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LEDP Finalized at May Tribal Council Meeting

Tribal members who attended the two-day strategic planning meeting late last year identified problems, opportunities and established eleven village priorities as part of finalizing the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) for the Village of Solomon.

Separate meetings were held with the Tribal Council and the Solomon Native Corporation in which both entities set goals, objectives and values, which were applied to develop an action plan to accomplish our village priorities together.

Afterwards, there was a public comment period through May 27. All

tribal members were encouraged to submit comments as part of this important planning process. Tribal members were asked to submit their input by calling the tribal coordinator at 443-4985 or sending an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org. Copies of the LEDP, in its entirety, were also posted in the office for any tribal members to view.

The Kawerak administration also reviewed it, accepted the plan and then posted it on their website for public access. Look for it at:

<http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/solomon/index.html>

Tribal Council member comments after approving the plan:

Cynthia Olanna commented "ditto", appreciated the membership attending and participating in the LEDP work session; anxious to move forward with VOS' five year plan.

Kirsten Timbers would like to see more collaboration between the two entities, thanks for coordinating the LEDP work session; it was a great turnout of membership.

Elder & Youth Representatives Appointed at February's Meeting

Cameron Piscoya was appointed as the youth representative and Helen Larsen was appointed as elder representative at the Village of Solomon's monthly tribal council meeting in February.

This year the tribal council will be incorporating these seats to expand the tribal council from 5 to 7 members as a means to ensure that our history, culture and traditional ways are passed between our elders and youth; that they have an active voice and hand in our tribe's governance; and that any issues that affect our elders and youth are addressed so that we protect our most treasured people—elders and youth, who are an important component to our tribe's success to ensure our cultural traditional values and ways continue on forever.

Franklin Okitkon was appointed as Solomon's representative on the Bering Strait/Norton Sound Migratory Bird Council and Tim Stettinger will serve as the alternate representative.

Any changes to the constitution and self-governing ordinances will need to be passed by the tribal membership which is scheduled in August of this year.

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Get to Know Your Tribal Council

(please note : the dates of service only reflect since the first election of the tribal council held in 2006.)

SEAT "B" TERM 2009-12



Cynthia Olanna, President

CYNTHIA OLANNA currently serves as president. At last year's annual meeting she was recognized as being the longest serving president. Her parents are Pete and Helen Larsen and the late Robert Curran, Sr., aka Gummik. She is married to Chubby Olanna and together they are raising her children Alex and Amber Gray.

"I am honored to serve on the VOS council. Since 1997 when I first became involved with Solomon I have learned a great deal about our people and our history. I was lucky to have grown up with role models and honored elders such as my father Robert "Gummik", and Joseph "uncle Joe" Curran as well as my mother Helen to teach us and encourage us to be active with the VOS council, and be very proud to serve and represent Solomon. I am very proud to have served these years, and encourage any other member youth our elder alike to join our council. I enjoy spending time in Solomon fishing, learning the plant life, abundance of birds, and gathering in general. We are very lucky to live and call our home Solomon. It is truly "god's country". I have also learned no one is perfect, and things can only be what you make and Solomon Tribe and people are in a position to grow our economy with the B& B operations, and continue to protect our land and heritage."

SEAT "C" TERM 2008-11



Brian James, Vice President

BRIAN JAMES has served on the tribal council since he was elected in 2007. As a tribal council member he represents the Village of Solomon on the NSHC board of directors since 2007.

"I'm Brian James; I was raised in Nome and spent a lot of summers fishing at Solomon and Bonanza with my family. Unfortunately, most of my family has passed away. My Mother is late Lucy Mae James and my Grand-mother who actually raised me - whom I called mom, is the late Esther Rita James. Being raised by my Grandmother afforded me a great upbringing and was the best situation that I could have asked for. Esther and Herbert James had 12 children while living at Solomon and when the school shut down, Esther moved her children to Nome. I remember a lot of my family's stories they shared about their life in Solomon. It was those stories and their fond memories in 2001 that inspired & empowered me to seek funding to write four successful grants to remodel the dilapidated & abandoned Solomon School into the Village of Solomon's Community Center Bed & Breakfast (B&B). I had completely devoted my time and energy into the completion of this project and found it necessary to make some real personal sacrifices. Tribal Members and the community now have a place to hold gatherings, annual meetings, weddings, receptions, celebrations, etc. I sincerely hope that you are able to come out to enjoy the Solomon Community Center and B&B."

