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Annual Tribal Membership Meeting Convened in Solomon this year

The annual tribal membership meeting was held on Saturday, August 14 at the Solomon Community Center starting at 1 PM with a BBQ style lunch for tribal members and their families.

Led by tribal President Brian James, and with heavy hearts, those in attendance sat in a moment of silence for the passing of tribal member William "Pumpkin" Curran who died earlier that morning after spending over two weeks in ICU fighting a heart related infection. No services were planned as he had requested to his daughter,

Jennifer Curran, who was by his side when he passed away. His daughter is planning a trip to Solomon next summer to spread his ashes in Solomon as his final resting place.

so, as a friendly reminder, please contact the VOS tribal office at 443-4985 (call collect if your not in Nome) and provide a current address, phone, and email etc. if you haven't done so already.

Your Email Address

The Village of Solomon is asking each tribal member to provide an email address (It's voluntary of course). In today's world of instant messages, email addresses and cell phones, it's time for the Village of Solomon's tribal office to use these tools to communicate with its tribal membership;

Tribal Council Seat "E" filled and then vacated by Annette Piscoya

Annette Piscoya, daughter of the late Walter Kalerak and Ann Kalerak was re-elected to tribal council seat "E" this year. She has held a tribal council seat since 2002.

"I am Annette Piscoya, the daughter of the late Walter Kalerak and Ann Kalerak. My father was born in Solomon, AKI have been proudly enrolled with the Village of Solomon (VOS) since 1993. I have held the following posi-

tions for VOS as Treasurer, a representative for VOS on Kawerak, BSRHA and NSHC boards".

Unfortunately, as of 8/31/2010, Ms. Piscoya submitted her resignation stating that "Koooper and I decided we are moving to Anchorage. We have one son going to school in Anchorage and we feel we should be with him."

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Letter from the President

Dear Tribal Members;

As I reflect on my first year of service as Village of Solomon President; I am humbled by what we have accomplished and am excited about our future. The following are some of the significant highlights for the Village of Solomon (VOS):

The VOS hired Elizabeth “Liz” Johnson as our new tribal coordinator in July 2010; we are pleased to have a tribal member working in the office. Ms. Johnson previously worked at NACTEC.

The VOS hired Lorlie Shield as our Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) coordinator. We partnered with the Native Village of Council to hire a consultant to help us create our own ICWA manual with all the most recent policies and procedures for handling ICWA cases.

The VOS joined a summer internship program through Kawerak to have Cameron Piscoya work for VOS as a summer intern. This was a 12 week program that Kawerak paid for and hopefully we can utilize this program again next summer.

The VOS was approached by Kawerak’s Eskimo Heritage Program that a couple in Washington have some old Solomon Bureau of Indian Affairs School documents (report cards, teachers’ records, test and more) that have been safely maintained and they would like to see them returned to the area. This would be a significant historic resource for the B&B and we are looking forward to reviewing the documents and possibly appropriately displaying them at the B&B in a secured and preservation friendly way.

The VOS is reviewing our options to possibly pullout of Kawerak’s Transportation Program. We have talked with King Island Native Community about their success and the steps they took to obtain their transportation dollars.

On another transportation note; we have acquired some of Kawerak’s Transportation road maintenance money which we plan to utilize to have signs made leading to Solomon and to add dust control on the surrounding roads near Solomon.

The Village of Solomon has received information from the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority for a VOS member to apply for and receive a house in Nome. We are starting to go through the process of obtaining information how to make that happen.

In closing, I am happy to have served as your president and I encourage all the Village of Solomon members to embrace our small membership that we have. We need to be positive and work together on our common goals and thank you for your continued support of the Village of Solomon and on behalf of the tribal council we look forward to your input in the development of the LEDP.

Sincerely,

Brian James, President

L to R: Liz Johnson and NACTEC teacher Susan Martens attended a book signing by Willie Hensley at the NACTEC classroom in January 2009.



