



"we don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing"  
- George Shaw

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

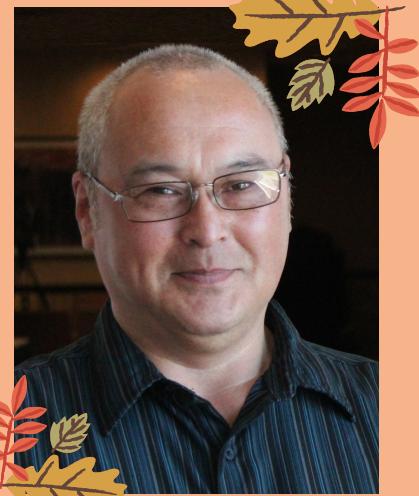


There's been no greater privilege in my life than to serve the people that elected me and entrusted me to work for them and lead our Borough these past several years. With that said I'd like to congratulate our two newest individuals who've answered the call to serve the public. Trina Paul and Lars Nelson. Congratulations on being elected to the NSB Assembly and I look forward to working with you both and thank you to our NSB Clerks' Office for their hard work and dedication to the process this past election season. remember, we are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. As the holiday season approaches, we remember those we've sadly had to say

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**North Slope Borough**  
PO Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska



## Newsletter Highlights

**A Message from the Mayor**

**Honoring the late Roy Nageak Sr.**

**IHLC: New ZONE display case**

**U.S. Arctic Research Commission**

**NSB A&F Bond Rating**

**Inuit Day- Eben Hopson Sr.**

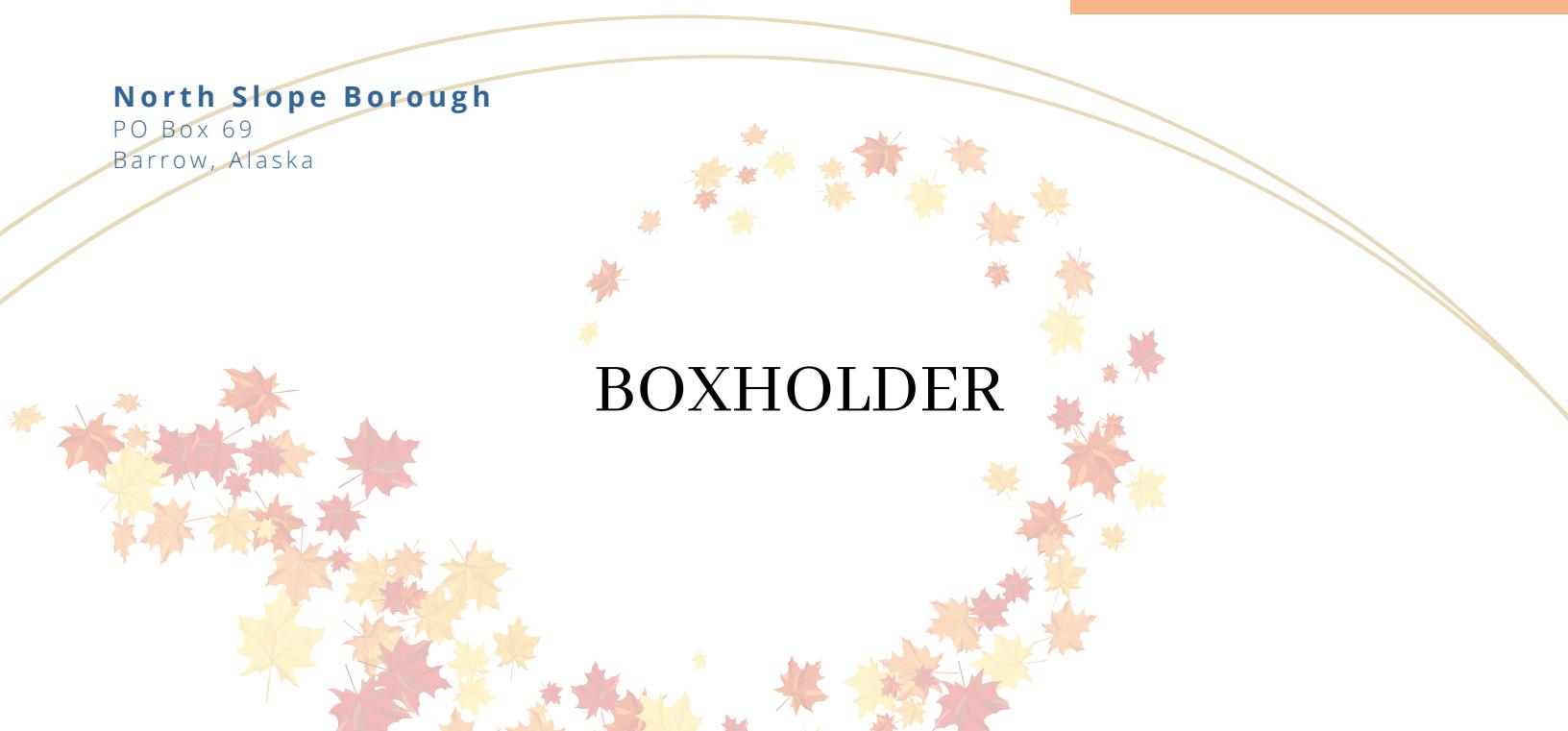
**Employee Service Awards**

**Search and Rescue: Night Goggles**

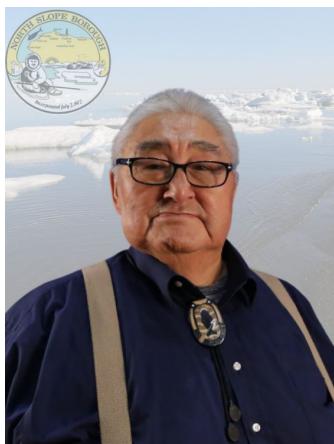
**Wildlife Sampling**

**MYAC & Kids page**

## BOXHOLDER



# HONORING: LATE REVEREND ROY MALONEY AKOOTCHOOK NAGEAK SR.



It is with a heavy heart to inform you that we have lost a great leader. Roy's distinguished stewardship and dedication to God and community was an inspiration and we are confident that the legacy of his good works will extend far into the future.

Over 50 years in knowing Roy, I have never met anybody filled with so much optimism, who not only loved the good plans of life, but also its challenges. Roy firmly believed that, with faith, friends,

