Volume 3 Issue 10 November 2014

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

GENERAL Alaska State ELECTIONS

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
7am to 8pm in the Community Center

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- US Senator
- US Representative
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Ballot Measure 2 - Marijuana
- Ballot Measure 3 - Minimum Wage
- Ballot Measure 4 - Bristol Bay Forever
- State Supreme Court Judge
- 3rd District - Superior Court Judge
- 3rd District - District Court Judge

Absentee Voting in City Hall M-F, 8am – 5pm
Through November 3, 2014

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Local Election Results from October 7, 2014

Adak City Council Election Results

1A – Will be decided in a run-off election
1B – Jay Stewart
3C – Mary Prince

ACDC Election Results

3A – Dave Fraser
3B – Mike Sharrah
4A – Esther Bennett

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INTERESTED IN WORK

The City is helping Adak Cod Cooperative with gathering contact information for those interested in working at the plant. Please call 592-4500 and provide your name, phone number and e-mail address to be put on the list for consideration to work at the plant this winter.

ADAK FISH PROCESSING PLANT UPDATE

There is a lot of activity taking place at the fish plant these days. Adak Cod Cooperative in in the process of making sure the plant is ready for processing crab this winter as well as making sure the facility is ready to process other species. The first order of business though, is getting the roof of the plant repaired so operations can commence. Multiple roofing supplies have already been brought to Adak for the repairs and the work crew is scheduled to arrive before Halloween.

The City, Adak Cod Cooperative and the Aleut Corporation are committed to supporting the endeavor to keep processing plant in operational condition.

Be sure to welcome the crew and principals if you see them around town. If you or someone you know is interested in working for the plant this season, please make sure to call the City.

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The City Council Race for Seat 1A Continues

We all know how close the race for seat 1A was, Christopher Lagua received a total of 14 votes, and Estrella Rizo and Elliott Schwarz received 13 votes each, creating a run-off for seat 1A. After being informed by Brooks Chandler, City Attorney, that three contestants cannot participate in a run-off election, the field had to be narrowed down to two contestants by a game of chance or lot. Both Rizo and Schwarz agreed to a coin toss, which was held October 22 at 1pm in the Community Center. Mayor Thomas Spitler threw the coin in the air; the coin landed on tails. The run-off election will be between Christopher Lagua and Elliott Schwarz. The date of the election will be set by the City Council at the next meeting November 5, 2014 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

VOTING QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 592-4500

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Adak Community Health Center

Flu SHOTS ARE AVAILABE

Call 592-8383 for an appointment

Steve Guevara, Psy.D., a Behavioral Health Clinician for Eastern Aleutian Tribes will be in the Adak Clinic from October 31st to November 7th . Please feel free to introduce yourself, discuss community wellness plans, or schedule an appointment. After hour visits can be accommodated.

Medicare Open Enrollment

October 15, 2014 through December 7, 2014

- **Review applicable coverage.**
- **If needed, remove unnecessary coverage.**

If you need assistance contact:www.medicare.gov Or Call 1-800– Medicare, or the clinic at 592-8383

Mark your calendar! 4 important dates to know

If you haven't been back to HealthCare.gov in a while, it's time to change that. Come back and apply for 2015 coverage on or after November 15th.

Open Enrollment is the time when you can find a new Marketplace plan, keep your current plan, or see if you can get help paying for coverage. If you want to make sure you're covered in 2015, mark these 4 dates on your calendar:

- November 15, 2014. This is your first day to apply for, keep, or change your coverage.
- December 15, 2014. Enroll by the 15th if you want new coverage that begins on January 1, 2015. If your plan is changing or you want to change plans, enroll by December 15th to avoid a lapse in coverage.
- December 31, 2014. The day all 2014 Marketplace coverage ends, no matter when you enrolled. Coverage for 2015 plans can start as soon as January 1st.
- February 15, 2015. The last day you can enroll in 2015 coverage before the end of Open Enrollment.

So save the dates and share them with your friends and family -- because no one should miss out on affordable health coverage just because they missed the deadline. -The HealthCare.gov Team

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TRICK OR TREAT

The trick-or-treat house list will be given to the school children on October 30th, additional lists will be available at City Hall. Pink signs will be given to each participating house to help identify "Trick or Treat" houses.

