

Village of Solomon Box 2053 Nome AK 99762 phone (907) 443-4985 facsimile (907) 443-5189

## Meteorological Tower Installed at Solomon

The Environmental Department has been working diligently toward an Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy future. Bering Straits Development Co. has installed a meteorological tower behind the B&B right before the abandoned airstrip, which is where the strategic gathering that took place June 2<sup>nd</sup>, was established as the potential site location for the MET tower. A MET tower measures wind speed, sun rays and climate using several measurement tools on the tower. This is one of the first steps in the implementation stage of the existing Renewable Energy Plan. The Environmental Coordinator was able to get a grant award through Honor The Earth to purchase custom weatherization kits for tribal members before winter arrives. The Field worker/water sampler has ended another sampling season of data following the Quality Assurance Project Plan, this has been the 4<sup>th</sup> year of data collection within our 5 year plan. With how busy the Environmental Dept. has been, an assistant has been hired to carryout the work plan projects, such as the annual Youth & Elder Camp and the Environmental Educational Youth Summit. An Energy Audit was also completed through partnerships between Kawerak, Dept. of Energy, Alaska Native Tribal Consortium and Alaska Center for Energy and Power. The Energy Audit and Solar Assessment will be used as tools/resources in seeking grants to move forward with the rest of the Renewable Energy Plan's implementation components.

For anymore information, please contact environmental coordinator Deilah Johnson at [igap.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:igap.solomon@gmail.com).



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## 2019 Annual Meeting Date Set

The Tribal Council selected Saturday, August 10 to have the annual meeting this year in Solomon, Alaska at the Solomon Bed & Breakfast. During the annual meeting tribal members will hear reports from the Council and VOS staff. Results of elections will also be announced.

Lunch will be provided at 1 PM and the meeting will begin at 2 PM. Also, the tribe will have a van leaving the office at noon and returning at 5 pm. Contact the office at 907-443-4985 if you need a ride to Solomon for the annual meeting.

## Interested in Serving on the Council?

Three seats are up for election this year: Seats E, F & G. Ballots will contain a list of qualified candidates for voters to choose from. Voters will choose one (1) name from a list of candidates on the ballot. Voters will also be able to write in one candidate as an alternative to candidates on the ballot. The one candidate receiving the most votes for the declared seat will be elected to the Council.

Seats E, F and G are “open” seats meaning that in addition to tribal members residing in the Nome/Solomon area, they are open to tribal members who do not reside in the Nome/Solomon area and are not a “Resident Member” as defined by the membership ordinance. In order to be eligible to hold a position as a council member for Seat E, F or G, a person must meet the following qualifications:

- A) Eighteen (18) years old or older by the date of the election in which the person seeks office; and
- B) Physically resided within the Nome/Solomon area for a period of one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election in which the candidate seeks office. Reasonable temporary absences shall not be used to establish that this requirement has not been satisfied; and
- C) No convictions within the last ten (10) years for any crimes which would be a felony in Alaska, except for State fishing and/or hunting convictions; and
- D) Enrolled as a tribal member of the tribe, and, if required by the tribe’s membership ordinance, a “Resident Member” as that status is defined by the membership ordinance; and
- E) Free of any physical or mental incapacity which would prevent the candidate from carrying out the duties of a council member.

In addition to (A) through (E) immediately above, Seat F is specifically designated as a Youth Seat. In order to be eligible to hold a position as a council member for Seat F, a person must be at least 18 years of age, and no older than 24 years of age.

In addition to (A) through (E) above, Seat G is specifically designated as an Elder Seat. In order to be eligible to hold a position as a council member for Seat G, a person must be at least 55 years old.

In order to be considered for council candidacy to the council and your name included on the ballot, you must submit a Letter of intent and disclosure form to the Village of Solomon.

A Letter of Intent must certify that the candidate resides in the Nome/Solomon area, is a tribal member eighteen (18) years old or older, include a disclosure form, and any other information the candidate wishes the tribal membership to know.