and a little folly, anybody could withstand anything, especially when we work together. I think if Roy could ask of one thing of all of us, it would be to ask if our actions today yielded respect for our families, being a credit to our faith, and a benefit to our fellow residents. In Roy's over 40 years of public service, he always led with his heart, his compassion, and, most importantly, his faith. He had a great time living, and is no doubt having the time of his life now in heaven. I ask you to keep his family in your prayers today.



## IHLC: NEW ZONE DISPLAY CASE

The Inupiat History, Language and Culture Department recently received a new display case, which was especially made, to keep objects safe from air, dust, and water. We are excited to have the Beechey Expedition Objects displayed as our first exhibit in the new case.

Frederick William Beechey was an English naval officer, artist, explorer, hydrographer, and writer. He was the son of two painters, Sir William Beechey, RA, and his second wife, Anne Jessop. Born in London on 17 February 1796. In early 1818 Beechey sailed on HMS Trent under Lieutenant John Franklin's Arctic Expedition.

Sailing as far north as Melville Island. In 1825, he was appointed to command HMS Blossom tasked to explore the Bering Strait in concert with operating from the east. In the summer of 1862, he passed the strait and barged from his ship reached 71°23'31" N and 156°21'30" near Point Barrow.

The whole voyage lasted more than 3 years, discovered many islands along the Pacific and an excellent harbor near Cape Prince of whales. The objects that will be placed in the display case, are the William Beechey Expedition. William Beechey's job was to document and map the landmasses. Our museum obtained the original watercolor paintings of this expedition, as well as the rare books that documented this journey.