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HALLOWEEN PARTY

NOVEMBER 1 AT 5:00PM

Haunted House, Pot Luck, Cake Walk, Best Costumes, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin

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ANNUAL COMMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Recreation Department will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27, at 4:00pm, in the Community Center. Please bring a side dish and your appetite. Turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing and pies, will be provided by the Recreation Department. We will need volunteers to cook turkeys and gravy, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. Please contact Debra at 592-4500 if you can cook.

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NOVEMBER 2014

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

11/1 – Annual Halloween Party, Pot Luck & Cake Walk
11/5 – City Council Meeting, 5pm Council Chambers
11/11 – Veteran's Day (City Closed)
11/14 – ACDC Board Meeting; 9am
11/25 – Run-off election Seat 1A, (Tentative)
11/26 – City Council, 5pm in Council Chambers (Tentative)
11/27 – Thanksgiving Community Dinner, 4pm in the Community center.
11/27 – Thanksgiving (City Office closed 11/27 & 11/28)

An Artist in Schools Residency with Eddie Wood

The Adak Public School would like to thank everyone who participated in Eddie Wood's recent two-week visit to the Adak school, and those who made the program possible.

From Eddie's first day, as he introduced himself and his instruments to the students without words, to the culminating performance by students at the end of the residency, the time flew by. Every day Eddie introduced something new and exciting, incorporating dance, acting, a myriad of percussion instruments, composition, improvisation, and storytelling. Students were given opportunities to express their own ideas as soloists, to respectfully and nonverbally converse and collaborate with each other in pairs, and to work together in groups to explore ways to include everyone's ideas in a wordless narrative, performed as an ensemble using only movement and percussion. One of the neatest things was watching Eddie cast his invisible story hook, set it in one of the kids, and start reeling in--at first the kids were hesitant to answer his leading questions ("Why? Then what?"), thinking there was a right answer and afraid to give the wrong one, but as soon as they realized the story was theirs to invent, their eyes lit up, and all manner of wonderful and outlandish things emerged as their imaginations were engaged and given free rein. Another highlight was watching all the students, from kindergartners through high schoolers, gather together to learn partner social dancing, the smallest kids twirling their towering partners with glee and confidence, everyone having a grand time. In addition to meeting with students and their teachers every day, Eddie held two sessions for delighted preschoolers and an evening staff-development workshop, at which teachers, community members and visitors learned the basics of partner social dancing and etiquette, skills which came in handy when students invited audience members to partner dance at the end of their performance!

Students perform for the community, 17 October: Eddie calling dance moves as the students show off their turns and spins (top), conducting the three percussion ensembles (K-2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, 5th-12th grade), and performing an entrancing mbira duet with Harold (bottom left).

The importance of arts in education cannot be overstated. When the arts are included in a school's basic curriculum, children develop learning and thinking skills that carry over into other subjects--learning in all subjects is enhanced, scores on scholastic tests improve, and the school environment is strengthened. Arts education engages a wide variety of learning styles and fosters higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, judgment, reflection and decision-making. The arts develop teamwork and appreciation of diversity, verbal and non-verbal communication, adaptability and flexibility, self-direction and motivation, confidence and pride; they are also FUN, and can transform classrooms by creating enthusiasm for learning. In our rapidly changing world, fostering our children's natural ability to think creatively and make inspired leaps of imagination is as important in preparing them to lead productive lives as mastering the multiplication tables and learning to spell.

Realizing that in a small school like Adak's, it isn't feasible to have a dedicated arts curriculum, Eddie was careful to demonstrate creative and effective ways of embedding the arts in other subject areas. Learning complex rhythms can illuminate fractions, the changing pitch of differently sized tubes illustrates basic theories of physics, investigating instruments from other lands and cultures provides an accessible way to address geography and sociology, storytelling and ritual dialog enhance language arts and communication, interpreting sound or objects can be used to stimulate creativity and hone writing skills, movement and dance bring molecular reactions alive for students in ways a dry chemistry text cannot. Teachers were exposed to lots of ideas and techniques for incorporating the arts, and Eddie left behind many of his intruments for continued use in the classroom, much to the delight of the students! (Many thanks to Jay and Mary and to Julie for their generous purchases on behalf of the school!)

