



MEMORIAL DAY—A solemn Memorial Day parade reaches the Nome Belmont Point Cemetery. *See story on page 8.*

Photo by Nils Hahn

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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VOLUME CXXI NO. 22 May 29, 2025

Council sets mill rate at 11.5, reduces contribution to Nome schools

By Diana Haecker

In work session after work session, the Nome Common Council is fine combing the city's fiscal year 2026 budget, trying to balance the budget while keeping services to citizens intact and not laying off any employees.

On Tuesday night, when faced with the May 31 deadline to have the city's contribution to Nome Public Schools nailed down, the council pivoted last minute from a \$3.4 mil-

lion to a reduced \$2.7 million contribution to the school district. The reasoning included that the council can at a later date supplement the contribution to the schools.

In a work session prior to the regular meeting, where the council voted on the amended resolution to set the school contribution at \$2.7 million, Superintendent Jamie Burgess mentioned that the school's apartment capital fund has \$2 million in it. Wait a minute, said council-

member Scot Henderson, the council was told it was \$1.1 million. This changed the conversation, as it appeared the school could find more money in their own savings accounts rather than asking the city to dip deep into theirs.

The genesis of the budget discussions rested with an initial budget proposal presented to the council on May 5 that already had cuts to operational costs across departments. When the council was presented with

the budget, they tried to find either more revenue or cuts to services to balance the \$18,025,230 budget.

City manager Lee Smith was tasked after last Friday's work session to find more savings. He presented a slightly leaner budget with only \$75,000 additional cuts. His budget draft was based on a mill rate of 11.5 and an assumed increased sales tax to 7 percent, while leaving the \$3.4 million contribution to schools untouched. The budget in-

cluded cuts to NEST, slashing the Visitor Center budget in half to \$100,000, and cutting departments to the bone. Any further cuts, City Manager Smith said, would be cutting services to residents and would be detrimental to the city's operations. Smith said in conversations he heard that citizens were opposed to raising property taxes, but felt they could tolerate an increase in sales

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Graphite One listens to concerns at meeting in Nome

By Diana Haecker

In a series of meetings in Teller, Brevig Mission and Nome last week, Graphite One Alaska updated the public on their plans to develop a graphite mine on the northern slopes of the Kigluaik Mountains and to hear people's concerns and input.

Old St. Joe's Hall was packed on Thursday evening for the meeting that lasted over three hours.

After ten years of conducting baseline studies, drilling programs and preliminary work, Graphite One has finished a feasibility study in March, which now allows the company to go on the U.S. stock exchange to get investors for the project and approach banks for loans to bankroll the projected \$949 million cost to build the mine.

Graphite One Inc., a Canadian company, is currently traded at the Toronto Venture Exchange, with an ownership of 50/50 Canadians and U.S. shareholders. The company owns Graphite One Alaska, the subsidiary that aims to bring online the proposed graphite mine north of the Kigluaiks, about 50 miles north of Nome. A second subsidiary plans the development of an advanced graphite manufacturing facility in Ohio.

Presenting for Graphite One Alaska were Vice President of Operations Mike Schaffner, Vice President Mining Kevin Torpy, Environmental and Permitting Manager Ed Fogels and Project Manager Loren Prosser.

On the outset, Schaffner stressed that Graphite One welcomes input and that previous meetings have

"significantly changed how we're building this project. So, continue to give us your ideas," he said.

And comments were flowing. In passionate but respectful tone, community members expressed concerns about the proposed access road, about spoiling a subsistence-rich area for profit that won't be shared with the communities most affected by the mine, Teller and Brevig Mission. Other comments welcomed the mine and drew a comparison to the economic boon that the Red Dog zinc mine brought to the Kotzebue and NANA region.

But before the floor opened to comments, Graphite One offered information on the proposed mine. With the feasibility study in hand, a few things have changed compared to Graphite One's pre-feasibility plans that were presented in prior meetings. For one, due to changing market conditions and greater demand, plans were adjusted for a much larger output of material from 50 tons per day to 162 tons per day. To make this happen, larger equipment will be put to work with the same amount of people working on the project. Another significant change has to do with employee housing. At first the company proposed a camp at the mine site but now they plan to create a subdivision in Nome, assisting employees with the financing, co-signing their mortgage and after a number of years granting the land to them. There would still be camp style housing in Nome for those employees from the villages, who would travel home on their days off. With the bigger output, more traffic, bigger trucks and larger ships are necessary to move the graphite from mine to port.

Big Picture

Mike Schaffner said that the main use for graphite these days are electric car components. Each electric vehicle, he said, contains 10 kilograms (about 22 pounds) of graphite. China supplies 100 percent of graphite used in electric cars and since no graphite is produced in the U.S., the government through a \$37 million

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Photos by Nils Hahn

CONCERNED ELDER—Arlene Soxie voiced her concern during the Graphite One meeting at Old St. Joe's Hall in Nome, on May 22.



SENIOR VP—Mike Schaffner, Senior Vice President of Operations at Graphite One, presents at the community meeting held at Old St. Joe's Hall.

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Letters

Dear Editor,

June is an exciting time of year in Nome. The sun is shining, people are getting out to camp and our LGBTQ+ community is celebrating Pride Month.

I want to thank the people of Nome and the region for loving and caring for us the way you do. I have always described Nome as a place where we are safe to live and raise our families. I want to make sure that others in our LGBTQ+ community feel that love as well.

Acceptance is not a political issue—it's a human one. LGBTQ+ individuals deserve to live openly, safely and proudly, without fear of discrimination or rejection. As a community, it is our collective responsibility to create spaces where every person feels seen, respected and valued.

True acceptance goes beyond tolerance. It means embracing LGBTQ+ people. We are essential members of our families, schools, workplaces, and our Nome community as a whole.

Acceptance means listening to our stories, advocating for our rights, and challenging hate wherever it appears.

There is no neutral ground when it comes to dignity. Either we affirm LGBTQ+ lives, or we allow silence and prejudice to cause harm. By

choosing love, respect and inclusion, we strengthen not only individual lives but the very fabric of our community.

Everyone deserves to be celebrated for who they are—not just accepted but welcomed.

Let's build a world where no one has to wonder whether they belong.

There will be several Pride events and activities throughout the month of June.

Please come and celebrate with us!

Sincerely,
Fawn White (She/Her/Hers),
Nome
PO Box 2088
Nome, AK 99762

Letter to the editor,

Discrimination, biasness, racism, inequality has become far out of hand in our region. I feel that we have all become careless...saying to ourselves 'as long as it's not happening to me or my family, heh, I'm fine, we're fine as long as we keep our heads down.

We have rights! I have rights! And I want them honored. We all need to make sure that our Indigenous rights are being honored. I hear year after year almost every year We are One People!

What happens to me happens to all of us. We have to look out for one another, care for one another, help one another.

For some of us though it seems we say these words blindly, we say so we might fit in, we say them so maybe people thing we really do care. I'm asking, no, I'm pleading we need more fairness in our justice system. We need equality!

I had a friend in here not long ago, jailed because he defended himself (attempted) to defend himself in his own home. His understanding of the English language is not great, it's hardly any good, so it was not hard for the court system here to trick him, deceive him and tell him, he broke the law.

What would you do had an intoxicated person bust into your home, stick or weapon in hand? Really what could you do that would be considered unlawful enough that you need to be arrested?

A jail guard working for the State of Alaska's Anvil Mountain Correctional Center quoted our Fifth Amendment of the Constitution that no one shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

That includes U.S. citizens, legal aliens and illegal aliens.

Are Indigenous people exempt? Not included? Are we equal? Video footage proved my innocence but it was denied as evidence during my trial proceeding.

Employees who work for the State of Alaska claim that they have a duty to support and defend the rule of law enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. But honestly, look at where soo many of us are.

My first public defender during his case told me personally "Ryan we don't need evidence to indict you, we won't need evidence to convict you, all we need is your history."

Does that sound legal under International law? Under any law?

I ask our legal system, the State of Alaska, have your tried any Indigenous person under International law? Does the State of Alaska recognize or obey International law?

Ryan Thomas Antoghamé
#404988
Seaside Center
PO Box 2129
Nome, Alaska 99762

Editorial

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a day to reflect on the ultimate price that more than 1.5 million U.S. service members have paid in all armed conflicts in the country's history, defending the dream of individual freedom, equality and justice for all.

Playing politics on Memorial Day is a disgrace and most certainly should be condemned when coming from the commander in chief via social media posts.

The men and women who gave their lives for the idea of freedom should be honored by us, giving our best effort to be citizens worthy of their sacrifice. —D.H—

The Nome Nugget’s submission policies:

Letters to the Editor: The maximum length of a letter to the editor should be around 300-500 words. The letters may be edited for length and clarity. You must provide your full name and mailing address to The Nome Nugget. Your name and mailing address are printed alongside your letter. Letters may be submitted by email to diana@nomenugget.com or mail to PO Box 610, Nome, AK 99762. We don't print anonymous letters unless the author is known to the Nugget and/or has reasonable fear for repercussions. We will not print material that is potentially libelous, discriminatory, obscene, threatening, copyrighted or promotional. We do not print letters that contain provable falsehoods and misinformation. We do not print letters written to endorse products or a political candidate. If you'd like to promote your for-profit product or a political candidate, please see our advertising rates and deadlines by contacting ads@nomenugget.com.

OP ED: Maximum length: 700-800 words; must reflect the opinion of an individual with expertise in the subject. OP ED submitted on behalf of political parties, PACS, corporations, or signed by several people for or against political candidates or ballot measures are considered ads.

Announcements: The Nome Nugget publishes obituaries, birth and wedding announcements as a community service free of charge. We require submissions of announcements or obituaries to be factual and fair as they are not independently researched by Nugget staff.



Weather Statistics

Sunrise	05/29/2025	5:18 a.m.	High Temp	+59°F	05/25/2025	National Weather Service Fairbanks, Alaska (907) 458-3700
	06/04/2024	5:00 a.m.	Low Temp	+31°F	05/21+24/2025	
			Peak Wind	18 mph	05/24/2025 W	
Sunset	05/29/2025	12:38 a.m.				
	06/04/2025	12:58 a.m.				