I first served on the Solomon Native Corporation upon my return back from college in 1992, in 1993 when the Village of Solomon was federally recognized I have served on the Tribal Council ever since (minus a year). It has been my honor to serve our people in this capacity. It has been a great experience to help develop the Tribe to where it is today. I also serve on the Norton Sound Health Corporation Board of Directors, The Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance, The Indian Health Service (IHS) Scholarship Advisory Committee, and The UAF/ Northwest Campus Advisory Committee.

I'm happily married to my wife Donna James (formally Donna Sallee) we have two children together; Sara Mae James age 3, & a new baby born 6/7/2011 named Jack Santé James and I also have another lovely daughter Esther Shanelle James age 16. I'm happy and invigorated that the younger generation is getting involved with Solomon & we welcome their eagerness to join and help us move along. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve and represent Solomon."

KIRSTEN TIMBERS has served on the tribal council since the first election in 2006. As a tribal council member she represents the Village of Solomon on the Kawerak board of directors (2010-11) and was recently appointed to a 3 year term on the BSRHA board of commissioners.

"I serve on the council because I think it is important to provide valuable services to all of our tribal members. I learned about Village of Solomon from my mother, RoseAnn who testified before congress to help get Solomon established as its own tribe apart from Nome Eskimo. I am proud to be from Solomon and enjoy being involved in serving as Solomon's representative in the following roles; Kawerak Board of Directors, Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and Alaska Native Studies Task Force."

KATIE STETTINGER has served on the tribal council since the first election in 2006. As a tribal council member she represented the Village of Solomon on the Kawerak board of directors since 2007.

"Thank you everybody who has voted for me in the past, I have really enjoyed my time on the tribal council, but its time to step down, I am tired with this disease I have, and need to take care of myself..."

Katie Stettinger is not seeking re-election. No picture available.

SEAT "A" TERM 2009-12



Kirsten Timbers, Treasurer

SEAT "D" 2008-11



Katie Stettinger, Member

Get to Know Your Tribal Council

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TIM STETTINGER has served as a tribal council member since February of this year.

"I felt that it was a privilege and my duty to do so if asked. I have never done anything like this before and found it to be quite a challenge. In my career I have always worked with my hands, feet, and voice, and spend many hours walking and moving and verbalizing instructions or inquiries, with little experience in expressing myself in writing, in which I recently discovered is a big part of this seat that I am currently sitting in for the village, so that is what I have to work on in the immediate future. I have also come to the conclusion that the council can do quite a lot of good for the future of our villagers and for the maintenance and welfare of the environment in and around Solomon. I would really like to be part of that machine. If I am elected to continue to sit on the council I will do my best to do anything within the sphere of whatever influence and ability I may have to further the best interests of Solomon, the surrounding flora and fauna and all our fellow villagers without bias and to the best of my ability."

Tim Stettinger is seeking election of the seat he was appointed to earlier this year.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Annual Meeting
is on Saturday,
August 27, 2011 at the
Solomon Community
Center/Bed & Breakfast.**

**Election day for the
Village of Solomon is
Friday, August 26.**

**Voting takes place at the
VOS tribal office located
in the Old Federal Building,
Suite 112 from
8:00 am—4:30 pm.**

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Interested in Serving on the Tribal Council?

Seats C, D and E are up for election this year. Ballots will contain a list of qualified candidates for voters to choose from. Voters will choose three (3) names from the 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 three candidates receiving the most votes will be elected.

Contact the tribal coordinator for qualifications to run for office.

Letters of Intent Schedule

(2) 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 July 15, 2011 in order to be included on the ballot.

Absentee Voting

In addition to voting on election day for VOS, absentee voting will be allowed. Absentee ballots will be mailed to each eligible voter 30 days prior to election day. Tribal members eligible to vote 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 is being mailed to every eligible voter (18 years and older). If you do not receive your notice, please call the office immediately at 443-4985. Feel free to call collect if you live outside the Nome area.