All in all, Eddie's residency was a wonderful experience for everyone, and we are grateful to all who helped make it a success!

Eddie Wood's residency was made possible with funds provided by the Alaska Legislature through the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from the Rasmuson Foundation. We are also grateful for the generous support of Adak Community Development Corporation, Alaska Airlines and Adak Telephone Utility. Thank you for valuing arts in education and recognizing that children are our richest natural resource!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge / Aleutian Islands Unit

FROM THE WILDSIDE

November 2014

50 Years of Wilderness

by Steve Delehanty, Refuge Manager, Alaska Maritime NWR

Wilderness is a word meaning different things to different people. The word at times can be used for any remote place, or even a patch of trees in the concrete world of urban America. However, there is also a legal sense of the word, meaning lands specifically designated as wilderness by Congress, and having special status and special management guidelines.

Back in 1964, fifty years ago, President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law. This law designated certain federal lands to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness". The Wilderness Act provides some legal definitions and restrictions, and makes clear that the intent of wilderness is to provide people with places for recreation, scientific work, exploration, and other activities in ways that minimize human domination of the land. The Act itself says wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain".

Only federally owned land can be congressionally designated as wilderness and be covered by the Wilderness Act. There are over 100 million acres of designated wilderness in the United States, with designated wilderness in all but six states. Alaska, with its vast wild lands, contains more designated wilderness than any other state. Right here on Adak, parts of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge are designated wilderness. Much of the south half of the island is wilderness. What does that mean for those who live or play on Adak? Well, first, it means we are lucky; we have these special lands right here in our own backyard and nobody can put up no trespassing signs. Anyone can visit the Adak wilderness land, day or night, 365 days per year. Camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, berry picking, and other activities allow people to enjoy the wilderness without causing any permanent alteration to the land, allowing future generations a similar experience, shared across the generations.

There are two critical components of wilderness that land management agencies must consider. First, the law generally prohibits certain activities, including commercial enterprises, motorized equipment (think ATVs and chainsaws), mechanical transport (think bicycles), permanent structures, and roads. Second, and perhaps more importantly, the Wilderness Act requires wilderness stewards to maintain what the Act calls "wilderness character". Wilderness character is an important yet sometimes nebulous concept. At its heart, wilderness character describes four qualities: untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and providing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Natural means natural. That's not too hard: natural systems operating as they have for eons. Undeveloped is relatively easy too: no buildings, roads, dams, or billboards. Primitive and unconfined recreation is intuitive to most people: few or no restrictions on where you can walk, hike, and explore, with no signs warning you of slippery paths or telling you no left turn.

Then there is the magical word "untrammeled". Untrammeled is likely the least understood word in the Wilderness Act, yet it is explicitly required in the law. Untrammeled doesn't mean untrampled, it doesn't mean untouched, and it doesn't mean manhandled. Untrammeled means an area where directed human intervention is minimal and where natural forces are dominant. Untrammeled means a place without roads and buildings, but it also means a place without floodwalls or stream alterations, where cliffs erode into beaches over eons. Sometimes, in maintaining wilderness character, wilderness managers need to intervene – to trammel – in some modest way in order to maintain an area's natural qualities.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's current consideration of caribou control on Kagalaska Island is an example of such a project. In that case, a modest amount of intervention by controlling caribou coming onto Kagalaska Island is deemed appropriate under wilderness law in order to maintain the naturalness of the island. Since the source of the caribou is from Adak Island, where caribou were introduced by humans, the establishment of a new population on Kagalaska would not be part of a natural biological process and would harm wilderness character on Kagalaska Island. Many other wilderness units across the country face similar issues with non-native species of plants or animals finding their way to the land, and the Wilderness Act allows intervention in these cases to maintain the naturalness of the site, so long as the intervention minimizes the use of motorized vehicles, structures, and other normally prohibited activities in the wilderness.