Nome Norton Sound
Tide Predictions
(High & Low Waters)

Date	Day	Time	Low Tide	Time	High Tide	Time	Low Tide	Time	High Tide
05/29	Th	12:47 a.m.	-0.44	08:20 a.m.	1.36	12:39 p.m.	0.93	05:42 p.m.	1.36
05/30	Fr	01:41 a.m.	-0.41	09:21 a.m.	1.41	01:41 p.m.	0.97	06:55 p.m.	1.30
05/31	Sa	02:38 a.m.	-0.34	10:20 a.m.	1.46	02:52 p.m.	0.98	08:13 p.m.	1.23
06/01	Su	03:40 a.m.	-0.25	11:12 a.m.	1.49	04:18 p.m.	0.95	09:37 p.m.	1.18
06/02	Mo	04:38 a.m.	-0.16	12:02 p.m.	1.50	05:42 p.m.	0.88	10:48 p.m.	1.14
06/03	Tu	05:28 a.m.	-0.04	12:50 p.m.	1.52	07:19 p.m.	0.79	11:50 p.m.	1.09
06/04	We	06:14 a.m.	0.10	01:33 p.m.	1.53	08:25 p.m.	0.67		

Daily variations in sea level due to local meteorological conditions cannot be predicted and may significantly effect the observed tides in this area.
All times are listed in Local Standard Time. All heights are in feet referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

Illegitimus non carborundum

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Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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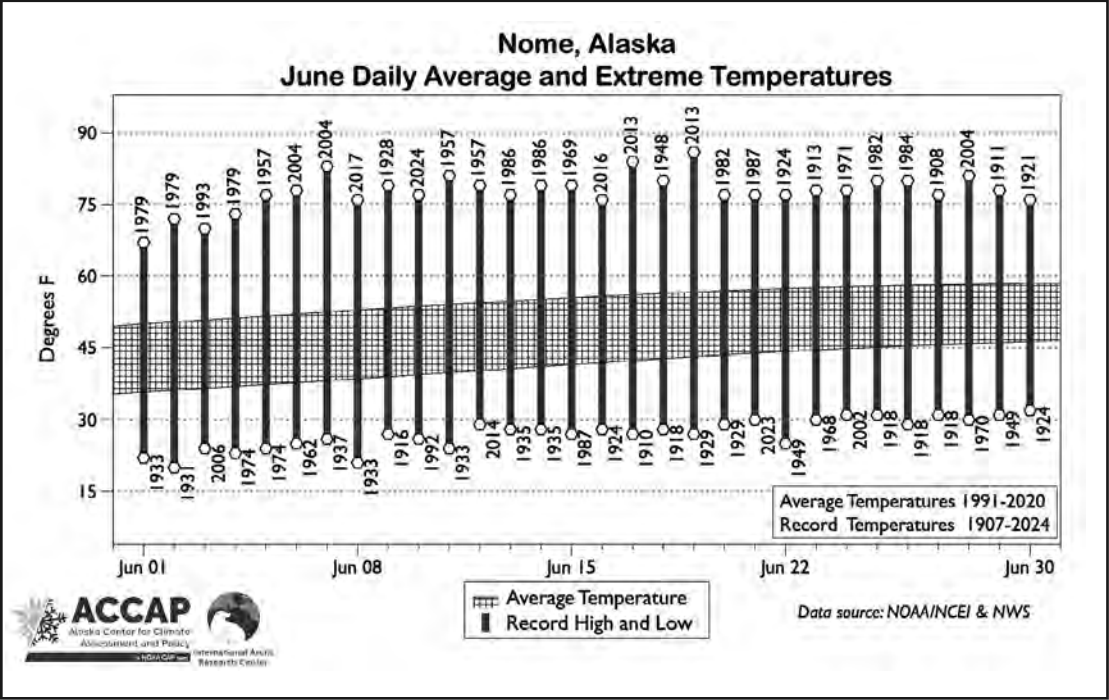
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Climate Watch

By Rick Thoman
Alaska Climate Specialist
Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
International Arctic Research Center/University of Alaska Fairbanks

The Climate Prediction Center, a part of the National Weather Service, is charged with producing outlooks for two weeks to a year in the future. Unlike weather forecasts, weekly to seasonal outlooks are not for specific values, but instead are in relationship to normal (typically as 30-year period). This month, the Climate Prediction Center's outlook for June across western Alaska favors neither above nor below normal temperatures or above or below normal precipitation. This does not mean that near normal

is likely, but rather that overall there is not enough consistency in the forecast tools to favor a tilt toward above or below being more likely. Over the past 118 years, June temperatures have ranged from 20°F in 1931 to 86°F in 2013. However, the temperature has been in the 80s on only eight days in June. Historically, June was very rarely the warmest month of the summer due to the presence of at least some sea ice early in the month keeping Norton Sound water temperatures cold. In the 96 years between 1907 and 2002, June was the warmest month of the summer only three times. But that has changed as Norton Sound waters warm earlier nowadays. In the 22 years between 2003 and

20024, June has been the warmest month of the summer four times, including last year. Precipitation in June is usually higher than in May but still well below that of late summer and has exceeded three inches only four times in Nome's long climate history (most recently in 1980). Thunderstorm frequency increases over the inland Seward Peninsula as June progresses, and occasionally one of these storms will move across town. A flurry of snow is not uncommon during the first days of June, though accumulating snow at low elevations is unusual. However, both 2021 and 2023 brought significant albeit short-lived accumulations right down to the beach.



Photo by Nils Hahn

Airport weather station status update
Week ending May 26, 2025

Community	Status
Brevig Mission	Reporting
Buckland	Intermittent
Deering	Offline
Elim	Intermittent
Emmonak	Reporting
Gambell	Intermittent
Golovin	Reporting
Koyuk	Reporting
Nome	Reporting
Savoonga	Intermittent
Shaktoolik	Reporting
Shishmaref	Reporting
St. Michael	Reporting
Teller	Intermittent
Unalakleet	Reporting
Wales	Reporting
White Mountain	Reporting

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 29

Nome Visitor Center open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Tuesday-Saturday 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Port Commission WS & Regular Meeting
Council Chambers - 5:30 p.m.

*Open Gym
*Strong Nation
*Private MPR Rental

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
5:45 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.
5:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 30

Nome Visitor Center open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Tuesday-Saturday 12 noon - 5 p.m.

*Open Gym
*Free Kindergym
*Open Gym
*Drop-In Volleyball
*Drop-in Soccer (Age 15+)

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 7:55 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Have you got a drug problem? Narcotics Anonymous has a solution!
NA Meeting is held on Friday night at 7:00 p.m., at the Katirvik Cultural Center

Saturday, May 31

Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Tuesday-Saturday 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Rec Center CLOSED
Start of summer scheduling.
Closed on weekends until Labor Day.

Sunday, June 1

Rec Center CLOSED
Start of summer scheduling.
Closed on weekends until Labor Day.

Monday, June 2

Nome Visitor Center open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.

*Open Gym
*Kindergym
*Open Gym
*Yoga w/ Pete

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3

Nome Visitor Center open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Museum M-F 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting
Council Chambers - 7:00 p.m.

*Open Gym
*Pickleball
*Drop-in Soccer
*Strong Nation

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
7:00 a.m. - 7:55 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
5:45 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4

Nome Visitor Center open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Library M-Th 12 noon to 7 p.m., F-Sa 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Richard Foster Building - Museum M-F 12 noon - 5 p.m.

*Open Gym
*Kindergym
*Open Gym
*NSHC Main Gym Rental

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Gym Closed for Cleaning after NSHC Event

*Spin Class w/ Nikki
*REFIT w/Kim

Nome Rec Center
Nome Rec Center

6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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• Council

continued from page 1

tax. Thus, he floated the idea to bring a referendum to voters in October to raise the sales tax from the current 5 percent to 7 percent.

Councilmember Scot Henderson said that his idea was to spread the pain and that the budget as presented was not a balanced solution as neither the city nor the schools were presenting any reduction in spending. He opposed the idea to not show a good effort of cutting spending, but asking citizens to voluntarily raise their expenses via a sales tax. He thought asking voters for a 2 percent sales tax hike would be a risky proposition.

After a lengthy discussion, the council landed on a reduction in the city's contribution to the school district. "I don't think there is anybody on this council who does not support the schools. But we have to make the city's budget and the school's budget work," Johnson said. He said that if there is an emergency, the council would step in and help the schools. Pressed by the state-mandated May 31 deadline, Councilmember Mark Johnson made the motion to amend the resolution, reflecting a city contribution of \$2.7 million. The vote unanimously approved the amended

resolution.

In another vote, the council unanimously passed a resolution to set the mill rate at 11.5, on a value of \$488 million of taxable property.

The council voted on the budget ordinances of various funds, including the general fund, in first reading. Another work session is set for Wednesday, June 4 at 5:30 pm, prior to the vote in second reading, public comment and final passage.

In other business, the council voted in first reading to amend the city's zoning map to include a downtown mixed use district.

After the budget work session, the Nome Common Council, with all members present, convened as the Board of Equalization and voted on an appeal from Norton Sound Health Corporation, asserting that eight properties should be tax-exempt. Councilmember Cameron Piscoya, who works for NSHC, declared a conflict and was excused from voting on the matter. The properties include the housing complexes, the Kusqii House, the Wellness Center, hostel and maintenance center complex, the prematernal home and the west campus. The board of equalization voted property by property and denied each appeal.

After the 3 hour and 40 minute



Photo by Diana Haecker

BUDGET TALKS— The Nome Common Council convened on Tuesday for a work session and the regular meeting to vote on the city's budget in first reading. The council also set the mill rate at 11.5.

meeting, only few council members volunteered comments. Maggie Miller suggested to add other tax increases to the ballot come October, such as bed tax. Scot Henderson thanked the Planning Commission to get the downtown zoning amendment before the council. Cameron Piscoya echoed Miller's suggestion

to get other tax increases on the ballot. Adam Martinson cautioned that voters may react adverse if too many tax increases are presented on the ballot.

Mark Johnson requested from the city manager to look at installing basketball hoops around town. And finally, Mayor John Handeland

asked the interested public to take initiative and help put on events such as the Memorial Day festivities or the upcoming Midnight Sun events.

The next work session on the budget is planned for Wednesday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m.

• Graphite One

continued from page 1

Dept. of Defense grant financially supported the feasibility study, citing "national security" reasons. As demand for graphite is growing, the mining plans call for a much greater output than initially forecasted.

The mine

According to Vice President of Mining Kevin Torpy, the mine is designed as an open pit mine, with a drill and blast program, material will be loaded into large mining trucks, hauled to the processing plant, where the graphite is separated from the rock. The product leaving the mine would be a fine, 95.5 percent graphite concentrate, which is then put into 20-ft containers.

The tailings will be dewatered and put in a dry stack facility, which does not require a dam structure.

A power plant is on site, as is a fuel storage facility holding 850,000 gallons of fuel. The entire fuel consumption is estimated at 8 million gallons per year, requiring five tanker ships delivering fuel to Nome and additional storage capacity.

The mine's life is expected to be 20 years. Aside from work force development, additional creation of housing in Nome, the fate of the mine hinges on significant infrastructure development.

Infrastructure

Two things need to happen to

make the proposed Graphite One mine a reality as the company envisions it. First, road improvements and road building. In order to access the remote mine site, it would be necessary that the State of Alaska reconstructs 30 miles of the Kougarok Road and then builds a 17.3-mile access road across state land to allow industrial truck traffic between the mine site and Nome. Graphite One projects 12 tractor-trailer trucks transporting containers of the graphite concentrate from the mine to the port of Nome for shipping during the ice-free season.

