

Village of Solomon Box 2053 Nome AK 99762 phone (907) 443-4985 facsimile (907) 443-5189

Emergency Shelter Cabin Named "Okitkon Shelter"



Garfield Okitkon taking a break from Solomon's Old Schoolhouse renovation project in 2004.

It was back in 2005 when we lost our tribal member Garfield Okitkon who got caught in a ground storm while gathering wood for his heating stove. His snowmobile quit working so he stayed in a snow cave until Nome's Search and Rescue efforts located him and transported him to Nome for emergency care. He later developed pneumonia and sadly passed on several days after being found.

The Council knew then a shelter cabin was needed to aid those who seek safety in Solomon. With that in mind, last year the Council applied for and received a \$24,000 grant with the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) which funded the construction and installation of a 12x16 cabin at mile 30 of the Nome/Council highway.

The Village of Solomon is pleased to name the cabin in his honor and memory as he dedicated decades of his life to providing emergency communication with his CB radio as well as going out on search and rescue trips when called upon.

Annual Meeting Date Set for September 25, 2015 in Nome

The tribal council selected Friday, September 25th to have the annual meeting this year here in Nome at the XYZ Senior Center. During the annual meeting tribal members will hear reports from the Council and VOS staff. Results of elections will also be announced.

Dinner will be provided at 5 PM and the meeting will begin at 6 PM. Teleconference lines will be available to those that do not live in Nome and wish to attend telephonically.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Village of Solomon's

Annual Meeting is

Friday

September 25, 2015

at 6 PM in Nome at the
XYZ Senior Center.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Election day is Friday

August 21, 2015

in Nome at the office

located in the BSNC building on Front Street.

Hours:

8:30 AM

to

4:30 PM

Contact the office if you
need a ride to vote.

Interested in Serving on the Tribal Council?

There are four seats up for election this year: Seats A, B, D and the Youth Representative. Ballots will contain a list of qualified candidates for voters to choose from. Voters will choose four (4) names from a list of candidates on the ballot. Voters will also be able to write in one candidate as an alternative to candidates on the ballot. The four candidates receiving the most votes for the declared seats will be elected to the Council.

Please call the office at 443-4985 for more information.

Letters of Intent Schedule

(2) Letters of Intent-Sixty (60)-Forty (40) days Prior to Election:

Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing through a Letter of Intent in accordance with Section IV of the election ordinance. Letters of Intent must be received by the tribal council no sooner than sixty (60) days and no later than forty (40) days prior to the election in order for a candidate to have their name included on ballots. Letters of intent must be received by July 13, 2015.

Absentee Voting

In addition to voting on Village of Solomon's election day, absentee voting is allowed. Absentee ballots will be mailed to each eligible voter 30 days prior to election day. Tribal members may choose to submit an absentee ballot prior to election day if they are unable to vote on election day or attend the annual meeting. Voters may only vote once.

The Annual Meeting notice with voting instructions will be mailed to every eligible voter (18 years and older). If you do not receive your notice, please call the office immediately at 443-4985 so a notice may be mailed.

Solomon's Village Priorities

1. More Solomon Gatherings and Involvement
2. Driveway Improvements to Campsites
3. Community Potable Water
4. Emergency Communication
5. Assess Effects of Climate Change
6. Salmon Enhancement
7. Full Operation of B&B/Community Center
8. Waste Management
9. Airstrip Improvement
10. Community Power
11. Boat Harbor

2015 marks the 5th year of Solomon's Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP). The tribe will be scheduling strategic planning efforts in early 2016 and all tribal members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Solomon Youth Spirit Camp is August 3-8, 2015

Solomon's summer youth camp dates have been set for August 3-8, 2015 for Solomon's youth ages 8 to 18. Youth under the age of 8 is welcome to attend with parental supervision. Much of the activities will promote healthy spiritual wellness. Limited airfare is provided to those that live outside of the Nome area. A completed application must be submitted to VOS by the deadline of July 10, 2105 in order to be considered for airfare.

