

Village of Solomon PO Box 2053 Nome, Alaska (907)443-4985



## CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

WINTER 2022-23



The Tribe decided to host their own celebration on October 10th, 2022 in honor of the newly established National day to recognize Indigenous Peoples, announced by President Joe Biden in 2021. With planning beginning at the end of August, the tribe was able to hire emcee Cody Poqueno, arrange for Murkowski's rural staff Cordelia Kelly, Meghan Topkok, coordinate a fashion show, dance performances by King Island and St. Lawrence Island Dance Groups, with the end of the night concluding with a Byron Nicholai performance. Hosted at the Rec Center in Nome, facilitators welcomed potluck style foods and began the opening prayer around 5:30. Hundreds of local Nome residents attended to celebrate the milestones and culture of the people residing in the Bering Strait Region. President Kirsten Timbers did a tribal recognition of attendees throughout the gym. The Fashion show consisted of anyone brave enough to

walk down the red carpet showing off their favorite kuspuk, mukluks, parkas, jewelry, etc.

The tribe hopes to host or assist coordinating efforts on an annual basis. More photos on last page.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ PRESIDENTS REPORT ◇ 2022 YOUTH CAMP
- ◇ COUNCIL MEMBER HIGHLIGHT ◇ COVID PROGRAMS
- ◇ B&B REPORT ◇ TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS
- ◇ ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT ◇ PHOTOS
- ◇ RECIPE



## President’s Report by Kirsten Timbers

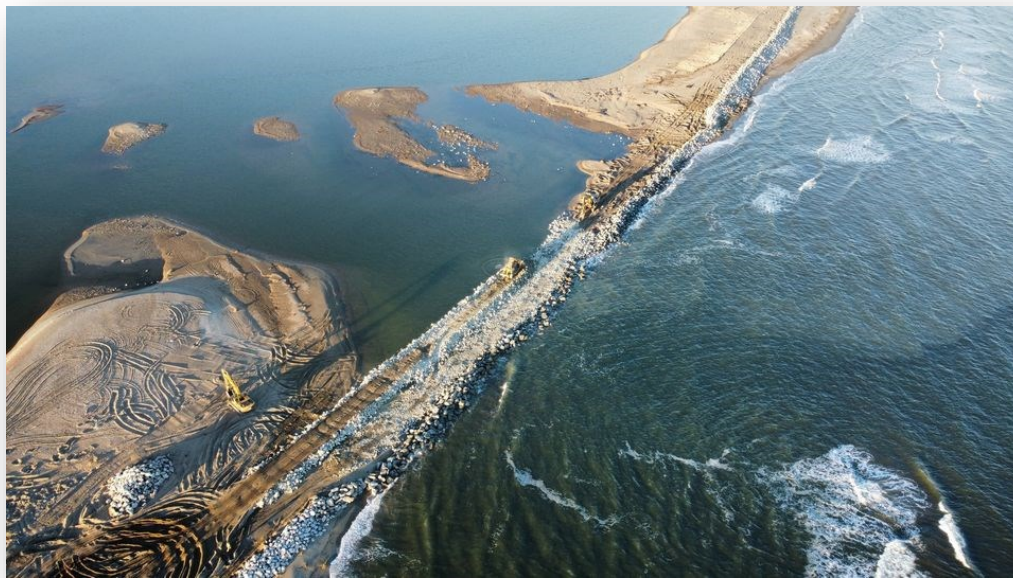
### 2022-2023 At A Glance

The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year! We have for the twelfth year in a row held our tribal youth spirit camp however, We are so thrilled we can do it in person this year. Although the pandemic has slowed down for now we do still offer COVID assistance for utilities and internet.

Please check out our awesome website for up to date info and services applications. <https://www.villageofsolomon.org/> With the fervent drive of the Developmental Coordinator VOS has more revenue streams than ever before expanding benefits and services to our tribal members.

### Typhoon Merbock

Merbock wrecked havoc on our region on September 17. This included significant damages not only in Nome but washed out the Nome – Solomon HWY at mile 23 photographed below. Many people experienced damage to their cabins, boats and other property. Fortunately Knik Construction was already in



Nome with all their equipment from another project and was able to repair the road. The road damage included washout and beachwood being pushed up onto the road between the Bonanza Bridge and Solomon. Fortunately that has all been cleaned up and repaired and before snowfall everyone could safely travel to Solomon again.