The residents of the North Slope in Alaska feel and see the climate change occurring every year. This is very discerning as we work to keep our objects safe for the long haul, and that is where the Zone Display Cases come into place.



## U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION (USARC)

On September 24, President Biden appointed five new commissioners to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission (USARC) and designated a new chair. Earlier in the month, the White House had called for the resignation of four USARC Trump-era appointees who were serving four-year terms. When those commissioners did not resign, they were terminated. The White House has said the terminated members "lack expertise in the relevant areas." Two other commissioners' terms expired in February — those of

Crawford Patkotak and David Kennedy. Alaskan Dr. Michael Sfraga, founding director of the Polar Institute and the director of the Global Risk and Resilience Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., will serve as the new chair. Dr. Sfraga previously worked at the University of Alaska for over thirty years in various academic, administrative, and executive positions, including vice-chancellor, associate vice president, faculty member, department chair, and associate dean.

# NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH'S BOND RATING REMAINS A STABLE OUTLOOK

Three rating agencies have issued their ratings in anticipation of issuing general obligation bond debt in the amount of \$100 million to finance NSB's annual capital improvement projects.

The results of the ratings were:

Kroll Rating Bond Rating Agency	AA+
Fitch Ratings	AA
S & P Global Ratings	AA

According to Admin and Finance Director Stuermer, we are tremendously pleased with the Borough's stable outlook as we continue to be in a remarkable financial position with credit positives of:

- o Leadership team with favorable track record as well as established financial management policies and procedures for budgeting, forecasting, and monitoring of financial operations.
- o Low debt level relative to tax base.
- o Rapid debt amortization structure with 96% of principal repaid within five years.

We do have a credit challenge, in that our tax base is highly concentrated in petroleum industry. Oil & gas revenues represent about 95% of our revenue base which has resulted in a rating no greater than AA+ and AA, nevertheless these ratings remain strong.



## Certificate of Excellence

Every year the Government Finance Officers Association recognizes organizations that produce Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, (CAFR). As such, the NSB presented its audited FYE 2020 financial statements for consideration. Indeed, a year later, the NSB has attained its 38th-year certificate of excellence in financial reporting for the 2020 CAFR of the North Slope Borough.

For the team of accountants, this certificate of excellence is one we are very proud of, as the work that goes into producing the certificate is evidence that the spirit of transparency and full disclosure was attained. Congratulations to the accounting department staff for attaining another milestone certificate!

"Thank you- to the voters for approving the bond initiatives for the CIP categories funded."  
- Mayor Harry Brower Jr.



**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Let's wear PURPLE on Thursday October 14!

**EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1**  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021

22.7% of adults in Alaska are exposed to intimate partner violence of a parent

161.9 per 100,000 people in Alaska have reported rape or attempted rape in 2019

25.4% of adults in Alaska have experienced intimate partner physical abuse

Alaska's CARELINE: 877-266-4357  
National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233  
National Sexual Assault Hotline -- 800-656-HOPE (4673)  
To report Child Abuse call -- 1-800-478-4444 or online at ReportChildAbuse@alaska.gov