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## Letters of Intent-Sixty (60)-Forty (40) Days Prior to Election:

Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing through a Letter of Intent in accordance with Section IV of the election ordinance. Letters of Intent must be received by the tribal council no sooner than sixty (60) days and no later than forty (40) days prior to the election in order for a candidate to have their name included on ballots. Letters of intent must be received by June 29, 2019.

## Absentee Voting

In addition to voting on Village of Solomon's Election Day, absentee voting is allowed. Absentee ballots will be mailed to each eligible voter 30 days prior to Election Day. Tribal members may choose to submit an absentee ballot prior to Election Day if they are unable to vote on Election Day or attend the annual meeting. Voters may only vote once.

The Annual Meeting notice with voting instructions will be mailed to every eligible voter (18 years and older). If you do not receive your notice and absentee ballot, please call the office immediately at 443-4985 or toll free at 1-855-443-4985 so a notice may be mailed.

## Visit our new website at [www.villageofsolomon.org](http://www.villageofsolomon.org)

The tribe has been working on a new website for the Village of Solomon and it is now available to our tribal membership.

The website is another way of reaching out to our tribal membership both near and far. Forms and information along with photos of our activities and newsletters of the recent past will be posted for viewing.

For current activities and photos, those are posted on our Facebook page named "Village of Solomon". This page is managed by our camp coordinators during the youth camp. Announcements are also made by the tribal coordinator.

## Solomon's Schedule for 2019

February 7	Monthly Council Meeting
April 18	Monthly Council Meeting
May 16	Monthly Council Meeting
June 20	Monthly Council Meeting
August 4-10	Solomon Youth & Elders Camp/Tribal Gathering
August 9	Annual Tribal Elections
August 10	Annual Meeting, Solomon
August 15	Monthly Council Meeting
September 19	Monthly Council Meeting
October 24	Monthly Council Meeting
November 21	Monthly Council Meeting

Please note: An Anchorage based tribal membership meeting will be scheduled either in October or December, it is yet to be determined by the staff and Council who will be attending AFN or BIA providers annual conference.

Join the Council for dinner and participate in the scheduled Council meetings. Monthly Council meetings start at 5:30 PM at the VOS office.

Contact the office at 443-4985 or send an email to [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org) for more information and an agenda, a teleconference number and password for you to call in if you wish to attend telephonically.

## Solomon 2016-2020 Village of Solomon (VOS) Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) Summary

### Solomon Community Vision

*“To increase cultural awareness and promote the well being of our tribal members while protecting our environment”.*

### Solomon Community Mission

By 2020 Solomon will:

Have the VOS & SNC working together for capacity building and creating new projects.

Enhance the local economy while staying true to subsistence traditions.

Empower ourselves and each other as a community to enhance and strengthen our social and economic future.

Strive for unity.

Engage and empower our youth to be leaders.

Utilize our elders and youth to revitalize our culture and traditional values.

### Solomon Community Development Goals for 2016-2020

*Develop Solomon into a viable community.*

*Maintain and increase tribal self-sufficiency.*

*Assist our tribal members to foster future growth and become leaders.*

### Jointly Approved Solomon Development Priorities 2016-2020

1. Obtain a tribal community hall/office in Nome.
2. Fully effective operation of the Solomon Bed & Breakfast (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop and renewable energy).
3. Expand & improve our ICWA services.
4. Work with other Nome-based tribes to develop culturally related classes and activities for all ages to pass on cultural knowledge and wellness.
5. Improve our education and enforcement of land use rights in and around Solomon.
6. Clean up land and old church site, improve drainage and add historical markers in and around Solomon.
7. Improve access in public schools to learn tribal government, Alaska Native history, math, and science using environment as a tool.
8. Improve our language resources in our dialect (immersion school, educational resources, writing children's books and Solomon history book).
9. Create and manage our own transportation program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, airstrip).
10. Assess effects on climate change and collaborate for salmon enhancement and testing in Solomon.
11. Advocate for an affordable family-friendly laundry/washer/dryer/car wash in Nome.
12. Advocate for restorative justice and tribal input into culturally appropriate sentencing of our tribal members.