Asked about the currently potholed Kougarok road, Schaffner said, "The one thing I can guarantee you is, we could not drive equipment on the road in the condition it's in. It would break down. I mean, the road you guys have is right now would not be sufficient for equipment to run across." He said that the Kougarok Road is a state highway and Graphite One is not allowed to maintain it. He said Graphite One is in negotiations with the State DOT to see if it's permitted to help make payments to keep the road maintained or "if we could help them with a contractor to maintain that road."

The access road would be a private road, not open to the public. No details were discussed as to how that road would be paid for. Vice President of Mining Kevin Torpy said that he has flown the route with the Commissioner of the DOT and is in

talks with the local DOT Superintendent Calvin Schaeffer on how to improve and "cap" the road to support the traffic they anticipate.

The first being the concentrate shipment out. The plan is to truck the approximately 7,000 20-ft. containers year-round from the mine site to the port of Nome, translating to 12 double tractor trailer trucks making the round trip a day. Also, on a daily basis, two double trailer trucks would deliver fuel to the mine. Adding to the daily traffic would be four busloads carrying workers back and forth for each shift, plus other miscellaneous supply trucks going to the mine. Currently, the DOT only does snow removal to Banner Creek. With year-round trucking, even through the winter months, the operation would need to be supported by significant road maintenance and snow removal efforts.

The second crucial infrastructure component would be the timely expansion of the port of Nome. In order to ship the containers out, the Port of Nome expansion and its deep draft access would allow container ships

continued on page 6

Photo by Nils Hahn

DETAILS (right)— Nome-Beltz highschool junior Alora Stasenکو asked some technical questions for the Graphite One leadership to answer.



Arctic Storage
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Arctic Storage at Midtown



Arctic Storage at Foothills



Arctic Storage at Park Lane interior units

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Nome, AK 99762**

**Native Female Owned
Family Run**

Marijuana has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming and addictive.
Marijuana impairs concentration, coordination, and judgment.
Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under its influence.
There are health risks associated with consumption of marijuana.
For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of the reach of children.
Marijuana should not be used by women who are pregnant or breast feeding.

Nome Gateway introduces more satellite internet redundancy

By Anna Lionas

Internet in rural Alaska is never a surefire thing, and with the most recent fiber optic cable break in January, connectivity in the region has been spotty. Quintillion, owner of the fiber optic cable, has said repairs will come late summer early fall, but a solution to Internet speeds may have already arrived.

Pacific Dataport, a wholesale connectivity company based in Anchorage, is partnering with satellite company Starlink on Nome Gateway, a project that

offers providers and companies access to Starlink's satellite network.

"I think the best part about this is that for some, it can serve as a primary connection to the Internet, but for others, kind of like this situation when your fiber breaks, then you can use this as a backup," said Shawn Williams, Vice President of Government Affairs at Pacific Dataport.

Starlink Internet connectivity is available for individual users already, but Nome Gateway can serve larger entities, like tele-

communications companies GCI or Fastwyre, formerly TelAlaska.

Gateway is being used by customers since it's become active a few months ago, Williams said, though he can't give specifics as to who is using it.

Those who receive internet services from a company could still benefit from Gateway, if their internet provider is tapped into the 10 gigabyte-per second system.

"It's like water in a hose. And it's just a matter of how much water or capacity we sell the cus-

tomers on wholesale level every month," Williams said. Then the company can take the capacity and determine the speed they will offer their users.

There are nine satellite receivers located in Nome near the port. The large white bulbs have been in place for years, previously owned by Starlink, but they were not active. Williams said Pacific Dataport acquired them and took a few months, in partnership with Starlink, to get them active.

Williams said the Gateway

project is working so well the company is interested in replicating it in other parts of the state, which would fortify the system for Internet users across Alaska.

"In the Lower 48, whenever there's a fiber break, it almost instantly reroutes to a different fiber," Williams said. "So now this, gives the western region and the northern regions of Alaska that potential for redundancy."

ANSEP's Summer Acceleration Academy pauses after grant loss

By Anna Lionas

The Summer Acceleration Academy put on by the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, or ANSEP, is on hold this year after an unexpected loss in grant funding.

The National Science Foundation, or NSF, sent an email to ANSEP weeks before the program start date announcing the termination of the \$2.5 million grant distributed over five years.

"There was no reason given other than NSF itself had lost over 50 percent of their funding," CEO of ANSEP Michele Yatchmeneff said. "And so, they had to go through their programming and cut departments and funding specifically to some of their programming."

Summer Acceleration Academy brings in highschoolers from across Alaska for five weeks at University of Alaska Anchorage where they take STEM courses in topics like engineering and geology, and earn credits toward a college degree.

This year, 47 students were signed up to participate in the program, which has been running since 2009. According to Yatchmeneff none from the Bering Strait region were signed up, but many have attended the program in the past.

Other ANSEP initiatives won't be affected by the grant loss.

The Middle School Summer Academy and the full-time Academy — which is set to start in Nome for the first time next school year — will go on as normal.

Doug Walrath, Director of NAC-TEC, partners with ANSEP to host the Middle School Academy in Nome. This year, 34 students will come to Nome for the one-week program where they engage in a shortened version of the Acceleration

Academy.

Walrath said he's seen a lot of positive outcomes come from working with the students in the Middle School Academy. With many sleeping away from home for the first time, it's a way for them to get comfortable with the program and catch their interest in what ANSEP has to offer.

"I just believe personally that in the experiences like that can be life altering," Walrath said. "It makes the world a little bit smaller and their self-confidence grow that they're capable of attacking some new endeavor."

ANSEP changed their website earlier this year, removing the words Alaska Native, but Yatchmeneff clarified that was strictly for grant purposes and the program's name hasn't changed.

"A lot of grant agencies, federal agencies, were using AI to go on people's websites, go into people's grant applications, and they were targeting specific words and they found those words, they were stopping the grant funding," Yatchmeneff said.

Though the NSF grant loss hit the program hard, Yatchmeneff said they'll get through it, and continue to work toward the mission of helping students in Alaska get the tools and support they need to go into the STEM field.

This is especially important to Yatchmeneff as a graduate of the Summer Acceleration Academy. She now has a bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in engineering.

"We know we're gonna get through this and persist just like our ancestors did, so we're gonna always persist, but it's just a little bit challenging right now," Yatchmeneff said.



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at the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library

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- Thursdays (ages 8-13): Crafts and Activities • 10:30 - 12 noon

Program start May 30, 2025.

A one-time initial registration is required in advance of attending the 8-13 age youth programs.

Any and all questions are welcome!
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Who knew? Bees are using outhouses, researchers find

By Laura Robertson

In 2021, researchers Leah Valdes and Hailey Scofield combed the Nome road system collecting bees. After discovering that the Nome bees used their own “outhouse” to do their business, they learned that these could significantly reduce bee diseases. Last week, they gave a Strait Science talk about their findings.

The status of bumblebees and their declines has been extensively studied in the Lower 48 and in Europe, according to Valdes, but scientists know “a lot less about their status in Alaska and much of Canada as well as what causes might be contributing to those changes.”

In the Lower 48, the threats to bumblebee habitats come largely from large-scale farming. There are pesticides and insecticides which can kill the bees directly and the fields of monoculture crops limit their diets to be less nutritious.

Alaska is home to 22 bumblebee species. “That represents half of all species in the whole United States,” said Valdes.

Scofield and Valdes started their research by collecting bees around the road system in Nome. They gathered three hundred and sixty bees and sent them to a lab to be IDed. Eleven bee species were identified. “This is about half of all the species in Alaska, which is pretty amazing, just along the Nome road system,” said Valdes.

Having identified the bees, they checked their guts for pathogens.

The gut parasites known as crithidia exist in bee populations worldwide, and negatively affect colony establishment, worker survival, and foraging efficiency, especially for stressed bees.

They tested fifty bombus frigidus bees, the most abundant species. They found that fifty-eight percent of the bees they tested had the pathogen.

“This sounds like quite a lot of infection. If sixty percent of people had a disease, I would not feel good about that,” said Valdes. “But this isn’t too exceptional.” Infection rates can range from zero to over eighty percent in different places across the country.

Next, they looked at how the bees defended themselves. A bee might consume some pollen that is infected, and then later poops on another plant which is eaten by another bee—this is a common way the disease spreads. But bees are also social animals, living in colonies at night. Valdes and Scofield wanted to know if the disease could spread inside the colonies.

“When we investigated the nests, all of them had this main nest cavity that was nice and clean and had the eggs, the bees, the food provisions, and then a cavity next to it which was cold and wet and filled with poop,” said Valdes, describing it as a kind of bee outhouse.

In later experiments, when other non-Alaska bees were given the opportunity to build nests within the

lab, they too built outhouses. Next, the researchers did an experiment where some bees had infected feces placed in their outhouse and some had it placed in their main nest. After two weeks, the bees with the feces in the outhouse touched it much less than the bees with feces in the main nest. This suggested that the waste removal provided by the outhouse helped limit the spread of disease within the colony.

A final experiment involved inoculating groups of bees with either high or low amounts of the pathogen and providing some with outhouses and some without. The researchers found that over six weeks, there was-

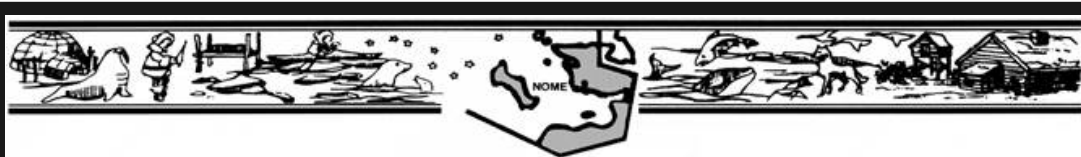
n’t a very significant difference between the bees with and without an outhouse if their inoculation was low—“it’s difficult to reduce infection from no infection,” Valdes said—but there was a dramatic difference among the groups with high inoculation.

This may have been due to another factor. Some of the bees had begun dying of a fungal infection, later identified as aspergillus flavus, and the groups with the outhouses had significantly lower rates of this too.

Valdes said that while the idea of outhouses preventing disease had been around, this study is, to date, the

“only study that’s backed it up in a non-human species.” She said it has practical real life applications, especially for farmers who breed bees in captivity to pollinate their crops.

“All this began with some field observations that Haley and I made of wild Alaskan bumblebee nests,” said Valdes. She joked that it seemed like a “whimsical bee fact,” but it also helped reveal a potential unexpected solution for real human challenges. “Who would have thought that we could simply give bees an outhouse space to reduce disease, if the Alaskan bees hadn’t shown us the way?”



College Student Housing Grant

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority is pleased to award eligible regional tribal college students who are living on campus with up to \$4,000 per semester for housing costs if they meet the requirements and are enrolled to one of tribes under the Tribal Designated Housing Entity.