### 2022 Officer Reorganization

- President – Kirsten Timbers
- Vice President – Cameron Piscoya
- Treasurer – Elizabeth Johnson
- Secretary – Annette Piscoya
- Council Member—Deilah Johnson
- Elder Seat—Cheryl Kalerak
- Youth Seat – Wilma Amaktoolik

Continued on next page

### Staff

- Tribal Coordinator – Sherri Lewis
- Environmental Coordinator – Deilah Johnson
- Development Coordinator – Deilah Johnson
- B&B Coordinator—Wilma Amaktoolik
- ICWA Worker – Elizabeth Johnson & Kawerak’s
- Legal Team

### **Membership Benefits**

VOS is continuing to promote more Family, Cultural, Recreational, and Social Wellness Choices by purchasing personal wellness items for tribal members on a reimbursement basis. 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 hunt/gather for our tribal membership and their families who cannot harvest traditional foods on their own. We also cover part of the cost of bed bug extermination on an on going and regular basis. Additionally, VOS is providing back to 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 also offer \$500 for bereavement assistance for the death of a tribally enrolled member and Emergency Assistance on a one time basis for help with rent/mortgage, assistance with airfare for medical emergency of death of an immediate family member. We are excited to begin offering this new service to our tribal members.

### **Affordable Housing**

We have also developed an Affordable Housing Plan to provide new housing, down payment assistance and housing renovation as benefits to our tribal members with our ARPA funds.

### **Tribal Court**

We are in the process of setting up our own tribal court. We are receiving technical support from Kawerak's legal team. Our court will be able to handle civil matters and select other cases.

### **IPOP Mining Update**

Solomon engaged in three government to government consultations with The Army Corps of Engineers regarding IPOP mining in the Bonanza Channel With the steadfast work of our tribal council, partnership with SNC and most notably Deilah's fervent passion IPOP their permit was officially denied on September 9. "Based on the presence of seasonal fish camps information received in response to the public notices and during Tribal consultations,[...] the Corps has determined that the proposed project would directly impact subsistence users and resources – specifically fish, birds and other animals within the range of noise disturbance from the operations." Col. Delarosa.

### **Bed and Breakfast Update**

B&B was open for a handful of reservations this year despite the pandemic and booking rooms can be done online. The exterior of the cabin was repainted last season as well as several windows were replaced. We have a new playground set and the last of the gravel should have been delivered this past week.

#### **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!

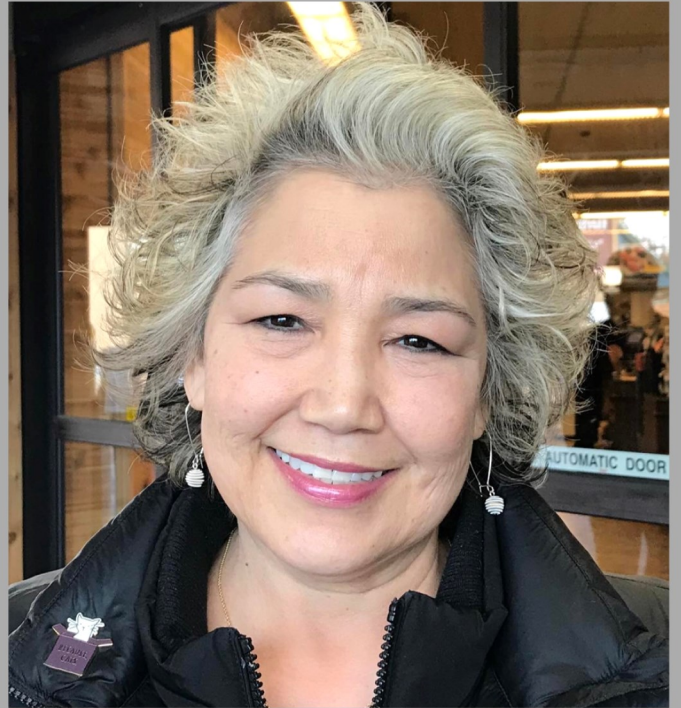


Photo by Brian Adams, Kirsten & Daughter Tessa

## NEWEST ADDITIONS TO THE VOS TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Elder Seat, Cheryl Kalerak. Write-in Candidate

*"My parents were Patricia and Andrew Kalerak Jr. I was born in Anchorage, Alaska a long time ago. What I love about Solomon is the gathering of my family and extended family that I've got to meet over the years! I love to fish, beachcombing along the Norton Sound and seeing the abundant wildlife. I've got 2 cats named Pookie Poo and Double Stuft. Living in Tacoma, WA. I'm so happy to be elected to the Elder seat. It's really opened my eyes to all that Solomon has to offer to our tribe."*



Youth Seat, Wilma Amaktoolik. Write-in Candidate

Wilma, pictured with Fiancee Casey Menadelook and two children Thomas and Katherine.