For a full copy of the 2016-2020 Village of Solomon LEDP can be found online at <http://www.kawerak.org/ledps/solomon.pdf>

## Luella Tumulak is Youngest Athlete at 2019 Traditional Games in Juneau

Village of Solomon tribal citizen Luella Tumulak, was invited to the 2019 Traditional Games in Juneau, AK. The 2019 Traditional Games was held on March 16 & 17, 2019, hosted at Thunder Mountain High School. The event was open to athletes in three divisions - middle school, high school, and open men/women. While only being in the 4th grade, Luella joined Team Anchorage as the lone competitor in the middle school division on her team. The event, which hosted over 100 athletes, was comprised of ten events - all of which Luella competed. She placed in five of the ten events. Most notable, she took Gold in the

Wrist Carry, Silver in the Two-Foot High Kick at 50", and in her first time competing in the One Arm Reach, she took home a Bronze medal with a height of 36". She also placed 4th in the Kneel Jump, and 5th in the Dene Stick Pull.



"I think it's cool that I got to compete with kids older than me," Luella shared on the competition. She was the 2nd Overall Female Athlete in her division. She was the youngest female athlete competing in the 2019 Traditional Games.

Luella is coached by her dad, Manny Tumulak Jr., and uncle Austin Sumdum. She also competes regularly with her home team at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage.

Photo L to R: Luella holding her sister Alaina and her younger sister Dilyn Tumalak.

## Camp Applications Due July 1st

Solomon's annual youth and elders camp is being held this year on August 5th-10th for youth ages 8-18. Youth under the of age of 8 is welcome to attend with parental supervision. Much of the activities will promote healthy spiritual wellness. Limited airfare is provided to those that live outside of the Nome area. A completed application must be submitted to VOS by the deadline of July 1st, in order to be considered for airfare, this includes elders that may want to attend. We need volunteers to assist with activities. Contact the tribal coordinator if tribal members are interested in volunteering to supervise youth during camp, or driving, cooking and cleaning.

If you would like a camp application, contact the office at 907-443-4985 or send an email to our tribal coordinator at [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org). 2019 applications will be available on the website at [www.villageofsolomon.org](http://www.villageofsolomon.org) as early as May.

Applications are due by July 1st.

## 2018 Annual Report by President Kirsten Timbers



2017-2018 At A Glance: The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year! We have for the eighth year in a row held our tribal youth spirit camp in Solomon with the help of our camp coordinators Deilah Johnson and Jennifer Curran. We have multiple revenue streams coming in and are able to expand services as a result (BSHRA mini grant, NSHC Tribal Mini Grant, IGAP, B&B Revenue, S&T Funds) and newly awarded Rasmuson Foundation grant for the B&B. This past year we were able to purchase and move into our awesome new office and duplex. This has been a long term goal of VOS's and we are so proud to be here. The council is making the B&B operations a focus this year and met with Mike Walsh from the Foraker Group in August to develop

our business plan going forward. We have also been very blessed with an abundance of berries and fish this year.

Tribal Office Elections: Tribal elections were held with one open seat. Seat "A", "B", "D" which all have the requirements of a regional resident was open for eligible members. There were two candidates vying for seat "D" and the seats "A" and "B" were uncontended. The election results are as follows;

Seat A Kirsten Timbers 29 votes—1 Write in Walter Kalerak

Seat B Cameron Piscoya 30 votes

Seat D Annette Piscoya 18 votes—Tim Stettinger 12 votes

Cameron, Annette and I will continue another three year term as our tribal council members.