2025 Fall semester applications will be accepted May 1st through June 15; award notification will begin in July and disbursement to the university in August.

Applications may be filled out online at bsrha.org, Faxed to (907) 443-2697 or emailed to jevan@bsrha.org. Applications can be picked up at our office at 1008 East Front Street. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Evan the Program Administrator at (907) 443-8623.

• Graphite One

continued from page 4

to dock and take on the projected 7,000 containers with graphite concentrate for shipment to a plant in Ohio. “We need to be able to bring in 40-foot depth draft, self-loading container ships,” said Torpy. One of these ships is capable of carrying 1732, 20-foot containers per load, and Graphite One anticipates needing nine of those per summer.

If the draft is not deep enough for the ships to dock, the containers would need to be lightered from port to the ship anchor in deeper waters. Currently, there is no container crane at the port of Nome.

Torpy said that they will not contemplate shipping through Grantley Harbor, Tuksuk Channel and into Imuruk Basin, mostly for subsistence reasons. However, he said, there may be the possibility that they will explore shipping materials and equipment via this route. He talked about “perhaps staging a bit of equipment on the shore at the beginning of construction and taking up a winter trail that wouldn’t have any surface disturbance, just to get us going.”

Local impact

As is common in pitches for mine development, economic upsides,

local engagement and the desire to help train a local workforce was pointed out. Schaffner stressed the desire to have 100 percent local hire and highlighted financial support given to Teller and Brevig to the tune of \$50,000 per year to use as they please, provided it’s benefiting the community as a whole. According to Schaffner, Graphite One has donated \$30,000 in 2023 to the NEST shelter in Nome. Bering Straits Native Corporation invested in Graphite One and although they own only 1 percent of shares, Graphite One made an agreement with the regional Native corporation which gives BSNC a seat on the advisory board and the promise to give preferential hiring to BSNC shareholders and descendants as well as local hire and preferencing local suppliers.

Graphite One has stood up subsistence councils that advise the company on the traditional uses of the land around Imuruk Basin.

What’s the revenue and what’s in it for Nome, asked an audience member. Schaffner said that at 175,000 tons, worth about \$980 per ton, the revenue is about \$160 million in revenue. The biggest expense is paying wages to employees, next

continued on page 7

Marie Tozier

For Sitnasuak Native Corporation Board of Directors

Dear Sitnasuak Shareholders:

Please consider me for SNC Board of Directors. My experience includes prior board service and serving as the Executive Director of Nome Eskimo Community. I support growth for Sitnasuak and also increased benefits for Shareholders. I support education, scholarships and land use for Shareholders and descendants. I will fight for your rights as an SNC Shareholder!

My parents are John and the late Laraine Garrison. My grandparents are the late Dan and Ethel Karman. I will represent SNC Shareholders without compromise, and I would appreciate your vote.

Quyanna-puk!!

~Marie Ethel Tozier



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• *Graphite One*

continued from page 6
biggest subcontractors. Trucking from mine to port, security on the proposed access road and snow removal, all those would be local jobs. On the operating side, paying for the diesel is biggest cost. He estimated that 20 to 30 percent of revenue goes to communities. Torpy added at one point that it is Graphite One’s sincere desire to establish a local workforce. One of the reasons being, that graphite has a small revenue margin and “we cannot afford to fly people from all over the country to work here.”

Field seasons past and present
Loren Prosser, former Nomeite and former banker, now Graphite One project manager, said that the project site is located where the Cobblestone River drains out of the northern Kigluaik Mountains and overlooks Windy Cove at the Imuruk Basin, three miles to the north. Having hunted and fished there himself, he said, “I love that area.”

He described the deliberate process of Graphite One’s preliminary work and drilling. For the past four years drills were collecting core samples, using 600-ft long drills, producing about 8,000 feet of samples last year. In lower grounds, they did geo-technical drilling to determine where and how deep the permafrost is, to inform engineers designing infrastructure and buildings.

He said in total, there were 90 employees working in the field season last year, with 30 repeat hires; 10 were from Nome, nine from Teller, five from Brevig Mission and two from Shishmaref and a couple from the Kobuk area and the YK-Delta. Payroll impact of these 30 regional employees was \$550,000 for the seasonal work.

As for the economic impact for last year’s season, he said, Graphite One spent \$1.2 million, spread out over 54 businesses, ranging from pizza delivery to renting of heavy equipment and trucking.

This summer will see no drill program and no further drilling will be done during the permitting phase. However, they will continue the baseline work of surface and ground-water sampling, fish studies and me-

teorological studies. In July there will be some helicopter traffic, as they will run a fish survey.

Permitting
With the feasibility study completed, the next step is to begin the permitting process. “This is where the engagement with you starts to happen,” Schaffner said. “That is why it’s important why we listened to you all along to get those concerns addressed before permitting and if you still have concerns, that’s where you can voice them.”

Ed Fogels, former regulator of mines with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, spoke on the required permits. A slew of federal and state permits is needed, but the most important information that he shared was that Graphite One expects that the application for the federal U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 wetlands permit will trigger a full-blown Environmental Impact Statement, not just an Environmental Assessment, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, process. An EIS analyses environmental impacts of a proposed mine plan and alternatives. The requirements for an EIS are more detailed and rigorous than for an Environmental Assessment. In comparison, the Army Corps required only an Environmental Assessment for the Rock Creek gold mine that was built, started up in 2008 to fail and shutter its operations just a few weeks after startup.

Fogels said, the NEPA review could take two to three years. The EIS has three opportunities for public comment and requires two rounds of public meetings. In addition, several state permits are needed, including a water discharge permit from the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and several DNR permits relating to the mining plan of operations and the reclamation plan. “There’s going to be a lot of public involvement process coming up once we apply for our permits,” Fogels said. “Essentially, the government takes over the public involvement process. We will no longer be conducting these meetings, the state

continued on page 16



Photo by Cussy Kauer
RARE PHENOMENON— Nomeites were treated to a rare sight in the sky on Sunday, May 25 in afternoon. Asked what this is, climate specialist Rick Thoman explained: “This is a textbook example of multiple optical effects from very specific orientation of ice crystals in the atmosphere above about 20,000 feet. The ‘fat circle’ around the sun is circumscribed halo encircling a more common 22° halo. The apparent arc that passes through the sun is a parhelic circle with two sun dogs. There is a hint of a 44° halo to the lower left and right of sun, which is very rare. In another picture posted on Facebook it’s clear that the parhelic circle is completely closed. That is also very rare.”

52nd Annual Meeting of Shareholders



Vote Your Proxy
DEADLINE: 5 PM on JUNE 4

To be eligible for proxy prizes, Shareholders must submit their proxies by 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2025. The Sitnasuak Native Corporation 52nd Annual Meeting of Shareholders is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Nome Elementary School.

Additional information can be found on our website: snc.org. For questions, contact the Shareholder Relations Department at (907) 387-1200 or by email at shareholder@snc.org.

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Find The Nome Nugget in Anchorage at these locations:
• ANMC Front Entrance and Hostel parking garage
• Ted Stevens International Airport
• 6th Avenue/City Hall



TAPS—Nicholas Reader plays Taps at the mouth of the Snake river on Memorial Day, honoring sailors lost at sea.

Photo by Nils Hahn

Nome honors the fallen on Memorial Day

By Laura Robertson
American flags dotted town on Monday, as Nomeites solemnly paraded from Front Street to the Belmont Point Cemetery to recognize fallen veterans on Memorial Day. Veterans marched in formation under the bright summer sun with procession leaders carrying the American, Alaskan, POW and VFW flags. Around them, girl scouts ran to groups of onlookers to hand out small handheld stars and stripes. This year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Once the marchers had gathered at the cemetery, Peggy Darling emceed the events. Bertha Koweluk said the opening prayer. The girl scouts recited the pledge of allegiance, first in Inupiaq and

then in English. Nome Mayor John Handeland read the Governor’s proclamation, and Tomas Paniataaq gave a speech about the meaning of the day. In her prayers, Koweluk honored fallen veterans and their sacrifices, also giving thanks for the earth and nature. She prayed that those listening would “live with beautiful memories of all those who we love and honor today” and that they would “cherish” the gifts of the world and “live in harmony with nature.” Handeland began his comments joking that “something’s wrong with us today” as this Memorial Day saw sunglasses but no umbrellas or snow. He then read the Governor’s comments from his computer. He spoke of the sacrifices of generations of men and women in the military and emphasized how many Alaskans had

fought in the armed services over the years. “We must remind ourselves of the true cost of freedom so we may never take it for granted,” Handeland read. Paniataaq introduced himself as a veteran of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the commander of Nome’s VFW. He pointed out the granite and marble military headstones scattered throughout the cemetery. He spoke of military history, including the Alaska Territorial Guard which comprised of more than 6,000 Alaska Native volunteers from ages 12 to 80 who served in World War II. Saying that Memorial Day was to remember the courage of men and

women who lost their lives, he urged the crowd: “Don’t forget that your dreams and lives were once theirs.” He said during his time in the military, he often heard simple dreams: Getting married, buying a house, watching children grow. “As I stand here, I know that I’m living my brothers’ dreams. The ones that came home with an American flag draped over the caskets,” said Paniataaq. “You’re not forgotten and your dreams do live on.” As he finished, a Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter carrying Aaron Iworrigan flew over the cemetery. Both Iworrigan and the helicopter he rode in had served 50 years ago in Vietnam.

After the speeches, the assembled crowd crossed the street to the Snake River. Darling explained that by standing where the Snake River flowed into the Bering Sea, they recognized sailors and airmen lost at sea. “May all our veterans and their families find peace today,” she said. As is tradition, the helicopter flew over the river to drop a wreath. The sound of the helicopter came first, and it slowly became visible over the harbor. It hovered over the river for seconds and Iworrigan was visible through the open doors as he dropped the wreath into the water.



IN MEMORIUM—A wreath lands in the water after being tossed from a helicopter to remember servicemen and women lost at sea.

Photo by Laura Robertson



MARCH—Flag bearers lead the Memorial Day parade into the cemetery on Monday.

Photo by Laura Robertson



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE— Nomeites honored and mourned members of the U.S. military who have died while serving.