Wilma has been learning how the Council operates, what it means to be a VOS council member, and the role of the Council for the tribe and all tribal services, programs, decisions, priorities and elections.

The VOS Youth seat is for tribal members, aged between 18 yrs—24 yrs old. If you are interested in serving as a Youth Seat on the VOS Traditional Council, please contact Sherri at [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org).

This seat is to ensure the Council is including our future generations to manage the Tribe and encourage our youth to become passionate and engaged.

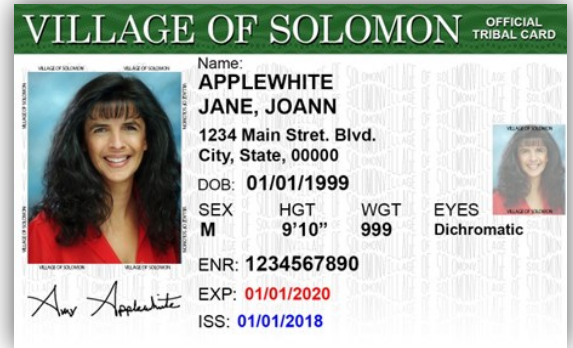
Every year, VOS hosts an election. The terms for all Council members are staggered, please keep an eye out for which seats and what requirements are eligibility criteria for candidacy.

Subscribe to the VOS website for regular email updates! [www.villageofsolomon.org](http://www.villageofsolomon.org)

## Solomon's 2023 Schedule of Activities

January 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
February 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
March 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
April 20	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
May 18	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
June 15	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
June 17	Notice of Election/open for Letters of intent to Run for Open Seat
July 3	Last Day to submit Letters of intent to Run for Open Seat
August 7-12	Youth Camp
August 12	Annual Meeting
August 17	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
September 21	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
October 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
November 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting

### EXAMPLE ONLY



### New Tribal IDs are here!

Please contact the office to get yours printed.

Our Tribal Coordinator has been printing them off and mailing them out. These are REAL ID's accepted by Federal law and meeting the new identification requirements.

## BED & BREAKFAST COORDINATOR

Wilma has been learning the ins and outs of the B&B.



Wilma pictured with her Granny Franny

Wilma is working on completing the Business Plan for the B&B and once completed and approved, she will apply for the EDA Grant to implement the plan in order to enhance the business to be a leading rural B&B throughout Indian Nations.

Wilma had her first open B&B season, where she learned how to read maintenance issues, do check-ins, reservations, check-outs and cleaning the B&B. VOS had to cancel the reservation we had booked when Typhoon Merbock hit and washed out the road. The storm caused us to close earlier than originally planned. The renovations that were going to be done in October 2022 had also been canceled.

The B&B Coordinator position is continuing to grow, with hopes of developing marketing software, a new tourism package and possible subsistence guides. If you have ideas, send them to Wilma at [Wilma@villageofsolomon.org](mailto:Wilma@villageofsolomon.org)

# Environmental Coordinator Report



By Deilah Johnson

The Environmental Dept. has concluded their partnership with the Army Corp of Engineers, for their habitat study within the Solomon watershed. The report should become available in the early months of 2023. Due to the impacts of Merbok, two sampling trips to Solomon had been cancelled for the Biologist. However, Chris Hoffman, the biologist had been able to sample at least 8 other times for data collection, including eDNA sampling.

I was able to attend the first and second ARENA trips, the first was to Fairbanks and ending in Kotzebue, mid July. Due to an outbreak of COVID, the trip was cut 2 days short. At the end of October, we traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland. We had full schedules, tours and presentations during both trips. The insights during the tours, the knowledge sharing, networking, collaborating ideas for cold climates and solving energy challenges as a cohort has been the



most amazing experience. Our cohort is primarily Canadian, however, the similarities are so aligned. The cohort's participants are diverse, yet, the same. We could discuss energy all day together, which made the experience that much more impactful.