We need volunteers to assist with activities. Contact the tribal coordinator if you're interested in volunteering to supervise youth during camp, or driving, cooking and cleaning.

To request a camp application, contact the tribal coordinator at 907 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.

Applications are due July 10, 2015.

Solomon's Activities Schedule

April 28	Monthly Council Meeting
May 21	Monthly Council Meeting
May 25	Holiday/VOS Office Closed
June 18	Monthly Council Meeting
July 3	Holiday/VOS Office Closed
July 10	Youth Camp Applications Due
July 13	Letters of Intent Due
July 16	Monthly Council Meeting
August 3-8	Solomon's Annual Youth Camp
August 8	Membership Meeting/ Solomon
August 20	Monthly Council Meeting
August 21	Tribal Elections
September 7	Holiday/VOS Office Closed
September 17	Monthly Council Meeting
September 25	Annual Meeting/Nome
October 15	Monthly Council Meeting
October 19	Membership Meeting/Anch
October 19-21	FAI Elders/Youth Conference
November 11	Holiday/VOS Office Closed
November 19	Monthly Council Meeting
November 26/27	Holiday/VOS Office Closed
December 1-4	BIA Providers Conf/Anch
December 17	Monthly Council Meeting
December 25	Holiday/Office Closed

Monthly Council meetings start at 5:30 PM at the VOS office located at 110 Front Street, Suite 101. Contact the office for more information, an agenda and a phone number to call in if you wish to attend telephonically.

Environmental Program Update

Dear Tribal Membership:

We are currently in our 2015 Fiscal Year as of October 1st, 2014 until the beginning of our last grant year-2016, which begins October 1st, 2015.

Last October, I attended Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) in Anchorage. Vice President Brian James attended with me as we learned through breakout sessions over a 5 day period. You can request a copy of my trip report from the Village of Solomon office if you are interested in what I learned. Also, Tribal Coordinator and Council member Liz Johnson and I attended Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) hosted in Anchorage, February 2015. This conference was very similar to ATCEM, however it can be a little more focused on EPA trainings and collaborations. Again, you can request a copy of my trip report from the VOS office. At the AFE Conference, I met our EPA Project Officer, Todd Bender which has definitely made a difference in working with him remotely.

Norton Sound Health Corporation recently hosted a Norton Sound Bering Strait Regional Environmental Conference here in Nome which was very informative and impressive.

We are currently seeking a Water Quality Expert for water sampling field work in Solomon through the months of May-October 2015. Training for certification is required and paid for, the work is very flexible, and is a GREAT opportunity. The water quality expert will work with me directly as I work from Oregon under the VOS' Remote Worker program policy. I do plan to head back to Oregon mid-April and will always be available via phone and email. Contact the VOS office for more information.

While I am in the VOS office, I am hosting a tribal membership gathering in Nome. Eskimo salad and fry bread will be served while I provide a presentation on recycling, reducing and reusing.

I still have some rechargeable battery chargers in the office in exchange for disposable batteries if you have not picked one up yet. IGAP will be purchasing clean up supplies to be placed in the Community Center if you are ever interested in picking up around Solomon. IGAP will also be purchasing a trash trailer to be placed in Solomon until it is full which will then be driven to the City of Nome Landfill. The plan is to place the trash trailer outside of the shelter cabin during the winter months.

Since I began this position, I have done plenty of research on recycling, reducing, reusing and upcycling – if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would love to help in any way I can. I look forward to seeing you all that are able to attend my small gathering within the next month and sharing my knowledge on recycling.

Yours Truly,

Deilah Johnson



Deilah Johnson holding her son Tristan Hudson outside the VOS office in Nome.

October 2014 Tribal Membership Gathering in Anchorage



Back Top L to R : Amy and Autumn Johnson, Brewster Bohn, Meghann Piscoya, Sarah Tumulak, Liz Johnson, Andy Piscoya, Robert Curran, Jr. Front L to R: Deilah Johnson, Bronson and Bella Bohn, Myrtle Komakhuk, Kirsten Timbers holding Luella Tumulak, Helen Larsen holding Tristan Hudson.