### 2018 Officer Reorganization:

#### Coming 2017 Officers

President—Kirsten Timbers

Vice President—Cameron Piscoya

Treasurer—Annette Piscoya

Secretary—Elizabeth Johnson

Assistant Secretary—Sarah Tumalak

Council Member—Alex Gray

#### Staff

Tribal Coordinator—Liz Johnson

IGAP Coordinator—Deilah Johnson

IGAP Field Worker—Derek Johnson

Grant Writer—Deilah Johnson

ICWA Worker—Kirsten Timbers

Office Assistant—Katie Olson (temp)

Membership Benefits: VOS is continuing to promote more Family, Cultural, Recreational, and Social Wellness Choices by purchasing recreational passes at the Nome Swimming Pool and Nome Recreation Center to allow our tribal membership to take part in health and wellness choices as a family unit during the long winter months. We are also supporting our local hunters and gatherers in sharing traditional foods such as fish and game with others within our tribal membership. Through our hunter support agreement, the program will allow for support funds to purchase gas and other supplies up to \$250 (excluding ammo) to hunter/gatherer for our tribal membership and their families who cannot harvest traditional foods on their own. We had 6 families who participated in this program this past year and hope to continue into the future. Additionally, VOS is providing back school supplies to students. This is a reimbursable benefit and the items purchased must be included on the back to school list provided by the school or otherwise approved by VOS. We are excited to begin offering this new service to our tribal members.

Bed & Breakfast Update: Reservations continue to be managed by VOS office. Repairs done this year included; by Marty Ruud and plumbing work done by Nome Heating, Mike West. It will be closed for winter months.

Conclusion: Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the VOS. I look forward to the coming year and providing continued service to our members in our new and improved office! :)

## Village of Solomon (VOS) IGAP/Environmental Coordinator Report by Deilah Johnson

Check out what your Environmental Dept. has been up to:

1. This upcoming August 2019, the MET tower data will be pulled and used to review for potential renewable energy systems! A very important part of the Renewable Energy Plan
2. We have been featured in the launch of the new Bering Strait Regional Energy Newsletter!
3. We have also been asked to conduct two presentations during the first ever, Bering Strait Regional Energy Summit! Please come show your support at the Nome Mini Convention Center May 7-9, 2019
4. The Environmental Coordinator has just received an infrared thermal imager to learn how to utilize, which she will then offer to use in your home – the idea is to find areas of heat loss for a better energy efficient home
5. Your Environmental Coordinator will be graduating the Occupational endorsement sustainable energy program through UAF in May 2019.
6. Movie Night for tribal membership is April 19<sup>th</sup>, at the new office with SWEET SWEATSHIRTS, dinner and an informative movie.
7. Public movie night in celebration and Earth Day awareness will also be hosted at the new office to watch the same movie.
8. We have applied for an NSEDC grant to fund the retrofits at the Solomon B&B
9. We have also applied for another year of EPA funding for this Department.
10. Amy Johnson has been attending conferences to expand her knowledge as the Environmental Assistant.

Thanks for all your support and we look forward to another great progressive year together!!

Deilah

Deilah Johnson, Environmental Coordinator



Deilah, Tristan, Amy, Autumn Johnson pose with Damen Bell-Holter at the Region 10 Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit (TELS) in Portland, Oregon in March 2019. Damen is a former NBA player and now currently plays for Fortitudo Agrigento . He was a guest speaker at TELS.



Find me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010188769462>

## Tribal Council Reorganizes at Its September Monthly Meeting

The tribal council held its reorganization and election of officers at its September meeting. Monthly meetings were also re-established to meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Tribal members are encouraged to attend these meetings, have dinner with the Council and provide input in matters of the tribe. Those who do not live in Nome are welcome to attend via teleconference. Contact the tribal coordinator for teleconference and pass code information and an agenda will be emailed to you. Here's how to reach your tribal council:

<i>Position Held</i>	<i>Name &amp; Seat Elected</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
President	Kirsten Timbers/Seat A	ooga4me@hotmail.com
Vice President	Cameron Piscoya/Seat B	capiscoya@gmail.com
Treasurer	Annette Piscoya/Seat D	sookinik@gmail.com
Secretary	Liz Johnson/Seat C	tc.sol@kawerak.org
Assistant Treasurer/Secretary	Sarah Tumulak/Seat E	sarahlyn931@gmail.com
Elder Representative	Myrtle Komakhuk/Seat F	myrtlekomakhuk@yahoo.com
Youth Representative	Alex Gray/Seat G	agrayt2015@gmail.com

Seats E, F & G seats are up for re-election this year.

