



WE DID IT (top) — Siblings Jimmy and Brenda Pushruk are happy to have brought part of the Kakaruk reindeer herd to the new corral that they spent the past several years financing and putting together. The construction was a cooperative effort of former and future Teller reindeer herders.

HOLDING PEN (right) — A portion of the Kakaruk reindeer herd mill about the outer holding pen. The deer were the first to pass through the new corral.



WRESTLING REINDEER — Reindeer herder Cameron Okbaok wrestles a reindeer that the herd managers will use as food. His cousin Kacey Okbaok (middle standing), the official Kakaruk reindeer herd tally person, recorded 256 deer receiving their first tags after passing through the new corral on Friday, June 26.



• Reindeer

continued from page 8

tered the chute connected to the smallest and last pocket. Abu Oquilluk held the door shut while Cameron and a few others held the animal in place. Brenda handed a marking device to her brother, who used it to attach a bright orange Kakaruk tag to the animal's left ear. Pushruk called out "maverick female" to Cameron's cousin Kasey Okbaok, the round-up's official recorder, who stood just outside the fence. Then Oquilluk opened the door and released the first-ever reindeer to pass through the new corral. Jimmy Noyakuk and Delbert Okbaok stood smiling a few feet away.

At 4:53, the first Kakaruk fawn received an earmark. Then, for nearly five hours, the team moved deer through the system, one by one, until the outer holding pen was

empty and the mothering pen was full.

The final tally of reindeer receiving their first tag was 256, of which 74 were fawns. There were four previously marked deer carrying the Gray herd's purple tags, and six that had old Kakaruk marks from 2015. Around 9:50, the pen's gate was opened, and all were released.

Pushruk says that for the older guys, this round-up brings back memories of wrestling reindeer, cutting horns, and walking long hours with the herd. "All the many young people that helped us build it, they're actually seeing reindeer now and seeing the whole operation," he said.

The builder of the Seward Peninsula's newest reindeer corral often mentions that this endeavor was a collaborative effort. "WE did it," he says.





City of Nome
Alaska

NOME 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

11:00am Parade

Opening Ceremony




Bike Races

Foot Races

Wheelbarrow Race

3 Legged Races

Gunny Sack Races

Shoe Scramble

Chicken Race

Egg Races

Pie Eating Contest

After Games Free Ice Cream at Nome

Volunteer Fire Department




Games
Schedule