Tribal Member Hired as Tribal Coordinator

Elizabeth Johnson was hired as the tribal coordinator for the Village of Solomon's office earlier this summer. Elizabeth Johnson, known as "Liz" by family and friends, grew up in Nome and Solomon and is the eldest daughter of the late Robert "Gummik" Curran, Sr., and Helen Larsen of Nome. Liz raised her own children, Derek, 23, Deilah, 21 and Amy, 19, in Wasilla and moved back in 2007 to be closer to her parents and sister Cynthia Olanna and family.

As the tribal coordinator, Liz provides administrative support assuming responsibility for day to day operations for the Village of Solomon's tribal office. Duties include completing reports, grant applications, and assist in gathering information on the needs of tribal members and ensuring the tribal enrollment records are kept up to date. Tribal coordinator may also serve as the financial officer and tribal court clerk for the tribe when necessary.

Prior to hiring, Liz worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) here in Nome for almost three years.

Liz serves as a board member of Solomon Native Corporation (SNC). She has been serving for over twenty years, first as board secretary and now vice president for the last ten years.

"Welcome Liz as the tribal coordinator, this is well received and the Village of Solomon is happy to have you working for the Village of Solomon; NACTEC's loss and the tribe's gain."

Tribal Council Member Kirsten Timbers comments during their monthly council meeting.

Tribal Council Accepting Letters of Interest for Council Seat Vacancy

Letters of interest must contain a statement confirming that the candidate meets the qualifications required by Section III as follows: (a) 18 years or older, (b) physically resided in Nome/Solomon area for a period of 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election in which the candidate seeks office. Reasonable temporary absences shall not be used to establish that this requirement has not been satisfied; and, (c) no convictions within last 10 years for any crimes which would be a felony in AK, except for State fishing and/or hunting convictions; and (d) enrolled as a tribal member of the tribe, and, if required by the tribe's membership ordinance, a "resident member" as that status is defined by the membership ordinance; and (e) free of any physical or mental incapacity which would prevent the candidate from carrying out the duties of a council member.

The tribal council is accepting letters of interest via the USPS mail, email or fax to the tribal office until November 31 at noon. An appointment will be made to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled annual election. For questions, please contact the tribal coordinator at 443-4985.

Solomon Bed and Breakfast Accepting Reservations On-Line



Solomon's Bed & Breakfast has a website for information and on-line reservations. Lodging rate is \$150/night or \$160/night for double occupancy. Tribal members receive a discounted lodging rate of \$100/night

Contact the Solomon Bed & Breakfast at (907) 443-2403 or visit www.solomonbnb.com for more information.

Wedding Bells at Solomon

Just Married— Cynthia Gray and Ralph “Chubby” Olanna, Jr., were married on July 3 with their children beside them, and in front of family and friends. The couple exchanged personally written vows at the beautiful Last Train to Nowhere at Solomon. It was a beautiful day of sunshine and love. The Olanna’s will continue to reside in Nome.



Summer Intern at the Village of Solomon’s Tribal Office

Name: Cameron Piscoya, Summer Intern

Age: 20 years old

Parents: Annette and Kooper Piscoya. My Grandparents are the late Walter Kalerak and Ann Kalerak, Helen and Albert Lee.

Cameron was like, “I will be starting my third year at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, AK. Studying Environmental Science.

I have been working for Village of Solomon for the past three summers and during winter breaks. While working for the Village of Solomon I have been updating Tribal Enrollment, planning the Youth Camp, maintenance out at the Bed and Breakfast, planning the annual meeting, attending monthly meetings and taking notes, starting up a newsletter, attending teleconferences, and filling in as the Tribal Coordinator while it was vacant for three weeks”.



“Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for use of the Solomon Band B during my wedding; it was a great way to showcase all of the VOS tribal council’s hard work and dedication to the village of Solomon! Also thank you to Cameron Piscoya for his hard work and efforts to keep the tribal office open during the tribal coordinator transitioning to the new hire of Liz Johnson”.

Cynthia Olanna comments during their monthly tribal council meeting.