## Promoting Family, Cultural and Social Wellness for our Tribal Membership

The Village of Solomon promotes and supports healthy choices by offering recreation and swimming passes to allow for our tribal membership to take part in health and wellness choices as a family unit.

Tribal members who would like a recreation center pass or swimming pass near where you live, please send an email to [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org) or call the office at 443-4985 to make arrangements for the purchase of one 30 day pass at a local recreation center.

## Reimbursement Available for 2019/2020 School Year

The tribe will be providing up to \$100 for school supplies for our children for upcoming 2019-2020 school year. This is by reimbursement only for actual costs not to exceed \$100 dollars per child. An application must be filled out for each school child and receipts provided with a school supplies list. Please contact the office for more information.

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## Hunter & Subsistence Support Available

Through the Village of Solomon's hunter/subsistence support agreement, the program allows for support funds to enable local tribally enrolled members to purchase gas, oil, or other supplies as needed (excluding ammo) to hunt/subsist for our tribal elders, membership and families who are not able to harvest traditional foods on their own.

### Guidelines:

- Must be an enrolled tribal member of the tribe, Village of Solomon
- Must submit completed and signed application along with receipts.
- Must show proof of sharing catch (photo and/or signed statement of what was provided)

Applicants who meet the above guidelines will be allowed reimbursement of \$250 for gas and motor oil, or other supplies as needed (excluding ammo) per household per calendar year which is also based on funding availability as set by the Council. Receipts must be attached to application/agreement in name of applicant.

These guidelines are based on trust in the hunter to share his/her subsistence catch with tribal elders and families who are not able to harvest traditional foods on their own.

Please note: This is primarily used to purchase gas and oil and is based on funding availability per calendar year. Receipts will not be accepted after December 31.

### APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR HUNTER SUPPORT

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Enrollment #: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ADL #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(must show proof of valid driver's license to VOS personnel)

Tribally Enrolled Solomon Elder/Family

Sharing Catch with:

\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I agree to provide a share of my subsistence catch with a Solomon elder and/or family who is not able to subsist and put away traditional foods for the winter.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Village of Solomon (VOS) Tribal Coordinator Update (provided during 2018 annual meeting)

TO: Village of Solomon Tribal Membership

FR: Elizabeth Johnson, Tribal Coordinator

DT: September 21, 2018

RE: Tribal Coordinator Report

The VOS tribal council continues to reach out to its tribal membership through the biannual newsletter so it is important to inform the tribe when mailing addresses change. We also reach out through emails for those that provide email addresses.

The VOS office continues to issue tribal ID cards. The tribal membership card can be used as a form of ID as requested by tribal members.

The office had an office assistant Katie Olson since late June. Her primary duties were to manage the office when the tribal coordinator was out, assist with all projects including IGAP, the b&b reservations and water sampling with Derek Johnson.

The Tribal Council hosted its annual tribal youth and elders camp in Solomon with 18 youth and 2 elders attending. We also welcomed several other youth campers who joined in the activities during the day. Deilah Johnson and Jennifer Curran coordinated our annual youth camp with Amy Johnson and Katie Olson assisting. This year our camp was funded by BSRHA crime prevention and elimination grant and RuralCap.

After experiencing a couple of glitches with our website, we will be going online at which time tribal members will be able to access our one time emergency assistance application, subsistence support forms and back to school supplies by reimbursement form, etc. Our newsletters and LEDP will be published there and our tribe's information, educational documents that have been created by IGAP. This does not replace anything that tribal members already receive through emails and USPS. This is just another avenue of communication between our Council and our tribal membership.