Summer Youth Spirit Camp Scheduled July 19-23rd in Solomon

The tribal council has set the dates for this year's 5 day tribal youth camp for July 19-23rd. This camp is for youth ages 8-18. Youth under the age of 8 is welcome to attend with parental supervision. Much of the activities will promote healthy spiritual wellness. The youth will be spending time with elders, tribal council members and other tribal members and family. A tribal gathering of the membership has been scheduled for the last day as part of the camp experience.

An application will be mailed to the tribal membership. Limited airfare is provided to those that live outside of the Nome area.

Contact the tribal coordinator for additional information, if you're interested in volunteering to assist the camp coordinator with supervising youth during camp, or driving, cooking and cleaning.

Shuttle Service Available from Anchorage Airport to ANMC

ANMC completed an agreement with LifeMed Alaska to support a 24-hour shuttle service. This means ANMC patients around Alaska will have transportation to and from ANMC and the Ted Stevens International Airport at any hour of any day.

Special pickups can be arranged outside of the listed hours by using the phone on the hotel reservations board at the airport and dialing "16." This will connect customers to ANMC operators.

For more information about ANMC's shuttle service, call toll free at (800) 478-6661 or locally at 563-ANMC (2662).

Solomon Bed and Breakfast Open During Iditarod

The tribal council welcomed Iditarod fans to the Solomon Bed & Breakfast this year for 10 days. Here's what one guest had to say about her stay:

"Thank you to the Solomon Bed and Breakfast. I had the opportunity to stay there two nights over the Iditarod break with my dog team. Their accommodations were comfortable and tailored to fit my traveling needs, the food was hearty and delicious and the staff helpful and personable. They went out of their way to not only help me but also my traveling companions. The Solomon Bed and Breakfast is a little piece of Nome history that is full of the voices of the past but with just enough modern conveniences to help you with whatever your present day travel needs might be. Thanks again for the great hospitality Solomon Bed and Breakfast". Janet Balice from Nome, Alaska



2006 Solomon youth spirit campers

L canoe: Celeste Mendalook, Imari Bright, Esther James, Michael Tocktoo
M canoe: Andy Piscoya, EmmyLou Vial, Brandon Katchatag, Tristan Katchatag
R canoe: Harmony Piscoya, Liam Hukill, Tasha Hukill and Cameron Piscoya

Welcome Newest Tribal Members

Pictured below is Mia Annie Piscoya, born to Benny Piscoya on 2/4/2011.



Welcome Myrtle Began, daughter of Franklin Okitkon;

Welcome Michelle Curran, born to Patrick Curran on 11/18/2010 ;

Welcome Peter John Curran, son of Patrick Curran; and,

Welcome Nicole Nash, daughter of Dawn Hatch Nash;

Welcome James Nash, son of Dawn Hatch Nash;

Welcome Henry Phillip, son of Kim Henry (Dalilak);

Welcome Rachel Takak, daughter of Kim Henry (Dalilak); and,

Welcome back Timmy James.

Solomon's Vision & Values

Solomon tribal members sought to develop priorities for future projects and activities which the community can use to enhance the local economy and build on the identified cultural strengths, economic opportunities, and current community assets over the next five years. Based on this, the overall community vision was developed. By 2015 Solomon will:

- Have VOS and SNC working together for capacity building and creating new projects
- Enhance 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.

Values applied to community development:

- Practice positive communication with each other and outside agencies
- Ensure proper cleanup and project oversight
- Utilize and create own tribal membership expertise
- Seek and secure other financial resources
- Be culturally sensitive to our community
- Utilize our own natural resources



Solomon's LEDP participants in November 2010

L to R front: Kirsten Timbers, Rosemary Tootkaylok, Cynthia Olanna, Amber Gray, Helen Larsen.

L to R back: Liz Johnson, Greg Timbers, Francis Wright, Brian James, Franklin Okitkon
Not pictured: Tim Stettinger, Richard Schulling, Cameron Piscocya.