We have now been under an EPA building capacity grant for a decade. Throughout this decade, we have been able to support opposing IPOP with our water quality component, develop and implement our renewable and alternative energy for our tribe and provide outreach, tips and education to our community.



## Development Coordinator Report

The office has been managing their CDC grant which provides support for internet and utility support to households that apply. The grant will be closed out by June 2023, after the 2nd extension for the grant.

The Council has been spearheading the Affordable Housing Plan, which has required more grant writing than anticipated. The tribe will be following the LEDP's priority list moving forward with an emphasis on the Affordable Housing and Tribal Court initiatives.

We have received a Denali Commission grant for our Land purchase/utility expansion. We are seeking additional funding to support the utility and construction.

The tribe will continue to seek funds to host youth camp each year.

As always, if you have any suggestions on how to better serve you or our community in regard to our environment, please contact me directly. I love hearing your feedback and suggestions.

Top L: Touring the geothermal piping facility, Top R: Touring the haunted hot springs, Bottom R: Touring the Geothermal power plant—Iceland.

## THE PERFECT CINNAMON ROLLS

<https://picky-palate.com/perfect-cinnamon-rolls/>

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tablespoons Active Dry Yeast
- 1 1/2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup warm water 115 degrees F.
- 8 tablespoons 1stick unsalted melted butter
- 3/4 cup warmed whole milk or heavy cream 115 degrees F.
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 4 cups All-Purpose flour plus more for dusting counters
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

### Cinnamon/Sugar Layer

- 8 tablespoons 1stick unsalted softened butter
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons softened unsalted butter for buttering pan
- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar for sprinkling over buttered pan

### Frosting

- 8 ounces softened cream cheese
- 8 tablespoons 1 stick softened unsalted butter
- 2-3 cups powdered sugar

### Instructions

Place yeast and sugar into stand mixer then add warm water and gently stir. Let sit until yeast has doubled, about 10 minutes. In a medium bowl, mix melted butter and warm milk. Add butter and milk mixture to yeast mixture with the dough hook attachment on low speed then add sugar and egg mixing until combined. In a large bowl, stir together the flour and salt.

Add 2 cups of flour mixture to the mixer at a time scraping sides of bowl, continuing to add remaining flour until the dough starts to clean sides of mixing bowl. Knead dough on low speed for 7 minutes. Place dough onto a floured counter and knead dough until it does not stick to your hands. Place dough into a large bowl that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a barely warm oven for 45-60

minutes, until dough doubles in size.

Remove dough from bowl and place onto a floured counter top. With a floured rolling pin, roll dough into an approximate 14x24 inch rectangle, about 1/4 inch in thickness. Spread softened butter over entire surface of dough. In a medium mixing bowl, stir together the brown sugar, sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over buttered dough. Starting at long end of dough, carefully roll into a log shape. Using dental floss or knife, cut rolls into 1 1/2 inch pieces.

Take 4 tablespoons softened butter and spread on bottom of 9x13 inch pan then sprinkle with brown sugar. Place 4 rolls per row close to each other, about 1/2 inch apart. Place into a barely warm oven (turn oven to warm for 5 minutes, then turn off right before placing rolls in oven to let rise) for 45-60 minutes or until rolls have doubled in size. Remove rolls from oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Bake rolls for 15-17 minutes or until rolls are golden brown and baked through. Set aside to cool slightly.

Place cream cheese and butter into your clean stand mixer bowl and beat until smooth and combined. Slowly add powdered sugar until desired consistency is achieved. I prefer 2-3 cups. Spread cream cheese frosting over warm rolls. Serve warm or let cool and enjoy room temperature. If serving the next day refrigerate then warm in the microwave individual rolls for 10-15 seconds in the microwave.

"I make these all the time, they're always requested. They are soooooo delicious!" Deilah Johnson

## 2022 FRANCES WRIGHT YOUTH & ELDER CAMP



This was the first full youth camp the tribe has been able to host since COVID. Staff implemented strict covid securities to ensure the health and safety of all participants, due to this, the camp was a huge success. This was also the first camp where they got to play on their new playground!