The Anchorage based tribal membership meeting is scheduled on December 1st this year coinciding with the annual BIA conference in Anchorage. A notice and reminder will be emailed/mailed to the membership.

Our tribal Council meets the third Thursday every month. A teleconference line is available for tribal members to participate. Contact the office for an agenda and number and password.

Lastly, every year, VOS is interested in hiring a carpenter, laborer, bnb coordinator, housekeeper, and two camp coordinators next summer. These jobs are temporary only during the summer months. If you are interested in working for VOS, please contact the office at 443-4985 or send an email to [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org).

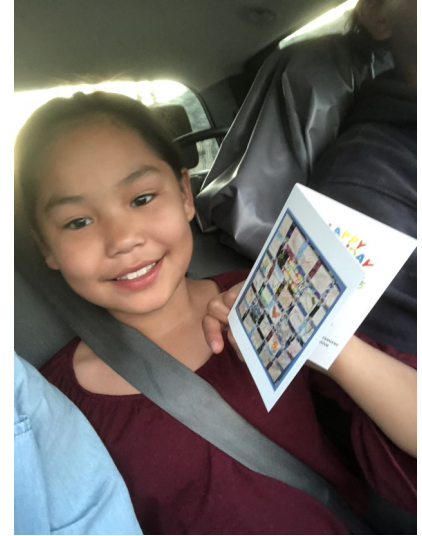


Photo of Luella Tumulak, holding her birthday card she received from VOS. VOS mails birthday cards to all the youth tribal members ages 1-18 included with a \$12 dollar Subway gift card.



## Welcome New Tribal Members



Mav Piscoya, born to Jaqueline & Benny Piscoya on 6/23/2018 in Nome, AK.  
Sibling, Mia Piscoya



Photo of Riley Huntsman , Elaina Tumulak (middle), Luella Tumulak (right). Elainia was born on 6/4/2018, to Sarah & Manuel Tumulak.



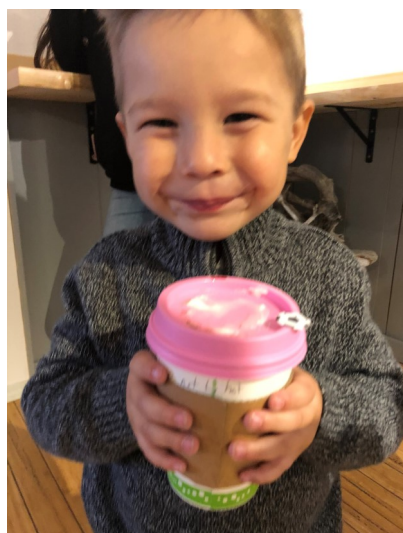
Ryan Kalerak, currently works with TelAlaska as cable/internet installer.



Jaxson Huntsman sends his thank you for supporting him in his football season.

## News and Noteworthy

Tristan Hudson visited Nome last May while his mother Deilah Johnson attended Kawerak's grantwriter training.

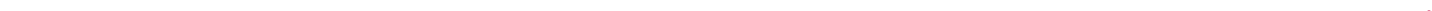


Amber Gray, graduating from Nome Beltz High School this year and will be attending Eastern Washington University this fall pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene.



Blueberry jam & smoked fish made by Solomon camp participants

VOS prints our newsletter biannually. Photos and announcements are always welcome.



