North Slope Borough Signs For S-92 Helicopter

In a nationwide press release Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. announced that North Slope Borough (NSB), Alaska, has signed for its first-ever S-92 helicopter. The announcement was made at the 2015 Helicopter Association International Heli-Expo show. The announcement and signing ceremony was well attended.

Search & Rescue Director April Brower joined by her staff were in attendance and honored during the announcement. “The North Slope is a unique environment with difficult weather conditions and a vast area of land and sea to cover. The missions we operate are truly life or death endeavors, and for the safety of our residents we have been committed to identifying the best equipment for our needs, said Director Brower at the signing ceremony. “I’d like to thank the team at the North Slope for their continued efforts and Sikorsky for sharing in our commitment to providing excellent service to the people of the North Slope.”

“Operating Search and Rescue missions on the North Slope is critical to the life and safety of our residents. There isn’t another rescue provider for several hundred miles and with our...”

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Neil Lynch
Employee of the Month
March 2015

Officer Neil Lynch has been a valued employee of the NSB Police Department since 2003. Officer Lynch is presented with challenging situations on a routine basis, but he stays calm and draws upon his experience and training to respond. In mid-February Officer Lynch responded to a call regarding an individual not breathing. When he arrived a resident was giving chest compression, Neil checked for pulse and breath but did not detect either. Officer Lynch took over chest compressions until the individual became mildly responsive. As EMS was arriving Neil checked again for a pulse and found that the pulse was strong and the individual began to blink and move. The individual was transported to the hospital and is alive today in large part to the actions and quick response of Officer Lynch.

Neil is a fairly humble Police Officer, he would never boast that he played a role in saving someone’s life; instead he would tell you he strives to be consistent and dependable.

Quyanaqpak Officer Lynch!

Edna Ahmaogak giving it her all

Edna Ahmaogak is a resident of Wainwright. She is married to Roy David Ahmaogak, and they have two wonderful children, Jenysa and Jalen Ahmaogak.

Edna is the daughter of George and Lydia Agnasagga. Her in-law’s are the late Frederick and Adina Ahmaogak from Wainwright.

Edna graduated from Alak High School. She started her career in education in 1994. She worked as a teacher’s aide for 8 years before pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education. In 2002, Edna made the decision to pursue her passion for teaching by enrolling into Iḷisaġvik College and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Edna earned her Associates of Arts Degree from Iḷisaġvik College in 2005, and then her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2006. Earning these degrees provided Edna the ability to live in her community and enter a career she enjoys.

In 2009 Edna took the Alak Lady Huskies to the State Basketball tournament and won the Championship in the 1A Division. She coached a few more years before she decided it was time to improve her effectiveness of teaching by continuing her education. This was a bittersweet time for Edna because she had just been awarded the 1A Girl’s Coach of the Year. Edna applied and was accepted into a Master’s Program at University of Alaska Southeast. She worked full time while earning 6 master credits per semester. It took a lot of sacrifice and self-discipline, but in May 2014 she earned her Master’s in Education.

Throughout her journey she continued to think about coaching basketball. In the fall of 2014, Edna made the decision to apply to be the head coach for the Alak girl’s basketball team. This was an exciting moment for Edna. Edna was confident the girls could play well as a team. Throughout the 2014/2015 basketball season, Edna and the girls worked hard to build their defense and team skills. As a result of the hard work and determination, the Alak girl’s basketball team won the 2015 ASAA 1A Girl’s Basketball State Championship. This is Edna’s second State Championship as a coach. She looks forward to what the future brings in her education field, whether it is in the classroom or on the court.

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extreme climate every minute we cannot launch is another minute someone is potentially being exposed to -40 below weather, getting frostbite and worse. The gravity of the missions we take on requires that our equipment is uniquely capable of and outfitted for speed and a long reach in icing conditions when someone’s life hangs in the balance we are pleased to be adding a Sikorsky helicopter to our fleet to better meet those needs,” stated North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower in the Sikorsky press release.

The S-92 is expected to be completed and join the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue fleet December 2015.
Mayor’s Message
(cont. from page 1)

our communities have voiced, but for the first time in decades we will not receive a transfer out of the Permanent Fund, instead we will actually be transferring $550,000 into the permanent fund. I have communicated my commitment to ensuring services for future generations and by transferring funds into our Permanent Fund we are assisting in creating that financial reality. Each of the Departments took special care to create positions in areas that would serve all of our communities; 75 new jobs were created and most of those positions are based in the villages. There were also increases in our support to both the North Slope Borough School District and Iļisaġvik College. Thank you to all of my staff and the Assembly for their work on this budget and the blessings it will provide for our residents!

I want to wish everyone a safe and productive spring, and best wishes to the hunters and Whalers in their harvests!

Children and Youth Services (CYS) Holds Open House

North Slope Borough Department of Health & Social Services Children and Youth Services Program was pleased to host a community open house on March 24, 2015. The open house began with a special luncheon to honor the 1993 Mayor Jeslie Kaleak Sr. and Assembly members who supported the construction of the facility. We were also joined by Mayor Charlotte Brower, Chief Administrative Officer Jacob Adams, current Assembly Members, and the 1993 Assembly President. Visitors and staff shared heartfelt words of appreciation for the important services delivered to the children across the North Slope. CYS was proud to share the colorful living area and the painted bedrooms that embody the place where the CYS children temporarily call home. The Children & Youth Services plans to continue with an annual open house to share the home with the community and to continue and open dialogue in hopes to build a stronger relationship with our communities. If you have any questions, please contact CYS at 852-0263. Quyanaqpak!

Who is It?

Left: Can you guess who this handsome young man is?

If you would like to send in a photo you’d like to share in “Who Is it?” email it to noe.texeira@north-slope.org

Last issue photo of Who Is it. L to R: Max Adams Sr., Molly Adams Tremblay, Mabel Adams and Martha Hopson.
Congratulations!

Barrow High School Cheer Team
3A State Champions

Alak High School Huskiettes
1A State Champions

Barrow High School
1st Boys Basketball
3A State Champions

Good Luck Whalers!

BOXHOLDER