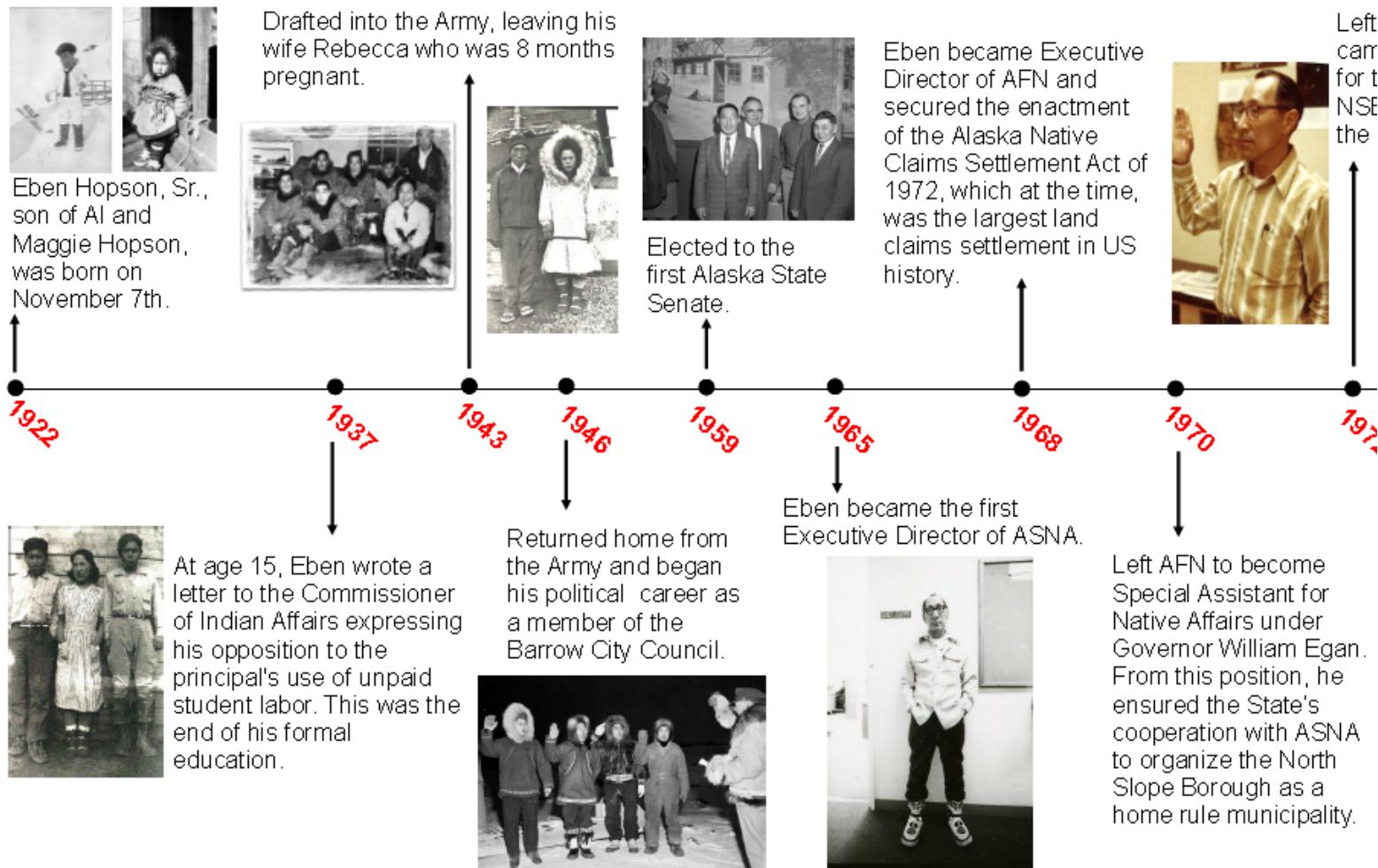
clean and disinfect often

**IÑUPIAQ VALUES**  
Family and Kinship  
As Iñupiaq people, we believe in knowing who we are and how we are related to one another. Our families bind us together.

**IŁAGIIGÑIQ**  
Iñupiaquvluta ukpiguaruqut ilisimaruksrautiaqtiinnik ijlägiikslaaqtiqun. Iłagimñipta atautchimunmurjapkaqungaaligut.

## Inuit Day: Celebrating

This memorial timeline was created in remembrance of a Founding Father of the North Slope survival of our culture. Listed below are several of his accomplishments, both locally and globally. His own decisions and creating our own future, is currently a reality across the North Slope. Eben Hopson, Sr. *Special thanks to the family of the late Eben Hopson, Sr. Thank you to the NSB IHLC Department and the Mayor's Office for the support.*



## NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: KARINA AHKIVGAK

Karina has worked for the North Slope Borough for over six years, working as a Senior Office Specialist, Executive Assistant, and now the CHAP Program Coordinator.