# Francis Wright Annual Youth & Elders Camp

*"I Love EVERYTHING  
about camp"*



Joshua Aycock, Helen Bohn, Skylar Henry preparing and making Youth Camp's famous smoked fish

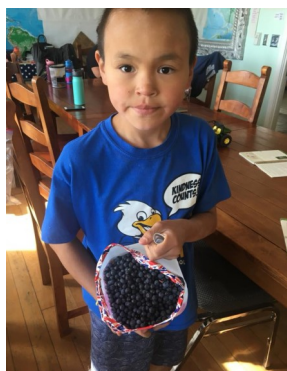
*"My why I am here is so we can meet family we don't know and spend time with them; go fishing, berry picking, help the little kids and be a part with the tribe"*



Top left to right Joshua Aycock, Trooper Stang, Kim Henry, Brewster & Bronson Bohn, Sargent Cross, Ashley & Mason Aycock, Phillip Henry, Sandra Aycock, Katie Olson, Amy & Autumn Johnson, Bella Bohn, Deilah Johnson, Tristan Hudson, Solomon Stettinger, Skylar & Derrick & Brandon Henry, Jack & Sara James, Luella Tumulak, Helen Larsen, Vickie Olson, Mia Piscocoya, Jaylene Ondola, Jennifer Curran, Helen Bohn



L to R Sandra, Joshua, Ashley & Mason Ayock, Derrick Henry, Tristan Hudson, Skylar Henry, Solomon Stettinger, Phillip & Brandon Henry, Luella Tumulak, Jack James, Mia Piscocoya, Sara James

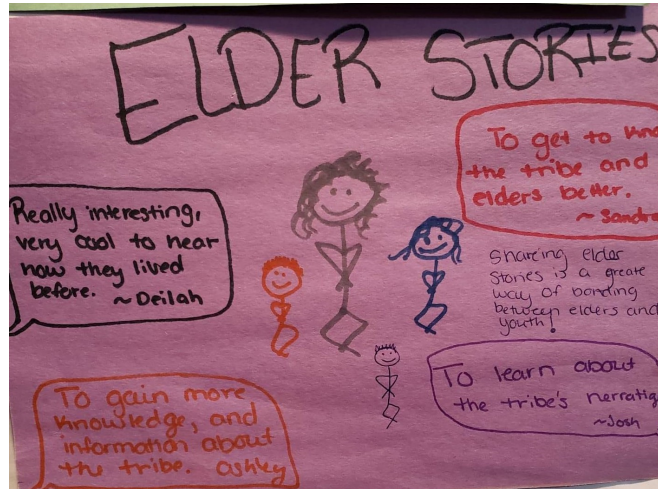


Middle photo: Skyler Henry holding blueberries he picked for making jam. Right photo: Sara James, Jaylene Ondola, Bella Bohn, Luella Tumulak all enjoying some fry bread

## Why we LOVE Our Camp

### Our Why.....

*“Berry Picking & Fishing seeing everyone each year”*



*“Because we have fun each year”*

*“My why...I love fishing and berry picking. Being able to learn the Native language is awesome. I also like to be with my family.”*

*“My Why, to meet new family!*  
 -to fish  
 -spend time with family  
 -berry pick  
 -new and exciting adventures  
 - have my son experience new

My why  
*I love having my kids get together with other tribal members & have fun! It's so much fun berry picking & fishing! This camp is so much fun and I always learn something new!*  
 -B.P.

*“Togetherness of Elders/Youth  
 The wonderful food  
 The scenery  
 The smiles on the campers” A. Piscoya*

*“To have fun, learn Native language and make friends”*

*“Camp is fun and I learn new things and get to see my grandma and aunts and cousins”*

*“For a chance to fish for silvers and enjoy the Solomon countryside”*



*“Fun and meet friends and fish, see Liz and all come over”*  
 - Phillip

*“To be with youth”*

*“I love coming together w/the tribe to focus on our future leaders. I love watching the youth enjoy the traditional activities together in unity. I love watching them learn and get excited about being in Solomon  
 The berries!”*

# BERING STRAIT REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ON ENERGY IN OUR REGION

THE BERING STRAIT REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK IS MAINTAINED BY KAWERAK INC.'S ENERGY PROGRAM,  
PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

MARCH 15, 2019, ISSUE 1



VILLAGE OF SOLOMON: Fireweed blooms looking over the Solomon Roadhouse out toward the Bering Sea, Summer 2017. Photo courtesy of Village of Solomon, from their 2017 Regional Energy Plan.