Solomon's Top Priorities

1. More Solomon gatherings and involvement
2. Waste management
3. Emergency communication
4. Assess effects of climate change
5. Community power/electricity (wind, solar and diesel back-up)
6. Community potable water
7. Full operation of Bed & Breakfast/Community Center
8. Salmon Enhancement
9. Driveway Improvements to Camps
10. Boat Harbor
11. Airstrip Improvement

Tribal Emergency Fund Established

The Village of Solomon has (VOS) established an emergency assistance program that will provide temporary assistance upon qualification to its tribal membership, whether monetary or otherwise, in emergency situations only. Temporary assistance to be provided may include: food, airfare, lodging, calling cards, etc. that will assist the tribal member and/or family in an emergency situation. An emergency is considered an unexpected and sudden event that must be dealt with urgency and concern taking away from day-to-day responsibilities. The VOS tribal office will assist in identifying and applying for other sources of assistance.

Tribal members must contact the VOS tribal office and provide a statement of need and understand that any type of assistance provided is at the discretion and final approval of the tribal council.

Why Be Tribally Enrolled?

In Alaska, tribal membership refers to being a member of a federally recognized tribe. There are 229 tribes in Alaska, 20 of which are in the Bering Strait region, including your tribe, the Village of Solomon.

Proof of Tribal membership is required for many services that might be available to those of Alaska Native heritage (Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts). Some examples are childcare assistance for working parents, to register at an Indian Health Service Clinic or educational grants or scholarships.

How do I become Tribally enrolled?

One can apply to the Tribe of one's parents or ancestors. In Alaska, the Tribe is in the village where the relatives are from. For families from Solomon, many moved to Nome and beyond the Bering Strait region after the BIA schoolhouse closed in 1956 so the children could attend school.

History of Tribe

The village was originally settled by Eskimos of the Fish River tribe, and was noted on a map as "Erok" in 1900. The original site for Solomon was in the delta of the Solomon River; it became a mining camp. The gold rush during the summers of 1899 and 1900 brought thousands of people to the Solomon area. Three enormous dredges worked the Solomon River. By 1904, Solomon had seven saloons, a post office, a ferry dock, and was the southern terminus of a narrow gauge railroad that ran to the Kuzitrin River. In 1913, the railroad was washed out by storms, and in 1918, the flu epidemic struck. This site is known as Dickson today, and remains of structures and railroad equipment exist. In 1939, the community relocated to the present site, which was formerly known as Jerusalem. The BIA constructed a large school in 1940. During World War II, a number of families moved away from Solomon. The post office and BIA school were discontinued in 1956. The Solomon Roadhouse operated until the 1970s.

The Village of Solomon was not recognized until 1993 and organized under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1993. Today, there are over 100 tribally enrolled members of Solomon. It's primary focus is to implement programs and services for increased quality of life for all of its tribal members and their families.

Can I be enrolled to more than one Tribe?

The Village of Solomon allows dual enrollment for minor children until the age of eighteen. After that, the child will have to choose which tribe to stay enrolled in and relinquish with the other.

Tribal Council Meetings Held Monthly

The tribal council usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Tribal members who do not live in Nome are welcome to attend the meetings via teleconference.

Access to the meeting through the AT&T reservation less conferencing by dialing:

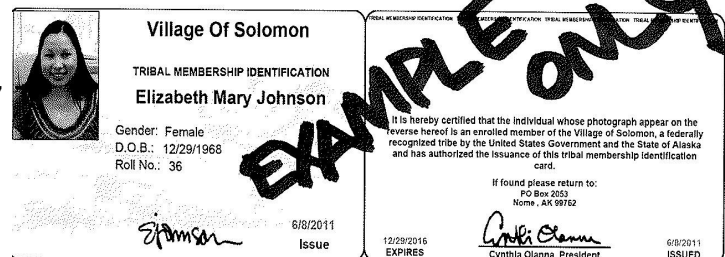
Conference Line Number: 1-888-636-3807

Access Code: 6445033

Contact the tribal coordinator at 443-4985 if you are interested in attending and an agenda will be emailed.

Tribal Enrollment Identification Cards Being Issued

Village Of Solomon
Landscape 16 (Mag)



The VOS office continues to issue tribal identification cards. Tribal members are encouraged to stop by the office to get a picture taken for the new tribal membership card. This card can be used as a secondary form of identification.

You can also email a picture to tc.sol@kawerak.org. Your signature from your tribal enrollment application will be scanned and inserted onto the card once the office receives your picture. These enrollment cards are being issued to all tribal members starting at middle school age. Younger tribal members will receive a tribal enrollment verification letter as we have always issued in the past for tribal members.