Clockwise photos:

Meghann Piscoya, Luella Tumulak and Andy Piscoya; Helen Larsen and Myrtle Komakhuk; Tristan Hudson, Autumn Johnson, Bella and Brewster Bohn.



Kawerak Services Available

Kawerak contracts with the state and federal government to provide services to residents of the Bering Strait Region. Kawerak's organizational goal is to assist Alaska Native people and their governing bodies to take control of their future. With programs ranging from education to housing, and natural resource management to economic development, Kawerak seeks to improve the Region's social, economic, educational, cultural and political conditions. Kawerak is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the president (or designee) of the IRA or traditional Councils, two elder representatives and a representative from the regional health care provider. Kawerak reorganized in 2006 and have four divisions:

The Children and Family Services Division provides services to address the needs of the children and families throughout the Bering Strait region.

The Community Service Division assists member villages in becoming self-governing and self-sufficient and provides economic development opportunities for all residents in our region.

The Education Employment and Training division is designed to provide support and assistance to tribal members who are looking for job training or need childcare assistance while they are continuing their education.

The Natural Resources division conducts research projects and advocates for natural resources including land, fish animal, and birds in the Bering Strait region. Through knowledge and education, they strive to protect tribal member access to these resources, and assures that future harvests is sustained and promoted.

Services are provided only to those tribally enrolled in one of the 20 federally recognized tribes of the Bering Strait region. Tribal members from the Village of Solomon are eligible for many of the services listed. For more information go to www.kawerak.org

The Village of Solomon's representative on Kawerak's Board of Directors is Kirsten Timbers.

Foster Parents Needed in Nome and Bering Strait Region

Please consider becoming a foster parent! There is a shortage of homes in our region, especially Alaska Native homes. 100% of the children who are in foster care in the Bering Straits region are Alaska Native and many of these children must be sent far from home when it is unsafe for them to live with their families because there is no other option for them here.

To foster a child, you do not need to be married, wealthy, employed full time, or a homeowner. You can choose the age and gender of the child or children who would fit best in your family and you can always say "No" to any placement for any reason. All you really need is a background free from violence, to be free from current substance abuse, and to be willing to love and care for a child who is in need. A monthly stipend is available to assist with the cost of caring for a child and all foster children have 100% of their medical and dental costs covered. You will be offered training and support. The State of Alaska's Office of Children Services also offers an additional stipend for childcare for working parents.

Alaska Native children who must enter care are always best served by remaining with a family member whenever possible but sometimes that option isn't available. The next best placement is with a Native Alaskan family in their own village or region. When we can't find appropriate foster care in those categories, some children remain in non-native foster homes in the region but many more are sent to foster homes and treatment centers across the state and in the lower 48. It is especially difficult to place larger sibling groups and teens locally. Since the Nome Children's Home is not able to accept infants (0 to 30 months), that is another major need we have for foster homes.

Foster parenting can be the most difficult, joyful, rewarding, heartbreaking thing you ever do - and it can make the biggest difference in the life of someone who stands to lose home, family, culture, and identity and yet has done nothing wrong. If you feel that you might be able to offer your home to a child please contact Stephanie Nielson, Foster Care Recruiter at Kawerak, at (907) 443-4372 or fcrcase@kawerak.org