Photo by Nils Hahn

NBHS Class of 2025



Photo by Diana Haecker
CLASS OF 2025— *Top Row left to right:* Atlas Boeckmann, Rylee Weyanna Olanna, Orson Hoogendorn, Skylar Farrell, Riley Buchanan, Awaluk Nichols, Lauren Kingstrom.
4th Row left to right: Steve Lopez, Sarah Nguyen, Brandon Rose, Brandon Dickson Penetac, Katie Minix, Alyssa Hahn, Taylor Gorn, Dylan Ellanna.
3rd Row left to right: Kara Johanson, Quinton Bahnke, Wyatt Ahmasuk, Finn Gregg, HanaLori Callahan, Lyndsay Johnson.
2nd Row left to right: Ciana Akeya, Luke Hansen, Kamylee Walters, Lacey Sherman, Julia Sinnok.
1st Row left to right: Chloe Milligrock, Daniel Kerrin, Tonya O'Connor, Morgan Eggart, Christine Otten, Marilyn Noyakuk, Hattie Nattanguk, Jaiden Pennini.
Not Pictured: Payton Foster, Arthur Gologergen, Aloha Johnson, Joshua Kotongan, Elias Norris, Caleb Payenna.



Congratulations to the Class of 2025

U.S. House Republicans push through massive tax and spending bill slashing Medicaid

By Jennifer Shutt and Ashley Murray, States Newsroom

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House last week approved the “big, beautiful bill” that Republican leaders spent months negotiating with centrists and far-right members of the party — two distinct factions that hold vastly different policy goals — over intense opposition from Democrats.

The 215-214 vote ships the package to the Senate, where GOP lawmakers are expected to rewrite much of it, before sending it back across the Capitol for final approval, a process likely to stretch through the summer.

President Donald Trump, who said he backed the House version, would then need to sign the legislation, which under the complicated process being used by Republicans can pass with just a majority vote in the GOP-controlled Senate.

Trump called on the Senate to pass the legislation as quickly as possible, writing in a social media post that “(t)here is no time to waste” and that the bill is “arguably the most significant piece of Legislation that will ever be signed in the History of our Country!”

Speaker Mike Johnson said minutes before the vote that he expects lawmakers to give the measure final approval before the Fourth of July.

“Now, look, we’re accomplishing a big thing here today, but we know this isn’t the end of the road just yet,” Johnson, R-La., said. “We’ve been working closely with Leader (John) Thune and our Senate colleagues, the Senate Republicans, to get this done and delivered to the president’s desk by our Independence Day. That’s July 4. Today proves that we can do that, and we will do that.”

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., argued against the legislation, saying it “undermines reproductive freedom, undermines the progress that we have made in combating the climate crisis,

undermines gun safety, undermines the rule of law and the independence of the federal judiciary. It even undermines the ability of hard-working and law-abiding immigrant families to provide remittances to their loved ones, who may just happen to live abroad.”

Jeffries raised concerns with how the proposals in the bill would impact the economy and the federal government’s financial stability.

“Costs aren’t going down. They’re going up. Inflation is out of control. Insurance rates remain stubbornly high,” Jeffries said. “Our Moody’s rating, our credit rating, has been downgraded, and you’ve got people losing confidence in this economy. Republicans are crashing this economy in real time and driving us toward a recession.”

Alaska Congressman Nick Begich voted for the bill.

Ohio’s Warren Davidson and Kentucky’s Thomas Massie were the only Republicans to vote against passing the bill, which members debated throughout the night prior to the vote just after daylight in the nation’s capital.

All Democrats, who dubbed it “one big ugly bill,” were opposed.

Massie spoke against the bill overnight, calling it “a debt bomb ticking.”

“I’d love to stand here and tell the American people: We can cut your taxes and we can increase spending, and everything’s going to be just fine. But I can’t do that because I’m here to deliver a dose of reality,” Massie said. “This bill dramatically increases deficits in the near term, but promises our government will be fiscally responsible five years from now. Where have we heard that before? How do you bind a future Congress to these promises?”

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said during a briefing later in the day that Trump wants Davidson and Massie to face primary challenges next year during the midterm elections.

“I believe he does,” Leavitt said.

“And I don’t think he likes to see grandstanders in Congress.”

In the works for weeks

The 1,116-page package combines 11 bills that GOP lawmakers debated and reported out of committee during the last several weeks.

The legislation would:

- Extend the 2017 tax law, including tax cuts for businesses and individuals;
- Bolster spending on border security and defense by hundreds of billions of dollars;
- Rework energy permitting;
- Restructure higher education aid such as student loans and Pell Grants;
- Not extend premium tax credits for health care insurance
- Shift some of the cost of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food aid program for low-income Americans to state governments; and
- Overhaul Medicaid, the nation’s program for health care for low-income people and some people with disabilities.

The bill would make deep cuts to Medicaid spending, reducing the program by \$625 billion over 10 years under the latest estimate by the Congressional Budget Office.

The budget measure would also raise the debt limit by \$4 trillion.

A new Congressional Budget Office analysis released late Tuesday showed the package tilted toward the wealthy, projecting it would decrease resources for low-income families over the next decade while increasing resources for top earners.

Balancing the demands of hundreds of lawmakers led to nearly constant talks during the last few days as Johnson struggled to secure the votes to pass the bill before his Memorial Day deadline.

Any deal Johnson made with far-right members of the party risked alienating centrist GOP lawmakers and vice versa.

An agreement finally came to-

gether Wednesday evening when GOP leaders released a 42-page amendment that made changes to various sections of the package, including the state and local tax deduction, or SALT, and Medicaid work requirements and nixed the potential sale of some public lands.

Tax cuts

House debate on the package fell largely along party lines, with Democrats contending it would benefit the wealthy at the expense of lower-income Americans, including millions who would lose access to Medicaid.

Republicans argued the legislation is necessary to avoid a tax hike at the end of the year, when the 2017 GOP law expires, and to curb government spending in the years ahead.

Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith, R-Mo., said the tax section of the package would halt a tax increase for many that would have taken place after the vast majority of the provisions in that law expire at the end of this year.

“Working families, farmers and small businesses win with this bill,” Smith said. “We expand and make permanent the small business deduction and increase the child tax credit, the standard deduction and the death tax exemption.”

The legislation would increase the tax rate for colleges and universities with substantial endowments, which would match the corporate tax rate, he said.

Massachusetts Democratic Rep. Richard Neal, ranking member on that tax-writing committee, said the legislation would lead the United States to “borrow \$4 trillion and with interest payments over the next 10 years, \$5 trillion, to justify a tax cut for the billionaire class.”

Neal said that the wealthy would see a greater benefit from the GOP tax provisions than working-class Americans.

“If you made a million dollars last year, you’re going to get \$81,000 of tax relief. If you made less than

\$50,000 Guess what? Not quite so lucky,” Neal said. “But you know what? \$1 a day goes a long way, because that’s where the numbers land.”

Neal said Democrats would have worked with Republicans to extend the 2017 tax cuts if the GOP had capped them for those making less than \$400,000 a year, with people making more than that going back to the higher rate.

Child tax credit

The child tax credit will increase to \$2,500, up from the \$2,000 enacted under the 2017 tax law. The refundability portion of the credit, or the amount parents could receive in a refund check after paying their tax liability, will remain capped but will increase with inflation by \$100 annually. As of now, the amount a parent could receive back per child stands at \$1,700.

While Republicans hailed the increase as a win for families, critics say it continues to leave out the poorest families as the refund amount is dependent on how much a parent earns. The credit phases in at 15 cents per income dollar, one child at a time.

“The Republican bill will leave out 17 million American children who are in families that don’t earn enough to receive the full child tax credit,” Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington said Wednesday in the House Committee on Rules. Her amendment to make the tax credit fully refundable was rejected.

On the House floor Thursday morning, DelBene criticized the bill as a “big, broken promise.”

Medicaid work requirements

Energy and Commerce Chairman Brett Guthrie, R-Ky., said his panel’s bill would ensure Medicaid coverage continued for low-income families, individuals who are disabled and seniors through new work requirements and other changes.

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More than 3 million people would lose SNAP benefits under GOP bill, nonpartisan report says

By Jacob Fischler, States Newsroom Washington

The massive tax and spending bill passed by U.S. House Republicans would likely result in 3.2 million people losing food assistance benefits, and saddle states with around \$14 billion a year in costs, according to a new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Democrats have argued the bill, which the House passed, 215-214 early Thursday last week without any Democrats in support, would cut programs for the needy to fund tax breaks for high earners.

The CBO document, issued late Thursday, responded to a request to the office from the top Democrats on the Senate and House Agriculture committees, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Angie Craig, both of Minnesota, and somewhat bolsters that claim. The panels oversee federal food aid programs.

“This report is truly devastating,” Craig said in a Friday statement to States Newsroom. “As a mother and someone who at times relied on food assistance as a child, these numbers are heartbreaking. It is infuriating that Republicans in Congress are willing to make our children go hungry so they can give tax breaks to the already rich.”

A provision in the bill to tighten work requirements, including by excluding single parents of children older than 6 and by raising the age of adults to whom the work requirements apply, of the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, would result in 3.2 million people losing access to the program in an average month, the CBO report said.

Of those, 1.4 million would be people who currently have a state waiver from work requirements that would be disallowed under the bill and 800,000 would be adults who live with children 7 or older, the report said.

In a Friday statement, Ben Nichols, a spokesman for the House Agriculture Committee led by Pennsylvania Republican Glenn “GT” Thompson, said the proposed change would be more fair to the people SNAP is supposed to help and noted the program is the only state-administered entitlement program that is paid fully by the federal government.

“No one who is able-bodied and working, volunteering, or training for 20 hours a week will lose benefits,” Nichols wrote.

Republicans want to use the legislative package to extend the 2017 tax law and its cuts, increase spending on border security and defense by hundreds of billions of dollars, overhaul American energy production, restructure higher education aid and cut spending.

Toll on states

The cost-share changes, which would require states for the first time to pay for a portion of SNAP benefits, would also limit participation and add a massive line item to state

budgets, according to the CBO.

Starting in 2028, states would be responsible for paying 5 percent to 25 percent of SNAP benefits, with a state’s share rising with its payment error rate. The federal government currently pays for all SNAP benefits.

Under the House bill, which will likely undergo substantial changes as the Senate considers it in the coming weeks, states collectively would be responsible for just less than \$100 billion from 2028 to 2034, about \$14 billion per year.

States would respond in a variety of ways, CBO Director Phillip Swagel wrote, including potentially dropping out of the program. “CBO expects that some states would maintain current benefits and eligibility and others would modify benefits or eligibility or possibly leave the program altogether because of the increased costs,” he wrote.

The office took a “probabilistic approach to account for a range of possible outcomes” to determine what the effect on households would be and estimated that 1.3 million people would lose benefits because of state responses to the new cost-share.

Nichols, with the House Agriculture Committee, disputed the CBO’s estimate regarding the cost share change. The lowest state cost-share of 5 percent would be available for states with error rates below 6 percent. Every state has hit that mark at some point in the last decade, he said.

With that favorable of a cost-share, the Republican committee members did not believe states would drop out of the program, he added.

“We reject the hypothetical assumption that some states may not chip into 5 percent of a supplemental nutrition program,” Nichols wrote. “Every state is capable of paying for a portion SNAP... Federal policy should encourage states to administer the SNAP program more efficiently and effectively, and this bill does just that.”

