



WAITING FOR WINTER—Winter is slowly arriving, with rivers being iced up but the ocean showing no sign of freeze up yet.

Photo by Nils Hahn

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

• USPS 598-100 • Single Copy Price • 50 Cents in Nome •

VOLUME CXXI NO. 48 November 27, 2025

Opposition builds as public comments are drafted for first major Graphite One permit application

By Diana Haecker

As the public comment period on a major permit application for the proposed graphite mine in the northern Kigluak Mountains winds down, the nearest communities that would be affected by the mine are voicing their opposition.

On Monday, the lights of snow-machines and four-wheelers pierced the soft light of the Arctic dawn as

the caravan was picking their way from Brevig Mission to Teller across the ice on Grantley Harbor.

Representatives from the City of Brevig Mission, Brevig Mission Traditional Council and Brevig Mission Native Corporation made the journey to meet with their counterparts of Teller and Mary's Igloo to discuss the ramifications of the proposed Graphite One mine on their subsis-

tence way of life. The mine, the mill complex and the waste management facility would be built near the northern slopes of the Kigluak Mountains, straddling Graphite Creek and Glacier Canyon Creek, which empty into the Imuruk Basin.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, all three Brevig Mission entities unanimously passed a resolution in opposition of the mine "due to threats to subsis-

tence resources, cultural integrity, environmental health, community wellbeing and long-term sustainability of the region."

The two-page resolution addresses the stewardship since time immemorial and ties the health of the land to the cultural, spiritual and physical wellbeing of Brevig Mission residents. The resolution expresses fear of contamination of surface and groundwater, of wildlife

disturbance and industrial traffic, noise and pollution as well as long-term risks from the tailings and waste facilities. It concludes that short-term economic benefit doesn't outweigh the long-term risks and resolves that all three local governing entities formally oppose the development, permitting, construction and operation of the proposed mine and its associated infrastructure.

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CHAMPION—Renee Brown won the 100-lb girls division and was voted girls Outstanding Wrestler at the Glen Vanderkaw Memorial wrestling tournament last weekend. See more wrestling news of Nanooks competing in Anchorage and Kotzebue on pages 7/8.

Photo courtesy Corey Erikson

Kiewit, unions inform on workforce needs for port expansion

By Diana Haecker

With the first phase of the Port of Nome expansion beginning next year, representatives of Kiewit—the general contractor for the project—along with Bering Straits Native Corporation and the Teamsters and Operating Engineers unions held a meeting last week to inform the public of their needs to develop a local workforce for the project.

Earlier this summer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded the contract for Phase 1A of the larger port expansion project to Kiewit. The entire project will take eight to 10 years to build.

Phase 1A, a three-year endeavor, entails removing the spur of the existing causeway, extending the causeway 1,200 lineal feet of and installing 600 feet of open cell sheet pile to put in there for a berth location.

Daniel Petersen with Kiewit presented the timeline for the first phase. Kiewit plans to begin work next year with the hopes to be finished with phase 1A in the spring of 2029. Petersen said Kiewit had been in Nome this summer to harvest rocks from Bering Straits Native Corporation's subsidiary Sound Quarry at Cape Nome, for a seawall project in Utqiagvik. In addition to mining rocks for Utqiagvik, Cape Nome rock production will be significantly ramped up to also stockpile different sized rocks for the causeway extension.

Petersen said Kiewit will come out in April to begin what he called "rock making" at Cape Nome.

Kiewit will begin their main mobilization in June when big barges

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Polar Cub Café to close after 50 years of operation

By Ariana Crockett O'Harra

The Polar Cub Café's 50-year run has come to an end. On Friday, November 28, the storied restaurant will close for meal service.

On the morning of Sunday, November 23, the morning sun was just peeking through the windows of the café, customers waited in line at the

register, buying coffee and baked goods. Despite the busy scene, the café will be ending the meal service this week.

The coffee shop inside the restaurant will still be open. Larry St. Clair bought the building and business in January with his wife Mymy. While the restaurant is eking out a profit, it takes lots of time and adequate staff to operate it. The St. Clairs haven't been able to find enough employees to run the restaurant to allow them the time to run their other businesses. Downstairs, they operate the Polar Bar, and there are apartments upstairs. Larry has a gold mining business and Mymy runs a nail salon.

"Business is good," said St. Clair in an interview with the Nugget. "There's no problem with the amount of people visiting the restaurant. It's the amount of time that it takes is not feasible.

St. Clair said that the profit they make from the restaurant just isn't worth the amount of time and effort they put into it, compared to what they make from their other businesses. "The Polar is profitable," he said. "Mining is more profitable, per hour, per year."

When the St. Clairs bought the building from Patrick "Pat" and William "Bill" Krier, whose family had owned it for 25 years, the Krier brothers told them the restaurant wasn't profitable. "We took over at the first of the year and the former owners advised us when we did the restaurant," said St. Clair.

He said every day, there's something that must be fixed in the restaurant.

"There's always a fire, not literally, metaphorically speaking,

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Photo by Ariana Crockett O'Harra

SUNNY VIEW—Breakfast customers finish their meal as late-morning sunshine floods the Polar Cub Café on the morning of Sunday, November 23. The restaurant will close for meal service on Friday, November 28.

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