The campers also caught many fish, to cut all on their own, to which they decided to smoke their strips.

Camp staff consisted of; Katie Duggin, Joe Jenetten, Amy Johnson, Deilah Johnson, Kade Vandermark Wilma Amaktoolik and Sherri Lewis



The final day of camp was a large potluck style closing ceremony. More photos can be found on the website

[www.villageofsolomon.org](http://www.villageofsolomon.org)



More 2022 Camp photos.....



Pictured: Toby, Eleanor, Evelyn, Tristan, Riley, Katherine, Wilma, Luella, Sherri, Mia, Brittany, Presten, Anahma, Joe, Dilyn, Brandon, Rose, Cheryl.

# COVID SERVICES

## COVID RELIEF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL MANAGED THROUGH THE OFFICE

On August 20th, 2020 the Traditional Council approved Resolution 2020-05, declaring a Public Health Emergency in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Since the resolution was approved and passed, the Tribe has had the ability to provide all membership with covid relief services using the CARES Act Funds, Grants from various funding agencies and the new American Rescue Plan Act funding to mitigate the direct affects of the coronavirus and any variant of covid19 to the VOS tribal community.

### CURRENT COVID RELIEF APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

**INTERNET SUPPORT** - to provide financial assistance for the high cost of internet services per household on a monthly basis

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE** - to provide financial assistance for the high cost of UTILITIES per household on a monthly basis

**LAPTOP** - You may apply for a chromebook online due to a more virtual world during the pandemic

Please note, the Council meets regularly to discuss future services to respond to the global pandemic, and especially how it has negatively impacted our community. Announcements will be made as developing services continue.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

All applications have criteria to meet in order to qualify for the relief services you are applying for. Please follow the guidelines, facts, qualifications or instructions under each services. Each application has information available on the website, or you may request a digital or paper copy by emailing Deilah. All questions in regard to covid services, contact Deilah directly at her email, [deilah@villageofsolomon.org](mailto:deilah@villageofsolomon.org)

To receive regular updates and news announcements sent directly to your email inbox, please subscribe on the website to receive emails when announcements are made.

## VILLAGE OF SOLOMON LOGO CONTEST

The Council announced an opportunity to illustrate a new Village of Solomon logo design. The winner will be chosen by the Traditional Council in January. The deadline was originally Thanksgiving, however with 4 submissions by that deadline, it was extended to December 19th.

The winner will have their logo printed on a new VOS jacket and an Alaska Airlines ticket. All submissions will be entered into a \$100 drawing.

The Council is looking forward to a new logo so new shirts can be ordered. The logo is to represent who the Village of Solomon tribe is, as a people, as a culture, as a lifestyle.

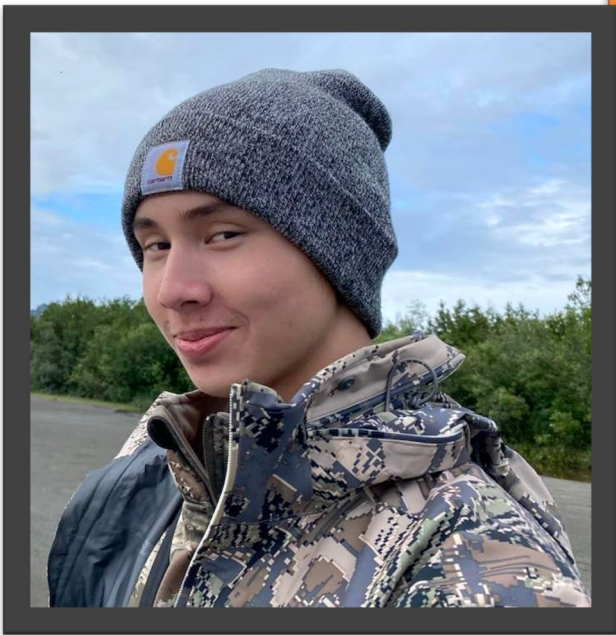
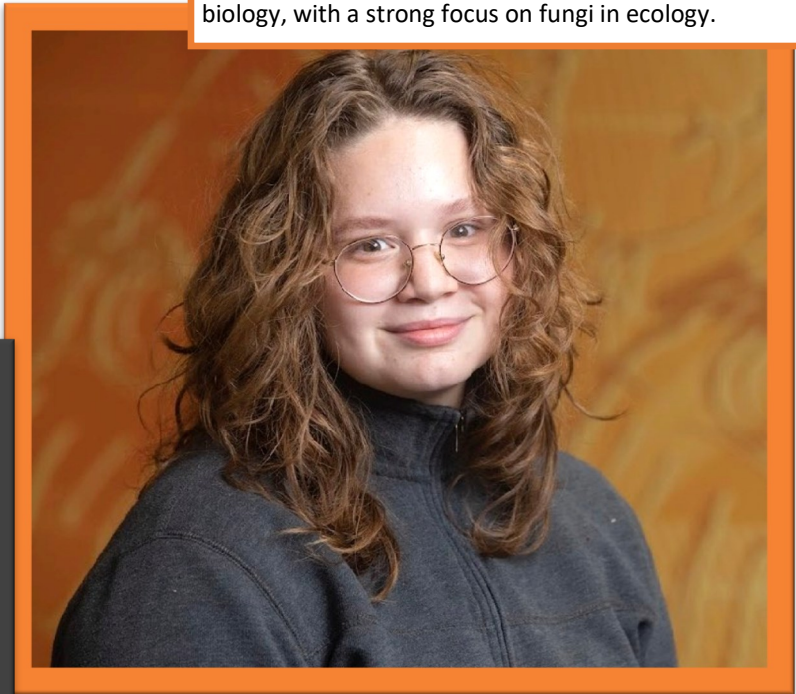
# News & Noteworthy from Solomon