CBO’s forecasters determined the impacts of the work requirements and cost-share provisions separately, meaning some people potentially losing benefits could have been counted in both categories.

Move to the Senate

The House vote last week sent the measure to the Senate, where the debate over SNAP benefits may fall along similar party lines.

Republicans who hold control in that chamber are planning to employ the budget reconciliation process, which allows them to skirt the Senate’s usual 60-vote requirement for legislation.

During the House Agriculture Committee’s debate over its portion of the legislation, Republicans on the panel said the work requirement and state cost-share measures were needed reforms to SNAP that would protect the program for those it was meant to serve, while limiting the

costs associated with benefits to adults who were able and unwilling to work or in the country illegally.

In a Friday statement, Sara LaSore, a spokeswoman for Senate Agriculture Committee Chair John Boozman, an Arkansas Republican, also said the panel would seek reforms to the program but did not offer specifics.

“The Senate Agriculture Committee is in the process of crafting its budget reconciliation package and will work as good stewards of taxpayer dollars to make commonsense reforms to SNAP that encourage employment,” she wrote in an email.

Klobuchar, in a statement after House passage Thursday, blasted the House bill and indicated she would oppose efforts to cut SNAP benefits.

“House Republicans are pulling the rug out from under millions of families by taking away federal assistance to put food on the table,” she said. “They’re doing that even as President Trump’s tariff taxes raise food prices by more than \$200 for the average family, all to fund more tax breaks for the wealthy. That’s so very wrong — and we will fight against it in the Senate.”

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•Tax and spending bill

continued from page 10

“This bill protects coverage for those individuals by ensuring ineligible recipients do not cut the line in front of our most vulnerable Americans,” Guthrie said. “The decision by left-leaning state governments to spend taxpayer dollars on people who are ineligible for the program is indefensible. Medicaid should not cover illegal immigrants, deceased or duplicative beneficiaries, or able-bodied adults without dependents who choose not to work.”

The policy change would require those who rely on the state-federal health program, and who are between the ages of 19 and 65, to work, participate in community service, or attend an educational program at least 80 hours a month.

The language has numerous exceptions, including for pregnant people, parents of dependent children, people who have complex medical conditions, tribal community members, those in the foster care system, people who were in foster care who are below the age of 26 and individuals released from incarceration in the last 90 days, among others.

New Jersey Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone, ranking member on the committee that oversees major health care programs, said the Republican bill would not only cut funding for Medicaid, but also for Medicare, the program relied on by seniors and some younger people with disabilities.

“Republicans are stripping health care away from people by putting all sorts of burdensome and time-consuming road blocks in the way of people just trying to get by,” Pallone said. “The vast majority of people on Medicaid are already working. This is not about work. It’s about burying people in so much paperwork that they fall behind and lose their health coverage, and if someone loses their health coverage through Medicaid, this GOP tax scam also bans them from getting coverage through the ACA marketplace.”

While the GOP bill doesn’t directly address Medicare, he said, a federal budget law, known as the Pay-As-You-Go Act, would force spending cuts called sequestration to that health program.

“The Medicare cuts will lead to reduced access to care for seniors, longer wait times for appointments, and increased costs,” Pallone said.

States to share in food aid costs

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson, R-Pa., pressed for support for his piece of the legislation, saying changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, are needed.

“SNAP is the only state-administered welfare program that does not have a cost-share component, and while the federal government funds 100 percent of the benefit, states are tasked with operating it,” Thompson said. “The only problem: They aren’t operating it well.”

He also cheered several of the package’s tax provisions, saying they would benefit farmers.

“The one big, beautiful bill makes permanent and expands the Trump tax cuts. It also prevents the death tax from hitting over 2 million family farms,” Thompson said. “It locks in the small business deduction, helping 98% of American farms stay afloat.”

Minnesota Democratic Rep. Angie Craig, ranking member on the panel, wrote in a statement that the proposed changes would “make America hungrier, poorer and sicker.”

“At a time when grocery prices are going up and retirement accounts are going down, we must protect the basic needs programs that help people afford food and health care,” Craig wrote. “As a mother and someone who needed food assistance at periods in my own childhood, I condemn this attempt to snatch food off our children’s plates to fund tax breaks for large corporations.”

Border security, air traffic control, EV fees

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Sam Graves, R-Mo., said his piece of the package would combine “critical investments in border security, national defense and modernization of America’s air traffic control system, while eliminating wasteful spending and other deficit reduction measures.”

“Specifically, this bill addresses long overdue needs in the United States Coast Guard, which for over two decades has received less than half of the capital investment necessary to effectively carry out its critical missions,” Graves said.

The transportation section of the package, he said, includes \$21 billion for the Coast Guard and \$12.5 billion to modernize the air traffic control systems while establishing a \$250 annual fee for electric vehicles and a \$100 annual fee for hybrid vehicles that would go toward the Highway Trust Fund. That account has traditionally been funded through a gas tax.

Washington Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen, ranking member on the transportation panel, said he wanted “to continue historic funding for transportation, infrastructure, and stronger and healthier communities.”

“Unfortunately, this reconciliation package leaves very little room for those investments,” Larsen said.

“This bill causes immediate harm by yanking money from locally selected projects that our constituents in Republican and Democratic districts alike are counting on,” he added. “And for what? To help pay for the tax cuts for the richest Americans and largest and largest corporations.”

Student loan overhaul, medical research

House Education and Workforce Committee ranking member Bobby Scott, D-Va., urged opposition to what he called the “big, bad billionaires bill,” saying it would lead to a massive reshaping of higher education aid.

“The bill not only can increase the deficit, it has 4 million students who will lose their Pell Grants, 18 million children could potentially lose their free school lunch, 13.7 million people are set to lose their health care and everybody loses when the National Institutes of Health research is cut,” Scott said.

Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., said his portion of the legislation would “generate over \$20 billion in savings and new revenue for the federal government, primarily by direct royalty and lease fees from the sale of oil, gas, timber and mine resources, while curbing wasteful spending.”

“Our title reinstates onshore and offshore oil and gas lease sales, holds annual geothermal lease sales and ensures a fair process for critical mineral development nationwide,” Westerman said. “We’ve also directed the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to utilize long-term timber sale contracts.”

The Trump administration released a Statement of Administration Policy on Wednesday urging GOP lawmakers to approve the legislation, when it still appeared several members of the party might delay or even block the bill in the House.

“The One Big Beautiful Bill Act reflects the shared priorities of both Congress and the Administration,” the SAP states. “Therefore, the House of Representatives should immediately pass this bill to show the American people that they are serious about ‘promises made, promises kept.’

“President Trump is committed to keeping his promises, and failure to pass this bill would be the ultimate betrayal.”

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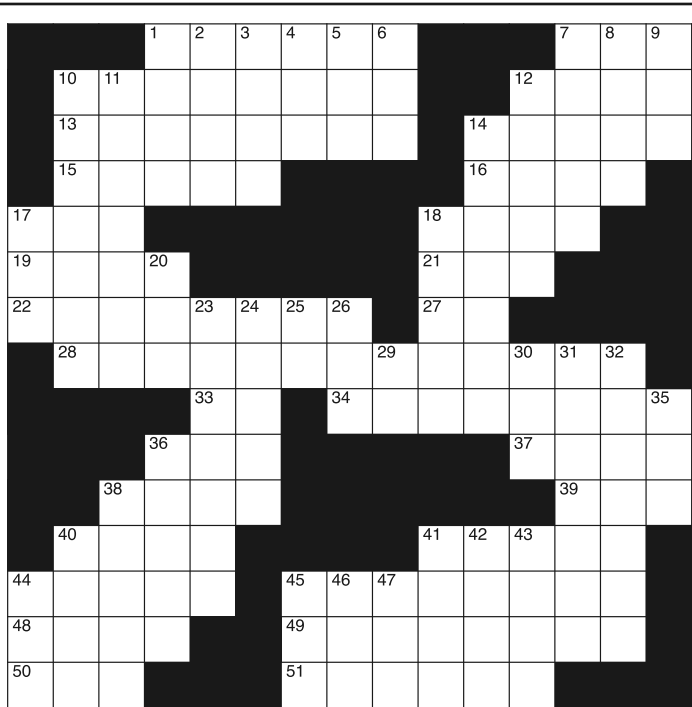
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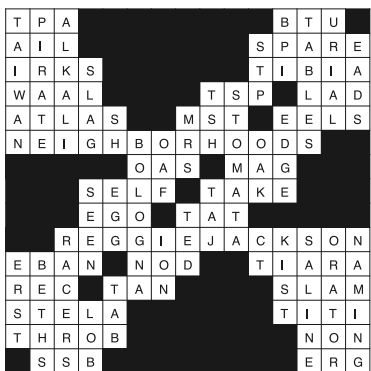
1. Bring up
7. Child
10. Formal written defense
12. Bangladeshi currency
13. Burial site
14. In the lead
15. Large recesses in a church
16. Count on
17. Defunct phone company
18. Golf scores
19. Afflicts
21. Defensive nuclear weapon
22. Prominence
27. “The Great Lakes State”
28. SoCal ballplayer
33. Location of White House
34. Magnificence
36. Hip hop songstress
37. Capital of Yemen
38. ___ Blyton, children’s author
39. Bomb
40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
41. Pinkish-violet color
44. A way to make right
45. Monument to one buried elsewhere

48. Region south of Dead Sea
49. Acts out against
50. Harsh cry of a crow
51. Formal title for a woman

CLUES DOWN

1. Kitchen devices
2. Wings
3. Mythological birds
4. Everyone has one
5. Matchstick game
6. Bar bill
7. Weights
8. Satisfactorily
9. Small amount
10. Tree types
11. Small protuberances
12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
14. Type of horse
17. More (Spanish)
18. Argentinian province
20. A bad act
23. Moving in a circular way
24. Battery type
25. Atomic #58
26. Popular breakfast food
29. An alternative
30. Tooth caregiver
31. A way to conform
32. Disfigured men
35. Cool!
36. Genus of mosses
38. Body part
40. Kashmiri people
41. Round water pot
42. Something to purchase
43. Emit coherent radiation
44. Indicates 10
45. Advertising metric
46. Pitching stat
47. Head movement

Previous Puzzle Answers



HOROSCOPES

May 29 to June 4

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, this week your dreams might be a tool for gaining insight on what you want to accomplish. Although dreams can’t predict the future, they may reveal some of your subconscious desires.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Follow your instincts this week, Taurus, even if you’re more prone to reason than whimsy. Let the chips fall where they may and go with the flow.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

This week can be all about feeding your mind, Gemini. Walk around a bookstore and pick up the first book that catches your eye, regardless of its subject matter.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Something may be worrying you lately, Cancer, but you can’t exactly put your finger on it. Talk about your feelings with others as another person may have a different perspective.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, seize an opportunity to pursue the things that you want most of all. Use this week to map out a plan and then get started on all of the steps before you reach your goal.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Check out ways that you can advance your career or education this week. The energy around you is favoring growth, so now is the time to take advantage and learn a new skill.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Others trust your opinions because your intuition tends to be spot on, Libra. When a friend comes to you this week asking for some advice, you will not hesitate.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Use your creativity to make things happen this week, Scorpio. This may not produce a finished product, but it could be about an innovative way to approach a task or problem.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Figure out some new ways to expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. Identify means to personal growth, including educational opportunities.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, it is important to step out of your routine every so often to increase your knowledge and expand your horizons. This is one of those weeks to do so.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Are you satisfied with your career, Aquarius? If you have been mulling a career change, this could be the week to start moving your chess pieces around.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, don’t worry too much about the changes that lie ahead this week. You have a more adaptable nature than you might realize. As changes come your way, embrace them.