Email a picture of yourself to tc.sol@kawerak.org and a tribal identification card will be issued and mailed.

ICWA Services Available for Village of Solomon Tribal Members

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 United States Code Sections 1901-1963. ICWA was passed in 1978 in response to the high number of Native children who were removed from their families and tribes by non-tribal public and private agencies, and placed in non-Native foster homes or made available for non-Native adoption.

How does ICWA work? The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. This includes assisting in family reunification, adoptions, and alternative placement of children. The program also ensures that Tribal Councils are represented in Court proceedings. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies when a state court determines that a Native child is involved in a proceeding. This includes child custody proceedings, foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive and adoptive placements. A tribal court or tribe may properly exercise their rights in any and all of these types of proceedings.

Ms. Lorie Shield, Solomon's ICWA coordinator, attended the National ICWA conference in Anchorage recently with tribal council member Kirsten Timbers and learned that On March 9, 2011 the Supreme Court ruled that Alaska Tribes have inherent authority to initiate child custody proceedings and it is not solely a state decision. This means that if the tribal council becomes aware of a neglect/abuse case within the tribe we can initiate child custody proceedings on our own and do not need the State of Alaska Office of Children Services to present our case on our behalf. This ruling is very important because it further states the strength a tribe has as a sovereign entity and that protecting our children is our right.

Kawerak Board Representative Report

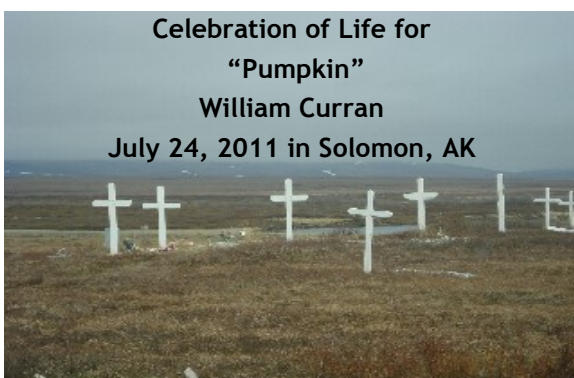
Kawerak is in the process of collecting donations from various Corporations to secure enough money to purchase the large unfinished structure on Front Street

that belongs to Tulan Munn. This building will be renovated to serve as the Beringia Museum of Culture and Science. To date Kawerak has secured \$425,000.00 and another \$400,000.00 is needed to complete the purchase. The Beringia Museum will display art and artifacts from all around the Bering Strait Region, including Solomon.

Nome Emergency Shelter Team (NEST): Kawerak has donated \$2,500 to help NEST with operational costs. The shelter is located in the Nazarene Church and is open every night when the wind chill is -10 or colder. For the winter of 2010/2011 NEST was open 71 days, since the shelter began operating 3 years ago no one has died in Nome from exposure. This program has been very valuable to Nome. There have been VOS tribal members who have benefited from this service. Many tribes have also made additional financial distributions.

Kawerak BOD approved funding for Visual Inupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition (VIVA). This language tool will be used to preserve the Fish River Inupiaq Dialect, which is the dialect that is spoken in Solomon. The Fish River Dialect is the most endangered language in our region with only a handful of living speakers. VIVA will allow the Eskimo Heritage Program to record the dialect and use it in creating the language program. This program has been very successful in Barrow. The program is done by associating a word with a picture. This program will be available to the Village of Solomon when it is complete.

Kirsten Timbers is the representative for Solomon on the Kawerak board of directors. The next meeting held in Nome is their quarterly meeting scheduled for September 13-16, 2011.



For additional details, please contact his daughter Jennifer Curran via email at skmo97@hotmail.com.

CACHE for College and Higher Education Available

The Bering Straits Foundation, Sitsnasuak Foundation, Kawerak, Inc., Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Norton Sound Health Corporation have partnered to ease the process of applying for scholarships for the people of our region.

The application is called "CACHE" which stands for "Combined Application for College and Higher Education." This application is for individuals going into accredited college or vocational education programs, who meet the eligibility requirements of the organizations they apply to. For more information, visit the Bering Straits Foundation website at:

<http://beringstraits.com/northriver/wb/pages/foundation/scholarships.php> or email Kirsten Timbers at ktimbers@beringstraits.com.



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Tribal Membership Newsletter