This 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is a great time to both celebrate the past and look forward to the future. The Wilderness Act, with its forward looking mandate to protect landscapes for future generations, is a gift for not just our generation, but for our children's children, and for generations beyond. Happy birthday Wilderness Act, and many happy returns.

FROM THE WILDSIDE *continued...*

Kagalaska Island

by Marianne Aplin, Visitor Services Supervisor, Alaska Maritime NWR

In late September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) released a Draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate options for the management of caribou expanding their range onto Kagalaska Island. We only considered caribou on Kagalaska Island in this analysis. Control of caribou on Adak was not considered. Comments on the draft were open for one month through October 29th.

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Caribou numbers are currently very low on Kagalaska, likely between 0 and 15 individuals. A helicopter survey of Adak and Kagalaska Islands was conducted in June 2012. During the survey, a single group of 3 adults and 1 calf was seen on Kagalaska. In the Draft Environmental Assessment, the Service is considering an action to prevent caribou from establishing a resident breeding population on Kagalaska Island.

The Assessment outlines the Service proposal to initiate a caribou control project on Kagalaska Island consisting of re-occurring, refuge-coordinated, walk-in efforts beginning in 2015. These re-occurring efforts would eliminate caribou found on the island and provide information about the rate and characteristics of caribou dispersing to the island to improve subsequent control efforts. Additionally, caribou control on Kagalaska would alleviate risk of caribou using Kagalaska as a stepping stone to disperse to other islands east of Kagalaska.

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The presence of caribou on Kagalaska Island damages native plant communities and ecosystems and diminishes wilderness character. If allowed to continue, the caribou population is likely to grow on Kagalaska Island, causing further harm. To fulfill the Service's legal mandate set by ANILCA to preserve natural diversity, and to maintain wilderness character as required under the Wilderness Act, we need to consider the action of caribou control on Kagalaska Island.

We thank everyone who took the time to comment on the draft. Your input will be considered as we write the final Environmental Analysis. As we move forward we'll issue press releases and post updates on our website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/alaska_maritime/KagalaskaEA.html

The RATS are Back !

It's that time of year again, when summer's crop of young rats come knocking on our doors, hoping to come in from the cold. There seem to be an extra lot of them this year, so take precautions now, before they move in for the winter!

First, discourage rats from wanting to live with you, by making sure they don't have easy access to food or shelter.

--Take trash straight to the dumpsters; don't store in your garage
--Never leave food outside for pets or birds--the rats will eat it first
--Inspect for and seal gaps and holes under garage doors and in walls
--Protect all vents with heavy screens outside your house
--Keep grass mowed; inspect for and fill in any burrows you notice
--Store things tidily and away from walls to make it easier to detect rat sign

Secondly, intercept rats as they try to invade your home: set traps around the outside of your house and in garage and crawlspace, and check them at least weekly ALL YEAR LONG. Outdoor traps should be placed inside protective boxes to prevent small birds or children's fingers from getting snapped. Indoor traps should be placed in dark corners or along routes of travel, perpendicular to walls, to catch rats as they scamper by. Think twice before using toxicants--they cause so many unintended deaths the EPA is banning some of the most widely sold products. Poison-control centers receive about 15,000 calls a year about people exposed to rat poison, and even if the poison is made unavailable to anything but rats, once they die, their carcasses are toxic to pets, birds of prey, and other scavengers. The other downside to using poison is that sometimes a rat will go inside your wall to die, hence gracing your home with an unholy stink for many months to come.

If rats have already invaded, take strong action immediately to minimize damage. Rats gnaw voraciously to wear down their constantly growing teeth. Unfortunately it is often your house that suffers, as the rat shreds insulation and gnaws through wiring, pipes, hoses and walls. Inspect your property to try to determine where they've gotten in. If you can find a point of entry, set a bunch of traps with a variety of enticing baits to lure the rats out of your walls. If you can't find a hole anywhere, they are probably entering from below, so set masses of fragrant traps in the crawlspace. Check traps every day until you've caught the culprits, then seal any entry holes. You might also try setting glue boards if you are cursed with trap-wary rats.

If you'd like more information about how to discourage or combat rat infestations, call Lisa at 592-2406. Good luck, and happy ratting!