HUEY — A Bering Air Huey flies over the Nome Memorial Day Parade at the Belmont Point cemetery. Photo by Nils Hahn

Alaska House votes to raise age of sexual consent — but with a caveat

**By James Brooks
Alaska Beacon**

The Alaska Legislature is on pace to raise the state’s age of sexual consent to 18 next year, after the state House voted 39-0 to approve House Bill 101 last week.

The bill now goes to the state Senate, which is expected to take it up in January, when lawmakers convene for the second year of the 34th Alaska State Legislature.

The bill comes from Rep. Andrew Gray, D-Anchorage, who said that it represents a way to fight rape and child sexual assault.

Under current law, it is legal for an adult to have sex in Alaska with a 16-year-old or 17-year-old who consents. If that child is assaulted, Gray said, they must prove that they did not consent.

“This makes prosecutions of these cases of sexual assault and sex trafficking more difficult, especially if the young person had seen the perpetrator on multiple occasions, or if alcohol and drugs were involved,” Gray said.

The bill has a significant exception: “For teens 13 to 15 years old, they can consent to sex with someone up to four years older than them. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds can consent to sex with someone up to six years older than them,” he said.

That exemption came at the suggestion of domestic violence shelters, sexual assault experts and homeless shelters, who were concerned that without the close-in-age exemption, they would deter teens from seeking help.

Additional clauses in the bill criminalize the sending of explicit images of 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds.

“It is my hope that this bill will prevent the strategic targeting of 16- and 17-year-olds by predators,” Gray said.

Rep. Sarah Vance, R-Homer, also spoke in support of the bill.

“This bill reminds us that those who are under 18 are still children,” she said. “They’re vulnerable youth. They are figuring out who they are in the world. ... Raising the age of con-

sent to 18 makes it easier for law enforcement to say, ‘We’re going to help you.’ It puts the onus on the offender instead of on the victim. That child victim no longer would have to prove that what happened to them was not consensual.”

Vance and Gray unsuccessfully attempted last year to change the age of consent, but the proposal ran into technical problems and the session ended before those could be resolved.

HB 101’s passage came three years after the Legislature voted to limit child marriage by banning marriages involving Alaskans younger than 16. Because sex is permitted between married partners of any age, that effectively raised the state’s age of consent to 16.

This article is printed with permission and was first published on May 22, 2025 at www.alaskabeacon.com

Quick Chicken and Dumplin’s



Serves 4

- 1 rotisserie chicken
- 1 32-ounce box chicken broth
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper

Dumplin’s

- 2 1/2 cups biscuit mix
- 4 tablespoons, butter, melted
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 1/3 cup chicken broth

Chopped fresh parsley

Pull the chicken off the bone and cut into cubes. In a large Dutch oven, add the chicken broth, cream of chicken soup, and butter. Turn to medium heat, and bring to a slow boil.

Then add the pepper and chicken. Bring to a full boil. In a mixing bowl, stir the dumplin’s ingredients until combined; the dough should be the texture of drop biscuits. When broth is boiling, drop dough into broth using a teaspoon. Make sure to use all the dough; you may have to push the dough around to find spots. Once all of the dough is in, put on lid and reduce heat to low. Cook for 5 to 10 minutes. Transfer chicken and dumplin’s to a serving dish, and sprinkle with chopped parsley. Tip: Never stir dumplings. Always push them; this keeps them from breaking up.

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Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00

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Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE;
Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE;
Dental Assistant Trainee \$27.41 + DOE

Wales: Personal Care Attendant & Relief \$25.00 + DOE;
Village Based Counselor Trainee \$27.41 + DOE;
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Maintenance Worker \$31.73 + DOE;
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June 20th

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Trooper Beat

Nome
DUI, Open Container: On 05/22/2025 at 3:52 p.m., Fallon Johnson, 35, of Nome, drove to the AST Nome Post while intoxicated by alcohol. Fallon was arrested and transported to AMCC to be held until sober.

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Clean Waters Crew Member (Brevig Mission, Teller & Wales): Assists in project implementation, logistics and field work for cleanup projects in area beaches, rivers and sloughs.

Seafood Processor (Nome*, Unalakleet* & Savoonga): Responsible for the proper processing of salmon, crab, halibut and other seafood. Work to provide a high-quality product in a sanitary environment.

Fish Buyer (Nome*, Unalakleet*, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk & Shaktoolik): Assists fishermen at the dock, loads and unloads tender and fishing vessels, issues fish tickets, produces ice, operates a forklift and crane, maintains a clean work environment and transports seafood products to the airport.

Quality Control Coordinator (Nome*, Unalakleet*): Responsible for supervising quality production and packaging of salmon, crab, halibut, and other seafood. Work to assure a high-quality product in a sanitary environment.

Refrigeration Technician (Nome): Responsible for the proper operation of facilities and equipment in seafood plants and buying stations. Applicant must be certified in basic electrical operations.

Cook (Nome): Responsible for daily meal planning and preparation, cleaning and maintaining kitchen area, and grocery shopping as needed.

Safety Coordinator (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for facilitating and assisting with safety protocols within the Norton Sound Seafood Products plant operations.

Safety Guard (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for monitoring the assigned plant for NSEDC and ensuring the security of the premises.

Bunkhouse Supervisor (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for monitoring the NSSP bunkhouse, ensuring security for property and residents, performing various custodial duties and maintaining inventory levels.

*Residents outside of Unalakleet and Nome who work in the processing plants may be eligible for housing and travel support.

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsedc.com or contact NSEDC Human Resources at (907) 274-2248 (Anchorage), 1-800-650-2248 (toll-free) or hr@nsedc.com.



Photo by Nils Hahn

MEMORIAL DAY — Nomeites listened to Memorial Day speeches at the Belmont Point Cemetery in Nome.

Legals

In the Matter of the Estate of:
Robert F. Luce
Date of Birth: 02/11/1953

CASE NO. 2NO-25-00048PR

Notice to Creditors:

You are notified that the court appointed Sarah Luce as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Please send claims in writing to:
Robert F. Luce Estate
c/o Sarah Luce
PO Box 1610, Nome, AK 99762.
5.15-22-29.2025

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND ELECTION TO SELL UNDER DEED OF TRUST Trustee's Sale No: 134629-AK This NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND ELECTION TO SELL is given by CLEAR RECON CORP, as Successor Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust executed by JUDITH ALVANNA, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor, to STEWART TITLE COMPANY, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS BENEFICIARY, AS NOMINEE FOR GUARANTEED RATE, INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 2/24/2021, recorded 3/3/2021, as Instrument No. 2021-000204-0, in the Cape Nome Recording District, State of Alaska. The beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust has been assigned to CARRINGTON

MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC and the record owner of the property is purported to be JUDITH ALVANNA. Said Deed of Trust covers real property situated in said Recording District, described as follows: Lot 38B, Block 65A of MINOR PLAT OF LOTS 37A & 38A, Block 65A, NOME TOWNSITE, according to the plat filed November 27, 2017 as Plat No. 2017-20; Records of the Nome Recording District, Second Judicial District, State of Alaska. More Accurately Described as Lot 38B, Block 65A, Minor Replat of Lots 37A & 38A, Block 65A, Nome Townsite, according to the official plat thereof, filed under Plat No. 2017-20, in the records of the Nome Recording District, Second Judicial District, State of Alaska. Commonly referred to as: 114 W KING PL, NOME, AK 99762 APN: 001-231-43 A breach of the obligation which said Deed of Trust secures has occurred in that Installment of Principal and Interest plus impounds and/or advances which became due on 12/1/2024 plus late charges, and all subsequent installments of principal, interest, balloon payments, plus impounds and/or advances and late charges that become payable. By reason thereof, and under the terms of the Note and Deed of Trust, the Beneficiary has declared all sums so secured to be immediately due and payable, together with any trustee fees, attorney fees, costs and advances made to protect the security associated with this foreclosure. The sum owing on the obligation good through 5/8/2025 is \$318,755.66 as follows:

Unpaid Principal Balance:	\$313,612.55
Interest:	\$4,070.22
Late Charges:	\$272.55
Beneficiary Advances:	\$800.34
TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF:	
	\$318,755.66

If the default has arisen by failure to make payments required by the trust deed, the default may be cured and the sale may be terminated if: 1. Payment of the sum in default, other than the principal that would not be due if default had not occurred, and attorney and other foreclosure fees and costs actually incurred by the beneficiary and trustee due to the default is made at any time before the sale date stated in this notice or to which the sale is postponed; and 2. If Notice of Default has been recorded two or more times previously under the same trust deed and the default has been cured the trustee does not elect to refuse payment and continue the sale. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to demand of the Beneficiary, the Trustee hereby elects to sell the above described real property to satisfy the obligation, together with all accrued interest and all costs and expenses, at public auction, for cash, to the highest and best bidder, at the 2nd Judicial District: Inside the main lobby of the Nome Courthouse located at 306 W 5th Avenue, Nome, AK 99762, on 8/19/2025, at 10:00 AM. Beneficiary will have the right to make an offset bid at sale without cash. Anyone having an objection to the sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the same. DATED: 5/8/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108 Phone: 866-931-0036 By Alison Arrendale, Authorized Signatory for Trustee

5.22-29, 6.5-12.2025

Rexodus: Pomrenke
Executor/Beneficiary
c/o P.O. Box 2005
Nome, Alaska 99762

To: Clerk of the Court
306 West 5th Avenue
c/o P.O. Box 1110
Nome, Alaska 99762

RE: Demand for Full Accounting and Statement of Account
Case No: 2NO-24-00347CR / 2NO-24-00157CR
Defendant Name: REXODUS POMRENKE

NOTICE TO AGENT IS NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL
NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL IS NOTICE TO AGENT

I, Rexodus: Pomrenke, a third-party intervenor, authorized representative and beneficiary of the legal estate identified as REXODUS POMRENKE, now give formal and lawful notice of demand for full and complete accounting of the commercial, financial, and fiduciary interests associated with the above-referenced case. This demand is made pursuant to my right to full disclosure, good faith, fair dealing, and transparency in any matter which may involve the use of my legal name, estate, or trust without my informed consent. You are hereby required to provide the following: 1. Full and complete accounting of all charges, bonds, and court costs assessed or projected in this matter;

2. Identification of any public or private trust, fund, bond, or account created using the name REXODUS POMRENKE and any financial instruments tied to this matter;
3. The name and title of any fiduciary, trustee, or third-party beneficiary acting in or assigned to this case;
4. The registration number and issuer of any commercial instruments, including performance bonds, bid bonds, or payment bonds related to the proceeding;
5. The ledger and transaction record of any court registry investment system or associated account this matter may have been bonded or securitized into.