## FEATURED COMMUNITY: VILLAGE OF SOLOMON

### *Going back home*

BY THE KAWERAK ENERGY PROGRAM

The Village of Solomon is located approximately 34 miles east of Nome, on the Nome-Council Highway. Originally settled by Inupiat of the Fish River Tribe, the original village site was on the beach near the sea at the mouth of the Solomon River Delta. After a flood in the early 1900's, the village relocated to Jerusalem Hill, its present location. The Gold Rush brought thousands of folks to the region, and Solomon grew into a large town. After storms and flu epidemics of the 1910's, little remained of the community. In 1940, a school was built by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, although it was closed by 1956, followed by the post office closing in 1958. After that, families began to relocate to Nome, Anchorage, and other places so their children could continue school. Now, members of the Village of Solomon are ready for their next move: going back home. Continued on Page 3.

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The Village of Solomon is located approximately 34 miles east of Nome, on the Nome Council Highway. Originally settled by Inupiat of the Fish River Tribe, the original village site was on the beach near the sea at the mouth of the Solomon River Delta. After a flood in the early 1900's, the village relocated to Jerusalem Hill, its present location. The Gold Rush brought thousands of folks to the region, and Solomon grew into a large town. After storms and flu epidemics of the 1910's, little remained of the community. In 1940, a school was built by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, although it was closed by 1956, followed by the post office closing in 1958. After that, families began to relocate to Nome, Anchorage, and other places so their children could continue school. Now, members of the Village of Solomon are ready for their next move: going back home. For the Village of Solomon, going back home means creating a sustainable, renewable energy plan to fuel future community development and expansion. With the correct infrastructure in place, Solomon plans to build their community around a green model, using only renewable energy systems and creating as little emissions or waste as possible. In their Renewable Energy Plan, which was created in the summer of 2017 and approved by their tribal council in early 2018, Solomon has proposed a timeline of projects encompassing everything from feasibility studies to the implementation of a mini microgrid, year-round dwellings, and community facilities. By building first the energy infrastructure to power and sustain these facilities, Solomon is planning their community from the ground up. "I've always envisioned Solomon as a role model in the Bering Strait Region, so we can create a template for other communities in the region to follow," Village of Solomon Environmental Coordinator Deilah Johnson told Kawerak's Energy Program. Johnson has been working for the Village of Solomon since 2012, and became En-

vironmental Coordinator in 2014. In that time, she has been focusing on energy to a great extent - she graduates this May from UAF Bristol Bay with her Occupational Endorsement in Sustainable Energy. Overall, the Village of Solomon's energy vision is to "Develop and innovate Renewable Energy that is consistent with our cultural identity." As described in their energy plan, the vision was created to support the goal of returning Solomon to a year-round village. Since 2010, the community has had "Alternative Energy for Solomon" listed as a Village Priority on their Local Economic Development Plan, and the vision created for their energy plan is focused on doing that priority justice. In addition to the energy plan that was created in 2017, Solomon also developed an Energy Leadership Committee. According to Solomon's plan, "the members of the committee are tasked to advance Solomon's energy goals and advocate Renewable Energy for all Tribal Membership. The committee is made up of four tribal members that responded to the invitation letter to serve at the annual meeting in September 2017. The committee meets quarterly and serves as an advisory board to the community and council members." While not an easy task, the Village of Solomon has a clear and dedicated goal: to move their community back to their home location. That larger vision is what drives the community to continue to make choices that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle that is consistent with their culture. The ancestors of Solomon community members have thrived in the Bering Strait Region for millennia, living off the land, the sea and the bountiful resources that this region provides. Through a clearly defined energy plan that is broken down into a realistic timeline, the Village of Solomon is not just attempting to achieve their overall goals - they are succeeding. We cannot wait to see what their community will succeed in next.



Village of Solomon  
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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Village of Solomon Annual Meeting**

**at the**

**Solomon Bed & Breakfast**

**2 PM**

**August 10, 2019**