Tribal Gathering for Environmental Program Demonstration

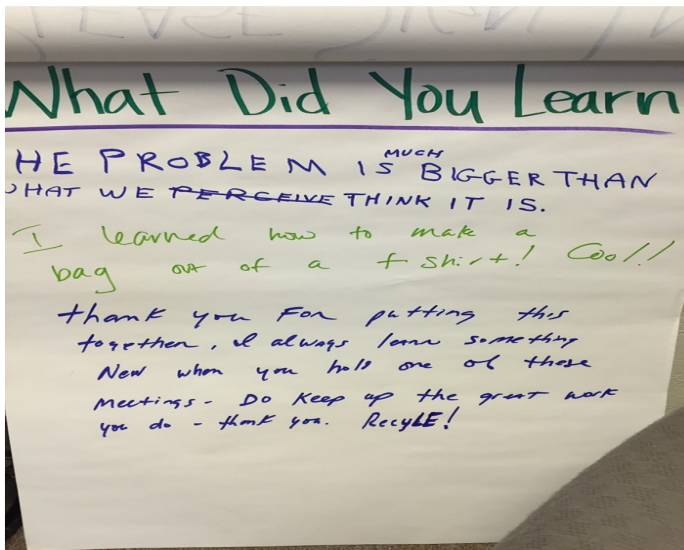
The US Environmental Protection Agency funds our environmental program. This fiscal year, we were approved to host an environmental gathering to provide an educational demonstration. Environmental Coordinator Deilah Johnson provided a power point presentation and a hands on demonstration for those that were able to attend.

The entire presentation was focused on the introductions of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling using household hazardous products, landfill facts, upcycling and a quick Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) environmental work plan update.

The powerpoint presentation is available for those interested in viewing it. You can reach Deilah Johnson by sending an email to igap.solomon@gmail.com and a copy will be emailed.



Brian James and his daughter Sarah actively participate in a demonstration. "You have 30 seconds to fill your paper cup with popcorn seeds. When time is up, count how many pieces of trash (Styrofoam, plastic) you have collected. This demonstration represents what is ingested by birds and fish when they confuse their food with our manmade trash."



Village of Solomon (VOS) Provides ICWA Services

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): ICWA was passed in 1978 in response to the high number of Native children who were removed from their families and tribes by non-tribal public and private agencies, and placed in non-Native foster homes or made available for non-Native adoption.

The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. ICWA applies when a state court determines that a Native child is involved in a proceeding. This includes child custody proceedings, foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive and adoptive placements. A tribal court or tribe may properly exercise their rights in any and all of these types of proceedings. For ICWA services, please contact the VOS office at 443-4985 or email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority Programs Available

Home Loan Assistance: BSRHA's offers up to \$10,000 to cover the down payment costs for homebuyers that are looking to purchase a home, but lack the up-front capitol required to finance the down payment/closing costs.

Emergency Utility Assistance: The emergency utility assistance program is designed to assist community members who are experiencing temporary hardship, struggling with past due payments, and are at risk of having vital utility services disconnected. This policy has recently been revised to include all utilities (ie electricity, water and sewer service, fuel,) not just electricity.

BSRHA offers this assistance on a first come, first served basis. Assistance can be provided in the amount of up to \$1,000 per household. Up to ten households in each of our 17 communities can be served.

Housing Preservation: The Housing Preservation Program provides a loan to fund services to repair or renovate housing owned by low income qualified families having substandard housing or housing and have no other source of funding the work.

The program is set up as a loan to be repaid over a five (5) year period, however if the family continues to occupy the housing there is a forgiveness of the payment based on 20% for each year the family occupies the home. Should the family move from the property prior to the end of the five-year period, the Housing Authority may require the family to pay any unpaid outstanding balance.

The maximum loan award will be up \$5,000.00 to \$25,000.00 for materials, shipping, and labor. Labor must be paid at the Davis-bacon wage scale. For small purchases of \$5,000 or less, the grant will have no repayment provisions as long as it is for materials and freight.

Important Exceptions: Priority is given to Tribal Members of Solomon, King Island, Council and Mary's Igloo who reside in the Bering Straits Region and are eligible to apply no matter where they live in the state.

For more information please contact BSRHA administrative offices at 443-5256 or visit their website at www.bsrha.org.

The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) operates through a Board of Commissioners comprised of five members, who are responsible for policies and procedures as well as oversight of all activities carried out by BSRHA. Through a minimum of four meetings annually, the Housing Authority Board provides general direction for all fiscal and organizational activities of the Housing Authority management and staff.