This demand is based on my right to be fully informed and to withhold consent to any undisclosed financial activity being conducted in my name or estate. Failure to respond within ten (10) business days shall constitute your tacit agreement that no such records exist, that no valid accounting can be produced, and that any continued prosecution or adjudication may be done under color of law, without authority, and without due process. Your silence or failure to provide the requested materials will be taken as dishonor and default, and may be used as evidence in support of a motion to dismiss, a challenge to jurisdiction, or a future claim in equity or at law.

Rexodus: Pomrenke
In Propria Persona
05.27.2025

5.29, 6.5-12-19.2025

Seawall

Nome Police Department
Weekly press releases
Activities reported between
5/19/2025 – 5/25/2025

During this period there were 170 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center; 43 (25 %) of these calls involved alcohol. The Nome Police Department dispatched 30 ambulance calls to NSHC. The Nome Volunteer Fire Department responded to 0 calls during this period. NPD responded to 3 calls reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance. No person remained at the hospital for medical evaluation/treatment.

Non-arrest
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Offense: Endangering the welfare of a child. Name: Fallon Johnson. Location: E. M St.

Arrests
A total of 5 arrests were made, with 4 (80%) alcohol related

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Charge: Assault in the third degree. Name: Rebecca Takak. Location: W. 5th Ave.
Charge: Warrant Arrest. Name: Edward Kelliher. Location: Warren Pl.

Thursday, May 22, 2025
Charges: Assault in the first degree; burglary in the first degree. Name: Martha Butler. Location: Carsten Way.

Saturday, May 24, 2025
Charge: Two counts Assault in the fourth degree. Name: Anna Marie Adams. Location: E. 5th Ave.
Charges: Assault in the fourth degree; Criminal mischief in the fifth degree; two counts Probation Violation. Name: Deidra Thornton. Location: E. F St.

Traffic
Six traffic stops were conducted, with 0 citations and 6 warnings issued. NPD responded to one report of a Motor Vehicle accident during this reporting period.

This is a record of activity. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party. Officers refer all cases to the DA for action.

Court

Week ending 5/23/2025
Civil
Not Published v. Edward Kelliher; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Ethan George v. Edward Kelliher; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Sharon Ellanna v. Edward Kelliher; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Not Published v. Edward Kelliher; Domestic Violence: Short-Term

Small Claims
Start 2NO-25-00004SC

Criminal
State of Alaska v. Maricia Ann Skinner (2/7/74); CTN 002: Crim Trespass 2 - Upon Premises; DOV: 7/29/24; CTNs Dismissed: 001, 003; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 30 days, 30 days suspended; Surcharge due; Other Orders: No entry at Nugget Inn; Probation: 1 year; Comply with all direct court orders listed above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws.
State of Alaska v. Gerry Koonooka (3/29/03); CTN 001: Assault 4 - Recklessly Injure; DV; DOV: 1/2/25; Found and adjudged: guilty and convicted of Harassment 2; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 30 days, 30 days suspended; Effective immediately, and until unconditional discharge, defendant will have no direct or indirect contact with Shanae Campbell without consent; Surcharges

due; Probation for 6 months; Comply with all direct courts orders listed above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws, specifically no jailable offenses.
State of Alaska v. Harris Okbaok (1/31/00); 2NO-22-276CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 116101548; Violated conditions of probation; Probation modified as follows: Probation terminated; The following jail term must now be served: 1 year; Must pay previously suspended \$100 jail surcharge, due now.
State of Alaska v. Harris Okbaok (1/31/00); 2NO-23-213CR Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 118140012; Violated conditions of probation; The following jail term must now be served: 0 days; Must pay previously suspended \$100 jail surcharge, due now; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original order remain in effect.
State of Alaska v. Harris Okbaok (1/31/00); 2NO-25-101CR CTN 001: Assault 4-Cause Fear Of Injury; Offense Date: 3/19/25; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; The following charge was dismissed: CTN 002: Harassment 1 - Offensive Contact w/Fluids; Offense Date: 3/19/25; Dismissal Reason: Dismissed by Prosecution; 30 days, 0 days suspended; Unsuspended 30 days must be served immediately; Surcharges due.
State of Alaska v. Yorise Dena Yakunin (2/6/89); CTN 001: DUI-Operating Under the Influence; Date of Offense: 2/8/25; Any outstanding bond is exonerated; 45 days, 42 days suspended; 45 days, 42 days suspended, report to schedule a remand or EM (at DOC discretion) date for no later than 7/20/25; Fine \$1,500 due 5/20/27; Surcharges due; Cost of Imprisonment: 1st offense \$330 due on jail report date; Complete Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment: Contact ASAP, 264-0735 and proof of completion to the court by 8/20/25; Obey Driver's License Directives: Your driver's license is revoked for 90 days; Use an IID, after you regain the privilege to drive or obtain a limited license, you must use an IID as directed for 6 months; Costs of IID will be deducted from fine if you file proof of payment before the fine due date; Probation for 2 years; Obey all direct court orders listed above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws and ordinances.
State of Alaska v. Jacob Seppilu (7/13/85); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 118746081; Violated conditions of probation; The following jail term must now be served: 120 days, remanded into custody; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original order are terminated.

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• Graphite One

continued from page 7

agencies and the federal agencies will be. We will be sitting in the back and participating, but it will essentially be a discussion between you and government agencies from here on out, and there'll be a number of opportunities to do that."

Fogels said this summer, Graphite One will be working on a visual impacts assessment, noise impact evaluations, land use evaluations and wildlife studies. "We need to do more work on subsistence resources. We want to clearly understand where folks in the area get their subsistence resources and what they what they get, so we can better avoid impacting those, those subsistence resources," he said.

Fogels spoke on their findings on fish surveys. "We've done salmon surveys, where we've flown over the rivers and counted salmon. Most of the salmon are in two creeks, the Cobblestone River and the Canyon Creek. Cobblestone river has all five species of salmon. The Canyon Creek has four of the five species of salmon."

Comments

The public then began peppering the Graphite One representatives with questions and comments. Hold on, said Keith Conger. Having lived in Brevig Mission and having paddled and kayaked Imuruk Basin and the streams of the area with is daughter he pushed back on the notion that there are only two streams with salmon. "We have not been on a single stream where we did not find salmon. So the way you guys put it earlier, didn't work with me, because there's salmon in all places up there," he said.

Conger also spoke on the constant helicopter noise last summer as they were flying directly over cabins on the Kougarok, in disregard of people trying to enjoy their remote camp.

Then conversation turned to the proposed road. The area is not accessed by road, but mostly by boats in the summer or snow machine in the winter. "If you guys put a road in there, that's a game changer," Conger said, and he didn't mean it in a positive way. He challenged the idea that it would be closed to the public as in other area roads people find their ways around gates.

Jim Hansen, local miner and bush pilot, pointed to the Red Dog mine as a fabulous example and stated that Graphite One could be the Red Dog for Nome. He said that America needs this mine, and without it, "America may wither on the vine."

Others disagreed and were concerned with the impact this mine could have on the environment. Kerry Ahmasuk said that while Nome may see benefits from the mine, Teller and Brevig Mission will not but they will hear the booms and see and feel the destruction of the ecosystem. "I urge you to genuinely listen to our concern for taking the true impact your mine will have on our region, not economically, but environmentally, spiritually, how this affects our day to day lives, our people, land, waters and marine life and mammals."

Jason Omedelina said he's finding the plans unrealistic and spoke on the eye sores of "dirty mining" going on out there. Schaffner responded saying, "Don't feel defeated. Look at how many mines have tried to go to Alaska and how many have success." Schaffner encouraged people to continue to speak up so that concerns can be heard and addressed.

Keith Conger conjured up the image of a lone dissident standing in front of a tank in the protests at Tiananmen Square. "That's kind of how it feels here."

Maggie Miller addressed a group of high school students who attended the meeting and lauded their attendance. "It's beautiful night. I know this is not something that you probably want to be doing, but thank you for coming because this is your future and this is my future."

Joseph Nashalook cast his look to

the future. "The people we have today here will not see what will happen 50 years from now. These people in Brevig Mission, Teller and Mary's Igloo are being asked to swallow the double-edged sword and we will never know what will happen to the future descendants. The people in heaven will see their descendants hunting in poor lands, in place that used to be rich with salmon, berries, caribou, moose and musk ox. None of us will know what will be going on 100 years from now and the future descendants will be affected by this one dollar that you guys are trying to earn."

Dan Holmes asked about the effects of the tariffs threatening trade, and he wanted to know if there is a guarantee that the graphite would be processed in the U.S., not a Canadian processing facility. No, was the answer, the goal is to have 100 percent U.S. chain of natural graphite processed in the U.S.

Arlene Soxie spoke on the cycle of subsistence. "When I was growing up, we went picking greens. We went fishing. We had an abundance of fish that we put away when I was small, because what we picked and what fish that we put away and other animals was supposed to last all through the year. When springtime comes, we repeat that cycle of subsistence. And it really scares me when I think about people ruining our land, our rivers, our oceans. It scares me because the food will deplete. Animals depend on the food from the land, too, and so do people, and the one that you love, that money, it won't feed you. You can't eat money, but you can eat the food that you put away."



Photos by Nils Hahn

THE RIVERS (top)— Long-time Brevig Mission and Nome resident Keith Conger told of his many trips via kayak down the Imuruk Basin to Teller and spoke of the experience of such wilderness trips. He stated of the importance of the streams in the G1 graphite mine vicinity to salmon as well as to residents of Brevig Mission and Teller.

CONCERNED (right)— Klay Baker, Senora and Kerry Ahmasuk protest against mining activities in the Kigluaks on Anvil City Square on Wednesday, May 21.



The BSNC Board of Directors has unanimously approved placing an open enrollment resolution on the 2025 shareholder proxy. In August 2025, shareholders will vote on whether to open enrollment to BSNC lineal descendants and missed enrollees. If the majority of shareholders vote in favor, new shares of BSNC Settlement Common Stock will be available to eligible individuals.

SHAREHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Shareholders are encouraged to discuss this initiative and its impact with other shareholders and their families. As always, we appreciate your engagement and participation. To learn more visit the website below, email comms@beringstraits.com, or call (800) 478-5079.

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