Tribal Council Meets Monthly

The tribal council meets monthly, usually the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the VOS office. The Village of Solomon's office is located on Front Street in the Sitnasuak Building, 3rd Floor, Suite 321.

Tribal Council meetings scheduled for the rest of the year are:

October 13, 2010

November 10, 2010

December 8, 2010

The next tribal council meeting will elect its officers through a nomination process.

Youth & Elder Representatives To Serve on Tribal Council (2 seats)

The VOS tribal council is looking for a youth and elder representative to serve as ad-hoc members.

Tribal members interested representing the youth or elder seats must submit in writing a letter of interest and fax it to 443-5189 by noon December 31st at noon.

The tribal council will make its selection at the January, 2011 meeting. Representatives will serve at the leisure of the council and a \$100 stipend/meeting will be provided.

ICWA Services Available for Village of Solomon Tribal Members

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 United States Code Sections 1901-1963. 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.

How does ICWA work? The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. This includes assisting in family reunification, adoptions, and alternative placement of children. The program also ensures that Tribal Councils are represented in Court proceedings. The Indian Child Welfare Act (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.

The Village of Solomon hired Lorie Shield as the ICWA coordinator. She works at the call of the tribal council. For additional information, contact the Village of Solomon's tribal office at 443-4985.

The Village of Solomon Mourns the Loss of



William "Pumpkin" Curran 11/1948—8/14/2010

Photo taken in 1996 of Pumpkin with niece Kirsten Timbers and his brother, Joseph Curran.

Solomon B&B Report Delivered by Tribal President at Annual Meeting

Solomon Bed and Breakfast Report by Brian James verbatim written report as follows: Looking back we are getting more and more interest in the Solomon Community Center/Bed and Breakfast. We hosted three beautiful wedding receptions at the B&B and look forward to future bookings for wedding couples that are looking for an alternative to the typical Nome facilities and locations. We have hosted or will host the following organizations this summer: Sitsnasuk Native Corporation, Kawerak Board of Directors and the Norton Sound Health Corporation's Public Health Nurse Department. This doesn't include the number of individual guests that have stayed at the B&B throughout the summer, including birding guides and birders.



Council member Katie Stettinger waving at her dog Buddy heading to Solomon during Iditarod 2010.

In March 2010 we were open during Iditarod; this was definitely a soft opening for us just to see if we could get the facility unthawed from the winter's harsh grip and it truly was amazing to

have the B&B open during this year's Iditarod. We already have people calling who want to book a room for the 2011 Iditarod and we have one large group that is in the final stages of scuring 4 rooms at the B&B for several days. Purchased a 2006 Chevy Truck and added Mat-

tracks to the vehicle to accommodate winter travel to the B&B (also purchased a 2010 Yamaha snow machine for this same purpose). In October 2009 I attended the Alaska Travel Industry's Association Annual Conference in Fairbanks and was able to network and meet with key individuals in the tourism and travel industry. This was at no cost to the VOS; and it was paid for through State of Alaska Department of Commerce Administration's Tourism Mentorship

Assistance Program (TMAP).

The VOS purchased a new computer for the B&B and we are tentatively reviewing estimates for possibly adding satellite TV

to the community room and all guest rooms. No decision has been but just reviewing the costs and feasibility.

In April 2010 we launched our website with online reservation capability that truly puts the B&B in the 21st century. This was all at no cost to the VOS through the TMAP.

As the B&B completes its fifth successful season we are met with routine maintenance procedures with all aspects to the facility and we are making pro-active plans to keep parts on hand for future repairs and maintenance.

Upcoming activities for the B&B include the renovation of a cabin to augment and expand the options for guests staying at the facility.

In conclusion, we hope you will utilize the tribal member discount rate at the Solomon Community Center/Bed and Breakfast and stay a night.



Solomon Youth Camp Cancelled

The VOS scheduled a youth camp this year for August 9 -12 at Solomon's Bed and Breakfast but was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Planned activities were to build a fish rack, salmon fishing, Native games, green picking, beach combing, and listening to elder tell stories.