Kirsten Timbers, Madam Chair, BSRHA Commissioner, holding her baby Tessa Timbers-Payenna

Representing: Council, King Island, Nome, Solomon

Term Expires: 12/31/2016

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1696
Nome, AK 99762
Email: oonga4me@hotmail.com

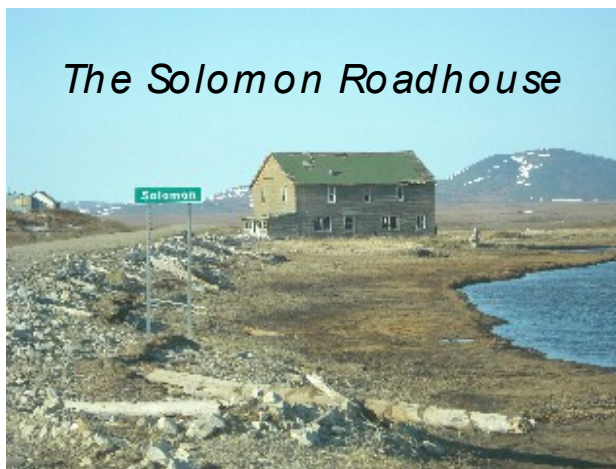
Alternate: Leona Mayac

Solomon's History

Below are excerpts from a July 2002 interview with Lloyd Hardy, Joe Curran, RoseAnn Timbers, Pumpkin Curran, Francis Wright and Ray Pederson at the 'Solomon Roadhouse'.

This building is known as 'The Old Store' or 'The Solomon Roadhouse' or simply 'Curran's'. This was actually salvaged from the abandoned boomtown known as Dickson by a man named Billy Rowe. "Billy Rowe this was his horse barn. Rowe used his horses to haul mining equipment; they moved all those dredges with those horse teams from town; he was known to keep as many as 26 horses in the old barn (Wright)". According to Ray Pederson, "they use 40 horses to move this house here from Dickson, that's what my dad say (his late father Steve Pederson)." "They put it on skids, they could custom make those skids (Timbers)." They apparently loaded up the building on skids when the ground was frozen and there was snow on the ground so they could glide it across the tundra with ease.

It was the late 1930's when Curran purchased Billy Rowe's horse barn. Curran had quite a bit of refurbishing to do before he was going to be able to transform the horse barn into a roadhouse. "When Billy Rowe had it this was just a one story building with an open entry to dump the hay (Timbers.) He hired Ernie Berg (his grandson) and Pete Curran, Jr. (his son) to build the second floor." Curran, "he sold groceries and rented rooms. He also rented rooms to the military during World War II (Timbers). And, he sold all the groceries and clothes (Wright). "Food, shoepacks, fuel, coal if anyone wanted to buy coal (Timbers)". He was known to barter with people, "he had to, people didn't have money (Timbers)." Pederson remembers Curran also bought gold from local miners. Curran's business was entirely run by the family. "Him and Boutnuk (Curran's second wife) and my mom (Clara) worked here. And she also worked part time at the post office, she checked the mail, separated the mail and what not. When he was in town or Boutnuk was out hunting her and I would watch the store. But mostly it was him and his daughter Ruth and his daughter Maggie (Timbers)."



The Solomon Roadhouse



Peter Curran, Sr. sitting in the Solomon Roadhouse.

didn't have money (Timbers)." Pederson remembers Curran also bought gold from local miners. Curran's business was entirely run by the family. "Him and Boutnuk (Curran's second wife) and my mom (Clara) worked here. And she also worked part time at the post office, she checked the mail, separated the mail and what not. When he was in town or Boutnuk was out hunting her and I would watch the store. But mostly it was him and his daughter Ruth and his daughter Maggie (Timbers)."

Curran passed away in 1957 and the store was shut down the following year. His son Pete Curran, Jr. continued operating the roadhouse until he and his family packed up and moved to Nome in 1958.

'The Solomon Roadhouse' used to be a checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail from the first race in 1973-1976.