Tribal member, Luella Tumulak made the travel team with Ak Elite . Luella trained and practiced for the league 6 days a week for two months . They traveled to Dallas Fort Worth intending to play a 7/8 grade league with Drive Nation . That league canceled so Coach Lionel Queen found The Mac invitational. In the league they played nationally ranked high school teams . Luella was invited to more camps to get exposure for college recruiting. The team as a whole was invited to another league next year ! Luella had a great experience with traveling for basketball



Bronson Bohn, turning 18, the first day of 2023, graduated from Alaska Military Youth Academy December 15th, 2022.

Isabella Bohn, a 15 yr old sophomore at Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program, has already completed 35 credits toward her Bachelors of Arts in Biology. Bella plans to use her degree in Mycology and Microbiology, with a strong focus on fungi in ecology.



Brewster Bohn, a sophomore at Michigan State University is currently studying for his Bachelors in Computer Science. He is debating switching to Data Science in hopes of focusing toward either cybersecurity or network engineering to include green energy. Brewster also plans to finish his BA and continue for his Masters.



Welcome to the Village of Solomon Storm!

Welcome Storm Roland! Born on August 2nd, 2022 to Mike Roland and Tribal member Rebecca Takak. VOS looks forward to having Storm at our annual youth camp

*Alaska Daily* is an American drama television series created by Tom McCarthy for ABC, starring Hilary Swank as a journalist seeking a fresh start in Anchorage, Alaska. It premiered on October 6, 2022

Eileen (Hilary Swank) is a journalist from New York who moves to Alaska for a clean start and who looks for re-

demption both personally and professionally after joining a daily metro newspaper in Anchorage. In the City of Anchorage, she works with another colleague at the newspaper, Roz Friendly, to complete and release reports on the missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis in the state of Alaska. You can stream on Hulu or on ABC.com. There are currently 6 episodes, with more to come in February 2023. Swank has been nominated for 'Best Actress' for the 2023 Golden Globe awards.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska\\_Daily](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Daily)



## Do you have any news, noteworthy stories to share with the VOS Tribal community?

If so, we're always looking to highlight our tribal members in the newsletter. Send an email to [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org) with photos, stories, accomplishments and we would love to consider printing in our newsletter.

We will do our best to include as much as possible, and we'll do our best to distribute a newsletter bi-annually.