Next year youth camp applications will be mailed once a date is selected. Roundtrip airfare will be provided to youth living outside of the Nome area and the VOS will be looking for adult volunteers to assist in the supervising the youth and activities. If interested in volunteering, please contact the tribal coordinator by calling the VOS office at 443-4985.

ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP!!

The Village of Solomon is looking for a new logo design for the Solomon Community Center/Bed and Breakfast!

Submit your idea to the tribal office and receive a \$50 gift certificate if your design is selected as a logo.

Email to tc.sol@kawerak.org or fax to 443-5189 by December 31st at noon.

New Tribal Enrollment Cards

The VOS office received new software and a printer to print tribal enrollment cards. Tribal members encouraged to stop by the office to get picture taken for the new tribal enrollment card. This card can be used as a form of ID.

The United States Government and the State of Alaska will recognize tribal membership as a form of identification if and when asked for a form of identification.

LEDP Strategic Worksession Scheduled for November

The tribal council has scheduled a Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) worksession for November 5-6 in Nome. All tribal members are encouraged to attend and participate in this strategic planning process led by Kawerak staff. All participants will receive a \$100 stipend/day for attending. A meeting notice will be mailed to all tribal members at a later date.

BSRHA Accepting Housing Applications

The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) has designated funds to purchase housing specifically for a tribal member from the Village of Solomon that meets BSRHA home purchasing qualifications and criteria. At this time, BSRHA is accepting housing applications to be considered for purchase of a home located in Nome.

If you would like to apply, please go to the BSRHA website for a housing application package at http://www.bsrha.org/files/pdf/Housing_Application_Form.pdf or call the VOS office for an application to be mailed to you.

Tribal members may also call the BSRHA directly at 443-5256 if you have any questions, or need assistance in filling out the application package.

Comments from the Tribal Membership Meeting on August 14



Amy Johnson fixes Amber Gray's hair and Emmylou Vial talks with Benny Piscoya while waiting for door prizes to be drawn. (Emmylou won a \$25 gas certificate and Benny won a movie pass)

Tim Stettinger commented that this was his first meeting and is not sure what is what as he is still learning.

Helen Larsen congratulated Annette on her re-election, thanks everyone, good job; good to meet despite bad news and thank you.

Benny Piscoya commented that this was a good meeting this year, liked it.

Amy Johnson said thanks for everything!

Meghann Piscoya said thanks for the food, it was good.

Frances Wrights said Quyanna!

Annette Piscoya said thanks for the youth and elders for coming to the meeting; good food, and be safe going home with a storm coming.

Cyndi Olanna said thanks every one, good fellowship, good progress being made here.

Brian James said it was a good meeting, thankful, glad we had quorum, sad to hear that Pumpkin passed away; and, would like to see the tribe reach out to the tribal membership outside of the Nome area and provide services; thanked everyone for being here today.



L: Helen Larsen and daughter Liz Curran Johnson smile for the camera.



R: Donna James sits alongside with the Village of Solomon's youngest and eldest members in attendance, her daughter Sara James and Francis Wright, Sara's great great Aunt.

Services Available to Residents of the Bering Strait region

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 we now have four divisions:

Children and Family Services

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

Programs within CFS include:

- Children & Family Services Program
- Child Advocacy Center
- Head Start
- Jacob's House

Community Services Division

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. Programs within CSD include:

- Community Planning and Development
- Transportation
- Tribal Affairs
- Village Public Safety Officer Program
- Wellness

Education, Employment & Training Division

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. Programs within EET include:

- Child Care Services
- Community Education
- Direct Employment Assistance
- General Assistance
- Higher Education Scholarships
- Kawerak Employment Enhancement Program
- Supportive Services
- Village Based Training
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Vocational Training Grants

Natural Resources Division

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. Programs within NRD include:

- Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Fisheries Department
- Land Management Services
- Reindeer Herders Association
- Subsistence Resources

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



Village of Solomon

Box 2053

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Membership Newsletter