The checkpoint was then moved 13 miles west to the Safety Roadhouse. It was added to the National Historical Registrar in 1980.



VOS Re-Confirms Appropriate Village Entity (AVE) Designation

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of December 18, 1971 organized Alaska Natives into twelve regional corporations, loosely designed along ethnic and geographical lines, plus one corporation for Alaska Natives living outside the state; and village corporations for each "Native village" with a Native population of at least 25. Over 200 Native villages eventually organized ANCSA corporations under the state business corporation code, as did a number of urban Native groups. The regional and village corporations received the right to over 44 million acres of land, and they and their members received nearly \$1 billion in monetary payments.

The Municipal Land Trustee Program was created to carry out the requirements of Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA that provided that every village corporation must reconvey title to "the remaining improved land on which the Native village is located, and as much additional land as is necessary for community expansion, and appropriate rights-of-way for public use, and land for other foreseeable community needs." These lands were to be transferred to the appropriate municipal corporation (a first or second class city) where one exists, or otherwise the "State in trust for any municipal corporation established in the Native village in the future." In 1992 the Solomon Native Corporation deeded approximately 23 acres to the State of Alaska to be held in Trust for the future city of Solomon. The lands conveyed to the State in trust are called "municipal trust lands".

The role of the Municipal Lands Trustee (MLT) Program, within the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) is basically two-fold:

1. Accepting land into trust from Village Corporations, and
2. Managing and administering municipal trust land until the village incorporates as a city.

The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) serves as the "Municipal Lands Trustee" and, pursuant to AS 44.33.755, is responsible for accepting, administering, and disposing of lands conveyed to the state in trust under 43 U.S.C. 1613(c)(3) (Sec. 14(c)(3) of ANCSA). The Director of DCRA is the "Municipal Lands Trust Officer" and is principally responsible, under delegation and general direction of the Commissioner, for carrying out program activities. The Municipal Lands Trustee Program consists of two professional land managers in addition to the Municipal Lands Trust Officer.

The Trustee's role is to be highly responsive to the needs of the communities involved in the trust. What will work for one community may not work for another, so department staff work closely with each village to determine their needs and develop a solution. AS 44.33.755(a)(2) and 3 AAC 190.440 provide that no transfer of municipal trust land or interest therein may be made without the approval of the village residents through their recognized appropriate village entity (AVE), or through the passage of a resolution by residents at a special meeting held for that purpose. The Village of Solomon is the designated AVE. The Council will be working with the MLT staff this summer before and after their site visit to Solomon in June. The purpose of the site visit is to survey the 23 acres and determine site control for any uses of the municipal trust lands.

For more detailed information please visit <http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/MunicipalLandTrusteeProgram.aspx>

Welcome New Tribal Members

If you have photos you would like printed in our biannual newsletter, please contact the tribal coordinator at 443-4985 or send an email to: tc.sol@kawerak.org.



Tribal members Derek Johnson and Elizabeth Dalilak wed April 27, 2015 here in Nome.

Elizabeth's parents are the late Eugene Dalilak and Christine Dalilak; Derek's mom is Liz Johnson and grandmother is Helen Larsen.

Jobs at Solomon



Upcoming jobs available this summer is a carpenter, maintenance and laborer workers to open and close the Solomon Community Center.

During youth camp, two camp coordinators will also be hired.

Contact the VOS office at 443-4985 for more details or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.



Ethan Piscoya with his parents Cameron and Briana Rose, pose for a picture with their daughter Sophia Piscoya at camp.



Tessa Timbers-Payenna, born to Kirsten Timbers in December 2014.



Village of Solomon
Box 2053
Nome, Alaska 99762

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Village of Solomon invites you to its Tribal Membership Meeting in Anchorage. Dinner will be provided.

WHERE: Courtyard by Marriott, Room A

WHEN: October 19, 2015

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Please RSVP by sending an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org or by calling the office at 443-4985. This will guarantee your dinner plate. We will be ordering dinner only for those that confirm attendance.