### Ways to contact the tribe:

Tribal Coordinator: Sherri Lewis, [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org)

Development/Environmental: Deilah Johnson, [deilah@villageofsolomon.org](mailto:deilah@villageofsolomon.org)

B&B Coordinator: Wilma Amaktolik, [wilma@villageofsolomon.org](mailto:wilma@villageofsolomon.org)

President: Kirsten Timbers, [oonga4me@hotmail.com](mailto:oonga4me@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Cameron Piscoya, [capiscoya@gmail.com](mailto:capiscoya@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Liz Johnson [liz@villageofsolomon.org](mailto:liz@villageofsolomon.org)

Secretary: Annette Piscoya, [sookinuk@gmail.com](mailto:sookinuk@gmail.com)

## Tribal Coordinator

I have been learning so much about the tribal programs serving the Village of Solomon community. Since I started as the new Tribal Coordinator, I have been cleaning out the office, reconciling all of the financials and with the US Treasury funds, there have been many more finances to manage and organize the different programs and accounts to ensure when we are audited, all financials are appropriately classed. Another priority is to ensure that all of the meeting minutes are accounted for, there has been a lot of organizing with the many different ongoing projects the Council has been progressing toward accomplishing. I got to spend the week of Youth camp in Solomon, where I got to get to know the tribe in more depth. Getting to know the tribal members and their families has been impactful for a tribe that has so many community members that reside outside of Nome. Getting to know the community, the programs, all the services and distributing the new Tribal ID's, answering the phones, etc. has helped me understand who the Village of Solomon is in a different light.

I attended the first Annual Meeting, which turned out to be a hybrid meeting with some participants on Zoom and others present in person. I also got to help facilitate Indigenous Peoples Day in October, where the turn-out was significant. I look forward to more community events, activities and getting to know the Village of Solomon community as I get more settled in as the new Tribal Coordinator. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [tc.sol@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.sol@kawerak.org) if you have any questions, as I am still learning the ins and outs of my role, if I do not know the answer to your question, I will find out and get back to you promptly.



## Affordable Housing for the Village of Solomon

Affordable

### Housing Strategic Program Plan Update

The Council has approved their first Affordable Housing Strategic Plan. With components to assist tribal members in acquiring affordable housing initiatives. Currently, their focus has been on the new construction development on the East side of Nome. Constructing 3 single family homes and a new Community Center. Due to the undeveloped location of the east end of town, the utilities do not have lines reaching this area. The Tribe has diligently been working toward expanding the utility lines, partnered with the King Island Native Community and building a resource network to support the expansion prior to placing the new homes on the new gravel pads. The construction plans are tentative for Fall 2023. Occupancy applications will be made available as soon as possible. All housing updates, applications and forms will be announced on the Village of Solomon website.

Please subscribe to the website as staff continually update the website. [www.villageofsolomon.org](http://www.villageofsolomon.org). You may scroll to the bottom and any news updates, will be directly emailed to your inbox for immediate release.

## REMEMBERING TRIBAL MEMBER LEE ANDREW JOHNSON

Lee Andrew Johnson, eldest son of Leona and Walter Johnson, Sr. was born 8/4/73. He leaves behind Lee "Andy" (Twyla Boskofsky) two granddaughters Starlammae (Star) and Zaylee and Luke Alan. Lee is survived by his parents and brothers Donald, Walter, Jr. (Julianna) and Marcus Johnson and sister Erma Bremner. He was adopted into the Tlingit Raven Moiety and Owl House. Lee's Tlingit name was Chaas Yeil, Humpback Raven. Lee's maternal grandparents were Martha Kalerak Anslem and Willie Johnson. His great-grandparents were Alice and Andrew Kalerak, Sr. He leaves many uncles, aunts, cousins, and cousins. Lee worked many jobs but his favorite was commercial fishing with his dad in Yakutat. Lee Andy always had a ready smile and a helping hand to all who knew him. He's greatly missed by all who knew him.

### FORMS/ APPLICATIONS ACCESS

The Village of Solomon recognizes a more virtual world today, as well as our tribal community members that reside outside of Nome, Alaska. Thus, we have all of these forms available on our website:

- ◇ School Reimbursement
- ◇ Tribal Wellness
- ◇ Mailing Address Update
- ◇ Bed Bug Info
- ◇ Hunter Subsistence Agreement
- ◇ Emergency Assistance
- ◇ Employment Application
- ◇ Under the COVID Resources tab: Utility/laptop/Internet/COVID Emergency forms

Please note that each form/application does have guidelines and instructions accompanying each file form or application. Please follow all instructions for prompt processing.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH, 2022**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**CONCLUDING YOUTH CAMP (AUGUST 7TH-12TH) @ THE**

**SOLOMON COMMUNITY CENTER/B&B**



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA GRAY AND BRIAN ADAMS