Karina Ahkivgak supervises the village staff and coordinates operations of the Village Clinics. Karina is resilient with all the changes the health field has had to



learn and adjust regarding COVID-19, her inspiration and performance have helped many within all our communities. She is consistently ensuring our residents receive the highest quality of care available. Quyanaqpak Karina, for your service, to ensure our communities are being taken care of.

## Eben Hopson Sr.

Borough. The values and legacy left behind by Eben Hopson, Sr. have been vital to the  
Borough, impacting the lives of Inuit Peoples around the world. Self-Governance, making our  
Borough our own, Eben Hopson, Sr. paved the way for the Iñupiaq people to shape their own destiny.

*North Slope Borough Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) for creating this banner.*

He was instrumental in the Governor's Office to  
work on the campaign for voter approval  
of the proposed organization of the  
North Slope Borough, and he was elected as  
the first NSB Mayor.



On June 28, at the age of  
57, Eben Hopson, Sr.  
passed away on the  
opening day of the  
Second Inuit Circumpolar  
Conference.



2016 marks the 10th  
Anniversary of Inuit Day.



1977



Hosted the first meeting of the  
ICC in Barrow with Greenland,  
Canada, the U.S. and U.S.S.R.  
attending.

1980



July 10, 2006

2016

North Slope Borough Mayor  
Edward Saġġan Itta signed a  
proclamation declaring Eben  
Hopson, Sr.'s birthday,  
November 7th, as Inuit Day. It  
is celebrated by countries in  
the Inuit Circumpolar  
Conference each year.

## **Employee Service Awards 2021: 40+, 30+, and 20+ years**

NSB Mayors Office would like  
to acknowledge employees  
for their Years of Service for  
their 20+, 30+, & 40+ years  
of Service. Quyanaqpak!

Your commitment is valuable  
to our communities and the  
services that the NSB  
provides throughout the  
North Slope.

### 40+ Years served

AIKEN, MARIETTA

### 30+ Years served

SUYDAM, ROBERT

MARTIN, DIANA

BROWER, GORDON

HEPA, RAYNITA (Taqulik)

BROWER JR., HARRY

GRUBBS, RHAME

BODFISH, VESTA

FRANKSON, KRISTI

### 20+ Years served

EVANS, SCOTT

AHGEAK, KARL

ROMERO, JEFFREY

PILI, ELIKISONE

OLEMAUN, MARGARET

LEMEN, ROSANNA

ATTUNGANA JR., HENRY

BAIR, CHRISTINE

BORDEAUX, ARTHUR

PAUL, KENON

BROWER, LEWIS

PALIS, LUVIMIN

CONTRADES, KELSEY

AHMAOGAK, MISTY

TAZRUK, EDWIN

AMLING, EVAN

HALOG, PERLA

KOWUNNA JR., ABRAHAM

KAVEOLOOK JR., HAROLD

VALENCIA, MARIA  
CRISTINA

SIMMONDS, NATHANIEL

KIPPI JR., RONALD

LEAVITT, JEFFREY

CASTRO, MARK PAOLO

AMANTE, LORELIE ANN

AKPIK, LEWIS

TOLEDO, ARLENE

IVANOFF, ROBERT

SARREN, MYRNA LOY

## SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: WILLIAM NUNGASAK



William Nungasak has shown an exceptionally high standard of work ethic since he was hired back in May of 2011 as a Water Utility Systems Operator for the North Slope Borough. In 2018, William was acting in the capacity of Lead Water Utility Systems Operator until he was selected permanently for the position in April 2019.

Since being hired in 2011 William has acquired certification up to Level 2 in Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Wastewater Collection, and Wastewater Treatment.

He has shown exceptional dedication to his position in the Village of Atqasuk. His dedication to providing excellent service has resulted in keeping the North Slope Water and Sewer Utility in compliance with the State regulations.

