gallons a day
- One flush of the toilet uses 6 1/2 gallons of water
- You use about 5 gallons of water if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth

What Can You Do to Conserve Water?

- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full
- When washing a car, use soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut off nozzle for rinsing
- Avoid putting water down the drain when it could be used for water a plant or cleaning
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with soapy water, and quickly rinse under a slow moving stream from the faucet
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water

YOUTH CHARITY, continued from Page 6

I want to take this opportunity to list each of the individual volunteers who contributed their time, talents, and energy to the Afognak Youth Charity Golf Tournament, because their hard work deserves recognition:



- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Karl McLaughlin | • Julian Griggs | • Susy Nicholas | • Jake Garner |
| • Jim Arlington | • Joe LeNoach | • Tom Verges | • Jeff White |
| • Daryl Griggs | • Mercedes Nelson | • Christian Penn | • Diane Bachman –
Alaska Energy Services |
| • Matt Thorpe | • Reagan Tomlinson | • Bart Wachsteter | • Brooke McLaughlin –
Summit Group |
| • Lester Lukin | • Katrina Gundersen | • Amy Shimek | • Tiffany Schuyler –
Summit Group |
| • Amanda Huettl | • Marci Orth | | |

Quyanaa,

Ana Fisk, Tournament Director



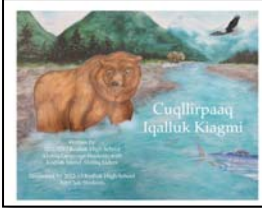
Special Announcements



Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library

will be closed until further notice. We apologize for the inconvenience.

All available Q Books on the iTunes App Store



First Fish



Little Bear



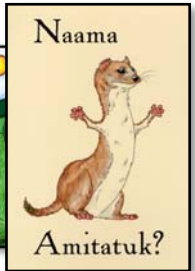
Kayak



Uksumuuq!



Kiagumuuq!



Weasel

If you type in "Afognak" in the app store it will come up with everything that is available from us. Apps will work only on the iPad and iPad mini, but not an iPhone.

ATTENTION!

Native Village of Afognak is looking for old Afognak photo's. If you would like to share your photos please email them to taletha@afognak.org or mail a copy to 323 Carolyn St. Kodiak, Alaska 99615. Please include names of who is in the photos.
Thanks so much!

If you have a special announcements that you would like to share in our newsletter please email Nina at nina@afognak.org.

People of Afognak Photo



Can you identify the person featured in this photo?

If you can, email your answer to taletha@afognak.org.

If you are the first to answer correctly, you will receive a prize.

Photo & Answer to April 2017 People of Afognak Photo

Martha Gregorioff

~There was no answer called in~



Native Village of Afognak

323 CAROLYN STREET, KODIAK, AK 99615

Place
Stamp
Here

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Loretta Nelson, Chairman
Meagan Christiansen, Vice Chairman
Natasha Hayden, Secretary
Loren Anderson, Member
Jim Dunham, Member
Ken Nelson Jr., Member
Malia Villegas, Member

STAFF

Melissa Borton, Tribal Administrator
Nancy Nelson, Program Administrator
Taletha Gertz, Program Administrator
Shurina Skonberg, Accounting Manager
Denise Malutin, Program Manager
Nina Gronn, Executive Assistant
Lynda Lorensen, Grants Manager
Kate Blondin, Office Assistant

*Stay connected with us by liking our
Facebook pages "Native Village of
Afognak" and "Dig Afognak" to keep up
to date with events !*

PHONE 907-486-6357

FAX 907-486-6529

www.afognak.org



Like Us On
facebook

Mark Your Calendars

The NVA office will be closed for the following dates:

- Monday, September 4, 2017 in observance of Labor Day
- Wednesday, October 18, 2017 in observance of Alaska Day
- Friday, November 10, 2017 in observance of Veterans Day on 11/11/17
 - Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24, 2017
in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
 - Monday & Tuesday, December 25 & 26, 2017
in observance of the Christmas Holiday