This transfers to providing the residents of the Village of Atqasuk with consistent water and sewer service. This is not an easy task. This position can be very demanding especially during emergency leak issues and freeze-ups.

Quyanaq William, for your service, to ensure your community is safely being taken care of.

## DR. ROBERT SUYDAM RETIRING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Robert Suydam is retiring from the Borough after more than 31 years of working with the Department of Wildlife Management. He came to Utqiagvik as a "baby biologist" in early May 1990 to be the bird expert for the NSB but was quickly converted to studying bowhead and beluga whales among other subsistence species.

Over the years he has worked closely with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, and our North Slope communities to protect subsistence hunting and fishing. Part of that effort occurred at the International Whaling Commission where Robert served on its Scientific Committee since 1999 and was recently the Chair of that Committee. He has also encouraged the youth and young adults from the North Slope to attend college and become the future scientists for the NSB.

Dr. Suydam stated: "It is amazing to me that I have worked with the NSB and its hunters and community members for more than 30 years. The time has flown by, mostly because working with folks on the North Slope has been a dream.



I can't imagine spending my career in a more satisfying position or place working with people who I respect, enjoy spending time with, and have been fortunate enough to work with and call my friends! I'd especially like to thank Mayor Harry Brower Jr. and Director Taqulik Hepa for the many years of collaboration, support and friendship. I'd also like to thank the many employees I have worked with at Wildlife, the residents of the North Slope who have been kind, patient, and willing to share their knowledge. I especially want to thank the people of Point Lay who helped make that community another home for me."



## SEARCH AND RESCUE: NIGHT VISION GOGGLES



With darkness fast approaching, SAR has concentrated its efforts on conducting operations at night utilizing night vision goggles (NVG). This training is critical to maintaining SAR's life-saving abilities during the winter months where every minute counts.

Utilizing the latest NVG technology, the goggles have the ability to excite light at a magnitude of over

10,000 times. NVG training consists of ground and flight training for all pilots, crew chiefs, medics, and SAR coordinators. This training is being conducted by one of SAR's newest members, Josh Grier, who recently worked as a lead pilot for a night vision goggle company and has over a decade of night flying training experience utilizing goggles.

NSB SAR has been one of the longest-standing civil operators of NVG's and continually strives to be better postured to serve the communities of the North Slope. This training is critical for SAR to meet the demands of the winter months and be poised to save lives in order to ensure our loved ones are brought home safely.

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goodbye to this year but also must remind ourselves what we are thankful for. For me, it's the health of the animal populations and their habitat. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've needed more than ever the whales, seals, fish, caribou, birds and all the other subsistence wildlife to sustain us – both physically and spiritually – and these animals need an environment that can sustain them. Through hard work, we can have the best of both worlds.



I'm also thankful for the diversity of our region. We are from a different village and regional corporations, traditional and non-traditional governments, for-profit and non-profit organizations and businesses, and a growing number of nationalities. We've needed each other during the past two years and must remember to take care of our elders and most vulnerable as the temperatures drop. That's why my administration has provided over 5,000 meals to the villages during these difficult times. My door is always open, God bless you all, and Happy Thanksgiving.

## WILDLIFE: BOWHEAD WHALE SAMPLES



Wildlife staff and their helpers taking measurements and collecting samples

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic whaling crews in Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik and also Wainwright had a successful bowhead whale fall hunt with a total of 26 bowhead whales being landed. Although more limited due to COVID-19 preventive measures, harvest monitoring of landed bowhead whales by NSB DWM staff in Utqiagvik, in Kaktovik and Wainwright occurred.

A Big Thank You to the village whaling captains association for supporting the bowhead harvest and research program! Special thanks also to all the Wildlife staff and visiting researchers who went to the whales or supported the sampling efforts in other ways and helped maintain the bowhead harvest monitoring, even under the difficult circumstances of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. see more on page 8

## OCTOBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: HENRY GARFIELD



The North Slope Borough hired Henry Garfield in August of 2010 as a power plant operator. Henry has worked for the NSB for over seven years to his current position as an Emergency Responder for the Fire Department in Nuiqsut.

Henry helps build a robust network as a first responder. He responds to calls -rain or shine, he works hard -even when he's tired. Time after time, his ability to stay collected during demanding situations is noticed.

Thank you, Henry, for all that you do to support the community of Nuiqsut

In recognition of Henry Garfield for his outstanding service as an Emergency Responder for the Fire Department. He demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond any challenge he encounters.

Our residents of the North Slope region thank you for your service. Quyanaqpak!



This fall during the month of September, an unusually high number of beached and floating bowhead whale carcasses (10), were observed in Kaktovik, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Killer whale bite marks were visible on 8 of the 10 bowhead whales with some also having their tongue being taken out. (Fig.4 Young bowhead with bitemarks and missing tongue).



A group of killer whales were reported near Cross Island during their fall bowhead hunt. Findings from this year are consistent with previous multi-year evidence from aerial survey flights and examination of landed whales for killer whale scars. This suggests that killer whale attacks and predation on small bowhead whales seem to be increasing. None of the landed whales had fresh killer whale rake marks.



## Can you find:



## GUESS WHO

*Answers*



L-R: Richard Tukle, Simon Paneak, Clayborne Tunik, Evans Egowa and Daniel Kenton



L-R: Frances Napageak, Mamie Matumeak and Nannie Pausana

## Inupiaq Values

E	I	T	C	P	C	O	G	N	I	R	A	H	S	G	E	N	I	O
E	G	N	O	S	I	I	C	T	R	W	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G
P	N	P	Y	T	I	L	A	U	T	I	R	I	P	S	N	Y	A	K
P	F	R	M	H	L	G	A	T	N	U	L	T	M	I	A	O	S	R
I	Y	T	I	L	I	M	U	H	S	L	A	Y	L	I	M	A	F	G
K	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	M	M	I	E	T	E	A	E
I	A	I	L	G	O	R	Y	N	K	G	I	O	Y	L	A	W	I	S
N	N	T	M	Y	A	T	I	W	N	N	I	G	K	D	H	A	O	K
S	M	G	M	H	R	A	O	T	A	S	O	E	R	E	S	P	E	C
H	O	S	I	F	A	V	T	I	T	O	T	C	E	R	L	R	P	A
I	I	D	L	I	F	N	O	A	R	U	I	E	U	M	S	N	H	S
P	I	T	D	O	D	I	D	E	R	W	L	L	I	H	I	R	L	G
R	E	E	C	N	L	D	E	S	E	E	A	L	R	U	G	L	N	H
L	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	M	O	C	E	A	E	M	I	H	R	G
D	N	E	I	I	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	P	O	O	C	U	I
O	A	N	A	I	N	C	S	G	C	O	A	I	U	R	U	W	R	I
N	L	O	V	E	N	E	O	N	T	C	I	L	F	N	O	C	P	A
Y	L	H	U	N	T	I	G	V	U	L	L	A	N	G	U	E	G	E
M	U	D	L	U	Y	I	E	V	H	E	I	Y	T	O	G	A	S	A
E	D	N	Y	C	K	T	L	S	O	C	N	A	L	R	N	V	T	E

Compassion  
Humility  
Respect  
Traditions  
Family

Avoidance  
Spirituality  
Elders  
Knowledge  
Kinship

Conflict  
Humor  
Nature  
Language

Cooperation  
Love  
Hunting  
Sharing

## MAYORS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: HALLOWEEN CANDY GRAMS



MYAC packing a snack to school kids for Halloween

Mayors Youth Advisory Council Program had put together Halloween Candy Grams for all students across the North Slope. Costumes, community, fresh air – there are lots of reasons to love trick-or-treating at Halloween.

Outdoor activities are much safer than indoor activities, but traditional trick-or-treating still includes large groups of children, and the potential for crowded moments.